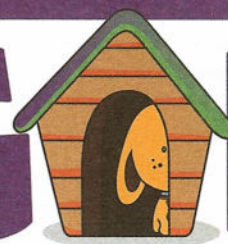


Tales of Gold



Honey ... One sweet little golden girl with hurting hips

Meet our new friend Honey. She is an adorable 48 pounds of lovable golden retriever with a comical deep big dog bark! Sweet as the real thing, Honey is 8 months old and comes to us from the Humane Society of Pinellas. After transferring her in from another high kill shelter, they discovered Honey has hip dysplasia. With this information, one adoption fell through and the staff and volunteers at the shelter decided seeking help from GRRMF was Honey's best



chance for the sweet life she deserves. After consulting with our veterinarian and the orthopedic staff at Tampa Bay Veterinary Specialists, it was determined Honey will need bilateral Femoral Head Osteotomy. Femoral head and neck excision is a procedure in which the head of the femur is surgically removed and a fibrous pseudo-joint replaces the hip. Without this surgery, Honey has little to no chance of leading the long, happy, and pain free life she deserves. She has had one hip surgery and is going through recovery and rehabilitation. There will be

one more hip surgery to go. Each hip surgery is about \$1500 plus the costs of diagnostic tests and rehabilitation. Honey needs some generous supporters to help her with medical costs. **Would you like to help her?**



One surgery complete, one more to go.

GRRMF Recognizes Our Top Volunteers at 2012 Rescue Reunion

On Saturday February 18, GRRMF held its Annual Rescue Reunion. We had a wonderful day together celebrating our cause. So many hard working volunteers helped that day and we want to say thank you to all of you! Reunion day is also where we recognize the achievements of some of our volunteers. GRRMF cannot operate without the army of volunteers that makes everything we do possible. Here are our 2011 award winners:



Heart of Gold Volunteer of the Year – Tara Spake

Tara has been involved in animal rescue for over 30 years. While living in Key West, she was Vice President of Friends of Strays. Since joining GRRMF in 2008, Tara began fostering and she has been active with education days, home visits, and phone screens. Now she reviews adoption applications and manages our phone screen volunteers as she assigns and tracks the applications through the approval process. This is a tough job that requires daily dedication and attention to detail. Tara has developed a team of dedicated phone screeners who were excited to finally meet her in person at the 2012 reunion.

Top Dog Awards – Recognizing Outstanding Achievement in Key Volunteer Areas

Intake – Dan and Vanessa Hardy

Adoptions – Leslie Wisnowski, Dean Anderson, Rich & Mary Ann Newton, Michelle Freeman

Education/Events – Becky Stone, Steve Maldony, Pat & Bill Shepard

Communications/Administration – Judy Ladney

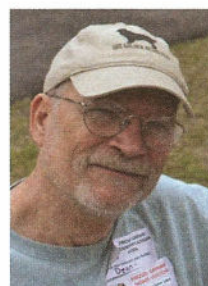
Fundraising – Janet Thompson, Debbie McGhehey, Nancy Francis, Cathy Schultz

Transportation – Dean Anderson, Sue Angle

Fostering – Sarah Jones, Carol Forsberg, Daniel Bertrand, Keith Bennett, James Mitchell, Cyndy Roberts, Renee & Donald Ferguson, Kristie & Mark Molina

Youth Fundraising – Aaron & Daniel Kennon

Treasury Administration – Beth Scott, Tricia Meyers, Carol Avey



Dean Anderson



Tara Spake (left) and Renee Duke, GRRMF Board Member

Donations: Thank you to all our generous donors who make

Donations received November through December, 2011.

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Grupp, Rolf & Elaine
Hustedt, Amanda
Koger, Janet
Orlando Society of Model Railroaders

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Velen, Tana

Woody Fund - Leg Up Fundraiser

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Goodhart, Kathi
Holcomb, Lois
Mitchell, Robert
Mitzel, John
Nesbitt, Marlene & Paul
Reardon, Marsha
Roe, Gordon
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Storey, Ronald
Williams, Nadine

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Adler, Jeffrey
Davis, Sarah & Brian
Holliday, Linda-Marie
Panagoulis, Charles
Bogle, Sara, in honor of Hank
and Janice Bogle
Ruth, Anita, in memory of Clipper

Woody Fund - Roxi's Cousins

Ade, Marilyn
Barr, Ellen, In memory of Roxi & Bubba
Brubaker, Lynne, In memory of Sam
Deckard, Lee, in memory of Beau,
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Dewitt, Helen
Gianekis, Anne & Mark
Keller, Cliff & Karen
Klein, Ken & Darla, in memory of Roxi
Love, Nancy
McGhehey, Roxi, in memory
of her brother Bubba
O'Nale, Dean & Michelle,
in memory of Hunter
Panagoulis, Charles
Shepard, Pat & Bill, in memory of Roxi
Sosteri, Collen & Rick

**26.2% of dogs adopted
were eight years old and
older!!! Go seniors!!!**

Parker's happily Ever After Story

Remember Parker, the "almost golden" who was up for adoption for quite a while on our website last year? You might remember Parker as the black lab/ golden retriever mix puppy. We took in his golden retriever mom, Annie-Belle in May 2011 and could not leave her son Parker behind. Their owner could no longer keep them in the camper they were living in and would have to chain them up outside. Annie-Belle was unsprayed, heartworm positive, full of parasites, and she had a skin infection. Parker was unneutered, parasite infested, and full of fleas. He also had a rough start to life, which manifested in some fear issues that needed to be worked through. Luckily, Parker was placed with a loving foster home family that dedicated themselves to turning his life around. With the help of training from Ann Waterbury, owner of New Dawn Animal Behavior Center in Clearwater, he began his journey to a fear free life. Then Bonnie and Charlie M. spied him on the website and instinctively knew he must be a very special boy. They adopted him in January and have continued to work with this sweet boy to maximize his potential.



Parker, now nearly 1 year old, has continued his training at Best Paw Forward in Osteen. Parker continues to excel in every way in his manners classes as well as agility and scent work. His mom says, "At class he surprised us all by taking the agility course to heart. He jumped through the tire swing then raced through the tunnel and then over the two-bar jump, turned around and did it again! PJ Lacette, owner of Best Paw Forward, said she never saw a young dog so new to the course do that. Charlie is now building a mini agility course for him in the yard."

Parker learns so quickly. Bonne taught him to "shake hands" and now he wants to do it all the time. He has added it to his repertoire of sit, shake hands, down, and stand. Bonne reports he is so funny when you tell him to sit he does them all in sequence before you can say anything. He even tries to "add it all in" when he heels and sits when stopping. That little paw just comes up as if it is on a string.

Parker has also now decided to be "civic minded" and save the city some money on grounds cleanup at the local park during his walks. He now picks up the biggest stick he can find at the park and drags or carries it all the way home about a mile. Parker is averaging at least one sometimes two sticks from the "city" each day on his two long walks. His pile in the yard is getting high!

Parker has also been helping his dad in the garden. He tries to help with the weeding and cleanup in the yard but still does not know a weed from a flower or a stick from a tree. He watched Charlie pull some weeds and clean up some bushes. He then went over to the fence and after a lot of shrubbery movement came running out with a very big stick - only it still had roots attached. Turns out, he managed to pull out a 5-foot live oak sapling. That's one strong puppy! He needs a little more work on his plant identification skills!



Says Bonnie: "The time, energy and expense that GRRMF spent on Parker was well worth it. He is beginning to come out of his shell and become the puppy inside. He seems to be catching up on the "puppy" things he missed before rescue. Charlie and I feel he will be a wonderful dog based on his personality and willingness to please. He is exceptional in his intelligence. He picks commands up faster than our CCI dogs did and thrives on each new experience." GRRMF is grateful to Bonnie and Charlie for giving this very special boy a chance.

Dog Collars with Tags and Dog Microchips – Why your dog should have BOTH!

By Barbara Durham – GRRMF President

Most of us would agree that the one of the worst days of our lives would be if one of our dogs got out and ran away. Even when owners strive to keep their dog safe by keeping a watchful eye on them in the fenced backyard (and not leaving them outside when away from home), using leashes when out of a fenced area, and being careful about securing doorways – they may still find a way to slip away. If you have adopted a golden from us, you agreed to do all these things in your adoption contract and we hope nothing ever goes wrong, but if it does, will you be prepared?

One of the best ways to make your dog safe is to be sure they always wear a collar with tags. For the collar itself, there are many great selections available. We only ask that you please do not make a chain or choker collar a permanent collar with tags. It is the least safe combination. Now for the tags – why do we say tags and not just one tag? If your dog is lost, having multiple points of contact easily accessible on a collar will increase the chances of your dog being quickly returned to you. There are a few basic tags that you should have. First, have a primary contact tag containing your dog's name along with your contact information such as address and phone numbers. As we are a mobile society, having more than a home phone number would be prudent. Add a cell number and you will always receive the call no matter where you are. (PetSmart currently has a tag machine that allows you to use both sides of the tag so there is plenty of room to engrave multiple phone numbers.) Second, attach your veterinary tag and/or your county license. The information on these tags will lead to records containing your contact information. Additional tags may be a microchip tag, temporary travel location tags, and special needs tags. Let's start with a microchip tag and the value of having a microchip in your dog.

As a backup to your dog's collar with tags, having your dog microchipped is an excellent way to provide identification. Some people think that if their dog is microchipped there isn't a reason to keep tags on a collar. Remember, your dog must be scanned with a special device to be identified. Most veterinary offices, shelters, and rescue groups have scanners. However, if your dog is not wearing a collar with tags and is found by someone who does not have such a device, or has no idea about microchipping, they may not think to look for one. We encounter good Samaritans all the time that find a stray, try to locate the owner, but never think about scanning for a microchip. Again, this is where having a collar with multiple tags assists. Each microchip service will provide, or offer for sale, a tag to add to your dog's collar containing the registered chip number, and the registry service name and phone number. That way, scanning is not required. A simple call to the registry service and the chip number will provide contact information. If you know your dog's chip number and service provider, you can also create a microchip tag of your own. If you are not sure of dog's microchip number or service provider, ask your veterinarian to scan your dog, or for our rescue dogs, call GRRMF. All dogs that come through GRRMF have a microchip. If we receive a dog already microchipped, we register it in our name. If a dog does not have a microchip, GRRMF will provide one. Each tag is registered with a primary contact of GRRMF. A secondary contact can be added



This GRRMF dog was found by a Good Samaritan who tried to locate the owner to no avail.

for the adoptive owner's information. The best part of having the initial contact remain GRRMF, is that it gives you a 24/7 phone number attached to a very large community of people available to assist in returning your dog. This also means you should be sure GRRMF always has your most current information.

If you travel and take your dog with you, put a temporary tag on the collar indicating the travel location and dates. Hardware stores sell tags for keys that work well. If you are camping, note the campground and site number. If you are traveling without your dog and leave it with a dog sitter, put a temporary tag on the collar with the contact information of the dog sitting family.

On a personal note, recently a friend came down from up north to visit with her beautiful lab that is not even a year old. They made the trip without a single form of ID on the dog's collar. They thought the dog was safe because she was microchipped. I was shocked they would drive all the way to Florida with no collar identification on the dog. I've been working rescue long enough to know all the bad things that can happen. Most of us like to think that if someone found our dog they would give it back. All I could think of is that if she were lost, and someone found such a beautiful sweet young female, the odds were high that the person wouldn't even go looking for the owner. The best chance is for someone in the near vicinity to find your dog and return it quickly before they have to long to think about keeping it. The greater the distance from home and the longer they have it, the more likely they will form an attachment and may never seek out the owner. If you don't show an effort by providing collars, tags, and microchips, why would anyone else think you care about having your dog returned!

A final special thought on tags is to add one for special needs that may affect your dog if they are away from your care for too long. Items may include medication needs, seizure dog, blind or hearing issues, or severe food allergies.

So in conclusion, start with a great collar, no chains or chokers please, add tags of main contact, veterinary and/or county license, microchip information, and when necessary, temporary travel tags and special needs tags. Monitor collar and tags regularly for wear and tear, and replace unreadable tags as well as those with outdated contact information. If your dog is not a GRRMF rescue, have them microchipped. Be sure to keep your contact information updated with all organizations specified on each tag.

If you love your dog, prove it. Show it loud and clear with a collar, up-to-date tags and contact information, and back it up with a microchip. We spend countless dollars on special foods, supplements, and veterinary visits, what's a few dollars for a good collar and some tags that could save their lives? We never want to think our dog would run away but they are dogs ... first and foremost ... and think with their noses and impulses and not their brains. We know better and need to do everything in our power to protect them.

GRRMF congratulates Michelle and Tom Freeman on the birth of baby Mason January 6, 2012!

Michelle is GRRMF's Home Visit Coordinator who works incredibly hard to get home visits completed for adoption applicants. Michelle and Tom are also mom and dad to Preston, GRRMF golden #2459 adopted in 2010. Both baby Mason and golden boy Preston are blessed to be in a wonderful family!



GOLDEN ADOPTIONS

Thank you to all our wonderful adoption families who opened their hearts and homes to each of our wonderful golden retrievers! Here are a few of our happy adoption stories.



Aspen is an 8-year-old unneutered male stray that ended up in Animal Control. Paul E. was looking for the right Golden to

fill the void on the loss of his girl Gabby. Along came Aspen, scared, lonely, and living in a shelter environment. Aspen is now living the life he always wanted and Paul has a new best friend. Paul tells us he enjoys seeing Aspen happy and content, asleep on the couch. Aspen is also happy to speak when asked, and will give a little bark to say thank you to Paul for her forever home.

Suzie is a 10 year old who was turned in because her family was moving. Suzie was adopted by Judy J. who lost her senior golden. Judy saw Suzie on the website and knew she was the one for her. This was a very successful conclusion for both Suzie and Judy.



Blondie is a very sweet 7-year-old who was surrendered along with her two daughters when a hoarder became ill. Blondie needed someone with skill and patients to help her become acclimated to living inside a loving home. When Sally C.

heard about Blondie, she said that was the girl for her and adopted her. Blondie now lives the life of a queen and Sally has an eternally grateful companion.

Chief, an adorable 5-month-old puppy, was turned into rescue by an active duty service member who received an unexpected reassignment. He was adopted by Melissa and Wade who wanted to add Chief to their family. Chief has a new playmate, Bear, a chocolate lab/golden mix, and is enjoying his new home.



Three-year-old **Little Bit** came into Rescue from a hoarding situation (living with nine other dogs in a small trailer.) Previous GRRMF adopters, Nick & Jessica E., opened their hearts and their home to this petite golden girl. Little Bit will have a loving home, the best of care, and GRRMF alumni brother Zeus to help her settle into her "forever home".



Lady Bug came to us from Animal Service in mid December. She was 8 years old, heartworm positive and would have

been euthanized if GRRMF had not stepped in to rescue her. A demure 48 pounds, Lady Bug just seemed like the perfect name for her. Due to the generosity of our donors Lady Bug received life saving heartworm treatment. Lucky for Lady Bug, Sue A. picked her up from the vet to foster her on the date of her first heartworm treatment. Lady Bug was so sick she couldn't eat and hardly moved for 2 days, but her tail still wagged. Sue lovingly laid her on a dog bed in front of the fireplace and each time anyone came near, Lady Bug's tail thumped her "Thank You" for being saved. Having three golden buddies (and three cats) to cheer her on, she gained strength each day and seemed to revel in the friends she had around her, continuing to wag that tail constantly. Sue and her entire family all fell in love with Lady Bug and decided she was the best Christmas present they could ever dream of so the unanimous vote was to adopt Lady Bug. Their cheer is "Thank you GRRMF for saving this 'little' bundle of joy!"

Red is an 8-year-old male who was turned into rescue because of a family member's allergies. He was adopted by Laurie D. who wrote and told us, "Red has settled in nicely. The neighborhood loves him and he even has a girlfriend golden named Chloe. Jack, the family cat, adores him and loves to rub against him and lick his head. Red has found his forever home."



Rainbow Bridge

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.

- Bob and Margaret Preston – Belle
- Grace and Jenna Huhne – Lucky
- Nancy and Rich Jackfert – Bailey
- Donna Vaughn – Abbee
- Richard and Barbara Manners – Duke
- Bill & Darlene Cheever – Lady Noel
- Michael J. Smith, MD – Benson

We Need!

■ GRRMF is looking for an APPLE IPAD to use in our internal operations. If you have upgraded to the new model, please consider donating your old one to GRRMF! Your donation is tax-deductible.

■ Your golden could be a star for a whole month! We need to get everyone rolling with your best calendar shots for 2013! Email your digital photos to grrmfcalendar@gmail.com today.

Our Next Issue

■ As a fitting "End" article to our Grooming Your Golden series, we will cover tails.

■ Nosework workshop: This is a new and exciting way to bond with your golden while utilizing your golden's natural sense of smell. Ms. Emily Rowe recently attended a class on the West Coast and filled us in on all the details, which we will pass along to you.

■ As always, we look for great articles and pictures that show off the activities of our golden retrievers. Don't be shy! Contact us if you have an activity or event that might be of interest to all of us.

GRRMF Alumni: Chance – one of Ruby's puppies, by Cathy Christy

Chance is one of Ruby's puppies. He has grown into one of the largest golden retrievers I've ever seen. At ten months old, he weighs 110 pounds and our vet said he is still growing! He is solid muscle. He is the most wonderful, gently giant boy. He still thinks he can sit on your lap. He loves to play fetch and go to the park. Although he gets car sick, I do believe the ginger snaps are working well. With them, he has not gotten sick the last few car rides. We adore our boy and our family could not be happier!



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

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ **CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:** ☐ General Membership \$25 ☐ Golden Friend \$50

☐ Sponsor support \$100 ☐ General Donation \$ _____ ☐ Woody's Fund General \$ _____ ☐ Rbxi's Cousins \$ _____

☐ In Memory Of: _____ \$ _____ ☐ In Honor Of: _____ \$ _____

Send acknowledgment to: _____

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:

www.grrmf.org Hotline: 407.332.2840 Fax: 419.781.3538

General Inquiries and address changes: info@grrmf.org

Accounting and Donations: accounting@grrmf.org

Fostering: fostering@grrmf.org; Adoptions: adoptions@grrmf.org

Intake/Surrender: intake@grrmf.org; Events: events@grrmf.org

Volunteering: volunteers@grrmf.org; Fundraising: fundraising@grrmf.org

Home visits: homevisits@grrmf.org; Transports: transports@grrmf.org

Newsletter Editor: grrmfnewsletter@gmail.com

Calendar Photo Submissions: grrmfcalendar@gmail.com



It's time to start sending in your calendar submissions for the 2013 calendar. Please email your pictures to grrmfcalendar@gmail.com.

It's raining senior goldens at GRRMF! Visit our website to see the many great goldens available for adoption!!"

Over 20 years of saving goldens -- 2,871 saved since 1991!

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