

# ***SEASON'S GREETINGS***



**Are any of these presents for me?**

***With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year***

**From the Trustees and Co-ordinators**

**of**

***SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE***  
***(Registered Charity Number 1098769)***

## Golden moments issue 7

Our Rescue team were as busy as usual over the summer, and had to deal with some very sad cases. One in particular was an elderly dog found wandering, crawling with fleas and in a terribly emaciated condition – just a layer of skin covering his bones – and some large growths. He was taken to the holding kennels by the Dog Warden, where he was treated and his growths removed, and after three weeks we took him into a foster home, where he was given more veterinary care, and tried to find him a permanent home. Unfortunately no suitable home was found so he now lives with one of us, and is putting on weight and looking much better. We shall never know how or why this poor old chap came to be wandering around in this state, but thank goodness he is now safe and receiving plenty of TLC.

The two Fun Days were as usual a great success, despite the rain in Hampshire and the intense heat three weeks later in Kent. Trust the English weather! Thank you to all those who contributed in any way, and especially those who brought their dogs for the Rescue Parade – we do love to see them all looking so happy.

Remember the winter can bring a new set of dangers for our pets. Beware of allowing them on frozen ponds and lakes as the ice may look thicker than it really is. Remove the balls of ice that accumulate in your dog's feet in the snow, as these can be very painful. Christmas brings other hazards – lots of decorations to chew, which may be dangerous, rich foods can cause tummy upsets and chocolate can be lethal to dogs. Try to keep them away from too much excitement, as many dogs find this very stressful.

Finally, if you sent us a story which does not appear in this issue, it will definitely be in the next one.



### Charlie Pike

*(Peter and Sue Pike adopted Charlie at the end of 1991, when he was 18 months old. His original owners were a young couple but tragically the husband died suddenly and the wife was unable to cope with a young dog and a new baby. Charlie died in the Autumn of 2005, at the age of 15½ and the Pikes have sent this lovely story)*



The night before I was due to go into hospital, Charlie had some sort of distressing fit and I called the Vet to come out to him even though it was 10p.m.

She duly arrived and, sitting on the kitchen floor, gave him an intravenous injection to calm him down. She has looked after him for 5 years and is very fond of him. The next morning he failed to wake up. You will appreciate that had he done so and been unable to rise, I would have been faced with an awful situation.

We had him cremated and intend to place him in the garden in the spring.

On Christmas Eve, we were all upstairs preparing to go out to dinner, when the front door bell went. Sue went down and found no-one there but a large envelope on the door step.

She brought it upstairs to open it; there was a Pastel - of Charlie by his Vet. There was mascara all down the staircase as you may imagine. What an amazing thing to have done. I do hope you like it as much as we do.

*“One reason the dog has so many friends; He wags his tail instead of his tongue”*



## Cycling for Rescue

Our thanks go to Mrs Karen Sutton, her husband Graham and their four friends, Roy Mansell, Judi Goodwin, Megan Goodwin and Tom Hutchinson for organising a sponsored cycle ride for our funds. In terrible weather in May they cycled 20 miles and raised the magnificent sum of £450. Karen says they thoroughly enjoyed themselves despite the rain and we are very grateful to all of them for their efforts. Karen and Graham adopted Daisy 18 months ago and her story appeared in our Newsletter last Christmas.



## Success for Manu

Manu was rehomed in 2004 as a 21 month old, very withdrawn dog with a reputation for being destructive when left. Sarah and her husband Graham took him to live with their other two dogs, a border collie and a Yorkshire terrier, and as Sarah enjoyed doing obedience with the collie she started training Manu. He took to it like a duck to water and progressed so well that Sarah entered him in some Companion Dog Show competitions, where he had some success, so Sarah took the plunge and recently entered him in his first "proper" obedience show. He worked very well until it came to the "retrieve", when he decided to present the dumbbell in a begging position, so lost several points for that section. However, the Judge was so impressed with him he awarded Manu a special rosette for "the dog with the most potential". Well done Manu, and good luck in future competitions



## News from Bess

*(Bess was 8 years old when her previous owner adopted her from Battersea Dogs' Home, but she ran a busy pub/restaurant and Bess found that environment quite stressful, so after eight months it was decided to find her a new home, and she went to live with Joan & Les Anderson after their previous rescue dog, 13 year old Bonnie, died.)*

At long last I've got Joan to put pen to paper. I have settled in very well and am having a great life. Joan and Les both take me to a "Dog Park" which is fenced in so us dogs can't get out. There aren't any trees (that



doesn't worry me being a girl) but plenty of little hills which I can run up and down, and then we come back via the beach. I'm still not swimming but I do like a paddle. I know that they used to take Bonnie there as I hear them talking about her. I know she was 13 years when she went to live with Joan and Les. Well, if her last 10 months were anything like my first 6 months, she had a lovely time. As I'm younger I go fishing and lugging (that's for bait) with Les and have a great time. I come home very happy but very muddy, so thank you for finding me such a happy home. I've a lovely garden to do what I like, life is great.

All my love, Bess



## Charlie's Tale

*(From Ruth and Sid Farmer)*



Charlie came to live with Bonnie and us in June 2005 when he was just one year old. He came in the unfortunate circumstances of a family bereavement, from a home where he had obviously been loved and well cared for. Charlie settled in very quickly under the "guidance" of Bonnie, our Bull Terrier/Whippet cross who might better have been named Bossie. From the start they got on very well and he learned a great deal from her – how to play with toys and chase a ball. He barks when he wants attention or thinks a stranger may be coming to the house. He is an extremely friendly dog with a good sense of humour. We often say of him that he doesn't have an aggressive bone in him; he likes other dogs and is excellent with children.

He likes nothing better than to play ball in the garden, although there are still few signs of him being a retriever, or

to run loose on the sands dipping in the sea if he is allowed. His other favourite pastime is to run free in the nature reserve at Pegwell Bay. At home he is obedient and affectionate. He has progressed from being a puppy, the new dog in town, to being an adolescent who is feeling comfortable in his surroundings. He has grown into a very handsome dog and has many admirers when he is taken for a walk. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have been able to look after Charlie and he, along with Bonnie, is much loved by all our family and friends.



**Rocky**  
(From Lyn & Stuart Hay)

Rocky, a 4 year-old boy, came to us last July after we waited 14 months for the right one to come along. He had to fit into our family of three cats and two dogs, so we contacted Mr & Mrs Richardson of Southern Golden Retriever Rescue.

Our first meeting with Rocky and our two little girl cockers went really well. Our first impression was – what a lovely dog, big, blonde & hairy. We both had a tear in our eyes as we knew he was the one. THE day came when we could pick Rocky up and take him to his new home. The first thing we did was to pick our girls up, so with Rocky and the girls we went for a nice walk together then HOME.

Rocky has fitted in so well. He loves going for walks, chewing old wood, chasing balls, he is always so pleased when we come home he picks up a cushion, dog blanket, or cat bed, sometimes the cat is still in it! When he first arrived the only thing he came with was his blanket which he slept on by our bed. As time's gone on he likes to sleep on the spare bed, head on the pillow. YES, he has made himself at home (his home). The only

fault he really has is (he's watching me writing this bit) his keen eye for food left on the work tops. So far he has had a newly baked fruit cake – only four slices cut (the thing is, it wasn't our fruit cake, we were just visiting). Had to see the funny side?

He's also had part of my sandwiches when my back was turned, and the odd bit of cat food if it's left close to the edge. The latest item was five slices of garlic bread while I was waiting for the oven to warm.

All in all we just love Rocky. Our last golden retriever, ELLIE, we had from 12 weeks till she was nearly 16 when she passed away. We know Rocky will give us so much in return for the love we will give him.



**ARCHIE'S STORY**

**This story is in acknowledgement of the kindness and dedication by Pat Marchant of Southern Golden Retriever Rescue and of the help and training by Chrissie, Barry and Karen of CARA Dog Training**

Archie was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2005 at a kennels in Wales, just twenty-five days after dear Bertie, my Golden Labrador cross, died, aged about nine. Bertie could only be described as a gentleman and I really don't

recall him ever doing anything wrong. I took his loss very hard, as he'd been my constant companion day and night, and, much as I'd always loved dogs, I didn't find it that difficult over the following months to resist finding a new pal, despite encouragement from my family.

Meanwhile, just before Christmas, Archie found his first home and he was to be named Ringo. However, whilst it appears his new owners loved him, they found when Christmas had passed that they were unable to look after him, as they both worked full time. After only three weeks, they phoned Pat Marchant to see if she could find a good home for him. To cut a long story short, it was arranged to bring him to Pat's house in Surrey on Friday, the 6<sup>th</sup> January.



It so happened that just before that, in December, I was beginning to miss the companionship that goes with having one's own dog. I'd had my own dogs for over thirty-five years and even when I lost Bertie, each day I'd continue to walk his pal Nelson, just as I'd been doing for several years. Nelson was also a Golden Labrador cross but belonged to a neighbour. As I'd had my last two dogs from the RSPCA and I'd had the necessary inspection and appraisal, I returned there to see if I could repeat the process but, with new regulations in place since my last visit, I left unable to choose a dog, despite there being no change in my circumstances. There was the prospect of weeks before the system could grind into place. The RSPCA staff were powerless to help, but as sympathetic and helpful as they could be in the circumstances. The Blue Cross, whom I'd contacted just previously, had been neither!

When I phoned Southern Golden Retriever Rescue in late December, just after Christmas, it was an entirely different story. First I made contact with Wendy Mercer in the Portsmouth area and I explained my circumstances. She said she would circulate my details to her fellow Coordinators in the south and that I would receive a call when something suitable came in. In just over a week Pat Marchant called to say she had a fifteen-week-old male coming in that evening, so would I consider a pup? I was interested, even though it was much younger than I originally had in mind. Pat knew I had raised puppies before and, being retired now, I warmed to her idea of moulding him into the sort of dog I would want him to grow into. I waited for the call with increasing eagerness and, sure enough, it came that same evening, as soon as the owners had departed.

I arranged to arrive at Pat's house at 11:00 am the next day, Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> January, and I needed to be leaving home at about 9 o'clock. As I was getting into my car the phone rang. It was Pat. She told me the owners had had a change of heart and were coming to collect puppy to take him back home. I was disappointed, but philosophical – it just wasn't to be, or so I thought. I decided to put it behind me but couldn't help wondering what might have been. Pat told me I would be put to the top of the list for the next dog available, which was heartening, but all I could do for the time being was to revert to my original weekend plans.

However, on Sunday morning the phone rang again. It was Pat once more to say the owners had done some more soul searching and rung back. They had come to the decision, with encouragement from Pat, that it really was in puppy's best interests to go to a new home where he could be looked after as he deserved. I didn't hesitate. I was packed and gone in ten minutes!

Pat had told me he was rather handsome. She also said that he was very 'laid back' for a puppy, but not to feel committed when I arrived and that a 'no thank you' would be fully understood.

When I saw the little twenty-pound bundle of fluff for the first time it wouldn't have mattered if he'd had only one leg. 'Rather handsome' proved to be a gross understatement and there was absolutely no chance of a 'no thank you!' I was totally smitten and Archie had found his second and final home in that instant.

Pat kindly gave me some refreshments whilst she gave me the benefit of her advice and, after we completed the formalities, I put Archie into the cage in the back of my car. There wasn't a murmur for the entire two-hour journey home, where my wife, and my son who had driven forty miles to see him, were waiting. When they saw him, it was love at first sight!

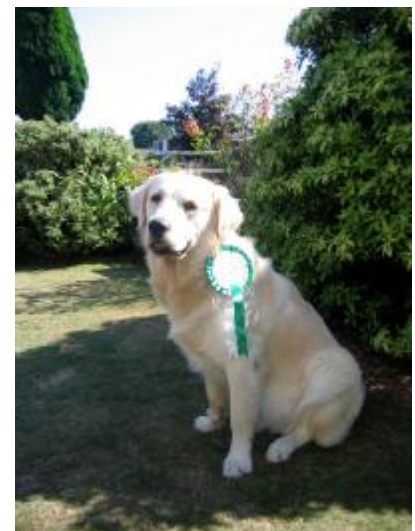
The following day, I enrolled him with Chrissie and Barry at CARA (Care and Reward Assisted) Dog Training in Pennington, in the New Forest, and we have been going ever since. He progressed through the Puppy Socialisation and Beginners Training Courses, and is now

continuing with the Improvers Course. He's showing his adolescent nature from time to time right now, which is to be expected, but he's really very funny and adorable at the same time. His current Improvers Class had, for a few weeks, just four bitches and Archie and, understandably one could argue, he flirted disgracefully, but he does usually respond very well

when we knuckle down to it at home or when out on our walks.

Archie has so far been entered in three dog shows and has also been to a photographic studio when his photograph was entered in a newspaper competition. He has so far collected three rosettes in fun categories along the way.

Under Chrissie and Barry's guidance, and ably assisted by Karen, Archie has also achieved his Bronze and Silver Good Citizen Dog Scheme Awards and will soon be working towards the



Gold. Now, just after his first birthday, he has started agility training, but due to his age and size (he is over eighty pounds (37 kgs) and still growing), the jumps are restricted.

As promised, Pat kept in touch regularly at first to see how Archie was settling in. She has also been there to support us when he has thrown little challenges in the way. For this I'm indebted to her and to Southern Golden Retriever Rescue, and have gained the greatest admiration and respect for their ongoing care and dedication to their charges.



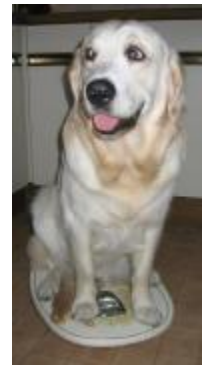
Archie behaves just as Pat suggested in her original assessment. Nothing fazes him; thunder-storms and fireworks are merely interesting and garden hoses are definitely to be played with! He even enjoys being vacuum cleaned! He rarely barks and loves other dogs and people. He adores my grandchildren and obeys the older one's commands, even though he's only two-and-a-half years old!

Despite his size, Archie is still a hit with all ages wherever he goes. Without doubt, his good manners and winning ways endear him to all and in this respect I'm certain that his training has paid big dividends.

His fur has been turning pink in places (strawberry blond, we are informed), and it's spreading. It's particularly noticeable when

he's wet, which seems to be most of the time during hot weather! Quite embarrassing for a red-blooded male you'd think, but it's certainly of no consequence to Archie!

I was fortunate to be able to take my dogs with me during my working career, but being retired has allowed me to devote that much more time and effort towards basic and fun training, and towards understanding fundamental requirements, like nutrition, general health and dogs' needs. Archie just loves his daily grooming, but brushing his teeth is still a trial because he has a taste for the toothpaste and tries to lick it from the brush! He loves to be towelled down after his swim, loves his bath and seems to understand and appreciate his daily prodding and poking and checking. He gives the vet no trouble during his health checks and injections and his weight is carefully monitored and recorded at home every week on bathroom scales that I've modified using a Formica tea tray!



Having a puppy again has been revitalising and I look forward to seeing his face each morning when I wake. Usually, Archie has two or three walks a day and at least one will involve water, even if just a puddle!



I suppose people could be forgiven for thinking Archie and I are an item, never one without the other, but I like to think that he is a family dog and I am always pleased to see him enjoying the company of others and the pleasure he gives. My last dog Bertie had been approved as a P.A.T. dog and every sign so far suggests that Archie will be an ideal and worthy successor.



Dennis Spencer



### A Christmas treat for your dog

5 minutes to mix

40 minutes to bake

Makes 15-30 biscuits depending on size

8 oz sausage meat  
8 oz plain wholemeal flour  
2-3 fl oz of stock or water

Preheat oven to 180c/350f/Gas 4. Mix sausage meat and flour with the stock to stiff dough. Roll out on floured surface to required thickness and cut into shapes, or roll into mini sausages. Place on ungreased baking sheets and bake for 30-50 minutes depending on size. Take care not to burn but they need to be hard. Cool before serving – can be eaten by humans!

