



TALES OF GOLD

Planning Ahead

By GRRMF President Barbara Durham

Mom and I were discussing a sad story about her friend who recently passed away. This friend loved her cat more than anything – she was totally devoted to her beloved feline. Sadly, the woman passed away, and her husband could care less about the cat. The cat has been banished to the yard and its care forgotten. The latest a mutual friend heard was that the husband was going out of town and he was going to ditch the cat somewhere. I'm sure many of you are like me and just cringe at this story (and would like to give the husband a good swift kick). Her beloved cat consumed her daily thoughts. But there was no one to protect the cat.

Have you adequately prepared for your pets if something happened to you? Pets are property, and you should specify a beneficiary for them in your will. For your GRRMF adopted dog, you should specify GRRMF as the beneficiary. You can also include a pet care trust in your estate plan that provides for their care.

I recently set up a pet care trust funded by a portion of my life insurance. The trust specifies the care my animals are to receive and provides funds for their care. It is very specific and addresses care for my dogs, cats and, believe it or not, my guinea pigs! I also have a separate power of attorney for pet care only that designates who is responsible for directing my pet's care if I am not available to do so.

Since I have special-needs animals, leaving funds for their care is particularly important to me. For example, I'm concerned that if my golden Poobah comes back to GRRMF, the cost of his care might be an issue for a potential adopter who otherwise might be a terrific home for him. My pet trust will pay for the special-needs care for his life to make sure he can get the best home. Any leftover funds in the trust after all my pets have passed will go to GRRMF to help other needy golden retrievers. Ask your estate-planning attorney about planning for your pets.

So what happens to your GRRMF golden(s) if you die? Remember, the adoption contract you signed specifies that the dog must come back into GRRMF custody if something happens to you. Some of you may be thinking, "Wait, I would like my relative to take 'Goldie' if something happens to me. I don't want the dog to go back to being a rescue dog again." Let me explain why it is the absolute best thing for your dog. First, in the event you would like a family member to adopt the dog, we would give that family member the first opportunity. We understand wanting to keep the dog in the family, and we'd do everything to avoid disrupting the dog's life. Maybe you've discussed this with a family member who has agreed to take your dog. But picture this: Suppose you ask your adult son to take the dog. He'd probably feel obligated to say yes rather than disappoint you. Years pass. After your death, the dog goes to him – but now he's married and his wife isn't too fond of dog hair in the house or the way the dog slobbers on the kids. They might be ashamed to contact GRRMF to take it back, and the dog could end up in a home that doesn't meet your standards or, worse, in a shelter.

If GRRMF is guiding this process, you are assured that we will do everything we can to keep your dog safe and find the very best home for him. (Remember everything you had to go through to adopt a dog from us?) If a family member adopts and changes his or her mind after the mourning period wears off, we'd have a signed contract ensuring that the dog will be returned to us.

Perhaps this all seems a bit far-fetched. But in the rescue world, a lot of dogs are given up after an owner dies. A family member or friend may take the dog but it doesn't work out. Patience wears thin ... and animal control is a short trip away. And yes, golden retrievers die in shelters all the time. You do not want that ending for your golden.

Please be sure that your executor, close friends and family members know you have a GRRMF dog and they should contact us in the event of any incapacity on your part. It is important for more than one person to know. They simply need to call our hotline at 407.332.2840 and leave a message on the intake mailbox #1. Don't put this off – we all think we wouldn't end up like the poor woman and her cat, but you just never know. And be sure to protect the rest of your pets, too!



Rescues Are "Perfect" to Us

By Sandy Sumner, GRRMF Adoption Coordinator

I have done countless adoptions over the years. Young dogs, old dogs, dogs with special needs and those that are not considered "perfect" to many. Each, in its own way, has touched my heart and enriched my life. And sometimes they come in the most unexpected ways.

Recently a friend told me about a dog ready to be put down at a local shelter. She was part of a backyard breeder confiscation. The other dogs were going to be taken by a local rescue but not this one. She is blind. For



some reason they did not think she was adoptable. No, she is not a golden. She is a little black and tan cocker spaniel. And she happened to be a dog that my friend saw and called me about. (She wanted to know if I knew of a place that would take her; I am sure that deep inside she knew I would take her and find her a home).

They named her Follow at the shelter; I renamed her Shadow because that is what she is. She stays close and wants to be touched. Her tail was never docked so that long black feathered wand goes non-stop day and night.

By many people's standards, she is not perfect. But her blindness does not slow her down and it does not diminish her beauty or sweet personality. She plays nonstop with any dog that will offer. She climbs over baby gates as if they weren't there. She navigates around the house and yard with no problems. And someone's life will be all the more blessed because she will enter it. Is she perfect? She is to me.

It is the same with our rescued golden retrievers. Each is perfect in its own way. He or she may need some help to look and feel better, but the golden soul is there every day. And that is what GRRMF does. We don't just take the "perfect" ones – we take the ones that need to be rescued. They are old or sick or need some TLC to overcome some shyness or anxiety. And when these obstacles are overcome, they are the dogs who know what it is to be grateful. They look at you with a love that comes from knowing how hard life can be. Their expressions show how thankful they are to you for giving them what they need to be whole again.

And we volunteers of GRRMF thank you, our members and donors, for what you do. You donate to enable us to fix these broken souls, and you adopt them into your homes and show them everyday how perfect they are to you.

WE'RE ADOPTED!



Just 4 years old, **Clotiel** came to GRRMF when her owner decided she didn't have enough time for her anymore. She was

quite overweight, had ear infections and supposedly suffered from a seizure disorder. We put her on phenobarbital to keep the seizures at bay. Her foster mom Char loved her dearly but knew that she needed to let her be adopted so that she could continue fostering. Along came Thomas & Nancy M., who fell in love with Clotiel and couldn't wait to take her home to stay.

Jack was a stray in a shelter. When his owners didn't claim him, we did. We took care of some minor medical issues and taught him a few manners. We placed him with Chris and Kristin W. and their son Jackson, who promised to give him the guidance he needed with obedience training. They renamed him Mack and report that he has fit in well with their family.



Many of our members saw **Beau's** story on our web site. He's 15 and his owners gave him up due to "no time." We figured he'd be a permanent resident in his foster home with Sandy S., but when Frank & Jean L. saw his

story on our web site, they applied immediately. They felt he deserved to have a forever home just as much as the younger goldens. They drove all the way from Southwest Florida and couldn't wait to get him home. Beau is enjoying a pampered life these days with his other canine siblings and a family who adores him. These happy endings keep us going!

Five-year-old **Ralph** came to us with his sister **Lucille** from a family having financial difficulties. Both tested positive for several types of parasites including heartworms. Fosters Rick and Cindy O. nursed Ralph back to health while we set out to find just the right forever home for him. Along came Jason & Lauren G., who were looking for a dog for their young girls to enjoy. It was love at first sight and they were happy to welcome this handsome, well-mannered boy into their family. Lucille went to stay with Jennifer K. and once she was deemed healthy and heartworm-free, we placed her with Sabrina G and Bruce B, who had just lost their precious golden girl. Lucille is now in her forever home, especially enjoying the swimming pool. Sabrina wrote, "Thanks for sending her to us. She seems very happy and content and we adore her. Boy, does she love the water!"

Rufus was an owner turn-in and was suffering from untreated allergies and skin problems. He was fostered by Jennifer K., who couldn't bear to part with him. Rufus now welcomes other GRRMF fosters into his home and shows them the ropes so that they, too,

can go on to lead great lives, just like he has!



Casey came to GRRMF when her previous owner died and no one in the family could take her. She was quite a challenge for GRRMF foster mom Sandy S., due to her tremendous allergies to many things. Sandy hit on the right combination of food, and sweet and petite Casey started doing much better. She was adopted by Carolyn & Mike H., whose GRRMF girl Maggie had passed recently.



Tigger came from Animal Control. He was emaciated and very sick. He went to stay with foster mom Char B., and she nursed him back to health. Tigger has partial sight loss, but that didn't deter Olga & Michael P., who adopted Freddie last year and wanted to help again by adopting an older dog. Tigger fit the bill, and off he went to his new home! GRRMF is so grateful for those who decide to adopt an older dog. They have so much love to give, and require so little in return!

At 10 years old, **Belle** was unspayed. She was turned in by her family due to a child's allergies. Belle was fostered by longtime GRRMF supporter Hettie B., who couldn't bear to part with her.

Cocoa came in with her sister Lady. Both were relinquished to GRRMF when their owner went to jail. Cocoa was just 2 years old and had a lot of weight to lose. Ted & Maggie D. agreed to foster her and couldn't give her up, so Cocoa has a forever home where she is pampered and adored – what more could we ask for?



Toby was a stray 1-year-old boy in a shelter. He was not neutered and was heartworm-positive, so he would be put on the "unadoptable" list unless GRRMF stepped in. Of course, we made room for him right away, and after a few weeks of treatment and some TLC from foster mom Barbie P, he was heartworm-free and ready for adoption. Along came Edna and Ron B. and family who were looking for a young golden. Toby fit the bill and keeps his family laughing at his antics.

Chester was given up by his owners, who said they didn't have time for him and he was just "too much to handle." His foster mom Barbie P. thought he was a great dog who got a bad rap. Linda & Gary P. agreed. They have an older golden and were looking for a companion. Chester was the perfect fit.

Buick, age 3, was dropped off at a veterinarian's to be euthanized. Why? Diarrhea! Luckily, the vet thought he deserved a second chance and called GRRMF. He went to stay with Susan S. and once we

determined he was nothing but a healthy golden retriever, he was adopted in no time by Caroline & Marty H. He is now named Buddy, and he is very much loved and appreciated by his new family.

Harley, age 3, came to GRRMF when his owner had a baby and no longer wanted him. He had been shaved and was sporting skin and ear infections when he went to stay with foster mom Kristie M. She fixed him up and in no time Harley found his true forever home with Lauren W. & Laurie D. They have two other dogs and wanted a dog who could be trained to do pet therapy. Harley has already started his training and is well on his way to helping others with his gentle beauty and golden charms.



Cliff, 18 months, came to GRRMF from a shelter, where he was deemed unadoptable due to severe ear infections.

It didn't take long before foster mom Char B. fixed those ears up and off Cliff went to his new home with Tawnia & Joe M. His new name is Zeus, and he spends his days with his new sister and best friend Zoey swimming and playing – ahh, it's a dog's life, Zeus!

Amber, age 10, was victim of a divorce. She came to GRRMF when neither party wanted her. She went to stay with Guillermo P. until her true forever home could be found. Along came Harry H. who was looking for a laid-back golden who likes to go for walks and hang out. Amber has been making lots of new friends in her walks around the neighborhood.



Ten-month-old **Sherman** was given up by owners who didn't have the means to take care of a pup. He was tied outside and not getting the care

or attention he needed. We took him in, neutered him, and sent him to live with Barbara K., who was looking for a canine companion for her dog, Cooper. Sherman and Cooper have become best buds. Barbara writes: "He loves his walks, and there is a dog park about a mile down the road from me. He just makes me laugh! What a personality! Thanks for Sherman – he is a gem!"

Taylor, 2 years, was turned in by his owner, who said he traveled too much and didn't have time for a dog. He was fostered by Susan S., who couldn't part with him and welcomed him as a permanent addition.

Corey, an 8-month-old cuddlebug, found herself in need of a new home when her owners decided they no longer had time for her. She has one eye, due to a dog attack when she was a very young puppy, but it doesn't slow her down in the least. She was fostered by Cathy S. and adopted by Billie Jo

Jo & Nathaniel Y. They report that Corey is settling in nicely and doing very well.

Sadie, age 2, was born with a deformed paw. She was given to GRRMF when her disabled owner could no longer keep her. Sadie was very much loved by her foster mom Lindsay T. and adopted by Debbie O. They adopted Maple last year and were looking for a companion and playmate. They found one with Sadie, and the two are now inseparable. Debbie reports that they keep her laughing with their daily entertainment.



Travis came to us from a shelter. He was an owner turn-in, and with

skin infections and hair loss, Travis' days were numbered. We sprung him out of prison and got him some medicine for his skin infections and upper respiratory infection. His foster mom Kellyann G. knew he was a special angel under his rough exterior and vowed that we'd find a very special home worthy of a dog of his caliber. Jordan G., a GRRMF volunteer, was looking for a new companion and thought Travis would be perfect. Talk about hitting the lottery!

Handsome 5-year-old **Sunny** came to us all the way from Puerto Rico. He had been a stray and the rescue group there thought he deserved a chance at a new life. They put him on a plane to us and we welcomed him with open arms. Ed and Marsha B. had been waiting for just the right dog to add to their family. Sunny seemed like a good match. He enjoys the company of his new brother Traynor.



Drew was an owner turn-in at age 6 when he came to stay with foster folks Larry & Angie W. He had a few extra pounds on him,

so they put him on a diet and increased his exercise. Deb Z. was looking for a walking companion and thought Drew would be perfect. After a bit of a rocky start when Drew tried to push his boundaries, the two have hit it off fabulously and become quite a team. Drew, now Rusty, is finally home for good!

Rudy, age 1, was all puppy. His owner said he had no time or money for him, so we took him in and got him neutered right away. After a brief stay with Lindsay T.

in foster care, Rudy got his forever home with Tim S. and GRRMF alum Benny. The two are best buds now and definitely provide lots of entertainment value for their new dad!



Hannah Bear, 16 months, was relinquished when

one of her human family members developed allergies. She was unsplayed, so we took care of that right away. Hannah stayed with foster mom Cathy S., who adored her. She was quickly adopted by Karen D. and Brenda B. and has a new canine sister Gracie who is showing her the ropes. The two do everything together – including sleeping curled up next to each other – and they look so much alike they could be twins! Hannah really lucked out this time around!



At just 1 year old, **Maya** was another young golden

turned in due to "no time and too much to handle." She stayed with Barbie P. who fell for her hook, line and sinker, but was still able to let her go when Sue P. came along. Maya has found a wonderful new home where she will be pampered and adored for the rest of her life.



Bear was another heartworm-positive

stray that had the good luck to get in to the hands of caring volunteers for GRRMF. Once his treatment was complete, we began to look for his new home. Doris L. was looking for a companion for her golden boy, Shooter. It proved to be a great match and the boys enjoy playing and wrestling together.

Add **Daphne** to the list of heartworm-positive dogs who found their way to us recently. Daphne was found in an animal shelter by one of our volunteers and instead of being euthanized, she now is healthy and heartworm-free. She was adopted by Debbie and Jim M. who fell in love with her at first sight. It turned out to be a great match since Daphne loves the company of her humans. She now enjoys sometimes going to work with Debbie and also spending time with Debbie's mom.

THANKS

HOME VISITS: Terry Batt, Carol Carrier, Janet Dattillo, Jeff Drier, Renee Duke, Janice Dunn, Gregg Eddie, Jordan German, Lila Gilbert, Donna Graves, Rebecca Gushwa, Lyn Holliday, Steve Jaffe, Sue Keiser Anderson, Kathleen Larrison, Ellen Lindenfeld, Cheryl Maze, Debbie McGhehey, Judy Ladney, Carol McKee, Renee Perkie, Gil Peterson, Gayle Risley, Emily Rowe, Kathy Russell, Anitra Ruth, Maggie Stambaugh, Sandy Sumner, Judi Syffrett, Kerri Vorhies, Valerie & Chris Walters, Barbara White.

FOSTERS: Val & Rick Battersby, Char Bauer, Hank & Janice Bogle, Gary & Sharon Bressen, Michele Cain, Lori Cubbedge, Renee Duke, Ted & Maggie Duncan, Tom & Gregg Eddie, Kimberly Elman, Tom & Kellyann Goring, Chuck & Donna Graves, Bert & Charlie Haker, Dan & Vanessa Hardy, Ann & Jeff Huie, Jennifer Kekuwa, Jennifer Longman, Tommy & Chris Manley, Kirk & Michelle Martin, Marcia McGovern & John Macri, Mike & Carol McKee, Mark & Kristie Molina, Rick & Cindy Owens, Cheryl Pacheco, Barbie Paetzold, Guillermo Porro, Kathy Rozzo, Melanie Ruggiano-Gallo, Cathy Schultz, Sharon Stockman, Pam Strickland, Sandy Sumner, Susan Sweetser, Amie Tishkoff & Robert Kennon, Angie & Larry Weldon, Leslie and Jim Wisnowski. **INTAKE:** Bert Haker, Kimberly Elman, Lynne Halleran, Jeff Lipkes, Dianne McLean, Emily Rowe, Sharon Stockman, Kerri Vorhies. **CALL TEAM:** Ana Alvarez, Agnes & David Balas, Sandy Bicknel, Kevin Contessa, Nan Contessa, Dave Dillman, Sue Keiser Anderson, Abby Lee, Marlene Nesbitt, Mary Ann Newton, Richard Newton, Catherine Vera, Kerri Vorhies (Team Coordinator), Angie Weldon.

APPLICATIONS: Peggy Litt, Pam Harrell, Carol McKee, Kerri Vorhies. **ADOPTION COORDINATORS:** Renee Duke, Carol McKee, Sandy Sumner. **MAIL:** Carol & Hal Avey. **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:** Melissa Knowles. **NEWSLETTER:** Carol McKee, Judy Ladney. **WEB SITE:** Renee Duke, Carol McKee

RECORDKEEPER: Jennifer Longman. **INFO@GRRMF.**

ORG E-MAILS: Suzanne Rider. **INFO LINE:** Betty Wyatt, Kathy Byrne

VETERINARIANS: Oviedo Animal Hospital; 434 Animal Hospital, Longwood; Wickham Road Animal Hospital, Melbourne; Advanced Veterinary Hospital, Holiday; All Creatures Animal Hospital, Lutz; Animal Hospital of Treasure Island; Veterinary Acupuncture, Winter Park; Sand Lake Animal Clinic, Orlando; Skyway Animal Hospital, St. Petersburg; Gateway Animal Hospital, St. Petersburg; Pet Doctors, Jacksonville; Green Cove Springs Animal Hospital; Animal Hospital of Seminole; North Orange Veterinary Hospital, Apopka; Julington Creek Animal Hospital, Jacksonville; Palm Aire Animal Medical Center, Sarasota; Integrative Medical Center, Sarasota. **HIP DOG:** For providing hydrotherapy and massage for our rescues with hip problems, Winter Park.

HEALTHYPETNET: Dennis Grace, who 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 treats for dogs and cats - www.grrmf.org/grrmf-canine-food.html. **Pet's Natural Choice, Oviedo:** Debbie Csuy, for her generous donation of dog food for our fosters requiring special diets and holistic regimens.

RECENT DONATIONS

Due to volunteer summer vacations, GRRMF was unable to publish the most recent list of donors (May/June 2008) in this issue of the newsletter. Additionally, acknowledgment letters are running behind. We apologize for the delay. Your donations are very much appreciated and will be recognized as soon as GRRMF returns to full staffing levels. We hope to get caught up very soon. Look for an extended donations list in the next issue of this newsletter. Should you have any questions, please email treasurer@grrmf.org.

OUR GOLDEN TRANSPORTERS

By Sue Angle, GRRMF Transportation Coordinator

Hats off! Huge kudos! And big blue ribbons to the many wonderful and generous transporters who respond to the call for help in getting our precious golden cargo on the way to their forever homes.

Sometimes these very willing helpers get an emergency call that we need a driver immediately, other times we're able to give them a couple days warning – but with each call for help, the transport volunteer on the other end of the line is more than willing to get in their vehicle and make that trip



to make sure another golden is safe and on their way "home."

We're all aware of the rising gasoline prices and this makes what these transport volunteers do even

more special! They not only give their time, but their donation in gasoline dollars helps make it possible for us to save a golden from being euthanized at an overcrowded shelter, take a surrendered golden to our veterinarian for the care or surgery it desperately needs, and finally chauffeur the golden to a loving foster home on its way to being adopted.

We can't thank our transport volunteers enough for all they do, but we hope that the look in the golden's eye, the wag of its tail and sometimes the wet nose kiss it plants on their cheek, will let them know that at that moment they are the most important thing in that golden's life. They are appreciated more than they'll ever realize and are making a difference that will last a lifetime.

MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING TRANSPORTERS:

Marvin Arkovich
Hank & Janice Bogle
Anna Brandt
Hettie Buck
Jonathan Cain
Pat Chesley
Tom & Mary Ellen Convery
Maggie Duncan
Tom & Gregg Eddie
Pete & Susan Fitzgerald
John Foss
Walter & Susan Fritz
Greg & Jana Garrison
Tom & Kellyann Goring
Dennis Grace
Donna Graves
Phil & Brenda Guinand
Bert Haker
Lynne Halleran
Michelle Hartog
Victoria Hastie
Ed & Pat Howie
Karen Kelly
Vickie Krivacs
Judy Ladney

Linda Lane-Lantry
Coralee Leon
Jeff Lipkes
Linda Lullman
Marcia McGovern
Lisa McGrew
John Mitzel
Kelly Pavone
Kristin Phelps
Harold Rhea
Dave Robinson
Bill & Pat Shepard
Boyce "Smitty" Smith
Maggie Stambaugh
Pam Strickland
Olinda Sykes
Julie Wand
Tracy Yost

(Hopefully we didn't miss anyone – these are the folks who have transported for us recently – some of you make multiple trips, some just one or two. Thanks to ALL for your heartfelt dedication and hard work!)

HELP US FIND FOREVER HOMES FOR ALL OUR GOLDENS!



GRRMF Membership/Donation Form

All memberships and donations are tax-deductible.

Name _____ Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone (s) _____ E-mail _____

Please check one: ☐ General Membership \$25 ☐ Golden Friend \$50 ☐ Sponsorship to help special-needs golden \$100

☐ General Donation \$ _____ ☐ Woody's Fund \$ _____ ☐ 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. is a 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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