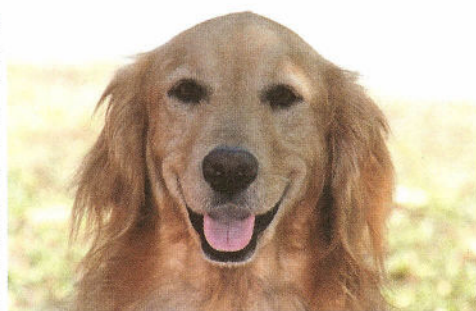


Tales of Gold

A Milestone In History - 20 Years Of Saving Gold!

by Barbara Durham, GRRMF President

It's hard to believe that 20 years ago a few concerned golden retriever lovers in the breed club, Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club, banded together to form a "rescue committee" that was the genesis of all our efforts today. These folks were experienced with showing golden retrievers in conformation and obedience competitions with beautiful goldens that met every breed standard. But they also had big hearts full of love for all golden retrievers, no matter what their physical appearance, who were displaced and looking for homes. They started slow but methodically worked to start an organized process of rescuing golden retrievers. By 1997 it was clear that taking this foundation and creating a separate not-for-profit corporation would be the catalyst for growing our rescue program. So Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida was born and the rest is history. Our tax exempt status, a new website, and a campaign to increase awareness about rescue with veterinarians in Florida resulted in a huge bolt of activity. Today we have saved 2654 goldens and counting. We are so excited to celebrate our 20th anniversary in 2011. In each newsletter of 2011 we will highlight various achievements in our 20 year history. We invite all of you to come to our Rescue Reunion on Saturday February 26th to help us celebrate. If you have never been, please try to come, it is well worth the drive. Everyone should experience seeing so many beautiful happy goldens in one location - red and blonde, big and small, we have them all!



Rufus, GRRMF dog # 2133, is our cover dog on the 2011 calendar celebrating our 20th anniversary. You can still purchase calendars on our website.

And, we still have the support of the breed club - at every reunion our dear friends at Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club host a grooming booth where you can have your dog's feet and ears trimmed to raise money for our rescue program. Their compassion for the breed has not faltered in 20 years and neither has ours! We look forward to the future with the opportunity to save many more golden retrievers with your support.



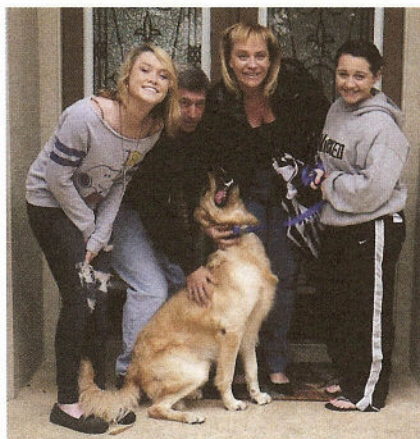
Fate Stepped In

By Marcia McGovern
Intake and Foster Coordinator

One afternoon right before Christmas a message came in via the info@grrmf email address from a veterinarian in Orlando. The vet said she had a 2 year old golden male named TJ whose owner had brought him in to have him euthanized. The owner said she just couldn't deal with him anymore. This owner had put a shock collar on poor TJ at a very young age and kept it there, shocking him whenever he did something she did not like. I was expecting a crazy, wild, unruly dog, afraid of his own shadow. That is not what I found. We are grateful to TJ's regular vet who asked the owner to sign him over to her

and then she turned TJ over to GRRMF. I went to pick him up from the vet's office. We spent time with him so he could get to know me a little. This vet's office had a trainer who had kept him for the weekend so she got to know him a little. He was afraid of strangers at first but warmed up very quickly once he knew you weren't going to hurt him. He played ball and tug and generally behaved like a normal 2 year old golden. Neither the vet, the trainer, or I could figure out what the owner's problem was with him. He trains very easily with treats.

He went to a wonderful GRRMF foster who also found little fault with him. She described him as a great dog!! "We brought him home from the vet and he made himself right at home. We cut the horrible knots of hair off and trimmed his ears then gave him a tub bath. He did very well in the tub, no problems at all. He LOVES all toys and to play fetch. He walks very well on the leash (although I used a gentle lead so I could walk both dogs together). He doesn't bark. He is potty trained. I have seen nothing destructive at all....no chewing things he shouldn't or getting into things such as the Christmas tree, etc. I think he is very trustworthy in the home. He will do his basic commands for treats. I think he should be snatched right up by someone!"



TJ's situation demonstrates how a simple act of compassion can save a dog's life. A veterinarian with a big heart gave him the opportunity to come into the GRRMF family and have a chance at a total life makeover. We are thrilled to report that TJ has been adopted into a home where he will always feel safe and loved.

GOLDEN ADOPTIONS!

Thank you to all our wonderful adoption families who opened their hearts and homes to each of these wonderful goldens!



Hunter was surrendered at eight years old to the county shelter as he was no longer wanted. Hunter had the typical skin and ear issues, missing some hair but was happy and ready to play. His

foster Mom knew of a GRRMF member who had recently lost her precious golden and soon thereafter her husband. A call was placed to see how she was doing and if any thoughts had been given to another companion. Happily, the answer was a big yes and Hunter went to his new home with Pat K. and is now living the spoiled life he deserves with summers in Virginia and winters in Florida. Hunter and Pat rescued each other.

Micah (formerly Indy) was three years old and unneutered when he came to GRRMF. He was given up by his former owners when his family had to move to an apartment. They already had an older dog, so decided that Indy would be the one to find a new home. They hoped for a home with a fenced yard for Indy, but we did them one better, he now also has a brother. The C family adopted him and calls him Micah. His new family reports that he now responds well to his name and the canine brothers are doing quite well together. They are happy to be his forever home and we're sure Micah is just as happy.



Jack found his forever home where he is showered with love. When his new family



came to meet him, he met them at the door and with a wagging tail, took

to them immediately. This once unsure boy is overcoming all his fears and will never have to worry again.

Teddy Bear is a precious girl who found herself in rescue because her previous family didn't have any time for her. Linda J. adopted her and couldn't be happier.

Symon came into rescue because his family couldn't afford him anymore. The G. family adopted him and he has brought happiness and joy into their home.



Jake came into the rescue because his former family could no longer afford him. The D. family quickly added him to their family and couldn't be happier.

Blue came into the rescue at eleven years old because his family was moving out of the area. He found a perfect fit with the E. family and will never need to worry about being loved again.

Maggie was turned into rescue when her former family claimed this eleven year old gal demanded too much time and attention. Turning her in was good for both Maggie as well as the E. family who adopted her and now shower her with all the attention she deserves.



Harley was a sweet boy turned in when his owners were travelling and had no time for him. All he wanted was to be loved and he got that with Jonathan P. He now has a person who will spend time with him. His days of loneliness are over.



Gator girl was the little one who had been hit by a car. After surgery and lots of rehab and love by her foster family, she was adopted by Ron and Jennifer L. and their golden named Mia. Gator can now run and play with her family without pain. And based on a recent report from her family, she is making up for lost time!

Lily is a young little girl who needed some help. Her former family did not crate her while they were at work and this one year old girl was bored and would tear up things in the house. They gave her up rather than help her. It was a blessing for the C. family who adopted her and think she is perfect. They also recognize the importance of crating!



It's time to start submitting calendar photos for the 2012 Calendar!

All you have to do is email your digital photos of GRRMF alumni to: grrmfcalendar@gmail.com

- Please submit unadjusted original digital files. ■ Horizontal photos are preferred for the calendar format.
- Large, high quality files are most likely to be selected.
- All photos become property of GRRMF upon submission.

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.

- Kerri Vorhies, Fiona ■ Cynthia Bennett, Harrison
- Steve & Kellie Bentley, Precious (one of the Sarasota 23 moms)
- Merle Fairbanks, Traveler (formerly James)
- Vickie Krivacs, Kody ■ Larry & Phyllis Wojciechowski, George
- Mary & Ron Makara, Mandy ■ Abby Lee, Kenyon

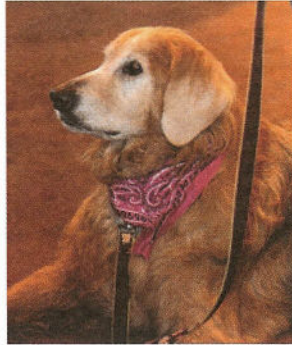
We invite everyone to enter the Rainbow Bridge section on our web site and spend time with each loving companion. See their beautiful picture and read about the life they devoted to their families.

Fiona's Second Chance at Life

By Sandy Sumner, Adoption Coordinator

We were recently trying to place a golden with an approved applicant. Dogs that were offered, complete with pictures, were not what this person was looking for. At a loss, we finally asked him to give us an idea of what he wanted. Did he want one that played fetch, one that liked to swim or one that was a snuggler? What we got back was more common than we like to admit. It had nothing to do with the dog's personality or likes or dislikes. It was all about looks. This person never once indicated what type of dog he would like, just that it had to look like a show dog. And he sent us pictures so that we would understand exactly what he was looking for. These pictures had to have come from a breeder's site or something. They were professionally done! I don't know why it surprises me but it does. And it saddens me too that there are people out there whose only concern is looks. We are not a deli. We don't make dogs to order. We want wonderful dogs to find their forever homes no matter what they look like. My Scooby has "junk in the trunk", a wattle on his neck and the pointiest nose I have seen in a while. But I would not change a thing about him. He is perfect to me. He makes me laugh every day, is the best snuggler in the world and is a good big brother to Frodo. You all know what I mean. Our dogs are perfect and beautiful in our eyes.

And thus begins the story of Fiona (aka "Beautiful"). I have had the pleasure of knowing Fiona for almost three years. She was 12 years old back then and not what you would call a classic beauty. Her owner could no longer care for her. She was almost bald, heartworm positive, a big cyst on her shoulder and a tumor on her lip. In a word "Yikes!" Her foster mom (and then forever mom), Kerri, saw through the outward conditions and saw the beauty within. She took her home and fostered her through her



heartworm treatment. The love affair began. First, no one ever told Fiona that she was old or sick. She battled through all of her ailments (and then some) and came out healthy and happy. She went to the holistic vet and got her "potions and herbs". I know because I would dog sit for Fiona when her mom was out of town and there were literally dozens of things that she would take every day. But drop it in some peanut butter and she was good to go. She would have breakfast in bed at my house and only get up to go outside when she was done eating. And she would give you that look like a grandmother would, as if to say "What are you looking at? Just go get my food and be quick about it". It was a guaranteed giggle every morning. And every time that Kerri dropped her off or picked her up, she would always say "I love you, Beautiful" or "Hi Beautiful!"

Fiona would always attend GRRMF education events in the Orlando area. One year was especially memorable. We were at an adopt-a-thon with other rescues and next to us was Lab Rescue. They had a "Marley" from the movie who was barking and acting just like Marley would. The next thing you know, Fiona was over there sitting in the middle of the labs as though she wanted nothing to do with us and wanted to be a lab instead. As usual, her look was completely content and she saw nothing wrong with sitting in the middle of another group. We still talk about her day as a Lab.

Fiona passed away recently at the ripe old age of 15. She has a history that we will talk about for years. And that is what goldens are about. Not the color or the thickness of their coat or the head shape. They are about the love, the antics, the fun and the memories. Tell your dog that she is beautiful every day. Fiona knew it and your dog will, too.

Goldens saved since 1991: 2,654!

Canine Good Citizen and, now, Registered Therapy Dog

Two issues ago we printed an article on GRRMF rescue Trevor. He was a lost sickly boy who fortunately found his way from the Pasco County Shelter into GRRMF rescue where he would heal, gain weight and strength, find his forever home, and go on to success in many training classes. He even earned the title of Canine Good Citizen. At the time of the article, he was in training to pass the test for the Therapy Dogs Inc. certification.

Trevor's picture included one of him with his human grandmother who loves him dearly and to everyone's surprise; she even sings to him as he just sits patiently in front of her and looks into her eyes. Well we are happy to report that Trevor indeed passed his test and became a certified therapy dog the end of October. He received his official paperwork in the mail one week before he visited his grandmother in Lady Lake for Thanksgiving. He showed off his new tag and demonstrated his good manners. Unfortunately, that same night grandmother fell and broke her leg. While this has not been easy for her or her family, Trevor showed his metal and came through with his first official therapy dog visit being his very own grandmother in the rehab center.

He surely was a sad little fellow when he came to his home in December of 2009, but what a wonderful addition he has been and how far he has come in one short year! Not only is he a great play buddy, walking partner, and night time foot warmer, but a very handsome mannerly good citizen and therapy companion. He now has his eye on becoming a reading helper in the reading paws program. He truly is "Golden". Who could ask for anything more!



2011 Annual Rescue Reunion CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

**Saturday, February 26th, 2011
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Lake Parker Park
in Lakeland, Florida**

2011 will mark 20 years of finding forever homes for golden retrievers throughout central Florida.

What better way to begin our 20th anniversary than with our annual Rescue Reunion!



Activities:

Games for you and your golden, raffle, grooming by Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club members, pet (and family) portraits by Laura Allen Studios (see more info below), Life's Abundance

Premium Dog Food, The New Barker Magazine, Josh's Firehouse Treats and other vendors, all kinds of fun things for you and your dog! Our golden goods store will have lots of great new golden retriever merchandise for sale, including new GRRMF notecards featuring some of our rescues.

Food: Sonny's will provide on-site catering to include: hamburgers, hot dogs, or chicken, potato chips, and cookies or brownies, iced tea or lemonade for only \$4.99 per person. We will also have soft drinks and bottled water available for purchase (with all proceeds going to GRRMF).

What to bring: ■ Your dog/crowd/kid friendly golden retriever (on a fixed leash please, no flexi-leads) ■ Chairs, blankets or shade tents if desired. ■ Water, bowl and poop bags for your dog ■ Money to shop and buy raffle tickets. ■ We accept checks at the golden goods booth, but we do not take credit cards. ■ Food: Don't bring any! Sonny's will provide on-site catering. ■ Crate/Xpen for time outs, if required ■ YOU!!!!!!!!!!



PET AND FAMILY PHOTO DAY AT THE GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE OF MID-FLORIDA REUNION!

Register for pet portraits at www.lauraallenstudios.com or call 727-584-5040. Laura will have a mobile studio with air conditioning on the reunion site. Sitting fees for photos are \$6.00 and go to GRRMF. Laura will take professional pictures of your pets with props and backgrounds. Packages will be available for purchase at reasonable prices. View and order portraits online in a few days, then have the portraits shipped to your home. Dress up your golden if you like or bring their favorite toy. Families are welcome to be in the portrait with your pet. Gift items available too - coffee mugs, note cards, mouse pads, purses, etc. For more information visit www.grrmf.org and go to the reunion page to view the flyer for the pet photos.



DONATION THANKS!

Thank you to all our generous donors for November and December 2010 who make our program possible!

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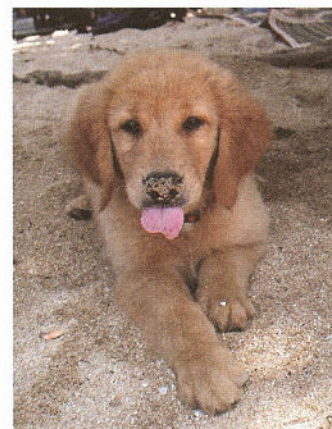
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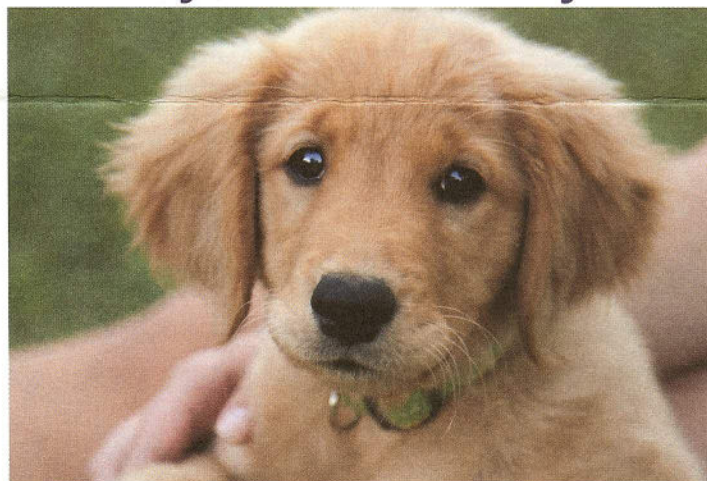
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Celebrating our 20th anniversary in 2011!



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