

NOVEMBER 2023
CELEBRATING 32 YEARS!
SAVING GOLDENS SINCE 1991



TALES OF GOLD

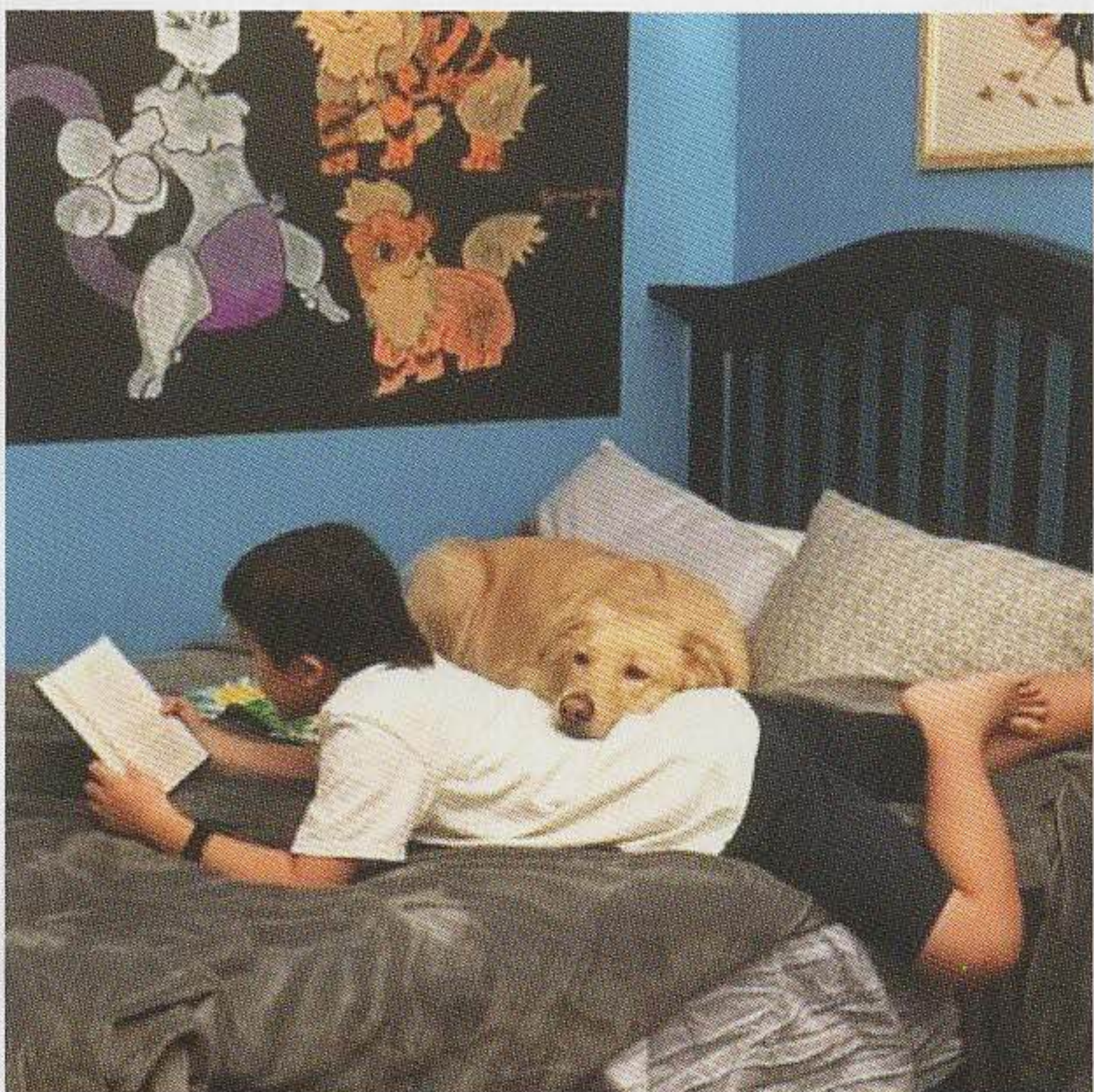


GOLDEN INSPIRATION

Meet our GRRMF volunteer Alexander - a middle school honor student and budding artist who designed several apparel items for our BeGolden Design Studio and our Animal Pride GRRMF stores. When not being inspired by his fur companion Kobi, Alexander can be found absorbed in his other interests and talents.

A well-rounded youth, he is the principal cellist with the Florida All State Middle School Orchestra. Earlier this year, he finished first in the Florida State Science Fair Competition, and placed within the top 300 with Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge (Society for Science program). "When we adopted Kobi from GRRMF he became the younger brother I always wanted. Seeing him grow into the huge, adorable ball of fluff he is now has made me the happiest I've ever been, so I wanted to find a way to help other kids like me find their new sibling and other dogs find their kids. Kobi is the inspiration for my designs. The 'hug the chef' design came about because Kobi is always in the kitchen - getting in the way - when my mom is cooking or teaching me to cook. He gives us a look that says, 'Hey get out of my way.'"

The fireworks design is because Kobi, like most goldens, is afraid of fireworks and was shaking as he snuggled up with me and my parents during the July 4 celebrations".



*Visit our BeGolden store
and get inspired for your
holiday shopping at
www.grrmf.org/shop-and-help/*



PO Box 1449
Goldenrod, FL 32733

GRRMF CONTACT INFORMATION
www.grrmf.org
info@grrmf.org

Fax: 888.408.5520
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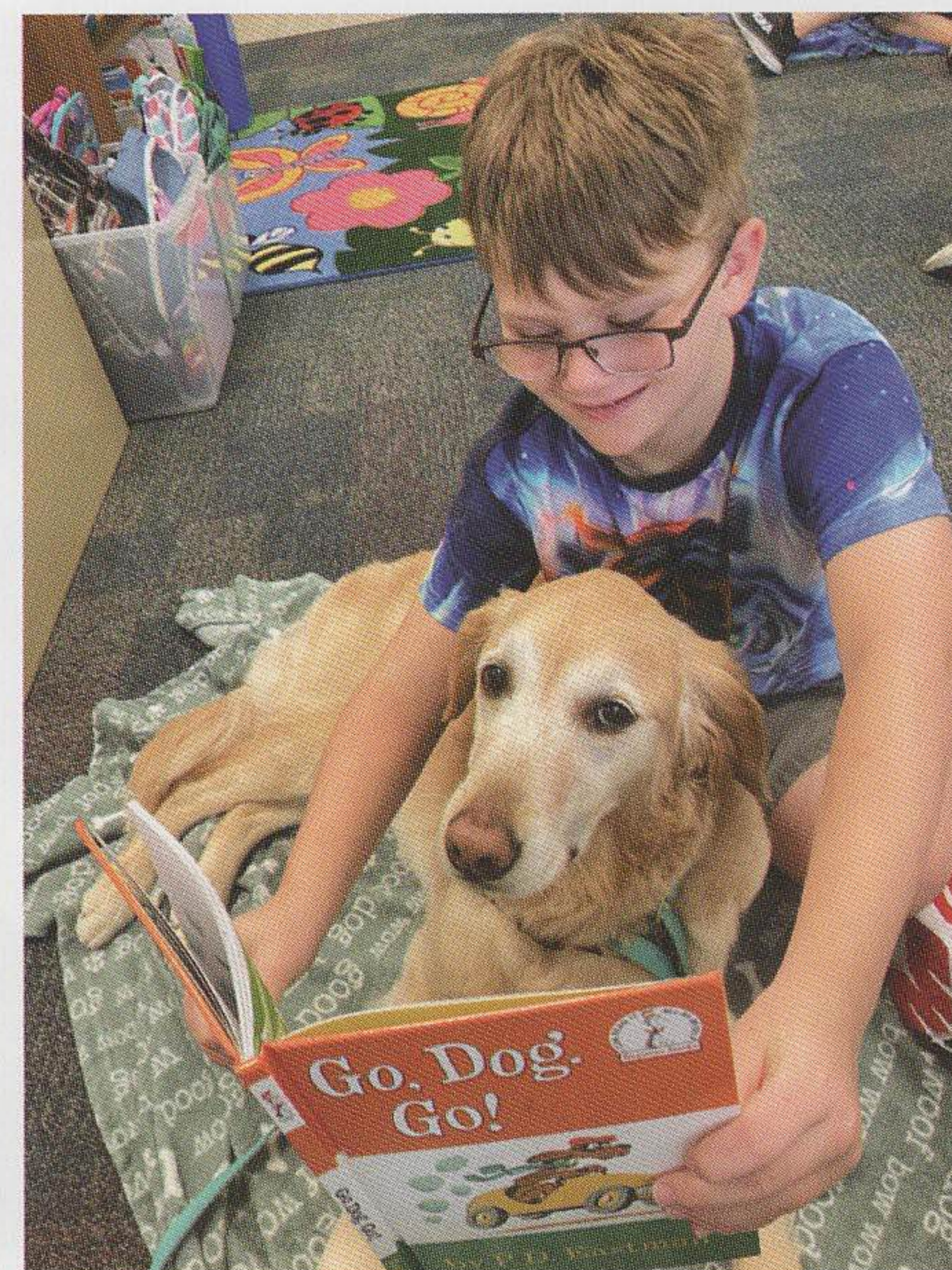


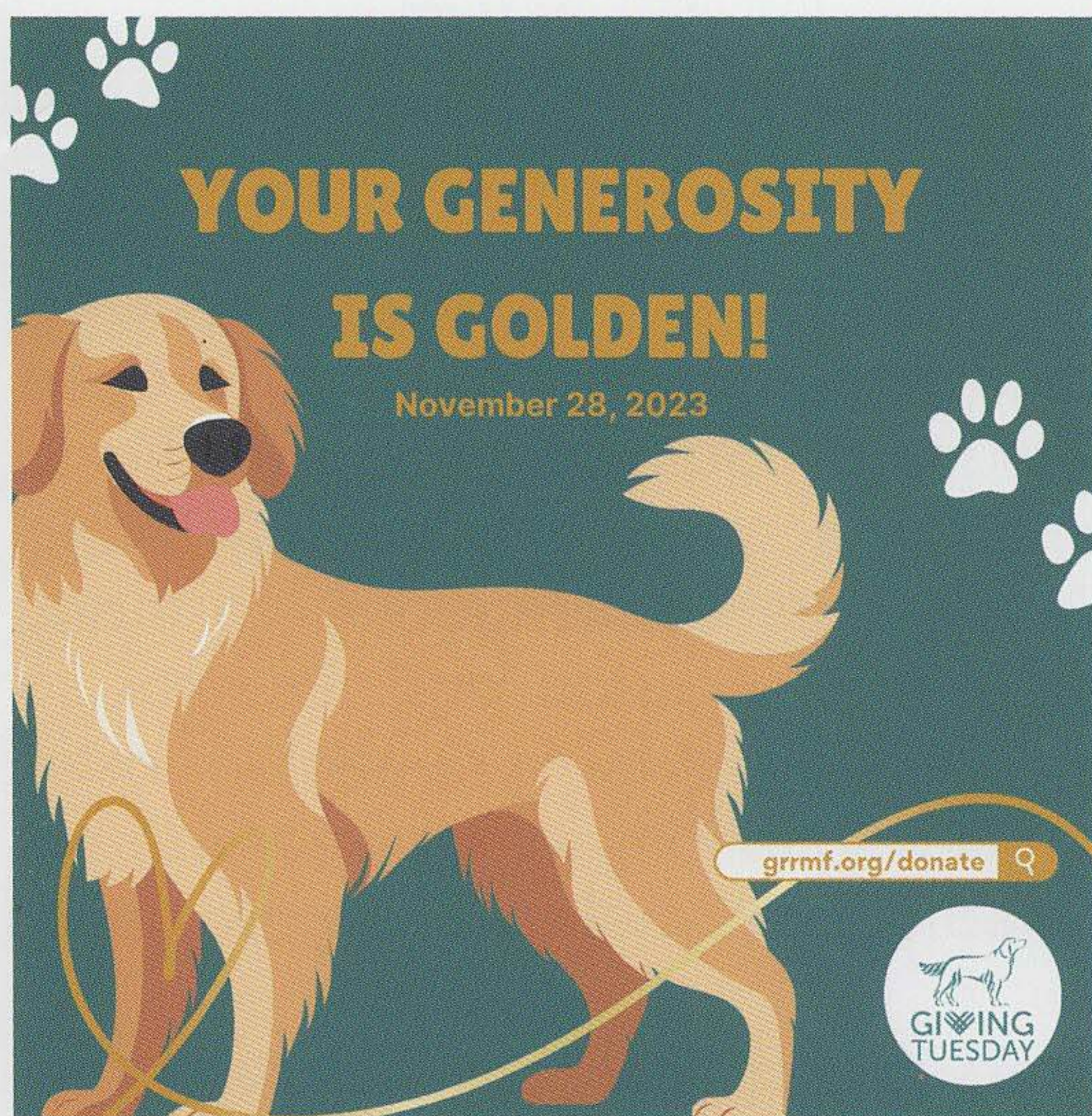
Congratulations to Samantha Scott, handler for Asher, who advanced from Ms. Florida to recently win the title of Ms. USA Prime. Samantha and Asher joined Hearts of Gold in May 2023 and have been active with therapy visits at AdventHealth hospital and Reading with Pets program at Windermere Prep for second grade students. As the crowning Ms. USA Prime, Samantha's goal is to implement pet therapy programs in schools throughout Orange and Seminole County. "Schools have a special place in my heart because a lot of development happens during a child's elementary to high school years. Anxiety and depression are at an all-time high and more focus needs to be on mental and emotional wellbeing. Children being around loving dogs, talking or not, can help change their trajectory one day at a time."

Our therapy program continues to thrive due to the passion our volunteers, handlers and special pups have for reaching out to others needing support within our communities. We have therapy teams visiting seven different hospitals and eighteen assisted living/memory care facilities, supporting Pawsome Readers programs at five libraries and six elementary schools, and attending numerous special events each month. Having supported seniors for years, our North Central teams are thrilled to add pet therapy at UF hospital and reading programs at Sumter County Library to their monthly schedule.

North East teams have partnered with the Early Learning Coalition of Flagler and Volusia for education and support of family and students in times of need. Your dog does not have to be a GRRMF rescue or golden – family pets with the personality to do therapy work are welcome.

Visit our website www.grrmf.org/grrmf-hearts-of-gold-therapy-team/ to learn more about the program or to request a visit from our special pups.





GIVING TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 28

Join us on GivingTuesday - a time for giving, compassion, and making a difference in the lives of those in need. Founded on the belief that every dog deserves a chance at a happy and healthy life, GRRMF has become a beacon of hope for countless retrievers and blends, providing them with the love and care they deserve. Your generosity plays a vital role in ensuring GRRMF's continued success. By contributing on GivingTuesday, you directly impact the lives of these incredible dogs. Whether you

can spare a little or a lot, every donation counts. Together, we have the power to give these pups a brighter future.

WHY YOUR DONATIONS MATTER

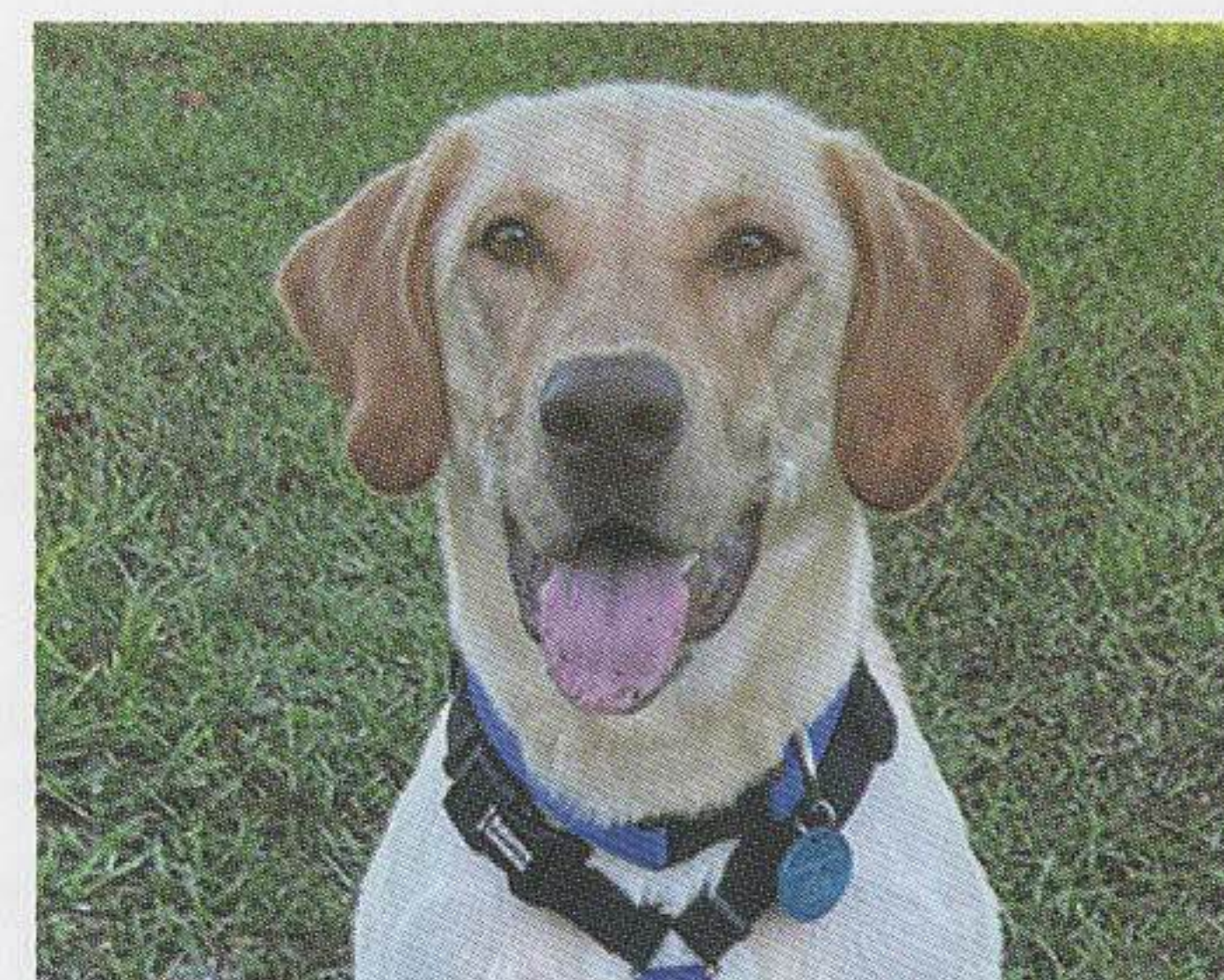
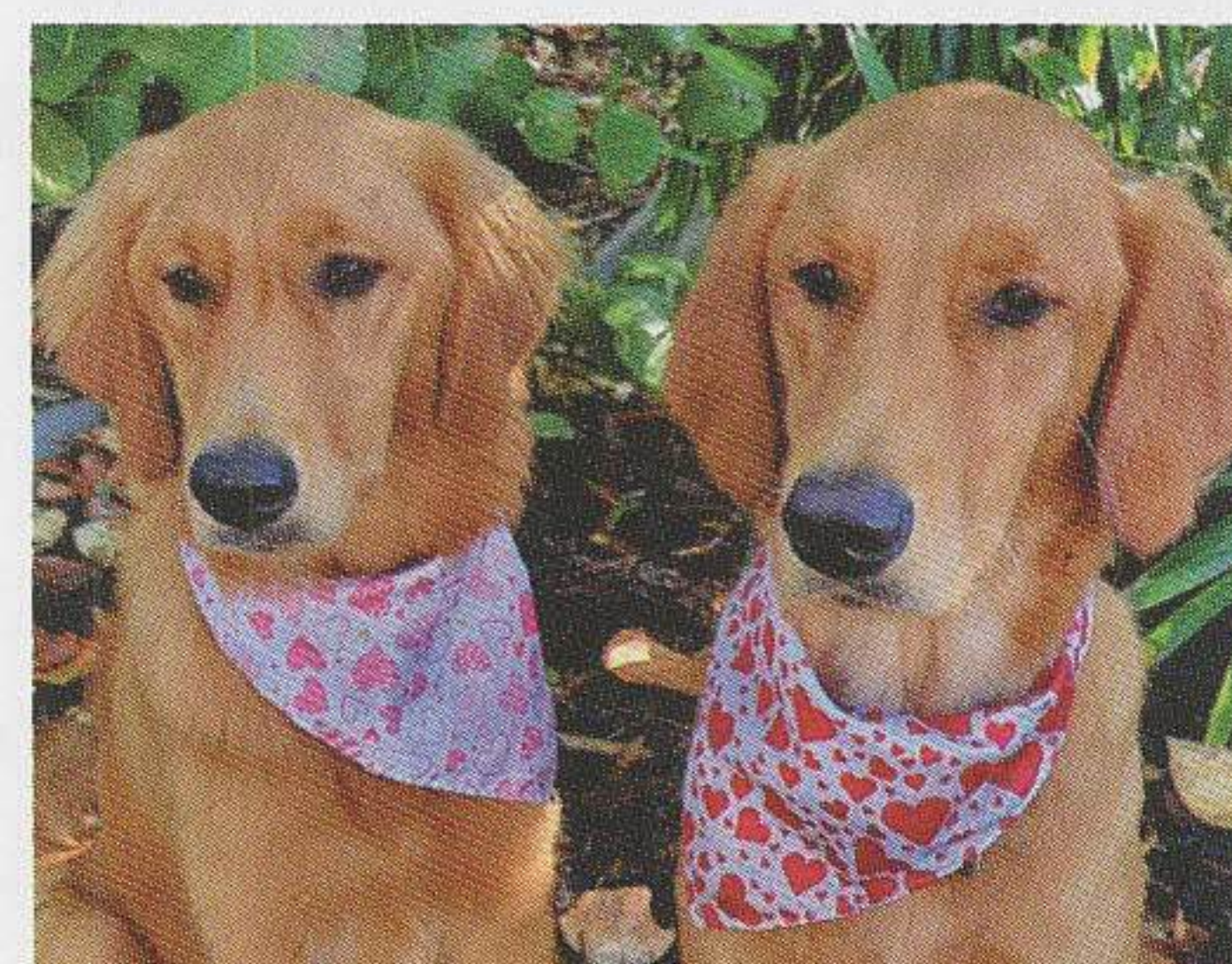
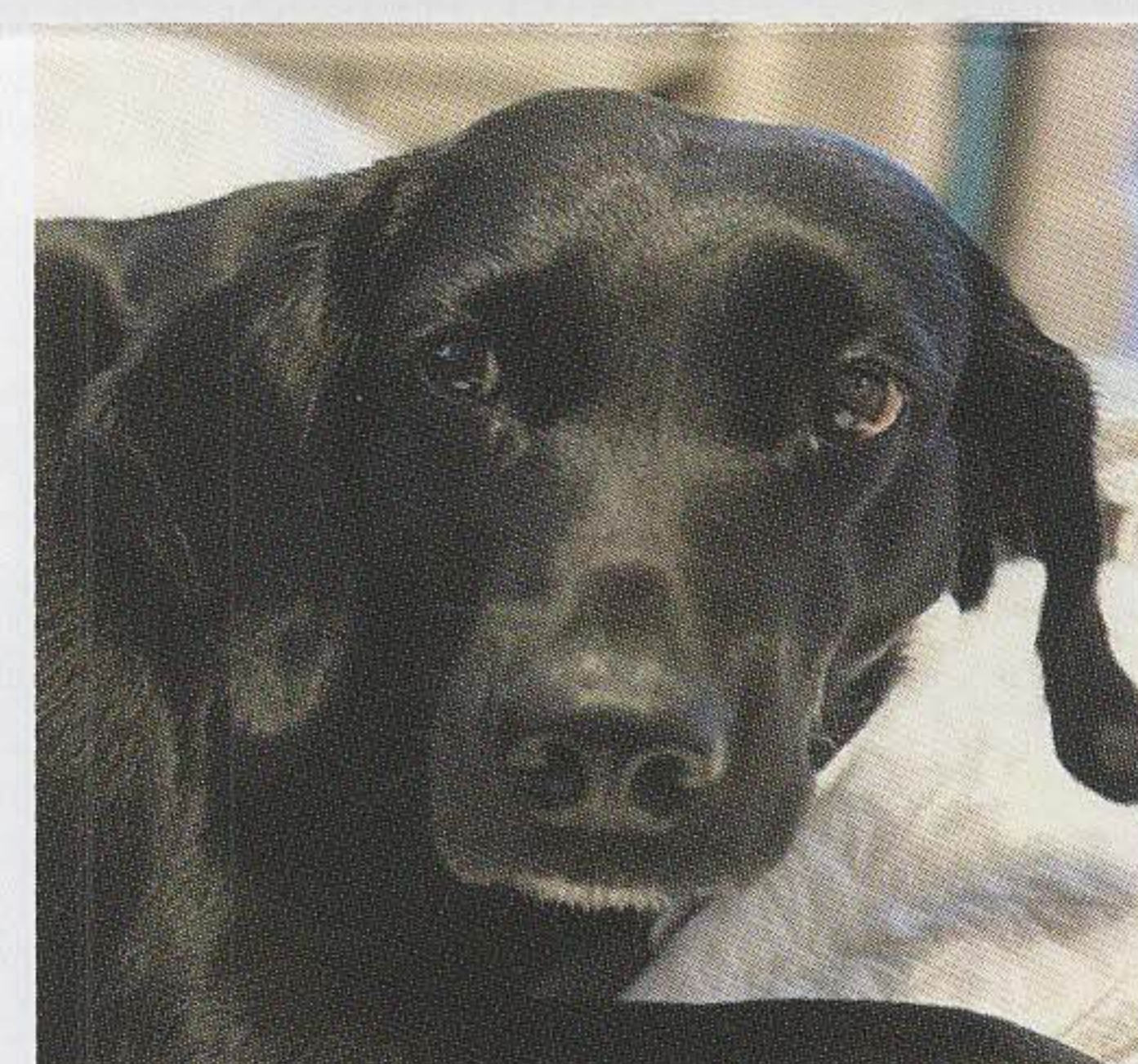
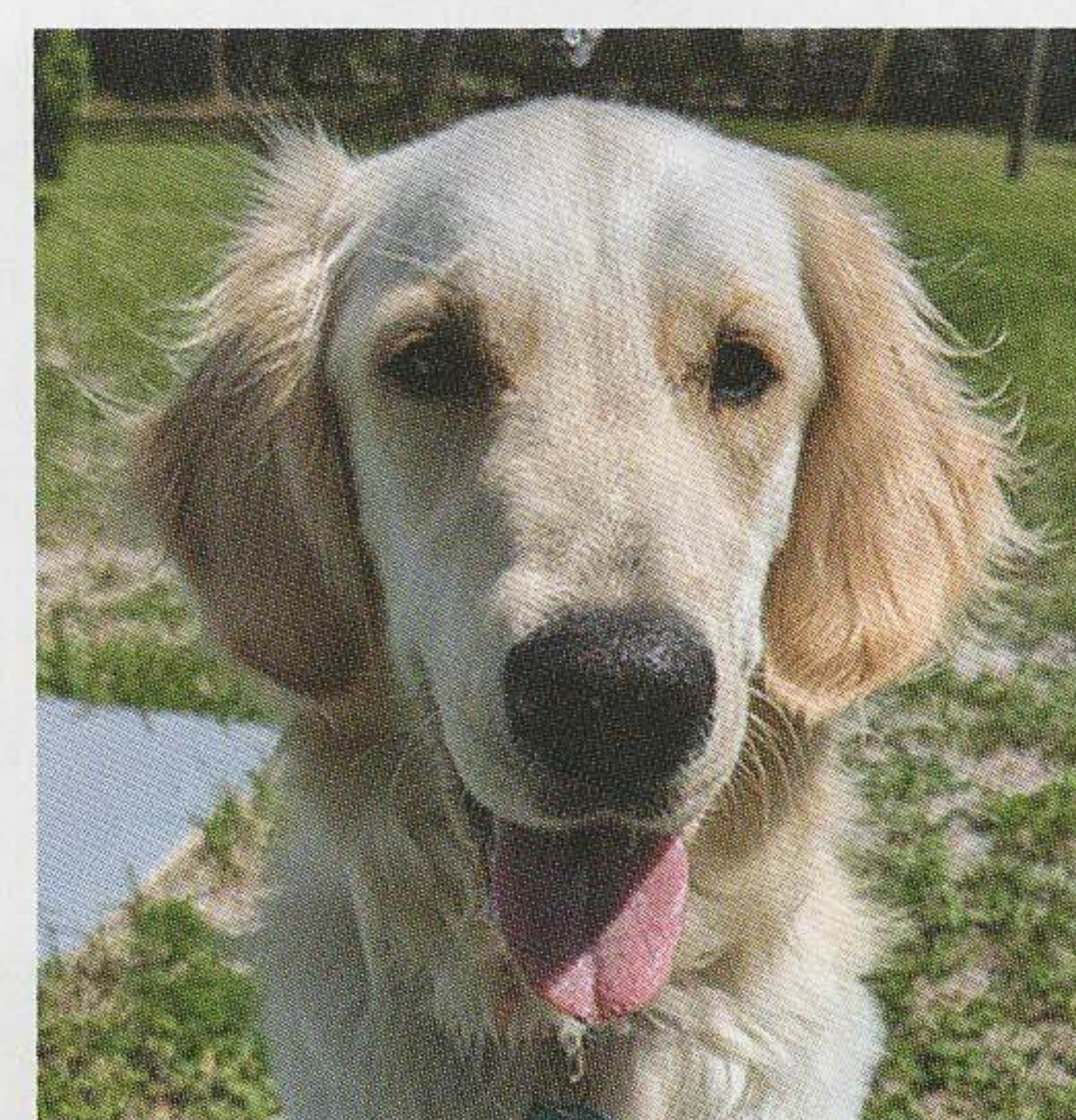
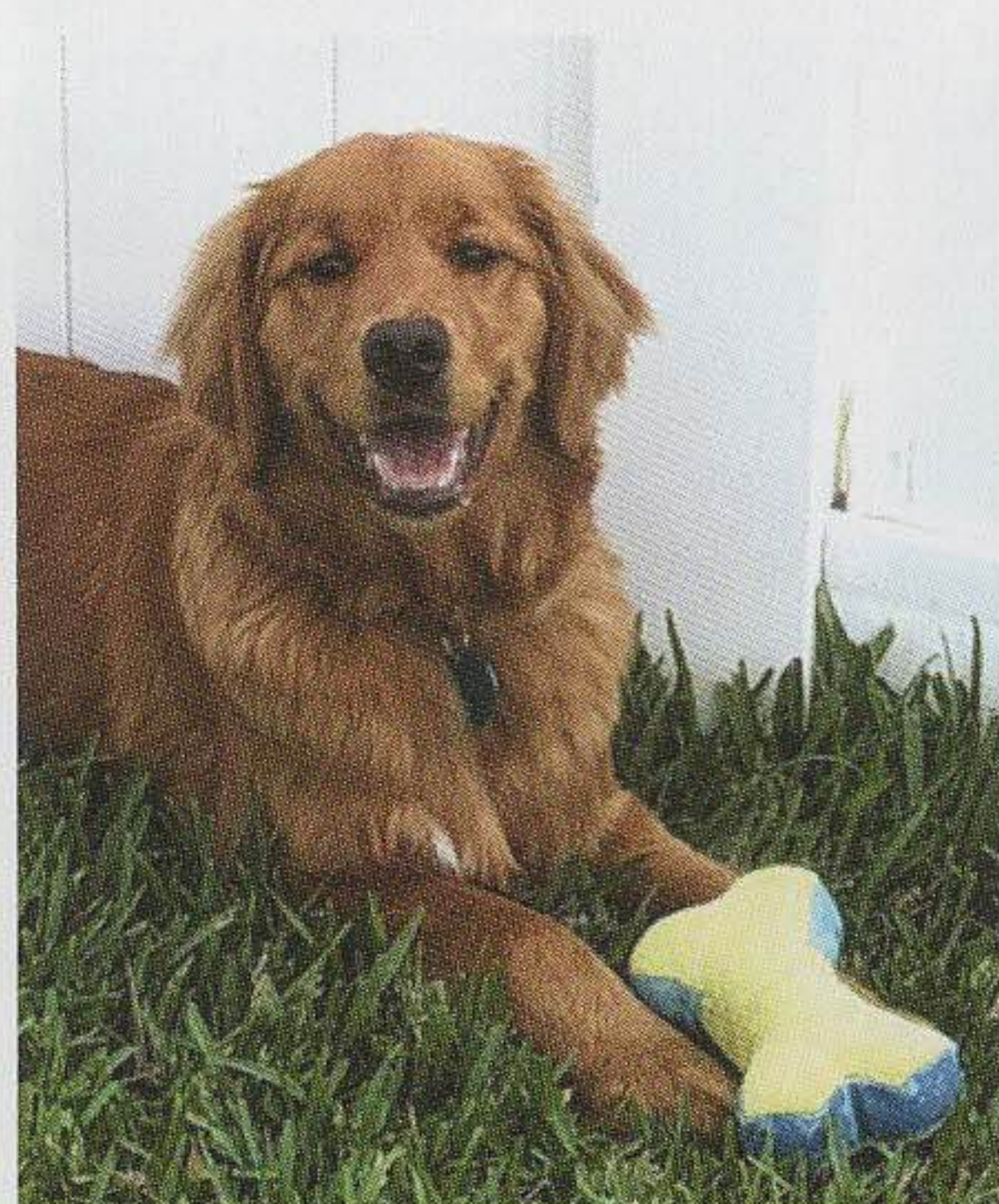
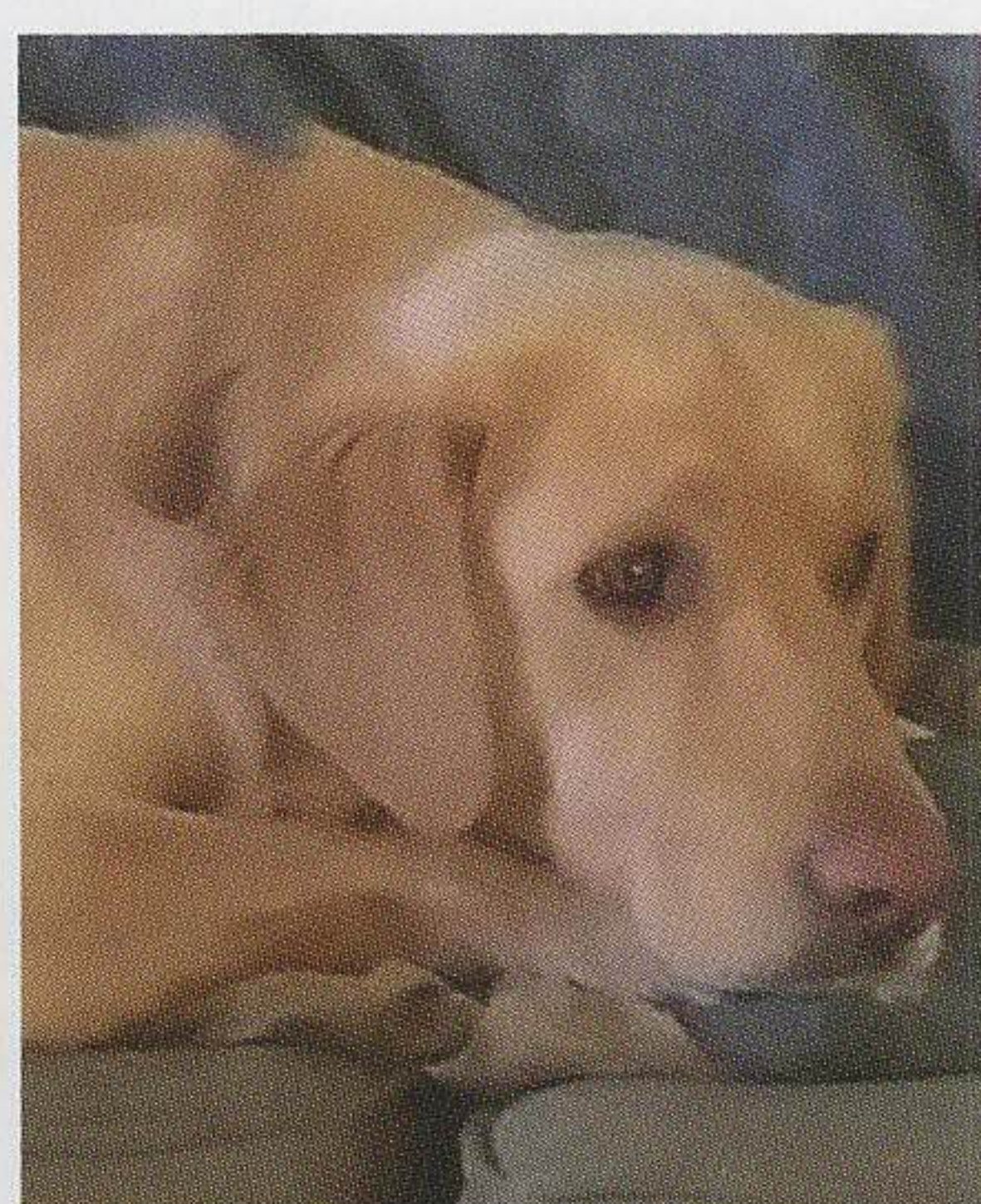
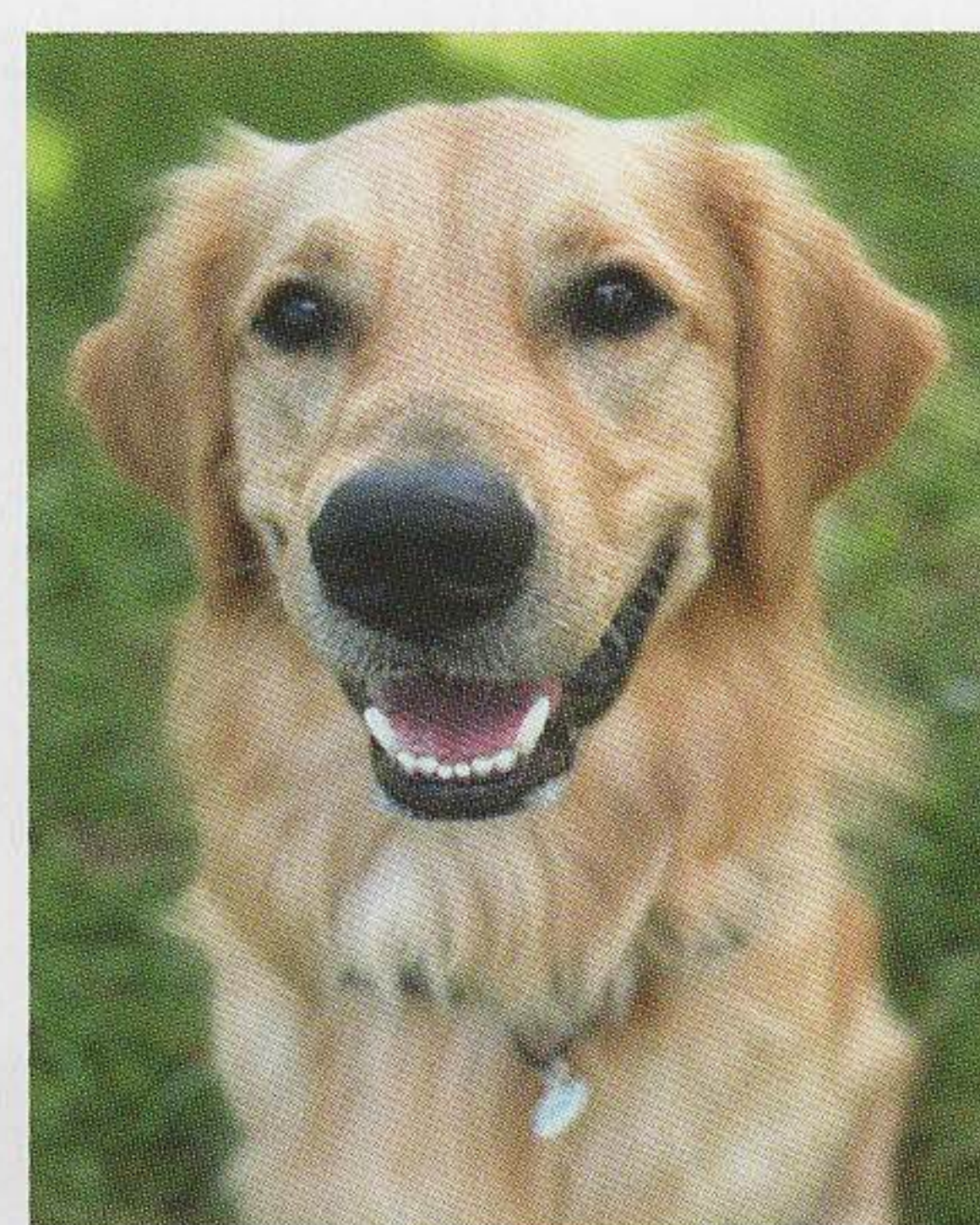
Look at some of the faces of dogs in need who were saved thanks to your generous donations.

Goldie was an emergency intake with a life-threatening infection that if left untreated would have caused organ failure. Critical care by a vet team and loving care by a foster saved her life. Pongo arrived with heartworm disease requiring a four to six month treatment which is expensive and not easy on a dog. Sugar and Spice were a pair of energetic puppies who needed to find a home that would welcome them both. Harley was in poor condition and overweight. His foster's devotion slimmed him down and got him in tip-top shape for adoption.

We were able to save 13 puppy mill dogs from being destroyed. Special fosters work tirelessly to rehabilitate and socialize these precious dogs. It's a long, slow process teaching them that they are cherished for simply being themselves and not how many litters they can deliver. We had a number of puppies rescued in 2023, with 52 dogs in the first eight months. And, like all our dogs, each one was spayed/neutered and given a complete health check. The heartbreaking stories of some of our rescues are long and we do everything we can to guarantee them a second chance to be loved and treasured.

Today, these precious dogs are in happy homes thanks to our incredible volunteers, dedicated medical and training partners and YOU. Your kind contributions make all this possible. Thank you!

We can't do this without you. Your generosity is golden. Thank you.



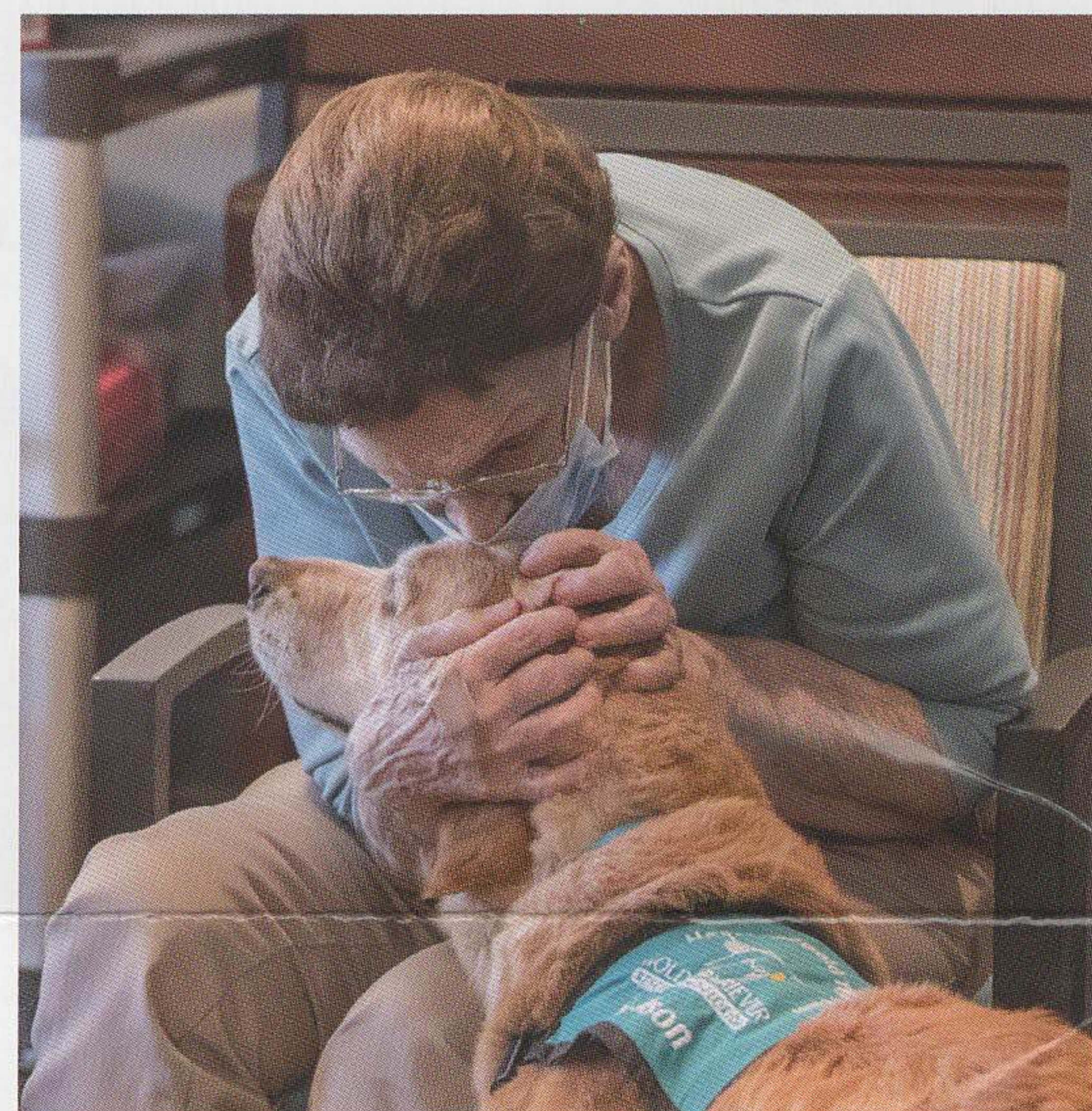
CIRCLE OF LIFE IN RESCUE – Carol Forsberg



As 2023 comes to a close, we have joy knowing that we saved more dogs in the first eight months of this year than we did in 2022, and the need for us continues. We are fortunate to have a waiting list of approved adopters anxious to open their home and hearts to our rescues. Our Hearts of Gold team is growing to support the increasing need of the many humans who seek physical touch and mental wellness our therapy teams bring. Yet, we are challenged in so many ways. Sadly we lost volunteers who committed their passion and time for so many years. There were times this year when we did not have available foster homes to care for all the dogs who needed us. Our donations for the year are not covering increased prices to offset our dogs' medical and behavioral care needs.

Mentorship from our cherished legacy volunteers is a critical role in our sustainability to transition to our next generation. Today we have volunteers of all ages, even into their 90s, who help in many ways. I would like you to meet two special active volunteers; Carol A. who is part of our foundational growth and Raelynn G. who at the tender age of seven has passion and purpose to acquire animal care skills for her future.

Carol became a GRRMF family member as a volunteer 20+ years ago as our critical contributor for correspondence and bank deposit pre-processing. She was very diligent at picking up the mail from our post office box, ensuring to make this important trip several times a week before her bowling outings! Many of you met Carol at our reunions that she attended and helped each year. Carol continues to be our correspondence secretary for rescue writing notes and helping with other mailings, including our annual calendars. Grandmother to GRRMF dogs Poobah, Ripley, Monroe, Happy and Oakley, her favorite thing is having a visit from a granddog to get golden hugs and shower them with treats.



Raelynn is a transport back seat copawlet. This special second grader supports her grandpa who is an adopter and frequent long haul transport volunteer for GRRMF. She loves to provide pets and comfort to our dogs moving to a foster home or vet appointment. Raelynn especially loves the puppies who smother her with kisses. At home she has her special labrador retriever, Sophia and four cats ... all rescues.

These are just two examples of our wonderful volunteers in our circle of legacy commitment, passion and the promise for our future generations. We continue to expand our community's awareness of

our services and our excellent reputation established by our founders and sustained with our current volunteer's care. For our future, we need to expand our community services and grow our leadership strength. This will be my primary focus for the next two years - goal setting and achieving organizational alignment for the future next generation. I would love your ideas and your help. Please email me at volunteer@grrmf.org. I'll keep you posted on our progress each quarter through this wonderful newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support to sustain our mission.



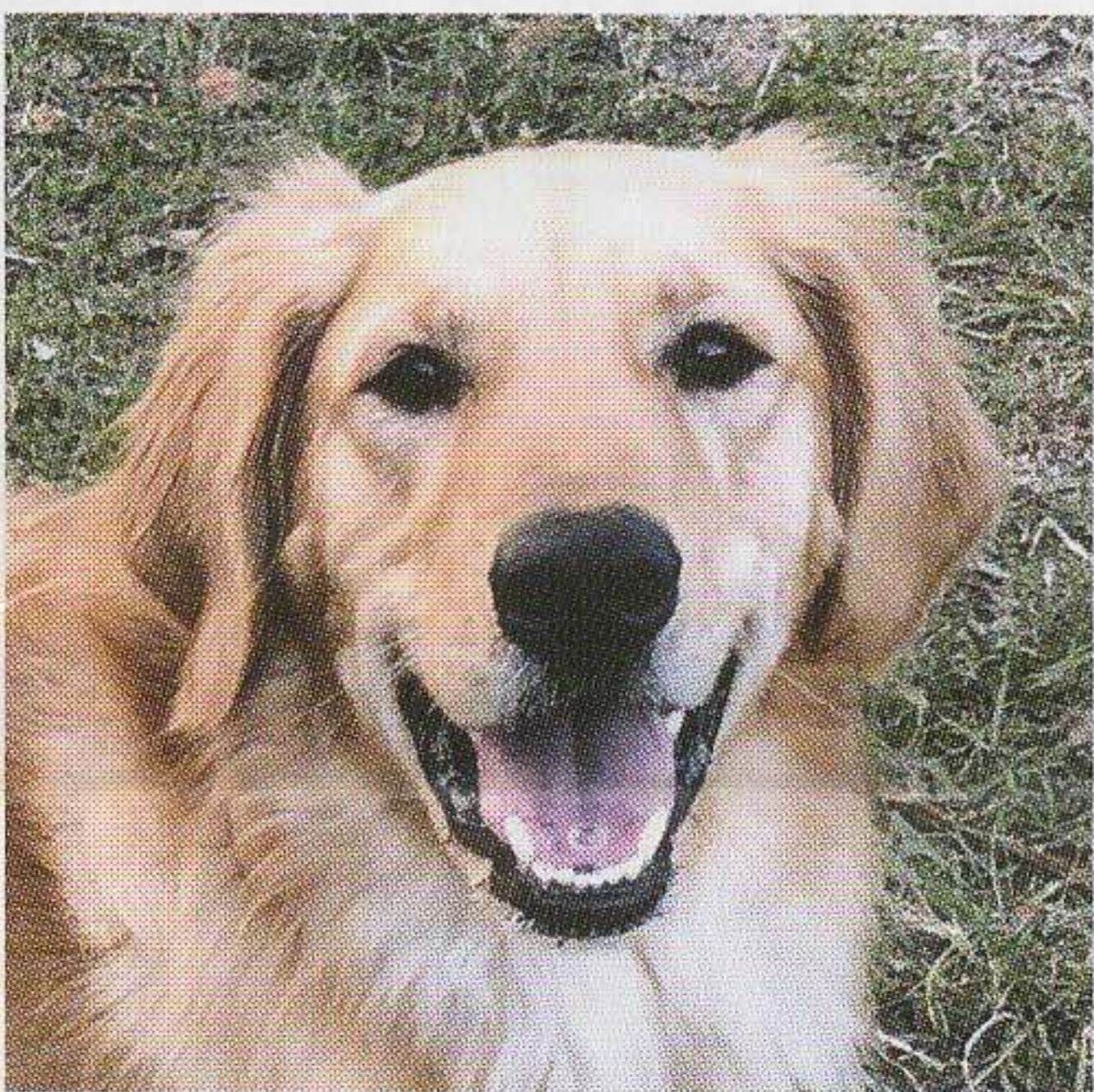
Adoption Stories



Gracie Mercy

When Gracie entered her mom's life, she filled the once empty house swiftly and sweetly with love. Not only is Gracie a dedicated Velcro dog, following her mom everywhere, she's fashion forward in the headgear she sports with such flair! While her two

favorite pastimes are eating (she plays "sous chef" to her mom when she cooks) and sleeping, she also loves going for walks and taking rides in the car, although activity beyond that is minimal, given her age: between 9 and 9 1/2. Fortunately, she's still healthy and loving, and remains her mom's coziest and cuddliest of companions.



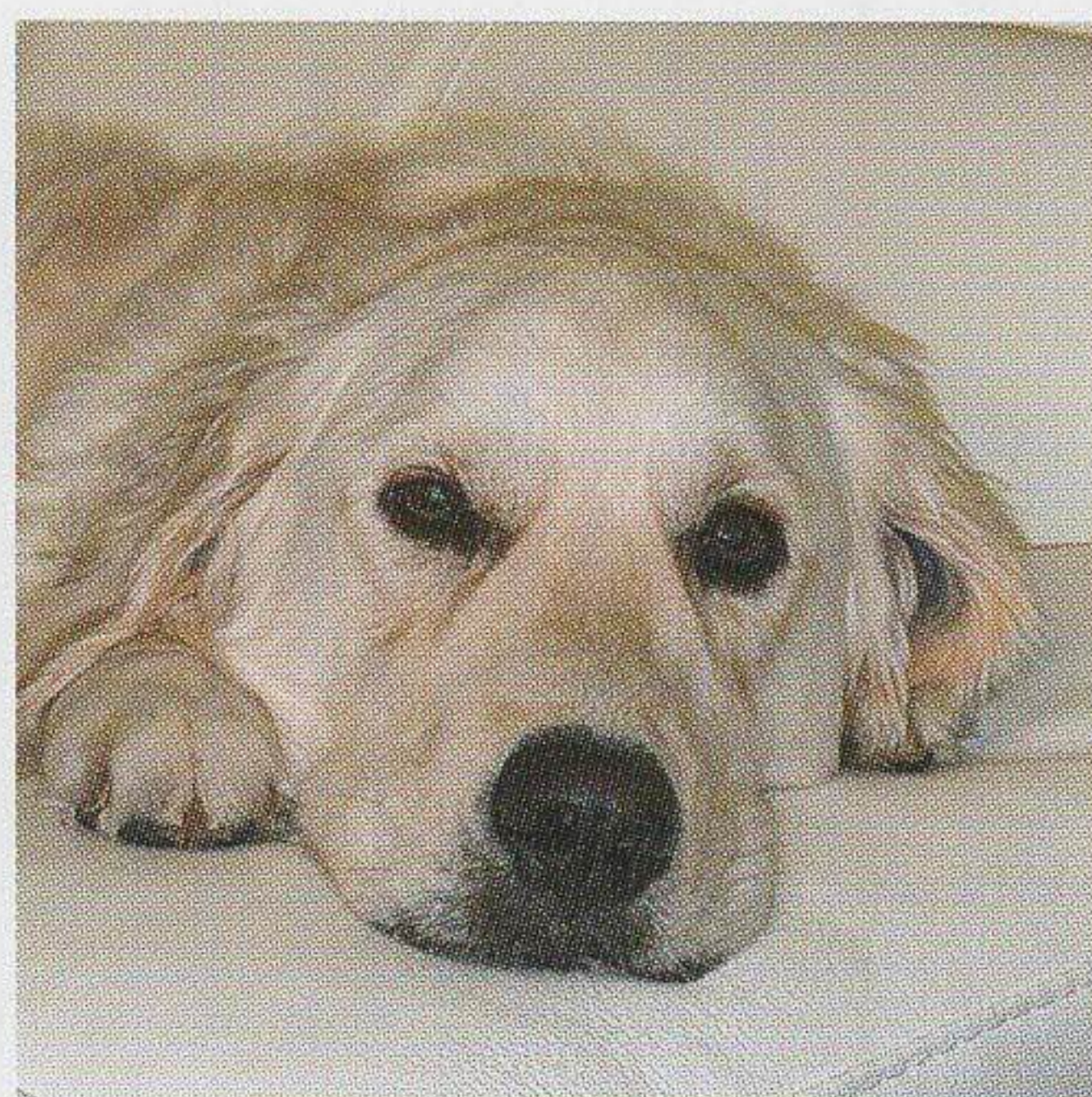
Cooper Marsh

Cooper's parents were elated when the charming and gregarious golden entered their lives. Three months later, they adopted Willow, a 12-week-old golden puppy, and the golden pair has been inseparable ever since. Enthusiastic and energetic,

sociable, and silly, Cooper, who's passionate about having his belly rubbed - by anyone - simply lies upside down, legs splayed and waits, not to mention his passion for running around the yard with Willow, playing ball, chasing Frisbees, going camping and riding in his dad's truck. Healthy and happy at 65 pounds, he recently completed his basic obedience fundamentals, coming first in his class!

Biscuit Murray

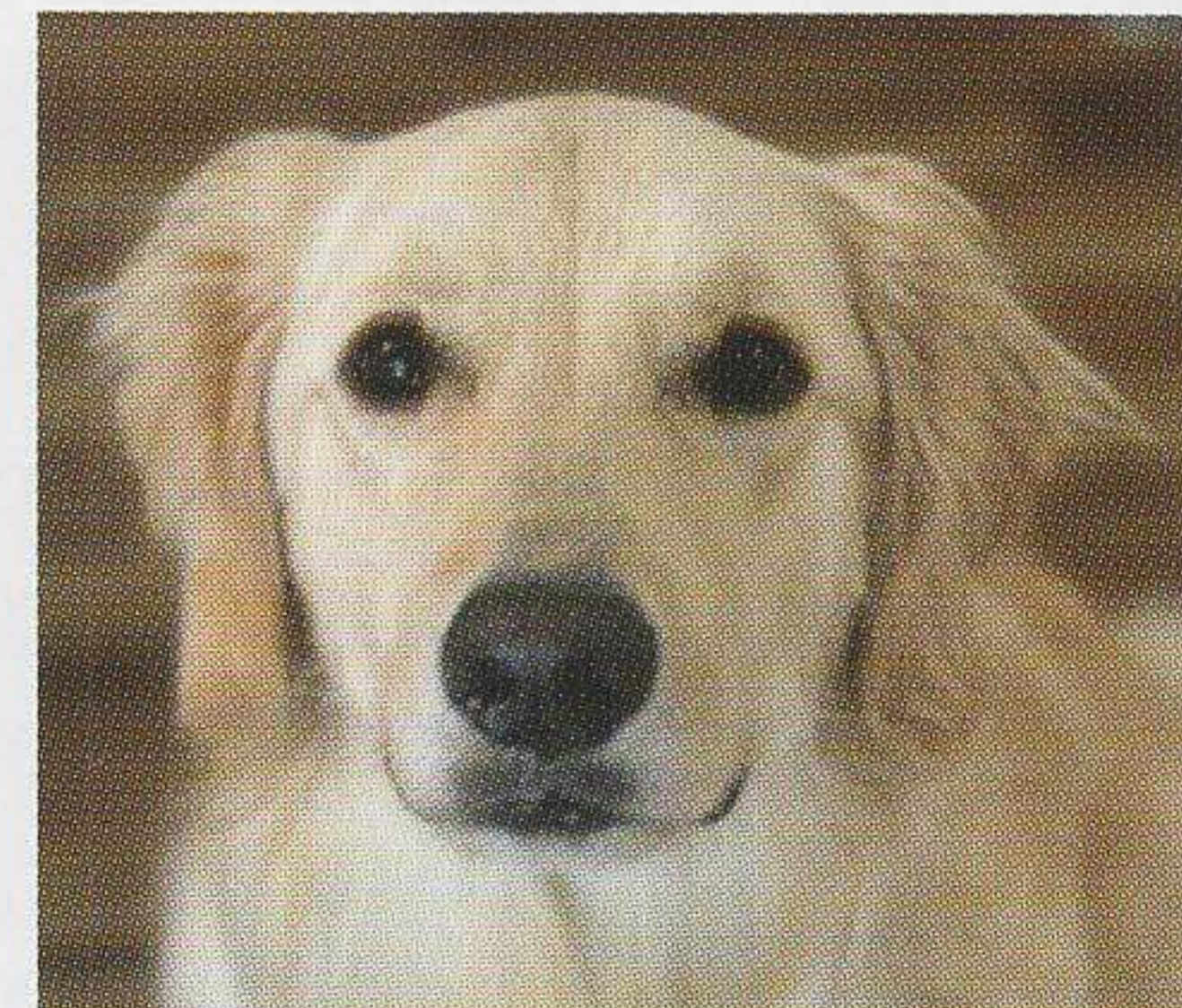
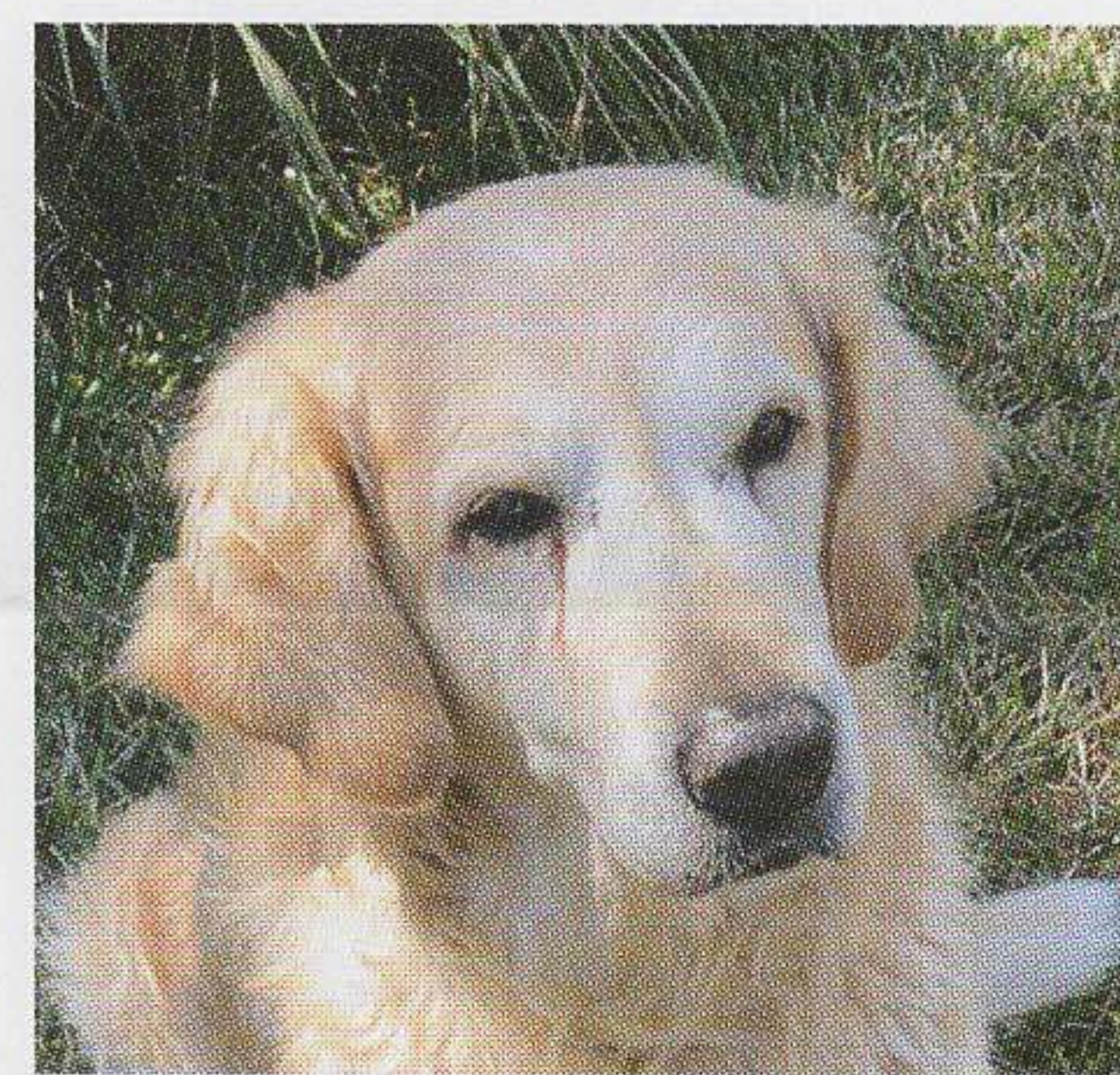
It may have been raining when his family brought him home, but once Chester, formerly Biscuit, crossed the threshold, he filled their home with sunshine and infused them both with newfound energy. Highly sociable and universally fond of all dogs, his favorite outings are to Bratty Paws Daycare in Punta Gorda, where he cheerfully greets every dog there, handily earning him the title "favorite dog" of people and other pups alike. Thriving, healthy and trim,



Chester's most charming and certainly, silliest, antics involve hoses and sprinklers - as in, putting his glorious golden face directly into the stream of water.

Kona Joelle

And Jojo makes it a lucky number seven! Why? When she joined her new family, she was joining two adults, three young girls and one senior dog. Famous for her sweet face and even sweeter disposition, she LOVES holding hands, always gently putting her paw on her parents. She also adores going for walks with them and playing with toys. But her favorite activity by far is swimming, and she could swim happily and effortlessly for hours. As it is, her parents must make her get out of the pool every ten minutes to take a break and go potty!



Bubba Jon

Bubba is the ultimate golden gift that keeps on giving - blissfully and joyfully! Famous for his wide, sweet smile and his unique "Bubba hop" whenever his mom picks up his leash to take him for the walks he looks forward to, he loves every

person he meets, and has reserved a special place in his heart for his parents' grandchildren. He also likes car rides, spending half of the year with his parents in Florida and the other half in New York, and although he's never seen snow, his mom knows he would love it the way he loves everything else.



Clooney Owen

Cuddly creamy golden Clooney was so small when he was adopted at the age of eight weeks that his dad could almost hold him in one hand. Extremely clever, always obedient, highly affectionate, and happily energetic, each of his fun-filled days typically starts at 5 am.

But as much as he LOVES accompanying his dad on golf cart rides around their property and the neighborhood, frisking and frolicking with his two golden brothers, and engaging in games of tug-o-war in the center of the room, once the weather warms up, the family swimming pool swiftly becomes his new best friend.

Visit us at www.grrmf.org/success-stories/ to read all our wonderful success stories.

Adoption Stories

Merida Jani

Changed from Merida to Joanna by her adoring parents on the magical day they adopted her, she changed their world for the better and filled a hole in their lives in ways they could never have imagined. Loving, adventurous and goofy, traits all three of them happily share, Joanna loves giving and receiving affection, accompanying her parents on road trips and on hikes, and joining them in games of chase around the island in their kitchen. She also loves her toy sloth more than any other toy, napping, and going to doggy daycare to play with her many furry friends.



Jack Marsh

Fitting right in with what his mom calls their wild and crazy crew, Jack added his own joyful wackiness to their family! Always smiling, always keeping his parents contented, he LOVES swimming for hours in their pool, playing tag with their children, ages three, six and eight, in the backyard, and vying for tennis balls with his overly possessive but best friend and puppy sister Lucy. Then, whenever he's extremely excited, he rolls over on his back and does this "little dance" where he giddily kicks his feet all around. His parents refer to this adorable display as "happy feet."



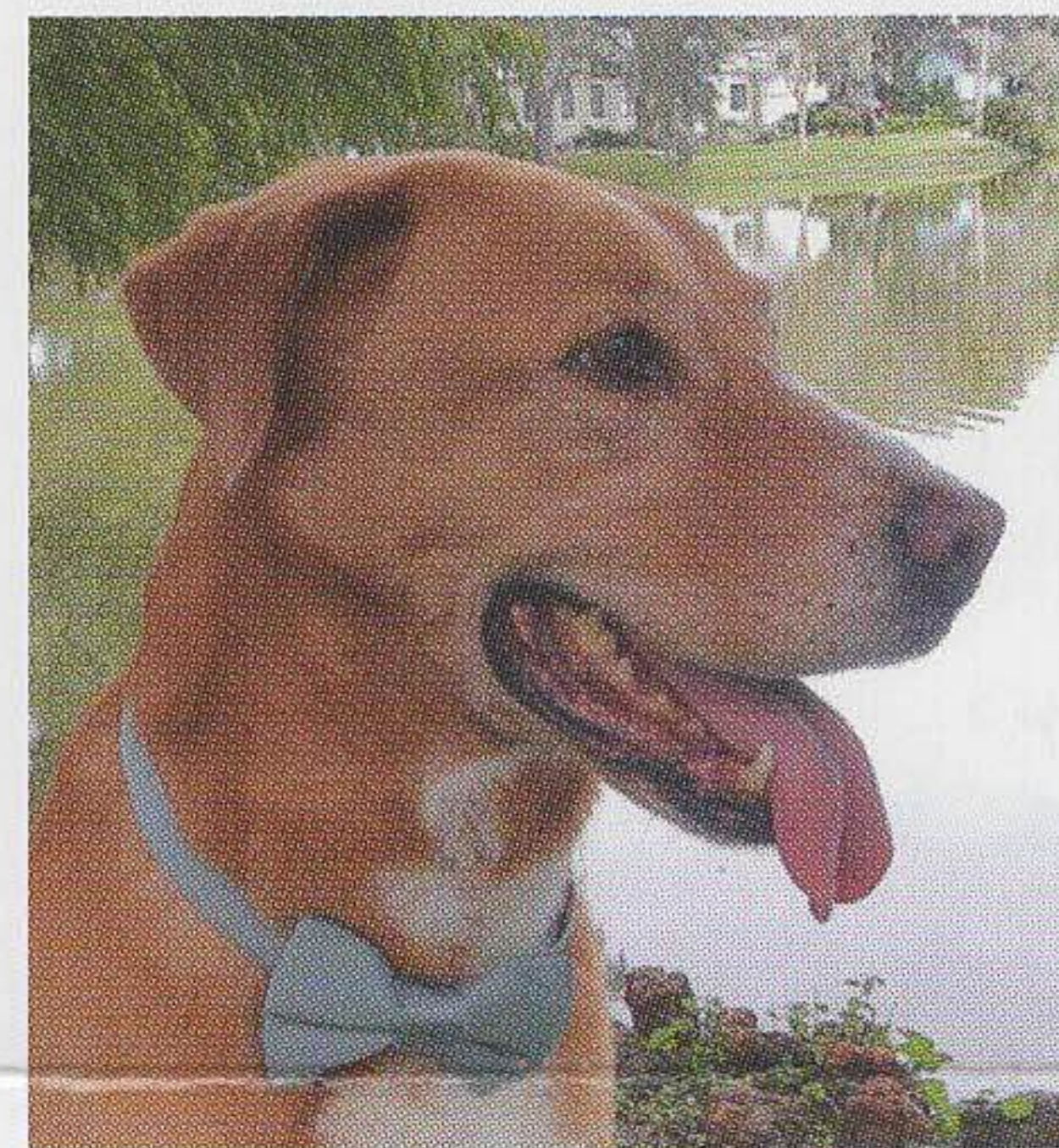
Wilson Marsh

When Wilson was adopted, he joined his family's two previously adopted goldens, forming one happy golden trio. And when two of them sadly and suddenly passed 10 days apart, Wilson filled his grieving family's terrible void. Still sweet, still smiling, and now relishing the leisurely life of a senior, he recently – thanks to his determined mom – discovered the joys of Scent Work. Despite being the oldest dog in the class, a newly revitalized Wilson has, in typical Wilson style, shown up some of the "youngsters," further proving the adage that you can indeed teach an old dog new tricks!



Blonde Sallie

Beautiful Blondie is four-legged proof of the legendary slogan "blondes have more fun." Adopted by her doting dad, she's not only made his house a true home, she's happily filled it with F-U-N. Preferring to play off leash at the dog park than engaging with other dogs on her walks, she's queen of all she surveys, making countless new friends every day. Her favorite toy is a rope tug toy, which she and her dad play with daily, and while he's tried getting her to retrieve a ball, the most they've managed so far has been one or two tosses.

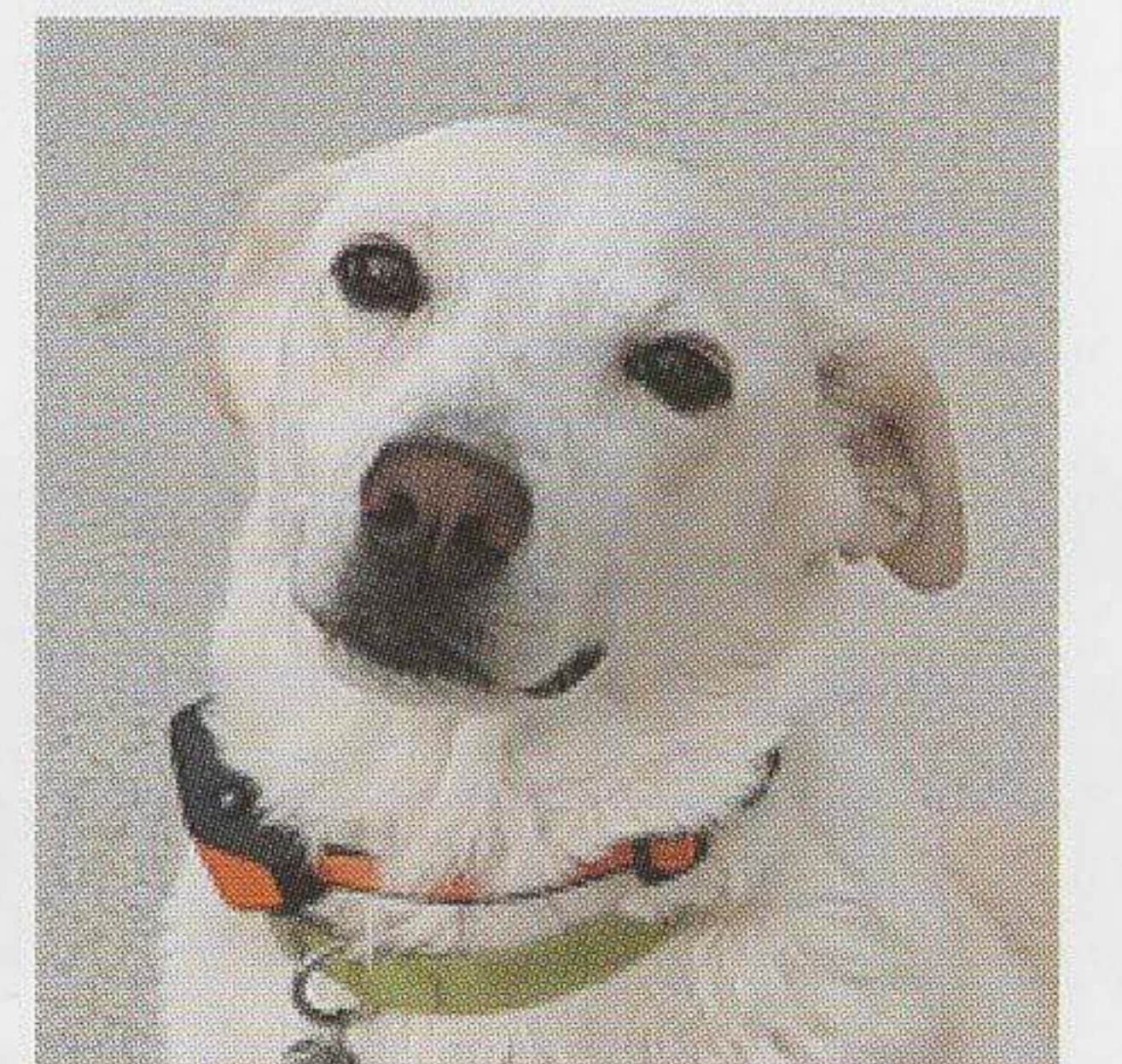


Bear Sean

Bear's brilliance is making people smile and fall instantly in love with him. Adopted by a single dad, they bonded immediately, and Bear, who's astoundingly affectionate, adores touching him, lying at his feet with one leg flopped over his dad's foot. If he's lying next to him on the couch, he'll have one paw on his leg or arm. And while he may not lick faces, he loves meeting his dad nose to nose. He also loves one particular toy, a floppy squirrel with three squeakers inside which he delightedly demolishes. Fortunately, his dad purchases them in packs of three.

Bombay Aces

The ideal companion for his work-at-home dad, Bombay brightens his mom's own return home from work each day, then after dinner joins them on a leisurely nighttime family walk around the neighborhood. As fond of doggy ice cream as he is of squeaky toys and toys with long ropes, he's even fonder of playing tug-o-war with his dad and befriending other dogs. Passionate about music, he loves when his mom sings and dances with him, and although he's not particularly vocal, he once howled along with the siren of a passing fire truck – and he was perfectly on key!

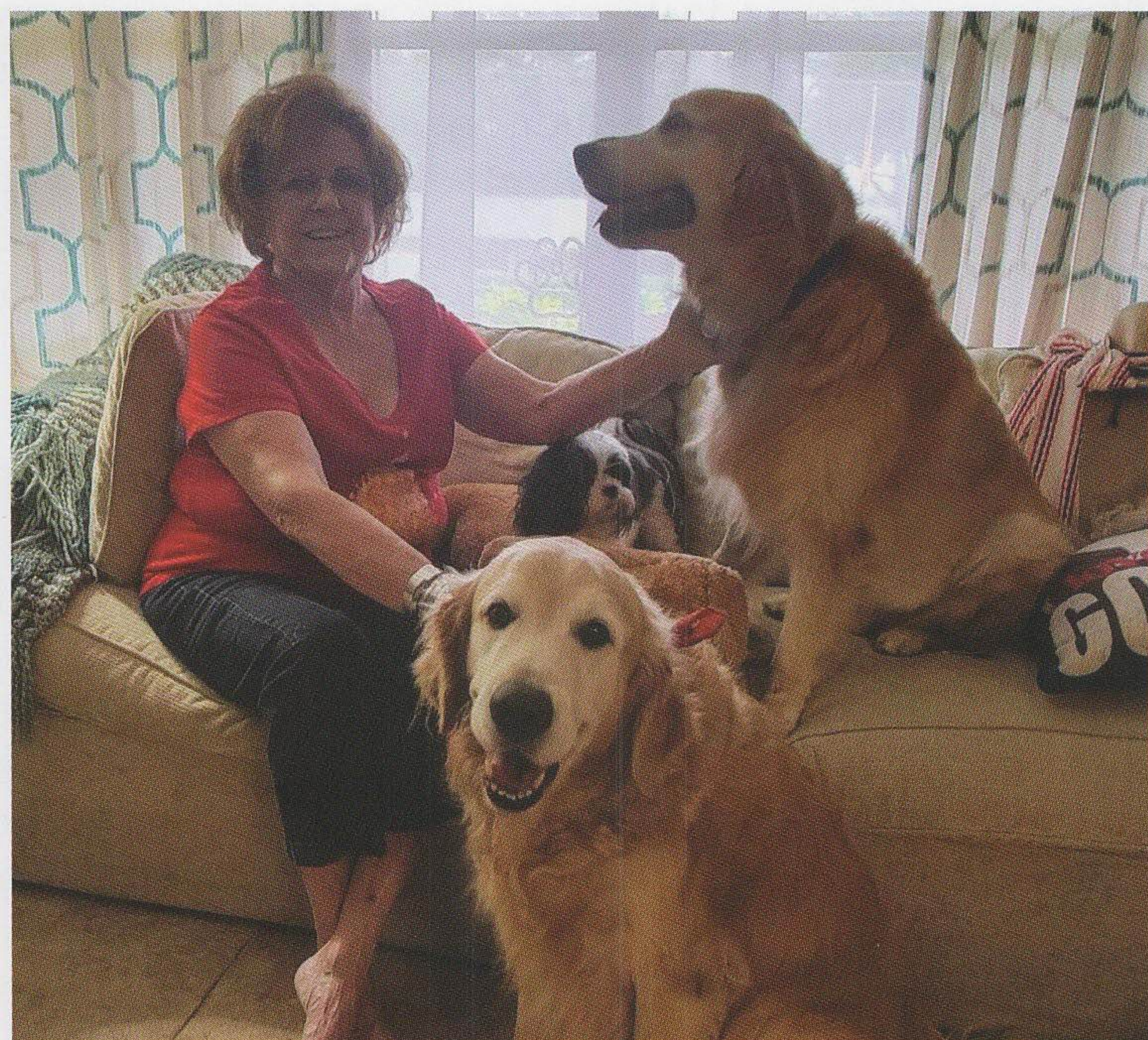


OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE GOLDEN TOO

Our incredible volunteers give their time and talent so GRRMF can continue to rescue dogs in need. We asked a few to share their stories.



Sarah Davis, founder and board member, has worked with our applications and events department as well as being a repeat adopter. "I help the rescue because I believe in what we do. Everyone understands the dogs are the reason we work so hard. To see the pups come from the worst day of their lives, many are scared, hurt, or ill, then to see who they will become in their new family, is so worth the time, blood, sweat, and tears that it may cost. We could never afford to pay these kind souls for all the time they forfeit for a cause they love. That's why I've been a volunteer for 30+ years!"



Sherry Ayres is a foster and helps with post adoption communication. "I've adopted several dogs through GRRMF and each foster parent I've worked with has been wonderful, going above and beyond any expectations. Seeing their devotion to fostering inspired me so when I retired and the time was right in my life, I became a foster. It's my passion now. I request to foster seniors and sanctuary dogs specifically. I know their time with me isn't always long, so I want to make sure they receive the highest quality of life. My own dogs welcome them and help heal them in a way only another dog can. When I see the excitement on the face of an adopting family, my heart is full. I am so grateful to GRRMF for trusting me to care for these precious dogs.



Cathy and Marc Christy volunteer in our records department and help with events. "My fondest memories are of Chance, the first golden we adopted. He grew to weigh 145 pounds, loved being with people and was a wonderful Hearts of Gold therapy dog. Today, we enjoy working in the medical records and west coast education departments. We set up booths at various events sharing information about the rescue. We have found the other volunteers to be great to work with. It's a good feeling to be a part of such a caring organization."

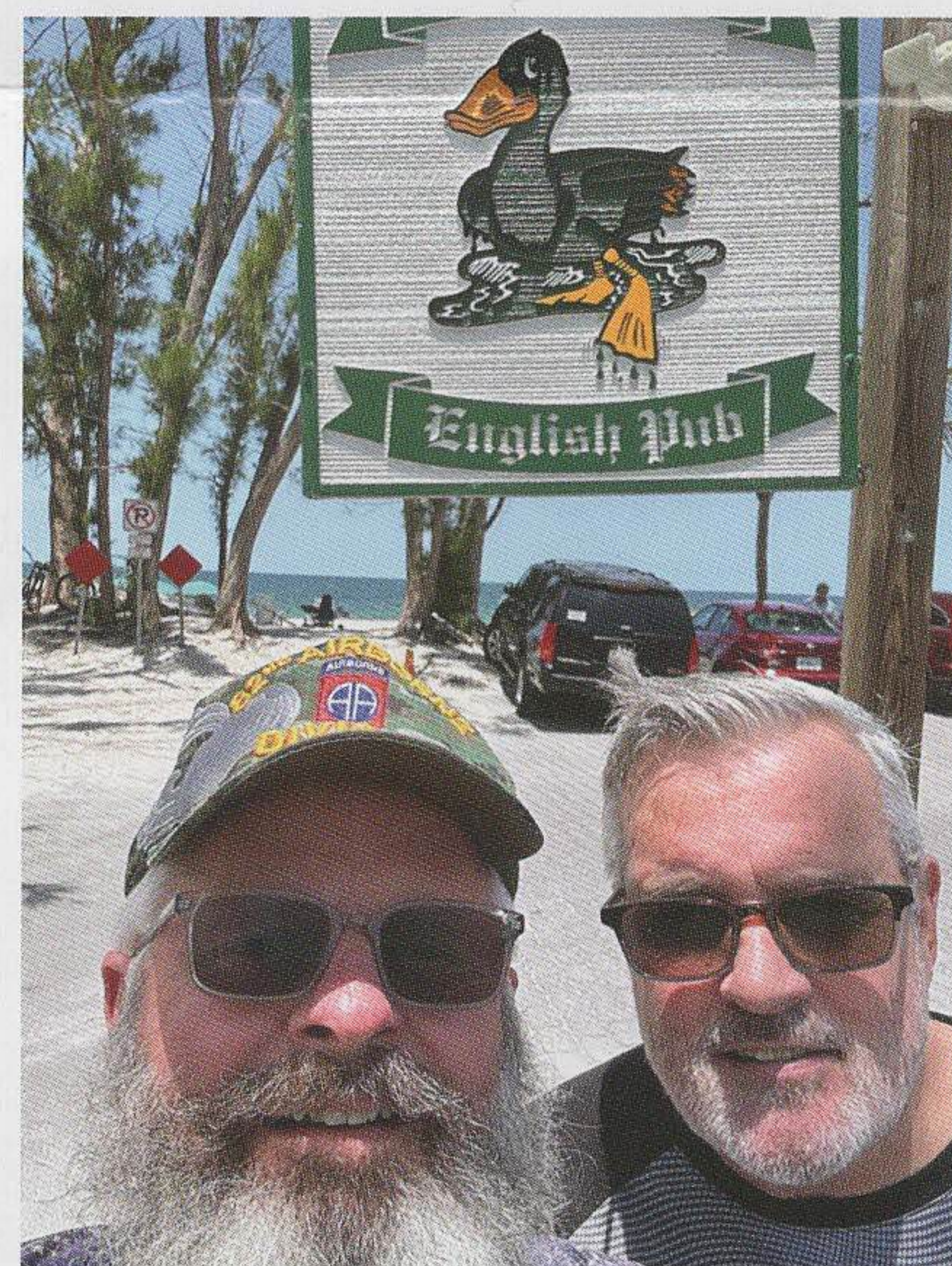
OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE GOLDEN TOO

Cindy and Michael Snedeker are fosters and help with events. "Special needs dogs especially touch our hearts and are the reason we continue to volunteer. We have fostered many sanctuary dogs and adopted several. When we adopted our first golden, she was 12 and mostly blind. The lessons we learned caring for her has helped us foster other blind dogs. The blends and golden hearted dogs can bring surprises which we welcome. Taja, for example, turned out to be a special Doberman blend. She was a wonderful dog and is now with a loving family."



Nancy and Bert Francis are transporters, adopters, and help with events. "We first heard about the rescue when we came upon a GRRMF picnic. We went home that day and put in an adoption application. Seeing the process of adoption and how everything is done to ensure the dog is cared for while finding their forever home made us realize how much GRRMF cares. We have volunteered in several roles, but now we are transporters. My husband drives and I get to sit and cuddle with the goldens in the backseat. What's not to love! We always encourage people to lend a helping paw. We don't think others realize how they can help. Every new volunteer brings fresh ideas to the table and helps us to become stronger."

Chris and Tommy Manley are adopters, fosters and help with transport and events. "We stumbled upon GRRMF when we were looking to adopt and decided to try fostering instead. We've fostered so many wonderful dogs but will always remember one in particular. Timmy was our 17th foster. He was 11 months old, had a tumor on his upper jaw and was given only a few months to live. GRRMF asked if we wanted them to find Timmy another foster, and we said no. It was the best thing we ever did! Timmy was a miracle dog and lived to be 10 years old, never losing his puppy energy. 100 dogs later, we still can't get enough! We've seen the rescue grow and adapt to the changing times, always for the better."



Are you passionate about goldens? Do you have a few free hours a week? Then come join our team. Visit www.grrmf.org/volunteer/ to see all the opportunities available. It could be the best decision you ever made.

RAINBOW BRIDGE

Rae Antenucci - Bodhi
Martyne Bailey - Luna Daisy Do
Mark and Kathleen Becker - Cooper
Janice and Ralph Bogle - Hunter
Pat Crawford - Ellie
Judith and Ron DeStasio - Tucker
Holly Hunter and Alexandra Balogh - LJ

Beverly McLaughlin - Polly
Tina and Richard Morgan - Bear
Margy and Frank Santino - Lacy
Melanie and Troy Scheet - Maggie
Christine Peters Staggs - Dancer
Toni and Garry Stephenson - Darby
Linda and Jan Zysko - Allie



THANK YOU! DONATIONS JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023

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 Anderson, Robert
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2023 Fall Events www.grrmf.org/about/upcoming-events/

Woof Trax www.grrmf.org/woof-trax/

GivingTuesday www.grrmf.org/givingtuesday2023/

Become a Volunteer www.grrmf.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer/

The GRRMF Village www.grrmf.org/our-grrmf-village/

When your dog goes missing www.grrmf.org/when-your-dog-goes-missing/

Adoption application FAQ - www.grrmf.org/how-to-adopt/

Please consider becoming a financial caregiver to save our retrievers through your donation.

You may donate online at www.grrmf.org/donate, use the QR code here, or fill out this form and mail it to: GRRMF - P.O. Box 1449 - Goldenrod, FL 32733. For a monthly recurring donation, matching gift from your employer or considering us for a bequest, please contact info@grrmf.org. Donations are tax deductible.

Would you prefer to receive your receipt letter by (circle one) EMAIL US MAIL

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

I'd like to donate as follows:

\$ _____ General donation \$ _____ Woody Fund for special needs dogs

\$ _____ In honor of : _____

\$ _____ In memory of : _____



**Please honor us with a donation of \$25 or more this year
to continue receiving your 2024 newsletter. Your donation helps to defray
the production cost of our wonderful newsletter and replenish our medical fund.**

A copy of the official registration and financial information for Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida Inc., a Florida-based nonprofit corporation, (Registration no. #CH11185), may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free 1.800.help.fl (432.7352) within the state or by visiting 800helpfla.com. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.

32 YEARS OF SAVING GOLDENS – 4,221 SAVED SINCE 1991
Golden Retriever Rescue Of Mid-Florida