

March 20, 2010

Middle Tennessee Golden Retriever Rescue had a busy 2009! MTGRR volunteers stay so busy throughout the year, helping one dog at a time, as if each were our own, that we were astonished at year end to find that we had rescued 117 dogs in 2009, a 23% increase from the prior year. In 2010, 45 dogs have been rescued. At this rate, the rescue could be helping 180 dogs by year end (that would be a 54% increase!) Exciting, but intimidating.



While we are thrilled about how many more dogs are being helped by MTGRR each year, we are also overwhelmed. Frankly, the ever-present need of homeless animals that exists is daunting. We have seen a marked increase in the past six months... clearly the economy is taking its toll on families and their animals. We are concerned about how we can keep pace financially with the growing need.

It never ceases to shock us when we routinely find gorgeous, friendly, purebred golden retrievers turning up in animal controls and shelters. In addition, the rescue is contacted by people who can no longer care for their dogs.

**Please don't set this aside. Please make a donation today, the dogs really need your help in 2010.**

Check out just a few of the 117 Success Stories on the following pages to see how your donation really does make a difference.

Year	Dogs Rescued by MTGRR
2009	117
2008	95
2007	78

Give with confidence, knowing that our small but passionate group of volunteers is working tirelessly to save the lives of these dogs and find them wonderful homes. MTGRR operates on a strict budget and every penny is used for the care of the rescued dogs.

Thank you for your kind consideration of the dogs. The rescue cannot function without your support.

Sincerely,  
Anne Cheek, President

## Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering with MTGRR is so fulfilling. Even if you only have a little time to give, please consider getting involved! If you would like to learn more about volunteer activities, check all that apply.

- Fostering
- Transport Team (in your local area)
- Adoption Committee and Home Visits (meet nice people!)
- Fundraising
- Mailings / Administrative / Newsletter
- Outreach / Public Relations
- Donate professional services; what is your occupation or skill set?

NOT SURE? Check here, and we'll email you descriptions and estimated time commitments for the various volunteer opportunities.

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

## 2010 Membership



**PRINT YOUR NAME HERE:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Membership Dues: \$30/individual or \$40/family

\$+\_\_\_\_\_ ADDITIONAL DONATION to help care for Golden Retrievers in need

*If you wish, select a thank you gift for your additional donation:*

- \$50 additional donation, receive a MTGRR static sticker for car window
- \$50 additional donation, receive a MTGRR key chain
- \$75 additional donation, receive a MTGRR baseball cap
- \$75 additional donation, receive a MTGRR 15 oz. oversized mug

\$=\_\_\_\_\_ Total Donation (mail check or donate securely online)

**MAILING  
ADDRESS**

**Make check payable to: MTGRR**

**Mail this page and your donation to:**

MTGRR Membership  
c/o MTGRR  
PO Box 681106  
Franklin TN 37068-1106

**PAY  
ONLINE**

**Donate online** securely with your  
VISA, Mastercard, etc, at PayPal.

**Go To:** [www.rescueagolden.org](http://www.rescueagolden.org) for a link to PayPal



*All thank you gifts have been contributed by a private donor*

# Success Stories: Oliver

MTGRR was contacted by someone who said that a 4 to 5 yr old golden had been dumped nearby. In her words "I live in the country where dropping off dogs is common." This kind woman tried for weeks to find his owners, then contacted MTGRR. When MTGRR rescued Oliver, he was taken to the vet, who determined that he had a peg leg due to an untreated injury. Apart from his leg, being gaunt and generally neglected, he was in decent shape. In addition to x-rays, MTGRR had Oliver neutered, gave him annual shots, heartworm preventative, and flea/tick treatment.

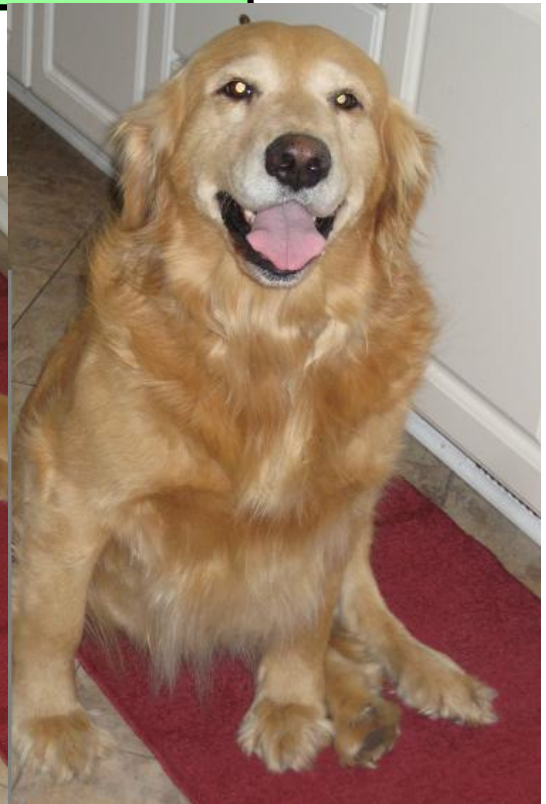
The family who adopted Oliver reports: "As soon as we saw Oliver's picture, we were pretty certain we wanted to meet him. He has such a sweet face. We didn't mind that he only has the use of three legs. He's the best dog. Our three kids love him and Oliver loves them back. We were so happy we could give him a home and we knew he'd never be without a home and love again."

## BEFORE RESCUE



## AFTER RESCUE

The photos don't lie, a loved dog shows it. Below, Oliver's beautiful coat has come in, his eyes have a sparkle, and his smile is back. In the photo (above right), he looked like one sad doggie. Hooray for happy endings!



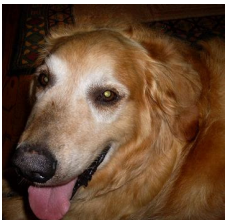
# Success Stories: Charlie

“Charlie came to MTGRR in June 2009 at age 7, and was surrendered by his 90 yr old owner who could no longer care for him. As his foster family, we saw a different form of abuse/neglect. MTGRR takes in dogs regularly that have suffered terrible malnourishment, physical and emotional abuse and other travesties. Charlie’s case was different. Charlie had been overfed for years to the point that his health and longevity was at serious risk. When we first saw him he didn’t even resemble a Golden. He was a big round furry blob with what appeared to be a little tiny head on an enormous body. His tail had all but disappeared as it absorbed into his body because his skin couldn’t stretch enough to support his mass. He was a whopping 136 pounds.

Initially, Charlie could never get comfortable or sleep through the night. He was carrying so much weight that his breathing was labored even when he was resting. He had to pant constantly to try to stay cool, and if he laid in one spot for more than 5 minutes it would put too much pressure on his internal organs and he would have to move again. Canine obesity can be just as devastating as malnourishment.

We put Charlie on a strict diet of 400 calories a day and 1 treat. The first few weeks were hard because he was always hungry, and didn’t really understand. We also started on exercise, which was very slow at first. Charlie couldn’t run, and couldn’t walk very far either. In June we would walk about 1/8 of a mile, let Charlie lay down and have a drink of water, and then walk 1/8 of a mile back to the house. We did this three to four times a day and built up his stamina. By late July we had decided to adopt Charlie, and we were doing 3 mile walks. Fast forward to September, and Charlie could start to jog for short distances. We noticed that when we would sit on the patio at the local coffee shop, people went from saying “look at that fat dog” to “look at that beautiful dog”.

Each week we checked in with our vet for a weigh-in. The veterinary staff was infinitely supportive of Charlie and MTGRR, and celebrated with us at every milestone. Charlie made it to his weight goal in January of 2010. He is a big Golden at 95 pounds, with an even bigger heart. He can’t wait to get outside to run as fast as he can each day. We think Charlie loves running even more because his obesity prevented him from enjoying the activity of a normal golden for so many years. He is a gorgeous boy.



Without MTGRR, Charlie may not have made it 6 more months, but today he has a long life ahead of him. He’s a very special boy, and a true testament to the importance of maintaining a healthy weight.”



# Success Stories: Rosie

At 14 years of age, Rosie turned up at a municipal animal control as a stray. MTGRR has no idea how she ended up there, but she was in rough shape. Many times, overcrowded shelters will simply euthanize elderly dogs like Rosie. But lucky for her, a volunteer at the shelter emailed MTGRR the photo (right) to request her rescue, and a volunteer rushed out to the facility to save her.

Rosie was suffering from acute malnutrition and neglect when MTGRR took her in - she is a tough old girl to have survived! Rosie has chronic ear infections that have gone untreated so long that she is totally deaf. Since she has been started on thyroid medicine, her mood has really improved and she is enjoying life in her loving "long term" foster home.

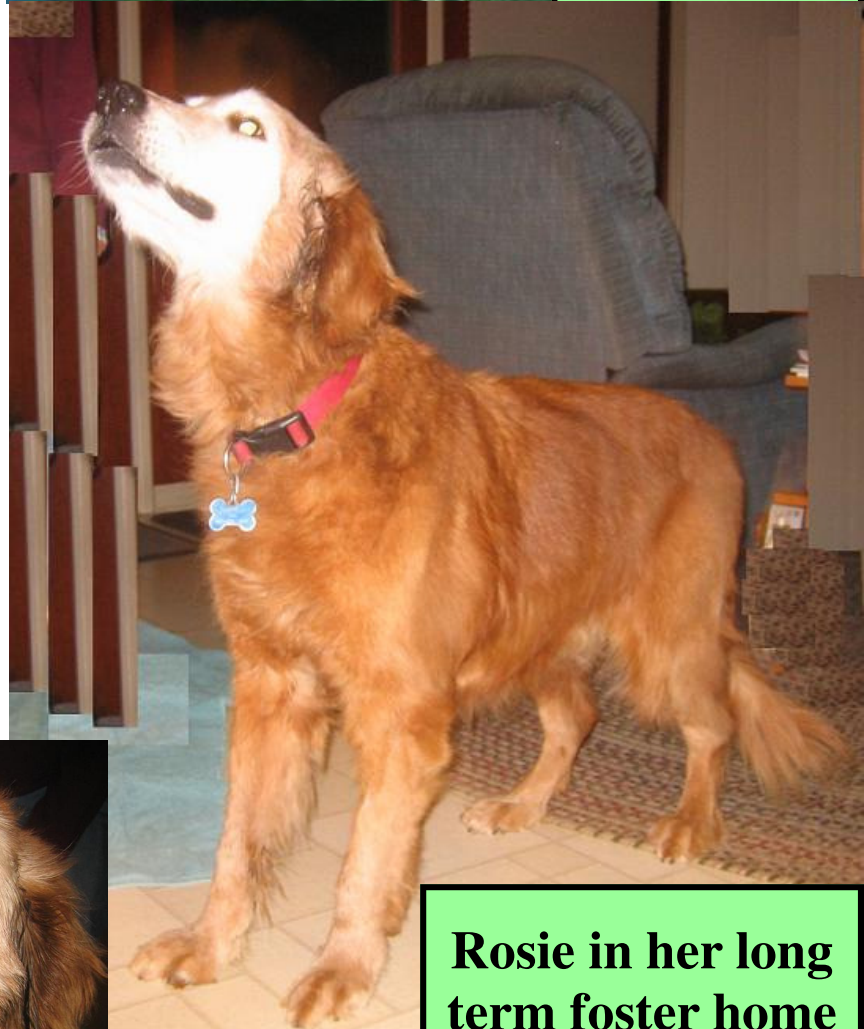
## What is a long term foster home?

Since there are very few people in the general public who are willing to adopt a senior golden retriever, MTGRR places dogs like Rosie into homes where the foster family is committed to caring for the dog on a long term basis (usually months, possibly a year or more). MTGRR pays for all the dog's needs while the dog is in foster care.

There is always a great need for senior foster care, so please consider helping out a healthy senior, who's only fault is having survived to a ripe old age. Seniors can be the easiest to care for, they require very little. If it gets to be too much, the rescue will promptly take the dog back. Please contact us if you'd like more info about fostering.



**Rosie at the shelter**



**Rosie in her long term foster home**



# Success Stories: Pete

Pete is the perfect answer to the question that MTGRR regularly hears “*Why do Golden Retrievers need rescuing?*”. Golden Retrievers need rescuing because gorgeous, affectionate dogs just like Pete end up in animal shelters every day. These dogs deserve a good home and a second chance.

**Pete at the shelter →**



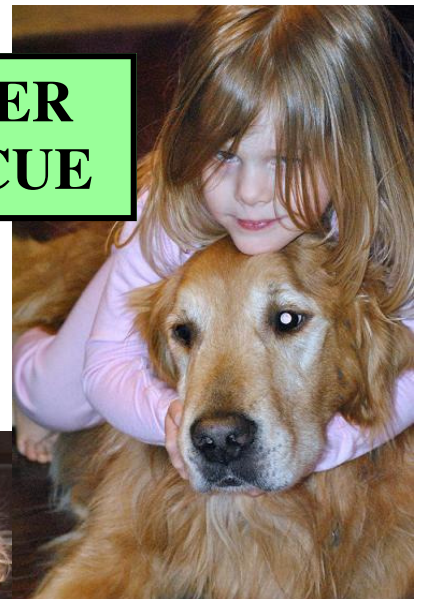
Common reasons animals are surrendered are financial difficulties, divorce, death/illness of the dog’s primary caregiver, and behavioral issues that people don’t know how to correct. Some people don’t realize how much responsibility there is in properly caring for a dog, and get in over their heads. Pete, age 5, didn’t have any behavioral issues, but he was homeless nonetheless. MTGRR rescued him. Volunteers drove several hours into Kentucky and back to pull him from a rural shelter. He was brought to Middle TN, placed in a foster home, and soon his wonderful family put in an application to adopt him.

Pete’s family reports:

*“we are so lucky to have him in our family!”*



**AFTER RESCUE**



# Success Stories: Maxim

Maxim, an owner surrender, was rescued when he was a year old. He lived outdoors his whole life, tied to a dog house in the back of a property (see first set of photos below).

Golden Retrievers are bred for companionship, and make terrible "back yard" dogs. Golden Retrievers are happiest when they are living indoors and in the midst of family activities. MTGRR took Maxim in and found him a wonderful forever home!

Maxim is pictured below in his new home, with his brother, Ruger.

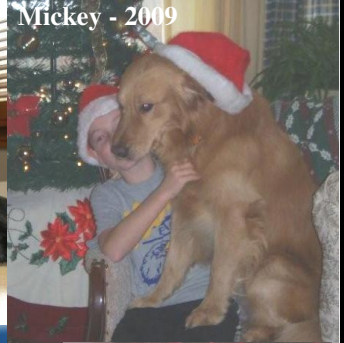
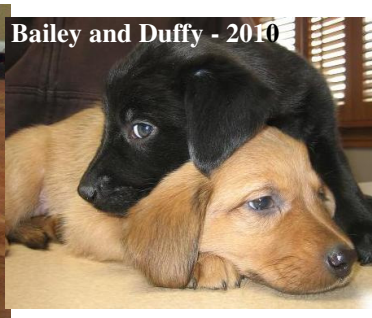
## Maxim's home before rescue (tethered to a doghouse)



## AFTER RESCUE



# Favorite Photos of MTGRR rescues



## Annual "Rescued Dogs" Posters now available

To order, or for any questions, please email us at [mtgrr@rescueagolden.org](mailto:mtgrr@rescueagolden.org)

Middle TN Golden Retriever Rescue is very pleased to make available this poster-size collage of "Rescued Dogs of 2008" or "Rescued Dogs of 2009"!

Commemorate the year your family rescued your beloved golden with this touching keepsake that honors all the other dogs who found their forever homes. All proceeds from the sale of this collage are used by the rescue to pay for vet care and other needs of rescued golden retrievers.

This is an high resolution 11x14 poster photo that is printed on top quality photo paper. The photo will arrive ready to frame in any 11x14 frame (a standard size).

### Pricing

Option #1: \$18 (standard, left).

Option #2: \$28 (personalized, right).

