



GRREAT News

January/February 1999

Volume 9, Number 1

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From the President
Once Upon A Time
Shaaron Plate

Once upon a time there was a Wonderful family who were so happy with their adopted Golden that they wanted to give something back to this breed they loved so much. They wondered what they could do to help, and finally decided to become a foster family so they could open their hearts and homes to other Golden in need. They asked themselves, "What could be more rewarding than providing foster care and finding a new home for a homeless Golden?" They quickly called GRREAT to volunteer their time, home and love.

GRREAT's administrators were thrilled to learn the Wonderful family had volunteered to become a foster home, for GRREAT knew too well the critical shortage of good, experienced foster homes.

From the President, continued on page 4

**Resolutions for a
Golden New Year**

As the end of the millennium draws near and a new one approaches, everyone seems to be trying to improve their habits, including our best four legged pals. These resolutions were found in one GRREAT Golden's toy box recently...

1. I will take my person for an invigorating walk at least once a day. It will be good for me, and good for whoever is on the other end of the leash.
2. Even though I read the news in my neighbors' yards on my daily walks, I will not leave behind any editorial comments that my person does not clean up.
3. I will be a Canine Good Citizen and full-time ambassador for GRREAT when I go to public places.

Resolutions, continued on page 4

**The Dog That
Sniffs—What?**
Skip Nizer

Do me a favor...close your eyes and picture a Golden with hair missing, and what little hair that's there is matted with feces. Add a collar that is too small for her neck and notice that she is always in a cowering position. Now place her into a crate and watch her eyes fill with fright as she drops quickly to the floor. Look at her in the crate and talk to her and notice that there isn't any response.

Now ask yourself if that is *typical* Golden behavior. Your answer should be NO, and in Abbey's case, you would have been correct a couple of months ago. However, today—with lots of grooming, bathing and gentle hands—that same dog has become a *typical* Golden! Foster parents June and Richard Downing have brought Abbey into the Golden world. Abbey wants to be around people and other dogs, and she wants to play and run.

The playing and running weren't easy due to hip dysplasia, but thanks to the before- and after-surgery care from June and Richard, Abbey has come a long way. Because they live over their craft shop, Richard had to carry Abbey up and down the stairs before and after the surgery. Then after she healed some, he would support her back end and let her walk up the stairs using her front legs.

Now she is allowed to walk the stairs on her own, although she will, at times, stand at the bottom of the stairs and bark for Richard to come down and help her up. I guess he put a lot of trust back into her.

The Dog that Sniffs, continued on page 17

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GRREAT Presents Foster Home Seminar

10:00 a.m.

February 27, 1999
Cherry Hill Park
Conference Center
College Park, MD

If you are new to fostering, or if you are thinking about becoming a foster home, plan to attend GRREAT's first Foster Home Seminar on Saturday, February 27, 1999. The seminar will be held at the Conference Center at Cherry Hill Park in College Park, MD, the same location as our annual holiday party.

This seminar has been developed especially for foster homes—new, potential, and experienced. GRREAT coordinators and special guest speakers will discuss a variety of topics, including:

- initial intake of the dog
- evaluating the new dog
- handling behavioral and medical problems
- crating
- grooming
- dealing with emotional attachments formed with foster dogs
- adoption responsibilities
- selecting the best home for the dog

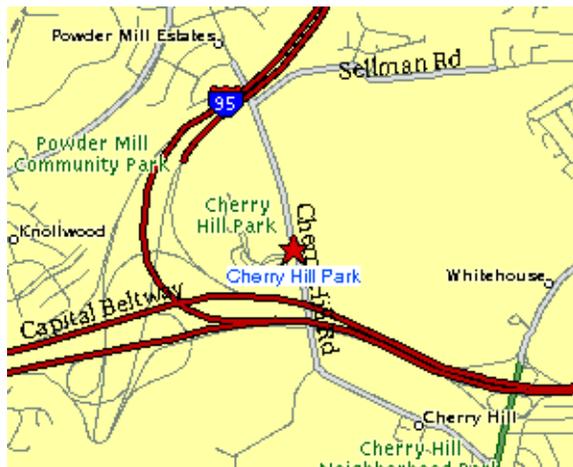
There will also be an opportunity to ask individualized questions of designated experts on various topics.

This full-day seminar starts at 10:00 a.m. GRREAT will provide lunch for attendees. There is NO registration fee for the seminar, but seating is limited. Please call the GRREAT phone line (703) 620-6593 and press 54 for further information about the seminar. Leave a message indicating that you will be attending in box 54 with your name and phone number.

DIRECTIONS TO CHERRY HILL PARK CONFERENCE CENTER

From Washington Beltway, I-495/95, use Exit 25 (U.S. Route 1 South towards College Park) Make first right onto Cherry Hill Road. Go one mile to park entrance on left. The Conference Center is at the back of the park.

From Baltimore, Southbound I-95, use Exit 29B (Route 212-Calverton). Follow Route 212 (Powder Mill Road) one mile, turn left onto Cherry Hill Road. Go one mile to park entrance on right. The Conference Center is at the back of the park.



Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc.

P.O. Box 3069

Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

Phone: 703-620-6593

E-mail: GRREATWEB@GRREAT.ORG

Web site: 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.

1998 Officers and Advisory Board

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VICE PRESIDENT*

Debbie Nizer DNIZER@AOL.COM
or 410-590-6703

SECRETARY*

Mary Ellen Lunde 301-549-3156

TREASURER*

Cy Plate 410-667-6512

ADOPTION COORDINATOR

Debbie Nizer 410-590-6703

ADOPTION ADMINISTRATORS

Dave and Linda Clark 301-933-9179

ADOPTION FOLLOW-UP

Leslie Peszczyński

EDUCATION COORDINATOR

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Laurie Anderson (VA) 703-327-4724

FOSTER HOME COORDINATOR*

Georgie Bahler 703-620-6698

FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR*

Sam Connelly 410-256-3113

GRREAT NEWS EDITOR*

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MAIL ADMINISTRATOR

Cheryl Garbett

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Robert Fritz 301-330-5749

MERCHANDISING COORDINATOR*

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TATTOOING COORDINATOR*

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VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR*

Joan Gunby 410-647-8978

* members of the GRREAT Board of Directors

GRREAT Annual Business Meeting

Saturday, January 16, 1999
George Marshall High School
7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA

Meeting Schedule

- 10:00 a.m. Get Acquainted Session**
Beverages and finger foods will be served.
- 10:30 a.m. Business Meeting**
 All members are welcome to attend.
 You must be present to vote.

Agenda

- Officers Reports
- Coordinators Reports
- Summary of year's activities
- Election of Officers

Proposed Slate of Officers

President Shaaron Plate
 Vice President Deb Nizer
 Secretary Mary Ellen Lunde
 Treasurer Cy Plate

Nominations for officers will also be taken during the business meeting.

- Plans for the coming year's fundraising efforts
- Plans for the coming year's educational activities

Voting Eligibility

Voting membership is granted to those GRREAT members who have volunteered at least 20 hours of service during a year. Elected officers and appointed coordinators are automatically considered voting members as their positions require more than 20 hours of service annually.

For other volunteers, hours accumulated in the past or current calendar year are considered valid for voting purposes. Each member keeps track of his/her volunteer hours. The following can be used as a guide in tabulating hours.

Fostering one dog	10 hours
Fostering a second dog during same year	10 hours
Attend/volunteer at a GRREAT function	5 hours
<i>(maximum of 4 functions to be tabulated, including Adoption Days, Picnic, Winter Party, Meetings, Tattoo Clinics, Fundraisers, Education Booths)</i>	
Transport a dog	5 hours
<i>(maximum of 4 to be tabulated, including shelter pickups, vet trips, owner give-ups, adoption and foster home transport)</i>	
Chair an appointed committee or function	10 hours
Active assistant to a coordinator	10 hours
Home check	5 hours
<i>(maximum of 4 per calendar year)</i>	

Directions to Marshall High School

Take the Capital Beltway I-495 to Route 7 East (Falls Church) in Northern Virginia. Proceed about one-half mile. The high school is on the right side of the road. Signs will be posted in the building directing you to the classroom where the meeting will be held.

Note: This is a 'people only' event. Please do not bring your dog to the meeting.



If It Should Be

*from the Internet—
Author Unknown*

*If it should be that I grow
frail and weak,
And pain should wake me
from my sleep,
Then you must do what
must be done,
For this last battle can't be
won.*

*You will be sad, I'll
understand,
Don't let your grief then
stay your hand,
For this day more than all
the rest,
Your love and friendship
stand the test.*

*We've had so many happy
years,
What is to come will hold
no fears,
You'll not want me to
suffer, so,
When the time comes,
please let me go.*

*I know in time, you too
will see,
It is a kindness you do me,
Although my tail its last
has waved,
From pain and suffering,
I've been saved.*

*Do not grieve that it
should be you,
Who has to decide this
thing to do
We've been so close, we
two, these years,
Don't let your heart hold
any tears.*

From the President, continued from page 1
Soon everything was ready for the Wonderful family to receive their first foster dog, who was a young, malnourished, flea infested, unneutered male with a sweet disposition and a touch of mischief. The Wonderful family bathed and groomed their foster dog, and then took him to the vet to receive vaccinations and to be neutered. Soon he was a healthy, happy, loving Golden, and the Wonderful family named him Prince. He quickly won their love and affection, and the Wonderful family decided that rather than look for another wonderful family to adopt him they would adopt him and keep him for themselves. And they all lived happily ever after.

Of course the Wonderful family couldn't foster more homeless Golden retrievers because they now had two dogs and there was no more room in their home for a foster dog.

The next day the phone at GRREAT rang. It was the Irresponsible family. They explained they had a 10 year old female who had always been wonderful with their three children and their cranky cat. The Irresponsibles said they were moving into a new home and couldn't take the 10 year old female with them. They said she needed room to run, and wouldn't be happy in their new, small yard and slippery hardwood floors. They didn't seem to care that she had already given them her best years...her joyful puppy days, her energetic adolescence, her regal adulthood. They didn't seem to care that she had loved them and had given everything she had to give, because when they learned that GRREAT had no more foster homes available they said if we couldn't help them right away they would just have to take her to the local dog shelter. So the Golden heart of this 10 year old female with her gentle manner, soft graying muzzle and love for life was stopped by a caretaker at the animal shelter where she was taken by the Irresponsible family because there were no GRREAT foster homes available. The ending of this Golden tale isn't a happy one. It's a tragic ending that we see and hear too often.

The reality of fostering is that fostering isn't for sissies. It isn't easy. Fostering isn't all warm, fuzzy feelings. It sometimes hurts to foster. It's sad, sometimes heartbreaking, to let go of a confident, healthy, happy dog you've helped transform from a sad, frightened creature, but it's even sadder to know that for every foster home that drops out of our foster home program, one or more Golden retriever lives could be lost forever. I can guarantee you that if you have enough love in your heart to let your foster dogs go into new homes your rewards will be much greater than you can ever imagine. Your comfort for the pain of letting go will be the knowledge that you have been able to continue to save the lives of the Golden retrievers we all love so much. Saying good-bye is a bittersweet time, but I promise you that the rewards will be worth it.

For more information about our Foster Home Program, please contact Mary Ellen Lunde, 301-549-3156, MELUNDE@EROLS.COM or Georgie Bahler, 703-620-6698, GBAHLER@AOL.COM. And if you are considering becoming a foster home, I want to extend a personal invitation to GRREAT's Foster Home Seminar. Please see page 2 for details.

Resolutions, continued from page 1

4. I will treat newcomers to my home with the respect they deserve—good guys will get a wagging tail, bad guys will get a growl or a bark—and I will learn the difference between the two.
5. I will eat everything in my bowl, and nothing in the garbage can. I will not pretend to be starving to death—too many of my brothers actually are.
6. I will not leave my toys on the stairs or in other high traffic areas.
7. I will not tremble and shake while at my doctor's office. I know the vaccinations and shots are good for me.
8. I will use the sofa for its intended purpose—my naps—and not as a chew toy.
9. I will sit still for brushings and nail clipping, even though it tickles me a lot.

The Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club

extends a warm invitation to

Members of GRREAT

to attend the

*PVGRC Annual Awards Banquet
and Auction for GRREAT*

Saturday, March 20, 1999

Willow Tree Inn, Montgomery Village Golf Club

19550 Montgomery Village Avenue

Gaithersburg, Maryland

Happy Hour and Silent Auction begin at 6:30 pm

followed by Dinner and Awards Ceremony at 7:30 pm

For further information, contact Leslie Peszczynski at (703) 222-2792

**Directions to
PVGRC Banquet**

Take I-495 (Capital Beltway) to I-270 North toward Frederick. Take Exit 11 (Montgomery Village Avenue East). Go 2 miles east on Montgomery Village Avenue. Take first left after light at Club House Road.

.....
**The Creation Story
(as told by Snoopy)**

On the first day of creation, God created the dog.

On the second day, God created man to serve the dog.

On the third day, God created all the animals of the earth (especially the horse) to serve as potential food for the dog.

On the fourth day, God created honest toil so that man could labour for the good of the dog.

On the fifth day, God created the tennis ball so that the dog might or might not retrieve it.

On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the dog healthy and the man broke.

On the seventh day, God tried to rest, but He had to walk the dog.

.....
—from the Internet

**AUCTION DONATIONS AND SET-UP VOLUNTEERS
“GRREATFULLY” ACCEPTED**

GRREAT members are encouraged to contribute Golden Retriever-related items to the PVGRC Auction for GRREAT on Saturday, March 20 at the PVGRC Annual Banquet in Gaithersburg, MD. All donors are encouraged to complete and return the form below to Sam Connelly, GRREAT Auction Co-Chair.

You are also encouraged to help unload items and set up the auction tables at the Willow Tree Inn in Gaithersburg in the late afternoon on Saturday, March 20.

1999 PVGRC Auction for GRREAT Donation Form

Donor Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Description of Item or Service _____

Market value of item _____

Special instructions or restrictions _____

Status of donation: Item enclosed Item mailed Will bring to banquet
 I volunteer to help set up. (Name/phone) _____

Mail to Sam Connelly, GRREAT Auction Co-Chair,
1 Stone Falls Court, Baltimore, MD 21236 or call (410) 256-3113.



IN REMEMBRANCE

BRANDY

Krissie and Steve Hays write:

Her name was Brandy.

When we adopted her from GRREAT she was Sally, but she was definitely a Brandy. This was no ordinary dog. She was more human than dog, as we quickly found out. It got to the point that we would have to spell instead of talk because she *understood*. She was wonderful in the car (r-i-d-e; can't speak, must spell), loved to go on long walks (double-U; can't even spell this one, must initial), go splashing around in a lake or pond, and finally became a buddy to Shorty, our other GRREAT Golden.

When the doctor told us last April that she had a kidney infection, it was no big deal—medication would take care of it. After taking her to the doctor's office for overnight observation, we got a call the next day telling us the heart-wrenching news. She had kidney *failure*, and dialysis would only prolong the inevitable. We lost Brandy that Saturday afternoon in April, but only in body; she will never leave our minds. Brandy became part of our lives only because GRREAT exists. The enclosed donation hopefully will help GRREAT to continue to bring other Brandy Golden to people like us who have a special place in their hearts for such lovable creatures.



Will your best friend be GRREAT's Millennium Calendar Dog?

If you haven't seen the handsome guy at right before, meet Rollei Welch, the cover dog for GRREAT's 1999 calendar. Now the search is on for the most photogenic Rescue dogs of the new millennium! Imagine your fur-kid on the cover of GRREAT's 2000 calendar, or as Mr. February or Ms. September. Photos will be selected for the cover and for each month, plus a collage page of honorable mentions.

Our previous—and terrifically successful—calendars demonstrate the type of photos we are looking for. Ideas for photos include:

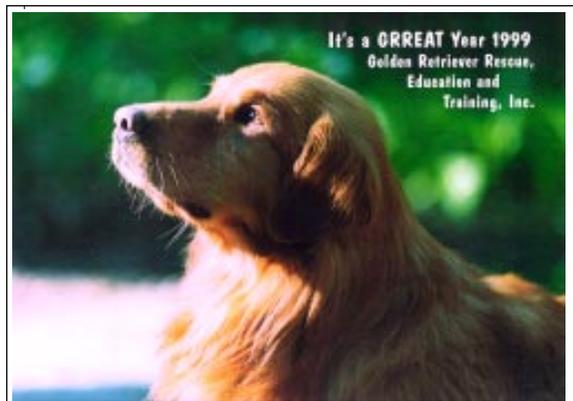
Action—running, playing, at the beach, on the trails, sitting with scenery in the background, or even snoozing on the sofa

Seasonal—with spring flowers or fall leaves, or by the Jack O'lantern or Christmas tree

Posing—professional or amateur, all entries are welcome

Send the photo(s) of your GRREAT dog, with its GRREAT ID number, age, and a brief description of the dog's past or present life, together with the name, address, and phone number of the person submitting the entry to:

Deb Nizer
GRREAT Rescue Calendar Photo Contest
327 Thelma Avenue
Glen Burnie, MD 21061



Please note: a few copies of the 1999 GRREAT Calendar, featuring color pictures of dogs rescued by GRREAT, are still available. The calendar makes a perfect gift item at only \$10. See the GRREAT Dogalog or www.grreat.org for more information or contact Becky Brown, GRREAT Merchandise Coordinator at (301) 595-7365.

Calendar Photo Contest Rules

1. Only GRREAT Rescue dogs are eligible. Dogs featured in the 1999 calendar (other than honorable mentions) are not eligible this year, but other dogs in the family are.
2. Animals only in picture, please (no humans, although other family pets may be included).
3. Horizontal shots (picture wider than tall) are required, due to the design of the calendar. Vertical pictures will not be considered.
4. Color photographs and color digital images are eligible; Polaroid instant pictures are not. Maximum size 5 x 7 inches.
5. Submitted pictures and stories are not returnable, but may be used in a future issue of the newsletter.

Deadline for entries: April 1, 1999

Mutts by Patrick McDonnell

Reprinted with permission of King Features Syndicate



NOTICE

Increased veterinary costs, combined with the ever-increasing number of homeless Golden Retrievers who need our help, have made it necessary for the first-ever increase in GRREAT's adoption fee.

Effective with the Adoption Day on January 24, 1999, the adoption fee will be raised to \$175.

— REMINDER — It's Membership Renewal Time

If your mailing label shows "Renew Now" your GRREAT membership has expired. This is the last newsletter you will receive. GRREAT does not send a separate renewal announcement.

Membership dues are \$20 per year and automatically include a subscription to GRREAT News. Dues are payable now through January 31, 1999, after which time membership will be forfeited.

A membership card will be mailed to new members. Use the back of the membership card to record your GRREAT volunteer hours so that you can become a voting member of the organization.

This is also a good time to make a tax-deductible donation to GRREAT. GRREAT is a 501(c)(3) organization, as listed with the Internal Revenue Service. Use the handy form on page 19, and mail it and your check to GRREAT's post office box.

You can designate your donation to the Leo Fund for special needs dogs (see page 16-17) or to GRREAT's operating fund, where it will be used as needed. If you choose, you can make your donation in memory of, or in honor of a favorite pet or person.

Tuck a note in the envelope about your pride and joy—and maybe a picture—we love to hear from you!

In honor of

GRREAT volunteers for their day in, day out love and sacrifice for the Golden ones, from Ruth Chase, Coventry School for Dogs, Columbia, MD

GRREAT foster homes, from Keo of the Wet Nose (Dahle)

Lady, whom we adopted last year and love dearly, from Carol Melamed

My Golden e-mail list secret pal, from Susan Kaplan

Sage Lunn, our sweet Golden girl, from Joe and Susan Lunn

Dusty, from Jonathan Gordon

Chelsea from Ellen and Gary Kasnett

Rudi (97-175) and to thank David and Linda Clark (foster parents) **and GRREAT**. Rudi is our joy and pride and we love him dearly, from Conway and Martha Robinson

Sunny, 13 years of joy, from Jerry and Ziva Schuchman

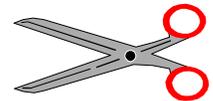
Vince, our new GRREAT dog and **to thank Trish Collier and Shaaron and Cy Plate** for fostering our dogs, from Nancy and Dave Smith

Casey and Sundance (Palais-Stevens) from Russell Stephens and Barbara Blair Stephens (*please see Letter to GRREAT on page 9*)

Sarah and Montana from Brian and Shirl West

Special Donations were received...

Help Wanted



GRREAT volunteer Julie Palais makes wonderful decoupage boxes and other craft items and donates them to our auctions as fund raising items. Her decoupage technique uses color pictures of Golden Retrievers cut from magazines. Julie needs your help in two ways—collecting pictures, and snipping them out. If you can contribute pictures or would like to join a snipping party, please contact Julie directly at 703-533-8850.

Memorial Donations were received in memory of...

Mrs. Jane McKernon
from Richard and Ann Markham

Mrs. Jane McKernon
from Wendy Meyer

Charles A. Alt
(for Simile-Finale Fund)
from Anna Alt-White

Amberlynn and Huckleberry, from Brian and Shirl West

Babe, from Cathie and Mike Skoog

Bear Endlich, from Woodfield Veterinary Clinic of Damascus, MD

Beau and Rory—always in our hearts,
from Jody and John Culver

Brandy, my wonderful Golden companion
of 11 years, from Dr. Susan Brennan

Brandy, from Stephen and Kristina K. Hays
(*please see remembrance on page 6*)

Buffy and Spotty, from Alan P. Smith

Judy Deventhal's **Cassie** who was "Golden"
in every way! From Skip Free and Carol
Kriss

Cassie Merman Joseph, from Jeff Joseph
and Lisa Merman

Champion Charms Strike Up the Band,
from Marie S. Meehan

Cindy, our first GRREAT dog, from Nancy
and Dave Smith

Cognac (1982-1994), with love from Julie
Palais and Rick Stevens

Dusty (1981-1994) from John and Pat Gird

Huckleberry (Jack Tar of Middleborough,
1974-1990), a much loved Golden, from
Jane Smith

Jesse, Sandy and Jenna, from Phillip and
Barbara Oestreach

Lady Brandie, from Diane M. Pero

MacGyver, a GRREAT dog, from
Nicolette Parisi

Microwave, Rescue Golden Extraordinaire,
from Kathy Carbone (*please see story on
page 10*)

Misty (Miss Tawny Love), from Jim
Brooking

Ollie (Mistfield Oliver, CGC) from Roch-
elle Lesser

Slick-Puppy, although not a Golden by
breed, he was Golden to Mary and Joel,
from James and Eileen Hollaway

Ted D. Bear, truly my gift from God. His
death was a closed door that opened the
window to GRREAT Grace (98-126), from
L. Sidney Morris

Tess, from John McGuire

Our beloved **Tillie**, from Heather Stroup

Truck, our beloved Golden, from Tim and
Linda Daniel

Whiskey and **Annie**, from Stephen and
Christine Williams

Special Donations were received...

For our wonderful friend from
GRREAT, sent in by John and Dorothy
Dean

To thank the **Plates** for their generosity
and friendship, from Nancy Schallitz-
Lacher

To thank **Shaaron and Cy Plate and Pat
Balducci**—our foster parents, from Cole
and Cody (Harbold)

To thank **GRREAT** for caring—what you
do is so appreciated, from Pamela Litten

To thank **GRREAT** for Jack (CGC; 98-
053)—he's doing great! From Debra and
Bill Barrows

In appreciation for my new "Golden"
Fetch. A special thanks to Sharon and Joe
Meirose for fostering this baby—he sure is
full of beans! From Laura Schmitz

Thank you for participating in our recent Adopt-A-Thon. PETsMART Charities and PETsMART recognize the outstanding work put forth in finding new homes for many adoptable animals. Enclosed is a check for \$2,900 from PETsMART Charities to reward your participation.

We are delighted that Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training and PETsMART Charities can work together to end needless euthanasia as a means to controlling pet overpopulation.

—Nancy Smith,
Coordinator, PETsMART Charities

We have GRREAT neighbors, Casey (95-084) and Sundance (95-085). Their people, Julie Palais and Rick Stevens are very nice too. We are fortunate that they permit us to come over for ‘puppy time’ any time we want. They also drop by for a visit and treat on a regular basis. Since we lost our loyal Brandy earlier this year, the ‘cousins’ have brought us a lot of joy. Although our home must remain puppyless for the time being, it is good to have sharing neighbors. So, on behalf of Casey and Sundance, who have such a wonderful home, enclosed is a small gift to help the pups who are not so lucky.

— Russell Stephens and
Barbara Blair Stephens

Please accept this donation to your fine charitable organization. I can appreciate your efforts—in addition to being a real estate agent, I am a foster mom for the SPCA.

With each home sale I complete, I offer my clients the opportunity to designate an organization to which I donate a portion of my commission. Rance Nymeyer and Cheryl Garbett have designated GRREAT to receive this check and I am pleased to forward it to you.

—Margaret Wiegenstein
Long and Foster Realtor

Hello. My name is Dallas, but it used to be Berry. My adoption number is 97-162. As the first anniversary in my new home approaches, I am finally able to sit down with my new Mom and write a note to thank you for helping me find a new family. I have two brother dogs—Gunner (a Golden like me) and Rex (a Brittany). He’s older—much older (14 years). He’s just finished chemotherapy. I also have three feline...let’s just call them friends.

Since you found my family, I lost a lot of hair at first. My doctor said it was due to stress, but now it’s grown back better than ever.

I also went to some dumb school where they had a bunch of us trying to teach our parents how to sit, stay, you know, obey (humans are so hard to train).

I’ve also gone swimming! The best thing is to just snuggle up to my Mom and Dad and be close. Thank you for finding me these great people.

—Dallas (Hollaway)

We now have a new puppy; she is eight months old. She was 8 weeks when we got her and she has grown so fast. She is a delight. My husband and I enjoy your magazine so very much and we want to continue receiving it. Thanks so much.

— William and Nancy Gainor

Letters to GRREAT



*Beau Bergquist showing
off his new WC ribbon*

TaDah!

Presenting Beau, JH, WC!
Another GRREAT dog does
great things!

Here’s a photo of Beau, a seven year old Golden boy adopted through GRREAT by Bob and Marcia Bergquist when he was seven months old. In October, 1998, Beau did his family proud, earning his GRCA Working Certificate (WC) title at the Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club’s fall test.

—submitted by Marie Acton
(photo courtesy of Diane Petruso)





IN REMEMBRANCE

MICROWAVE

RGE*

1987-9/7/98

* Rescue Golden Extraordinaire



by *Cathy Carbone*

Micro died on Labor Day, just over ten years after GRREAT's remarkable rescue of her and 15 other Golden Retrievers on a cold winter night. Many of GRREAT's original members knew her and her story personally, but, for those who have more recently joined, I thought it would be a nice tribute to describe her horrible beginnings as well as her peaceful end.

In February, 1988, Mary Jane Shervais and I received a phone call from an animal control officer in Virginia. They were moving in to close down an apparent puppy mill, charging the owner with cruelty citations. Among the dozens of sick and starving dogs needing fostering were 20 or so Golden Retrievers. After Mary Jane and I recovered from the shock, we sent out a call to volunteers to help out ... and people responded in droves to help save these dogs. Many, many people combined efforts to transport the Golden Retrievers to foster homes and bathe and vaccinate or worm them.



Microwave Carbone, center, and pals

Working with her was a matter of *taming*, not just training her, as it was apparent that she had had very little human contact (of the positive sort, anyway) during her short life. After a month together, I could touch her without her throwing herself on the floor in terror. After six months, her tail would wag, and continue to wag, when I touched her. By eight months, she wouldn't leave my side and became my "shadow," being the *most* attached of all the dogs I have ever known. Micro clearly thought I was put on this earth to keep her safe and happy (she was right about that), and she was not going to let me out of her sight.

It's impossible to describe the sweet nature and loving dog that blossomed out of that scared little Golden. She gained 15 pounds, but stayed very tiny...and earned the nickname "Micro" due to her small size. After a couple of years, she lost her fear of strangers and became my

Micro was the last Golden rescued, picked up during a last minute check of the woods behind the house, where she lay chained to a tree with no food or water in the freezing winter cold. She almost escaped the next day from the kennel, which kindly served as a temporary stop for the dogs, while being bathed. When I arrived to pick her up, I selected her to take home to foster, because she was the smallest Golden there and, I thought, would be little trouble. Little did I know how big a heart was nestled within the tiny, starving, 35 pound, one year old dog. And, funny as it seems, after over ten years of looking, I never did find that perfect home to adopt my "foster" dog.

Micro was terrified of me for months.

resident "grandma dog," helping new foster dogs adjust and loving up the show puppies. The spirit and kindness that characterized Micro's approach to humans and other dogs, despite having the worst of all puppy-hoods, brings to the fore the indomitable spirit and gentleness that make Golden Retrievers so special to us. She had seizures, allergies and arthritis and was in no way a show dog on the outside...but, on the inside, she was as high class as the best-bred Golden champion.

One of our proudest moments together was parading around the ring at the GRCA National Specialty's first Parade of Rescue Dogs. She loved the crowd and kept

Microwave, continued on page 13

*With Sincere
Sympathy*

The GRREAT Board of Directors extends its condolences to coordinators Doug and Becky Brown on the unexpected and sudden passing of Becky's father, Mr. Robert Klause of Kissimmee, Florida. Our thoughts are with you at this sad and difficult time.

Microwave, continued from page 12

stopping for pats on her tour around the ring.

Micro's end was not nearly as unique as her beginnings—a common story, really. In early September, Micro began to act a bit punk, but trips to the vet failed to find the cause. Finally, she collapsed and emergency surgery at the vet's revealed internal bleeding and two different types of cancer. So, as is so common, I never let her wake up from the surgery and let her go to the "Rainbow Bridge" in peace.

I had resolved, years ago, when I began to own these precious but short-lived creatures, that I would treat every day with my dogs as special and never take them for granted. So I made sure I said a farewell to Micro before they put her under anesthesia, since I was fairly certain the chances were high that this was not going to be a curable problem.

Although I have no regrets and Micro had a great life, I miss her terribly. Many of you have known the same pain of losing and missing your best friend. It's taken me over three months just to be able to write her story so that GRREAT members will see what a special dog she was.

I love all of my show dogs, but no dog can ever replace my Micro...my special GRREAT rescue dog, my shadow. Maybe Micro is still there, by my side, happy now that she can follow me everywhere. Maybe Micro is at the Rainbow Bridge playing with the puppies and cavorting with the other rescued dogs who preceded her there. All I know for certain is that I was blessed to be loved by such a funny little dog with bright eyes, beautiful smile and a big big Golden heart. And I have GRREAT and the GRREAT volunteers to thank for that.

Editor's note: Cathy Carbone is a former president of GRREAT. We extend our sincerest sympathies to her on her loss of this special dog.

Ben and Sally Au
John and Priscilla Borden
Barbara Brincefield and Jim Stillwell
Cheryl Brooks
Jennifer Bussey
Nancy Callahan
Bob Cohen and Karen Stierman
Robert Crowley
Michael D' Aiuto
Lynne L. Davies
Mary Ginn
Lynne Glennon
Priscilla Griffith
Ed and Crete Gross
Mundy Hackett
Charles and Wendy Heinz
Patrick and Tanya Horning
Gary and Debbie Kramer
Jane Kunze
Penelope Lynch
Penny March
Alison and Tony Martin
Cynthia Martin
Patrick and Patricia McAllister
Carolyn and Rhett Murphy
John Nesbitt
Ralph and Joyce Page
Mary Portelly
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Reiter
Dr. Leslie A. Raulin
Dr. Elizabeth Ross
Connie and Neil Schuster and Clancy
Mary Luise Semans
Marion Shields
Neil Strawser
Andrea Supp and Courtney Matthews
Kate Symonds
Thomas C. Tucker
John Wallingford
Ellen Ward

Thank You to these individuals for their recent donations

A GRREAT BIG Thank You goes to

Ellen Ziegler Ward, former GRREAT volunteer who now resides in southern California, for her donation to the national Golden Retriever Foundation in honor of GRREAT.

John Julian of Burke, VA, for donating several dozen cans of special diet dog food. GRREAT extends its sympathies to him on the recent loss of his dog due to cancer and kidney failure.

Foster Homes Still Urgently Needed

During 1998, GRREAT took in 219 newly abandoned Golden Retrievers. The total number of dogs rescued soared even higher with pets that were returned to the Rescue for a variety of reasons. The real heartbreak is that we still had to turn away dogs because we don't have enough foster homes to care for them. As noted in Shaaron Plate's president's message in this issue, many foster homes drop out of the program because they end up adopting the dog they foster. We wish these families all the happiness they have earned, but we must continually recruit new families to help us handle the dogs we take in.

Please consider becoming a foster home. As we have stated before, you do not have to be at home full-time in order to be a foster. And being a foster home does not mean that you get "stuck" with a dog every time we ask you. You control when you can accept a dog and we will certainly work with you to place a dog that fits into your home situation (kids, cats, other dogs). GRREAT pays for all approved medical expenses and supplies. And *you* have the final say on which approved applicant adopts the dog. GRREAT is planning a seminar in late February 1999 for new foster homes (see the details on page 2).

Taking one or two fosters per year (usually for 2 to 6 weeks per foster) means the difference between life and death for some dogs. Please call Georgie Bahler (703-620-6698) or Mary Ellen Lunde (301-549-3156) for further information about the rewards of being a foster home.

Foster Homes for Senior and Special Needs Golden Retrievers Especially Needed.

November and December showed how many senior Golden Retrievers are being abandoned or literally thrown away. There were eight dogs aged one year or less, and **twenty** that were age 5 or older. The oldest were 10 and 12. Seven of the adoptions were females, and the remaining 27 were male. We are pleased that these 34 dogs could celebrate the holidays in their new homes.

ADOPTION REPORT	Name	ID	Age	Sex
For November and December	Abbey	98-113	1	F
	Ace	98-198	1	M
	Bailey	98-170	1	M
	Benji	98-195	15 mo	M
	Bruce	98-163	5	M
	Casey	96-074	8½	F
	Chelsea	98-180	6	F
	Claire	98-173	9 mo	F
	Cutter	98-202	10	M
	Gus	98-194	7	M
	Happy	98-184	9 mo	M
	Junior	98-157	1½	M
	Katie	98-185	3	F
	Kobie	98-176	1	M
Kody	98-181	2½	M	
Laifull	98-200	9	M	
Lee	98-205	5½	M	
Max	98-074	5	M	

calling all Poets!

GRREAT announces a poetry competition with "Fostering Rescue Dogs" as the theme.

Anyone who loves animals is invited to submit one or more poems. Entries must be original creations by the author. There are no restrictions on the poetry itself—it can be rhymed or free verse, short or long—as long as the theme of fostering is central to the work.

The grand prize winner will have his/her poem and picture printed in this newsletter and on the GRREAT web page, plus the choice of any two items from the GRREAT dog-alog. The second prize winner will have the poem printed in the newsletter and on the web page, and the choice of one item from the GRREAT dog-alog. Honorable mention poems will appear in the newsletter and on the web page.

Get your creative juices flowing today!

Deadline for entries is June 1, 1999.

Winning entries will appear in the July-August newsletter. Send your entries to GRREAT Poetry Competition, P.O. Box 3069, Falls Church, VA 22043-0069.

Name	ID	Age	Sex
Max	98-193	1	M
Max	98-208	8	M
Missy	98-183	7	F
Murphy	98-177	16 mo	M
Orchid	98-206	5½	F
Pepper	98-179	7	M
Randy/ Poncho	98-192	5	M
Rowdy	98-186	2½	M
Rudi/Buddy	98-190	6	M
Rustee	98-160	7	M
Rusty	98-189	5	M
Sammy	98-191	7	M
Shane	98-006	5½	M
Winston	98-182	12	M
Wizard	98-169	1	M
Zack	98-129	5	M



Food, fun, and friends

HÖLĪDĀY
PĀRĪTŪ
MĒMŌRĪĒS



*Shorts in December?
YES! It was a lovely, sunny, warm day.*

Dear GRREAT:

I am still in a Golden glow over the GRREAT Holiday Party. It was the best ever, and like most of you, I've attended all four. I understand there was a record turnout for this event. Congratulations!

Many, many thanks to Shaaron and Cy for all their hard work and wonderful ideas to make everything run so smoothly. The games, photos with Santa, and the silent auction were so much fun! And many thanks to all the board members for all their hard work pulling this off and raising so much money in the auction and selling our merchandise. What a great GRREAT group of people. If I add any more g's, I'd sound like I was growling.

Cassie liked her gift so well (a multi-colored hard rubber ball) that she made sure she took it to bed with her Sunday night. She even went back downstairs to get it when she discovered it wasn't by her bed.

Again, thank you to everyone who attended, and special thanks to those who volunteered during the party.

—Cheryl Garbett



Treasurer Cy Plate receives donations under the watchful eye of an auditor

Each four-legged guest (over 110 attended) received a holiday bandana



Santa Paws worked a double shift posing for instant pictures with guests

MÖRĒ...



Food for the two-legged guests was so plentiful that it had to be set up in a separate room.



A few of the dozens of hand-crafted items donated to the silent auction. The silent auction alone brought over \$2,300 to GRREAT. Many thanks to all who created and donated items for this event.

It was the best doggone party of the season!



A costume parade participant: everyone knows all Golden retrievers are angels!



Cy Plate receives a check for \$1000 from Richard and June Downing and family, who raised the money through a beanie baby raffle at their shop, Something Special in Stafford, Virginia. Thank you, Downings, for your continuing generosity!



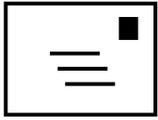
Several dozen people and their dogs started the musical chairs game. The music started and stopped and started and stopped until at last the winner sat down.



One of the people-and-pets games: a relay race to walk your dog while holding a basketball between your knees.

And when all the food was eaten and all of the doggie gifts opened, some of the guests were just plain dog tired.





Dear

GRREAT,

Stories and notes
accompanying
donations to the
Leo Fund

I was nominated as one of ten finalists in Virginia for the Spirit of Wachovia Award. This award recognizes employees for community involvement. In being nominated, I received \$300 to designate to charitable organizations of my choice. I have chosen GRREAT's Leo Fund to receive \$100. Thank you very much for the service that you provide to our community. Together, we can make a difference.

—Michele A. Fitzgerald

Here's to a GRREAT 1999!

—Elizabeth Oberdorfer

To thank Georgie for her patient, unselfish dedication.

—Dr. Walker and the Veterinary
Surgical Group of Northern Virginia

In honor of Judson and Grady, two very good boys!

—Robert Moore and Lucy Pearson

To thank all the wonderful volunteers who work so hard to help save these wonderful dogs. There is a place in heaven for all of you.

— Jo Dempsey

Please accept this donation to the Leo Fund in memory of our 13 year old Golden, Galen, who died in her sleep last June. We have another Golden, but miss Galen very much. She never had any serious health problems (other than itchy skin) and died in her sleep, but I know there are plenty of Golden's out there who aren't so lucky.

—Leeny (Kathleen) Glass

P.S. I enjoyed shopping through the dog-a-log—GRREAT Stuff! Thanks!

In honor of our wonderful Golden, Tracey.

— Mark and Roslyn Preston

Please accept our donation to the Leo Fund in memory of our Golden, Timber. We lost Timber last spring. He was two months shy

of his 15th birthday. During Timber's life, he had a few seizures and, of course, as he got older, our vet bills increased. We consider ourselves very fortunate that we were able to keep Timber healthy without choosing between putting food on the table and paying vet bills.

After Timber's death, I received my issue of *GRREAT News*, there was an article on the number of Golden Oldies you were beginning to see for adoption. It broke my heart to hear of people who weren't willing to take care of their aging Golden or possibly traded them in on a puppy. When the time comes for our family to get our next Golden, we will adopt from GRREAT.

—Holly Beth Stanley

To thank Mickey for being such a GRREAT dog—happy 5th anniversary!

—Betsy Davis

Memorial Donations to the Leo Fund

In memory of **Kelly McGraw**, a very special person, from Brandy (Balch)

In memory of **BJ**, from Beverly L. Mustaine

In memory of **Jake**—gone but not forgotten, from John F. Horwath, Jr.

In memory of **Sage, Granny, Cati and Traveler**, who are waiting at the Bridge, from Shaaron and Cy Plate

In memory of Becky Brown's first Golden, **Buster**, who lived for 14³/₄ years, from Robert Klause (Becky's dad)

In memory of Nick and Sharon DeCesare's **Max's Good Golly Miss Molly**, CD, CGC from Martha Cole Glenn

In memory of Barbara Clem's **Maizie** (Sun Bay's Color My World, UD, CDC) from Karen Wahler

The Dog that Sniffs, continued from page 1

Abbey was lucky—someone cared enough to give her time and love. She is very lucky that a lot of people cared enough to make **Leo Fund** donations so that she could get the surgery.

There's one more thing that I would like to add: Abbey likes to sniff butterflies and follow them in their tour of the garden.

LOVING GINGER

Ginger was born with all the enthusiasm, and sweetness of a Golden. She was also born with a defective elbow joint. Ginger started out with a family that wasn't good for her, and then was rescued by another family that cared for her very much. When they found out why she was limping so badly they had to make a difficult choice. The doctor told them that she needed surgery right away to correct the leg or that within a short time she would lose the leg. Due to their situation, they could not afford the surgery and they did not want her to lose her leg. They came to GRREAT for help. They were told that we could only do dogs that were in the Rescue (not that we don't want to help, but our funds are limited to those in the Rescue). They loved her so much that they gave her up knowing that they could not adopt her back. With tears in their eyes and a very generous donation in their hand they gave her up.

Ginger got her surgery and is still healing from it. In two more weeks the pin will be removed to complete the healing process. The first four weeks her paw was taped backwards to keep her from using that leg (right front). Her foster family referred to her as Capt. Hook during that period. Now six weeks later she is allowed to walk five minutes at a time and can slowly do stairs while leashed. This girl is full of love, energy and a zest for life. She also loves cats, she is mesmerized by them. She will need obedience training but she's smart and will learn quickly.

I know that Ginger will never understand how lucky she has been or how much her last family loved her, but I know and it makes me feel good to see kindness and caring in people. Again, thanks to those caring people who donated to the **Leo Fund** that made her surgery possible.

Keep in mind that a donation to the **Leo Fund** can make a wonderful and tax-deductible New Year, birthday, or remembrance gift. Remember to indicate **Leo Fund** on the check. And the next time you watch your dog run and play and sniff the butterflies, think about Abbey and Ginger.



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 in 1998.*

Golden Angels (\$500 or more)

**Something Special—Richard
and June Downing *
Elizabeth Oberdorfer
Dr. Walker and the
Veterinary Surgical Group
of Northern Virginia**

Golden Heroes (\$100 - \$499)

**Betsy Davis
John F. Horwath, Jr.
Beverly L. Mustaine
Shaaron and Cy Plate
Lewis and Holly Stanley
Karen Wahler**

Leo's Pals (up to \$99)

**Anita Abbruscato
Dr. and Mrs. Henry Balch
Jo Dempsey
Kathleen Glass
Martha Cole Glenn
Jonathan Gordon
Maureen Kelley
Robert Klause
Mrs. Ina and Judge Marvin Land
Robert Moore and Lucy Pearson
Carolyn and Rhett Murphy
Theresa Niebuhr
Barbara and Robert Osgood
Mark and Roslyn Preston**

** see picture on page 14*

Dear GRREAT:

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

Please send me a donation acknowledgment.

Name _____

Address _____

Mail to: The Leo Fund c/o GRREAT

P.O. Box 3069

Falls Church, VA 22043-0069



From: HollN Bran
 Subj: Hello

My name is Holly. I just e-mailed Ms. Nizer about volunteering. I also wanted to let you know what a wonderful organization GRREAT is. I adopted an eight year old Golden three years ago and she has been an absolute pleasure ever since. Sami is doing wonderful, she is slowing down a bit but I have to tell you it's really nice to have her just cuddled up with me in the couch instead of running around when I get home from work. I do miss those days a bit but hey we all get older and tired so I know we are a perfect match. Well that's all, just keep up the good work. Holly

PICNIC SITE SOUGHT

GRREAT is looking for a place to hold its annual picnic in May. Our summer picnics are very popular—over 100 dogs and their families attended last year's picnic at Bull Run Regional Park. The ideal location would be private land with trees, some open space, and a pond, stream or lake for the dogs to splash in.

If you know of such a site or would like to volunteer your property, please contact GRREAT President Shaaron Plate.

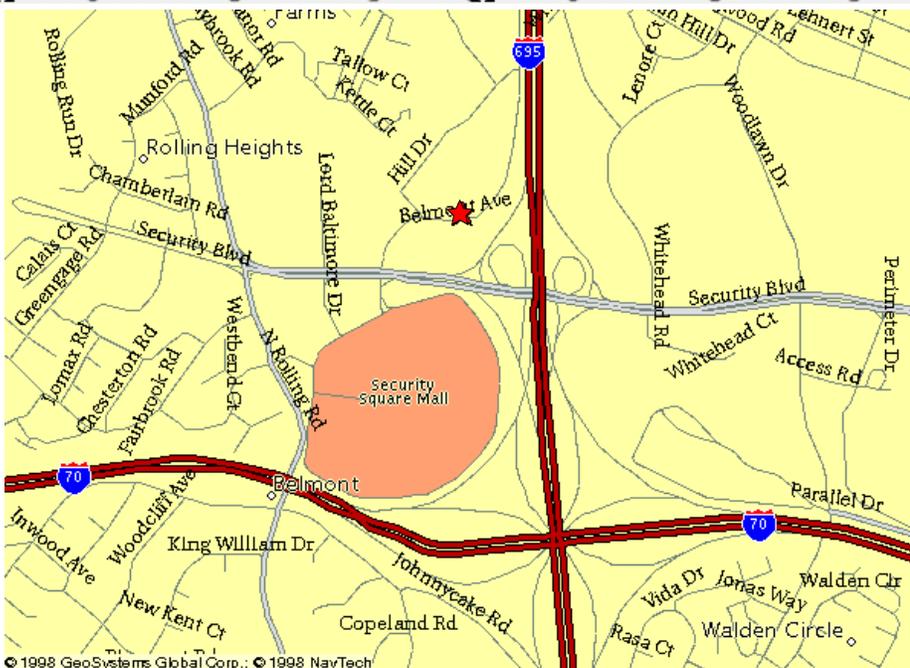
From: KSymonds@aol.com
 Subject: Why to adopt

I'm delighted to see that you have an older (11 y.o.) Golden up for adoption. I adopted a 10 y.o. Golden in Feb, 1998 and I ADORE HIM....the dog I already had - part golden, part lab - was seriously IRRITATED, but she has recovered from that....you have read my notes to GRREAT regarding Apple Jack and Olive, AJ being the 10 y.o. adoptee. He came to me weighing 81 pounds and was so thin that I could barely stand touching him because he was so bony. He grows more cheerful with every passing day. Olive, his mentor, is now glad to have his company.

I'm beginning to feel that I should become an advocate for adopting older dogs. If there is anything I can do, let me know. I feel as though I need to speak for AJ and Olive.

GRREAT thanks Dr. Yaghoubian for donating a variety of animal health aids

FOX MILL GNC GENERAL NUTRITION CENTERS LIVE WELL	Edward Yaghoubian, Ph.D. Licensed Nutritionist Medical Nutrition Therapy, Weight Loss & Sports Nutrition Counseling
	Fox Mill Shopping Center 2535 John Milton Drive Herndon, VA 20171
The Most Affordable & Reliable Nutritional Services	



Adoption Day
Sunday, January 24, 1999
Oriole Dog Training Center
1718C Belmont Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21244

Directions to Oriole Dog Training Center

From the northwest part of the Baltimore Beltway, I-695 (near Towson), take Exit 17W Security Blvd (Rolling Road), heading west toward Security Square Mall. Turn right on Belmont Avenue at the light after McDonald's and Best Buy. Turn left into the parking lot between buildings 1718 and 1720. The Oriole Dog Training Center is 1718C, the third door on the left next to Carpet Gallery.

**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 1999 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

_____ Perform home checks prior to adoptions

_____ Provide storage space for food, supplies, crates

_____ Stamp and address newsletters and flyers

_____ Donate the following services:

Other: _____

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Saturday, January 16, 1999—10:00 am
GRREAT Annual Business Meeting
 George Marshall High School
 7731 Leesburg Pike
 Falls Church, VA

Directions and more information on page 3.

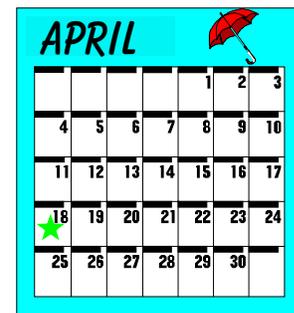
Reminder: GRREAT memberships expire 1/31/99.

Sunday, January 24, 1999—Noon to 2:00 pm
Adoption Day

Oriole Dog Training Center, Baltimore
Directions on page 18.

Saturday, February 27
Foster Home Seminar
 Cherry Hill Park, College Park, MD

Details and directions on page 2.



Future Adoption Days: March 7 at Alexandria Petco
 April 18 at Laurel Petco

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