

## 09-056 Tanner

<b>Foster Home: AS</b>			
<b>Status:</b> Available	<b>Age:</b> 6 years	<b>Weight:</b> 100 lbs	<b>Color:</b> Blonde
<b>Mix:</b> Yes	<b>Housetrained:</b> Yes	<b>Crate Trained:</b> No	
<b>Good w/ Children:</b> Yes (older children)		<b>Good w/ Seniors:</b> Unknown	
<b>Good w/ Dogs:</b> Yes		<b>Good w/ Cats:</b> Yes	
<b>Special Needs:</b> No			

### July 12, 2010

Tanner continues to be a sweet lovable, playful, full of energy and vinegar kind of guy. He's still a resource guarder (my ball, my bone!) when other dogs are present, but is great with adults who don't let Tanner be a pushy kid. (Picture a bratty teenager who just needs a little structure and expectations set, the next thing you know, they're hugging you and telling you how much they love you instead of throwing fits.) So, Tanner has been through "brat camp" I guess you could say, and is doing GREAT! We have a lot of dogs, and he does get along just fine with them, loves to romp and play with them, keep them in line with they start to wrestle, etc. When it's treat and trick time, he sits nicely with all the other dogs and waits his turn to get a treat. He is so excited to be the first, it's really hard for him to sit there and be a good boy. But he does it! I make a fist with the treat in it and tell him to take it nice, and he roots around and takes it gently out of my hand. This has helped him not scarf it out of my hand so quick with other dogs present. Alone, Tanner does not get excitable like this and resource guarding is not an issue.

The amazing thing about Tanner as I've said before is that he listens EXTREMELY well. Immediate recall, immediate compliance of my requests. I have never had a foster like this, ever! He is so smart, it floors me! He is a great athlete, he is a ton of fun to play ball with and to be outside with. He follows me everywhere, sits and looks at me curiously when I'm doing a new project. When I planted a few flowers this summer, he sat happily in the dirt with me, waiting with his tennis ball for a romp. I was worried he would dig the plants back up, but he hasn't. When I planted bulbs (they look a lot like balls) he left them be as well. Tanner is a fun dog with a lot of energy and love to give an individual or family. He has a very unique personality and is looking for a leader to give him structure and lots of love back.

### May 16, 2010

With all the weight Tanner has lost, he has found a new gear! We've been playing fetch a lot, working on the 'drop' - which is hard to get him to do with other dogs around since he's worried they will steal it! But he has come a long way. Tanner's pushiness has subsided quite a bit since he has been here, if he gets his snuggles in the morning, a game of fetch or a walk, he isn't as jealous with the rest of the dogs. I think he would be fine with a doggy buddy, but he may be happier as an only 'child.' Obviously, with up to 7 other dogs around, he has learned to cope and be a nice boy.

Other than the "pet me!" or "feed me first!" thing, plus the 'it's my ball, my toy, my bone' pushiness he has with other dogs, he is a smart, funny boy. He learns tricks very quickly, is extremely sweet and affectionate, and is a very engaged, fun dog to have around. No bump on the log here! We hide his balls and toys and he knows just where to find them when we say 'okay, go find em!' when playing hide and seek. He loves loves loves car rides, following me everywhere, and watching me curiously turning his head diagonally with each of my moves. He would be the perfect dog for an active person who loves to interact and teach dogs tricks. If you coo at him in a low voice, he has even learned to talk. "Oh Tanner, poor Tanner, Tanner has to share his toys, what do you think about that Tanner?" (Insert Tanner cooing back, roooooo, oooooowwww.) Funny.

Like I said before, he is the best snuggler around. He listens very well and knows when it's okay to get up on the bed with me and snuggle, or the couch, and when it's time to go to his own bed and go 'night night' on his own. When we

have our 'love sessions' he is such a sweet boy throughout the day. Bottom line, he just needs to have a certain amount of attention so he's not so pushy around the other dogs throughout the day.

Tanner does everything with passion; he's a go-for the gusto kind of guy. And I just adore him for it. It's amazing how well he listens, and reacts immediately. Praise, tennis ball or treat, he will do anything you want after some bonding and repetition.

I've never had a foster like him; he has different signals and body language than I'm used to. I included some pictures to show you what I mean. He opens his mouth wide and 'smiles' when he is in his full 'engaged and happy' self. He loves to open his mouth and catch the wind in it, too - one windy day he stood in the 'wind tunnel' we have between the house and garage and just took in as much as he could like a boat putting up its sail. Funny. His silly ears that kind of look like they were attached with popsicle sticks flip up in the wind like rudders. When he wants a kiss, a ball, a pet, he smiles, but it almost looks like he's ready to growl. His intentions are exactly opposite. When he talks, it seems even more so that he is being aggressive, but I don't think this is the case at all. He's trying very hard to be patient until you give him what he wants and is saying "ohhh, come on, please!" When I tell him to 'give me a kiss', he happily licks me and leans into me like a typical Golden. Or, buries his head under my arm and does a flip to expose his belly for a rub. Tanner and I are becoming closer than ever and really are bonding - more than I want to for his sake, and of course, mine! We desperately need to find an experienced forever home for Tanner who is willing to take on a 'passionate' boy who is just dying for love and at least one or two fetch sessions a day! Tanner is also very athletic, he would be great for a runner or walker. He does well on a leash once we get past the cars in the driveway. (Go! Go! Are we gonna go!?)

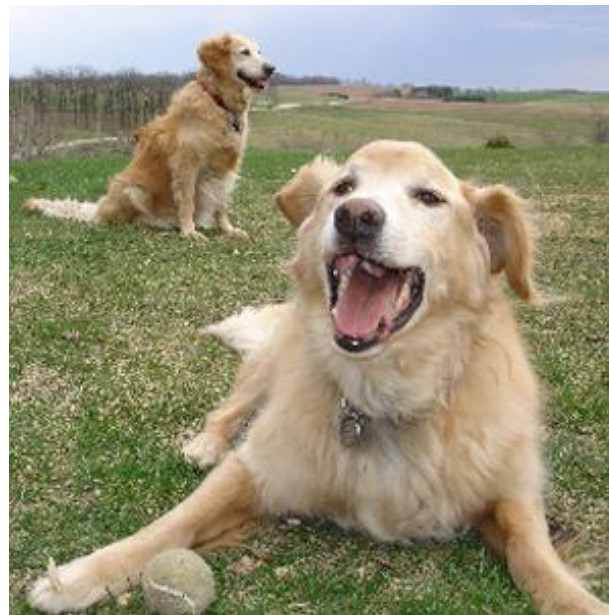
#### **April 1, 2010**



Tanner continues to be a smart boy, responding to positive reinforcement methods. He is ready for a forever home, a home with no other dogs would be best. He is jealous of other dogs, but still listens well when we ask him to calm down. Tanner loves playing fetch and loves his toys. Although he will immediately get down when you ask, he is a great snuggler in bed or on the couch. He follows me everywhere and is ever so curious what I'm doing. He will sit and watch me work, or lay at my feet. Tanner is a good boy who really needs one on one attention, no other dogs would be best, but he is really good with my other dogs as well. Very playful, but barks a bit too much when they get attention and he is not. He is also pushy with his toys and food around other dogs. He's just like a spoiled only dog, but can be worked with for sure!

#### **February 9, 2010**

Tanner arrived over a month ago to his new foster home, to further assess his behavior in a new environment. His previous foster home did a great job with Tanner, but Tanner was showing signs of being a bully that needed further investigation in a new environment with all new challenges. He's been here over a month now, and I have observed just that - he is just a bully used to getting his way as far as I can see! He 'talks' when he isn't getting his way, which can seem daunting to some, but is a wonderful, amazing language to me. I ask Tanner a variety of questions and he will answer me back with uncanny clarity. If I say "Oh Tanner, are you going to be okay? Does that other dog have your ball? Or - It will be fine, you don't need more treats" in a soothing way, he will coo back at me in a kind of "Yaaaah yaaah, yuum yuum" kind of way, then bury his head in my lap and insistently kiss my hands or face if I'm down on his level. He is a most interesting curious creature. Positive rewards for his inclusive and obedient behavior have returned great results.



I get such a kick out of him and his silly tilted head with his alert ears that look like they were stuck on like a Mr. Potato Head doll. His eyes are clear and direct, his face expressions immediately tell me what he needs or what is bothering him. He is a kick to have around and it's been easy to get in tune with him. He loves to play fetch and loves to give his ball to me and then wait for it to be thrown. He loves treat-filled Kongs and chews and we've been working on his object possessive tendencies. Much less when other dogs are not present. He willingly gives to me if he is not hyped up by the other dogs. One on one, Tanner and I are Golden together! He loves walks and runs, playing and getting all the attention.

He also has had issues with his collar being grabbed to get him to go somewhere he does not want to. While this is a bad practice anyway with dogs, some have reacted to his refusing to go where they want him to by grabbing his collar (so easy to do without thinking!) He has turned, gnashed his teeth in the air and done the 'stare down' thing when this happens in the past. He may have had past trauma from collar pulling - we've worked on his 'touchy neck' issues since he's been here. He now begs me for neck scratches and for his collar to be moved around now.

Tanner follows me everywhere and has such an amazing curiosity and energy about him. He will get down immediately from beds or couches when asked (but does back talk like a teenager!), go where I ask him to go, has instant recall, and will also jump up in bed or on the couch when I ask him to snuggle with me. He has a beautiful soft coat and tail and loves loves loves the attention. He was reluctant to let me brush him, warning me with snarls when I tried to brush his "pants." But reinforcing treats now has him purring like a kitten and submitting to my requests.

I've never had any problems with guests, new dogs or kids visiting and playing with Tanner. He may be bossy, but he does not go too far. He has grabbed treats too hard or has grabbed his toy too hard when trying to play with him ONLY WHEN other dogs are present and there is a competition going. He is perfectly gentle when it's just dog and human! An experienced dog owner is a must, kids who understand alpha males would work as well, but he is not a typical Golden just for anybody. He is very special in his own way, and needs someone to understand his language, curious nature and intelligence. He wants to be the boss, but a little correction goes a long way with this sweet boy who is just looking for a 'project manager' to guide him!



### **November 18, 2009**



Tanner is doing very well. He is a changed man since he has been on his thyroid medication and the lab tests show he is at the right dosage. Tanner has lost a significant amount of weight. I have to refill his prescription this week so I'll try to bring him in and sneak him on the scale. His cute little head finally looks like it goes with the rest of him. Tanner is still a bouncy boy but his golden personality is now shining through.

### **October 19, 2009**

Tanner is certainly a boy dog. I once gave him a cute little beany baby to carry around and he tore it up in about 30 seconds and then looked at me like "What the heck?" But give Tanner a ball and he loves you forever. He is a man of all sports, an expert in basketball, football and tennis. I think Tanner would like to try out for long distance running but that is what fences are for. This golden child needs to be with an active owner with as much love for fresh air and sports as Tanner has.

Tanner does not yet have the lean athletic build however. But a new prescription

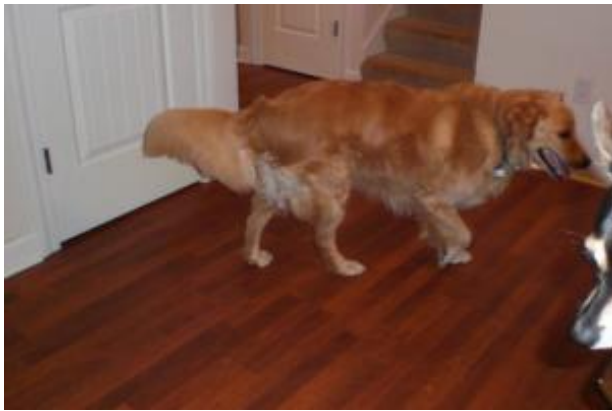
for Thyroid medicine is slowly helping him slim down. He has been on it for a little over 30 days and is down to 81 pounds. Way to go Tanner! He just had his lab drawn for a follow up thyroid level so I should get the results sometime this week.

### September 10, 2009

Tanner had his Lymes Disease follow up booster vaccination yesterday. He went into the back with a young female Vet Tech and didn't make a peep when he was given the shot; a much better experience than the last time he was at the vet. He did test hypothyroid and is now on L-Thyroxine 0.8mg tabs twice a day, one hour before meals. He is done with his 4 week course of Antibiotics for the Lyme's Disease. He is no longer limping and does not appear to have any further pain to the area in his front right leg, but I haven't touched his leg because he is still leery of anyone coming near it. Despite a few setback, I believe he is calming down more and more each week and we will have a very successful outcome.



### August 24, 2009



Tanner had a quiet weekend. We have not had any company the last four days and tried to keep a calm atmosphere to allow Tanner to settle in.

Tanner has calmed down significantly and no longer stress pants like he did the first few days. He likes to be outside. I think he is used to having down time just hanging out in the backyard, because he likes it and it seems to relax him. His favorite spot is directly outside the patio doors on the deck. This way he can see us and we can see him and he has a perfect spot to in which to monitor the outside world. I've always had velcro dogs that would not stay out unless we were outside with them so this is a different experience for us. He never

asks to come in. He just waits until I open the door and then he comes in.

I feed my own two dogs in the kitchen and Tanner on the deck so they are always separated while eating. I am feeding Tanner a rounded cup of the Wellness dog kibble twice a day. He takes his pills buried in the dog food bowl and eats so fast he never notices the difference. Each time Tanner comes back into the house, it seems like he thinks he is going to eat again. He gets all excited and kind of dances around. Tanner weighed 87.9 lbs last week at his vet appointment. With portion control, high quality food and regular exercise, we should be able to get him to his ideal weight again. He is definitely a counter surfer however we are working with him on this. On the other hand Tanner has excellent table manners and does not bother us or beg at the table while we are eating. Someone trained him well. We are not feeding Tanner or the other dogs in between meal



treats to avoid any conflicts that may arise.

Tanner loves to go for walks and walks well on a leash. We use a harness to ensure that he will not slip out of his collar. His middle area and neck are larger and he has a narrow head, so we don't take any chances. Because he is doing so well on his walks, we are now practicing sitting at the corner before crossing the street. It didn't take him long at all to learn to sit and "look for cars" at the end of each block. How cute is that!

Tanner sleeps on the carpeted floor at the end of our bed at night. He doesn't jump up on the beds.

The only other thing I want to mention is his soft blonde coat. His tail is absolutely beautiful. He is still too antsy to let me brush him. I get a few strokes in and he walks away and won't relax. That's our goal for next time.

### **August 19, 2009**

Tanner was microchipped and had his first vet appointment today on 8/19/09. Tanner has Lyme disease that has contributed to an infection in his right front leg. He is being medicated with Doxycycline 100 mg Tablets (antibiotic) 2 tabs twice a day and with Rimadyl 75mg chew tabs (anti-inflammatory) one tab twice a day. The leg is painful and he does limp at times. However he has enjoyed mild walks on the trails these past couple of days. Tanner received the Lyme Disease vaccine today and will need a follow up booster in 3 to 4 weeks. We expect to get the results of the Thyroid panel in 7 to 10 days as well as see significant improvement to his leg by then. He will need a full 30 day course of the antibiotic pills.



### **July 27, 2009**

Tanner is a very curious, smart and playful dog. Tanner hasn't been to the vet yet that should take place sometime in the next week or so. He is taking many walks everyday and is good on a leash. He also responds well to basic commands. Seeing as he is very smart you have to be one step ahead of him all the time. It took only a matter of hours in his new foster home to try using his muzzle to open the gate. Thankfully we were aware of this talent and had the gate bungee corded shut. I will let everyone know how his vet visit goes.

### **July 21, 2009**

Tanner 09-056 came into GRRoW on 7/21/2009.