

## I Believe in Happy Endings Too!

By Foster Golden Retriever, Mattie

While I was enjoying a recent car ride to my obedience class, I heard Neil Diamond's CD:

"I know the cost of tears and troubles.  
I got lost, but I got through  
And I made it, 'cause I always knew  
That you believed in happy endings too  
You and me and happy endings too."

That pretty much sums up my story. A lot of people believed that I could have a happy ending and through their help I can.

I owe special thanks to the kind people at the Crawford County Illinois Humane Society (who are on-line at <http://www.petfinder.org/shelters/IL66.html>). When I was found wandering with a clothesline wrapped around my neck, they took me in. What a sight I must have been! I was very thin. My coat was dull and balding on my ears and around my eyes. But my most obvious problem was the huge tumor on the inside toe of my left back foot. I heard lots of people say they had never seen anything like that. My tumor was about 7 inches in diameter and weighed over two pounds.

Even though I didn't feel very well, lifting that extra weight with each step didn't slow me down as much as you'd think. I had figured out that the easiest way to walk was to swing that leg way out to the side as I went along. When I wanted to run, I would lift that leg up (holding all that weight up) and run on three legs.

The shelter gave me lots to eat and took good care of me, and I felt better than I had for a long time. I heard them say that if they found my owner, they were going to prosecute for animal abuse. Mainly I heard them say what a sweet girl I was and that I only needed somebody to give me a chance.

That chance came one morning when Love A Golden volunteers Susan and John Shock came to pick me up at the shelter. They had gotten up very early to come get me and take me to the rescue group. They gave me lots of attention during the car ride. Was it ever fun! I showed them how mannerly I am and gave them a few gentle kisses to let them know that I loved them.

One of the first things I did after coming to Love A Golden Rescue was make a trip to the Animal Medical Center of Troy. Dr McCann and his staff took good care of me. They were very surprised to see the size of the tumor on my toe. We did a lot of tests. They weren't ...



### Upcoming December LAGR Events:

- 12/8 Barnes and Nobel (Ladue Crossing Store) gift wrapping - 3:30 PM - 8:00 PM
- 12/9 Petco - Adoption Day 12 PM - 4 PM  
15200 Manchester Rd. Ballwin MO
- 12/15 Dirk's Fund Information - Borders Book Store, 10990 Sunset Hills Plaza -  
11:00 AM - 8:00 PM  
(Dirk's Fund - 314-966-3326)
- 12/15 Barnes and Nobel (Ladue Crossing Store) gift wrapping - 3:30 PM - 8:00 PM

# Mattie's story continued from page 1

very much fun, but everyone told me what a good girl I was when we did them. I found out that I was hypothyroid. I have to take pills for that everyday, but I keep feeling better and better. Also now that I've taken the thyroid medicine for a while, my coat looks a lot better and the bald spots are filling in.

I also found out the bad news that I had heartworms. The heartworms made me cough and made breathing hard sometimes. It's really sad I had them as they can usually be easily prevented by taking something like Interceptor or Heartguard or getting a ProHeart 6 shot.

Dr McCann checked out my tumor. I was afraid that they would have to amputate my foot or even my leg, but Dr McCann only needed to remove my toe. Instead of the ugly tumor, my foot had a pretty pink bandage. What a relief to have that weight gone from my toe! For a while, I still walked by swinging my foot out (old habits are hard to break). However, I soon learned that I didn't need to do that and now walk normally. I really enjoyed my walks in the woods as I recovered.

Finally the test results came back with word that the tumor was benign. I'm not sure what that means but I know that everyone was very happy. I showed everyone how happy I was by bouncing around in a circle and making snorting noises at the same time.

Once I was strong enough, I had to have heartworm treatment. Everyone seemed really worried about me when heartworm treatment started. I got to go back to the vet clinic for a couple of days for the treatment. It hurt a lot to get the shots in my back. For quite a while afterward, I felt pretty sick and very tired and weak. I could hardly walk without wanting to sit and rest, and I coughed a lot. I had to stay in my crate most of the time. As time passed, I got stronger and stronger. The first time I felt like playing everyone was very excited and told me how good I was.

Thank goodness the second phase of the heartworm treatment was just taking a pill and not getting any more of those shots! I still had to take things easy and spend lots of time resting in my crate except for short outings on leash.

Then finally the big day came when I went to the vet for my follow-up heartworm test. The wonderful news was that I was done with my heartworm treatment and could start running & playing. I love to be in the yard!

Now that I'm feeling better, I've enrolled in obedience class. That's going well, and I'm meeting lots of new friends there.

Lots of people have helped me along the way. I have lots of caring foster buddies who support me and cheer me along. I also get lots of help from the rescue volunteers and from other people whom I've never met but who support rescue & set up systems which help me.

I don't know what will happen next. I hope that I find a home filled with love. I would like to take car rides, go for walks, play in the yard, lie on the couch, and then stretch out on the bed and dream about my happy ending.



**Thank you for my new life!!!  
Mattie**

## “Wake Up Maggie, Your Mom Has Something to Say To You”



*According to Karen Shaw* who picked Maggie Mae up at the shelter: When the call came from the shelter that there were two Golden Retrievers who needed a place to go, I left home early the next morning and got there before the shelter opened. I waited and then went in and explained why I was there. The shelter workers were really happy someone had come to take the dogs. Both were quiet and withdrawn at first, and I think that the younger one was scared. I filled out all the paper work and then they brought the dogs out. The older girl kept wanting her tummy rubbed. She was a beautiful senior with a cute smile. She was so happy to be leaving there. I walked her to my car. She got her front half in the car with no problem, but she really was working her back legs to get the rest of the way in. She wanted to do it herself. She crawled in and laid down and smiled. I was thinking of names and talking to a friend. She mentioned the name Maggie and I thought of the Rod Stewart song Maggie May. The name seemed to fit her.

*“Wake up Maggie I think I got something to say to you  
It's late September and I really should be back at school  
I know I keep you amused but I feel I'm being used  
Oh, Maggie I couldn't have tried any more  
You lured me away from home just to save you from being alone  
You stole my heart and that's what really hurt”*

What I thought was special was that Maggie May was adopted in late September by a wonderful lady who is employed by Cornell University, like in the song. It was a perfect match!

*According to her foster home:* In her foster home, Maggie Mae quickly took over the position as lady of the manor. She kept an eye on the comings and goings of the other dogs and would station herself by the front door to nap so she didn't miss any trips outside. She would sleep on her back, with her legs propped up against a wall—quite a sight. She loved being out in the yard when the younger dogs ran and played. She would stand in one place and lunge into the play as they ran by. She'd go a few steps and stop, waiting for them to circle back.

At her first vet visit, she tipped at an even 100 pounds. We found that her left front leg was probably broken in the shoulder years ago. As a result, she throws that leg out a bit as she walks. We also found that she was hypothyroid and put her on medication for that. She also received a dental, and had a cyst removed from her back. She was always ready to get treats as we came to and fro. With playing and her thyroid medication, she managed to lose some weight even though the family treat budget was broken. Maggie Mae used her 100-pound heft to her advantage. If she didn't want to do something, she would go limp and somehow usually manage to hook her legs around furniture to make herself the immovable object. She traveled well, enjoying the rides in the car whether it was to the vet for one of the procedures or to Goldstock in Pennsylvania. She could neither mount nor dismount well, but she rode like a queen! She was always on high alert as we started down the road, quickly settling down as the miles went by. But wherever she went, she would display the Golden personality, exuding an infectious charm that affected all who came near her.

*According to Mom:* I had mixed feeling about going to Goldstock 2001 and taking Briar, Patch and Truman. We had just lost our Lucy and I was still grieving. I had no intention of opening my heart – again. We did go shared a quiet cabin with my friend Kathy Hackmann, her Chloe and 2 LAGR fosters, Rusty and Maggie Mae. Maggie was a big, beautiful white-faced blond, a sexy broad! During our days at Goldstock Maggie managed to escape the cabin on more than 1 occasion wondering through camp and taking in the sights. She swam in the lake, rolled in the sand and soaked up life. I'm getting ready to leave for home that Monday, Subaru doors open, bags packed, 3 Golden Retrievers aboard and there's that blond broad climbing in the side door! So, I give her a final boost and the “5” of us are “on the road again”. That was September, hard to imagine what life would be like without Maggie – she didn't fill the Lucy void but created her own notch in my heart. She is the perfect Golden with impeccable house manners (although she still opens storm doors and sprawls across the floor if you ask her to do something she doesn't want to do). Except for the whiteface you wouldn't know by her energy level that she was a senior of 10 or so. She can run with the best of them, have a good roll in the grass and be first at the door when she thinks we are heading for the car. She attends socialization classes at Ultimate Dog and has her day of beauty monthly at A PAW ABOVE. There are those great visits to a local nursing home and recently she started visiting a local junior high school, visiting with “special students” as part of a Pet Therapy Program formed between LAGR and the local Vietnam Veterans of American, #855. And, just to keep Maggie young, a blond, very active and precocious pup arrived from Golden Beginnings. So now we are “6”. Do I love this big beautiful blond? Indeed I do “wake up Maggie your Mom has something to say to you”.

## “A NEW COLUMN”: “SIT—STAY” BY BILL GILCHRIST

**Enhancing Your Adoption Experience:** Adopting a Golden Retriever can be a wonderful experience. The joy of providing a quality life and stable home can certainly be an uplifting experience for any person or family. Unfortunately the best of intentions can often be met with much frustration. Your new companion will look to you for guidance. It is vital to begin socializing and training your new Golden Retriever to his/her family and surroundings. Here are three major areas of socialization and training that should be worked on with your Golden.

First, it is extremely important to socialize you Golden with any member of your family that he/she will come into contact with. Golden Retrievers are extremely friendly but by the same token can be overly cautious. It is important to allow your dog to greet people on his/her own terms. Your dog should be on leash and the surroundings should be as open as possible. Allow your dog to approach the person while he/she is in a standing position. If your dog seems nervous, have the person sit on a chair. Allow the person to give a treat or toy to your dog as this too will help to alleviate stress on the dog. Keeping your dog on leash, creating an open atmosphere, and controlling the person’s body language are all key in helping to alleviate much of the stress your Golden Retriever may have in meeting a new person.

Secondly , you should socialize your new Golden to the area where he/she will be living. Once again, this should be done on leash. It is recommended that you introduce your dog to one area of your home at a time. Your dog should spend 10 to 20 minutes in any new area with you present. At this time you can begin socializing or desensitizing your dog to objects or appliances in that area. Objects or appliances that your dog will come in contact with through sight, sound, or touch should be shown one at a time over the course of a couple of days. Any area that has furniture your dog will come in contact with should come with clear and consistent rules. Having a dog on or off the furniture is a personal choice, just make that choice consistent. These areas of concern should be covered by your obedience methods. Allowing your dog to experience your home with you will help build confidence in him/her in those areas.

Third, without any clean and consistent obedience, your Golden Retriever may have a hard time recognizing your expectations of him/her. Your dog’s obedience training is his/her line of communication with you and your family. Without training, there is no understanding. In most instances, an untrained dog may have poor social behavior that may include destructive behavior, anxiety, or hyperactivity. Addressing a dog’s behavior may be accomplished on a few levels. The most important is obedience training that creates a well-established set of commands for your dog to respond to. Exercise and nutrition are also important components in creating a well-behaved pet. Training creates a doorway of communication between you and your dog. Without established clear communications, no animal should be expected to understand his or her surroundings.



By covering these three vital areas of socialization and training, adopting a Golden Retriever can be the experience you were looking forward to. Remember that the adoption is only the beginning. The responsibility of keeping your dog with you and your family falls on you. A trained and socialized Golden Retriever can be a joy to have as a family member. Obedience and socialization training will only enhance your adoption experience. Most importantly, it will enhance the life of your new family member..



Harper out for a swim



Jubilee at home



Megan with new sister, April



## Goldie is owned by Iowa Volunteer Sheila Urquhart

### ASK GOLDIE

{Goldie is former rescue who is now living her Golden years in a loving home. During the first 10 years of her life, Goldie experienced many trials and tribulations at the hands of her previous owners. Through these experiences, Goldie has gained a great deal of insight into the ways of people and dogs. Goldie wants to share her wisdom with other dogs and caring people.

11/01 I received the following letter from Chowhound in Chattanooga.

Dear Goldie,

The other day when I was sniffing around in the kitchen I found this square bit of brown food, it smelled great so I started to chew on it. My person started yelling and saying "NO!! NO!! You can't eat that!!" And she took it right out

of my mouth!! "You can't eat chocolate," she said. Goldie can you tell me why I can't eat that good stuff?

Chowhound

Dear Chowhound,

What good timing you have!! Last week I was talking to the vet's dog and she told me that she once heard her person telling somebody that chocolate was very bad for dogs. In fact, she said, it's poisonous. It's something to do with enzymes? I guess if us dogs eat too much chocolate, we get very sick and may even have to leave our people. Just accept that you can't eat everything that seems to taste good. I recommend you stick to favorite dog cookies (a personal favorite of mine!)

Wooffully yours,  
Goldie

It is important that your dog truly adore, worship and almost PREFER children to adults. This is because no matter how well behaved and gentle your child is, there will come a time when a child will push a dog to its limits-push the dog past his tolerance threshold. A dog who starts out with a huge buffer of love, affection and adoration of children is apt to tolerate much more before reaching that threshold. Likewise, a well-behaved, well-supervised, gentle child is less apt to push a dog to its limits.

trouble. The pup can learn many wrong behaviors in those first few days that they carry over into later months as a teenager. This Christmas gift all too quickly becomes the Christmas nuisance.

Statistics are boring! So suffice to say, more than half the Christmas puppies will end up either in a shelter or rescue before it's first birthday. The Christmas experience becomes a lesson in having selected the wrong breed; wrong temperament; wrong personality; wrong time and wrong energy level. Combine these with no time to properly do the training a puppy requires and you have a shelter dog in the making.

No one would deny how precious it is to see the light in a child's face as they hold the puppy for

## "Puppies for Sale" J. Perciaccanto (cont from 10). Ultimate Dog

the first time. However, make it possible for that sweet, cuddly pup to grow into the dog of your dreams. Think first before undertaking such a life-altering event. If you have already decided on a puppy, then go one step further and give yourself the gift of a training class. Teenagers and older children should be able to handle the dog in a class setting. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents or grandparents to spend time with children in an activity they both enjoy.

Make your Christmas merry for all concerned and leave the purchase of a puppy for a time when it is more suitable to bring one into your home.

## A LONG-LASTING TREAT FOR HOLIDAY TRAVEL

Your dog might be on a prescription diet for a health condition, such as heart disease, kidney disease, or a weight problem. But being on a strict diet doesn't mean no treats. Treats are especially important in times of stress, like when you travel. To keep him happy on the road, at a strange place, or on a plane, provide something to keep him occupied. Try this trick to keep his mind active while sticking to his strict eating regimen. The night before you leave for your holiday, take an appropriate-sized Kong Toy and stuff with his prescription canned food. Press a few pieces of his prescription dry food into the soft food, wrap with plastic and freeze overnight. If you are traveling by car, unwrap and give it to him in his cage; if by plane, give it to him right before he boards. Remember to subtract the food in the treat from his daily allotment. He'll gnaw on it for a long time and it will keep him busy and less stressed. Just because your dog is on a prescription diet doesn't mean he can't have some fun with his food. **From: PedEducation.com**

## PIC ME



**Pumpkin** makes friends wherever she goes! She loves to meet people and be petted. Her tail wags a lot to let you know how happy she is. Pumpkin loves to swim. She would love to go for a walk with you or spend the evening sitting on the couch with you and watching TV.



**Jackson** is a playful young male Golden. He loves wrestling with the other dogs in his foster home and would like to have a doggie buddy. He is learning house manners and needs someone who will have the patience, time, perseverance, and sense of humor to teach him what he needs to know. Jackson is a dark honey blonde. He would like to have his own home with lots of



**Rusty** is an adult neutered male Golden. Rusty is an energetic red Golden with a gorgeous coat. He had extensive field training but does not perform well when retrieving ducks. He is now learning about life in the house and really enjoys the perks. He loves to be petted and would like a home where he can be included in lots of activities.

**Mattie** started beginner level dog class. She loved the car ride and being at class. Mattie started learning "watch", "sit", "come", and to walk on a loose lead. Everything is new to her, and she is very eager to learn. She particularly loves it when the treats come out or when she hears what a good girl she is.



**Quincy** is a large red adult male Golden. His prior owner turned him into a shelter due to a move. Quincy is undergoing heartworm treatment but will be ready to head to his new home soon. He is thin but is quickly gaining weight. Quincy is very interested in the ball but doesn't quite understand why he should bring it back yet. Quincy would like to have a loving home waiting for him when he completes his heartworm treatment.



**COUNTRY STORE:**  
**LAGR First Aid Kit** includes 25 items and an emergency card. Everything you need to handle

most Pet emergencies. **\$35.00** including shipping and handling.

**Mail to:**  
 Love A Golden Rescue  
 P.O. Box 27621, St. Louis MO 63146  
 for questions on your order email: info@loveagolden.com  
 Visit [www.loveagolden.com](http://www.loveagolden.com)



### Subscription Application

What does it take to become a subscriber of Love A Golden Rescue? A desire to help homeless or displaced Golden Retrievers! Your subscription and/or donation go directly to helping a Golden in need, through providing foster care, needed veterinary medical/surgical care, and providing necessary supplies for the Golden in our program. In return, you will receive a quarterly newsletter with rescue stories and pictures, tips on how to care for and train your dog, and heartwarming stories of our adopted Golden. You will also receive invitations to all of our group events. We welcome everyone with a desire to help! You are welcome to volunteer with our program whether it be for fostering, home visits, fundraising, dog walking. Thank you for your interest in Love A Golden Rescue!

Subscription dues are \$30 per calendar year, subscribers receive a quarterly newsletter, as well as a subscription card, and a 10% discount on the official Love A Golden t-shirt from the Love A Golden Country Store along with invitations to all Love A Golden Rescue events.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please make check payable to: **Love A Golden Rescue**

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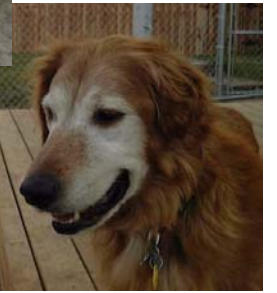
### **OUR GOLDENS WISH TO THANK THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN TO: "THE BUDDY CORNER"**

- |         |                                   |         |                        |
|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|------------------------|
| Charlie | Lee Forlaw Hoff & Chuck Hoff      | Penny   | Christine Law          |
| Molly2  | Joy & Ron Orr                     |         | Pam & Carl Wendenburg  |
| Mattie  | Cyndi & John Palmer               |         | The Spud Junction Gang |
|         | Pam & Carl Wendenburg             |         | Mary Paluszek-Pirc     |
|         | Ro Vinson                         | Rosita  | Anonymous              |
|         | Marilyn & Jim Ravas               | Rusty   | Phil Bianco            |
|         | David Metz                        | Sampson | Cyndi & John Palmer    |
|         | Mary Paluszek-Pirc                |         |                        |
|         | Anonymous                         |         |                        |
|         | Janie Wormsbecker                 |         |                        |
|         | Vietnam Veterans of America, #855 |         |                        |

see [www.loveagolden.com](http://www.loveagolden.com) for info.

# Love A Golden

The young pup and the older dog lay on shaded sweet grass watching the reunions. Sometimes a man, sometimes a woman, sometimes a whole family would approach the Rainbow Bridge, be greeted by their loving pets and cross the bridge together. The young pup playfully nipped at the older one. "Look! Something is happening!" The old dog stood up and barked, "Quickly. Get over to the path". "But that's not my owner," whined the pup, but he did as he was told. Thousands of pets surged forward as a figure in white walked on the path toward the bridge. As the glowing figure passed each animal, that animal bowed it's head in love and respect. The figure finally approached the bridge, and was met by a menagerie of joyous animals. Together, they all walked over the bridge and disappeared. The young pup was still in awe. "Was that an angel?" he whispered. "No, son." The older dog replied. "That was more than an angel. That was a person who worked rescue."



Daisy Now and Than



This issue is dedicated to  
Merlot  
Summer 2001  
Rest in Peace Sweet Girl



"It's not what you owned but how many you touched that indicated the quality of your life?" Emerson





## RAVEN'S KITCHEN — KIM SEIGLER

Yes, we must admit that Raven is a Black Lab, but she's a Golden at heart. Plus, the real Golden of the house, Tucker, says "I don't cook...that's women's work. But I will eat what Raven and my Mom make."

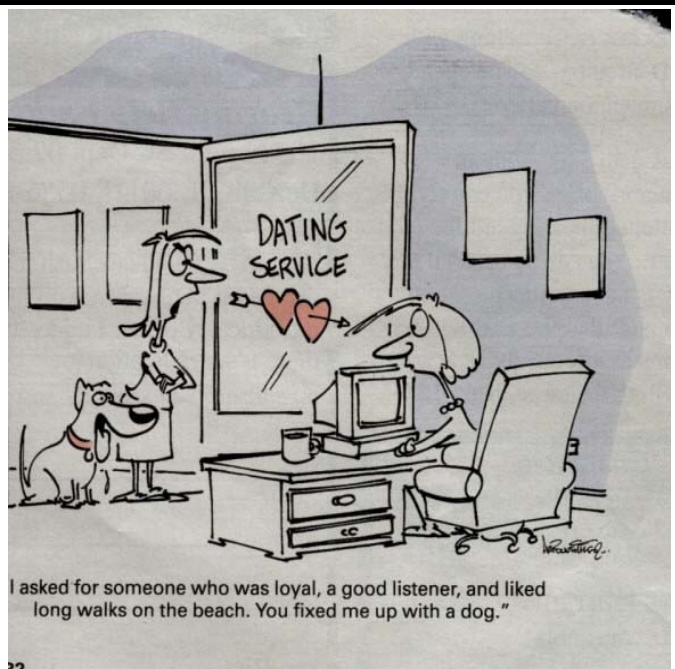
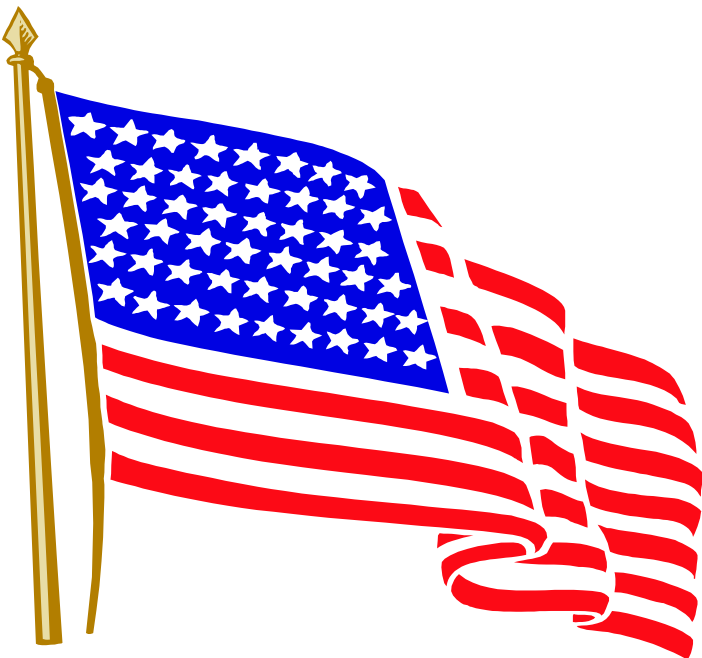
### FLEAS NAVIDAD NIBBLERS

Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, except for the dog eating these off of the counter.... as quiet as a mouse.

2 tablespoons honey  
2 3/4 cups water  
1/4 cup unsweetened applesauce  
1/8 teaspoon vanilla  
1 egg  
1/2 cup chopped peanuts  
4 cups whole-wheat flour  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1 tablespoon cinnamon  
1 tablespoon nutmeg

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a bowl, mix together honey, water, applesauce, vanilla and egg.

In a separate bowl, mix peanuts, flour, powder, cinnamon and nutmeg. Add wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and stir, mixing well. Spoon into a greased muffin tin, filling each cup 2/3 full. Bake for 35 minutes. Cool and store in a sealed container. Bakes 16 festive Holidog muffins.



**Angel—Kathy & Bill Hackmann**  
**Boomer—Allison & Tyler Tussey**  
**Carlin (Cody) - Donna & Doc Savage**  
**Charlie—Kristi & Terry Wells**  
**Chelsea—Kim & Tony Gray**  
**Cowboy—The Hayden's**  
**Daily— Betty Hillemann**  
**Duffy—Noreen & Ron Cohen**  
**Honey (Maggie) - Kathy Jackson**  
**Harper—Emily & Scott Schopp**  
**Jubilee—Heather & Steve Huegel**  
**Katie/Joy—Teri & Ken Taylor**  
**Maggie— Lana Winter**  
**Mallory (Ginger) - Linda & John Geluso**  
**Megan—Debi & George Schmidt**  
**Merlin—Jan Wyka**  
**Molly - Kathy & Bill Hackmann**  
**Precious (Gladys) - Susan Weeks & Nancy Cusanelli**  
**Rose—Amanda & Andy Foulke**  
**Rosita—Judy Lee & Ed Hockett**  
**Sadie—Bernadette & Ed Durand**  
**Sampson—Kathy & Bill Hackmann**  
**Sprite—Rene & Robert Schneider**  
**Winston—Jan & Ray Knoche**  
**Yukon—Paula & Don Ingerson**  
**Zeus—Jeanna Walchi**

**Much happiness  
to our adopted  
goldens and their  
new families**



Old Dogs Do Not Die  
 We have a secret, you  
 and I,  
 That no one else shall  
 know,  
 For who but I can see  
 you lie  
 Each night in the fire-  
 glow?  
 And who but I can reach  
 my hand  
 Before we go to bed,  
 And feel the living  
 warmth of you  
 And touch your silken  
 head?  
 And only I walk wood-  
 land paths,  
 And see you ahead of  
 me,  
 Your small form racing  
 with the wind,  
 So young again, and  
 free.  
 And only I can see you  
 swim  
 In every brook I pass...  
 And when I call, no one  
 but I  
 Can see the bending  
 grass...

--Author Unknown

### Special Needs Dogs

I am a Special Needs Dog  
 That means I'm very special indeed

I'll bring unconditional love your way  
 On a dark and gloomy day

You have given me life  
 You have ignored my strife

I may not be as perfect as some  
 But in your heart you know I'm the one

Life dealt me a hard and cruel hand  
 But with your love I can withstand

I am a Special Needs Dog  
 I may be bothersome to some but  
 You wouldn't have me any other way  
 Because of the way I provide  
 Unconditional love to you today

**Daisy** – Special Needs Tripod – Rescue –  
 Golden Beginnings – Houston Texas.  
 Alpha Dog, In Your Face and At Your Heels  
 and Very Patriotic and Totally Loving

