



He should have had a good life with a family to love him. Instead, he was neglected and ignored. There was a divorce in the family and Max was relegated to the yard. He had not seen a vet in 3 years. By the time we brought Max into rescue, his condition was dire. He was severely emaciated—suffering from malnutrition and dehydration. The blonde Golden who should have weighed about 65 pounds now weighed only 40.



He should have had a good life with a family to love him. Instead his body was literally crippled by valley fever bone lesions. The lesions which are every bit as painful as bone cancer were apparent on his feet and all along his spine. He could barely walk from the pain. His nails were curling under his paws until they were trimmed at the hospital.



He should have had a family to love him. Instead, his x-rays showed a large mass in his chest and abdomen, both a likely result of the ravages of valley fever. His eyes were filled with mucous and he had sores and rashes on all four legs. Max was very lethargic---he had given up on life.



He should have had a family to love him. Instead, this sweet 8 year old Golden boy was sent to the Bridge in the loving embrace of 3 RAGofAZ volunteers. There was nothing that could be done for Max that would have brought about any quality of life for him.

We want all of the adopters, members and friends of RAGofAZ to be aware of the deadly disease that is Valley fever. Every dog that comes into our rescue is tested for valley fever and approximately 2/5 of all dogs test positive for valley fever---anywhere from a weak exposure to a more advanced form of the disease.

We at RAGofAZ urge you to have your Golden and other pets checked for valley fever.

We have established a memorial fund for Max called the Max Valley Fever Memorial Fund. Half of the funds donated will remain with RAGofAZ in our General Fund. The other half of the donated funds will

be donated in Max's memory to the Valley Fever Center for Excellence at the University of Arizona in Tucson to continue research into more effective treatments and a possible cure for Valley Fever.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this please send an email to ragofaz@golden-retriever.org All donations made by check should be made payable to RAGofAZ with notation that it is in memory of Max. Should you wish to make a donation via credit card, please go to the RAGofAZ website www.golden-retriever.org; click on the "How to Help" tab; click on "Make a Donation; Reason for Donation, type in Max- Valley Fever Fund or you can send an email to ragofaz@golden-retriever.org with your home, cell or work phone number and someone will call you for your credit card information. Fund collections will run from January 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011.

For more information on Valley Fever, please go to <http://www.vfce.arizona.edu/>.

Thank you.