

**Clifford's Success Story**  
**(Adopted by Cathy Retterer, December 2008)**



I just couldn't believe that I was in a shelter and everyone there knew my name was Clifford. They were nice, but I did not want to be there. But very soon a wonderful NCGRR volunteer, Kris Williams picked me up and we drove to her home where I stayed for the next 9 months. I guess I was over weight because I sorta waddled, but my foster mom, Kris, helped me lose 48 pounds. Even though I knew my foster mom loved me, I knew I needed my forever home. One day she drove me to Sparks, Nevada, where I met that special someone, Cathy Retterer. As soon as I walked into her house, I knew I was home. And I have been in my forever home for almost a year.

Because I am such a loveable dog, how can you not be with the name like Clifford, Kris selected me as the official Golden inspector for NCGRR. My mom comes with me when we visit homes to decide if a rescued Golden can be placed with these future families. If it is a Yes, I wag tail.

I love the hikes my mom and I take in the desert; and I love chasing rabbits. Haven't caught one yet, but I love the chase. But I especially love the summer lake cabin. Mom and I drove to Washington and spent the summer and fall at the Lake. The first couple of times I walked in the forest, I was a little scared. I couldn't see anything, too many bushes and trees; but I learned that I could chase squirrels and deer. Still haven't caught one, but I will not give up! Swimming is a perfect way to spend a hot day at the Lake. And, I also learned how to fish by walking on logs that were along the shore. I often walked several cabins away and my mom would yell at me to come home, but I just **had** to spend another minute or two fishing. Late one night, I was walking on our dock. There was a full moon and I could see

everything. Suddenly there was a huge splash. I was going to jump in to see if I could catch this fish! My mom yelled at me to stop and grabbed my collar so fast I couldn't chase this fish. Darn. But it turned out to be a beaver! What a tussle that would have been. Ha, Ha!!

One of my best friends at the Lake was Hoover, another Golden. We visited each other homes through our doggie doors hoping to find food; But we never couldn't find anything because we had already eaten it. Speaking of food, I discovered that I loved Huckleberries. When my mom foraged through forest for these berries, I usually ate more than she could pick!

We are back now in Nevada and already hiking in the desert and in the Sierras. My foster Mom, Kris and one of her doggies joined Mom and me last week-end as we hiked in the Sierras. Life is Great and I am so lucky.

**Clifford gave Cathy permission to add her comments:**

Clifford was picked up at the shelter by NGRR in March 2008 and taken to Truckee to his foster mom's home, Kris Williams. There he lost 48 pounds and learned to love walks. I was introduced to Clifford about 9 months later and fell in love with him. So Clifford joined my household. At Christmas he played with my four grandkids; naturally they fell in love. Clifford and I have walked all around Reno in the desert and in the Sierra by stream and trees. Water is his favorite environment so, Clifford decided that living at the Lake was perfect. We moved to a cabin in Washington State for the summer and fall. There are so many stories about him; I will only share a couple. He finally figured out how to walk the logs that are along every one's beaches. He and a family kitty spent hours hunting for fish (never caught any).