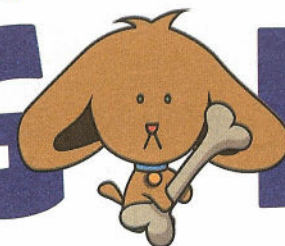


2012 Rescue Reunion - February 18, 2012

Tales of Gold



A Message of Thanks

By Barbara Durham, GRRMF President

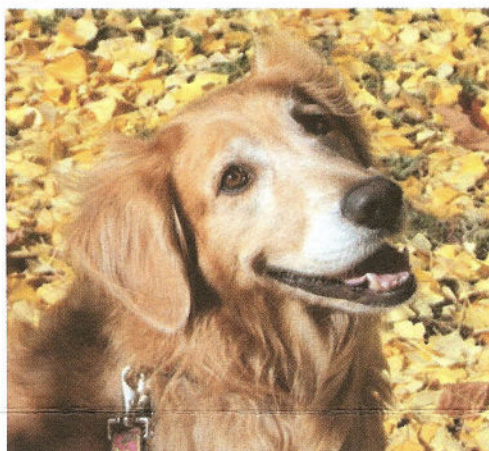
It is hard to believe that it's already fall. This year has been extraordinarily busy here at GRRMF. We have had two complete litters of puppies to raise and place in permanent homes. We have had ever increasing medical needs of golden retrievers turned into our program due to their former owner being unable or unwilling to provide veterinary care. There has also been an increasing trend of turning very old seniors in to GRRMF. The prolonged economic situation in our country has been hard on rescues like GRRMF. We are squeezed from both ends with lower than usual donation and higher expenses.

Most rescue organizations in our state jump at the chance to rescue young, healthy dogs knowing they can adopt them out quickly at minimal expense. The ones they do not want – those needing expensive vet care and longer foster time due to prolonged rehabilitation are often left behind. GRRMF is founded on the premise of assisting all golden retrievers to the best of our ability and this situation leaves more of the burden on us to help the wonderful golden retrievers that would otherwise not have any options if we did not step in.

GRRMF also has no age limit for a golden coming into our program. In the past month, we have taken in three 12 year olds, a 10 year old, two 9 year olds, and four 7 year olds.

The initial cost of veterinary care is higher for seniors because our protocol includes blood work and a thyroid test on all dogs over eight years of age. This is in addition to basic shots, heart work test, fecal, health exam, and if necessary, spay or neuter. While a dog is in foster care, we provide all heartworm and flea preventative and pay all veterinary costs. As you can see, the burdens mount quickly for a caring rescue group like us. Seniors sometimes stay in foster care longer because they are not a popular age group to adopt. We do however, have good

fortune in finding loving families for these golden retrievers. Once people have experienced a sweet senior golden, they are hooked. We have many adopters that routinely request elderly dogs.



Another cost we incur is boarding. When we admit a dog into rescue our best practice is for the dog to go immediately to the vet's office – never directly to a volunteer's home. The dog is boarded there for a short period of time (hopefully) while receiving initial medical care and awaiting foster home arrangements. The availability of foster homes plays a big part in our expenses. The longer we have to wait to find a foster home for a dog, the more boarding expenses climb.

We manage on a daily basis to try moving dogs into foster as efficiently as possible. Sometimes we inevitably end up incurring significant boarding costs, typically because we often must act immediately to take a dog in crisis into GRRMF and then worry about foster resources afterward. It is often a matter of life and death. Some surrendering owners are reasonable to deal with, some not so much. When an owner states, "If you don't get this dog now I'm going to shoot it", you can imagine how quick we react first and worry about foster space later.

Our average monthly boarding bills at GRRMF are about \$2500 - \$3000. This

averages out to about four to six dogs boarded at any one time on a monthly basis. We also have to handle the logistical aspects of moving dogs from our primary vets (we have several located throughout the state) to a foster home. For example, a dog can be ready on a Monday to go into foster care, but perhaps transport cannot be arranged until Friday due to volunteer availability. This results in expenses for four additional days. That is why having a great transport team is critical to managing our expenses – the quicker we can react, the smaller the boarding time and expense. Our Transport Coordinator Sue Angle is a miracle worker, but we can always use more transporters to help us shorten our reaction time.

When you donate to GRRMF, you really make a difference! We cannot rescue a single dog without your help. We are so appreciative of your financial support. Each time I work on our donation reports, I think to myself "bless these wonderful people!" If I didn't have to work full time (as almost all of our volunteers do), I wish I could spend each and every day calling each one of you to thank you personally. We always send you a thank you letter but please know that our team members doing the hands on work with the dogs consider you our angels. You are the wind beneath our wings.

With Thanksgiving approaching, we want to make sure all our donors know that we are extraordinarily thankful for all you do for GRRMF! You are heroes that really do save lives!

- Want to help us but are not currently in a position to donate monetarily?
- What about becoming a GRRMF Foster Home? You will help us save boarding costs! If you are interested in learning more about fostering, please email fostering@grrmf.org.
- Are you able to transport dogs? We especially need transporters during weekdays. If you can help, please email transports@grrmf.org.

Blossom

By Sandy Sumner, GRRMF foster home

The soft eyes are those of a dog who has probably seen more sorrow in her life than good. We will never know because Blossom came into rescue from a shelter along with another golden named Clover. Both were strays, both were a mess and both had cancer.



Masses were removed from each of them. Both were going to come to my house to live out their days. Clover turned out to be a bit of a bully with some of my pack so she could not stay. However, Blossom is an angel and she decided that she liked it here. At about 13 years old, this little old lady decided she had more living to do. In addition, she has become the "grand dame" of the house.

I foster puppies often and they gravitate to her as if she was their mama. She lets them climb on her and chase her tail. When it gets too rough, she gives them a gentle reminder to cool it. When a new foster comes into the house, she marches right up to them to check them out. I had a Shepherd mix who was giving everyone a hard time at first. He would back into a corner and snap at anyone who came close by. The others just went their own way and let him be. Blossom would have none of that. She walked right up to him, tail waving, and licked him on the nose. I think he was a bit shocked at first but it was just what he needed to get him out exploring the yard and other dogs. He was soon running and playing with everyone. It just took Blossom to show him that there was no need to be afraid.

Life is good for Blossom now. She takes no special supplements except for glucosamine. She eats well every day. Her favorite thing to do in the yard is to dig a big hole and lay in the cool sand. My back yard looks like a minefield some days. However, it is a small price to pay to see her wag her tail and flop down into a nice cool hole. Inside, she will lie on a dog bed for a snooze until a puppy comes over and wants to play. She likes short walks, trips to the groomer and car rides. Just like any other dog would.

The vet gave her a couple of months at most. Clover has already passed on. It has been over five months already and she shows no signs of slowing down. Blossom never got the memo that says she should slow down. And, as long as there is a puppy to play with or an inch of my yard that has not been turned into a trench, she won't!

2012 GRRMF Calendars on Sale Now!

This professionally produced, full color calendar features GRRMF adoptive dogs that have found loving homes..... It's time to place your calendar order now - we offer terrific discounts for quantity purchases. Each calendar is \$12.00 each but as you buy more the cost goes down. Each calendar is **GUARANTEED** to put a smile on your face. Who couldn't use a little happiness right now?



Need holiday gifts for your friends, family, coworkers or clients? How about GRRMF Calendars? We can ship you a box of 5, 10, 20 etc and you'll get the quantity price and save on shipping! We can even send them individually to your friends if you give us the information. You will get the quantity purchase price for each plus pay only \$2.25 per calendar shipped. Please email us at grrmfcalendar@gmail.com for more information.

Please send me calendars! (check the option you want to order and include total price)

___ 1 calendar	@ \$12 each plus \$2.25 shipping =	\$14.25 total
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___ 3 calendars	@ \$11.50 each plus \$4.95 shipping =	\$39.45 total
___ 5 calendars	@ \$11 each plus \$6.00 shipping =	\$61.00 total
___ 10 calendars	@ \$10 each plus FREE shipping =	\$100.00 total
___ 15 calendars	@ \$10 each plus FREE shipping =	\$150.00 total
___ 20 calendars	@ \$10 each plus FREE shipping =	\$200.00 total
___ more than 20 calendars	- \$10 each plus FREE shipping =	\$_____ total

All proceeds benefit GRRMF. Make checks payable to GRRMF and send to GRRMF, P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733. To pay by credit card, go to our website at www.grrmf.org and order via PAYPAL.

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Update on Ruby's Puppies

On February 17, 2011, a sweet red golden girl named Ruby gave birth to eight puppies. All the puppies have settled into their adoptive homes and reports of their progress keep coming in.



Calli at three months

Last issue we shared stories of Oakley and Chance. For this issue we have news to share on Calli. Currently at 64 pounds and reportedly with feet like a bear, Calli continues to grow like a week! Pam and Jim, her mom and dad, say of all the dogs they have had, she is the quickest, brightest, and most observant they have ever had. She received the Star Puppy Certificate in her first puppy class. She has continued her training to assist in directing her boundless intelligence and energy and will begin her next class for Canine Good Citizenship the end of September. Her mom and dad report she is very observant and curious of her surroundings. They keep her busy with games of hide-and-seek, as well as chores such as retrieving the morning paper after it is put in the garage. Pam and Jim tell us that Calli is greatly loved and appreciated and has made a difference in their lives. This is all we hope for here at GRRMF. It will be fun to catch up with as many of the puppies as we can at our next Reunion Picnic!



Calli growing up fast!

Golden Adoptions

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



Annie, a 10 week old puppy, came into rescue because her family no longer wanted her. They simply couldn't handle the requirements of a little puppy. Annie has found a loving home with Kris and Ken who adore her. She is everything a little golden girl should be.

Four-year-old **Cindy** was dropped in the gate box at the South Brevard county shelter and there she remained for five days on stray hold. It was obvious she had been used multiple times for breeding and her poor body was overweight, had bad skin, and missing hair. Cindy is the sweetest girl and was a perfect foster from day one. Cindy is now in her forever home with her new mom, Karla D. and her new white shepherd sister Cissy, also used multiple times for breeding. The two girls have a lot in common and have already bonded. Cindy's mom reports she greets her with such excitement by turning in circles and jumping up and down when she comes home.



At one and a half years old, **Comet** came into rescue due to the poor health of his owner. Comet quickly found his forever home with Nancy S. and is now getting all the attention he

deserves. He has new siblings to play with, a swimming pool, and a favorite place on the A/C register to cool down and take a nap. Comet is also quickly learning his basic commands and is attending Obedience Club training. His mom is hoping he will be ready to perform with her in the Canine Fancy Dancers performance this coming May at the Ormond Beach Performing Arts Center. We think he will do just fine!



At 18 months of age, **Hank** came to us with an old leg injury – assumed to be from a car hit but we will never know for sure. The injury could not be fixed and required amputation. He lost his right front leg but never

looked back. Hank was adopted by Becky H. who looked right past that missing leg and saw pure gold. Handicapped is simply NOT in Hank or Becky's vocabulary. Hank sometimes visits the classroom where his mom is an elementary teacher. He also has a brand new mixed-breed rescue baby brother who helps him keep their mom busy.

At eight years old and heartworm positive, **Juno** came into rescue when his family no longer had time for him. Under foster care supervision, Juno received care and medication to clear out the heartworms. Once healthy enough, he was quickly snatched up by Ann F. who adopted this wonderful boy. He has settled in nicely and has been a typical Velcro golden, loving all the attention he can garnish from those around him. He will never be lonely again.

At five years old and not yet spayed, **Maggie** lost her family due to divorce. After medical treatment and recovery time in foster care, Maggie quickly found her new wonderful forever home. With her adoption by the P. family, Maggie has gained all the love and attention she needs as well as a swimming pool and a large yard in which she loves to run and explore. We wish the family many happy years together.

Mia (formerly Maya), a three-year-old female, was turned into rescue because her owner was having back surgery. Mia is a wonderful new addition to Peggy

and Pam, her new moms. Mia had to pass initiation with three golden siblings – two being seniors and set in their ways. Mia was quickly accepted by all family members and fits in as if she's lived there all her life. She is smart as a whip and absolutely lives to play catch, romp with all her siblings, and take in all the affection heaped on her. Her new



family wrote and stated "Thank you GRRMF for our seventh Golden through your organization! They have all been the joys of our lives!"



Surrendered when **Shelby's** family had no time or money to meet her needs, GRRMF stepped in and found her a permanent forever family with Clare and Scott C. She is now safe and very much loved and returns love and joy to her family daily – another wonderful ending.

Mr. Clooney's Tale

Found wandering the streets November, 2009



Please send me someone who cares.

I'm covered with sores and have lost my hair.

My body is in so much pain as I run in the rain.

I live on the street with nothing to eat.

Will someone please love me and give me a home, a warm cozy bed, and a large juicy bone.

Signed,
Lost Dog
Palm Bay, FL

Adopted by Ron and Darlene Krause June, 2010



Thank you for sending me someone who cares, I now have the most beautiful hair.

When I lay me down to sleep, the king size bed is soft and deep.

They give me large and juicy bones and I will never be alone.

Signed,
Mr. Clooney

GRRMF Alumni

My Boy Hunter by Tracy Frandsen

Hunter was born December 27, 1998. We adopted Hunter from GRRMF in March 1999, as a 3 1/2 month old puppy. He grew into a tall/large golden, and everyone who meets him, says he is the tallest Golden they have seen! He joined our family of three boys, who are now grown! Hunter has been like one of the children, enjoying our lake house, riding in the front of the boat, and romps on the beach. He has definitely been a 'water dog'. We now have two dogs and two cats, all rescues, and they all get along great.

Hunter is 13 this year, and has always been healthy. Recently he lost weight and became sick. We have learned that he has liver cancer. His liver is quite enlarged, and we thought we were going to lose him last week. I took him back in to the vet, and they gave him fluids and cortisone injection. He seems to have been revived, even if temporary. He is eating well again, and wagging his tail! We feel blessed to have had Hunter for 13 years, and are thankful for whatever time we have left with him. I posted a story about him on Facebook with a picture, and over 50 people sent prayers and good wishes for Hunter. Our pets are God's gift of 'unconditional love'. Hunter has nothing but love and goodness in him.



Phoebe by John & Cathy Foss

Nearly nine years ago we were asked by Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida (GRRMF) to foster a very frightened 4-1/2 year old little girl who was coming out of an abusive household and her owner was headed to a shelter where she could not take Phoebe. GRRMF assured me this foster placement would only be for "a week or so!" Well, she became ours.



Phoebe had obvious hip problems and when she was examined, it turned out she was born with no hip sockets. Through GRRMF, the great doctors at Oviedo Vet Clinic repaired her hips in two operations in 2003. Once healed, Phoebe became almost a bionic dog running around the house, chasing squirrels and enjoying her newfound mobility.

Due to Phoebe's past abusive atmosphere in her former household, she was very scared and timid. After several months with me and her adopted big brother Monty, her personality made a 180 degree turn and she became one of the friendliest and outgoing dogs I have ever encountered. There was no one she didn't want to become her friend. She was always so happy. We always joke about how dogs turn around 3 times before they lay down. Well, Phoebe literally bounced around, tail wagging before lying down! Sometimes she would be lying around on the couch or wherever with a look on her face like she was contemplating all the world's mysteries. She brought so much joy into our lives and others whom she touched. She never seemed to age! She had only a little bit of gray on her muzzle right to the end and everyone who saw her thought she was maybe 5 or 6 instead of 13-1/2! Her story emphasizes the wonderful work GRRMF does and their commitment to not giving up on goldens that have some seemingly insurmountable physical or mental problems. Her picture is in the back of the 2011 GRRMF calendar as a "runner up". She is the one on the lower left with her head resting on a red pillow.

As of this past month, she is across the Rainbow Bridge, waiting . . .

Grooming Your Golden's Feet

In our series on grooming – we continue with feet. Golden feet left unattended can get big and furry. Along with cosmetic looks and dirt tracking, it can lead to physical difficulties. Fur could cover unnoticed infections or growths and traction may be compromised. Older dogs can have a hard time getting up on hard floors and high-speed play may lead to falls or unintended crashes possibly injuring joints or bones. So what should you do?

Begin by trimming the hair between the pads with blunt nose scissors. You can also use a small electric trimmer – the kind intended for beard trimming on humans and available from beauty supply stores. Then, on the top of the feet, brush the hair the wrong way until it sticks straight up. Using thinning shears, trim off all those upright tufts of hair. When you are done, brush the foot hair down towards the toes. With the fur trimmed back, it will be easier to keep the nails trimmed on a regular basis. You should now have a neat golden foot. While you are working on each foot, examine between the pads and toes for any growths and if found, see a vet immediately.



GRRMF Permanent Foster Program

What happens when we take in a dog that is deemed unadoptable for medical reasons? GRRMF does not euthanize dogs except in the case of acute medical situations where it is the only humane course of action. Occasionally we get dogs into our program with medical conditions that make them hard to adopt. We carefully evaluate these dogs to try and adopt them out if at all possible. If it isn't possible, we place them in our permanent foster home program.

One of the most common reasons a dog is placed in this program is when it is diagnosed with cancer. Sometimes the dog can have surgery with clear margins on the pathology; based on the vet's assessment of chances of recurrence many of those dogs get adopted out. If a dog has a poor prognosis, however, it is very hard to get someone to adopt them. We don't consider cancer a reason to immediately euthanize a dog – as long as they are happy and have good quality of life at the moment – we place them in a foster home that is willing to shower them with love and affection for the rest of their days. The cost of their care is funded from donations to Roxi's Cousins within our Woody Fund which are specifically for goldens in our program with cancer.

Blossom, featured in this issue, is one of our permanent foster cancer dogs. As you can see from her story, she is precious and is enjoying her life to the fullest for whatever time she has left. What is always amazing is that many of our dogs like Blossom outlive their life expectancy once getting to our foster homes. We are not sure of the reason, but part of us thinks that they are just too happy to go just yet.

Help GRRMF Earn Dollars!

Every Time You Search the Internet or Shop Online.

As our holiday season approaches, those of you who use the internet to search or purchase gifts can help earn dollars for GRRMF.

Search the web with Yahoo-powered www.GoodSearch.com and they will donate about a penny to GRRMF each time you search! Shop through www.goodshop.com where there are more than 1,300 merchants including Amazon, Best Buy, Toys R Us, and many more. In addition to the search pennies, a percentage of each purchase will go to GRRMF!

Donation Thanks!

Thank you to all our generous donors who make our program possible! Donations received from July - August 2011.

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Denise Elkins-Andrews
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IN MEMORY OF

Marguerite Seebold,
for Ginger Snap
Pat & Bill Shepard, for Macy
Betty Wyatt, for Bridget
Jane Veschio, for Jenny
Lori Ziegler, for Sam & Reggie
Gladys Henderson,
for Chance Watson
Dennis Lum, for Kirby
Barbara Dishozy,
for Hunter II and Jake I
Frank Knies, for Cassy & Yuri
Arline Sue Hall, for Jazz
Eric Potsdam, for Jazz
Anne Folsom,
for Samson & Skipper
Sandy Potsdam, for Jazz
Jan Jennings, for Elsa & Ninja
Connie Shepard,
for Peaces & Sheba
Jim & Debra Aid,
for all their golden girls
Bert & Charlie Haker,
for Hal Avey
Alyca & Jim Leet, for Hal Avey
Eleanor LeTohic, for Hal Avey
Bill & Ellen Lawrence,
for Hal Avey

IN HONOR OF

Kathy Mahanna,
for Jim Dumas' Birthday
Lori Ziegler, for Max
Maggie Stambaugh,
for Whitman
Donald Culpepper,
for John & Susan Santos
John Currie, for Carver,
Tessie, Milligan, Josie Gray
& Cassie

WOODY FUND FOR SPECIAL NEEDS DOGS INCLUDING TRUDY AND HER PUPPIES, LUCKY, MR. HOWELL, DAKOTA AND TYGER

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Roy Watson
Carol Clark
Donna & Chuck Graves
Dean O'Nale
Carol McDonald
Cliff & Karen Keller

Rainbow Bridge

Our condolences to those who have lost their canine loved ones.

We extend our hearts and sympathy to all our GRRMF families that have lost a loving companion this past year. 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.

- Greg and Jana Garrison - Augie
- Helen DeWitt - Dyno
- Carol & Lou Glaros - Heidi
- Debra Johansson - Indy
- Eric Potsdam - Jazz
- Steve Jaffe - Misty
- Ellen Ryan - Nellie
- John & Cathy Foss - Phoebe
- Kathy Nolen - Caysea & Bailly

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.



Dog Friendly Florida

Do you like to get out-and-about to enjoy the Florida weather? Want to take your golden with you on more outings? Check out the floridapets.net for up-to-date information on pet friendly parks, beaches, hotels, restaurants, living arrangements such as apartments and condominiums, pet evacuation and transportation information, a list of pet-friendly storm shelters, information on keeping your pet safe at home and how to plan for emergency care if you are unable to get home to retrieve your pets. There is even an Aid for Pets link with a list of assistance provided throughout Florida to help families maintain their pets through economic hard times.

While it is always great to get away with your golden, remember: *start with a good leash and bottle of water and do not let down your guard.* You must remain more vigilant than if you were out on your own - maintaining a safe environment and keeping reactions in check. It is not only a matter of being prepared for surprise reactions on the part of your pet, but also vigilance for the reactions of other animals near you or approaching you and your companion. Enjoy your outings with your golden, come home safe, and let us know if you discovered a location worth sharing with others.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE OF MID-FLORIDA
PLEASE HELP THE GOLDENS IN OUR CARE -- YOUR DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED!

Name _____ Address _____

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Mail form and check to: GRRMF, PO Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733 or donate via credit card at www.grrmf.org.

GRRMF is a 501(c)3 Charitable Organization. Donations are tax deductible. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling Toll-Free (800-435-7532) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state #CH11185.

GRRMF CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Take Your Best Shot NOW! and send it to us for the 2013 GRRMF Calendar!

Take your best shot and send it to us for the 2013 GRRMF Calendar! While our 2012 Calendar is finished and at the printer, it's not too early to start submitting more photos of GRRMF alumni for the 2013 calendar. Please submit your pictures to grrmfcalendar@gmail.com.



Goldens saved since 1991: 2,800
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