



Shhhh . . . the princess is sleeping.

### **YOU CAN GO YOUR OWN WAY . . .**

That is what little Stevie was told when she was abandoned at a Tucson shelter last fall. When RAGofAZ rescued her, she was a very sick little girl estimated to be 18 months old. Not only did she have heartworm, tick fever, and anemia, but she was pregnant too! She was a wonderful mom to her three beautiful black puppies, which have all been adopted. And then . . . finally it was Stevie's turn, and she was adopted by Robyn and Paul! It has taken nine months of TLC and very painful heartworm treatments to get

Stevie heartworm free. Because she'd had to be kept sedentary for six months, it took time to build up her strength. But now she enjoys every minute of every day with her big four-footed sister, Annie. While the tick fever has returned, Stevie does not look or act ill in any way. In fact, she is always running and fetching tennis balls at the dog park and playing tug-of-war with Annie. Robyn and Paul have this to say about their new baby girl: ***"Stevie may have had a rough start to life as a stray in Tucson nine months ago, but nowadays she sleeps at the end of our bed and is treated like the little princess she is. We feel blessed that we got the opportunity to adopt her and have her sweetness grace our family."*** Looks like Stevie feels the same way.

### **FROM "DESPERADO" TO "PEACEFUL EASY FEELING"**

Willie (formerly Rudy) was a stray rescued by RAGofAZ out of an emergency shelter, apparently the victim of an animal attack. He needed extensive sutures to repair his torn and infected right ear. After one week, Willie was delivered to his new owners, Barbara and Rick. Poor thing, he was shaved from shoulders to midway up his head (like he had a bad toupee!).

He was about ten pounds underweight and had multiple puncture wounds all over his neck and head, but the biggest concern was still the condition of his right ear. For the next several weeks, Barbara and Rick had to soak Willie's ear and head wounds with warm compresses multiple times a day and apply a stinging antibiotic medicine. The process was painful for this pup, but he was an amazing trooper! He didn't cry or fight . . . just looked at his new mom and dad with his loving, soulful eyes. Even with all this care, Willie's ear was so badly infected and torn there was thought that an ear specialist would have to remove his entire ear canal. But this story has a happy ending! Barbara and Rick report that ***"after a couple of months, all his wounds healed, his hair grew back, and now he is quite handsome! He is a happy boy and the love of our lives. In fact, we have put in a request for another Golden close to Willie's age, because we know he would love to have a buddy! None of this would be possible if not for the generosity of RAGofAZ and the donations they get from the community. Thank you all!"***



I was standing on a corner in Tucson Arizona . . .

## THOSE OLDIES BUT GOODIES . . .

Tasha is a 13 year old female who was surrendered to RAGofAZ by her long-time owners when they fell upon hard times. Sadly, Tasha's health had been neglected, and the vet soon discovered several tumors, a cyst in her mouth, and another badly abscessed tooth that had to be removed. Fortunately, her cysts proved to be benign, and surgery remedied her terrible dental problems. Tasha does have arthritis and is now almost completely deaf, but that didn't stop a dedicated Golden-lover named Ruth Ann from offering her the unending love and warmth of a "forever" home. Tasha now uses a ramp to "walk the plank" in and out of her owner's SUV. With her new companion dog, Sedona, she heads to the dog park in the morning and takes an amble around the neighborhood at sundown. ***"Since she is almost totally deaf, she is learning a little sign language,"*** says Ruth, ***"and a touch between the shoulder blades or a loud clapping of hands will get her attention. Herbal medicine and an occasional visit to our favorite naturopathic vet for acupuncture keeps her arthritis under control. 'Old Golds' are wonderful friends and companions. They have experienced the world and just enjoy life."*** This oldie found a "forever" goodie.



Natalee couldn't resist me, happens all the time ...



Play that song "Happy" for me again

## HOW CAN YOU MEND A BROKEN HEART?

Finnegan (formerly Snowy) came to RAGofAZ through the intervention of a concerned vet and another rescue group. Finnegan slipped out of his home, was hit by a car, and taken to an emergency animal hospital by a good Samaritan. He was diagnosed with a broken leg and placed in a splint. Another rescue group wanted to help Finnegan, but could not afford the vet bills, so a caring veterinarian steered them to RAGofAZ. Our partner vet advised that Finnegan's leg needed to be reset because it had moved in the splint and was beginning to heal in the wrong position. Finnegan now has a rod, plate and screws to hold the bone in place while it mends, and he is making a fantastic recovery. While all this was going on, a dedicated member named Lindsey was grieving over the loss of her beloved Golden Retriever, Oliver, and could not imagine that anyone could begin to heal the hole in her heart. Finnegan

knew it would be a tough job, but he understood what a broken heart felt like and was up to the challenge.

When Lindsey saw Finnegan, it was love at first sight. Lindsey reports that ***"we had the staples removed from his leg and the doctor says all is looking well. He has been such an awesome addition to our family. I believe he has helped me in my grieving for Oliver. I miss my Oli every day, but the antics and sweetness of Finnegan are definitely putting a smile on my face."*** Nothing and no one ever replaces a precious Golden, but sometimes love will not be denied.