

**Cayuga Highlands Gold-Rush Finian “Finn” (#79), CGC, CCA, THD
08/29/10 – 06/06/23**

“ He said, first came the date of the birth and spoke the following date with tears.
But he said what mattered most of all was the dash between the years.
For that dash represents all the time that they spent life on Earth.
And now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.” *Linda Ellis*

Finn’s dash started August 29, 2010 as 1 of 10 pups born to CH. Gold-Rush Spinnaker Wildcard and Gold-Rush Orianna of Atholl. He was conceived at Cornell University’s Hospital for Animals Theriogenology Service. He ended his dash in the loving arms of his human and compassionate hands of his oncologist at Cornell University’s Hospital for Animals.

He had his 10th Lifetime Study visit in late November 2022. Everything looked good, especially for an old man. In January, after dealing with a crusty nose, a biopsy revealed that he had *squamous cell carcinoma of the nasal planum*. Mostly seen in cats and rarely in dogs. The cancer didn’t respond to radiation. It was decided not to try chemo because of his age. We kept him comfortable and as long as he was somewhat eager for life; eating, snuggling, getting ice cream, doing training, we continued different types of pain protocols. On June 6th, it was evident that his journey on earth was coming to an end.

Finn loved frisbee and catching the tennis ball. That may have somewhat contributed to his late arthritic lameness. In his more than twelve plus years, Finn accomplished so much and contributed so much to the rescue of golden retrievers, as a therapy dog, to research and health initiatives, and volunteering.

His accomplishments and contributions were:

- Golden Retriever #79 in the Morris Animal Foundation’s Golden Retriever Lifetime Study – additionally he helped recruit for the study, as well represent the study at Cornell University’s Vet School Open House,
- Enrolled in the Shine On Study,
- Samples of blood at the Broad Institute to study Juvenile Renal Dysplasia (he had three sisters pass from this condition).
- Samples in the DNA Bank at Cornell University
- BSM Study for dilated cardiomyopathy
- Clinical Trial for chronic elbow pain
- Loyal Health Span Study
- Dog Aging Study
- Golden Oldie Study
- Represented Golden Retriever Rescue of Central New York at events. Helped foster golden retriever rescues.
- A therapy dog for Cornell Companions visiting assisted living, nursing homes, at risk youth and a hospice.

- Represented the Golden Retriever Club of Central New York at club events.
- Volunteered for the Salvation Red Kettle campaign every Christmas.

He will best be remembered though as an incredible dog with a natural affinity for humans that need comforting. He loved the rescued goldens that passed through our home and took them in “under his paw”. He was a “nanny” dog to new pups in our home. He loved trips to the ice cream shop, diving for balls in the kiddie pool, snoozing on the couch.

A special thank you to everyone at Cornell University Hospital for Animals, especially Dr. Corene Bruhns, his oncologist and Dr. Jordyn Boesch, for pain management.

Finn’s participation in the Lifetime Study could not have happened without the dedication of the vet techs and staff at Veterinary Care of Ithaca and his wonderful study vets: Dr. Sarah Meixell and Dr. Jennifer Biasillo.

We love you Finny Man, dad, mom, Eve (#2625) and Gus. Run Free Finn!!