



Golden Tails

SPRING 2012

The Quarterly Newsletter of Golden Retriever Freedom Rescue

A Decade of Dogs

Last year, Golden Retriever Freedom Rescue turned 10 years old. This is a special issue of our newsletter showcasing 19 of the roughly 2,500 dogs we've placed in those 10 years. The dogs featured in this issue, like all of the dogs we adopt out, are very special dogs who have found their forever families through Golden Retriever Freedom Rescue. Every dog has their story, and so do their forever families. The love and the hard work of our volunteers brings them together. The love and the devotion of

the forever families keeps them together. This is what rescue is all about.

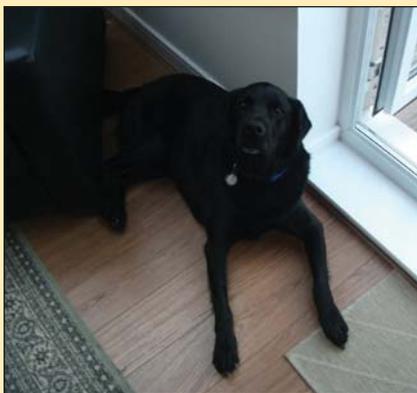
You can see more success stories by visiting our website, grfr.org, and clicking the Adoption tab, then choosing Success Stories. Each year has a page that can be selected at the bottom under the heading "More Success Stories."

To become part of this special story, go to our website and click the "Help GRFR" tab. There are choices for donations,

volunteering, and buying cool stuff like GRFR hoodies, t-shirts, books, hats, and other fun accessories. GRFR is staffed entirely by volunteers who do this work for the love of the dogs.

Our website also, of course, showcases the dogs that are currently waiting for the right forever home. All the dogs in this issue of our newsletter were once foster dogs in our care. Please enjoy these wonderful stories about our "graduates" and their loving families.

International Travels



Harry, formerly known as Starskey, was joined with David B. in 2005 when Harry was adopted through GRFR. Together, Harry and David have "traveled the world" so to speak. In 2007, David had to return to his home in the United

Kingdom. He had been living in Colorado for almost 10 years, and considered Denver his "home". Harry stayed in Colorado while David made the trip. Upon arriving in the United Kingdom, David was unable to return to Colorado. He and Harry

ended up being apart for over a year. Upon David finally settling in Scotland, he sent for Harry and Harry made the 5k mile trek overseas to be reunited with David. The reunion was long overdue and a happy moment for both. However, 6 months later, another move was on the horizon for Harry and David. Finally settling down in 2009 in London, they have found a new place to call home and have been there ever since. Harry is very popular in the neighborhood and loved by everyone. When Harry and David left Scotland, a friend came with them to initially watch over Harry. Thanks to Harry, David's friend stayed in London and started a whole new life with a new home and partner. Harry's travels now find him living on a nature reserve with lagoons and a lake adjacent to his home. After such a long journey, both Harry and David are happy to call London home sweet home!

This issue...

A Decade of Dogs.....	1	Mommy's Little Girl.....	4	A Winning Smile.....	7	Training for Therapy Work.....	10
International Travels.....	1	A People Magnet.....	4	GRFR Ambassador.....	7	The GRFR Calendar Photo Contest is	
President's Message.....	2	Rally Dog.....	5	Top of the Class.....	8	Back!.....	11
All Dogs Teach Their Owners.....	2	Brightening the Day.....	5	A New Job.....	9	You Can Save a Dog!.....	11
A Nurse's Dog is Therapeutic.....	3	Up and Coming.....	6	Your GRFR dog can be a hero too! ..	9	GRFR 2013 Calendar Contest.....	12
ADA Stability Dog.....	3	Barking Hero.....	6	Best Friends Therapy.....	10		

President's Message

This issue of our newsletter is all about second chances. The dogs that pass through our program are often dogs that were slated to be euthanized at shelters that are over-crowded and underfunded. It's often hard for people living along Colorado's Front Range to imagine why a Golden would need to be rescued. Here in this Golden Retriever loving part of the world, it can be difficult to adopt a Golden Retriever from a local shelter. For those shelters that use waiting lists, it can take a long time to move to the top of the list and be called about the rare Golden that is surrendered. Sadly, in some other locations, more Golden Retrievers are surrendered, and there is not always a waiting list of highly qualified adopters. These dogs are at risk. These dogs need to be rescued.

Golden Retriever Freedom Rescue, GRFR, saves these dogs. Working in concert with the shelters that may have no more space, or may not have the funds to treat a medical condition, we take possession of the dogs and we bring them to the sunny Front Range. We place the dogs in foster care with families that typically have at least one dog of their own. We treat the medical problems. We give time and attention to dogs that have behavioral needs. For some dogs, their foster home represents the first time they've slept inside a house. For some dogs, a stuffed toy is a new experience. For some dogs, the foster family is very frightening, since the dog may have been chained in the yard or left in a pen for its entire life and not had a lot of close human contact.

Each dog is different. Each dog is special. Each dog has the potential to be much more than the confused canine that stands before us the first night we have them in our homes. Our foster homes see the dog's potential. When our foster homes place their dogs with adoptive families, they are looking for someone who also sees that potential. We look for someone who will embrace the dog, work with all of the issues

that might exist, and turn that potential into reality. We want our foster dogs to thrive.

The dogs you'll read about in this issue are indeed thriving. These dogs have achieved much of their potential. They are well-loved. They are valued. They have rich, interesting lives. Many of these dogs are actually giving back to society. They have exceeded the hopes of most foster homes. These dogs are the Magna Cum Laude of our program's graduates.

If these stories inspire you to take your own dog to the next level, the AKC has some great resources for you. You can look into the new AKC Canine Partners program. Even mixed breed dogs can now title in companion events like obedience, rally, and agility. Read about all the things you can do with your dog here: akc.org/mixedbreeds/. There are links from this page to information about the Canine Good Citizen program and the new AKC Therapy Dog title. There are links to companion events that welcome mixed breeds. If your own GRFR graduate looks like a purebred retriever, you can also apply for Purebred Alternative Listing/Indefinite Listing Privilege (PAL/ILP). You must submit photographs of your dog, and if the AKC agrees your dog looks like a purebred dog, they will issue an ID number that will provide entree to all the companion event competitions, even those that are breed-specific. Read about the program here: akc.org/reg/ilpex.cfm. Your dog must be spayed or neutered prior to applying for a PAL/ILP number.

We hope you enjoy these stories.

Happy summer, everyone!

Donna Wicker

All Dogs Teach Their Owners

Gracie is a 9 year old golden who was adopted from GRFR. She is so perfect, that it amazes her owner all the time! Gracie is not trained to do tricks, or as a therapy dog, she hasn't won a best dressed award or won any other award. She has, however, become a teacher and a trainer to her owner. She has taught her owner how great it is to take early morning walks even in the snow when it is cold. Gracie has taught her that sloppy doggie kisses are great to wake up to each morning. Gracie taught her owner that giving kisses on Gracie's head is a great way to reward her for many things. Gracie trained her owner to not be so particular about the carpet, and to accept the fact that there might often be hair on everything she wears and to know there will be water on the floor anywhere near the water bowl. Gracie's teaching and training skills have her owner getting an "A"!

A Nurse's Dog is Therapeutic

In May 2010, Copper was a 3-year old stray Golden Retriever walking along a highway in Kansas and thanks to GRFR, today he is decreasing pain, offering a distraction and bringing smiles to the patients, families and staff at Denver Health Medical Center. Sue M., Copper's owner and an RN at Denver Health in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit are changing lives. Copper and Sue volunteer weekly as a Delta Society Pet Partner Team in the hospital, healing patients at both ends of the leash.

Animal-Assisted Therapy "is designed to promote improvement in human physical, social, emotional, and/or cognitive functioning". Copper was the perfect dog to be involved in Animal-Assisted Therapy. Pet Partners are utilized in hospitals, residential facilities, long term care, mental health facilities, homeless shelters, special needs facilities, hospice, literacy programs, rehab centers and for military service men and woman and their families.

Copper is smart, a good listener, relaxed in different environments and loves attention, which made him perfect for the job! Copper attended Ted Terroux Dog Training to learn basic obedience, Good Citizen skills and Pet Therapy orientation. Sue also attended the 2-day Delta Society Pet Partners Training Team Course offered by the American Humane Associations and she and Copper became a certified Pet Partner Team. Copper looks forward to "visiting" patients,



nurses and doctors, walking with them in the hallways, getting brushed as part of a therapy modality, calming a scared child, offering an ear to a depressed or anxious patient or just resting his head on a very ill patient's lap.

GRFR brought Copper and Sue together and together, not only does Copper bring happiness to Sue, but also to the lives of the patients, families and staff they visit at Denver Health.

ADA Stability Dog



Cody was adopted from GRFR by Coach J. the day after Christmas in 2011. Cody is a sweet and calm 8 year old dog. Coach J. broke his hip a while back and continues to work on regaining his strength and stability. Cody has been very beneficial in helping with Coach's rehabilitation. Walking with Cody gives him the added support and stability he needs to walk more confidently. Cody's calm nature and willingness to please has allowed him to earn his ADA Service Dog credentials, proving once again that dogs in their middle years can go on to bigger and better things, sometimes more than anyone can imagine.

Mommy's Little Girl



Shar L. adopted her wonderful and special dog Lexie in September 2010 from GRFR. When Shar originally adopted Lexie, they thought she would be a great family dog, however, she has become so much more than that. In

2008, Shar was diagnosed with Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD), which caused her to become permanently disabled. Her RSD has deteriorated and she now spends 90% of her time in bed. This is where Lexie comes in, she has become "Mommy's little girl". She is by Shar's side all the time and offers much emotional support. Lexie lies with Shar and keeps her entertained with her lovely smiles and frequent requests for belly rubs. Lexie often goes for long runs with her dad every day, and as soon as she returns home, she immediately heads to the bedroom to check on Shar. Lexie has brought such a wonderful light to Shar's life and to their family. They are grateful to GRFR for helping their family and especially Shar to rescue such a wonderful dog. Lexie has truly become a doggie hero!

A People Magnet



Ledson, a four-year-old blonde Golden Retriever, has come a long way from wandering the streets of Bentonville, Arkansas as a stray when he was just a year old. When Ledson was taken into a shelter in Bentonville, GRFR

heard of him and brought him to Colorado. Mom Jasmine, discovered him and regardless of the hairless skin infections he had at the time, she fell in love with his sweet eyes and adopted him in 2009.

Jasmine soon discovered after adopting him, getting the skin lesions healed and taken care of, and getting some good nutritious food in him, that he was actually a wild man. Due to his strength and willpower, she was not able to control him on a lead. She was getting scared that she would have to return him to the "orphanage".

Out of desperation, she turned to Ted Terroux and his Canine College and the basic training there changed their lives completely. They learned how to work together and really care

for each other, which is so important in a bonding human/canine relationship. Proudly, Ledson graduated from the AKC Good Citizen course on the very first try. Ted could not believe it was the same wild animal that had literally drug Jasmine through his doors months before.

Now Jasmine has discovered that Ledson is quite the people magnet. He is extremely calm and kind and adores playing with his balls and squeaky toys. He loves snow, water, mud puddles, walks, tummy rubs and most of all, loves Jasmine.

Jasmine began her nursing career at Lutheran Medical Center (LMC) in Wheat Ridge, CO in 1980. She knew she always wanted to give back to the community through a volunteer program, and after admiring the Pet Therapy teams at the hospital, she knew that's what she wanted to do. After Ledson graduated from college she began the steps to join the Exempla Lutheran Medical Center (ELMC) Pet Therapy program in August of 2010. In her wildest dreams, she never would have believed that this "wild man" is now a Pet Therapy volunteer with such a gentle disposition.

Sounds to us like Jasmine did a great job in training Ledson and we are so pleased that they have joined the Pet Therapy Program. A big thank you to Jasmine for working with Ledson to allow him to find his true nature and to share his goodness with the patients and staff at ELMC!

Rally Dog



Bachus was adopted back in May 2008 from GRFR. Since then, he has taken about 2 1/2 years of Rally classes in Elizabeth, CO. Rally is a modern dog sport that showcases the bond between dog and owner as they navigate a course where a different movement, such as a figure 8, is performed by the dog at each numbered station. When Bachus started taking his rally classes, Linda (his owner) spoke to the instructor about showing him and the instructor suggested the Canine Companion Program through

AKC. Bachus is currently registered with them; however, Linda may change his registry to the PAL Program, since he is a purebred dog. Last year, he was enrolled in a Rally Novice class through AKC and Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA). Bachus received his Rally Novice Title through AKC last fall and his owner Linda is so proud of him! Bachus went to an ASCA show last year and together they received 1st place Novice Rally and he has a tracking number through ASCA! Together they are going to continue attending fun matches, AKC shows and ASCA shows this year. They will also continue to attend Rally classes once a week as both Bachus and Linda thoroughly enjoy themselves as they have made lots of dog and human friends at these classes.

Babysitter



Maya was adopted from GRFR in 2006 when she was 9 months old. She was originally found wandering in Hayes, Kansas. Maya is a very gentle dog and enjoys playing with kids. She is so gentle; she is often found watching over her owner's new grandbaby. Maya has such a sweet and loving look to her. When people see a photo of her with the new grandbaby, it is always all about Maya and how cute she is instead of the little grandbaby. She is just too sweet and a great babysitter!

Brightening the Day



Titan is a very special dog. He joins his Golden sister (by adoption) Matty at nursing home visits to Broomfield Skilled Nursing Home. Matty has been doing visits for more than 3 years. When Titan joined the family, he automatically joined in the healing and comfort of patients in the facility. They are both brought in for the comfort of one special lady who is 87 years old and lives her life with loss of memory. She has been in hospice now for over 3 years. It is amazing to see the spark in her eyes when she sees her friends Titan and Matty come for a visit. She pets them with a hand she can hardly lift and gets into their faces for wet tongue loving that can only come from a furry friend. Titan has a tongue that just will not stop. He does drive by licks at the nursing home, and the people just

love it. Titan and Matty definitely brighten the day for many people at the nursing home.

Titan came from a litter of 14 puppies. He always had a different walk, thought to be just a puppy prance. He seemed to be a special dog and just be much calmer than the other two golden's his family had before. They just figured they had gotten a relaxed Golden. Within time it was pretty evident that Titan was different. Matty seemed to have more energy and jumped a lot more than Titan ever tried to. He could not keep up on walks where Matty was handling it with no problem. He had a wiggly butt when he walked, which seemed unusual. After a vet visit to get him neutered, the vet techs took a look at him to see if there was anything wrong. The vet took numerous x-rays which revealed that Titan was born without hips, the bones just never formed as they should have. Titan has had one surgery on one side and he has adapted well to the change. He is doing just fine and plays with his sister and friends and continues his visits at the Nursing Home!

Up and Coming



Sophie (formerly known as Meredith) was adopted by Vicki and Doug back in October 2011. Sophie has brought joy, laughter and high-energy to their home. She loves to go anywhere and everywhere! She enjoys going to the car wash, Starbuck's (she is "hooked" on going through the drive-through to get treats and lots of attention), doggie day care, the dog park and the dog wash. You name it – she enjoys it! When Sophie arrives at the dog park, the party really starts! Sophie has made friends with another dog at their regular park named Gus. Just the other day, Gus was sitting all alone and not interacting with the dozen or so other dogs who were at the park that day. Once Gus realized Sophie was at the park, the two of them began running, wrestling and tumbling. They are quite the dynamic duo!

After being adopted from GRFR, Sophie was immediately enrolled in obedience training where she excelled. Initially she was a bit timid and uncertain; however she blossomed and passed her course with flying colors! Sophie is now looking forward to getting enrolled for training to become a Canine Good Citizen where she will be able to share her loving and gentle ways, hopefully with senior citizens. Her great personality and eagerness to learn will allow her to excel in all she does.

Barking Hero



Jazzie (formerly known as Gracie) was adopted almost 3 years ago. She has now officially become her families HERO!!

Jazzie is sweet, lovable and a great sister to her puppy sibling Piper! However, Jazzie loves to BARK! Usually there is a squirrel or another dog at the receiving end of her barking. The 3 or 4 squirrels she barks at are always in the trees of her family's yard, and they seem to have one purpose and one purpose only, to torment Jazzie! The family's other dogs don't really give a hoot about the squirrels. The squirrels on the other hand, seem to be loyal to Jazzie; they sit there and watch her bark!

Jazzie and her siblings have a doggie door that leads from the family room to the deck at their home. The dogs go in and out all the time. On a recent Sunday night while Jazzie's family was watching TV, Jazzie started barking in this loud frantic pitch which they had never heard before. When they went out to the deck to see what she was frantically barking at in the yard, they saw their 1 year old Golden puppy Piper stuck under the steps of the deck, and she couldn't get out. She had crawled into a small opening and couldn't figure out how to back-up to get free.

Eventually the family would have realized the puppy was missing in action, but Jazzie wasn't about to let her sister be stuck and scared. Her frantic barking this time made her a hero. She saved the day and her sister Piper!!

A Winning Smile



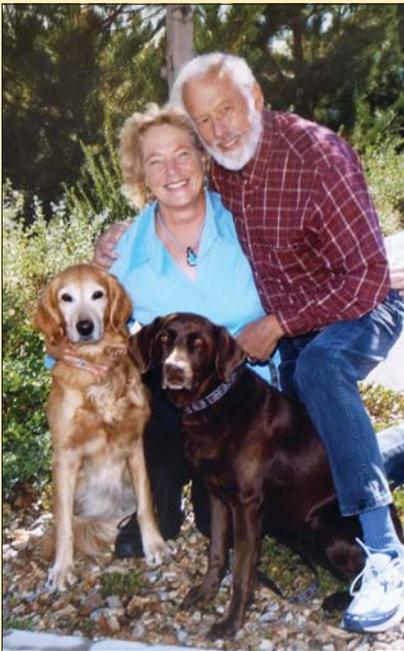
Beemer was adopted from GRFR when he was about 15 months old. The life Beemer left was one of isolation; he spent his early days on a chain in the yard. GRFR brought Beemer to Colorado from Arkansas and at that time, he was a skinny little guy with very little hair but his bright smile just "beamed".

Beemer had fleas, ticks, parasites, ear infections and at just 54 pounds was extremely underweight. You could see his heart beating in his chest. His coat was so thin that his family

dreamed about the day they could brush him and he would get his first mat. Beemer quickly blossomed with the guidance of his GRFR sister, Shadie Lady. He learned house etiquette quickly and in just a short time began doing his famous Beemer bounces when excited.

Beemer attended obedience classes and quickly earned his Canine Good Citizen certificate. Then the work began. After additional training for both Beemer and his family, they received certification from Delta Society to be a therapy dog. For the past year, Beemer has "worked" at the Shots for Tots Clinic, Paws to Read and is a regular at Swedish Medical Center. The first thing people notice is Beemer's winning smile. He isn't the only one smiling; his family can't help but "beam" when they think of the joy Beemer brings to them and others every single day. Oh, and yes, Beemer did get his first mat and has "grown" to a lean 75 pounds!

GRFR Ambassador



Lily (formerly known as Snickers, on the left) is around 9 or 10 years old. She was rescued by GRFR from a puppy mill in Kansas when she was about 4. Lily is a very happy camper, but she wasn't always this way. When Lily was in her first foster home, it was the first actual house she had ever lived in. She was so scared when she stepped on carpet for the first time; she just stood there and shook. She soon

adjusted and went on to her first forever home. She was very happy there and had a best friend, a doggy sister named Hannah. Sadly, Lily's happy life there ended after 3 years when her owner became very ill and Lily had to return to GRFR foster care. To make matters worse, Lily's doggy sister Hannah

suddenly died at the same time. Lily was sad and scared again. In November of 2010, Lily found her second forever home with her new owners Kathy and Greg. At this time, Lily was a very depressed doggy. It took her many weeks to realize her new home, new owners, new doggy sister and a cat would fill her life with love and happiness. Lily's new doggie sister Lucy, a Chocolate Lab, has shown her how to be a good hiking companion and they often go hiking and camping with Greg and Kathy. Cody, the cat, gives Lily lots of special attention by curling up against her stomach when they take naps. Lily even does a dance-prance when getting ready for daily neighborhood walks. On occasion, the neighbors take Lily and sister Lucy to the Bark- Park where they run and romp until their hearts are content. Lily enjoys sniffing around the park and meeting other dogs and people. Lily's outgoing personality has allowed her to become a GRFR ambassador dog. She goes to meet prospective GRFR families with Kathy and Greg when they do home visits. Lily is also a therapy dog; she often goes to visit very special people at a nursing home where a friend of Kathy's lives. Lily gets to greet lots of other people there as well. She loves to approach these people and put her chin gently on their laps for a few ear scratches. Lily has found great happiness between all her hikes, being an ambassador and a therapy dog!

Top of the Class



Mason, a twelve year old Golden, was given up by the only family he'd ever known. He was left at a kill shelter in Kansas, sick from heartbreak and depression. He was fortunate to be spotted by a

Golden rescuer who arranged for his trip to Denver. When Mason's new owner first met him, Mason had been dealing with many life changing events and he wasn't keen to experience being abandoned again. He made it clear from the beginning that he intended to be WITH his new owner. Mason's new owner was a teacher, and although her needing to spend her days in a school room seemed a barrier, Mason didn't see it that way. He quickly won over the principal at the school. In fact, he found himself a job at the school. Every morning, Mason and his owner would go to work. As soon as they arrived, the children were eager to pat Mason or give him a hug or say "Hi" before they could continue to their other classes. Mason stayed in his owner's classroom. He adored the children and they were so proud he had chosen them!

Mason's day mirrored the class's schedule; he went everywhere the class went. Prior to Mason joining the class, being the line leader was the job of choice. This immediately gave way to holding one end of Mason's leash while he held the other. The only time Mason wasn't with the class was when they went to lunch. He walked with them to the cafeteria and waited patiently in the hallway until everyone finished. It was the only time Mason wasn't within an arm's length of a kindergarten or first grade child.

During academics, Mason usually took naps. However, he could always tell when a child was having a tough day. He would quietly get up and move next to their desk; he understood it wasn't what you said, but that you were there. His very presence encouraged them. They loved Mason and he loved them.

The end of the school day always found Mason saying goodbye to all the students in the school as they boarded the bus. Everyone was happier as they touched his head, stroked his silky hair, or gave him a hug on their way home. He really did make a difference in their lives.

After school ended last year, Mason became more of a ranch dog. He would supervise the cutting of wood; it would get stacked into a wagon, and then his owners would hoist him up on top and they would ride up there until they got back to the house. Mason would go along to feed the horses, and was always the first one into the truck. He watched the horseshoer, counted bales as they were stacked, and made sure the maintenance on the tractors, trailers, and cars were done as scheduled. He was SUPER DOG.

Mason loved to travel as well and went to Texas on more than a few occasions. He was always the perfect navigator, and later the quintessential guest. When his owner broke her pelvis, he was at the bedside at all times, except when he was actually in the bed with her!

Mason passed away over 6 months ago. He really was a super dog; he was incredible. Adopting an older dog can be so enriching, not only to their family, but for themselves and others.



Rain or Shine

Seth went to live with his new family, Jim and Debbie, last year after he was adopted from GRFR. Seth has been the most wonderful dog any family could wish for. He never fails to meet his owners at the door, he is always ready to play and he willingly keeps Jim and Debbie warm on a cold winter night by snuggling in-between them in bed! Seth does have one extra special quirk - he never turns down the opportunity to get the morning paper. Whether rain or shine, he runs to the driveway each morning, pounces on the paper and brings it back inside! Seth has definitely found his forever home and family, thanks to GRFR.

A New Job



Fisher was adopted from GRFR back in May 2011. He was the homeliest dog you had ever seen. He was skinny, had scars on his face, was practically hairless and had these nasty looking dew claws! He was afraid of everything and petrified of water! He wouldn't retrieve or play with toys.

Walking him was a challenge, if there was a loud noise, another dog, people or sprinklers; he would just bolt and rip your arms off in the process! However, Fisher was very good at following people around and demanding to get petted. If he could get in your lap and stay there, he would be the happiest dog on the planet.

After 9 months, he has become the most amazing dog. He's not afraid of everything now and will not bolt when you walk him and he enjoys playing with his toys now. He loves people and kids! The best part of his accomplishments thus far is that Fisher has a new job! He goes to the senior center to visit the elderly and he walks from person to person and waits patiently for his personal pet fest. The seniors enjoy having Fisher come visit and sometimes will trample each other just to get to see him.

Fisher has also become quite the guardian. He has a nightly routine; once his owner settles into bed at night, he investigates each room of the house, first the second floor, then the first floor and returns to his spot ready to begin his nightly owner protection duties. Even during his daily walks, if someone approaches and he senses something awry, he will plant himself across his owner's path. If he senses everything is okay, he can't wait to make friends with the other dog and its owner. Fisher is quite the guardian!

Your GRFR dog can be a hero too!



Agatha is a GRFR dog, adopted in 2005. She has been a regular blood donor since 2006. Yes, dogs need blood transfusions just like humans do. Agatha donates blood every 2-4 months at Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital. Blood is also collected at other

locations such as Deer Creek Animal Hospital in Littleton, Veterinary Specialists in Littleton, Hemo Solutions in Colorado Springs and Colorado State University Veterinary School. Each program has certain requirements, which usually include having an easy going friendly disposition, be between 1 and 9 years of age, a healthy over 50lb weight, current on vaccinations, take no medications except heartworm preventative and thyroid medication. Each location's requirements vary slightly.

Agatha trots happily into Wheat Ridge every few months, the vet techs love her there. She goes in back and while someone is petting and telling her how wonderful she is another tech

shaves a small patch on her neck and sterilizes the area and a unit of blood is drawn. Each unit of blood can then be separated into two components, red blood cells and plasma. The blood is then stored until needed by an injured or ill dog. The donation itself takes about 20 minutes, however the entire process takes about an hour. Most locations also include a free nail trim and some kind of bonus like 6 months of heartworm preventative or other enticements. Each dog has their blood typed and screened before being approved for donation and each year their blood is tested for heartworm.

Dogs have over a dozen blood types with 40-45% having a "universal" blood type which is preferred. Over 60% of greyhounds have the universal blood type making them preferable to other breeds for blood donation. Approximately 60% of dogs are a positive blood type which means most vets are usually in need of the elusive 40% which are negative, but all blood types are welcome to donate.

It takes so little time to donate blood, yet has such a big effect on the dog community. Consider helping your GRFR dog to be a hero too! Agatha is a GRFR doggie hero and she has a fun time doing it!

Best Friends Therapy



Nugget (*right*, formerly known as Jake) and Pepper (*left*, formerly known as Blinkin) were both adopted from GRFR. When Nugget joined his new family in 2009, he was 2 years old and Pepper who joined the family in 2010 was a 10 week old puppy. Neither dog is a purebred as the family had DNA testing done. Nugget is a “Heinz 57” – he is part lab, part Anatolian Shepherd, part Cocker Spaniel and some other breeds. Pepper, who weighs 85 pounds is mostly lab, 25% miniature poodle

(you can’t see the poodle), and a small mixture of some other breeds. Both dogs have been good additions to their new family and are great playmates. Nugget and Pepper have been through a number of training classes and their behavior and connection to their family shows it.

Nugget was the first to get his Canine Good Citizen certificate about 7 months ago. He was a star from day one, both in class and at home. His family didn’t know much about his previous history, but they were told that he wandered onto a farm in Kansas. The farmer took him to the Humane Society, as there were too many dogs already on the farm. Nugget ended up being the lobby greeter for the Humane Society while

in Kansas. Once Nugget came to CO, his new family first fostered him and then ended up adopting him. Nugget has had to overcome some obstacles since coming to CO. He’s had two elbow dysplasia surgeries, which have not slowed him down at all. Nugget has just completed his Therapy Dog International (TDI) training and will soon be a therapy dog at Boulder Community Hospital.

Pepper received his Canine Good Citizen certificate at the age of 18 months. He looks up to Nugget and they are best friends. Right now, Pepper’s family is not sure he will ever have the temperament to be a therapy dog, but he is a great companion and keeps his family laughing.

Training for Therapy Work

Ted Terroux and his staff offer therapy dog training sessions by appointment at their dog training facility in Lakewood. In these sessions, dogs are trained around all types of medical equipment such as canes, crutches, walkers, IV stands, rolling trays, wheelchairs and gurneys. Dogs are taught how to politely accept people in hospital wear and people who move awkwardly while learning how to tolerate various forms of physical contact from people. They learn to remain calm around people, other dogs and the noises that they might encounter as a therapy dog. Ted also

likes to teach his students about food control, so the dog learns not to grab food or medications that might be within reach or happen to fall to the ground at the dog’s feet.

Dogs should have successfully completed at least a basic course or the equivalent, but completing a more advanced course, such as our Canine Good Citizen Course would give dog owners all the skills and know-how that would substantially reduce the amount of therapy dog session training time. Ted’s Therapy Dog Sessions run \$60

per one hour session and the fee may be split by up to 6 students if you’d like to coordinate your training with other therapy dog owners. Sessions are available mid to late afternoons Monday through Friday and are held at the Colfax Kipling Center. Call 303-232-1034 or e-mail TedTerroux@att.net for more details.

To sign up, visit Ted’s website at tedterrouxdogtraining.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=23&Itemid=3

The GRFR Calendar Photo Contest is Back!

Get out your cameras and tell your dogs to say "Cheese!" It's time for the 2013 Golden Retriever Freedom Rescue calendar photo contest. You can enter as often as you like, but it's \$5 per photo submitted. The deadline is May 30, 2012. Photos must be of dogs adopted from

GRFR, and photos must be taken by you or a family member.

Calendars are printed in a larger format than normal photographs, so it's important that your photos be high resolution. They must be 2400 x 3000

pixels in order to print well at 8 ½ x 11 inches.

Watch for the official announcement in an email and start snapping those photos! Your dog just might win the cover spot!

You Can Save a Dog!

Saving over 300 dogs a year takes many volunteers. If you would like to lend a hand, we would love to have your help. Often, people assume they have to foster a dog to help. It's true that we are always looking for foster homes. We cannot bring dogs into the program without foster homes willing to give up a spare corner for these wonderful creatures. If you'd like to start with easy dogs, try fostering a senior Golden.

There are, however, many other ways to help. We need people who have an interest and a flair for fund raising. We also need people to do event planning. We need people who can drive dogs from the transport drop-off to their foster homes, or from one foster home to another. We need someone to manage the merchandise we sell on our website, which helps us raise much-needed funds. We need people to set up and host Meet and Greet events. There's no end to the work! We are a

100% volunteer organization. No one gets paid. It's all done for the love of the dogs. Some people volunteer a couple hours a month. Others volunteer a couple hours every day. Everyone who volunteers in any capacity helps save a dog's life.

We also need monetary donations. We bring in so many dogs that have medical issues. Some dogs are actually given up because their family cannot afford or cannot cope with the medical needs of their dog. We maintain excellent working relationships with the veterinarians who partner with us in our mission to save these fabulous dogs. We are very judicious in choosing treatments that are the most affordable. Yet the average amount we spend on veterinary fees per dog is less than our placement fees. In essence, the more dogs we save, the less money we have to use for the next dogs.

Your donations make up the difference. They allow us to have surgeries performed to alleviate long-standing pain from earlier injuries that were left untreated. They allow us to treat dogs with eye injuries or diseases. We can treat heartworm and other diseases caused by mosquitos and ticks. Please don't make us say "no" to these dogs. Many will not survive without our help.

We know that you are asked for money by many organizations. Please consider a gift to Golden Retriever Freedom Rescue. You can give online (look for the Donation choice under the Help GRFR tab on our website, grfr.org). Or send a check to: PO Box 9628 Denver, CO 80209-0628

Your donation will save a dog just like the ones featured in this issue of the newsletter.



GRFR 2013 CALANDAR PHOTO CONTEST!!!!

It is time to enter your GRFR Dog in the Golden Retriever Freedom Rescue's 4th Annual Photo Contest. Your Golden could be featured in the 2013 calendar! The Grand Prize Winner will have their photo on the cover.

Our 2012 calendar had over 120 entries and sold 250 calendars. Help us make 2013 even better!!



Submission Guidelines:

- \$5 per photo entry fee; no limit to number of photos you can submit!
- Must be a GRFR rescued dog in picture. **No people.**
- You can submit the same photos as previous years (previous monthly and honorable mention winning photos excluded).
- The photo must have been taken by you or someone in your family; you can't submit photos taken by someone else.
- **For Digital images**, set your camera at the HIGHEST resolution—need 2400 pixels by 3000 pixels (photos will be enlarged to 8.5"x11"). Please send original digital files (.jpg or .tif files) either on cd or via e-mail as attachments, and include your name, phone number, address, and dog's name. Please don't make the file smaller to e-mail. Send the original largest file possible. E-mail digital photos to photocontest@grfr.org
- **IMPORTANT:** You will receive a confirmation of your entry within 48 hours; if you don't receive confirmation, assume files didn't go through and re-send.
- **For Snapshots**, please put a label on the back with your name, dog's name, address, and phone number (please don't write directly on the print!). 4x6 minimum size please. And please don't scan in snapshots yourself—mail in the prints. Photo's will not be returned.
- For All Entries: Mail entry form (available at www.goldenretrieverfreedom.org), payment, and snapshots or cd (unless e-mailing photos) to:



GRFR Photo Contest
PO Box 9628
Denver, CO 80209



Please make checks payable to GRRF or go to www.goldenretrieverfreedom.org and pay via PayPal (you still need to mail or fax to 303-893-0201 your entry form if paying via paypal)!

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY IS MAY 31, 2012, so start snapping your photos and sending them in!
Winners will be notified by June 30.

Calendars will be available at the reunion and other GRFR events, and on our website.

Thanks and Good Luck!

