



TALES OF GOLD

Heartworms: An Unnecessary Epidemic

By Carol McKee

It rankles the nerves and clogs up the rescue pipeline. I'm referring to that dreaded diagnosis from our veterinarian upon examination of a new recruit: heartworms.



Ralph

In February and March alone, GRRMF took in 10 heartworm-positive dogs. And lest you think these are all shelter dogs, think

again. Ralph & Lucille, a brother/sister pair, came from an owner who said he "could no longer care for them." Too bad he didn't come to realization BEFORE he stopped giving them their heartworm preventive. Barclay came from a "home" (I use those quotes intentionally) where he was left tied outside with no shelter except the underside of the dilapidated old trailer he was tied to. So we expected the heartworm diagnosis with him. Poor Fiona is 12 years old and came from



Barclay

someone who had found her a year or so ago and could no longer keep her.



Lucille

The remaining boys and girls did come from shelters, but that is still no excuse. Someone during their lives "owned" these dogs before they ended up in the shelter. There is just no excuse for allowing your dog to contract heartworms. And in Florida, the danger is year-round, because heartworms are carried by mosquitoes. They are transmitted when the mosquito bites the dog. The easiest way to prevent them is with a monthly preventive – the pill is chewable and tastes good to dogs, so they'll usually eat it readily. A heartworm diagnosis is a result of neglect on the part of the owner, plain and simple.

And I am one of the guilty ones.

When I was younger, I had a collie mix named Snippers. That was back in the 1970s and early '80s when no one had ever heard of heartworms, at least in my home state of Ohio. I moved to Florida in 1982, and in 1983 my sweet gal was diagnosed. It was a tough lesson I never forgot. The guilt I felt at being responsible for her illness still lives with me today. I have been nothing less than religious about giving the preventive to the rest of the dogs I've shared my life with these past 20 years plus. Thankfully, Snippers went on to live a long life and died of natural causes in 1989. I only wish I had been educated and spared her – and me – the suffering.

Our rescue pipeline is clogged right now, because heartworm-positive dogs take a few months to go through the treatment process before they can be adopted. We have approved applications lined up waiting for these dogs, who, were it not for the heartworms, could be on their way to wonderful new forever homes right now. And if our foster homes are filled with dogs undergoing heartworm treatment, that also means our intake waiting list is growing longer and longer while those dogs wait for a foster home to become available. It's a frustrating situation to be in – so many dogs who need us and we can't get them in.

That said, not a day goes by that I am not grateful for the caring souls that make up GRRMF – because without GRRMF, these heartworm-positive dogs would die. Because of your donations, and because of the tireless work put in by our volunteers and wonderful foster homes, these dogs have a chance to go on to live happy, healthy and active lives.

Want to help? You can start by sending in a small donation. Heartworm treatment is very expensive, and it doesn't take long before our vet bills get into the five-figure range. You also may want to consider fostering. GRRMF pays for all medical bills. All you add is love. The more foster homes we have, the more dogs we're able to take in. The more dogs we take in, the less approved homes we have waiting patiently (well, sometimes not so patiently) for their special golden to arrive. And the more dogs we adopt out, the more room we have for intake, and the shorter that waiting list gets.

There you have it. A positive way to make a VERY positive difference in a golden's life. Or two or three. And while I have your attention – please, please do not forget to give your dog his heartworm preventive. It could save his life.

Being Owned by a Golden – It's for Life!

By Sandy Sumner, GRRMF Adoption Coordinator

Looking back on 2007 and viewing the start of 2008, I see a trend that is pretty alarming. We all hear the phrase, "we live in a disposable society," and this seems to be particularly true in the past year. We seem to be in a time where once the dog starts to inconvenience the owner, it is discarded like yesterday's newspaper. So many goldens have come to GRRMF lately at an older age – 10+-. People say that they "have no time" for the dog anymore. I want to ask, "How much time does a 10- or 12-year-old dog take?" The dog has been a devoted companion to them for years, and now that it needs a little extra care, they can no longer find the time for him. My personal feeling is that this can be one of the best times in the relationship. You have an opportunity to help an older dog in its time of need, and he is so appreciative it reflects back to you like a warm ray of sunshine.

Not all dogs who are given to us are seniors. But in many cases, they are in poor shape and suffer from issues that can easily be corrected. The new buzzword is "allergies." In many cases, the dog just needs a better diet and these skin issues will go away. Most don't need medications like steroids or "special" diets to stop scratching.



Beau, age 15, was turned in by his owner. The reason? "No time." Beau is currently up for adoption and has no health issues. And no, he doesn't require much time and energy, either! All he needs are regular meals and lots of love. He's one very happy boy.

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WE'RE ADOPTED!



Caro is an older guy who has limited sight. Donna and Jim T. love "old gold" (Caro is their third senior golden from GRRMF). When Donna

saw his face on the website, she fell in love. She spent the day with him at the GRRMF Reunion, and the following weekend brought him home. Jim adores him, too, and loves the fact that this guy is a perfect jogging partner. Apparently Caro, now Max, never got the memo about older dogs being slow and sedate.

Sandy, just 5 months old, had an unfortunate run-in with a fox and was scratched during the scuffle. Animal Control was called, and the owners decided they didn't want to see her through the mandatory 6-month quarantine, so they relinquished her. When we got the call from the shelter manager, GRRMF didn't hesitate a second – we agreed to keep her quarantined in foster care and when her time was up, Steve & Sue M., who had been waiting patiently, took her home. Sandy has a playful canine companion to spend her time with, as well as a huge fenced yard and a great pool. What a life!

A good Samaritan witnessed **Holly** being pushed out of a car. The car then sped off, leaving poor Holly lost and disoriented. Luckily, the kind witness knew about GRRMF and called us. Holly is as sweet and devoted as they come. She is a Velcro girl – who can blame her after all she's been through! – and that's just what Terry C. was looking for. Another perfect match!

Max, age 8, needed surgery to remove a lump from his spleen. The owner said she couldn't afford the surgery, so she turned him over to us. We scheduled the surgery and were thrilled when we learned that the lump was a benign fatty tumor – hooray! Max is a sweet and easygoing guy, the perfect companion for Penny T. She's helping him build his stamina with regular walks and they're quickly becoming best friends.



Barnie, 5 months, was rescued from a bad situation. He learned the ropes in record time while in foster care with Tommy

& Chris M. and found his forever home with Sherry & Robert P., along with human kids Daniel & Ryan. Barnie is having a great time with his new family, and they've already signed him up for obedience classes. Good boy, Barnie!

Tiger came to GRRMF when his owner died, leaving the wife with many bills to pay and no income. When he came in, Tiger was about 20 pounds overweight, had skin infections and was sporting a ragged coat. But his personality shone through that rough exterior, and his foster folks immediately fell in love with him. He is the quintessential golden retriever – happy, laid back, sweet and affectionate. He was adopted by Natasha E., who renamed him Tony – "because he's GREAT!" Tony now shares his life with another GRRMF dog and couldn't be happier.



Bear and Buddy, 6 years, were siblings who had lived their whole lives together. Their owner died and the family felt it best to give

them to us. They are delightful golden boys – although sporting a few extra pounds – and were adopted together to Bruce & Debbie P. The boys go on two-mile walks every day and enjoy accompanying their humans to work – which is a boutique specializing in high-quality pet products and foods. Debbie says customers have begun to stop in regularly just to say hi to the dogs – obviously, they are a big hit!



Sage was on her way to Animal Control when a good Samaritan stepped in. She was reportedly pregnant, and her owners didn't want to deal with it. After an examination, we

learned that while she has been used for breeding purposes, Sage was, in fact, NOT pregnant. Whew! We took care of that with a quick spay surgery, and Sage went to live with her foster mom Pam S., who couldn't let her go. Now called Phoebe, she joins GRRMF alumnus Freeman and several other animals and is enjoying life to its fullest.



Maddox was owned by a single mom who had lots of children and no time or energy for him. He was fostered by Ann & Jeff H. and learned some house manners very quickly.

Maddox was adopted by Jim H. & Kerry M. and their two kids Molly & Ainsley. He fit in with them immediately and keeps the girls laughing with his antics. Maddox, now Max, will soon begin obedience classes and lives within walking distance of the Mt. Dora dog park, so he's going to have a wonderful life.



Six-year-old **Colton**, now Buddy, came to us when his family could no longer afford to care for him. He was overweight and needed thyroid meds, so we got him on track. Ken and Susan H. were ready

to add a golden to their home after losing their canine companion. Susan writes, "We are so blessed to have Buddy in our lives. He has healed our hearts, and we hope we have healed his. He is finally home. He is a very well-behaved dog, very calm, very loving. He has made many friends in the neighborhood. We have to buy a toy box to hold all of the squeaky toys and Nylabones the neighbors keep bringing for him." Wow, sounds like he has the right name – he's everyone's buddy!



Gwynn H. was looking for a golden to share her days; we thought she had just the right home for **Savannah**. "Savannah is adjusting nicely to her

new home and family. She loves her daily walks. She is very calm and obedient. She is such a Velcro dog and loves to follow me everywhere I go. Grant (my son) has become very attached to his new dog." Now, that's a happy ending!

Boomer was a heartworm-positive stray in poor health when he came to us. He spent a few weeks recuperating at the veterinarian's. He spent several more weeks in foster care. Barb and Richard S. were looking for a pal for Daisy (formerly Diana), whom they adopted recently. Boomer sounded like the perfect choice, and they renamed him Duke. Richard tells us, "All Duke wants to do is play. He hasn't had a tennis ball or squeaky toy out of his mouth since he walked in the house." Typical happy golden!

Pretty **Linka** came to us from a family who could no longer care for her. A trip to the vet revealed ruptured ear drums from years of neglected ear infections. Val and Rick B. spent weeks caring for her until Paulette and Robert S. took her home as a companion for recently adopted Hunter. Since Paulette is a nurse, she was ready to take on the Linka's ear issues. Linka has settled right in and is home at last.

Go, Gold!



COME SEE US!

GRRMF participates in EDUCATION EVENTS all over the state. Visit the "GRRMF Events" section of our website – www.grrmf.org – and look for a location near you. Make sure you introduce yourself to our volunteers – we want to hear all about your golden! If you are interested in helping at these events, please contact the person(s) listed for each location/event directly. SEE YOU THERE!!



Young **Sebastian** had a lonely life. He spent all day and most of the night in a crate inside a small apartment. His family realized that's no life for a healthy young boy. At foster mom

Sandy's house, he learned to play and romp with the other dogs. Dawn and Richard H. and their golden boy Barley adopted him. Richard writes, "Sebastian is doing great. He is playing up a storm. Barley and Sebastian seem to be bonding really well and even lay on the dog bed together sometimes. The boys love to run in the backyard and fetch the tennis ball or play Frisbee. It's been a lot of fun." Now that sounds like a great life for a young golden retriever!



Kali was a stray found by a caring young man. He took her in and taught her some manners, but he was unable to keep her

permanently. Kali was homeless again and was only 15 months old! We stepped in and matched her with Jennifer & Randy O. Kali has three children to help run off her puppy energy and they think she is the best dog they've ever met. Kali finally has her forever home.



Tomlin is one special girl. An 8-year-old stray with one eye that was previously injured, Tomlin had an odd look. She ended up in a shelter and her days were numbered. One caring

worker there, Tom, watched in sadness as she was passed over time and time again. He knew what special girl she was, why couldn't anyone see that? He helped her get safely to GRRMF and even donated some of his own money to spring her from Animal Control. We named her Tomlin in his honor. Richard and Nancy S. were looking for a sweet girl to brighten their home, and you can't get any sweeter than Tomlin. Richard tells us, "She is the perfect lady and walking partner. I just don't have the words to express how grateful we are to have her." They are so happy and it sounds like Tomlin is, too.

Four-year-old **Sasha** was turned over by her family when one of them developed an allergy. Janice and Hank B. cared for her until an adoption was arranged. When the big day arrived, her fosters wondered how she would greet her new family. Her usual way was to bark and then settle down. But this time, Sasha walked right over to greet Alice and John L. like she had known them forever. If she could speak, she might have said, "Where have you been, I've been waiting for you!" She jumped right in the car and happily sped off to her golden brother Toby who was waiting at home.

Two-year-old **Pucchi** came to us all the way from Puerto Rico. His family kept him outside tied up next to a pool. The cruel irony of that is that he loves to swim! David and Joanne N. were looking for a companion for their female golden. They also have a swimming pool, so we thought that sounded like a great home for Pucchi, now Rusty. They are planning to take Rusty to training classes to help him learn the ropes in his new home.



Catcher came to us as a stray from a humane society in South Florida. We understood immediately how he came about his name as soon as

he landed in his foster home. This young boy is crazy for tennis balls and will fetch them all day long. As long as you're throwing, he's catching, and nothing makes him happier! He was adopted by Lisa & James D. and their three kids, who were eager for a play buddy. They got their wish – and then some! His new name is Cooper, and his new folks couldn't be happier.

Ellie Mae was turned in by her owners due to allergy issues with the kids. She's 4 years old and sweet as they come. Ellie was quickly adopted by Faith & Tim A., who were looking for an active golden to join them on power walks, as well as hikes while at their summer home in Colorado. Ellie fit the bill and is having a ball with her new folks.

"It's for Life - continued from Page 1

The rule of thumb with food is that if you can get it in the grocery store, it is not a quality food. Dog food does not have to be expensive, and since you are feeding a better quality, you can feed much less than what is recommended on a bargain bag of food. Our website has extensive information on what to look for in the food you feed your dog: www.grrmf.org/care/food.html. If you haven't read this section, I urge you to do so, it has a wealth of great information about food and feeding.

Recently, we had a potential adopter tell us quite matter-of-factly that whatever we recommended, it had to be something from the grocery store, because he did not want to make more than one stop. If that's the case, then it's not the kind of home we want for one of our rescue dogs. They deserve good food, just as I am sure that individual does not put poor quality food into his own belly.

If a good quality food doesn't clear the problem up completely, adding an inexpensive supplement like fish oil caps often does the trick. We have had a lot of experience in this area and will offer suggestions to anyone who asks.

Another practice that is not good for any golden is to be shaved. While many people say that they are doing it for the dog's comfort, I think this falls into the category of convenience for the owner. Shaving is one of the worst things you can do for a golden. Their coat actually helps insulate them from the heat of the sun. Shaving takes away this protection and they actually are hotter than with the coat. It also exposes their skin to the sun, increasing their chances for getting skin cancer. Again, our website has good information on this topic. If having golden "dust bunnies" on your floor is something you would prefer not to have, selecting another breed is the best option.

I have often told people that if you love hair and togetherness, then a golden is the dog for you. You can't pick the parts you like (shaving for no hair, having the dog in its young years) and discard the rest (the dust bunnies, the aging issues that everyone faces). Being owned by a golden is for life, and we should embrace every step of that journey.

**MOVING? NEW PHONE
or E-MAIL?**

**Please remember
to let GRRMF know!**

**Email us at info@grrmf.org
or call 407-332-2840**

SPECIAL NEEDS, SPECIAL BLESSINGS!

By Barbara Durham, GRRMF President

In our day-to-day rescue work, GRRMF has been taking in more and more special-needs goldens. So many times, GRRMF is the last hope for a special needs dog. Fortunately, due to the "power of you" – our donors who provide dollars for their care, our fosters who nurse them and our volunteers who work to find them good homes – we have many happy endings for these special dogs. Most of all, we need homes willing to fall in love and take a special-needs golden home.

So what are the considerations in adopting a special-needs dog? These dogs can have a variety of issues such as severe allergies, seizures, diabetes, orthopedic problems, cancer, deformed or missing appendages, geriatric needs or special dietary needs, for example. Yet, they can make wonderful companions to the right family. Their problems are manageable, and in the right home, the dog can have an excellent quality of life. And it's personally rewarding, because these special-needs dogs seem to really appreciate being cared for.

When considering adopting such a dog, it's a good idea to understand and research the medical condition, so you know what care will be involved. GRRMF always tries to brief potential adopters on all known aspects of the dog's condition – including costs – so the adopter can make an informed decision. We practice full disclosure and complete honesty.

Once the care requirements are understood, a potential adoptive home should examine their lifestyle to see if they're a good match for the dog. A critical issue is to discuss the dog's needs with the entire household to make sure everyone is up for the adoption. This also includes existing pets – will your current pets accommodate and accept a special-needs dog? Most importantly, don't be scared of the unknown – get the facts and frequently things fall into place and a perfect match is made that transforms a golden's life.

My own personal adoption experience seems to involve only special-needs dogs lately. I don't know what happened to me ... it would seem odd to have a perfectly healthy young dog! Two years ago, we adopted Poobah who came to rescue with heartworms, seizures and a deformed hip/skeletal structure that curved his body into the shape of a comma. A sweeter, more beautiful red boy you could not find! Having nursed dogs through chronic illnesses, I wasn't hesitant about adopting Poobah; however, since I had never had a dog with seizures I was a little scared of the unknown. So I started researching, and I talked to the foster home and also my veterinarian. Once I learned all the facts, I was more comfortable, and I've never regretted the decision to bring him home. Poobah does require special herbs and vitamins and goes to the doggie chiropractor/acupuncturist for adjustments to keep his spine and hips limber. He gets a high-quality diet. All this does cost me extra, but he is worth it. He is doing well and is very healthy.

Several months later, Poobah got a special-needs brother, Happy, who came to rescue from a shelter. He was a senior with a sarcoma in his mouth that had to be removed, and arthritis in his hips. Again, I took time to research his condition and what treatments were possible. Happy is doing great on herbal supplements for his cancer and arthritis. He is one happy dude and is living life large. Even though he's 12 and we don't know how long we will have him, every moment is so special we have no regrets.

As I write this column, both dogs are with us as we head up to camp in the mountains. If not for GRRMF, both of these dogs would have faced euthanasia in a shelter. Because of the "power of you," they are instead living life to the fullest. And we are SO pleased to be going on their vacation with them. I would not have it any other way.

So, remember, special-needs goldens need special adopters – are you one of them?



Poobah & Happy

Then and Now

In this occasional feature of the GRRMF newsletter, we focus on a former rescue and what he or she is up to now ...

Windsor tipped the scales at 149 pounds



when he arrived at Sandy Sumner's house in January 2006. He was turned in with another golden, Phoenix, who weighed 110 pounds. A few months at Camp Sumner, and Windsor had lost 60 pounds,

and his once dry and coarse fur was soft and shiny. He spent about 10 months in foster care and was adopted by Lyda G.

Thanks to the continued commitment and tennis-ball throwing on the part of his new mom, Windsor now is a svelte 71 pounds and is doing very well. Here's what Lyda has to say about her precious boy:

"We just love Windsor. He is very sweet and quite smart. It was interesting watching his transition from an obese dog to a normal size dog. For the longest time, he still thought he was 149 pounds and didn't think he could run or jump. He would just plod along like he



was still carrying all that weight. Eventually, though, he started to discover 'Hey, I can run and jump!' – and he's been doing it ever since. He acts like he is 2 years old!"

It took someone very special to see the beautiful golden inside that large body of Windsor's. We're so happy that Lyda saw him for what he is – a beautiful, smart and sweet golden retriever!

Are you moving? Changing phone numbers?

Please let us know as soon as possible! Remember, we are your dog's lifeline should he or she be lost or stolen, wind up in a shelter or other facility, as GRRMF is the primary contact for all AKC-registered GRRMF-implanted microchips. We do this for your dog's protection – our hotline is monitored 24/7, so if your dog is lost while you are on vacation or otherwise unable to be reached, we will ensure he or she is safe. We must have your current contact information to reconnect you and your beloved best friend!

Also, bulk mail will not forward this newsletter or other GRRMF correspondence, so please make sure we can keep in touch!

Email to info@grrmf.org or call 407.332.2640 with your new address, phone numbers and email addresses.

Note: GRRMF NEVER shares, sells or lends its mailing list to any organizations or third parties.

2009 GRRMF CALENDAR CONTEST

IT'S TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES!

The GRRMF annual calendar has been a huge success and we expect this will be the best year yet. This is a huge fund-raiser for GRRMF, and is also a great way to promote our organization and build public awareness for the rescue cause. And it's also a chance to show off your beautiful golden GRRMF dog! So why not send us that great picture of your dog today for his or her chance at stardom?

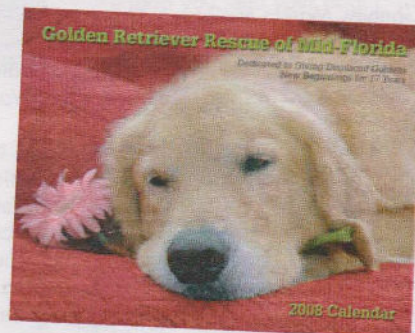
1. Contest deadline: Extended to June 30, 2008!

Give us your best shots. Email photos to peachybean@tampabay.rr.com. If you mail in your photos, please include a \$5 donation per picture. There is no charge for emailed photos.

We will be choosing 13 photos, one for each month and one for the cover. However, we will also attempt to place every photo submitted into the calendar in some form.

A photo committee will judge the photos by August 15, 2008. We are looking for:

- quality of the photo (sharpness, color, clarity, composition)
- no glowing eyes
- seasonal appropriateness
- dogs doing what dogs do best — having fun



2. Color prints must be horizontal (4" x 6" or larger).
3. Digital pictures must be horizontal and at least 300dpi resolution and be in .jpg, .tif or .gif format.
4. Only GRRMF alumni are eligible.
5. Photos must be previously unpublished, non-professional images; no copyright photos accepted.
6. Photos become property of GRRMF and cannot be returned.
7. GRRMF reserves the right to use pictures submitted in our newsletter, on our Web site or for other promotional purposes.
8. Send a brief story of your dog's past and present life with each picture and when you adopted through GRRMF.
9. Entries, including photos, will become the property of GRRMF and will not be acknowledged or returned.
10. Submission of an entry grants GRRMF the right to publish, use, adapt, edit and/or modify such entry in any way, in any and all media, without limitation, and without consideration to the entrant, whether or not such submission is selected as a winning entry. By submitting an entry, entrants irrevocably assign and transfer to GRRMF any and all rights, title and interest in entry and photo, including, without limitation, all copyrights. Entries must be the original work of the entrant; must not infringe third-party rights, and must be suitable for publication.
11. Submission of photo does not guarantee inclusion in calendar.
12. Send a check with completed form and picture(s) to: GRRMF, Attn: Photo contest, P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733. Or email your photos to peachybean@tampabay.rr.com (no donation required for emailed photos).

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.

THANKS TO OUR GOLDEN FRIENDS!

HOME VISITS: Terry Batt, Carol Carrier, Pat Chesley, Linda Cohen, Jeff Drier, Renee Duke, Maggie Duncan, Janice Dunn, Gregg Eddie, Jodie Faist, Ann Fitzpatrick, Jordan German, Lila Gilbert, Hedy Greene, Joanne Hell, Lyn Holliday, Steve Jaffe, Sue Keiser, Jennifer Longman, Debbie McGhehey, Marcia McGovern Carol McKee, Marie Pacheco, Renee Perkie, Emily Rowe, Kathy Russell, Anitra Ruth, Kathy Salisbury, Maggie Stambaugh, Judi Syffrett, Kerri Vorhies, Valerie & Chris Walters, Barbara White.

FOSTERS: Val & Rick Battersby, Char Bauer, Hank & Janice Bogle, Gary & Sharon Bressen, Hettie Buck, Lori Cubbedge, Susan Curlee, Renee Duke, Ted & Maggie Duncan, Tom & Gregg Eddie, Kimberly Elman, John Foss, Tom & Kellyann Goring, Chuck & Donna Graves, Bert & Charlie Haker, Dan & Vanessa Hardy, Ann & Jeff Huie, Jennifer Kekuewa, Jennifer Longman, Tommy & Chris Manley, Kirk & Michelle Martin, Diane Makinney, 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, Lindsay & Steve Tindell, 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, Terry Batt, Sandy Bicknel, Dave Dillman, Tracy Hoffman, Sue Keiser, Abby Lee, Carol McKee, Marlene Nesbitt, Linda & Harold Rhea, Kerri Vorhies, Donna Weitzel, Angie Weldon. **APPLICATIONS:** Peggy Litt, Pam Harrell, Carol McKee, Kerri Vorhies.



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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.

Books You Must Read!

Submitted by Ellen Lindenfeld, Broward County Library Manager

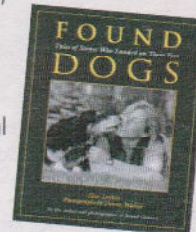
Teach Yourself Visually: Dog Training by Sarah Hodgson

Are you a visual learner? Do you prefer instructions that show you how to do something – skip the long-winded explanations? The Visual Learning System in Teach Yourself Visually: Dog Training breaks down training tasks into graphical two-page lessons that simplify learning. Inside you'll find clear, step-by-step instructions for developing an effective training regimen for your puppy or adult dog. Full-color photographs show you how to train basic commands, socialize and housetrain your dog, and teach tricks and games. Plus, you'll learn how to manage problem behaviors, such as excessive barking, jumping up on people, destructive chewing, and much more. "Question & Answer" sidebars provide practical tips and tricks. Large color photos demonstrate how to correctly perform each task. (Broward County Library annotation.)



Found Dogs: Tales of Strays who landed on their feet by Elise Lufkin

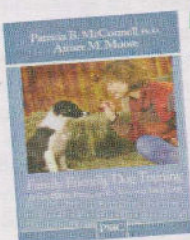
A moving tribute to the power of love between people and dogs, and how that love has transformed dogs who were lost, and the people who were lucky enough to find them. "An inspiring book with stories and photographs of special pets rescued from the pound." (Atlanta Journal and Constitution.) A very poignant read.



Family Friendly Dog Training:

A six-week program for you and your dog by Patricia McConnell and Aimee M. Moore

This user-friendly and engaging book describes a six-week program to get dogs and owners off on the right paw. It includes humane and scientifically based methods to teach basic exercises, but also how to make training from both ends of the leash fun, and how to ensure reliable responses while still being your dog's best friend. Equally useful as an adjunct to training classes, or for people who are "home schooling". (Amazon.com review) This is another wonderful book from Patricia McConnell, who is the well known author of *For the love of your dog*, and *The other end of the leash*.



Editor's note: This information is provided for information only and does not imply endorsement by GRRMF, Inc.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MARCIA MCGOVERN AT MMCGOVERN1@CFL.RR.COM OR 407-766-9358.
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ALUMNI NEWS



Jeff and Cathy Drier's **Autumn** (formerly Peanut), and Donna and Chuck Graves' **Wyatt** passed the Therapy Dog International testing on January 22. They are now Therapy Dogs for TDI, as well as volunteers for Hospice in their Compassionate Paws Program, visiting the patients in facilities or private homes.

Autumn, now 3 1/2 years old, was fostered by Theresa and Bob Bradley and adopted by Jeff and Cathy in June 2005. Autumn passed her Canine Good Citizen test easily. She loves going to work on education days and assisting her owners with training clients and dogs in her capacity as a Bark Buster. Autumn is always smiling and ready to please.

Wyatt, 8 years, was fostered and adopted by Donna and Chuck in July 2004. He earned his Canine Good Citizen certification and is a regular at education days for GRRMF. He visits a nursing facility close to his home as well as visiting a facility in Largo for independent, assisted living and an alzheimer's unit.

In photo: Donna, Wyatt, Jeff and Autumn.

Blessing and Precious (formerly Jackson and Sandy) are now registered as Pet Partners with the Delta Society. Mom Sandy H. says, "It is so amazing - I would have never guessed that Blessing would make such a wonderful therapy dog! We have all come so far in this last four and a half months. Blessing and Precious have added so much to our lives."

Many will remember Blessing as Jackson, the boy who came to us weighing in at 180 lbs. Sandy tells us at his last weigh-in, he was just over 100 and is nearing his goal weight of 95 lbs. You may also remember Precious as Sandy, one of the "Fantastic Four" severe neglect dogs. Sandy had some emotional issues from being abandoned by his owner and needed just the right home to help him relax and come out of his shell.

Who would have guessed that both would go on to become therapy dogs, where they can now reach out to help others! How fantastic is that! We're very proud of these boys and thank Sandy and Rachel for all they've done to help them become the gems they are today.



WE GET LETTERS ...

India (one of the "Fantastic Four" neglect victims of 2007) is doing well. We've had our ups and downs with her medical problems, with recurring severe gum bleeding and infections. My vet called in many of his colleagues for consultations. It was finally confirmed that she has a blood parasite and the normal medication given was not knocking them out. She is now on a new regimen and hopefully this will take care of the problem that has perplexed us for so long. India has fit in so well and just is the most loving and gentle dog. We have totally enjoyed having her with us. I can't wait for you to see her coat! She's beautiful!

Penny T.

We wanted to thank you for the wonderful gift you were so instrumental in giving us last fall. I wanted you to know that Stoney is really a great friend. He is completely at home. He even sleeps in the same places Reagan used to. Whoever brought him to rescue did a great job training him - his manners are impeccable. Wherever we go he is complimented on his behavior. All is not serious though, he loves to play and when he runs he is poetry in motion. The squirrels may not think so though. We can't thank you enough.

Doris and George S.

We are so fortunate to have Bailey in our home! We love her more and more each day. She is totally a princess at heart. She now hogs the bed nightly (and we let her willingly). Our other dog Leo just loves her as do all our cats. Everyone who comes to visit is crazy for her because she is so cute and loving. Thanks again for all the hard work you all do and many, many thanks for helping to bring Bailey (the Blonde Bombshell) into our home and our hearts!

Rosemarie and Chris G.

Harley goes to kindergarten

Submitted by Kerri Helmick



We got Harley 2 days before Christmas 2007. He and our rescued lab Mylo took to each other quickly. We decided to get another dog when our 6-year-old, Kameron, was recovering from a horrible diagnosis of autism. Kameron started to come out of his silent world at the age of 4 and really started to have an interest in Mylo. He ignored him for the first 2 years, and then really started to become aware of how fun animals are.

We decided our goal was that when he was well enough to transfer from his special needs autism school and go into regular kindergarten, our family would get another dog. The minute I started looking on the GRRMF.org website, I became obsessed! I looked day and night. I knew Harley was the dog for us the minute I found him.

Mylo and Harley play nonstop, and Kameron just laughs and joins in. I took Harley to Kameron's kindergarten class - yes, he is in kindergarten now! - as his show-and-tell and Harley had center stage for 45 minutes. The kids loved him, and I think the feeling was mutual. I still wonder how someone could give up such a love machine. But I'm glad he was given up, because we now have him!

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