

February 14, 2009

Middle Tennessee Golden Retriever Rescue had a very good 2008. Approximately 90 dogs were rescued and placed in forever homes. Just a few of the Success Stories are featured on the following pages.



WHY DO GOLDENS NEED RESCUING? You may be shocked at how many goldens end up homeless and unwanted. MTGRR has seen a marked increase in owner surrenders of beautiful, healthy dogs. In these cases, our rescue is a wonderful alternative compared to going through the emotional and practical difficulties of rehoming the dog by yourself or turning the dog over to a pound, since owner surrenders are subject to immediate euthanizing, whereas strays are normally held for a few days to give the owner a chance to reclaim them. Furthermore, municipal animal controls do not have resources to deal with the extreme overcrowding that they face, and the tragic bottom line is that there are not enough homes for all the unwanted pets. MTGRR fills a critical role by taking in these dogs, caring for them, and helping them get into adoptable condition.

MTGRR has made a huge difference to so many dogs, but we continue to operate on a very sparse budget. All donations are used to pay vet bills (yes, we get discounts, but the bills are still extensive). In case you are wondering, a donor generously funded the MTGRR branded hats and coffee mugs that are listed on the next page.

Check out the Before and After photos on the following pages to see how your donations can make a difference.

Middle TN Golden Retriever Rescue rescued six "breeder dogs" in late 2008. These females, ranging in age from 5 to 7, were used all their lives to produce litters. Overbreeding and lack of vet treatment caused them to develop painful infections in the mammary glands called mastitis. The infection can kill the litter and cause severe swelling and huge tumors in the mammaries (below left). In addition, the excessive breeding resulted in an aggressive form of malignant ovarian cancer for at least one dog. MTGRR paid extensive medical bills to treat these dogs and placed them into loving and responsible hands, where they are getting affection, care, and kind attention for the first time in their lives.

Below is one of the breeder dogs rescued, Amy, who is now living the good life with a lovely family in Franklin, Tennessee.



Please complete this form and return it to the address listed below

2009 Membership Application



YOUR NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

\$_____ Membership Dues (\$30/individual or \$40/family)

\$+_____ ADDITIONAL DONATION to help care for Goldens in need

If you wish, select a thank you gift for your ADDITIONAL DONATION

- ☐ ADDITIONAL DONATION of \$50 or more, receive a MTGRR 15oz coffee mug
☐ ADDITIONAL DONATION of \$75 or more, receive a MTGRR baseball cap

\$=_____ Total Tax Deductible Donation Enclosed

Make check payable to: MTGRR

Mail this page and your donation to:

MTGRR Membership
c/o Sarah Sherck
302 Cotton Lane
Franklin, TN 37069



Volunteering: I am interested in learning more about these activities (check all that apply and someone will contact you... checking a box doesn't obligate you in anyway):

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| _____ Fostering | _____ Transportation |
| _____ Adoption Committee/Home Visits | _____ Helping with Fundraising |
| _____ Mailings / Administrative / Newsletter | _____ Outreach / Public Relations |
| _____ I have something to donate to the annual eBay auction fundraiser | |
| _____ I am not sure how I want to get involved yet, but please call me to discuss | |
| _____ I would like to donate my professional services to MTGRR | |

My occupation is: _____

The best way to contact me is: _____

Success Stories: Penny

MTGRR rescued Penny from a county animal pound. We didn't know anything about her background... she came to the rescue just so scared. When the MTGRR volunteer picked her up, she got under the car seat. At the vet's office, she crawled under every table and chair she got near.

Penny is a totally different dog now! In her forever home, she is confident, outgoing, playful, and mischievous.

A loved dog shows it,
as you can see!

BEFORE - at the pound



AFTER - having fun at home!



Success Stories: Ginger

When MTGRR received Ginger's photo (right), she was out of time. The pound was going to euthanize her the next day unless she was rescued or adopted. The animal control facility tried for a few weeks to find her a home, but they have so little staff and such an overcrowding of homeless animals, that at some point they must make room. Sometimes it difficult from a photo to determine just how much golden retriever a dog is, but we felt she was "golden enough" and so we saved her. She was adopted out to a wonderful home and her photos actually appeared on the midday news in middle TN! She went from knocking on death's door to a home full of love and tenderness.

BEFORE



AFTER - AT HOME



Success Stories: Missy

MTGRR rescued Missy from a local shelter. She was so malnourished and neglected, the MTGRR volunteer who came to get her had to carry her to the car and into the vet. She snapped right back with love and quality dog food, and now has some great new best friends!

BEFORE RESCUE



AFTER



Success Stories: Sam

MTGRR rescued Sam and four other golden mixes from a shelter in southern Kentucky. MTGRR does what it can for goldens in Kentucky since the nearest rescue is in Louisville and they do not have the resources to venture south. Now Sam has a wonderful forever home where he is lovingly cared for and brings joy to everyone he meets.



BEFORE

AFTER - with adoptive family



Saving just one dog won't change the world, but it surely will change the world for that one dog.

*Submitted by
Bill and Deborah Bishop
February 2009*

In Memory of Mister

"We had three rescued goldens before we got Mister, all of whom were classic goldens, full of fun, self confident and that special golden vibe.

My wife had seen Mister on the MTGRR website and seen something in his face that said this boy needed a home. She drove up to pick him up and visit her sister. When she drove in on Sunday I was somewhat taken aback. Here was a skinny almost hairless boy whose spirit seemed broken. He was scared of his own shadow, very averse to men and very sad. The thing he liked to best was go to a part of the house where he could be alone.

He tolerated me, barely, but hated the sound of my big feet coming up the stairs. If you threw a ball for him, he would run away. No belly rubs were tolerated. No walking on a leash, he would try but freeze up after a short distance.

Yet out in the yard with his brothers and no humans he was a totally different guy, head up, tail up, having fun.



above: Mister is on the far right



Progress was very slow, I would say it was 2 years before he came to me to get his head rubbed. But that was one of the best days of my life, it meant so much to me that he had come to trust me.

Mister gradually came most of the way out of his shell, he learned to enjoy walking with his brothers, loved to go to the beach, and trips to the Georgia mountains. He still sometimes liked to sit in a corner and stare at the wall, but that was just Mister.

For a boy who had been poorly treated he gave love unreservedly. Biggest darkest eyes of any dog I ever had. And those curls. At the vet he was known as Mister Curly.

His last year (2008) was tough with 2 operations, but he gamely recovered and defied his prognosis by making 1 last trip to the beach and the mountains and had a good Christmas. Of course, Mister being Mister, his favorite spot was behind the tree! One other little quirk, when we would walk, Mis-

ter always liked to walk right behind me, I feel that he will always be back there just out of sight.

He tried to make it to Spring (2009) but it was just a little too far for him.

Mister taught me that even a golden who seems to have no golden spirit can be helped. More than that he helped me see that there is more to goldens than the usual funtime. The little things that Mister learned to do and enjoy meant so much and the love he gave us was wonderful. I would not trade my time with Mister for any other dog.

Thanks to everyone at MTGRR for helping us to have this wonderful boy for 5 1/2 years."





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email us: mtgrr@rescueagolden.org

«name» «business»
«address»
«City», «ST» «Zip»

IMPORTANT
RESPONSE
REQUESTED



Just a *few* of the 90 dogs that
MTGRR rescued & rehomed in 2008