



Hearts of Gold

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

Volume 9, Issue 3

FALL 2006

No Rest For The Weary

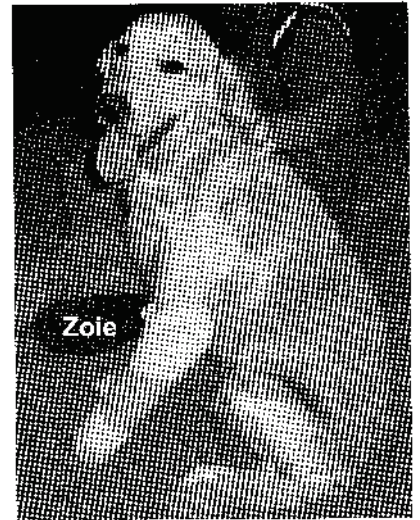
Summer break? What break?

As long as the dogs need our help, GRRMF doesn't slow down!

Many of you are probably settling back into your normal routines after a summer vacation or two. But at GRRMF, we've barely had time to take a deep breath between calls and emails regarding golden retrievers needing our help, and it appears there is no slowdown in sight. In August alone, GRRMF admitted 24 dogs and had 23 adoptions. In July, GRRMF admitted 10 dogs and had 14 adoptions. In June, we took in 18 and had 19 adoptions.

So you see, we've been very busy! To top it off, many of the dogs coming in have complex medical issues, putting a strain on all facets of the rescue operation. In July, our veterinary expenses were more than \$8,000, including \$2,000 for heartworm treatments.

Zoie is one example of the medical expenses we've been experiencing. One Sunday in July, we received a call from an emergency veterinarian clinic. A 1-year-old golden had been hit by a car, and her leg was fractured. When the owners learned how much it would cost even for the examination and x-rays, they washed their hands of Zoie. An immediate decision had to be made. GRRMF was the only hope for this little girl; otherwise, she would be euthanized. She was only 1 year old, and with treatment she could go on to live a normal life - and yet, her only option other than GRRMF was death. As you can guess, we agreed to take her, and the surgeon got to work. Zoie's leg was severely crushed, and she had numerous cuts and bruises from the impact, including a split lip, lacerations of the tongue where she bit through it and multiple bruises on her head and torso.



Zoie

Want to help?

GRRMF is faced with increasing medical bills, with more heartworm-positive and unspayed/unneutered dogs coming in than ever, more complex medical problems and, quite simply, more dogs needing us than ever before! We need volunteers in all areas, but if you can't volunteer at this time, please consider making a donation. Every dollar adds up to another Zoie or I hope (read about Hope on page 7) that we can help.

Name _____

Address _____

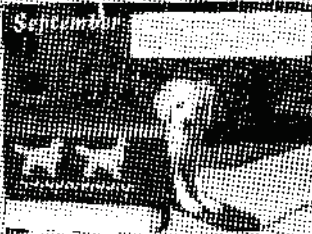
City/State/Zip _____

Donation Amount \$ _____

Mail your donation to:
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Post Office Box 1449
Goldenrod, Florida 32733

Zoie's surgery was successful, and she has now been released from the hospital. A debt of gratitude goes to foster Bert Haker and family, who are nursing Zoie back to health. She must remain in a full leg cast for about eight weeks, so it's going to be a long road. Bert tells us that Zoie has a terrific personality and that sweet golden temperament that we all love, so again, another good save! We expect Zoie to make a full recovery, and she'll be placed up for adoption as soon as she gets a clean bill of health.

Just looking at the statistics, you can see what a busy summer we've had. It just doesn't seem to be slowing down. But as long as there are goldens needing our help, we plan to give it to them. It seems that GRRMF volunteers are kept constantly busy with dogs needing our help, whether it is a tragic car accident, a complicated medical problem, a call about a stray or an owner who abandons or simply no longer wants a dog. We had four examples of the latter - abandonment - from one household in August! But it is



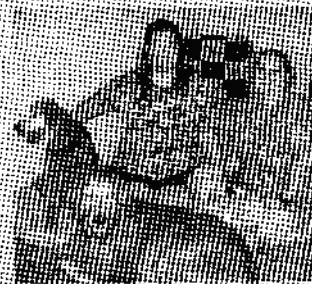
September
2007 GRRMF CALENDAR
Your dog ought to be in pictures
want, maybe the 2007 GRRMF
calendars now on sale
see Page 10



TEN... AND NOW
Velvet is a treasure of a golden who
nearly didn't get saved. But we did
save this scottie gal - and you should
see what she's up to now! Page 11



NEVER LOSE HOPE
Meet Hope - sick and unspayed,
she walked herself into a vet's office
and asked for help. Page 7



I'M ADOPTED!
Faith was used as a breeder dog and
was afraid of everything when she
came to us. We fixed her up, and
she went to live with her new owner,
Robin. Read about Faith and other
recent adoptions, starting on Page 2

that make us tick; in fact, the very reason why GRRMF exists. We'd love nothing more than to go a week without a call regarding a golden who needs rescued. But we know that probably is just a dream. In the meantime, we'll be here - and we hope you will too - to continue helping these wonderful goldens regain their health and dignity, and go on to live happy lives where they are loved and pampered every single day. It is true when we say: THIS is what rescue is all about.



Have Some Fun!

By Sandy Summer, GRRMF Adoption Coordinator

Many times my column is about serious stuff. And there is plenty to go around. We have taken in so many dogs this year who need special help that we don't bat an eye about much of it anymore. We take in sick dogs, terminal dogs, dogs that need surgery, dogs that have been abused and dogs that have been abandoned. In prior years, we have been able to have a week or two here and there that we call "breathers," where the activity level of dogs coming in is very low.

It allows us to catch up and get ourselves back on track for when a new wave comes in. It is now October, and so far we have not had any breathers this year.

The onslaught has been relentless and, at times, overwhelming. Somehow it all gets taken care of but it can tap the energy reserves. It can also be disheartening. We work hard to be sure that we rescue every dog that we possibly can, but there are still some that we can't save.

But in spite of all this, we still need to have some fun.

Our volunteers work hard and spend a lot of time on rescue. We have families and commitments that we need to attend to. But life is about balance - and making sure that we make time to have fun. For me, it is taking my own dogs to Hip Dog Canine Hydrotherapy in Winter Park

(www.hipdog.net) for what we call the "Crazy Golden Swim Hour." Each Sunday, I accompany my three dogs (Scooby, Grace and Cameron) for a one-hour canine swim party. Anyone can attend, and all proceeds and donations go toward GRRMF. We have quite an eclectic group, my own among them. Scooby refuses to go into the pool but will bring toys to you to throw for him near the edge of the pool. His final act before he leaves is to roll on the wet pool deck to get himself totally soaked so that it LOOKS like he went swimming. Gracie believes the higher the jump into the pool from the side the better. And only one type of toy will do. Cameron requires me to go into the pool (yes, people are allowed to swim during this event, too!), and he will jump to me (or on me) and then have me toss the tennis ball to him.

Other GRRMF volunteers bring their goldens and many times you will see close to a dozen goldens romping about. Bayley loves the massage from her buddy Toni, and Tanner loves ANY toy that goes into the pool. Of course, goldens - rescues and non-rescues alike - may be the life of the party, but they aren't the only ones there. We have the two Rottweilers, Zeus and Gumbo, who are among the best swimmers. And then there's Gladys, the big hound who just loves to jump in and grab a toy. The hardest thing is getting her to leave at the end of the hour. Her loud baying in the sheer joy of being there makes us all smile.

We all have things that we love to do with our dogs. But sometimes life gets in the way. When that happens, we need to take a step back and reconnect to our fun factor again. As a single person, I work three jobs to make ends meet, and there are days that the tank is just about empty. But my dogs don't understand that. So when they want to play ball or go for a walk or just wander with me in the backyard, I need to find that time. I have learned to multi-task - throw the tennis ball while I am mowing the lawn, throw the tennis ball while I am scooping poop, throw the tennis ball while I am trimming bushes (note the theme here - I live with a bunch of ball nuts!).

The key is to find the balance again. I have lost six dogs this year to the Rainbow Bridge, and the last thing I would have wanted was to regret not doing things with them because my life was too hectic. I am happy to say I don't regret a thing.

ReCen



We all read the story of NEMO in the last newsletter. He was a pet store puppy with a very sad tale to tell. But the ending is happy - he went to live with Richard & Susan J., where he has a play buddy about his own age, parents who adore him and no more days at a pet shop waiting for someone to take him. They all took to each other immediately and the puppies played very well together. Nemo and Calvin are close to the same size and are both very loving pups. It was love at first sight for everyone. Susan says Nemo and Calvin play well and neither one has the upper hand all of the time. Nemo loves the puppy daycare, too.

You may remember HUNTER - the 9-year-old boy who could change from dignified to goofy in the blink of an eye. He came to us when his family had financial difficulties and had to move in with friends. Unfortunately, dogs were not allowed. Hunter's family knew boarding him for months would not be good for him, so they opted to turn him over to GRRMF so he could have a better life. Now he's got a new sparkle in his personality, because he was recently adopted by Mandy K. He is enjoying his new life filled with lots of love and daily walks. Hunter keeps Mandy entertained with his silly antics, and they are glad they found each other. You've got to love those goofy golden boys!



ROXY was a wild child who quickly learned to channel her energy while hunting lizards and chasing birds at her foster family with Rick and Cindy O. She was adopted by Sherrie G., who is happy to be sharing her life and love with this special golden gal.

ANGIE, 4 years, was turned in to rescue due to her owner's serious illness. She was fostered by Larry & Angie W. and adopted by Keith J. and family, who have renamed her Angel. Keith says that, "With the addition of Angel, everything's peachy. She gets along great with her new golden brother ... except the only problem is that there's not quite enough room in bed now for the FOUR of us!"

Six year old PIERSON came to GRRMF from an unsettled environment. When his owner was no longer able to care for him, a family member turned him over to GRRMF. Pierson was dirty, matted, overweight and unsure of himself. After some TLC from fosters Deborah and Pat and buddies Freeman and Nora (both GRRMF alumni), he regained his health and confidence. This handsome guy was recently adopted by Tim and Raina C. When they walked in the door Pierson made it known that they were the family for him. He goes by Teddy now and has a golden brother, Jake. Teddy has been blessed with a loving family to share walks, swimming, playing and cuddling. What more can a guy ask for? A recent



Adoptions - Fall 2006

note from Raina tells us who the lucky ones really are in this arrangement: "We are so happy we have Teddy as a part of our family! He is a great playmate and friend for our other golden Jake. Teddy loves to greet us with a wagging tail as soon as he hears the alarm clock go off every morning, greet us with stuffed animal in mouth when we come home from work and jump up through the paper (while we are reading it) to get some extra attention at night. Teddy and Jake always seem to be within arm's length of each other. Teddy enjoys his walks and is just starting to feel comfortable coming into the pool for a swim. We are not sure how we went about before without two golden."

Approximately 3 years old, COLBY came to us overweight and out of shape. All that changed when he went to live with foster mom Char B. She helped him shed those unwanted pounds and increased his activity level, and before long Michael D. and family saw his web page and inquired to adopt. When they to meet Colby, Char says "they weren't here five minutes before Michael was planting smooches on Colby's face." Knowing a good thing when he saw it, Colby stayed close to them the entire time and wasn't about to let them leave without him - which they did not! Colby hopped right into their vehicle without looking back and is now living a great life with his new folks.

Sweet SAMANTHA was turned back in to rescue a few years after the family who originally adopted her could no longer keep her. At 8 years, Samantha was a hit in her foster home with



Gregg & Tom E., and her webpage drew a lot of attention. She was adopted by Cindy K. and Bradley C. They adored her from the moment they saw her and could not wait to adopt her. They know the value of senior gold. But the story doesn't end there! Cindy & Bradley knew they wanted another canine companion, so once Samantha was settled in and feeling like a part of the family, they adopted DAISY, 3 years old. Daisy also made herself at home quickly, and the family is now complete!

RAMSEY had the dubious honor of coming to rescue twice. The first time he was reclaimed. But his owner eventually had to give him up again and we knew Ramsey needed a home with some stability and love. He found it with Donna & Geoff O., who renamed him Murphy. His days are now spent going for walks, socializing with his family and neighbors, and posing for plenty of belly rubs and kisses.

POOBAH, approximately 5 years, never knew he had any issues outside of the ordinary,

even though he had a bad hip, heartworm disease and was starting to have seizures. GRRMF took him in and helped him in every way. His hip was actually ok as is. No surgery was required. We put him on medication for his seizures, saw him through heartworm treatment and restored his health. Then Poobah REALLY hit the jackpot. The GRRMF president saw him and just had to have this big red boy. He was adopted by Barbara D. and Keith H., and Poobah now enjoys being a weekend camper in his new family's RV.

SARAH, approximately 8, came to rescue from a shelter. Her owner gave her away five years prior and that person abandoned her in a trailer park. When contacted, the original owner said she now lives out of state and had no intention of taking Sarah back. Sarah was unspayed and overweight, and at 8 years old, GRRMF was her only chance. Susan & Charles D. loved that face smiling at them from the web page. They adopted her right away and have been enjoying every minute spent with their new canine companion.



NEWTON - nicknamed "the Big Fig" - was a shelter dog. After he tested positive for heartworms, his previous owners washed their hands of him. Dogs in shelters like this have no chance for adoption and are usually placed immediately on the "unadoptable" list. Most people will not adopt a dog that needs expensive medical treatment. This is why GRRMF is so vital. The Big Fig was adopted by his fosters, Kim E. and family, and now lives a happy and healthy life.

Everyone who visits our web site will remember the story of MAGGIE. Overbred, underloved and totally apathetic towards life,



Maggie was one sad girl. But she came to life when she was around water coupled with a tennis ball or two, and swimming helped her weight, her coat and her attitude. Maggie would literally go from the saddest face on the planet, to a perky, smiling, tail-wagging swimmin' fool. The transformation was amazing, and we knew we had to find a home where she'd be able to swim regularly. Carolyn & Jim H. loved her story and wanted to make the rest of her life as happy as could be. Maggie now has a constant smile on that face and a life full of love ... and swimming!



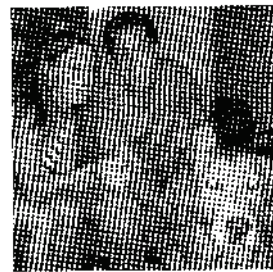
GRIFIN, 8 years, was heartworm positive, skinny as a rail and missing one eye. He also had the sunniest disposition of any dog foster mom Sandy had ever seen. Griffin loved everything and everything. Jessica & Edward H. saw past the missing eye, and came to meet him as soon as he received a clean bill of health. He hopped in his new family's car without so much as a "see you later" to his foster mom, and off he went to his new life.

SIMON literally stumbled into the lives of his prior owners as he was found walking the streets after Hurricane Wilma. They decided Simon wasn't getting the attention he needed and they turned him in to GRRMF. Simon was very shy and timid at first, but after spending some time in foster care with Hank & Janice B., he started to become a more confident guy. He was adopted by Bruce M. & Jeri N., who promised they will continue to make him feel loved and secure. And they plan to have a lot of fun with him, too, along with their Labrador retriever and two senior golden rescue ladies.

TRISCUIT, 10 months, was given up because she was too energetic for her family. She learned how to channel her energy in her foster home and was snapped up by Kristina & Joseph M., who think she is just the best.



RACE, age 4, came in with two unspayed females. Their owner had planned on starting a backyard breeding operation, but when his girlfriend split, he wanted nothing more to do with them. The first thing GRRMF did was neuter Race.



Unwanted golden are rampant in Florida, and this is the best way to ensure that no more unwanted litters pop up. Next, we had to teach Race how to live in a home and be a good canine citizen. He came through this very well at his foster home with Tom & Kellyann G. Next, he needed a forever home where he would be loved and treasured for the wonderful golden he is. That happened, too. Heather A. & Mark S. just loved his name, and when they met him, they fell immediately in love with him, too! Race

accompanies his dad to work every day and has it made in the shade with his new family.

RUBY, 4, was purchased for the sole purpose of making extra money. By breeding her, the former owners thought they could make a quick buck by selling the puppies. Little did they know that having puppies does, indeed, cost money and thankfully for Ruby those plans went wrong as the "breeder" lost interest and decided to give her, her sister and a brother up to GRRMF. Ruby was fostered by Donna and Chuck, who saw that Ruby was a very smart girl. Having lived outside most of her life, she quickly learned good house manners. She didn't have any accidents in the house and got along well with her foster siblings. She was a low-maintenance girl. She was heaven sent to Roger and Kathy M., who had just lost one of their current goldens to cancer. Ruby was a perfect match for Roger and Kathy, as they adopted another of Donna and Chuck's fosters before named Aspen.

APRIL is yet another unspayed young female - just 9 months old - who was turned in to rescue. And like many of the others we've received this year, her family said they just didn't have time for her. April was a very sweet girl and found her home with Mark & Christine M. in no time. They have a big house, a play buddy for her, a swimming pool and lots of love to share.



GABRIEL, 6 years, was given up by his family, again due to too many kids and not enough time. Gabriel was a dream foster and a very good boy - totally housebroken, no bad habits, wonderful manners, the whole nine yards. His foster folks, Mike & Carol M., had a tough time letting their gentle giant go, but knew he deserved a home of his very own. And hey, did he find it! Valerie & Rick B. were looking for a companion for their GRRMF alumnus Darby, and Gabriel fit the bill. They adore him - like we knew they would! - and one of the first things they did was have a welcome to the family pool party! Gabe also visits grade schools with his mom, where he is known as "Gabriel the Big Red Dog."

Four-year-old **JULIE** was turned in with her sister by good Samaritans. Apparently, their prior owners dropped them off at a veterinarian with a request to find them a home. While in foster care, Julie learned her true calling, which is retriever maniac. She was so good at retrieving that her foster folks Jeff & Rita L. decided they just couldn't let her go. She now shares new forever home with Jake, a former GRRMFer.



SIMBA was given as a present to someone who did not want a dog. There were also members of the family who had allergies to dogs. This is a big reason why GRRMF

doesn't adopt dogs out as gifts or surprises. They are not the right gift for everyone. Luckily, this family did the right thing and called GRRMF. Simba was adopted by Linda V. and family, who feel they couldn't have made a better match. He is now called Jake. Daughter Casey couldn't wait to take him home and already has him enrolled in obedience classes. Jake can also be seen in the Jacksonville area during GRRMF educational events.

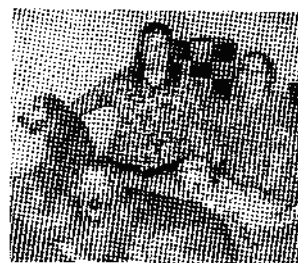
GEORGIA, approximately 7 years, was a stray and must have had a hard life before she was picked up by Animal Services. She'd



had at least one litter of puppies, was heartworm positive and was little more than skin and bones. Our veterinarian spayed her and began heartworm treatment, and Georgia went to Camp Sumner for some good food and play time. In no time, she was looking and feeling much better. She now has her loving home with the Jill L. and family, who adopted Woofie (now Baylor), one of the infamous "Sarasota 23" adult dogs. Reports are that Georgia and Baylor have become buddies, and we can close the chapter on Georgia's rescue!

Sweet, doll-face **AUGIE DOGGIE** was fostered by Rick and Cindy O. At 8 years old, he was passed up by many prospective adopters due to his age. Not JB, who jumped at the chance to adopt Augie and has renamed him Arapahoe. JB reports that Arapahoe has been wonderful and the best of both worlds - a puppy outside and a Velcro dog inside. He shares his home with a canine brother named Apache. JB says: "I don't think I have any lizards left anywhere in the yard. We all go for a least one long walk per day - on a leash, of course. On weekends, we go for two walks of a mile or more, followed by swim time. Arapahoe loves to dive. When I dive into the pool, he dives at the same time and can reach out as far as I do." Sounds like a fun time is being had by all.

FAITH, just 2 years old, was a breeder dog and was neglected and abused in her former home. She was fine with dogs but would not even look at people. She needed to learn how to live in a house and to trust humans again. Foster parents Ron and Jennifer L. did a great job, and her new mom Robin says that Faith



is already signed up for obedience classes to help her build self-confidence and social skills.

KENYA was featured in a recent GRRMF

e-blast newsletter. He was heartworm positive, emaciated, had raging ear infections and had an open wound on his neck from a rope or wire. We named him Kenya after the way he was presented to us, as in "canya take this dog?" Fostered and adopted by Susan H. and family, Kenya has fit in perfectly with canine brother and former GRRMF dog Boomer and the rest of the gang.

MAIZIE was given up at 4 months old because the family who bought her from a pet store lived in an apartment and had a toddler. Just the kind of home we advise against getting a soon-to-be large dog! They had no time and no space for her. Maizie was fostered by Emily R. and adopted by Amy & Earle M. Amy works from home, so she has plenty of time to spend with Maizie, and they live in a large house with a pool and fenced yard, so Maizie has a great environment to run off that puppy energy.



RANGER, 7 years, got a lot of hits when we put up his web page. He was the perfect foster for Leah W., and then became the perfect dog for Valerie & John B. and

family, who think he fits perfectly for their active and loving family.

MOLLY, age 13, came from a woman who could no longer care for her. GRRMF went into action and quickly got her into the program, thinking that she might very well be a permanent foster. No sooner was her web page up than long-time adopter George G. asked to make her a part of his family. George recently lost his GRRMF dog Tammy and was looking for a senior gal to love in Tammy's honor. Molly has hit pay dirt with her new dad, and he feels the same way.

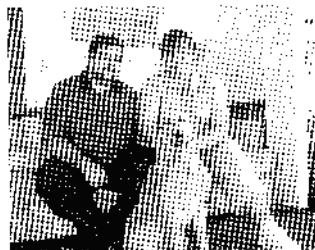
CHICO was surrendered after his family of seven years had a baby and decided that Chico was too much for them. Up until their decision to turn him in, Chico had been banished to the backyard only to be brought in the garage at night to sleep. Poor Chico ...

well, not anymore! Chico is livin' it up with Bert & Charlie H. and family, who not only fostered him but couldn't imagine their house without him. Chico now gets to spend his days inside on the big, comfy couch, and when outside you can usually find him in the pool. The day he knew his forever home was official was the day his name was engraved on the "Superman" tag from PetSmart. Congratulations to Chico - you made it, buddy!

After living with 13 kids and eight dogs, **BRUTUS** found himself displaced when his family decided that they had to down size. Fortunately for Brutus, 8 years old and neglected, the day he came to GRRMF was the best day of his life. He was fostered and adopted by Maggie and Tim S., who couldn't part with him. He gets a whole more attention now, not to mention regular premium meals, playtime and lots o' love. What a LUCKY guy!

GINGER found herself looking for a new home when her prior family decided to build a new home and didn't want to bring her along. At 4 years old, Ginger's bags were packed, her dog bed loaded and off she went to GRRMF. She was an all-time favorite foster of Pat and Lou B. and was quickly adopted by Sarah H. and family. Ginger has been renamed Heidi. She loves her daily walks and enjoys spending her days with her new golden sister. But most of all, she loves her new swimming pool!

Six-month-old **ZOEY** came to GRRMF with no manners and limitless energy. Nicknamed "Zooney Zoey," she was fostered by Kellyann and Tom G. While in foster care, Zoey learned to live inside a home, to go potty outside, how to open pantry doors and that she wasn't supposed to "fetch" the dishes out of the sink or off the counter! She loved "helping" her foster dad on his various house projects, especially the part where she'd steal his tools and play keepaway with them! Zoey was a wild child, indeed, but she was also very smart and learned quickly. She LOVES swimming and would spend hours diving into the pool and under the water after the twin boys in her foster family or playing with the resident golden Cinnamon. There really wasn't much Zoey didn't like - she is a very typical golden in her true zest for life. Zoey was adopted by Matt and Lida M., who were looking for a golden who could keep up with their young golden gal Lucy. They say Zoey is a very special little girl and that they are very happy to have her as a part of the family.



Four-year-old **PUMPKIN** was sweet as her name implies. She was turned over to rescue due to her family's "downsizing." She was fostered by Amanda and David D. and adopted by Joseph B.

Fourteen-month-old **SHASTA** was fostered by Kim H. and family. They helped Shasta with some of her training and manners prior to her going to her new home. Kim knew she had a lot of potential and also realized that there was a good, sweet girl behind those wild puppy ways. Shasta was a handful but it didn't scare Tamala and Robert B. from adopting her. They were so excited they even rented a minivan so Shasta would be comfortable for her long trip back to Tampa.



Five-year-old **NOAH** was turned over to GRRMF for the typical reason - once the children arrived, the family had "no time for him" and said "he doesn't get enough attention." Noah's bad points, according to his previous owner? "He gets in the way a lot, and leaves hair in the house." He was overweight and had bald legs from constant chewing, but we fixed him in no time, and soon he was looking for his very own forever home. Noah is quite the cuddler and loved snuggling with his foster folks, Hank & Janice B. He was adopted by Tina & Mike L., and here is what they have to say about their new boy: "Noah is settling in quickly. He has already figured out the steps in the swimming pool and laid on the top step for quite some time cooling off. Noah does tend to follow Tina but looks to both of us for cues all the time. He's a smart boy and will lie at our feet whenever we stop.

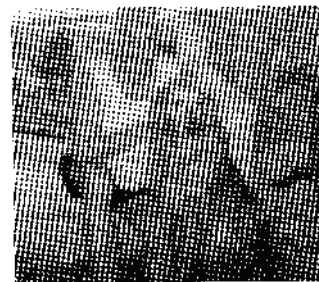
He sleeps in the bed and seems pretty happy with that. We are SO GLAD we were allowed to adopt Noah and are looking forward to a long companionship."



PETE, approximately 2 years, came to GRRMF from a shelter. He was adopted, but when it was discovered he was heartworm positive, the person told them she no longer wanted him. Rather than send him back to the shelter, where he would be euthanized, the kind technician at the veterinary clinic instead chose to call GRRMF. We're so thankful she did! Mike & Carol M. fos-

tered this cute and loving little boy and he let Mike know in no uncertain terms that he'd already picked out his forever home. Now called Logan, this daddy's boy shares his new home with former GRRMF girls Abbey, Halcy and Magen. He adores his new family, and they are very much enjoying the little red shadow who follows them everywhere these days. We're not sure who is happiest about this new arrangement, but we have a feeling it's Mike, who has fallen head-over-heels in love with his new canine son.

LIAM, 2 years old, came from a shelter. He was an outside dog, and his body showed all the signs - his ears were infected, and his skin and coat were a mess. We fixed all that up in no time with a premium diet and an indoor lifestyle, and Liam began to blossom! He still has that puppy energy, but is sweet as they come. He was just what Ernie & Elaine W. were looking for, and soon Liam was off to his new life, where he will be loved and well cared for.



MOSES' adoption was listed in the last newsletter, but we neglected to include his adoption photo. He was adopted and is very much loved by Judy H.

Pure Gold!

Don't see your adoption here?

GRRMF had a record number of adoptions over the past couple of months, many of which occurred as this newsletter was going into production.

Watch for your smiling face in the next issue.

For many years, GRRMF has been working to integrate holistic methods into caring for our foster dogs. We've seen the results that a more natural approach can produce. It all started with a dog named Monroe who had terrible allergies. We embarked on a journey to help him that involved working with a holistic veterinarian.

Some of the things we've seen really help our dogs are:

- ▼ Feeding a food with high quality ingredients - no byproducts or chemicals, preferably with human grade ingredients.
- ▼ Using a core of supplements on a daily basis to boost health. Primarily things like digestive enzymes (Prozyme), fish oil caps and antioxidants such as vitamins E, A and C.

Building the basic health and immune system of your dog is really a preventive measure. The better quality of food you provide will, in the long run, save on veterinary bills. On the issue of byproducts, people normally think of this as meat byproducts. But did you know there are grain byproducts? These are worthless castoffs from other food processing. For example, if your dog food has brewer's rice in it - that is the cast off material from the brewery industry. It has no nutritional value. One popular weight loss dog food has peanut hulls in it. Think about that. What nutritional value can they offer, and how do you feel about paying top dollar for that food? So read your labels. If you are buying your food at the grocery or discount stores, I have one message for you - don't! There is nothing on those shelves that has great ingredients for your dog. Even at the larger pet stores, it can be difficult to find a good food, although some are adding good options to their product lines. Usually you have to shop at smaller specialty pet stores.

Should you use dry food, raw food, cook your dog's food, etc? There are debates on all sides of these arguments. I've done all of them. One issue is being realistic about the time you have to invest in preparing your dog's food. And the time you have to become educated on how to feed your dog.

I often have people tell me they feed their dog no table scraps - only dry kibble. They believe this is the absolute best for their dog. While it is absolutely true you should NOT feed your dog rich foods from your plate such as Thanksgiving dinner, greasy foods, casseroles, etc., there is nothing wrong with feeding your dog certain wholesome people foods that are prepared with no added fats or spices. I think dog food companies have promoted the "no people food" idea since it only benefits their bottom line.

What can you do that is easy to enhance your dog's diet? One approach is the idea of adding wholesome "toppers" to a good quality dog food. The idea of toppers is to add a small amount of chopped vegetables

(1-2 TBS) on your dog's food, plus perhaps a little plain yogurt (1 TBS). You have to go slow so your dog can acclimate to the enhanced diet. Some dogs are lactose intolerant just as people are, so beware of this when adding dairy products to your dog's diet. Veggies should be chopped since dogs' teeth aren't geared for grinding them up. Some dogs do better if the veggies are very lightly cooked, some can tolerate raw. I lightly steam most veggies my dogs get.

Some veggies that I add to my dog's food are:

- ▼ Mashed baked sweet potato ▼ Summer squash ▼ Zucchini ▼ Collard greens (I use chopped frozen and defrost)
- ▼ Green beans (use fresh, frozen or no salt canned as an order of preference)
- ▼ Yucca (buy frozen at the grocery, boil and puree)
- ▼ Turnip greens (I use chopped frozen and defrost)
- ▼ Small amounts of grated carrot (preferably organic)
- ▼ Small amounts of chopped celery

Additional considerations:

- ▼ Never onions ▼ Veggies like broccoli or cauliflower may cause gas, but this depends on the dog ▼ Spinach once in a while is ok ▼ Use only small amounts of high glycemic (sugar) vegetables such as carrots ▼ Fruits should NOT be served with the meal because they will ferment when mixed with the other food and not digest well ▼ Small amounts of fruit (slice of apple, melon) can be given as a snack outside normal meals.

Some foods are very therapeutic. We have had tremendous success with treating dogs with chronic yeast problems in their ears by feeding them a heaping tablespoon of plain yogurt with each meal. If the yeast is very persistent you can add grapefruit seed extract and dandelion. Both are available in capsule form from the health food store. The usual dose for a 70 pound golden is one capsule twice daily. Washing the ears with an ear wash such as Malecetic Ear Wash can be beneficial. Dermapet makes a good one called Malacetic Otic available from www.kvvet.com

Has your dog been on antibiotics? It is very important to give him yogurt and/or acidophilus capsules after receiving antibiotic treatment. This advice has been given to humans for a long time but also applies to dogs. Does your dog suffer from that embarrassing problem - gas? Try the same treatment.

Does your dog have arthritis or mobility problems? For a long time we've recommended trying a glucosamine/chondroitin formula with MSM in it. Fish oil caps are also recommended for this purpose, as well as for skin and allergy issues. Another supplement for mobility is yucca. You can buy frozen yucca in the Spanish section of the frozen section of the grocery. Put it in a pot with enough water to cover it and boil until tender. Then mash with the juice. It can be pureed in a food processor also. An alternative is to use yucca capsules from the health food store.

Does your dog have problems with his anal glands? One holistic remedy is to add a teaspoon of oat bran to each meal. This adds fiber and tends to help clean out the glands naturally. These glands can be troublesome. Once one of my dogs pulled out all his hair on his rear and we suspected allergies, but the problem was impacted anal glands. Once our vet expressed them and we kept him on the daily oat bran we had no problems. Oat bran is usually available in the bulk section of a health food store or in the cereal section of the grocery store. Be sure to add some extra water to the bowl to help digestion of the oat bran.

One last tidbit for those of you with cats who suffer from hairballs: adding Prozyme powder to their food really helps alleviate this problem (available from www.kvvet.com). Also, my holistic vet recommends feeding cats wet food instead of dry food. My dogs also receive Prozyme with each meal to enhance their ability to absorb the nutrients in their food.

We continue to learn about holistic treatments with our dogs and believe they have significant benefits. We've been fortunate to learn from Dr. DiNatale for the past 6 years and it helps to have a trained holistic vet to advise us. Since I embrace holistic approaches, it is very important to me to have a regular vet that will work with these treatments. Fortunately Dr. Ehlers is supportive of my efforts and works with me to blend holistic and traditional therapies.

Until next time....

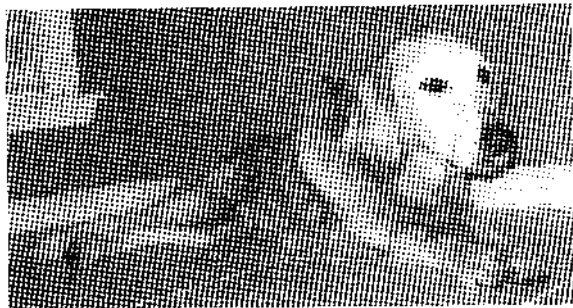
(Dr. DiNatale is in practice in Winter Park at Veterinary Acupuncture and Complementary Therapy Clinic. Dr. Ehlers is in Longwood at 434 Animal Hospital)



President's Message

By Barbara Durham, GRRMF President

"Hope" is the thing with feathers. That perches in the soul -
And sings the tunes without the words, And never stops - at all -
Emily Dickinson



The Healing of Hope

Meet Hope. Sick and emaciated, this little girl walked in to a veterinarian's office during a blinding rainstorm and waited patiently to be seen. We'll never know how she ended up at the vet's office or where she came from. But we did know immediately that she was very ill. It was obvious that Hope had recently given birth to a litter of puppies (the last litter of many, we believe) and she was skinny as a rail - only 47 pounds. Her skin was dry and her fur sparse. She had obvious ear infec-

tions. She also tested positive for heartworms. But even though she was extremely sick, she had hope. Hope that her life could be different. Hope that someone would finally love her. Hope that somewhere out there was a home of her very own. And now you see how she came about her name! Hope - estimated to be about 7 years old - found her way to GRRMF after the veterinarian's office called Animal Control. The shelter put her on the unadoptable list, due to the heartworms. We knew we had to save this little girl - we were truly her only "hope." We are determined that her life WILL be different from now on. We want her to know love and comfort for the rest of her days. Hope will never again be used for breeding, and we're taking care of the heartworms, too.

When she went to her foster home with Renee, Hope would not lift her head. She moped slowly around the backyard and barely wagged her tail. Undaunted, Renee spoke softly to her and showed Hope that she meant no harm. She soothed her with words and soft petting, and told her to take her time. If she had hope, well then, so would Renee.

HOPE BEGINS TO SHINE

Within 24 hours, Hope began to come out of her shell. She started holding her head up, and the tail began to wag a little harder. And then she smiled ... and she has not stopped smiling yet! It is obvious that she was used to breed puppies and had little medical care. Her front teeth are worn and grooved, bearing the signs of struggle to escape a caged environment. But this sweet girl has a gentle strength which has made her a survivor.

Hope is free now, and she revels in that freedom! She loves to lie in the grass and roll on her back, kicking her legs in the air. When Renee gets on the floor to do her exercises, Hope kicks her legs right alongside Renee and displays that newly found smile.

Like many dogs who have survived in the face of adversity, Hope relishes every little good thing that comes her way. She loves to be petted, is a Velcro-type dog, enjoys chewing on bones and her favorite time of day is mealtime. She adores being bathed and groomed and her fur is beginning to grow back as she regains her health.

A NEW JOURNEY

Soon, Hope will be ready for the next leg of her life's journey - a forever home. She has come so far. She was so very ill and had been neglected for so long, that we were concerned she wouldn't make it through the heartworm treatment. But she has a resilience that is truly remarkable. This girl is NOT ready to give up hope. In fact, she is serving to reaffirm our own hope - in our rescue mission, in the good work that GRRMF does, and in the wonderful people who support us. Without all of these pieces falling into place, Hope would not be with us today.

Yes, I Want to Help Hope!

Enclosed is my donation for \$ _____.

I understand that I will be recognized in the next GRRMF newsletter.

Name _____

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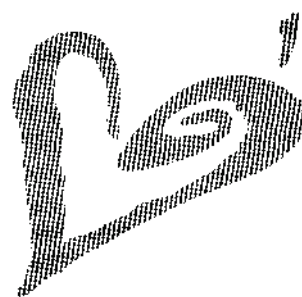
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EDUCATION DAYS/EVENTS:

Many thanks to all who participate in educational events around the state - our
dedicated volunteers and their goldens are out there almost every weekend spread-
ing 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.

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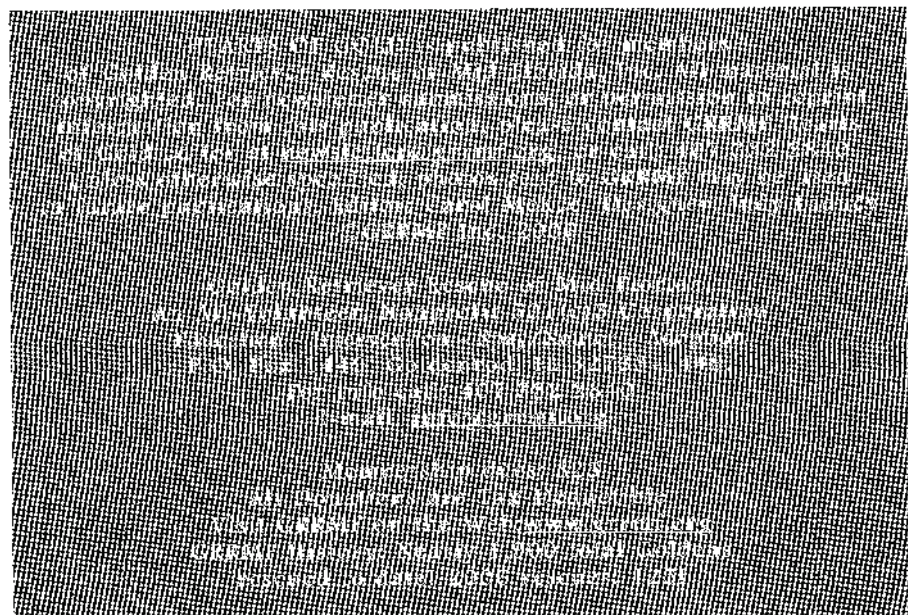
HIP DOC THERAPY:

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!



If we failed to mention you, please let us know - (407) 322-2840 or e-mail our coordinator either at
newsletter@grrmf.org - and we'll try our best to fix it next time. We couldn't operate without your help -
you make a difference in the lives of hundreds of goldens!

Coming Soon! 2007 GRRMF Calendars!

We are proud to introduce the 2007 GRRMF calendars. Available for only \$12, this professionally produced, full-color wall calendar shows off some of our special rescue dogs. All photos were submitted by adopters through a photo contest fundraiser held earlier this year. Just to name a few of our calendar dogs ... Learn about Dreyfuss, a senior rags-to-riches story; Brody, whose life was saved by GRRMF and more! We included as many of the photos submitted as we could throughout the calendar. See one of your favorite golden friends on every page of the calendar!

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



Calendars are only \$12 each!

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

- ▼ 5 calendars will vaccinate and deworm one golden ▼ 10 calendars will spay or neuter one golden to help reduce overpopulation
- ▼ 30 calendars will provide heartworm treatment for one golden ▼ 80 calendars will provide hip surgery for one golden

ORDER FORM

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

Total Amount Due: \$ _____

BULK ORDER: Order in bulk and Save!

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

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

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

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

SHIPPING CHARGES # of calendars:

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

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

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

Thanks to our GRRMF Stars!

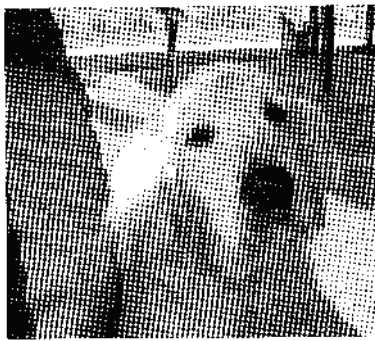
Many thanks to all who submitted photos and "Gotcha Dates" to help with this fundraiser.

We received so many wonderful photos, our judges had a very difficult time choosing only 13 to be "pin-up" goldens:

1 for each month and a cover dog. And if you don't see your golden featured as a dog-of-the-month, check out the bottom date section - we tried to use as many photos as we possibly could.

It is truly heartwarming to see how happy and healthy our former rescues are today.

You made our year (again)!!



Velvet/Ginger

With fur and a personality as soft as ... well, Velvet ... this treasure of a golden had a very tough time in life. Her former owner bred her to within an inch of her life - and then unceremoniously dumped her off at a shelter when she became too infirm to whelp any more puppies. She was approximately 11 years old.

It was quite obvious that Velvet hadn't had much of a life prior to going to her foster home. She was very shy and insecure, often acting as if she didn't know what she was supposed to do. She'd have to be encouraged to go outside. Then would go out and have to be encouraged to come back in. She didn't

seem to know what to do with herself inside the house ~ instead, she found an open dog crate and would voluntarily spend most of her time in there. Her foster mom, Char B., provided lots of patience and TLC, and soon Velvet started to come out of her shell.

She had heartworms, among other maladies, so she spent a while in foster care. During this time, Velvet slowly began to feel more comfortable, and she became quite a Velcro-type golden, relishing in every second of attention she could manage out of her human. Her favorite toy was a small stuffed animal. She would nibble and groom it, and ever-so-gently pick it up and carry it around with her, just like she must have carried her dozens of puppies over the years. It was a bit heartwrenching to watch, as it was obvious this was all Velvet had known.

When she recovered and received a clean bill of health, we started looking for a special home for this very special golden gal. We found it in Donna B. & Kevin K. One look at her soft face and their hearts melted. They took her home, and renamed her Ginger. Here's what Donna has to say about Ginger's life these days:

"I cannot believe that it has been a year since we took the trip down to Char's to get Ginger. Once we brought her home, it did not take her long to find her place within our family. She and our other golden Mango became best friends. It really is amazing after all Ginger has been through that she is the way she is. She's not afraid of anything and loves everyone she meets. She constantly has us laughing and smiling with that big grin and bigger tail - which is always wagging. She moved in with all her manners already established. She has never chewed anything that wasn't hers, does not jump on the furniture or people (well, occasionally mom when she's real excited but that's it), walks well on the leash, does not counter surf (ok, she did think of maybe tasting that pork chop one day but she didn't - and the ham, too, but that was because Mango started it), rides very well in the car (with a little help in) and understands basic commands (as in why would I want to sit when I am just going to stand up again in a minute when you put my bowl down). She is a delightful girl, eager to please and very easygoing. Of course, anytime you do sit down, Ginger puts her head in your lap for another nose rub and again that big old tail is wagging."

Donna has some advice for anyone considering adopting a senior: "Adopting an older dog was a major decision for us. We knew going in that she won't be with us for long. But can you ever have a dog long enough? When we saw her sweet face on the website and read her story, we felt that she deserved to spend the rest of her days -- no matter how many or how few -- in a home she could call her own. It has turned out to be one of the best decisions we have ever made. With all the love and laughter she has brought us in the last year, Kevin and I know that we are the lucky ones!"

We couldn't have put it better ourselves! GRRMF has a soft spot for the seniors, because we know we may be their only chance, and we feel strongly that these precious "old golks" deserve to spend out the rest of their days in peace and surrounded by love. Adoption fees are significantly reduced for seniors ~ we hope that all of you can some day experience the pleasure of old gold!

Then
and now



Yappy Hour on the Outer Banks

By Renee Perkic & "Scarlett"

The resident and visiting dogs of the Outer banks, N.C. are pampered pets. The pampering starts at the welcome center where the humans can pick up the latest edition of the "Pampered Pets Guide." This guide outlines pet safety, pet-friendly places, lost pet tips, leash laws and beach access map, pet events, emergency numbers and more.

These islands are truly dog friendly. In all my travels, this is the first destination that had a complimentary guide devoted to pets. Outer Barks (excellent shopping here, with a lot of unique items), Salty Paws Bakery, Dog Nutz, Yappy Hour (Friday's 2-4pm), Barker Brunch and Bow Wow Luau (first Wednesday of the month) were quickly on the top of our to-do list.

We were delighted to discover that the dogs could tour the outside sites of The Wright Brothers National Memorial, Corolla Heritage Park, Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. The beaches are clean and not crowded. We rented a house from Atlantic Realty (Check out Kitty Dunes Rental, also). There are many dog-friendly rental homes and a few hotels on the islands. For the humans only, we enjoyed bicycle riding, shopping (specialty shops are the best), the Corolla wild mustang pony tour and the Whalehead Club tour.

The travel time from Clearwater is around 15 hours. We spent a night on the road. Traveling to the Outer banks we stayed in Florence, S.C., at a Red Roof Inn. This property included dog walk areas with complimentary clean-up bags. Traveling back to Florida, we stayed in Savannah, Ga., at a LaQuinta Inn. We walked around the Riverwalk area and had outside seating for dinner with my golden, Scarlett.

Zeke's Story

Hi, my name is Zeke. I am 8 years old and I am a very lucky dog. It been a year since my I began the journey I'm about to tell you. I was staying in Tampa with my foster mom when she brought a new girl dog that was ill into our house. I did not like this girl dog and was not friendly with her.

The GRRMF people contacted my new friends asking them to come from Jensen Beach to check me out and maybe I could go home with them. I had my hair combed and was on my very best behavior, so they chose me to go home with them.

I had heard my other choice was to go back to a kennel and I did not want that.

I liked my new digs with nice sidewalks in a golf course and we began my new daily routine of walking for one mile in the morning and evening. I loved the walk and was very polite to the other people and little kids I would see.

They would talk kindly to me and let me give kisses to the kids.

I loved my new life ... but then it happened!

Dogs came up to me on the walks, and I would try to charge after them warning them to stay away. My Mom and Dad had a strong leash and would stop me, but I still thought that anything under 30 lbs. was a snack. They took me to be analyzed by a trainer, and I tried to eat his dogs - bad idea! My Mom and Dad called Diane at GRRMF several times to discuss me and my attitude. Uh oh, I thought, I'm in



trouble! Darn, I liked my new digs and didn't want to leave my great Mom and Dad. It was decided that I will have to attend something called Aggression Training School at Haggerty's School for Dogs. This was a tough school, as I was the only student. I tried to show my trainer, Gordon, that I was boss, but after several weeks of "one-on-one training" and several weeks more of disciplined daily training. I started to get the idea that Mom and Dad were the bosses and other dogs were ok after all. My Dad said our walks were no longer a stressful event and that I was coming along. My trainer mentioned that he was starting a class for a "Canine Good Citizen Award." He said I could come, but felt I would never pass the part of the test where the owners and dogs meet face to face and exchange pleasantries.

My Dad said we are going to try, and if I passed this test and one other final test, I would be welcome to stay in my "forever home." It was a very tough eight weeks, because there were 15 dogs including great Danes, puppies, and several snack dogs. The day of the final exam came, and I passed everything with flying colors up to the final test ... the dreaded one where the owners and dogs meet face to face. I had to meet Ace, the 180 lb. great Dane - gulp! Well, I showed them. When we walked up to Ace and his mom, I sat next to Dad and I was a perfect gentleman. The trainer looked at me, smiled, said that I had passed and signed the papers. Hooray! I knew was getting very close to earning my "forever home."

The final exam ... One morning we got in our car and rode 11 hours to Huntersville, North Carolina, to spend the weekend with a dog called Hogan and my Mom and Dad's son. Well, I got out of the car and, to my surprise, I found myself face to face with Hogan. He seemed to like me, but I wasn't sure, so I gave him a low growl. My Dad corrected me with my leash and assured me that it was o.k. We decided to go inside. Hogan and I exchanged snells, and THEN we decided to PLAY! I had a fun weekend, and now I know I truly have found my "forever home."

Today my Mom, Dad and I go on our walks and everything is good. I still get a little nervous around little dogs, but my Dad will put me in a "sit" and assure me that I'm o.k. I am now known in my neighborhood as the beautiful golden that sits for his pats! I am a good boy ...

Signed, Zeke & Dad Denny L.

PS: I love green beans, carrots and apples & I am a trim 75 pounds now.

Canine Temperament

By Jeff Drier, dog behavioral therapist and trainer and dad to "Autumn," formerly "Peanut"

Just as we are born with certain personality traits, so are our dogs. As genetics play a role in our makeup, it also helps determine your dog's personality. Along with who his parents are, the size of the litter can also play a part. No matter what Rover's temperament, however, he can be trained. Knowing Rover's temperament will help you understand him and should be considered when training him. A confident dog will behave differently than a timid dog. Identifying Rover's temperament will help you understand his reactions.

There are four basic canine personalities. How can you recognize them? The best way is to observe how they react to you, new situations and people.

▼ **Confident dogs:** These dogs approach life straight on. People, other dogs or new items don't worry them. They will stand tall (tail high, head up) when meeting others of their own kind. They won't necessarily back down when challenged. They will often ignore you when you ask them to do something. Some behaviors typical with confident or dominant dogs include jumping up on you and your guests, looking away or ignoring your commands, getting in your way and not moving or a tendency to rush past you. The most dominant dogs are passively dominant. They might seem to be dimwitted, but they are really very smart and will figure out how to get you to do what they want without you even realizing it. These dogs can be a challenge to train, but they are well worth the effort.

▼ **Timid dogs:** These dogs will show signs of submission such as head down, tail tucked under or rolling over on their backs when faced with the slightest sign of dominance from either people or other dogs. They might glance at you, then quickly look away. They will not want to maintain eye contact but will often check to see where you are. They sometimes will submissively urinate. Our instinct is to nurture them and softly tell them "It's ok, don't worry" in a soft voice when they exhibit their nervousness. They actually need to be corrected. Speaking to them gently reinforces their anxiety as they perceive their behaviors to be acceptable to you. These dogs need constant, consistent leadership to help them relax. They usually are easy to train once you give them the leadership they need.

▼ **Fearful/nervous dogs:** This dog may lunge toward the object(s) of his fear and then back away. He might try and circle behind people or constantly pace back and forth. These dogs will rarely approach someone new head on. They may also bark uncontrollably at the objects of their fear. These dogs will need to be guided through their fears with confident, consistent and patient leadership. They may never be as relaxed as a "middle of the pack" dog, but they can learn that everyone and everything is not a threat to their existence.

▼ **Middle of the pack dogs:** These dogs live to please. They don't shy away from new experiences or people. They will approach with a relaxed and happy posture and will be curious about new items. They don't try to dominate everyone they meet, but they will want to greet everyone they see. These dogs are the easiest to train.

Take a little time to watch Rover and learn his personality. He may be different with you than with others who are not part of his pack, so it may take you a little while to read him. Recognizing Rover's temperament and knowing how he reacts to situations will help you be prepared to give him the guidance he needs. Educating your dog should be fun both for him and you and should take his canine personality into consideration.

Books You Must Read!

By Ellen Lindenfeld, GRRMF Volunteer

Following are some recommended readings from Ellen Lindenfeld, GRRMF volunteer and Broward County Library manager.



*Cesar's Way:
The Natural,
Everyday
Guide to
Understanding
and*

Correcting Common Dog Problems

by Cesar Millan and Melissa Peltier.

*Katz on Dogs:
A Commonsense
Guide to
Training and
Living with Dogs*
by Jon Katz.



Interestingly, both of these books, although addressing the training issue from different points of view, stress that often behavior problems lie not in the dog, but rather in the owner.

"Fans of the National Geographic Channel's *The Dog Whisperer*, with Cesar Millan, will be grateful for Cesar's Way, an accessible guide to help new and current dog owners better understand the needs of their beloved pets. Cesar explains that dogs are not complicated, and despite what various owners think - not human. They rely on three key elements in their lives: exercise, discipline and affection (in that order). *Cesar's Way* is really a training program for dog owners. A 'must have' for dog owners moves beyond basic obedience school techniques and teaches owners how to change

unwanted behavior by better understanding their 'best friends.'"

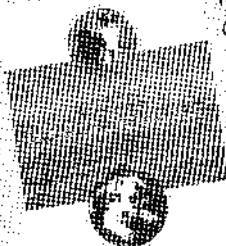
Daphne Durham -
Amazon.com

Katz, like Millan, reiterates that "dogs are comparatively simple animals that we all too often personify - much to the detriment of the human-dog bond."

(Publishers' Weekly)

Katz stresses that every dog is different, and every relationship between a person and his/her dog will be different. *Katz on Dogs* is a mixture of vignettes related to his three dogs and valuable training tips. Good read!

*Dogs of Dreamtime:
A Story About Second
Chances and
the Power
of Love*
by Karen
Shanley.



"Three
dogs enter
[Shanley's]
life, one of
whom the

author believes is the spirit of her first dog reincarnated. In learning to deal with their individual personalities, disabilities, illnesses and issues the author must learn new skills and ultimately make life-and-death decisions about each. A beautiful story, beautifully told."

(Library Journal,
8/1/05)

Anyone involved in rescue work will find this book a real tear-jerker.

Golden Girls Pet Therapy Team

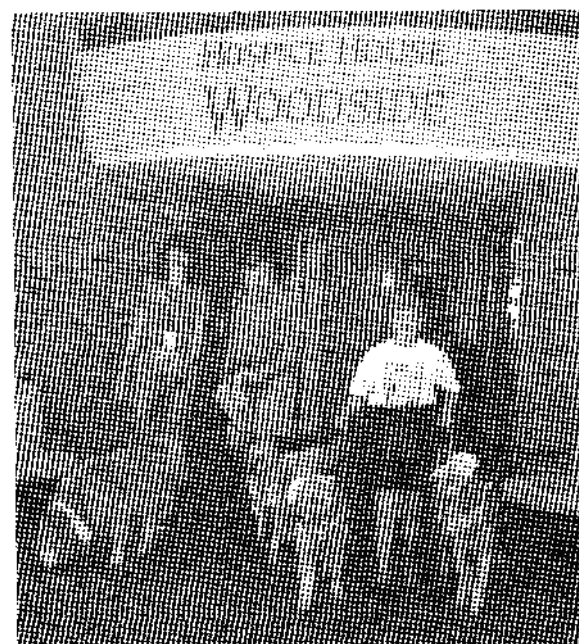
By Renee Perkio

"The girls are here" chorus echoes from the nurses stations when they enter. The "Golden Girls" have arrived, in the month's themed attire (Easter/spring, "take me out to the ballgame," patriotic, etc.), for their monthly visit to the Woodside Hospice House in Pinellas Park on the west coast. The girls and their escorts (left to right in photo) include Scarlett, escorted by Renee Perkio; Brandy, escorted by Dan Bates; and Lexi and Lola, escorted by Emily Rowe.

The girls and their escorts are members of the Hospice of the Florida Suncoast Pet Therapy program. The team visits hospice patients and their families in their home, the hospice house and nursing homes. At the hospice house and nursing homes, family members will come out of their rooms requesting visits from the four-legged blondes for their loved ones. Many patients can no longer care for a pet, so the program helps them reconnect with an animal. The patients enjoy sharing their pet stories and learning about our girls and rescue.

Pet Therapy has been shown to reduce anxiety and stress. Research shows spending time with a pet can enhance quality of life and bring a sense of well being through relaxation, lowering blood pressure, inviting communication and humorous responses. The goldens enjoy the adoration and the treats. They are usually tired after a visit.

The smiles, laughs and numerous "thank you's" make it a heartwarming experience for the escorts. They truly have Hearts of Gold!



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

BYRON

In Loving Memory of Byron Kessler, known to most as The B-Man
August 4, 1997 - July 6, 2006 - A beautiful golden heart who united two human hearts....



On Thursday, July 6, Byron (aka Byron's Winny the Pooh Bear), known by friends as "The B-Man," made the journey to the Rainbow Bridge. He chose to make that journey from his home, in the arms of his human mommy and daddy, with his canine brother and buddy Sammy at his side. He joins Charlie Girl, Maggi, Shaggi, Muffin, Coke, Bandit, Adrian, Jumpin' Jack Flash and all his canine friends gone before him, bringing the magic of his beautiful personality and wonderful sweet "golden grin" to all who are already at the Bridge. Byron is survived by his human parents Carol and Mike, his human sisters Kate and Jackie, his canine brother Sammy, his avian brothers Billy the Kidd, Kendall and Jackson, and his avian sister Chardonnay. He will be dearly missed and always loved by his family and all will always hold a special "forever home" spot in their hearts. Byron and his family send our special hearts of gold wishes to those involved in his rescue and to all who prayed for, wholeheartedly supported and helped us during this journey. We thank you all for being there with your golden hearts, and send our best sloppy puppy kisses and hugs your way! Thank you all again from the bottom of OUR golden hearts.

Carol, Mike, Sammy, Billy the Kidd, Kendall, Jackson, Chardonnay



ABBEY & SUGAR

Camp Sumner has had two old souls go to the Rainbow Bridge recently. Abbey and Sugar went within days of each other. Sugar was the 10 year old stray that was given to GRRMF last summer. Small, almost toothless, with a short tail due to partial amputation for cancer, and with fur that could only be described as that of a bear. Sugar was the kind of dog you had to love. She was diagnosed with cancer, so she came to Camp Sumner to live out what they thought would be around 6-8 weeks. That was a year ago. At the end, the cancer finally took over her body and we had to let her go. Her life here was one of activity and love. Her smile will be missed.

Abbey came to us in January 2004. Again, she was an older gal - 13 years. Her owner had lost her male and was afraid that Abbey would be lonely because he worked so much. She came to Camp Sumner to live out her days. We thought that she would be with us for maybe a year. That was two and half years ago. She would have been 16 in September. Since my house can be so crazy with foster puppies and stuff, we attempted to put her in a quiet home. She hated it! She wanted back to be in the middle of the action. She even went to the Winter Park Christmas Parade this past year and marched the entire route. She stayed here until her final days in July. Dr. Wiseman himself carried her from the car to the office. She was smiling until the end, munching on cookies and showing that goofy Abbey grin. Our days are just a little less bright without the matriarch here at the helm.

From: Abbey [abbey@rainbowbridge.pup]
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 1:30 PM
To: Sandy Sumner

Hello Mom:

Well, it seems just a short time ago that you and Jennifer walked me to the Rainbow Bridge and we said our goodbyes. I know how sad you were, and I was too. I will miss our time with the rest of the crew. I'm sure you will miss the way I owned your place the way only a senior as long in the tooth as me could own it. What can I say? I was an old lady when you knew me, and I wanted things my way. But let me tell you what I won't miss. I won't miss the way you made me feel special and loved. I won't miss it one bit, because I can still feel it as strong as when we were together for the last time this afternoon. How cool is that! I get to keep the best of you with me even in my new digs and with my new friends.

Well, you will be happy to know that I am settling in here with the rest of the Camp Sumner grads and catching up on old times. There are more activities here than you would believe. Bernie, Buster and I are going for a paddle boat ride later, and then I have a massage and nail appointment (Did someone say Princess!). Bernie says hello and that he is still playing ball for two hours every day. I can sure tell. Man is he handsome. He was always a distinguished looking older gentleman, but I have to say he is really cute. Don't tell him I said that. I don't want him to think he's all that. Buster was my escort through the orientation session today and made sure my cars were clean and presentable. He's so good to me.

Well, they are waiting for me in the paddle boat and it looks to me like they don't have a clue as to what they are doing. Bernie, you're facing the wrong way! What? I can't understand you with that ball in your mouth! No Buster, there is no motor! It's puppy powered! Oh boy. I'd better go before they hurt themselves. I won't forget you Mom. Don't forget me. Wait, who am I kidding? I'm unforgettable!

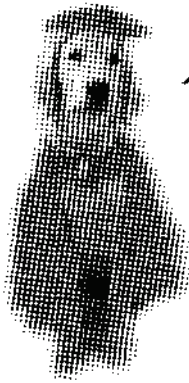
I love you,
Abbey

SHANE



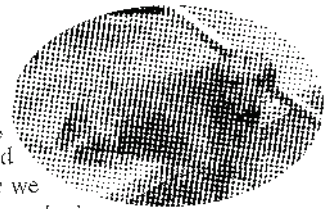
This morning, I had to make the most difficult and unselfish decision of my life. Shane has been valiantly battling lymphoma and it was obvious today was the day to set him free. He bravely and peacefully crossed the Rainbow Bridge this morning with two "surrogate" aunts and his mommy by his side. Shane was a gift sent to me (through GRRMF) when I needed a friend. He was loyal by my side through good times and bad, made two trips to Key West, one to Islamorada and watched 100s of football games by my side. I could not have asked for a more devoted, loyal and loving friend. Now that you are reunited with your brother Aspen and your sister, Amanda ... make sure that you play nice, share your tennis balls and save one for me to throw when we meet again. Please watch over me and Jewel and let us know you are happy, healthy and free. Godspeed Shane. I miss you and will love you forever.

Mary Chaundy and Jewel



Alumni News

CODA

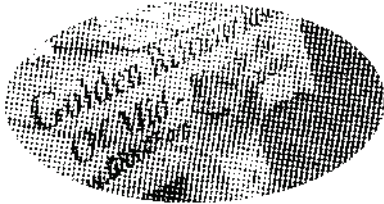


Coda came to us last year needing bilateral hip surgeries for severe dysplasia. Lucky for all, Coda found his forever home with Dianne & Bill C., who have a pool to do swim therapy and were very patient in helping Coda through his surgeries and rehabilitation. Here is a note we received recently from Dianne: "Coda is a big boy, weighing in at 94 pounds. The veterinarian says he is not overweight, you can feel his scapula and ribs, he is just a BIG boy, but a very gentle fellow. He was 2 in April, and we're happy to report that he is pain-free and loves to wrestle, swim and run. Coda is a joy. He does have one quirk. He loves paper, which is not good when you are a printer working from home, as I am! We are very happy Coda was able to become a part of our family." **Editor's Note:** Coda is now showing the ropes to a new GRRMF rescue - Midas - who also needed double hip surgeries. Coda and his humans are caring for Midas through his surgeries and rehab, and Coda has already taught Midas how to swim.

MURPHY



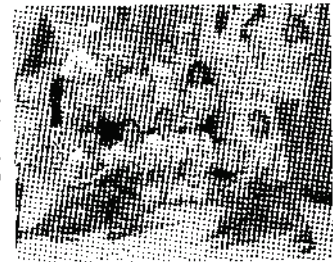
Murphy's dad Dan H. sent us this beautiful picture recently of Murphy, now 11. Here is Dan's note: "This is Murphy-the-golden-retriever-girl-friend-dog. I got Murphy from GRRMF when she was only 8 weeks old and she will be 11 in November. Murphy graduated from puppy kindergarten at Best Paw Forward in her first year and has been the best behaved joy of my life ever since. Murphy's favorite pastimes include hunting lizards (she doesn't like to eat them thank goodness) and chasing cats - she learned early on that she does not like to catch cats, just chase them. She also loves to swim when the opportunity arises. Murphy has been a great traveler all her life and loves everyone. Likewise, everyone loves Murphy - even those that don't normally like dogs, silly people. Murphy is older and slower now but she is still my best fur-faced friend. I will always be indebted to GRRMF for providing me the best loyalty ever."



HONEY

Adopted in December at age 1, Honey has been doing great in her new forever home with Sharon S., who tells us: "Honey is as sweet as her name implies. She fits right in and it is as if she has been here forever."

AUTUMN



We received this picture and note recently from Jeff D. about Autumn, formerly Peanut: "Autumn is really doing well. We celebrated her first year with us on June 12. To celebrate, she went to work with us at the Humane Society of Tampa Bay's Kriiter Kamp to teach kids how to safely interact and have fun with dogs. Autumn played hide-and-seek with me (me hiding and her seeking). She LOVES that game and the kids got a real kick out of it, too. Keep up the GREAT work!"



DUKE

Duke was adopted from GRRMF in 2004 by Frank H., who has spent a lot of time and energy on obedience training. And it's paying off! Frank tells us that Duke was recently certified as a therapy dog with Space Coast Therapy Dogs. Here is his note: "Wanted to send you a picture of us when we got the therapy dog certification. What a handsome boy ... and the dog's not bad looking either. Ha!"

Note: GRRMF reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity and length. Please send stories to the GRRMF Newsletter Editor, PO Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733, email: newsletter@grrmf.org.

Mark your Calendars! 2007 GRRMF Rescue Reunion!



Join us for our next Annual Rescue Reunion: Saturday, March 3, 2007
Lake Parker Park Lakeland (same location as previous years)
10 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Prizes Raffle & silent auction Picnic fare
Games Golden goods
And lots of fun for you and your golden!

Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers for the 2007 reunion, including a Reunion Coordinator!
This is a terrific event, and we normally have hundreds of attendees.

You'd get a chance to meet other GRRMF volunteers and adopters, and work side-by-side with others who have the same golden passion as you! We're looking for willing volunteers to take the lead in the following areas: games, welcome table, golden goods, raffle/silent auction, food/concession stand, grooming services, and set-up/tear-down. If interested, contact GRRMF President Barbara Durham: red2dogs@aol.com, or call our Hotline and leave a message: 407-332-2840.

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!

EAST COAST:

Jacksonville - PetsMart, St. John's Town Center - every 2nd Saturday, 10 a.m. - noon
Jacksonville - PetSmart Avenue Mall, Every fourth Saturday, noon to 2 p.m.

PetsMart, Melbourne / Petco, Viera/Suntree

TAMPA/ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER:

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

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

SARASOTA:

PetsMart, The Landings/Sarasota -- Every first Saturday noon - 3 p.m.

PetsMart, Bradenton - Every third Saturday -- noon to 3:00 p.m.

ORLANDO:

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

Borders Bookstore, Oviedo - Every third Saturday, 7-9:30 p.m.

SOUTH FLORIDA:

Pet Supplies Plus, Lake Park/Palm Beach - 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.

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 ☐ Golden Friend \$50 ☐ 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.



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