

Merry Christmas! We hope this note finds you enjoying the Holiday Season!



In lieu of a traditional wrapped Christmas gift, we have made a donation and are pleased to share with you the

Gift of Jax!

We met Jax—a 9 year old Golden Retriever—this past September when Golden Retriever Rescue of Michigan (GRRoM.com) called on us (we are “emergency rescue volunteers”) to pick up Jax from an owner-surrender situation. We drove an hour to his location and were very happy to get Jax into GRRoM.

While Jax’s most basic needs had been met, he was neglected and suffering from severe and painful ear infections and a long-term food allergy: the allergy caused so much discomfort that many areas of Jax’s coat were bare from chewing and scratching.

Despite these hardships he was very friendly and happy to hop into our car!

Along with a proper diet, we/GRRoM provided immediate Veterinary attention which included anti-itch medicine, ear treatments, blood work, and neutering.

Almost immediately we knew Jax had vision issues and scheduled an exam with a Veterinary eye specialist. Jax has *pigmentary uveitis* which was described as mini blood vessels that pop and can be extremely painful. Fortunately, eye drops (2 times a day) help prevent further discomfort.

The eye specialist also identified a second vision issue: *progressive retinal atrophy*. Sadly, there is no cure and Jax will be fully blind in about a year. We have been in contact with Leaders Dogs for the Blind in Rochester, Michigan (they train dogs to serve as guides for vision-impaired people). Through Leader Dogs we met a canine specialist who has experience with blind dogs, and this very nice person is going to help us/GRRoM teach Jax special queues that will help his confidence as his sight diminishes.

We were Jax’s guardians for three weeks, then he transferred to another GRRoM guardian (we remain his back-up guardian should a need arise). We have all come to love Jax: despite his history of neglect and health concerns, he loves people, walks, car rides, treats, and an occasional silly hat!



In a year that has provided countless obstacles and heartache for humans, it has also taken a toll on the animals. Jax has brought joy and resilience to all of us at GRRoM and we hope this “**Gift of Jax**” does the same for you!

Merry Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year!

Love,
Bob & Nancy (and Jax!)

