



# GRREAT News

July/August 1998  
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## From the President Shaaron Plate

*“Is he good with children?”* is a question frequently asked by potential adopters at our Adoption Days. Recently I found myself answering this question several times by talking about my foster dog’s temperament and activity level, but by the end of the day I was wondering just what some of these people really meant by “good with children.”

Goldens are a typically friendly breed. They are even-tempered, people-oriented, willing to obey and eager to please, so it’s natural that they should be considered excellent family dogs. But how should the question *“Is he good with children”* be answered?

The approach I’ve decided to use is to ask what people mean by “good with children.” Are they simply asking if the dog is friendly, even-tempered, and outgoing? If so, the

*From the President, continued on page 8*

## When You Can’t Take Her With You

Summertime is a chance to get away from the everyday congestion, heat and humanity in our area. The luckiest of folks can take their fur-kids with them to a private cottage or a camp site in the mountains or by a cool lake. But vacationers to other areas—big cities, foreign countries, beaches or popular tourist spots, or to Uncle Kenny’s, who is allergic to dog dander—may not be able to spend their holiday time accompanied by their pets. These folks must find ways to have their animals cared for while they are away. Here are a couple of options for Goldie when you plan a vacation and can’t take her with you.

### Boarding

The first option is boarding your pet outside your home. Some veterinarians and veterinary hospitals offer boarding services, but kennels remain the most common place to

*Can’t Take Her With, continued on page 3*

## A Royal, Million Dollar Dog Skip Nizer

The value of things may be in the price tag, the sentimentality of the heart, or the rarity of the object. Or sometimes just in the status quo.

Monday afternoon was warm and sunny. The birds were singing, the cats were sunning themselves and I—master of my domain, ruler of my abode, general of all those who live in my castle—was at peace with the world.

I came home from a short day trip to Gettysburg. The dogs were anxious to see me (which translates into “It’s about time you’re back, open the door! We’ve got to pee!!”). And so I took my loving dogs and our foster dog Sam outside. About ten minutes later all legs were uncrossed (including mine).

A king’s domain must be attractive, and so the king, with shovel in hand, set about gathering all the gifts that his subjects had deposited for him, which allowed him to walk the countryside and enter his castle without taking his shoes off. After an hour and a half, I decided it was time to feed my subjects. This is where even the best king can make a mistake by listening to someone. On this occasion, I listened to myself.

Sam had not tried to jump the back fence (even the lowest one at four feet) since we got him three weeks before. I thought, I’ll leave all three in the yard without me for the five minutes or so that it takes to fill the bowls; then I’ll bring them in.

*Royal Dog, continued on page 7*

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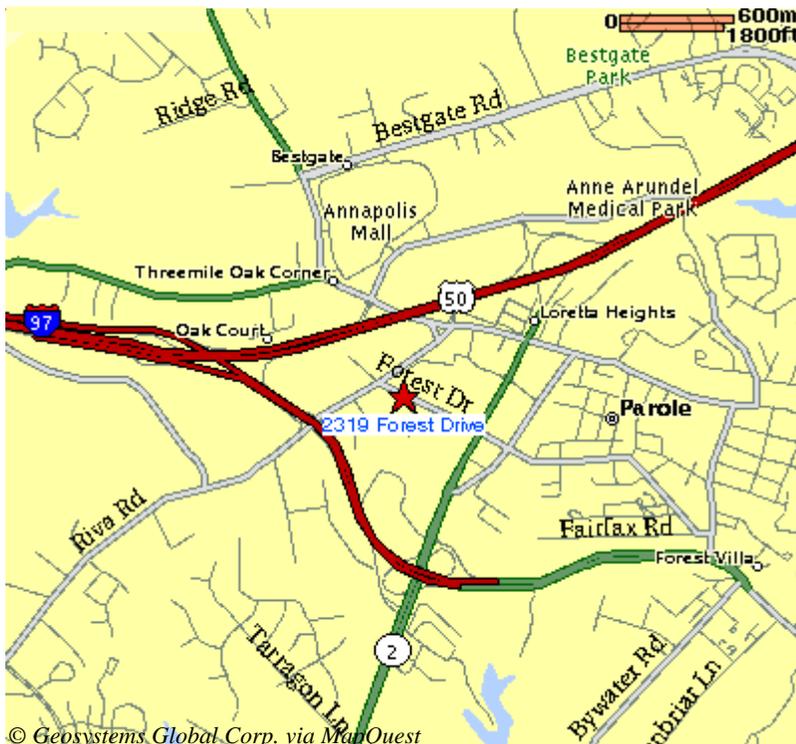
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## Adoption Day

Sunday July 26th – Noon to 2 p.m.

**PETCO of Annapolis**  
2319 Forest Drive  
Annapolis, Maryland  
410-224-8323

**DIRECTIONS:** From Route 50, take the Riva Road/Avris T. Allen Boulevard exit (#22), turn north on Riva Road (left when coming from DC) and proceed approximately 1/3 mile. PETCO is in the Festival Shopping Center on the right at the intersection of Riva Road and Forest Drive.



### **VISIT GRREAT'S WEB SITE WWW.GRREAT.ORG**

Finding GRREAT's Web site is now a whole lot easier. We are pleased to announce that GRREAT has acquired its own domain name on the World Wide Web, thanks to the generosity of June and Richard Downing and their store, Something Special in Stafford, VA, who donated space to GRREAT on their Internet server. We're also constantly updating our web page with new items, a list of available dogs, and links to nearby Golden Retriever groups. Stories about special dogs, current and past issues of *GRREAT News*, and membership forms are also available from the web site. If you have the old site 'book-marked', a link from there to [WWW.GRREAT.ORG](http://WWW.GRREAT.ORG) will get you to the new site. Join the more than 22,000 visitors to the GRREAT web site since May of 1996, now at

**[HTTP://WWW.GRREAT.ORG](http://WWW.GRREAT.ORG)**

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Phone: 703-620-6593

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Web site: [HTTP://WWW.GRREAT.ORG](http://WWW.GRREAT.ORG)

GRREAT, Inc. is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) all-volunteer organization dedicated to the rescue, foster care, and placement of Golden Retrievers in Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and parts of Pennsylvania and Delaware.

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\* members of the GRREAT Board of Directors

*Can't Take Her With*  
*continued from page 1*

leave your pet. The American Kennel Club and the American Boarding Kennels Association offer a variety of tips for finding a boarding kennel where Goldie can be reasonably comfortable while you are vacationing. The booklet ***How to Select a Boarding Kennel***, is available for \$4.20 from the American Boarding Kennels Association, 4575 Galley Road, Suite 400A, Colorado Springs, CO 80915. Call (719) 591-1113 for further information about this publication.

- Ask fellow dog owners for recommendations on where they board their own pets. Your vet's office may also have a recommendation based on its experience.
- Once you have chosen a kennel, visit the facility before you make a reservation for a stay. While you are there, be sure to observe the cleanliness of the entire facility—indoors and outdoors. As a visitor, you should be allowed to visit all areas of the facility. If you are not allowed to physically enter an area, you should at least be allowed to view it through a window.
- Trust your senses (and your common sense) when visiting a kennel as a potential 'vacation' spot for your dog. The kennel should look clean and orderly and smell fresh—no offensive odors. The temperature should be adequate—not too warm nor too cold and drafty—with plenty of ventilation. The facility should not have a heavy disinfectant smell; the operators may be covering an underlying problem.
- Consider the enclosure your dog will be housed in. Your dog should have regular or free access to an outside kennel run. A good signal that the dog will receive regular exercise is a rack of long leads near the door to the exercise area.
- Ask to see the outdoor running area. It should be close to spotless and made of



gravel or concrete. The outdoor runs—and the kennel as a whole—should be very secure. Some dogs will attempt to break out, so if you are concerned, ask the kennel owners about safeguards against escape.

- Members of the kennel staff should be knowledgeable about dogs and truly like working with them.
- The kennel should require all incoming animals to have current vaccinations against rabies and other common contagious diseases like parainfluenza-bordetella (kennel cough). Do not be upset that proof of the vaccinations is required—it is for your dog's protection as well as for others'.
- The kennel may inspect your dog for fleas prior to entry into the kennel and require a flea dip if there is any sign of infestation. Again, this is a sign that the kennel tries to keep its facility free from parasites.
- The kennel should have arrangements for veterinary care available quickly. It is important that you provide any emergency information regarding your pet to the staff, and be sure your pet is wearing an identification tag.

*Can't Take Her With, continued on page 4*

*Anxious for summer fun, 1992 GRREAT dog Bert (on the down-stay) and best buddy Rocky (on the sit-stay) model some sun gear at the Ray family's vacation home.*

### **Before You Go**

Accustom your pet to being left without you while she is still young in order to avoid separation anxiety later. At first, leave her alone and return a few minutes later. Make your absences progressively longer, then an overnight away from home. She will soon accept the separations as normal.

Crate-train your dog at an early age, even if she usually has the run of the house. This will make confinement in a kennel easier to bear.

Make sure all her shots are always up to date, just in case she has to be kenneled quickly.

**QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK OF THE KENNEL STAFF**

- Q. Is there someone on-site 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, including holidays?
- Q. How often does someone make a full check of the kennel runs?
- Q. How often are the indoor areas and outdoor runs cleaned?
- Q. Can I pick up the dog on Sunday when I return?
- Q. Are there any required additional fees (such as a mandatory bath on the last day)?

**QUESTIONS THE KENNEL STAFF SHOULD ASK OF YOU**

- Q. Has the dog been vaccinated recently?
- Q. What is its feeding schedule? Any special foods?
- Q. Any special medications?
- Q. What is its exercise schedule?
- Q. Any favorite toys, preferences or dislikes?
- Q. Who is your vet?
- Q. How can we contact you or a responsible person in an emergency?

*Can't Take Her With, continued from page 3*

- Ask the kennel to weigh your dog every day to make sure the animal is neither gaining nor losing weight, and to adjust the amount of food accordingly.
- Provide the kennel with the name, phone number, location and after-hours emergency numbers for your regular veterinarian. Leave written permission for the kennel to seek treatment for your dog if necessary, and some guidelines about how much emergency treatment may be provided if you cannot be contacted.
- Finally, be sure the boarding kennel is licensed. Also, look for the logo of the American Boarding Kennels Association, a non-profit trade association that maintains high standards of kennel operation by its members. ABKA-accredited kennels must pass over 200 detailed standards of operation and on-site inspections.

**Pet Sitters**

The other option if you can't take her with you is one preferred by many people. A live-in house- and pet-sitter—a person familiar with your home and pets who stays in your home while you are gone—is a perfect solution for most households. You have the security of knowing that both your home and your pets are being well cared for by someone who cares about them. You can relax on your vacation knowing that your newspapers are being brought in, your plants are being watered, and your pets are comfortable in familiar surroundings.

In-home pet sitting has a couple of advantages over kenneling, especially if you have more than one dog or your pet is elderly: she (or they) will be happier in their own home and will not be exposed to infection or parasites that even the cleanest of boarding kennel may harbor.

*Can't Take Her With, continued on page 5*

*If you have a choice of kennels, please note that the following facilities have supported GRREAT by donating services and kenneling for rescued dogs in emergency circumstances.*



**CALYPSO BOARDING KENNELS**

*Boarding • Grooming • Training*

14 Enterprise Ct. Fredericksburg, VA 22405 (540) 720-0050

FINALE FARM



**FINALE FARM KENNELS**

GOLDEN RETRIEVERS  
NORFOLK TERRIERS  
Wallace & Carolyn Bishop  
2450 Tuscarora Pike  
Martinsburg, WV 25401  
304-267-7549



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Featuring PLAYTIME FOR PETS

Boy's Turn Road Owings, MD 20736 Annapolis: 761-8013  
Local & DC: 855-8368



*Home Away From Home*

BOARDING KENNEL  
ALL-BREED GENTLE GROOMING  
PET SUPPLIES

*"Designed for the Safety and Comfort of your Pets"*

Located on Rt. 9 DENISE IRWIN  
3 1/2 Miles West of Rt. 1 (302) 684-8576  
Lewes, DE 19958 email: pets007@aol.com  
<http://www.atbeach.com/services/homeaway>

**FIELDSTONE KENNELS**

Boarding Grooming  
Presentation of Quality Showdogs

TODD & ASTRID CLYDE  
Millersville, Maryland 410-647-6516



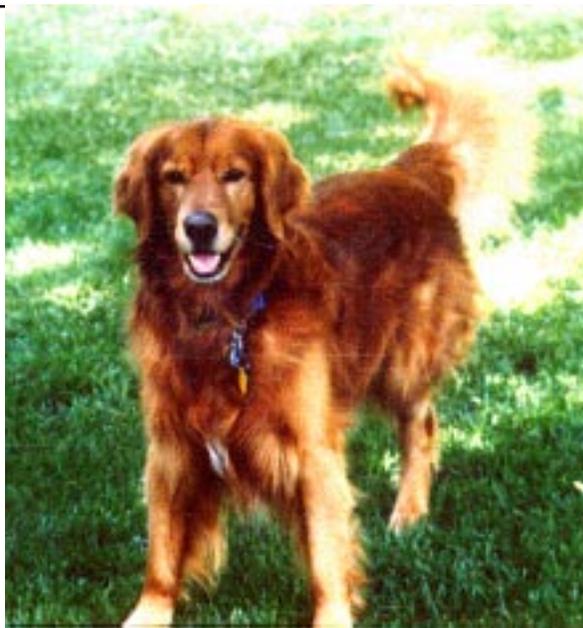
**MOUNTAIN RUN KENNEL**

15467 Retriever Road  
Calpeper, VA 22701  
540-547-2961  
Fax 540-547-4324

*Dear* **GRREAT:**

We thought you'd like to see a recent picture of one of your adoptees, Randy Travis Dean. He's full of vim, vigor and vitality, and he's the most important, best looking member of our family!

Thanks again for finding him for us.  
—Dorothy and John Dean



*Can't Take Her With, continued from page 4*  
If you are having a friend or neighbor pet sit, make sure that he or she is very reliable, has the knowledge and skill to care for a dog, and can handle pet emergencies. If a young neighbor will be taking care of your home and pets, make sure that his/her parents know about the pet sitting arrangement.

If you have no neighbors or friends available to take care of Goldie, check whether any of your veterinarian's office staff pet-sit on a part-time basis. Alternatively, there are professional pet-sitting services listed in the phone book. Many are members of the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters. Someone you do not know personally should be bonded and insured. Ask for references. You should have a high comfort level about the way they interact with the dog. Come to an agreement over other services, such as watering plants and bringing in the mail and newspapers, and understand the full range of fees to be charged.

In either situation, the pet sitter should meet your dog in your home so that the dog learns that the person is not a threat and can be let into the house. Assure that the pet sitter knows where the dog's food and medicine are kept; where leashes and clean-up bags are stored; feeding, medication, and exercise schedules; and veterinarian, poison control

and emergency telephone numbers. Make sure that there is enough dog food and medication to last the duration of your trip.

#### **When it's time to go**

Whether you leave your dog at home in the care of a pet sitter or drop him off at a kennel, be positive and upbeat. Speak to your dog in a happy tone of voice, such as "Here we are, Goldie—it's your summer vacation spot. Be a good girl!" Do not apologize to your dog; she will sense your discomfort and become upset herself. Keep the good-byes short and sweet. You may be surprised to find that your dog is more excited about going to the kennel or visiting with the pet sitter than you think.

Part of this article was previously published in the July/August 1997 issue of *GRREAT News*.

Additional information was obtained from:  
[WWW.PATHFINDER.COM/PETPATH/NOTEBOOK](http://WWW.PATHFINDER.COM/PETPATH/NOTEBOOK)

*The Well Dog Book*, by Terri McGinnis, Random House, 1991, as excerpted in  
[WWW.PATHFINDER.COM/PETPATH/VETPEDIA/DOGS](http://WWW.PATHFINDER.COM/PETPATH/VETPEDIA/DOGS)

The American Kennel Club Web site

The American Boarding Kennels Association Web site

## **Thanks to our SUPER Volunteers**

We GRREATfully acknowledge the following folks for their recent help at the following events.

### **PVGRC Specialty Show**

Cy and Shaaron Plate  
Doug and Becky Brown  
Georgie Bahler  
Laura Schmitz  
Maureen Kelley  
Ann Wakefield

### **Old Dominion Dog Show**

Doug and Becky Brown  
Georgie Bahler  
Barb Hals  
Sharon Dyke  
Maureen Kelley

**NOVA Spring Fair**  
Mary Ginn  
Elizabeth Oberdorfer  
Jean Hartman  
Georgie Bahler

**May Adoption Day**  
Kathy Rechsteiner-  
Stanhope and Hilary  
Stanhope  
Marion Shields  
Jo Dempsey  
Mr. and Mrs. John  
Wallingford  
Steve Williams  
June and Richard  
Downing  
Sara Wiederkehr

**June Adoption Day**  
Priscilla Griffith  
Rose Roberts  
Laura Johnson  
Jean Hartman  
Jo Dempsey

## Letters to



### *To a special foster home:*

**W**e wanted to let you know that we are very appreciative that you gave our application for [a particular dog] so much consideration at the Adoption Day. While we weren't the selection that you made for her, we know you made the right decision for the dog, knowing her particular needs. I was very impressed that you spent so much anguished time evaluating the applications. You mentioned that it was a hard decision to make. I'm grateful that there are some wonderful people out there looking after the dogs. And it sounds as if it was a hard thing for you to give her up (even if she chewed on your table from England), but it would allow you to have the space to continue fostering.

I wanted to make sure that I said a proper thanks—I wasn't able to earlier (a little heartbroken). John, Bridgit and I hope to see you at another adoption event. Keep up the good work!

—Mary B.

**I** wanted to let you know that I received my 1998 GRREAT calendar and I love it. It's really touching to read the wonderful snippets on each rescued and loved Golden! It's so apparent that you do excellent work! Lucky Golden! And lucky owners!! I also love the Dog-a-log items. I can't wait to receive my first newsletter and to participate in your fund-raising events. You must be a super group!

—Annette Cuthbertson

**P**lease find enclosed our check for the renewal of our GRREAT membership. Also enclosed is a photo of our Golden, Kiva (a.k.a. Sparky), whom we adopted in December 1996. He has brought us so much happiness!

Kiva is full of energy and love for all those around him (including our cat who tries to show her disinterest by sitting on the top of his crate).



*Kiva McGrail, posing proudly with what is left of a rag doll toy.*

We're now in the midst of preparing him for our latest arrival—our first baby is due soon. We feel a little silly carrying around a stuffed animal wrapped in a blanket, but he seems to be getting accustomed to the idea.

Kiva has even learned a few tricks by living with us. He can now shake with both front paws, dance, and catch ice cubes in midair. We're very proud parents.

Of course he has also mastered the art of eating the mail; rather, just chewing it enough to make it interesting—but never the bills! Again, thank you all.

—Lisa and Francis McGrail

**T**hanks so much for having an education table at the grand opening of Dogs & Company. I hope that—besides sweating—you guys at least had some fun!

I have enclosed a check for GRREAT's share from the raffle, which was split among your organization, Animal Advocates, and the Lab Rescue.

Thanks again for your participation in my grand opening.

—Terri Lewis, Pawprietor  
Dogs & Company, Columbia, MD

### *To a special volunteer:*

**T**hanks so much for the loving and unselfish work you are doing for GRREAT, along with all the other volunteers. Knowing of your organization sustained us as we searched for our new dog and you brought comfort besides.

We were able to find a new Golden through someone who needed to find new homes for their two incompatible dogs, and we are thrilled with our new family member—an adult dog, well trained.

Enclosed is a donation in thanks for your work. You can remove us from your adoptions mailing list now. Thanks!

—Steven and Martha Weingarten

**W**e adopted Buddy at a Petco Adoption Day in Herndon, VA in February of 1997. We just wanted to let you know that

*Letters to GRREAT, continued on page 8*

*Royal Dog, continued from page 1*

Five minutes later I opened the patio door and called to my loyal subjects. In their hurry to obey me, I saw two blurs of gold run past me and suddenly do a brake test in front of their food bowls. But there were only two. As a good king, I summoned Sam to me...I summoned him again and again.

Benevolent benefactor that I am, I went in search of him. He wasn't in the yard. Then it hit me: Oh Doggie Do, he's gone. Quickly I ran into the house, got a royal leash and went back into the yard. It was at this point I summoned the royal gamekeeper (me) to track him.

With my keenness of eye, I found the spot where he had gone over the fence. I left the royal grounds and entered the royal forest. My gamekeeper found dog tracks and cat tracks—some going north, some south, east, west, northwest, southwest—and one that I swear went north and south together. I figured Sam had spied a cat from a lesser kingdom. Being my faithful subject he had obviously chased the interloper off and now was royally lost.

With leash in hand, I walked the forest yelling Sam! Sam! with no luck. I then proceeded to mount my trusty steed (a '93 Dodge Spirit) and invaded all the neighboring kingdoms looking for him. An hour and a half later, I returned like my friend, Arthur, from the Crusades—but, alas, a failure.

Again I checked the grounds and entered Sherwood Forest. Again and again I called his name. But no Sam came.

I—king, benefactor, and lord of all I surveyed—looked at my royal Timex and thought, O No! Queen Debbie will be home anytime and I have lost the dog. No matter what had happened it would be my fault. Godzilla could have taken him and Queen Deb would still say it's my fault.

The king, who had fought real battles, had been shot at by rifle, shell and rocket, who had gone into Asian swamps and jungles, who had worked with a special investigation unit in Baltimore City for 14 years—he who

had known murders, rapists, drug kingpins, and other miscreants—now shook with fear. Just make room for me under the table, pull the blanket over my head, hide in the closet in fear—all because Queen Debbie (she who must be obeyed) would be home soon.

As the sunlight filtered through the woods the king fell to his knees, folded his hands, looked up into the heavens and said, "Please Lord, forget about me winning the million dollar lottery and moving to Montana or Colorado—forget it all. Just please, please, let me find Sam before the Queen gets home!"

I felt a warm touch on my shoulder. I rose to my feet and turned only to see Queen Debbie staring at me—those eyes asking, "Why are you in the woods with a leash?" Somehow, I pulled it all together, and from deep inside me said, "I let the dogs out for five minutes and Sam's gone. I'm sorry." I looked into her eyes expecting to find that special warm comfort that only a good consort can provide. Instead, I felt the frost on my face as she said, "We'll talk when I get back."

About 10 minutes later, she and Sam pulled into the driveway. We had our talk. My words were mostly I'm sorry, you're right and I won't do it again. Kings need to keep their speeches short. Camelot felt the chill of winter that night.

All was right the next day, however, as she let me be king again.

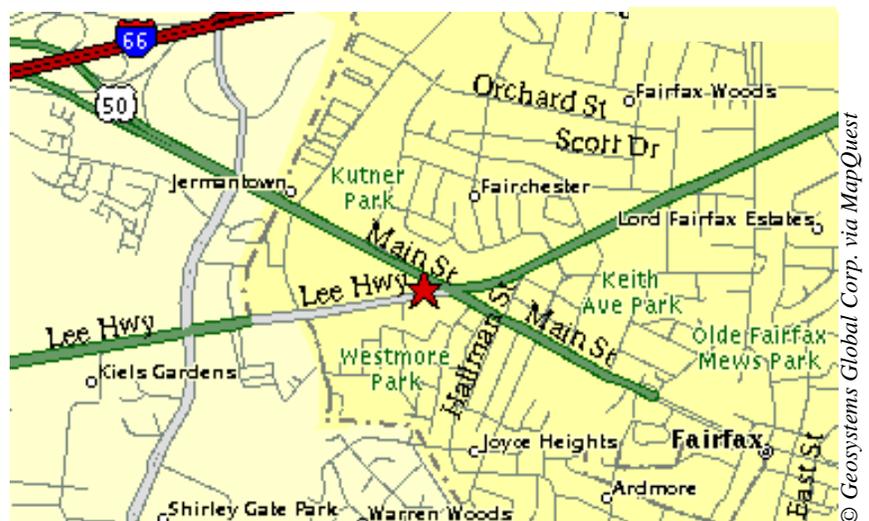
P.S. Lord, I didn't find the dog, Deb did—somehow. But could I still win the Lottery?

**Adoption Day  
Sunday  
September 13, 1998  
Noon - 2 pm  
Weber's  
Pet Supermarket  
11021 Lee Highway  
Fairfax, Virginia  
(703)385-3766**

**DIRECTIONS**

**From the EAST:** Take the Washington Beltway (I-495) to I-66 west, and go approximately 4.5 miles. Take the Chain Bridge Road exit (Highway 123 South). Turn right onto Lee Highway (US 29 and 50 west). At the big intersection of 29-236-50, bear left onto US 29 West. The store is about 100 yards past the intersection on the right.

**From the WEST:** From I-66, take the Route 50 East exit. Go 1.5 miles to the big intersection of routes 29-236-50. Turn right onto Route 29 South and go about 100 yards to the store.



### Correction

In the last issue, we noted that Cor and Leny Endlich's rescue dog Max had earned his CD title. The title should have been stated as UD, Utility Dog, a more prestigious obedience title. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

*Letters to GRREAT, continued from page 6*

he has completed two obedience classes at the Annapolis SPCA (winning "most improved" at the first) and has truly become a member of our family. He has improved to the point where he no longer needs his crate for anything but a bed and roams the house as a free dog.

He has calmed down considerably, though he is still very active, and considerably larger and stronger since we brought him home. He is really a sweet natured dog with a better disposition than any dog we have ever owned. We are now considering trying to find him a companion, possibly a smaller female Golden Retriever.

Whenever we receive compliments, which is every time he goes out, we tell everyone about your organization. He is a wonderful, I mean grrreat, dog and we thank you very much.

— Tom & Barbara Yoakum  
via the Internet

**J**ust found your web site the other day.....I adopted Kodiak in October of 1992. He has been the greatest thing that has ever happened to me. Keep up the GRREAT work. It occurred to me that my membership has lapsed, so I will be rejoining your organization soon.

—Dr. Moody Mustafa

## A GRREAT Big Thank You for their recent kindnesses to...

**Pam Sedlaceck**, owner of **Mutts and Mittens** in Florida, for donating some of her wonderful Timber's Toys to GRREAT

**Kris Casey** of Middletown, MD for helping a poor, lost puppy find his way home.

**Mary Ellen Reek**, Heartguard sales representative, for donating Heartguard to the Rescue.

The staff of the **Gaithersburg PETCO** for hosting the May Adoption Day.

The staff of the **Bailey's Crossroads PETCO** for hosting the June Adoption Day.

**All the volunteers** who worked instead of played at the Annual Picnic and Bark-B-Q, and to the **donors of raffle items** who made that event such a success.

## and to these for their recent donations

**Eben Bray**  
**Kim Hume**  
**Roger and Angela Pelletier**  
**Mary Luise Semans**  
**John Saunders**  
**Regina and Ken Wolfe**

*From the President, continued from page 1*  
answer will usually be yes. But if they are asking if the dog will tolerate having its fur pulled, having eyes and ears poked by little fingers, being ridden like a horse (ouch!) and in other ways being mistreated or even abused, the answer is most probably no. As you know, almost any dog will eventually make an attempt to defend itself if provoked, and this provocation level is different for different dogs.

As strange as it sounds, some parents don't teach their children to respect family pets as they respect other family members. I'm not sure if they expect children to absorb the concept of kindness towards animals via osmosis or if they think people are born with an inherent respect for animals, but they are incorrect on both counts. Goldens usually don't verbalize their pain and can be very stoic. Sometimes even we adults don't realize the discomfort our pets are enduring. Is it any wonder that children are oblivious to a dog's pain?

A responsible dog owner makes plans before acquiring a new dog by purchasing good quality dog food, a crate, dog bed, food and water bowls, and toys. They may also erect fencing and generally dog-proof

*From the President, continued in next column*

Dear GRREAT:

I want to help dogs that need special surgery. Here's a donation to The Leo Fund.

Please send me a donation acknowledgement.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: The Leo Fund c/o GRREAT  
P.O. Box 3069  
Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

**Recent Donations**  
**Golden Heroes (\$100 - \$499)**

**Dr. Polly B. Roberts**

In memory of our Golden Truck, and in honor of the June birthdays of our Golden Maggie and Samson, from

**Tim and Linda Daniel**

**Leo's Pals (up to \$99)**

**Eileen P. Hollaway**



**Leo's Corner**

*The Leo Fund  
for special needs dogs.*

*Thank you to everyone  
who has made a tax-  
deductible donation to the  
Leo Fund this year.*

From the President, continued from page 8  
the dog's new environment, but they often forget to educate their young children in the responsibility of living with a pet and the importance of treating their new furry friend with love, kindness and respect.

The next time someone asks you if your dog is good with children, how will you answer?

P.S. The turnout for our annual picnic was wonderful, and everyone seemed to have a terrific time. Many thanks to all who volunteered and to everyone who attended and supported GRREAT. Because of you it was the most successful picnic we've ever had. Over 100 dogs and their families attended the festivities.

If you and your dog missed the picnic, please mark your calendar for GRREAT's holiday party on December 6. We always have lots of fun. There is a marvelous pot luck dinner, music and games for dogs and people, gifts and prizes, a hilarious doggie gift exchange, silent auction and a "photo op" with Old Saint Nick himself.

To all of our members and supporters, best wishes for a wonderful summer filled with fun for you and your Golden friends.

**Vera Case**, who left us in January 1998. I knew Vera through her work at Dr. Tayman's Columbia Animal Hospital. Vera cared for my dogs over the years as they needed veterinary care and I value the person she was. From Mary Young.

**Kelly**, Alleson's "Little Red," and **to thank Alleson** for her support and help with Panzie, from Mom and Dad. Sent in by Priscilla Borden.

**Richard and June Downing** and Jessie (foster family and their dog), from Milli-Jo Dempsey and Tom and Mabel Dempsey.

**T. Edward Bear (Teddy)**, the wonderful Golden/Chow we rescued through GRREAT, from Paula and Warren Oser.

**Clancy**, recently awarded a PHD (Perfect Home Dog) by the family, from Connie and Neil Schuster.

**Taylor** on her third birthday. **Special thanks to Sam Connelly**; Taylor has made great progress, from Jill and Keith D'Agostino.

**Memorial  
Donations  
were received in  
memory of...**

**Special  
Donations  
were received in  
honor of...**

## How the Dog Got Its Wet Nose

*A story from the Talmud  
adapted by Steven  
Roffers*

When a man named Noah started building a boat in the middle of the desert, everybody laughed. They thought he was crazy. But Noah wasn't listening to them—he was listening to the God of the Hebrews, who told him to build a boat. So, Noah built a boat.

Noah called his boat an ark. When he finished it, he rounded up all the animals, two by two, to travel on his ark. People laughed at Noah's possums and penguins. They laughed at his cheetahs and chinchillas, giraffes and gazelles, and rhinoceroses and hippopotamuses. Into the ark went all the animals, two by two.

Soon it started to rain. It rained and it poured, and then it rained even more. People stopped laughing and the ark started floating. Noah and his family and all the animals, two by two, rode safely on the waters. They sailed for 40 days and 40 nights.

When the rains stopped, out of the ark came Noah and his family and all of the animals, two by two. Except for the dogs. All the animals were accounted for except the dogs.

Noah searched everywhere. He looked on the first deck. He looked on the second

deck, and then the third deck. Finally, in the farthest corner of the lowest deck, he found the dogs. Both dogs were shivering and standing with their noses pressed hard against the side of the boat.

"Come here," called Noah. "It's time to come out!" But the dogs would not move. Noah gently pulled the dogs away from the side of the ark.

"What's this?" said Noah. "Holes in the ark! The ark could have sunk! You two dogs kept us safe—me, my family and all of the animals, two by two! With your noses!"

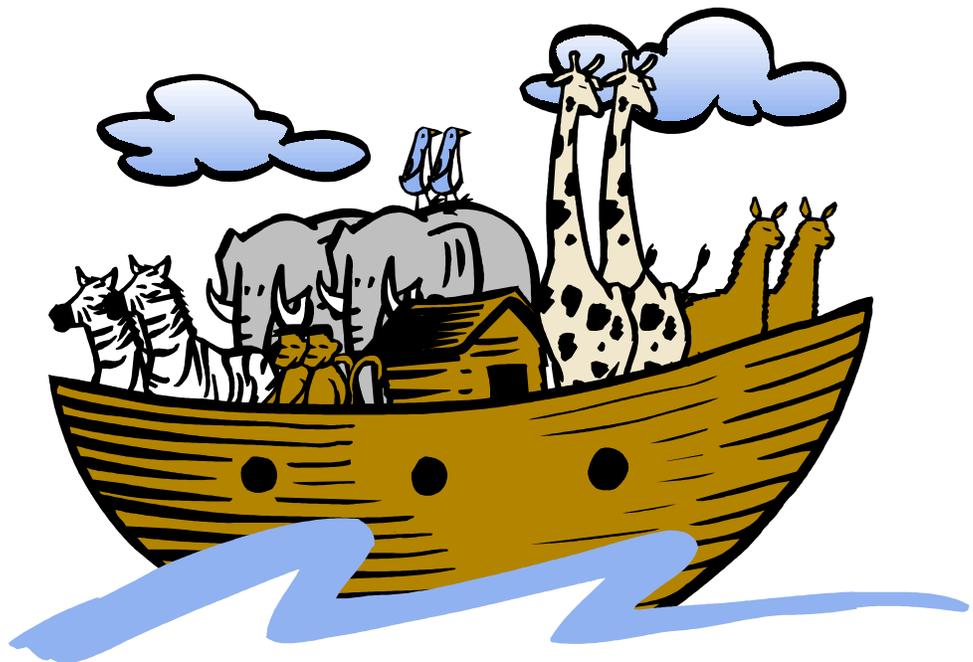
The dogs were proud. But mostly they were hungry.

Noah gave some food to the dogs and said "So all the world and all the generations will know your great deed, your noses will always be cold and wet, just as they are today."

That's how the dog got his cold, wet nose. When you feel it, remember the dogs who used their noses to protect Noah, his family and all of the animals, two by two.

### Did you Know?

In many word processor spell-checkers, two of the suggested replacements for "Goldens" are "Godliness" and "Gladness."



## GRREAT's Dynamic Duo: Shaaron and Cy Plate

You've heard of Hilary and Bill, Liz and Phil, and other powerful pairs—now meet GRREAT's reigning twosome, Shaaron and Cy Plate. Shaaron became GRREAT's president in January of this year, and Cy began his second term as treasurer. Assisted by their staff—which varies from the three dogs of their own to as many as seven dogs including fosters—they manage the executive and financial affairs of our organization from their home in Phoenix, Maryland, aptly nicknamed *Maison du Chien*. Cy has been retired for several years, and Shaaron recently retired after 24 years in the banking industry. *Congratulations, Shaaron and Cy!*

The Plate family includes five grown children—all pet lovers—scattered from Virginia Beach to New York, as well as three grandkids and another due in December. During holiday visits, *Maison du Chien* is home to 11 dogs (no cats allowed) as well as assorted family members. Rescue work must be in the blood, because the daughter in New York is on the board of her local Golden Rescue.

Where can you find this active pair if they are not at home? On their boat, the *Dog House*, cruising Chesapeake Bay. Yes, of course, their dogs go with them!

Both Cy and Shaaron—her mother gave her name its unusual spelling—got involved in the Rescue when they volunteered to be a foster home. They first heard about the Rescue when a GRREAT newsletter mysteriously appeared in their mailbox. The rest, as they say, is history. They lost count of the number of dogs they fostered after 80, and that was a couple of years ago.

According to Shaaron, "We've participated in shows, conformation, and obedience. We get more satisfaction out of Rescue work than any of the other dog activities. It's not always easy, but it is always worthwhile."

*Thank you, Shaaron and Cy, for all your efforts on behalf of our favorite breed.*

## GRREAT NEWS BITES

### IT'S INVENTORY TIME

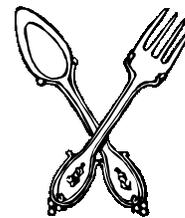
Anyone who has GRREAT equipment, supplies or merchandise other than the usual foster home supplies (in other words, dog crates, merchandise, storage crates, vari-kennels, x-pens, tables, chairs, tents and tent equipment, coffee pots, party supplies, and so forth, belonging to GRREAT) is asked to contact Shaaron Plate so that she can update the inventory lists. We are not asking that you return what you have, only to let us know where it is.

### ADOPTION DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer Coordinator Joan Gunby requests that volunteers interested in helping at Adoption Days on specific dates or at specific locations contact her at 410-647-8978 or by e-mail at GUNBY@EROLS.COM. You don't have to wait to be asked! The call for new volunteers in the President's Message in the last newsletter got volunteers' attention and Joan was able to schedule those interested, rather than call upon overworked regulars. Thank you to all who have helped at Adoption Days this year.

### ATTENTION ADOPTION APPLICANTS

Effective immediately, adoption applications will not be processed for immediate approval on site at Adoption Days. However, paperwork can be sent in ahead of time, and every effort will be made to have them processed before the Adoption Day. This is a procedural change necessary for the best interests of the dogs, to assure that adoptive homes are adequately reviewed prior to the adoption.



### LAST CALL FOR RECIPES

GRREAT wants you to be part of our fundraiser cookbook, *GRREAT Cooks*, which is scheduled for publication this fall. Just about every type of recipe is needed, including doggie snacks. Especially desired are updated classics and health-conscious foods.

If you haven't already done so, please send your recipes to GRREAT's post office box, marked Attention: Cookbook Recipes by **September 1st**.

Each recipe submitted will be considered an entry in the *GRREAT Cooks* raffle. The raffle winner will receive a gift set consisting of the first edition of the cookbook and an apron, designed by our own Diane Petruso, featuring a Golden in a chef's hat and surrounded by the disclaimer "The cook is not responsible for dog hair in the food!"



*Traveler (right), happy at last, with mom Jill Heagy and Copper*

**Traveler—  
The Rest of  
the Story**  
by Shaaron Plate,  
Traveler's foster mom

In response to the article in the March/April 1998 issue of *GRREAT News*, there was a tremendous outpouring of interest and concern about Traveler (97-124), the 12 year old, starving stray found on the streets of Baltimore and turned over to GRREAT for rehabilitation and re-homing. Many of you have asked what has happened to him, and painful though it is to tell, his story ended with both happiness and tragedy.

After reading the article, two angels—in the form of Jill and Charles Heagy—quickly came to Traveler's rescue by opening their hearts and home to this special guy. Five years ago, the Heagys adopted another GRREAT dog, Copper, whose situation had been much the same as Traveler's. They knew they had the patience, love, and experience necessary for the adoption of another special-needs dog.

A typical day for Traveler in the Heagy family included long, wonderful walks with his new mom and/or dad and Copper. Both dogs loved the daily exercise, especially around the ponds with the ducks and geese. They loved the adventures and attention, but disaster struck just as Traveler was settling into his daily routine. As we know too well, life doesn't always work out as planned, and unexpected tragedy in the form of a deadly intestinal cancer brought Traveler's new idyllic life to an untimely end after only a few weeks in his new home.

Although Traveler was in our Rescue seven brief months, those who knew him were very fond of his graceful, almost deer-like movements, his love of people, his funny antics, and his desire for attention. His expressive eyes seemed to tell you that he appreciated everything you were doing for him, even if it was painful at times.

Shortly after making the agonizing decision to free Traveler from his pain and let him rest peacefully, his new family wrote in part, "Although he did have to endure a cruel interlude, we know that for the last seven months of his life he was certainly well looked after. At the end he did not suffer much and he died surrounded by people who cared for him deeply. He will always have a place in our hearts and we miss him dearly."

*To Jill, Charles, and Copper, we extend our condolences on your loss. We also extend our deepest gratitude to you for giving this GRREAT dog a home and a very special family to love.*



**Honorable  
Mention**

**Congratulations to the following families whose dogs will appear on the Honorable Mentions page of the 1999 It's a GRREAT Year Calendar.**

Dakota—Kevin Abbott and Mary Jester  
Scout—Deanna and Kevin Edge  
Max—JuleAnn and Richard Cheslock

Major (Rollins)—fostered by Julie Palais and Rick Stevens  
Beau and LadyBug—Linda and Dave Clark  
Doc and Max—The Gross Family  
Chester—John and Nancy Bentrup  
Hogan—Pam Theiss  
Sandi—Kimberly Boykin

## ADOPTION REPORT FOR MAY AND JUNE

Lots of dogs—39 in all—found new homes. Fifteen were females and 24 were males. Thirteen were a year old or under; nine were age 6 or over.

*Congratulations to all of these new families!*

<u>Name of Dog</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>
<b>Annabelle</b> (98-036)	8 yr	F
<b>Annie</b> (98-088)	5½ mo	F
<b>Bailey</b> (98-086)	11 mo	M
<b>Barney</b> (98-064)	16 mo	M
<b>Beauregard</b> (98-093)	6 yr	M
<b>Beaver</b> (98-098)	7 yr	M
<b>Benny</b> (98-105)	6 yr	M
<b>Brandon</b> (93-061)	7 yr	M
<b>Brooks</b> (98-059)	3 yr	M
<b>Buttercup</b> (98-073)	4 yr	F
<b>Charlie</b> (98-103)	2 yr	M
<b>Chaser\Glitter</b> (98-100)	15 mo	F
<b>Chloe</b> (98-060)	4 yr	F
<b>Clyde</b> (98-056)	2 yr	M
<b>Drew</b> (98-071)	7½ yr	M
<b>Duchess</b> (98-080)	1½ yr	F
<b>Dudley</b> (98-102)	4 yr	M
<b>Duncan</b> (98-078)	4 mo	M
<b>Gabrielle</b> (98-076)	4 mo	F
<b>Ginger</b> (98-068)	10 mo	F
<b>Goldie</b> (98-033)	8 yr	F
<b>Henry</b> (98-066)	2 yr	M
<b>Jack</b> (98-050)	1 yr	M
<b>Junior</b> (98-072)	14 wks	M
<b>Max</b> (98-018)	3 yr	M
<b>Max</b> (98-074)	4½ yr	M
<b>Max</b> (98-081)	1 yr	M
<b>Milli Jo</b> (98-082)	5½ yr	F
<b>Molly</b> (98-083)	3 yr	F
<b>Nellie</b> (98-070)	1 yr	F
<b>Randy</b> (98-085)	2 yr	M
<b>Sage</b> (98-069)	11 mo	F
<b>Sam</b> (98-104)	11 mo	M
<b>Schuyler</b> (98-084)	6 yr	M
<b>Sugar</b> (98-115)	1 yr	F
<b>Sunny</b> (98-092)	3 yr	M
<b>Tasha</b> (98-091)	5½ yr	F
<b>Tiger/Tyler</b> (98-099)	10 mo	M
<b>Tyler</b> (98-035)	6 yr	M

1999  
Calendar

Contest  
Winners





*Bobbing for tennis balls, one of the many games*

*Visit GRREAT's Web site for more pictures!*



*A few of the "lightest" dog contestants*

## **memories of GRREAT's Annual Bark-B-Q**



*Over 100 dogs and their families came to Bull Run Park, Virginia on May 31st*

*Meeting and greeting old friends and new*



*Part of the agility game*



*Chilling out after a trip to the creek*

**and a GRREAT time was had by all!**

**DEAR GRREAT:  
HERE'S A DONATION**

- I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- In honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- In memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- To thank \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

All donations are tax-deductible and gratefully  
acknowledged in *GRREAT News*.  
*Thank you for your generosity.*

**MAIL IN MEMBERSHIP FORM**

- New member       Renewal (Member number  
from label M\_\_\_\_\_)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Mark here if this is an address or name change.*

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Circle as many as applicable:

1. I am enclosing \$20 for my 1998 membership dues.
2. I am enclosing a tax-deductible donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_
3. I am interested in becoming a GRREAT volunteer.  
*(Please complete Volunteer Form at right)*
4. I am interested in donating the following services or  
supplies to GRREAT:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Checks should be made payable to GRREAT.*

***Thank You  
for your support of GRREAT***

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Please detach and return this form to volunteer for any of the  
capacities below. If you have special talents that aren't listed  
below, fill in the "Other" section at the bottom. Return the form  
to:

GRREAT  
Attention: Volunteer Coordinator  
P.O. Box 3069  
Falls Church, VA 22043

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ OK to call at work? \_\_\_\_\_

County or area where you live \_\_\_\_\_

County or area where you work \_\_\_\_\_

Other areas where you visit regularly \_\_\_\_\_

Best days/hours to volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INDICATE ANY AREA OF INTEREST. You will be  
contacted by the appropriate GRREAT Coordinator for more  
information.

I would like to know how I can help

\_\_\_\_\_ As a foster home for a GRREAT dog

\_\_\_\_\_ As an emergency or short-term foster home

\_\_\_\_\_ At Adoption Days

\_\_\_\_\_ At Tattoo Clinics

\_\_\_\_\_ At information booths at dog shows,  
community fairs, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ At Fund Raisers, Pictures with Santa, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ Transport GRREAT dogs (to/from vet, pick-up at  
animal shelter, owner give-ups)

\_\_\_\_\_ Transport supplies, food

\_\_\_\_\_ Provide storage space for food, supplies, crates

\_\_\_\_\_ Stamp and address newsletters and flyers

\_\_\_\_\_ Donate the following services:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**



**Adoption Day**  
 Sunday, July 26, 1998 - Noon until 2 p.m.  
**PETCO**  
 2319 Forest Drive  
 Annapolis, Maryland  
 410-224-8323  
*See directions and map on page 2.*



*Adoption Day on October 25  
 —details in next issue.*



**Adoption Day**  
 Sunday, September 13, 1998 - Noon until 2 p.m.  
**Weber's Pet Supermarket**  
 11021 Lee Highway  
 Fairfax, Virginia  
*See directions and map on page 7.*



*Mark your calendars now for*  
**GRREAT's Annual Holiday Party**  
 Sunday, December 6, 1998  
**Details to follow!**

**GRREAT BEGINNINGS**



**LEAD TO HAPPY ENDINGS!**

Golden Retriever Rescue  
 Education and Training, Inc.

P.O. Box 3069

Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

703-620-6593

*First Class Mail*