

TALES OF GOOD

KEEPING THE SPOTLIGHT ON

By Sandy Sumner, Adoption Coordinator

Recently some friends found an old GRRMF newsletter from 2000. In it was a column called the Volunteer Spotlight and someone had done an article about me. There was a picture of me with my three goldens – Mia, Buster and Simon. There was mention of Molly, my first GRR foster dog. Ten years later, all three of my goldens have passed on. But I have other goldens now and I try hard to keep the spotlight of rescue on. Molly has passed on but I now have my 190th foster at "Camp Sumner", waiting for his forever home. The endless stream of dogs keeps coming but so does an endless stream of people who want to adopt them.

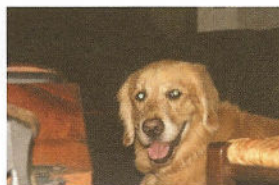
Of course I have kept a couple of my fosters over the years. Grace is now 11 years old and still acts like a puppy. Cameron is 15 and still lives for the tennis ball. Scooby – well, what can I say? He has never believed he is a dog and tries hard never to act like one. He will be seven years old in May. It seems like yesterday that I was giving him a bath for his mange and then rocking him to sleep in a rocker while the shampoo worked

on his tortured skin. Come to think of it, there may be a link between that rocking chair and his belief that he is not a dog! I have done lots of different things within the organization over the years but some things just stay the same. Fostering is still my favorite part of rescue. Watching a dog transform itself under loving guidance and then go to a home where the people adore it is the best feeling you can have. It does not matter if the dog is 12 months old or 12 years old, when I see them go to their new home it shows me that we are doing a good thing. Giving a dog that is terminal a chance to live out its remaining days in a loving environment is something that is hard to explain. I truly believe that dogs remember what is last in their minds and having days of good food, soft beds, snuggles and play time is what they take with them to the bridge. Many rescue organizations can't or won't take in dogs in deep medical or emotional need due to the expense of both money as well as time. Knowing that our rescue will open its heart to these dogs and give them the time and effort they need



shows me we truly are a rescue that saves dogs in desperate need of an angel to care for them.

After the 2004 hurricanes, we worried that people would not be able to donate as they had in the past. Not so! People continued to donate, even if it was a bit less. People continued to give of their time when they could not give funds. We have survived that year and continue to be able to help dogs in today's economy. The Shelbys, Coreys and Dustins that need surgery in order to live full lives continue to count on us. And so far, we have not let them down. I hope to be a part of GRRMF for another 10 or 20 years. The first eleven have flown by so fast. I have pictures of my foster dogs all over the house. It shows me every day how much good we do. When friends or family come over, they ask about them and I tell them about rescue and how GRRMF helps this piece of the world. It helps to keep the spotlight on.



GO,
GOLD!



GOLD
IS GOOD!

GOLDEN ADOPTIONS!

Seven year old **Ariel** found herself without a home when the family moved and opted not to take her. Her lucky day was when foster dad Steve L. decided that she should be a permanent member of his household. Ariel is secure and loved for the rest of her days.

Poor eight year old **Asher** came to us as a stray. He had worms, a bad skin condition and was just generally in poor health. Shelley C. nursed him back to health and when he was ready, so was Jerryann, who was looking for a smaller, older dog. She knew the value of senior dogs and couldn't wait to meet Asher. They are a great match and have become the best friends.



Turned in by owners who said that she was too hyper and they had no time for her, five year old **Autumn** proved to be a sweet, playful girl. She

was adopted by Linda L. and now has a brother named Molson who loves to wrestle like she does. Autumn is such a sweet gal that even the family cats are relaxed around her. Another great beginning for another great golden!



The D. family had room in their hearts and home to rescue **Bianca** when at 9 yrs old, she was surrendered by a heartbroken family when a child developed allergies. Several weeks later the family contacted us again when 14.5 year old **Snuggles'** story was posted on our website. Poor Snuggles was homeless when her family had to move to Europe. In swooped the D. family to give Snuggles a wonderful loving home for the rest of her days. The D. family are very special to recognize the love the "grand dame goldens" have to share.



Due to the economic need to downsize to an apartment, three year old **Bella** found herself without a family. Bella loves people, dogs, and cats and was just the right "fur-kid" for the B. family. Bella now enjoys all the activities of the active family.

Friendly and fun-loving, ten year old **Brady** came to us when his owner began extensive travel and could no longer stay home with him. Brady settled right into his foster home, enjoyed the company of other dogs and scouring the yard for squirrels. When Mike



and Olga P. saw him, they thought he'd be a nice pal for their GRRMF alum, Freddy. His foster mom Pam told us, "Introductions went beautifully and I know that Brady has nothing but wonderful days ahead of him."

Two-year-old **Capitan** came to us when his family moved and he could not go with them.



We gladly took this sweet boy in and he was fostered by the C. family. The report from his new home is "He is so well behaved that we are going to try to find out

how to train him to be a certified therapy dog. Thank you for being so wonderful and finding him for us. We are so grateful for you watching over him and steering him our way! He will be well loved and cared for the rest of his life." Sounds wonderful to us!

Five year old **Chloe** came to us when her owner, who was a single mother, needed to have her home licensed as a day care provider. Unfortunately, the policy dictated that Chloe be locked away for most of the day. That's no life for this vibrant gal who loves people, so we found her a great home with Kathy & Lee L. Her GRRMF alum brother, Jordan, and lab brother, Bubba, think she's a great addition to their pack.

Three year old **Dixie**, was not spayed, and came to us in heat. Luckily she was small and healthy and we were able to have her spayed right away. Just a tiny sprite at about 50 pounds, Dixie is as cute as can be. The H. family saw the pictures and thought she might be a match. Upon seeing her, they were sure of it. Dixie was happy to see them and seemed to know this was her new forever family. Off she went to start her new life as a most cherished golden girl.



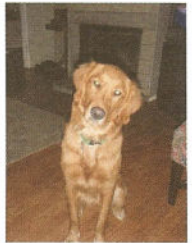
Duffy was about 10 years old when his owners split up and neither could take him. Unfortunately, Duffy ended up being the odd man out. He came to us overweight and with a few skin issues. He spent quite a bit of time in his foster home, but then a miracle happened. Joy Y. saw him and thought she'd love a handsome well-behaved senior boy to share her home. It was Duffy's lucky day! He now gets all the love and attention he could ever dream of and gets to visit his foster mom often, too!

Duke was surrendered to us when his owner could not afford his acute medical care. The M. family adopted Duke who became a buddy to their dog Sophie. Duke now has a loving family, a canine sister and is one lucky dog as he spends his summers in the cool weather of Vermont and winters in sunny Florida.

Hunter was surrendered by his owner who got him from Craig's List. When she could no

longer care for him, she did the smart thing and called us. Hunter was a bit "plump" at 78 lbs and in need of medication for a skin condition. Karen adopted Hunter and he now enjoys lying on her feet when she's grading papers, brisk walks to keep his figure fit and trim and just being a general all around loving Velcro buddy.

Little one year old **Josie** came to us when her owners could no longer afford to keep her. She needed to be spayed and healed quickly from the surgery. To her good fortune, along came the N. family looking to add an active golden girl to their pack. Josie seemed to be a great match and her new dad recently wrote, "**Josie (now known as Madyson, or Maddie)**, is an AMAZING little girl. She fit into our family from the moment she walked in the front door. "We always like a happy forever match!"



Five year old **Lex** came to rescue because his family lost their home to foreclosure. Poor Lex was an unsure fellow searching for the security of a loving family so he could let his golden personality shine. The B. family was a perfect match and now Lex gets plenty of exercise from walking in the neighborhood and at the beach. He is one very happy boy with a loving family to call his own.

Five year old **Luke** was caught in one of those family moving, dog can't situations. Luckily he came to us where former adopters, the S. family, saw him and fell in love with him right away. No more worries for Luke.



Eight month old **Oliver, now Parker**, came to us after his owner had knee surgery and felt she wasn't able to give him the exercise and



attention he needs. The O. family was looking for a special playmate for their golden gal Holly. They changed his name to Parker and recently wrote, "Parker is fitting in quite nicely.

He met his Grandparents for the first time today and they said it seems like we've always had him. He loves playing with toys with his new sister Holly and he now likes swimming as well." Sounds like a great new life for Parker!

Preston, a handsome swimmer, had a couple of quirks - like attacking the food bowl after meals. But the F. family being former adopters, saw through these things and wanted to adopt him. He has a canine sister named Sadie and they have even gotten him to leave the food bowl alone! He attends a lot of events to promote rescue and show what wonderful dogs we have.



Shannon was one of our special project dogs. She was a pet store puppy and at just 16 months of age, she needed knee surgery on both knees. It took quite a while to rehabilitate Shannon, but when she was ready, we found the G. family, who were looking for a young gal to add to their pack. Her family recently wrote, "Shannon and Dawsey graduated from their

intermediate training class and we plan to sign them up for the advanced class. We will then go on to get their Good Canine Citizen certification so we can start visiting our local nursing homes. They so love; we want to share them with people who cannot have a dog." We wish them all the best life has to offer!

Sometimes a dog comes into rescue not due to an owner who no longer wants him. **Sonny** was just that dog, although his story is just as heartbreaking. His owner passed away unexpectedly and Sonny was alone. At first, he was completely unsure. His whole world, which had been a good one, was upside down. But through loving fostering and a new mom (Ginny F.) who has promised to love him forever, he now has his security again.

The M. family was looking for a family dog, after their much loved Millie pass away the end of 2009. Six month old **Sydney** was an emergency intake as her owner was going to release her into the streets. Sydney is now in a loving, safe home and is showered with attention.



Handsome and a handful, **Toby** came into rescue because a Good Samaritan wanted to give him to us rather than let his family allow him to run the streets. He is an active guy who needs both human and canine play buddies. He got just what he needed with former GRRMF adopters. The M. family wanted to add to their family so Toby now has wonderful parents as well as canine companionship of his very own.

Twelve year old **Trapper** came to us from a couple in their 70's who said he was too much for them. That's because Trapper decided he had a lot of living left to do and he enjoyed being active. The S. family was looking to add a senior golden to their home and Trapper fit right in. He is now enjoying his new active life.

Wolfie, now Murphy, came to us as a very scraggly stray seven year old. The P. family took him in and fostered him until he was ready for his forever home. As luck would have it, Bud and Grace K. were looking for an older dog to lighten their lives. They took him home and Bud reports that they've decided to call him Murphy, a more dignified and fitting name for a wonderful dog. Besides, they already had a dog named Wolfie in the family!

HELP GRRMF EARN DOLLARS EVERY TIME YOU SEARCH THE INTERNET OR SHOP ONLINE!!!

Search the web with Yahoo-powered *GoodSearch.com* and they'll donate about a penny to GRRMF each time you search! There are more than 1,300 merchants at *GoodShop.com* including Amazon, Best Buy, Toys R Us, and others, and a percentage of each purchase will go to GRRMF!



CHOKE COLLARS

Do you know it is unsafe to leave a choke collar on a dog? We know of several instances where a dog was accidentally hung by a choke collar. We see photos of dogs that have choke collars with tags attached all the time (even a few calendar photo submissions). This can only mean the collar is being left on all the time. Please be aware that this is not a safe practice and can lead to grave harm to your dog. Please keep your dog safe!

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

CALL TEAM VOLUNTEERS

These volunteers make phone calls to screen potential adoptive families in order to determine if they will make good homes for our goldens. If you are interested in volunteer please contact adoptions@grrmf.org.

DOES YOUR DOG PULL?

A lot of people experience pulling dogs. Several of us that work with dogs in rescue have had good luck with something called the Sensation Harness. It doesn't replace a dog's collar. It is an easy to put on harness where the leash clips to the center front in the middle of the dog's chest. It works based on concepts from horse training.

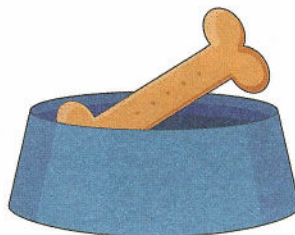
Both dogs and horses have a similar response to sense of touch. They brace against pressure (opposition reflex) which is why dogs brace against collars and pull on leashes. With the Sensation Harness, dogs feel gentle pressure like horses feel a rider's leg pressure. This helps your dog sense how to follow a leash instead of pulling on one. You can check out more information on the harness at <http://www.softtouchconcepts.com>.

WANT TO ASK A QUESTION BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO?

In order to enhance communication, we've established new email addresses for every key area of rescue. Each email going to these addresses gets forwarded to the right team within GRRMF so they can answer your question.

QUESTIONS ABOUT:

Intake of a dog into rescue
Foster Home Inquiries
Adoptions, adoption application status, dogs for adoption
Home visits
Transports
Events (including Annual Rescue Reunion)
Donations, thank you letters, accounting
Fundraising
Volunteering
Microchip Registrations
Newsletter
Calendar Photo submissions
Address changes, mailing list additions, post office box questions
Adding your email address to our email newsletter list
General questions that don't fit above categories



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UPDATE: A SPECIAL NEEDS DOG HELPED THROUGH THE WOODY FUND

Timmy

By Tommy Manley

This is an update on a little boy who needed us to rescue him. He was turned into GRRMF with a cancerous inoperable and aggressive tumor. We knew he wasn't adoptable but wanted to give the last few remaining months of his life some quality and love. That was at the beginning of 2006.



Timmy came to us in March 2006, just shy of his 1st

birthday. He had a mass in the mouth, just below his nose that covered his front teeth. It was determined that it had grown into the bone and inoperable. He was given permanent foster status for the time he had left. He was given about 1 month to live.

Timmy had other ideas.



He took life head on and full blast just like any other 11 month old golden. As far as he was

concerned, every dog had a lump in their mouth. It didn't interfere with his eating or enjoyment of life. He loved to swim, play with toys and his foster brothers.

Every time we let Timmy out, he went into the pool. It didn't matter that we didn't particularly like this all the time; it was out the door and in the pool every time.

Timmy shared his love of swimming with his older brother, Cody. Cody could swim underwater to a 6 foot depth and retrieve toys. Timmy watched Cody and eventually taught himself to retrieve toys from 6 feet underwater too.

He loved being near his humans and got very anxious when separated even when he was with his brothers. As with any smart highly motivated golden retriever he did something about it. He learned how to open the doors in our house.

Timmy is a great ambassador for our fosters. The first time we fostered an 8 week old, Timmy went running up to her, flipped over on his back and took her in his mouth. His head was bigger than she was but he played with her like he was her size.

Over our time with him, the mass in his mouth would grow and from time to time a chunk

would get knocked off. This usually happened when he was playing with his brothers or in the pool. When this happened the mass would bleed as they played and we would have red spotted goldens running around.



We are happy to say that Timmy just celebrated his 5th birthday and is going nowhere anytime

soon. Last fall the mass started shrinking and disappeared. It took a couple of his front teeth with it but Timmy has no problem with that.

We officially adopted him from GRRMF a few months ago. We love him and are very happy he came into our lives.

USPS ANIMAL RESCUE STAMPS

On April 30, 2010, the Postal Service issued "Animal Rescue: Adopt a Shelter Pet" special stamps in ten designs, designed by Derry



Noyes of Washington, DC. With these 10 stamp designs, the U.S. Postal Service hopes to raise awareness of the need to adopt pets. The pets depicted on the stamps were photographed by Sally Andersen-Bruce near her home in New Milford, Connecticut. All had been homeless at one time; all but one had been adopted when they were photographed.

STEP LIGHTLY - SUMMER TIME FUN AND SAFETY

By Deborah Wilson - Newsletter Editor

Summer is upon us and so is the humidity and hot, hot temperature. Soaring temperatures mean hot pavement - no bare feet on tar lots during summer - ouch! But we forget it's the same for dog paws too! They may not complain but I've watched people walk their dogs across tar parking lots only to see them stepping funny after going only a few feet. Likewise, sidewalks and sandy beaches can be hot on the paws. Basically, if it's too warm



for you, so it is for your dog.

While we and our companions do enjoy getting out in the sun, we need to be extra vigilant about the kind and amount our furry friends get

during the summer. Be sure they have plenty of shady areas to rest in and plenty of clean water. If you leave water bowls out in the yard, be sure to keep them in the shade. Some people actually freeze a big round block of ice to drop in for the day.

Do the bulk of your energetic activity during morning or evening times when the sun isn't as scorching hot. Be aware that all levels of exertion in the summer should be toned down a bit. Heat stroke is not uncommon in dogs, especially older or heavier ones.

Dogs cool themselves by panting. If panting doesn't reduce the body temperature, heat stroke will occur. Some basic signs of heat stroke are rapid breathing, overly heavy panting and salivating, excessive fatigue, muscle tremors and staggering. Any occurrence of these behaviors and you should calm and cool your dog down by taking them into a cool, shady place, get them to drink water and apply wet towels or cloths to assist in quickly bringing their body temperature down. Be sure to contact your vet for further instructions or assistance. It doesn't take much time under severe heat stroke to cause permanent damage to vital organs.

Stay vigilant to signs of heat related illness and above all do not shave your golden. Dogs get sunburn too. While we might think a fur coat in the summer is too hot, the fur actually adds much needed skin protection from the sun's rays. Stay vigilant to your companion's needs this summer. Stay safe and have fun!

RAINBOW BRIDGE

We extend our hearts and sympathy to all our GRRMF families that have lost a loving companion the past few months. We thank you for opening your hearts and doors, giving a second chance to those who needed you to come into their lives just when you did.



The Bond family: Pooka
The Hoffman family: Sydney
The Alfson family: Trudi Grace
The Lust family: Dana
The Koch family: Merlin
David Dillman: Austin
Pat Harrington: Chuck
Melissa Knowles: Angie
Betty Wyatt: Elsa
Marie Pacheco: Jaxson

We invite everyone to enter the Rainbow Bridge section on our website and spend time with each loving companion. See their beautiful picture and read about the life they devoted to their families.

**GRRMF:
Saving Golden,
one at a time!**

DONATION THANKS!

Thank you to all our generous donors who make our program possible! Donations received from March - April 2010.

GENERAL DONATIONS

Jeffrey Adler
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IN HONOR OF

Kelli Heist, for Kelly Pavone
Glenn Barnett, for Boomer I
Lee Deckard, for Beau, Katie,
Kelly, Lex and Missy
Irene Gomez, for Chelsey, Molly and Rocky
Tommy Manley, for Sandy Sumner
Deborah Noxon, for Amber
Cynthia Saterbo, for Jack and Lilly
Gary Silvers, for Bubba

IN MEMORY OF

Ellen Podgor, Cheryl Segal, Abraham
and Hans, for Hamish
Professor Peter Fitzgerald's Contracts Class
at Stetson University College of Law, for Hamish
Barbara Ann Dishozy, for Hunter I
Cynthia Saterbo, for Polo
Donna Martin, for Abbott
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Bill Welch, for Fancy and Brandy
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Ilona Thompson, for Shelby and Cassie
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Harold and Linda Rhea, for Tango Rhea
and Chuck Herrington
Elaine Newnham, for Wellington
Coralee Leon, for Willie and Grace

IN MEMORY OF CHASE BRUBAKER

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and The Whole Echelon Family
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Nancy Berghammer

IN MEMORY OF CHASE BRUBAKER



On April 1, 2010 nine year old Chase Brubaker, his parents and beloved golden retriever Annie were enjoying vacation camping at Fort Wilderness at Disney World. Tragically, Chase was killed while riding his bicycle. Our deepest sympathies go out to his parents, Richard and Kelly Brubaker, who lost their wonderful son. Chase was an exceptional and loving boy. He was devoted to Annie and they were inseparable. Chase's family was kind enough in their moment of grief to name GRRMF as the organization to send memorial donations in Chase's memory. We sincerely appreciate their actions, and hope that there is some small comfort in knowing that so many people have sent in memorial donations on behalf of Chase. As with all our donations, they will be used to help save and rehabilitate needy golden retrievers in our program. Please keep this family in your prayers as they deal with the tragic loss of their beloved son.

HELP US FIND FOREVER HOMES FOR ALL OUR GOLDENS!

GRRMF Membership/Donation Form

All memberships and donations are tax-deductible.

Name _____ Address _____

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

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

☐ In Memory Of: _____ \$ _____

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Send acknowledgment to: _____

Mail form and check to: GRRMF, PO Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733

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GRRMF HAS SAVED OVER 2500 GOLDENS SO FAR!

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YOU MAKE OUR PROGRAM POSSIBLE!**

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