



GRREAT NEWS

Published by Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc. • March/April 2003 • Volume 13, Number 2

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Letter	3
Transfusion Medicine	4
Letters to GRREAT	5
Donations	6
Leo's Corner	8
Happily Ever After	10
Ask Goldie Book Review	12
Calendar Contest	13
Goldens and Their Celebrities	14
Upcoming Events Business Meeting Highlights	15
Fostering is GRREAT!	16
Canine Capers The Pup Tent	17
Volunteer Corner	18

NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED

An interview by Emily Pasterick

On January 25th, Dan Keppler respectfully resigned his Presidency of GRREAT, a position he had held for two successful years, and with that, a new GRREAT President was welcomed. Kim Wiff, an active member of GRREAT for over three years, accepted the honor with enthusiasm (if a bit of anxiety!). Kim, along with her husband, Carl, are both devoted to rescuing Goldens, and are tireless in their participation with the Foster Home Program. I had the opportunity to learn from Kim how she became such a passionate advocate of GRREAT, and how she hopes to enhance its efficacy during her tenure:

How did you first become aware of and involved with GRREAT? "My husband and I found out about GRREAT in 1999, when we attended a dog show in Leesburg, Virginia. We had purchased our first Golden two years prior, and, being the typical Golden family, we couldn't have just one! We were going to get another puppy, but decided that adopting from a rescue was a better idea. Meeting Carl & Sara Gepp, the foster family of our first GRREAT Golden truly changed our lives! The stories they told us of the Goldens they had fostered inspired us to want to become involved in rescue. A year later, we became a foster home for GRREAT. We now share our home, bed and everything else with four GRREAT Goldens—three 'Wiff's,' and one foster."

What element of GRREAT holds the most passion for you? "The dogs are what I am passionate about! Each Golden that comes into GRREAT is unique; each one has a story to tell; and ultimately each of their stories will have a GRREAT ending because of the people that volunteer their time to make it possible."

What has been your most personally rewarding experience as a GRREAT member? "The Foster Home Program has

been one of the most rewarding experiences for my husband and me! To me, there's nothing like the feeling that comes from rescuing a Golden and then placing it into a new home. The families who have adopted one of our fosters know all too well how hard it is for me to give them up. But, when I see how happy the families are with their new additions, I am always reminded of why I want to be a foster home. Seeing the dogs blossom in their new homes, and seeing how much they are loved, is an incredible feeling!"

What do you think is the most important activity GRREAT members can do to promote the GRREAT cause? "I think the best thing people can do is educate those around them about 'responsible pet ownership.' No matter what it is—a guinea pig, a bird, a cat, or a dog—that pet deserves to have a home where it is cared for and loved."

How do you feel about your newly elected position? "It's an honor for me to be the President of GRREAT. I'm really excited about this opportunity. However, I'm not accustomed to being 'out in front' where people can see me, and so I have to admit, this is a bit scary! But, what some people may not realize about being the President of GRREAT is that it's not just me making all the decisions, it's an entire board of people who discuss the issues and decide together the best direction for GRREAT to go."

What kinds of things would you like to see enhanced, focused, etc., in the year to come? "I would like to focus on education. There's so much for us to discover about our four-legged family members, whether it's teaching them a new trick, or learning about the best care for them when they become ill."

"I look forward this year to meeting people who, like me, have devoted a part of their lives to rescuing Goldens!" 🐾

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am not yet a member of GRREAT, [Editor's note: the author has become a member since this letter was written] although my family and I recently began to share our lives with a Golden Retriever puppy. However, I read your January-February newsletter article about dealing with arthritis—and there was a factual error in that article that could have grave consequences for Golden Retrievers and other bloat-prone dogs.

In the article, you stated that a raised food bowl can not only help a dog deal more comfortably with arthritis but also can help prevent bloat. It is true that for a long time, a raised food bowl was believed to help prevent bloat. Unfortunately, research has shown that the opposite is the case: Dr. Larry Glickman of Purdue University discovered that a raised food bowl increases the risk that a dog will develop this life-threatening condition. This link details Dr. Glickman's findings: <http://www.vet.purdue.edu/epi/clbr.htm>.

I am a writer who specializes in topics related to dogs, and I have interviewed Dr. Glickman personally. During those conversations, he confirmed that raised food bowls do indeed increase a dog's chances of developing bloat—and noted that this finding was surprising to him and his colleagues.

Best wishes,
Susan McCullough
Author, *Housetraining For Dummies* and the forthcoming *Your New Dog: An Expert Answers Your Every Question*

From the editor:
Susan, we thank you for your comments. We hope all dog lovers will acknowledge this important change in information.



GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

P.O. Box 3069, Falls Church, VA 22043-0069
Phone: 703-620-6593 • 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, Delaware and parts of Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

2003 OFFICERS AND ADVISORY BOARD

PRESIDENT

Kim Wiff*.....president@grreat.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Kurtz*.....thekurtzes@yahoo.com

SECRETARY, FOSTER HOME & INTAKE COORDINATOR

Mary Ellen Lunde*.....melunde@worldnet.att.net

TREASURER

Gail Corby*.....gaildc@aol.com

FOSTER HOME ASSISTANTS

Tom Janczuk.....tjanczuk@earthlink.net

Susan McKelvey.....smckelvey@expresshost.com

INTAKE ASSISTANTS

Edie Galpin.....zerberus57@msn.com

Mary Hahn.....mfhahn@aol.com

ADOPTION COORDINATOR

Jessie Robinson*.....jrgolden4314@hotmail.com

ASSISTANT ADOPTION COORDINATOR

Stephanie Nelson.....stefnel57@yahoo.com

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Sharon Robinson-Boonstra.....goldenop@crosslink.net

EDUCATION COORDINATORS

Denise Gettier.....jlgetti2@comcast.net

Sandy Diamond.....hobbess@crosslink.net

FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR

Pam Ambrose.....recreat.ambrop@co.mo.md.us

MEMBER AT LARGE

Pam Briggie*.....pam-lori@juno.com

MEMBERSHIP & MAIL COORDINATOR

Jill Kurtz*.....thekurtzes@yahoo.com

MERCHANDISING COORDINATOR

Brenda Burlbaugh.....bburlbaugh@aol.com

TATTOOING COORDINATOR

Scott Daniels*.....esdchef@msn.com

WEBMASTER

Bob Fritz.....webmaster@grreat.org

NEWSLETTER STAFF

MANAGING EDITOR Beth Lacey Gill.....dssblg@netzero.com

COORDINATOR Leigh Rutter.....leighmegs@cablespeed.com

WRITERS Emily Pasterick.....emily.pasterick@lmco.com

A. Hailey Morgan...duckdogmom@toadmail.com

—please send general comments & questions to newsletter@grreat.org

* members of the GRREAT Board of Directors

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I have put a great deal of thought into what would be my first "President's Message" to you. I have thought of several "Presidential topics," and have even sought advice from others on what to write about. However, I keep coming back to what I wrote originally. I

ask that you please forgive me for making my first message to you, a little personal. It's a subject that at the moment is very close to my heart. It's the topic of senior Golden Retrievers.

My husband and I adopted a 10-year old Golden named Cougar this past July. We recently found out that an illness will soon take him from us. Having him in our home, along with a foster that is about ten months old, has caused me to think a lot about "old gold" and "new gold."

As all jewelers know, there is yellow gold and there is white gold. Both are equally valuable. Those who adopt an older Golden are immediately smitten by the soulful look from the eyes of their gentle white faces. They are truly the jewels in the Golden line. The true 24 carats. They have seen it all, done most of it, and are now content to be by your side, sharing their Golden love with you, and with whomever else they meet.

Most of our requests to adopt are for the new gold. The ones who are vital and active. The ones who charm you with their antics and want to include you in their games and their

world. But, for those of us who have adopted old gold, we get to skip the obedience training, the chewing of shoes and the endless energy. While the youngsters are a joy to have around, they can certainly wear you out!

So, why adopt an older Golden? To me, there's some-

"Those who adopt older Golden Retrievers are the most unselfish of rescuers. It is not easy to take a dog into your heart and home, knowing they may not be with you for very long."

thing comforting about having a companion who's content to just be at my side. Although we all know that our time with them will be shorter, it is far outweighed by what is given in return. It is worth every minute you have together. Each day is truly a gift, and you treat it as such. People speak of their unconditional love that cannot be matched and the honor it is just to have them as part of our lives.

Those who adopt older Golden Retrievers are the most unselfish of rescuers. It is not easy to take a dog into your heart and home, knowing they may not be with you for very long. For me, I ended up with my old gold purely by chance. Cougar was being returned to GRREAT and I was only supposed to keep him over the weekend. I ended up becoming so attached to him, that I couldn't bear the thought of giving him up to someone else. We couldn't love him any more, even if he had been with us all of his life. Like many others, I feel no pangs of regret. I know I will adopt a senior Golden again, if I have the chance.

Yes, they are older and whiter in the face. Yes, they may come with their own set of issues from previous experiences & homes. And, yes, their medical needs may be more than that of a younger dog. But, once you look into those eyes and see the thanks and the trust, all the potential problems fade away. You realize that you have been given an extraordinary gift to love, and to be loved unconditionally in return. After all, you can take tarnished gold, rub it gently, and restore it to that burnished flame of old gold—all it takes is love.

Sincerely,
Kim Wiff, GRREAT President

A portion of this message was written & reprinted with permission from Deb Orwig; RAG of AZ



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 8, 2003:
Adoption Day
Herndon, VA

April 5, 2003:
Adoption Day
Bel Air, MD

May 3, 2003:
Adoption Day
Dale City, VA

May 17, 2003:
Family Picnic at
Tarara Winery

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS?

Keep us up-to-date on your e-mail address so we can keep you in the loop on the latest news from GRREAT. Please send all e-mail address changes to Jill Kurtz at thekurtzes@yahoo.com. Also, if you do not currently get e-mail updates from GRREAT and would like to be added to the list, please send your address to Jill.

Visit us
on the web at:
www.grreat.org

See some of the
GRREAT dogs that are
up for adoption and
keep up-to-date with
what goes on in between
newsletter issues!

FOOD LION MVP CARD DONATIONS

Did you know that every time you do your grocery shopping you could be donating money to help our Golden friends?

Food Lion has started a program that allows non-profit organizations to earn money every time their members swipe their MVP cards. GRREAT has enrolled in this program and we need help from our members. Each time you shop at Food Lion and use your MVP card, a portion of your total grocery purchase will be donated to GRREAT.

If you would like to enroll, you can visit www.foodlion.com to link your card, or you can send the following information to newsletter@great.org: MVP card number, First and Last Name, Address, Day Phone and Email. If you don't have internet access, you can mail the information to:
Leigh Rutter
280 Oakwood Village Ct.
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Going to an event at the MCI Center?

Remember to drop by the 4th floor concession stand that GRREAT sponsors (generally stand 417). Grab some snacks during intermission and say hello to our terrific volunteers. Tell your friends!

Each MCI Center Event raises an average of \$307.28. That's almost enough money for GRREAT to save one dog. To be a part of this easy way to volunteer, contact Lori Bott at pam-lori@juno.com.

TRANSFUSION MEDICINE

What Science can do to help our Golden

by A. Hailey Morgan

While there was a time when veterinarians relied on the "hospital dog" to provide blood to patients in need of a transfusion, most veterinary clinics today rely on typed, screened blood products available through veterinary blood banks. Depending on the average number of transfusion medicine cases treated, a clinic will stock their hospital with blood products, order products to be shipped overnight as cases present, or transfer critical cases to a local critical care facility. Many pet owners never give any thought to where blood comes from or how it is used until their pet needs it. This article intends to give you enough information to ask intelligent questions should your pet ever need a transfusion.

Components vs. Whole Blood

As in human medicine, when a unit of whole blood is collected from a canine donor, it is separated into two or more components. In veterinary medicine, the two most frequently used components are Packed Red Blood Cells (PRBC's) and Plasma. The use of blood components has two main advantages over the use of whole blood. The first is to allow specific therapy for specific disease entities. PRBC's are used primarily to treat anemia.

... you do not need to wait until your dog has a medical emergency to have him or her blood typed.

Plasma products are used to treat many conditions: rodenticide toxicity, pancreatitis, Hemophilia, and von Willebrands disease, just to name a few. Thus the second benefit, which is that one unit of blood can be used to treat more than one patient or ailment. For a more detailed look at component therapy, refer to the Canine Component Therapy Guidelines chart.

When is whole blood necessary? FRESH whole blood is necessary for massive hemorrhage. Massive hemorrhage is defined as total loss of blood volume in less than 24 hours. Any other indication for whole blood would involve multiple symptoms secondary to one or more primary disease entities. Again as in human medicine, using whole blood in place

of component therapy, in a patient that is not suffering from massive hemorrhage, is rarely in the best interest of the patient and can actually be harmful, possibly resulting in polycythemia (too many red cells) or hypervolemia (volume overload).

Blood Type

Blood types are determined by different proteins on the surface of the red blood cells. Thirteen of these proteins have been identified in the dog. Transfusion reactions can occur when blood cells with a certain protein are given to a patient whose own cells do not have that protein. The protein that has been found to trigger a significant transfusion reaction is DEA (Dog Erythrocyte Action) 1.1. Thus dogs are classified as being DEA 1.1 Negative or DEA 1.1 Positive. While DEA 1.1 Negative is generally considered to be "universal," in that it can be given to dogs that are either DEA 1.1 Negative or DEA 1.1 Positive, 55% of dogs are DEA 1.1 Positive (also referred to as non-universal).

It's easy to see that relying on DEA 1.1 Negative donors for all dogs in need of a transfusion would result in a shortage of blood. Therefore it is necessary to test both donors and recipients, allowing DEA 1.1 Positive blood to be used for patients that are DEA 1.1 Positive. Blood typing kits are commercially available, affordable, easy to run, and results can be read in two minutes.

It is important to recognize that while blood type matters when transfusing PRBC's or whole blood, blood type is NOT important when transfusing plasma products. There are not enough red cells in plasma to trigger a blood type transfusion reaction. It is not uncommon for dogs to have a reaction to a plasma transfusion, but that reaction is not due to blood type incompatibility. Because the need for plasma in veterinary medicine always exceeds the supply, dogs in need of plasma are generally given whatever plasma is first available, regardless of blood type.

Synthetic Products

The two most commonly used synthetic blood products in transfusion cases are Oxyglobin and artificial colloids. Oxyglobin is a synthetic red blood cell product that has been approved for use in dogs while being tested

for use in humans. (It is also used “extra-label” in cats). Some veterinarians swear by Oxyglobin, others have sworn off of it. According to BioPure, maker of Oxyglobin, the benefits are that it can be used without regard to blood type, it has a three year shelf life, and it has both oxygen carrying capacity as well as colloidal properties. The drawbacks are that its benefits last 24 hours (as opposed to PRBC’s which can last several weeks) and it is considerably more expensive than natural blood products. If your veterinarian is considering Oxyglobin for your pet, he or she has the option of contacting BioPure for technical support.

Artificial Colloids include Hetastarch and Dextran. For dogs that are losing protein (Hypoproteinemia) these products work like a sponge, soaking up the proteins and preventing further leakage. Artificial colloids are preferable to using plasma for these cases, as the plasma will just continue to leak out along with the proteins. In addition to being more effective than plasma, artificial colloids are also much less expensive than plasma.

Donors

There are only a few commercial blood banks in this country. Some use volunteer donors, some house dogs on site, some sedate donors, some do not, some use licensed veterinarians to draw the blood, some use unlicensed assistants. My golden, Indy, has been enrolled in the volunteer donor program at Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank in Annapolis for almost three years. Indy donates blood approximately every



HOPEFULLY YOUR DOG WON'T NEED A TRANSFUSION, BUT IF HE DOES IT'S IMPORTANT TO ALREADY KNOW HIS BLOOD TYPE.

two months. He is not sedated, the blood is drawn by a licensed veterinarian, and a complete physical exam is performed prior to each donation. Indy finds the attention and dog cookies ample reward for his (relatively) five minutes of stillness. I find the annual CBC/Chemistry/Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever test and the semi-annual Heartworm/Ehrlichia testing ample reward for driving him there. Hopefully he will never need the free blood he earns with each donation.

Since blood type does not change, you do not need to wait until your dog has a medical emergency to have him or her blood typed. If your pet has von Willebrands or Hemophilia, does SAR work, or just seems accident prone, you definitely do NOT want to wait for a crisis. Talk with your pet’s veterinarian at your next visit.

For more information on the Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank’s volunteer donor program, contact 800-949-EVBB or visit www.evbb.com

CANINE COMPONENT THERAPY GUIDELINES

INDICATIONS	BLOOD PRODUCT (in Order of Preference)
Anemia Blood Loss Hemolysis Nonregenerative	1. Packed Red Cells 2. Fresh Whole Blood 3. Stored Whole Blood
Massive Hemorrhage	1. Fresh Whole Blood 2. Fresh Frozen Plasma + Packed Red Cells
Warfarin Poisoning	1. Frozen Plasma 2. Fresh Frozen Plasma 3. Fresh Whole Blood
Hemophilia A	1. Cryoprecipitate 2. Fresh Frozen Plasma 3. Fresh Whole Blood
Hemophilia B	1. Frozen Plasma 2. Fresh Frozen Plasma 3. Fresh Whole Blood
vWD	1. Cryoprecipitate 2. High vWF Fresh Frozen Plasma 3. Fresh Frozen Plasma 4. Fresh Whole Blood
Thrombocytopenia (Due to Marrow Disorder)	1. Platelet Concentrate 2. Platelet Rich Plasma 3. Fresh Whole Blood
DIC	1. Fresh Frozen Plasma 2. Cryoprecipitate 3. Fresh Whole Blood
Hypoproteinemia	1. Artificial Colloid(Hetastarch,Dextran) 2. Frozen Plasma 3. Fresh Frozen Plasma 4. Fresh Whole Blood

Adapted from Hohenhaus, A. E. (1992), Canine Blood Transfusions, in "Problems in Veterinary Medicine, Transfusion Medicine" (A.E. Hohenhaus, ed.) p. 616, J.B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia

LETTERS TO GRREAT

Just wanted to let you know how happy we are to have adopted Sadie. She has fit right into our family without any problems. Our experience with GRREAT has been great. - Monica and Bill Despina

Dear GRREAT:

We just wanted to thank you for bringing Ed into our lives. Initially, we had planned to foster him, but fell in love and decided to adopt. We adopted our first Golden, Puck, 3 years ago from a pet shelter. When we brought Ed into our home to foster, the two immediately became best friends. They have been inseparable since. We live in the western most part of Maryland and find it difficult to attend the GRREAT functions, but we look forward to meeting many of the wonderful people who make this organization possible. Thanks again! - Michele and Eric Pavelko



ED AND PUCK HAVE BECOME BEST FRIENDS

DONATIONS

Donations In Honor of..

Denise Skinner and her family for their love and dedication to foster gal Brittany (summer '02). - *Melissa Guzman*

Pat Miles - *Heather Hejmanowski*

Keith and Anne Lees - *David Lees*

Stan, Earle & Andy Whitmore - *Walt and Ellen Sanders*

Judy Radt - *Jennifer Radt*

Casey Ayers - *Leigh Shirkey*

Riley Worthington - *Anonymous*

Suzanne Cummings - *Annie Simon*

Barbara Ward - *Pamela Ward*

Allen and Simone Long

My angel dog, Carmel

Amber - *Sheila and Al Vertino*

My sweet boy Bailey 99-135. He is the constant joy and source of laughter in my life. No matter how rough my day has been, coming home to Bailey's enthusiasm and love makes all the rest fade to a smile. Thank you GRREAT for all you do for our best friends. - *Toni Stiefel*

Our friend Maddy. To thank her for 10 1/2 years and counting of faithfulness and love. - *Claudia and Jeff Smith*

Duffy (02-182) my first foster. - *Terri Jones*

Montana - *Barbara and Dave Abernethy*

Max the best GRREAT Golden ever! - *Allison and Kevin Long*

Jake 00-011 and Bear 00-043 - *Thomas and Marylou Janczuk*

Our GRREAT great beloved dog Jack - *Allison and Steve Hodges*

Jake 'the snake' LaMotta 96-007 - *Linda Stacy-Nichols*

Bear 00-116 and Sandy 02-034 - *Lynda and Bob Lake*

My best buddy Rudy (96-135) who was just certified as a Pet Partner with the Delta Society Pet Partner's Therapy Program.

- *Barbara Hals*

Samson 99-133 and in memory of

Duke - *Judith Grant*

Lady 97-066, world's sweetest dog

- *Carol and Doug Melamed*

All dogs who have three legs or have ambulatory problems.

- *Patricia Miller*

Jasper, our adopted Golden. Jasper was taken in by GRREAT when he was homeless and sick with Heartworm. GRREAT gave so much of their time to nurse Jasper and to find him a good home. When we received Jasper 2 months later he was the happy healthy dog that we have today. We are so thankful we found Jasper. He has given us so much joy over the last 6 months. He enjoys long walks, hiking, swimming, going to the dog park and cuddling on the couch. We definitely spoil him, but he deserves it!!! We are excited to have many more years with our new family member, Jasper. We wanted to thank GRREAT for being such a wonderful organization.

- *Brian and Heather Chmura*

Special Donations

To thank Deb Nizer for Taz, thanks for knowing how much we needed him after Stetson died of cancer.

- *Patrick and Patricia McAllister*

For Avery's bar mitzvah and his mitzvah project to collect money and supplies for GRREAT.

- *Deborah and Eric Uslaner*

To thank Buddy, Buster and Star, my GRREAT goldens.

- *Melanie Smith*

Other Donations

Thanks for all your good work. The McCarthys AKA BJ/Buddy's new owners. - *Thomas and Helen McCarthy*

I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for our wonderful friend (use donation any way to help the wonderful dogs.) - *John and Dorothy Dean*

Where goldens are concerned, we wear our hearts on our sleeves. - *Steve Soderberg and Mary Ann McFarland*

\$500 for the Similie-Finale Fund - *Mary Ginn*

With sincere thanks to Dan Keppler for his honest and compassionate advice regarding our chow/golden mix Sampson. - *David Paradise and Rachel Graham*

Please accept our donation to offset the cost of surgery for our foster dog Roll. - *Bob and April Fritz*

Merry Christmas to Mom, Dad, Winston and Oliver and crew
- *Jessica Huber*

To thank Edie Galpin for her never-ending advice and for opening up her heart and home to Copper and Bailey while we traveled to California. - *Alex and Heather Sherman*

To thank GRREAT for my Goldie. Goldie is 5½ years old now, and grows dearer to me every day. Many thanks to GRREAT for giving her to me. Her picture is after a hard ball game. - *Mildred Fink*



I love the work you do and wish I was nearer and could participate. This is in memory of our two goldens, Peter and Wuwu, who gave us so much joy. Also, I had been waiting for one of yours but had not been inspected. After a year I saw a sign - Golden mix puppies. I called and got the last and then asked about the Dad? A Komondor they said!! Charlie was just one; is cream colored; has golden quality hair but it's now 12' long on back and head! He's topping the scale at 110 & hasn't stopped. But most important he has the golden personality & a bit of head-strongness. Needless to say we adore him. Golden retrievers are great - even half goldens! - *Mary Ann Gibbons*

Donations In Memory Of

Max Cheslock, gone from us now 1 year and we still have heavy hearts. - *Richard and Jule Ann Cheslock*

Zachary —what a golden!! - *Joanna Thalbeimer*

Mighty Heidi. - *Tess and Tracy Provenzano*

Cassie, a fabulous Golden. - *Scott C. Sampson*

I wish to honor the life of 'Echo' a beautiful golden cut down before her time with leukemia. Please use this for your very honorable work. - *Col (Ret) and Mrs. Floyd A Mason*

Raleigh - *Elaine Feidelman*

Helen M. 'Honey' Keart. - *Ronald and Joan Apatoff*

Murphy, Reillee's 'boyfriend' who crossed over this year. - *Anne and Lee Dabmer*

Sandy Collins. - *Gloria and Marc Pound*

Our wonderful puppy, Haley, who brought us great joy! - *Doug and Pam Brouder*



KJ.
KJ died August 31, 2002, after a valiant struggle against cancer. The gentlest soul I have ever known. And he took part of mine with him. KJ, you will always be in my thoughts.
- *John Metter*

Garth (95-054), who brought us nearly seven years of joy. - *Linda Holmes*



In remembrance of my best buddy Sam and my new friend Cody. - *Brenda Pascal*

Max Cheslock, a great Golden. - *Lynn and David Gilbertson*

In memory of Pat Balducci and Tom Sizemore's two goldens, Buck her first foster and adoption and dear Miss Morgan Marie. It is also to honor Pat as an unselfish loving volunteer that has always seen and encouraged the 'big picture' in rescue. She has reminded many of us, by her kind and thoughtful energy, of the true importance in working together and the fact the dogs don't realize or care which rescue is able to help—they are just happy to be fed, warm and loved. I am having the best time fostering Hannah banana 02-288. She's a cutie. - *L Sidney Morris*

Nick - *Kathy LeMay*

Carmel - *William Strickler*

Our beloved 15 year old Golden, Taffy, and her 11 year old puppy General Patton. We love you and miss you both. - *Wendy Beyer*

Our wonderful little boy Tucker! - *Brad, Kathy, Mitch & Carson Bowser*

Chardonnay. - *Toni Delacorte*

Our beloved Sunnie, who was put to sleep on December 30, 2002 due to congestive heart failure. We miss our sweet golden boy, and hope that we can adopt another wonderful golden who is just as sweet. Thanks to all of the GRREAT members who sent e-mails and cards. We appreciate them all, and know that you understand so well how sad we feel. - *Katherine and Wayne Hunter*

Salty - *Royce and Elinore Peabody*

My wonderful horse, Moose, who passed away last May at 24 years of age. - *Barbara Prince*



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

Rebecca and Art Hotop
R David Wolf
Jeff and Maurine Schuller
Connie and Ben Etheridge
Sharon McIlrath
Stephen and Kristina Hays
Virginia Lewis
Monica and Howard Gappa
Shelley Hunsberger
Diane Wolfe
Bill and Geri Guwang
Leslie Raulin
Rosemary and Perry Wilcox
Sharon and Bill Coale
Carol and Jim Crew
Carolyn Cole
Erik and Sara Franklin
Sharon and Brian Roeder
Jan and Gary Shapiro
Ginny and Ed Miller
Carolyn Beard
Bernard and Bonnie Burton
Susan McCullough
Laura and James Horn
Steve Shinham
Rick and Shirley Farquhar
Betsy Davis
Dick Wilcher
Ed Bielecki and Connie Holcombe
Louise Davidson
Priscilla Griffith
Leslie and Dennis Peszczynski
Lisa Kershner
Denis and Wendy Garcia
Gloria and Ruben Reyes
John Saunders
Anita and Frank Abbruscato
Joe and Joann Lamp
JCI, Inc for Animal Den
web site commission
Mark and Jane Reger
Carole and Richard Jefferson
Jacquie Astemborski
Sharon Bottcher and Joan Peddicord
Mary Ginn
Ronald and Joan Apatoff
Jim and Wendy Bruno
Tim LeRoy and Jan Christensen
Mark and Tannan Hagyard
Ernie DuBester and Karen Kremer
Judge Marvin and Ina Land
Yuki and John May
Lee and Sylvia Mabie
Tony and Barbara Nastus
Joyce and Scott Parkin
Laura Schmitz
Hilary Stanhope and Kathi Rechsteiner
Diana Edensword Conway
Phil and Janet Hauck
Robert Grosshandler/iGive.com

LEO'S CORNER

SAVED BY THE LEO FUND JOSH'S STORY

by Kim Wiff

He was only four months old when he was hit by a car and found on the side of the road—dying—by a “Good Samaritan,” who stopped and took him to Eastern Shore Vet Hospital. X-rays revealed that he had a fractured pelvis and a front leg broken near the growth plate; further, he was flea-infested, and had worms. The vet hospital stabilized him and posted “Found” reports, hoping that his owners would come forward. But sadly, no one came to claim this little boy. On August 7, 2002, GRREAT was contacted about taking him. Time was critical because his leg needed to be operated on soon to ensure that he would have a normal life later. On August 12th, he was turned over to GRREAT, and from there began his road to recovery. Donations made to the Leo Fund was used to pay for the needed surgeries.

On August 13th, Dr. Walker, an orthopedic surgeon, repaired the radius/ulna fracture on his front leg. When I picked him up on Friday, four days after surgery, I saw that he had a cast on his leg as big as he was! He also had several small bald patches from the flea infestation, and several large ones from tumbling on the road when the car hit him. I named him “Josh” after the Tom Hanks character in the movie “Big;” he was such a small boy, in such a big world.

Josh underwent surgery again on September 4th, to remove the implants that were helping his front leg heal correctly. Although there had been an initial concern that he may lose his front leg or not have full use of it, Josh was lucky—the surgery was a success! He was mobile enough to begin short walks that would help him regain his strength and energy. After a couple of weeks, however, we noticed that when he walked his gait didn't seem “normal and smooth.” He would often scoot along the floor on his side to retrieve something instead of walking to get it. X-rays were again taken. They showed that his pelvis had small multiple fractures, and the larger fracture that we had thought would heal on its own, had not. Josh would need more surgery that

would re-break and repair his pelvis, and then would need a bilateral triple pelvic osteotomy. Again, money from the Leo Fund was used. On October 2nd, and October 14th, surgeries three and four were performed. As might have been expected given the extent of the injuries, it was not an easy recovery for Josh. From the moment he joined our family, he had spent almost all of his time on “crate rest;” the additional surgeries extended this strict confinement another five weeks. Even the simple things, such being taken outside and eating, took twice as long for Josh. Despite his constant pain, my husband and I found that what seemed to comfort him and lift his spirits the most was being with us. In the evenings we would take him out of his crate, and he would play a little, or just rest quietly next to us as we watched TV. We also took turns at night sleeping with him on a dog bed. He would snuggle up so close to us, and



JOSH (#02-161) GOT ALL THE HELP HE NEEDED FROM LEO FUND DONATIONS

sleep so soundly, that he hardly moved the entire night.

By the middle of November, Josh had made remarkable progress. He was feeling much better, and so was able to move around better and stand while eating. However, Josh was still extremely unstable on his feet. He would slip very easily, and each step he took was slow, stiff and methodical. Because of Josh's extensive time on “crate rest,” his muscles had atrophied; he had very little strength and stamina. To improve this, Josh began physical therapy. I had recommended swim therapy as a rehabilitative exercise that would provide him with the best chance to make a complete

LETTERS TO LEO

To our friends at GRREAT: In loving memory of our great golden, Buddy, who died this April at the age of 8. He too was once a puppy with severe hip dysplasia who was lucky enough to find an owner (my husband) who could afford the surgeries he needed to reconstruct his hips. We hope these funds will go towards another dog being able to get the care they need. Please also accept our thanks for making it possible to foster and later adopt our beautiful golden oldie, Alex (02-141), when we found our home too empty!

- *Pam and Conrad O'Connell*

In honor of my former fosters Rudy and Josie.

- *Elizabeth Crane*

In memory of 'Berkeley' Ayres who crossed over suddenly in October from a massive heart attack. She was a 9 year old Golden who was her mom's sweetheart and constant companion. She was the picture of health until the day she passed. We are very grateful for that. I would also like to mention the kind treatment we received from the Route 40 Emergency Animal Hospital in Ellicott City. Please use this in her memory for the Leo Fund.

- *Kathy and Donald Ayres*

In memory of Tyler & Jesse – much beloved friends I will see again! - *Judi Buckalew*

In honor of my cherished and beloved GRREAT Goldens, Darcy (93-103) and Logan (00-004). - *Ann Wakefield*

In memory of our beloved Jordan on the first anniversary of her voyage to the Rainbow Bridge after 13 1/2 years of spreading (& receiving) much love here on earth. She came to us as a CCI (canine companions for independence) pup. She became a full time member of our family because of hip dysplasia. At the end of January, we will receive and raise another Golden for CCI in her honor.

- *Harma Nybof*

In memory of Max who walked with a limp his whole sweet life!

- *Richard and Jule Ann Cheslock*

In memory of Sarge. - *John and Kathleen Marsch*

For a chance at a healthy life. - *Nancy Hamilton*

In honor of Abby, Emma, and all other GRREAT dogs who went over the Rainbow Bridge in 2002. - *Mary Ginn*

On behalf of Dan Douglas, Kevin Carr and Benjamin - *Fran and Jerry Ward*

In honor of our GRREAT dog Murphy (99-182), who was lucky enough NOT to require hip surgery. - *Linda and Craig Wensley*

In honor of Goldie 99-070, our special companion. - *Olivia McDonough*

In memory of Holly—candidate for doggie sainthood. - *Janet and Thomas Lehman*

recovery. After receiving support from Dr. Walker for my suggestion, as well as that from the Board of GRREAT, Josh began his swim therapy. Funds from the Similie-Finale Fund, which pays for holistic/homeopathic treatment, was used to pay for his swimming. When Josh started swimming, he was only able to do three, fifty-yard laps around the pool, which took him about 30 minutes with breaks in between to rest. Now, after more than 20 sessions of swimming, in that same 30 minutes, Josh is able to do 14 laps, and still have time left over to do some fun retrieving in the water! The differences the swim therapy have made for him, both phys-

ically and emotionally, are indescribable; I would never have thought it possible! Now at almost 11 months old, Josh is making up for lost time as a typical puppy that gets into everything! He has truly regained his spirit, is happy and active, and loves to explore the world around him.

THANKS to the donations made to the Leo Fund, and Simile/Finale Fund, that made it all possible for him to have a "GRREAT Life!!"

If you have a "success story" you'd like to share with the GRREAT community about a Golden's recovery because of the Leo Fund, please send it to newsletter@great.org with "Leo Loves" in the subject line. 

THANK YOU LEO FUND DONATIONS

Golden Angels (\$500 or more)

Mary Ginn

Golden Heroes (\$100 - 499)

Kathy Thomas

Krista Maslyn

Pam and Conrad O'Connell

Judi Buckalew

Harma Nyhof

Nancy Hamilton

Mary Ann McFarland

Vicki and James Eurice

Linda and Craig Wensley

Margaret Mc Gee

Olivia McDonough

Leo's Pals (up to \$99)

Linda Scher

Joseph O'Neill

Paul and Christine Umberger

Judith Lucas

Joseph O'Neill

Wayne Steinhilber

Elizabeth Crane

Kathy and Donald Ayres

Ann Wakefield

Diane Lanigan

Richard and Jule Ann Cheslock

John and Kathleen Marsch

Fran and Jerry Ward

Janet and Thomas Lehman

A special Thank You to MarkzWare for providing PM2Q5, an important piece of software that helped create this newsletter. Please support them by visiting their website at www.markzware.com.

...AND THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER

ADOPTION REPORT

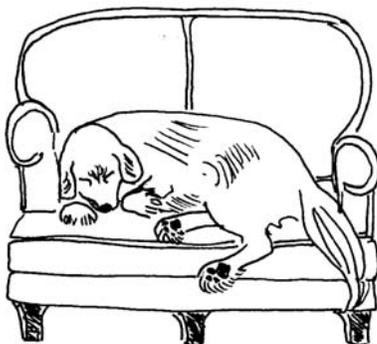
December 4, 2002 through February 2, 2003

A lot of families started out the New Year with a bark from a GRREAT Golden! Thirty-three families, to be exact, each with a Golden to match. Of those lucky 33, there were 21 beautiful boys and 12 gorgeous girls. There were 14 puppies (a year old or less) and one senior citizen, who was at the ripe old age of ten. A sincere thank you goes out to all of the families who adopted a dog, and of course to those who fostered these pups. Congratulations!

Our statistics on this group:

- Dogs - 33
- Males - 21
- Females - 12
- Age 2 and under - 15
- Age 7 and over - 4
- Age 2 through 7 - 14

REPORT →
Continued



AUGIE DOGGIE

By Linda Kurtz

One Saturday in early August 2002, GRREAT transport volunteer Bill Price pulled into our driveway. In the back of his SUV was a golden guy who has taught us what rescue is really all about.

Bill had spent his morning traveling from Burke, Virginia to Shenandoah County to pick up Bruiser, a 14-year old golden who had been walked into the shelter on the previous Friday by his owners. They told the staff there that they "didn't have time" for the dog. He had been living outside on a chain.

The shelter contacted GRREAT and told Intake and Foster Home Coordinator Mary Ellen Lunde that if we could get him before the end of the weekend, we could have him. Otherwise, they were pretty crowded and wouldn't be keeping this old dog around. Mary Ellen contacted Bill, then asked us to serve as temporary fosters until a permanent foster home could be found.

Bill opened the back of his SUV and there sat an almost pure white golden. He looked more like a ghost than a golden retriever. We helped Bill lift him out and get him to the ground. He was curly from head to toe and could barely walk. However, he had a wag in his tail that told us that he was happy to have arrived.

It wasn't long before we determined that Bruiser was completely deaf and also that he was covered with ticks. Almost every square inch of his body had at least one tick attached to it. He was also very dirty and matted. His coat felt like straw.

We managed to get Bruiser from the driveway to the back porch by carrying him around the house. Once we had laid him down on the porch, my mom, Jill, and my dad, Bob, got a pair of tweezers to pick off the ticks and scissors to cut out the worst mats. During the whole procedure, Bruiser's tail kept wagging and the giant smile he was wearing when we first saw him in the SUV stayed in place.

It took my parents hours to get all of the ticks off of this curly, white-gold boy. By the time the whole procedure was over, my parents had unanimously decided that we couldn't part with this old guy. They thought that he had already been moved around too much for a dog his age and that he needed to settle down for the last few months or so of his life.

When they asked my sister and me if we were okay with keeping Bruiser, I started crying. I didn't think I could love him like I love my other two dogs, Halley and Orion. I

Name	ID #	Age	Sex				
Beemer	02-202	8	F	Micah	03-003	1	M
Ben	02-196	5	M	Molly	02-250	5	F
Buck	02-278	5	M	Nic	02-301	1	M
Buddy	02-277	1	M	Nittany	02-267	5	M
Chance	02-248	3	M	Percipany	02-276	7	M
Chase	02-237	1	M	Phineas	02-240	5mo	M
Clementine	02-203	6	F	Rusty	02-280	1	M
Daisy	02-295	1	F	Sawyer	02-296	1	M
Diamond	02-270	3	F	Scamp/Red	02-225	1	M
Dillon	02-265	6	M	Shandy	02-281	3	F
Ellie	02-273	11mo	F	Simon	02-293	6	M
Ginger	02-279	2	F	Socks/Ed	02-159	1	M
Goldie	02-289	6	F	Sunny	02-287	3	M
Jessie	02-254	8	F	Sunshine	03-005	3	M
Judy	02-261	10	F	Toby	02-282	1	M
Max	02-266	3	M	Whisper	02-257	6mo	F
				Yeller	02-224	1	M

AUGIE DOGGIE Continued

didn't want to lose another dog so soon after losing our first dog, Cally. I was afraid of becoming attached and getting my heart broken again.

We all know that this is one of the emotional risks of having a dog, but in most cases, the love and the great life you share overpowers the sadness of your dog's death. I realized this and decided that I could love Bruiser just like I love Halley and Orion.

But before we could adopt him, I decided that there was no way I was going to let this sweet, gentle, happy dog go on with a name like Bruiser. So, we renamed him August, Augie for short, because that was the month he came to us.

We had our adoption papers in to Adoption Coordinator Jessie Robinson right after his two-week evaluation period ended. He was now an official member of the Kurtz pack!

Six months later, Augie is still a thriving member of our family. I can barely remember life without him. Now that he has some medications for his chronic ear infection and is on some glucosamine for his joints (not to mention being cured of a case of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever), Augie is healthy and



AUGIE IS HAPPY IN HIS FOREVER HOME WITH THE KURTZ FAMILY

running around almost as fast as his brother and sister. In fact, he loves his morning walks and won't stand to be left behind.

Augie greets each day like it's a new present to be opened. He's happy for each moment and delighted if it involves something to eat, a nice walk, or a bit of affection. He's taught everyone in our family to appreciate every moment that we have together. 🐾



ADOPTION REPORT FOR ALL OF 2002

Last year, GRREAT took in 315 dogs. Following are the statistics, released at the January Business Meeting, on this group:

Gender Statistics

- 87 were intact males
- 95 were neutered males
- 79 were intact females
- 54 were spayed females

Age Statistics

- 62 were under a year old.
- 77 were between ages 1-2
- 68 were between ages 3-4
- 53 were between ages 5-6
- 27 were between ages 7-8
- 16 were between ages 9-10
- 9 were between ages 11-12
- 3 were between ages 13-14

Intake Statistics

- 195 were owner give ups
- 120 came from shelters or other private rescues
- 13 were GRREAT returns from previous years

Medical Statistics:

- 43 had various ear/skin/UTI infections
- 32 had orthopedic issues
- 24 were diagnosed with some kind of allergies
- 20 had tick-borne diseases
- 16 were Lyme-positive
- 11 were heartworm positive
- 10 required surgery
- 8 were reported as having seizures
- 2 had Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- 2 were blind
- 2 were deaf
- 1 was three-legged

Other Statistics:

- 2 females had just had litters
- 49 of the intakes were mixes; 17 of which were pups under 8-weeks old.
- 9 dogs were euthanized because of aggression.
- 4 dogs were euthanized because of poor health.

To be a part of the **HAPPILY EVER AFTER** section of the Newsletter, please email us at newsletter@great.org with "Happily ever after" in the subject line

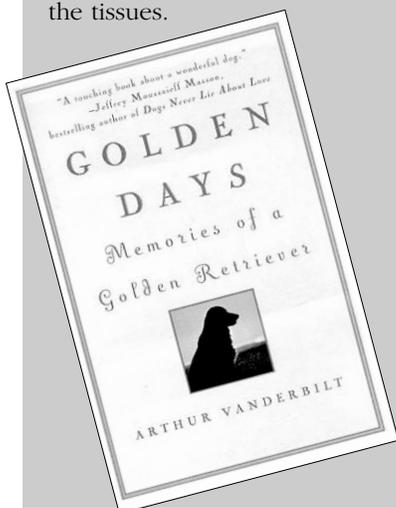
CAN YOU SEE YOUR DOG'S TATTOO?
Remember to keep the tattoo area shaved, so it's easy to locate should your dog get lost.

BOOK REVIEW

BY A. HAILEY MORGAN

Golden Days: Memories of a Golden Retriever By Arthur Vanderbilt

Arthur Vanderbilt begins his story when Amy, his parents' ten-year-old golden retriever, is diagnosed with lymphoma. Mr. Vanderbilt reminisces about Amy's life with tenderness and humor and that Amy is truly a member of the family is evident from the first page. All the traits of a golden retriever are present in this touching story. Anyone who has ever shared their home with a golden will smile knowingly when reading about the "full-blown homecoming celebration" provided by Amy when one of her human "pack" members returns after a few hours' absence or the slobbery kisses rendered to visitors. Because Amy spent summers on Cape Cod, *Golden Days* is enriched with interesting history of the region. But what makes this story so special is that Amy had the life we would all like to provide for our beloved canine companions. It's hard to say whose life was richer, Amy's for having had the good fortune to be adopted by the Vanderbilts, or the Vanderbilts' for having had the good fortune to be adopted by Amy. At 143 pages, *Golden Days* makes a thoughtful weekend read. Just don't forget the tissues.



ASK GOLDIE

Featuring your questions answered by Susan McCullough, Author, *Houstraining For Dummies* (Wiley) and the forthcoming *Your New Dog: An Expert Answers Your Every Question* (Capital Books)

Dear Goldie:

I just adopted a two-year-old dog, and he is not housebroken. We are crate training him and he does well with that, but he will go to the bathroom in the house when he is not crated, even if we are watching. We take him out several times a day, and sometimes he will go in the house right after he has gone outside. Any suggestions?

Signed,
Frustrated in MD

Dear Frustrated:

Your aggravation certainly is understandable. Having a puppy turn one's cherished abode into a canine outhouse is stressful enough—but for an adult dog, who supposedly knows better, to do the same thing would prompt many a person to wonder why they adopted that adult dog in the first place.

Unfortunately, although your new canine companion may have the physical wherewithal to hold his water (and other stuff) he may not realize that he's supposed to do his bathroom business at times and places of your choosing. If that's the case with your adoptee, you need to show him what's expected of him.

Another possibility is that he realizes what you want him to do, but priorities beyond his control may be prompting him to do otherwise. For example, if he's an intact male, taking an unauthorized whiz on a vertical surface inside your house may be far more important to him than taking an authorized whiz outside. Similarly, if you've failed to clean up a previous bathroom boo-boo, the odor from that boo-boo will lure the most compliant canine into performing an encore on the exact spot where the original goof occurred.

Either way, here's what you can do to teach (or re-teach) an adult dog his bathroom basics:

Go to the doctor. An adult dog who can't get with your potty program may be sick. He could have a urinary tract infection, a worm infestation, or some other physical problem that's throwing his bathroom behavior out of whack. A veterinarian can determine whether such a problem exists, and do what's necessary to correct it.

Neuter now. If your adoptee is still an intact male, get him neutered as soon as possible. The neutered dog is much less apt to indulge in unauthorized toilet talk on your bathroom walls than his intact counterpart is.

Clean up. Your four-legged friend may simply not know where and when he's supposed to potty—and you could be the cause of that confusion. How? By not cleaning up previous transgressions, or cleaning up improperly. A puddle or pile that's not removed and cleaned properly will emit odors that will lure a dog into repeating his performance. Be sure to apply an enzymatic cleaner such as Nature's Miracle, Simple Solution, or Anti-Icky Poo to any and all pooch potty stains, and follow the package directions.

Put him on a schedule. Dogs learn—or relearn—proper potty protocol much more quickly if they know exactly when to expect trips to the bathroom. Take your pooch out to potty at the same times every day. And feed him at the same times every day, too—because what goes in will, inevitably, come out.

To pose a question to Goldie,
email newsletter@great.org.
with "Ask Goldie" in the subject line.

THE SEARCH FOR MOLLY CONTINUES...

Molly was lost near Harper's Ferry, West Virginia in mid-October. As of early February, Jan reports: We have switched our traps in hopes of catching that elusive sweetheart. Some animal is obfuscating with the food and not tripping either of the three traps. The one I found today was overturned, with the food missing. Winds and drifts are so high that any and all tracks are obliterated. There have been no sightings in 3 weeks, which may or may not be a blessing in disguise. With the cold temperatures we are hoping that she finds shelter with a family, who later find out she has a home waiting for her. For now it is a waiting game. We would be grateful for your continued prayers.

YOU OUGHT TO BE IN "POOCH"ERS

Are you a camera-happy golden lover? Think your dog is the most photogenic around? Enter your favorite Golden photographs in the GRREAT Calendar Contest! We are now accepting entries for the 2004 Calendar, which is sold through GRREAT and given to veterinarians and shelters within our coverage area. We encourage everyone to send us their best shots of their four legged companions.

Photos will be selected for the cover and for each month. There will be a collage page of honorable mentions. A committee of GRREAT members will judge photos using the following criteria:

- 1) **overall composition (balance, centering, color and contrast between dog and its surroundings)**
- 2) **quality of background**
- 3) **sharpness & clarity**
- 4) **general appearance (muddy, wet, or snow-covered dogs are encouraged to enter. no glowing eyes)**
- 5) **seasonal appropriateness (however, costumes are discouraged)**
- 6) **variety (we want to see them all)**

2004 GRREAT Calendar Contest Rules

- 1) The deadline for submissions is May 24th, 2003, and judging will occur in early June.
- 2) We regret that we cannot accept digital photos, unless they are taken or scanned in at very high resolution (a minimum of 300dpi at 9x12 inches).
- 3) All entries must be horizontal, due to the design of the calendar. Vertical pictures will not be considered.
- 4) Only GRREAT Rescue dogs are eligible. Dogs featured in the 2003 calendar (other than honorable mentions) are not eligible this year, but other GRREAT dogs in the family are.
- 5) Other pets are welcome, but please leave the humans behind the camera.
- 6) Sorry, photos cannot be returned.
- 7) Only color images are eligible. We cannot accept Black and White or Polaroid images.
- 8) We reserve the right to use any images and/or stories you send us in future issues of the GRREAT News.

Send the photo(s) of your GRREAT dog, along 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:

GRREAT CALENDAR CONTEST
C/O DEB NIZER
327 THELMA AVE.
GLEN BURNIE, MD. 21061

QUESTIONS? CALL DEB AT (410) 768-9484

TIPS ON PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET

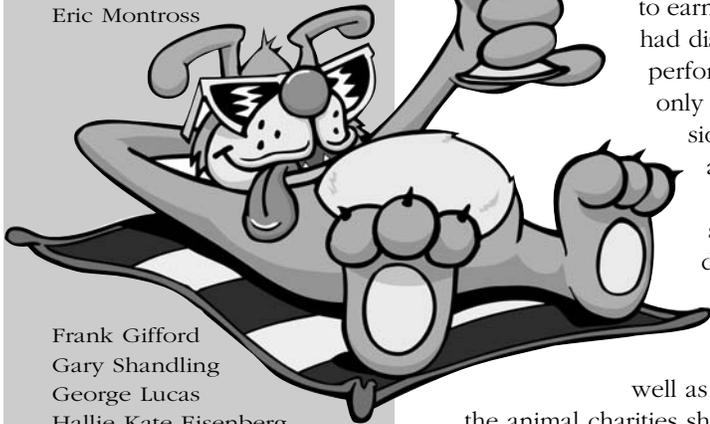
We know the drill. As soon as you get the "perfect" shot, Fluffy moves. Or Rover isn't looking. Or when you get the pictures back, they're blurry. Here are some ideas to help combat the problems we all encounter while photographing our four-legged friends:

- Use 200-400 speed film or faster to stop motion.
- Shoot several pictures in sequence. Start with a full roll and just keep snapping.
- Get close-ups of your pet. Try to fill the frame with the subject, not the scenery. Close-up shots of the animal's face can get a more accurate depiction of their expression and eyes. Don't be afraid to move to your camera's minimum focus distance.
- In bright sunlight you may want to use a flash to lighten shadows. Generally, the best lighting is outdoors in hazy sun, however, you may want to try a variety of lighting arrangements. Try taking indoor photographs near a window or door on a bright day. Be sure to have your back towards the window with your pet facing towards the natural light.
- Try to avoid using a flash since it can alter the animal's true coloring and often causes their eyes to glow.
- Taking photographs at the animal's eye level is best. Do not shoot the photo down on your pet from above.
- Use your pet's toys or treats to help get their attention for photographs—another person standing behind you can be helpful for this. If you want your animals to "cuddle" try rubbing some food behind the ear of one of them—but be prepared to shoot fast!
- Try to capture the personality of your pet on film. This can be accomplished by taking photographs of your pet in action (doing the kind of things they like to do), be it sneaking a peek at tempting "people food", enjoying a good roll in the mud or even sleeping in your favorite chair.
- The trick to getting a good photograph of multiple pets is to get both pets looking in the same direction at the same time.

For more help, visit the New York Institute of Photography's Tip Website at http://www.nyip.com/tips/topic_pets1199.html.

CELEBRITY GOLDEN OWNERS

Alan Thicke
Anna Paquin
Arnold Palmer
Bernadette Peters
Betty White
Bill Blass
Bill Murray
Bob Newhart
Bobby Orr
Brian Grieser
Catherine Lanigan
Christopher Reeves
Conan O'Brien
Dean Koontz
Dennis Quaid
Donald Rumsfeld
Eric Montross



Frank Gifford
Gary Shandling
George Lucas
Hallie Kate Eisenberg
Indira Gandhi
Jamie Lee Curtis
Jane Fonda
Janet Leigh
Jerry Seinfeld
Jim Belushi
Jimmy Buffett
Joan Rivers
Joey Lawrence
John Goodman
John Larroquette
Kristen Davis
Lara Flynn Boyle
Linda Ellerbee
Martha Stewart
Mary Chapin Carpenter
Mary Tyler Moore
Matt Lauer
Oprah Winfrey
Pamela Anderson
Paul Hogan
Renee Zellweger
Ricky Martin
Ronald Regan
Shannon Doherty
Sheryl Crow
Steve Guttenberg
Tom Glavine
Wally Lamb

GOLDENS AND THEIR CELEBRITIES

by Emily Pasterick

About a month ago I attended a performance by the marvelous acoustic blueswoman, Rory Block. Had I not first browsed her website to glean a bit of character from this wonderful musician prior to the concert, I would have been thrilled only by her soulful vocals and animated acoustic ability, as she veritably pounded the instrument using strong fingers—and, of all things, a workman's slide wrench—with a vivacity that complemented her often-bittersweet, always-passionate, lyrics. But, though that would have been more than enough to earn her my affection, I had discovered before her performance that not only did she have a passion for music, she also had a passion for dogs—so much so that she has devoted an entire webpage to photos of her three companions, as well as an extensive list of the animal charities she supports.

During the concert, Ms. Block chatted easily and nostalgically about her life, describing the loves, heartaches, and experiences that served to inspire her songs. About halfway into her show, she gave what I considered a collective nod to all three (this, as she bandaged her injured fingers with duct tape—evidently a customary routine, as the production assistant calmly walked onstage and handed over the tape as soon as she announced, with cool indifference, that her fingers were bleeding), declaring, "I love my dogs—they're movie stars!"

With that, in the middle of an intimate concert hall where my only thoughts should have been on the meaning of the moment, or the fear that with every pound of the guitar, one of Ms. Block's fingers would suddenly rebel, I found myself thinking instead about the richness of a life that blends nationwide acclaim with modest, muddy paw prints; dignified talent awards with sloppy dog kisses; enviable income with uncomely "carpet accidents;" and elegant sequins on designer gowns with incriminating dog hair on black,

woolen slacks. When I got home, I did some investigation...surely there is more to life than Tinseltown pomp; and I was relieved to learn that many celebrities find it in the grandeur of a Golden.

Picture these hypothetical Golden moments with these celebrity owners and their Golden in real life:

Ron Howard, Best Director of "A Beautiful Mind," clutches a golden Oscar statue...and then trips on his Golden's orbbed toy underfoot;

Sally Field gasps, "You like me! You really like me!" to a glitzy Academy Awards audience...and then shrieks when her Golden drops a soggy tennis ball on her gown.

Neil Diamond belts out "Solitary Man" in honor of his Golden, "Sol," before an admiring gaggle of fans...and then scoops up Golden 'doo before an unassuming group of neighboring Golden-owners.

Phil Donahue tosses both wisdom and wisecracks at his delighted talk-show fans...and then underhands two squeeze-toys to his two Golden across a muddy ballfield.

Tom Cruise grins for "E!" photo-ops with his "Color of Money" costar, **Paul Newman**...and then humbly picks up from the floor of his trailer what appear to be the remnants of carelessly-placed socks that proved too tempting for his two Golden, "Chloe" and "Luke" (named after movie characters in Newman's "Cool Hand Luke")...while Paul laughs along with his Golden, "Lucky."

Joe Pesci smokes cigarettes and gangsters for a gun-friendly Hollywood...and then mashes his mug against the wet, tender nose of his Golden.

Matt Lauer, popular co-host of "NBC's Today Show," goes head-to-head with some of society's most celebrated and controversial icons...then wrestles head-to-muzzle with his Golden, "Walden," in a playful moment of roughhouse.

Tara Lipinski, Michelle Kwan, and Sarah Hughes, winning figure-skaters, twirl and dazzle with their expert ice footwork...and

then leap to recover tumbling plants from their high-spirited Goldens "Brandy," "Traveler," and "Teddy," (respectively), with a spryness much less graceful.

I'd like to think that both the simplicity and complexity of our beloved Golden breed

somehow reflects the equally-dichotomous honorability and humility of the Hollywood stardom we tend to find so infeasible...and that, ironically, it's this very paradox, as devotees of our Goldens, that puts us closer to the extraordinary than we might have thought possible. 🐾

UPCOMING EVENTS

Animal Communication Class

March 15, 12pm-4pm
JDS Family Doggie Day Care
Laurel, MD
www.roxiesfund.org

Bereavement Seminars

3/19 and 4/16
Montgomery County Animal Shelter
Rockville, MD
240-773-5973 or
www.mchumane.org/bereave.html

Pet Loss Support Group

3/19 and 4/16 at 7:30 pm
Fairfax County Animal Shelter
Fairfax, VA
703-280-2244

Pet Bereavement Group

4/2 at 7:30
Animal Welfare League of Alexandria
Alexandria, VA
703-838-4774 or
www.alexandrianimals.org

Anne Arundel County SPCA Walk for the Animals

May 18
Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis
410-268-5285

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society's MS Walk

Sunday April 6th
Annapolis, Maryland
Dogs are welcome to walk with their humans! If any GRREAT members are interested in forming a team, please contact Hailey Morgan at 410-969-4250 or email: duckdogmom@toadmail.com
Participants are asked to raise a minimum of \$25 in pledges and the course is five miles. This is an excellent opportunity to meet other members, get some exercise, and raise money for a worthy cause.

The 8th annual 1.5-mile March for the Animals to benefit the Maryland SPCA

Sunday, March 30, 2003 from 11:00-2:00, even if it's raining cats and dogs. The event will take place at the Johns Hopkins University Homewood Campus. There will be games and entertainment, like canine musical chairs, celebrity pet look-a-like contest, smart pet tricks, canine agility, photo opportunities with the neuter scooter and demonstrations by the Baltimore City Police Canine Unit and the Chesapeake Search Dogs. For more information call 410-243-7692 ext. 1 or visit the MD SPCA web-site at www.mdspca.org.



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

On January 25th, 2003 the GRREAT Board of Directors and 41 GRREAT members gathered at the Knights of Columbus building in College Park, Maryland for the annual business meeting. Each board member and coordinator gave a full report of their progress over the 2002 year. Here are some of the important pieces of information that were shared:

- GRREAT was able to take in 315 Goldens in 2002.
- GRREAT showed a loss of less than \$6,000 for 2002.
- By far, the largest chunk of GRREAT expenditures is medical care.
- The organization received over 780 applications for adoption.
- The number one reason given by owners giving up their dogs was "no time," followed by "behavior of the dog" and "moving."
- Thanks to email capabilities, we were able to work closer than ever before with other rescues. We were also able to turn dogs over to other reputable rescues when we were overloaded.
- As of January 25th 2003, GRREAT had already taken in 32 dogs (more than one a day) and rejected a few because of aggression problems.
- We had 1,100 members in 2003, 488 of which had signed up to be involved in volunteer activities.
- For the period ending 9/30/02, the GRREAT Concession Stand at the MCI Center raised \$15,564.11.
- A conscious effort was made to pare down the inventory of the "Dog-A-Log" and to keep only those items that have the GRREAT logo.
- In December of 2002, the GRREAT website had 15,000 hits.
- Because we have switched to using a non-profit bulk mailing rate, GRREAT saved \$4,100 on newsletter postage in 2002.
- GRREAT tattooed 319 dogs last year (214 from 2002 and 105 from prior years)

FOSTERING IS GRREAT!

by Stephenie Nelson

IS IT EXPENSIVE TO BE A FOSTER HOME?

GRREAT will pay for all appropriate medical costs at one of our approved Vets, who bill us directly. We supply leash, collar, ID tag, and heartworm pills and other approved medications. Foster homes generally supply food and toys, although you can be reimbursed for food as well. We can also lend you a crate, since we believe that this is one of the best tools, when used appropriately, to set up a Golden for success!

To be a part of the GRREAT Foster Family, contact Mary Ellen Lunde at melunde@worldnet.att.net

I was asked to write an article about fostering for GRREAT. My first thought was "Oh geez, where do I begin". So, I thought I would start with the story of how my husband Jim and I became to be foster parents for GRREAT. Jim and I bought (actually we only paid for the crate, \$125) our first Golden, Morgan, in 1991 when he was 14-months old. We got him from a family who could no longer keep him due to his activity level and that was a stroke of luck for us.

We had the best time with Morgan and two years later we saw an advertisement about GRREAT. We decided to become involved and volunteer to help some of these Golden who needed new homes. In addition, Morgan needed a buddy. Well, our first attempt at adopting didn't go so well, as another family beat us out. We just couldn't believe that we weren't picked. In retrospect, the other family had more to offer (a fenced yard vs. our condo). We didn't really fully understand how the whole rescue process worked. Since being involved with GRREAT and becoming foster parents ourselves, we totally understand why we lost out to the other family. (Of course, our ego still thinks we would have been a great choice.)

That ego of ours led to the purchase of a Golden puppy, Aspen, and she was a cutie, but she was a terror, a little devil dog. Well, maybe not that bad. She definitely was cute and cuddly. But that was a tough year for us, housebreaking her, chewing on chair legs, etc. A year later, Georgie Bahler called and asked us to foster and we haven't looked back. Since the first dog we fostered was a five year old named Scout. Our daughter Leigh loved him to death and still remembers him as being her favorite foster. (he's the only one that listened to her...)

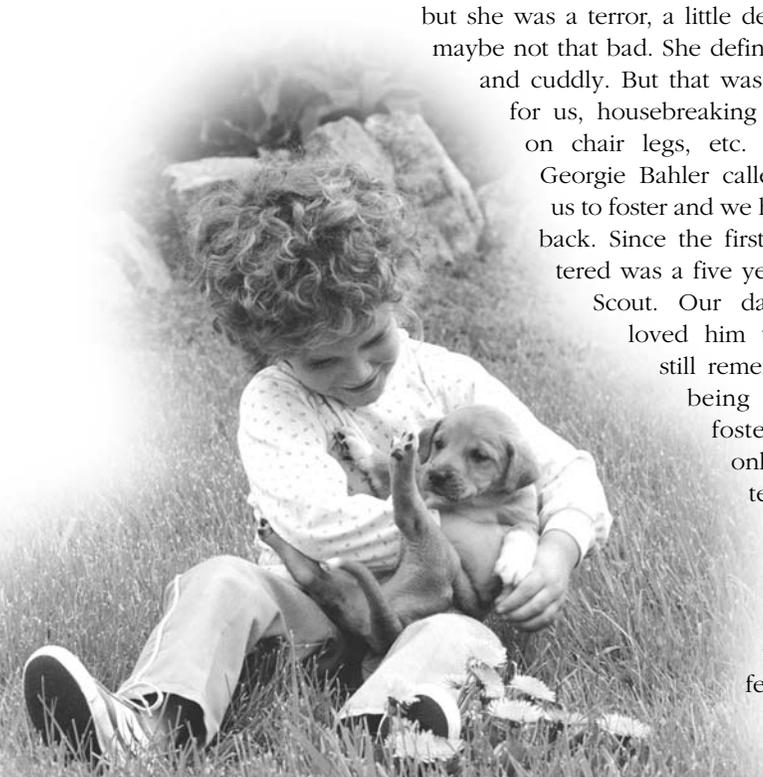
Since our first foster, we have fostered quite a few dogs (close

to 50), and met quite a few very nice people throughout the years. Fortunately we have been guided by some very knowledgeable Golden lovers, who have been and still are the driving force of this organization and we appreciate their time and dedication.

Most of the time when my husband and I asked people if they are interested in fostering a golden for GRREAT, they all pretty much said the same thing, "Oh, I couldn't give them up, I'd want to keep them all." It would be nice to be able to keep all the Golden we wanted, but would it be fair to them? We have always had two of our own Golden and every now and again we have a third golden who visits for a couple of weeks. Using the tools GRREAT has in place to provide potential adopters, we're able to find each foster a great new home. Our house is not that large, but we manage, sometimes it gets a little crowded in the kitchen and we have to tell our Golden to leave the room for awhile (just so I can cook). Jim and I have for the most part had pretty easy dogs to foster. Our two dogs plus a foster equals three...and that's our limit. Yours may be less...or more. It's an individual decision for each family. Making a little extra room for that foster can be very rewarding.

Our favorite part of finding a new home for a foster dog is the happiness that's created for the family and dog. It's a really good feeling when you believe that you truly have made the best match for your foster dog. It's funny...when a foster dog leaves our home with his new family, they usually don't look back. They're too busy being excited about a fresh adventure with their new friends. It is hard to say goodbye to them, but we know they're going to a good situation and we have also made another family happy to have a beautiful golden in their home.

So, if you have some spare time and a little extra room in your home, think about becoming a foster parent. The experience and rewards are well worth it. Congratulations and thank you to all the foster parents who continue to find loving homes for their foster dogs. 🐾



CANINE CAPERS

Most people have probably seen David Letterman's "Stupid Pet Tricks" segment on his late night show. Proud owners bring their talented animals to perform any number of weird and wacky stunts for Dave and his audience. Most of us also have talented pooches, although maybe not ready for prime time just yet.

"Our best buddy Morgan passed away a year ago, but left us with memories of his sometimes goofy antics. After dark and outside for toilet chores, Morgan would stand next to bushes on the side of the yard. That's not very remarkable except that he believed if he stood statue still...he would become invisible! It wasn't easy to see him in the dark (Morgs had a mahogany colored coat), but it wasn't that hard to spot him after a few moments. There's only so much a 90 pound golden can do to hide. Calling him didn't make him come to you...Morgan would stand still and "invisible". It was only when you walked right up to him and forced him to scurry for the house that he would believe his "invisi-

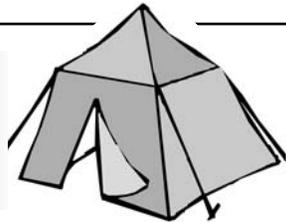
bility field" was gone and happily lope for home. Yes, happily lope for home, secure that the mighty "No-see-um Dog" had once again emerged victorious over...well, me. I guess he thought I was pretty dumb and could be easily fooled. I also guess that if such little things like that made him happy, I'd be glad to oblige."

-Jim Nelson

If your dog has silly tricks that you'd like to share with us, please send an email to newsletter@grreat.org with "Canine Capers" in the subject line.



THE PUP TENT



FUN FACT:

Golden Retrievers are well suited for the outdoors. Their dense coats keep them warm during the winter months.

We'd love to see your works of art and stories! Send your items to us and we might feature them in the Pup Tent area of future newsletters! Send them to: GRREAT c/o Newsletter - Pup Tent P.O. Box 3067, Falls Church, VA 22043

WORD SEARCH By Seth Bondroff

L	A	M	T	R	E	A	T	W	I	U	O	G
P	B	H	F	G	O	N	X	A	Y	C	D	O
C	O	N	H	P	T	O	Y	M	S	T	L	L
H	N	A	K	T	A	N	V	U	W	I	A	D
X	E	G	L	T	I	N	O	R	A	I	E	E
G	N	U	O	A	L	P	A	W	U	D	T	N
C	H	E	W	L	I	C	N	W	X	A	E	I
W	N	L	P	T	L	X	D	O	G	A	U	O
F	R	I	E	N	D	B	B	D	A	I	E	S
R	O	D	A	S	I	T	C	L	Z	F	B	Y

BONE	CHEW	FRIEND
TREAT	PAW	SIT
DOG	GOLDEN	TAIL
TOY		



VOLUNTEER CORNER

A BREED APART

Spotlight on a GRREAT Volunteer

April Fritz

April Fritz has been a member of GRREAT since 1990 when she and her husband, Bob, moved to Maryland from California. She has been an active volunteer from the get-go. Since 1991, April single-handedly ran the entire GRREAT Newsletter, from writing and editing to layout and design. Creating a 20-page newsletter is no easy feat, even for a full time staff, yet April seemed to pull every issue off with ease.

In 1994, April was asked to be part of the Board of Directors, which makes all kinds of decisions from the typical (choosing an ink color for the newsletter) to the heart wrenching (deciding the fate of an aggressive dog). The Fritzes have provided emergency foster care for several dogs and are currently in the process of adopting their foster dogs Rock and Roll. April also wrote the material for the 2002 Annual Calendar and has been an occasional MCI volunteer. An accomplished cook, she annually donates a home-cooked 10-person Mardi Gras Dinner to the GRREAT Silent Auction.

After 11 years at the helm, April has decided to step back so that she can devote herself to other



FORMER PRESIDENT DAN KEPPLER PRESENTED A SPECIAL AWARD TO APRIL AT THE ANNUAL GRREAT BUSINESS MEETING

things. At the Annual Business Meeting, outgoing president Dan Kepler presented April with a framed January/February edition of the GRREAT News surrounded by notes from GRREAT friends. We wish her well in all her endeavors and thank her for her hard work, big heart, great attitude and continued efforts with GRREAT.

Thanks to Bob Fritz for providing us with the information for this piece.

CRAFT DONATIONS

June and Richard Downing, proprietors of Something Special craft store, have set aside part of their store for merchandise strictly to benefit GRREAT. Anyone able to donate handmade crafts to this section is asked to call June at (570) 720-5158 or e-mail jr2specialpeople@aol.com. The total purchase price goes directly to GRREAT. Something Special is located at 971 Garrisonville Road in Stafford, VA.

FARE CARD DONATIONS

Don't need your leftover DC area fare cards? Donate them to MCI Center volunteers! We use them to provide transportation to our volunteers to and from MCI Center events.

DIANA, VITYA AND PASHA

The Newsletter would like to thank our volunteer artist, Diana Fitchett for her golden illustrations. Thanks also to her terrific golden models, Vitya and Pasha, who live with her in Florida. We also wish Diana a speedy recovery.



The entire GRREAT News Staff would like to extend their appreciation to graphic designer Dara Fowler for helping with the newsletter design at short notice. Thanks Dara!

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 are gratefully acknowledged in the GRREAT News.
Thank you for your generosity.

Checks should be made payable to GRREAT.

Please mail forms with your contribution to:
GRREAT, P.O. Box 3069, Falls Church, VA 22043

MAIL IN MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

Mark here if this is an address or name change

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail Address _____

Mark as many as applicable:

- I am enclosing \$25 for my 2003 membership dues.
- I am enclosing a tax-deductible donation of \$_____.
- I am interested in becoming a GRREAT Volunteer.
(Please fill out and return Volunteer form as well).
- I am interested in donating the following services
or supplies to GRREAT:

Thank you for your support!

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 _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

Best time to call _____

Are you over age 18? Yes No

Work Phone (_____) _____

OK to call at work? Yes No

County or area you live in _____

County or area you work in _____

Other areas you visit regularly _____

Best days/hours to volunteer _____

Please indicate any area of interest.

The appropriate GRREAT Coordinator will contact you 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 MCI Center Events
- _____ At information booths at dog shows, community fairs, education days, etc.
- _____ At Fund Raisers
- _____ 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:

GRREAT'S FIRST ANNUAL WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER

at the beautiful Tarara Winery in Leesburg, Virginia

GRREAT is proud to announce our first annual wine tasting fundraiser to benefit the rescue and re-homing of over 300 Golden Retrievers per year. This very special event will feature festival style wine tasting for the first 300 adults who sign up. The event hosts are allowing you to bring your faithful canine companion along with you (leashed at all times, please). GRREAT will also hold a silent auction to benefit the Rescue. You do not need to be a GRREAT member to attend!!!

DATE AND TIME: Saturday May 17th, Noon to 4:00 pm

COST: \$25.00 per person to enjoy the wine tasting (\$15 from each ticket goes to GRREAT). \$10 per family if you want to attend but not participate in the wine tasting. * Wine will also be available to purchase by the glass or bottle. GRREAT will not be providing food, but feel free to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy.

WHERE: Tarara Winery in Leesburg Virginia www.tarara.com

The Meadow Pavilion (covered, 2100 sq. ft)
15 acre field, Open and wooded picnic areas (20 picnic tables), Softball field (bring your own gloves), 6 miles of wooded and riverside hiking trails, Volleyball court (bring your own ball), Horseshoe pit, Children's play area, Ample field parking, Water and electricity on site.



SPEND THE DAY WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS AT THE GRREAT EVENT AT TARARA

HOW TO SIGN UP: Please send a check for \$25 per adult wine taster—made out to GRREAT—to P.O. Box 3069, Falls Church, VA 22043, attn. Wine Tasting. The names of the first 300 adults to sign up for the wine tasting will be placed on the list. On the day of the event, your hand will be stamped by a GRREAT volunteer so that you can try the wines. You must be 21 years of age or older to participate in the wine tasting. If you would just like to attend the event and enjoy the day, the dogs, and the winery

grounds, please send your check for \$10 per family and let us know how many people will be attending. Any questions can be directed to our e-mail address grreatevents@grreat.org.

DIRECTIONS:

From Washington, D.C.:

Take the Dulles Toll Road (267) to Leesburg. Go north on U.S. Route 15 North toward Frederick, MD and travel 8 miles to the small town of Lucketts. Turn right at light on state road 662. Proceed 3 miles until you see the entrance to the winery on the left. Follow the signs to the winery parking.

From Frederick, MD:

Drive south on U.S. Route 15 and cross the Potomac River. Drive 2 miles and turn left on state road 658. Drive approximately another 2 miles and turn left on state road 662. Proceed 1 mile until you see the entrance to the winery on the left. Follow the signs to the winery parking.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

P.O. Box 3069

Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MERRIFIELD, VA
PERMIT NO. 2773

GRREAT BEGINNINGS



LEAD TO HAPPY ENDINGS!

Golden Retriever Rescue
Education and Training, Inc.