



GRREAT NEWS

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IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Letter	3
Letters to GRREAT	4
Donations	6
Leo's Corner	8
Happily Ever After Adoption Report	9
Adoption Day Directions	9
Supporting Military Pets	10
Ask Goldie Book Review	12
Dog Parks	13
Rescue Poem	
Dog's Letters to God	14
Upcoming Events	
Bone Appetit!	15
Bill's Story	16
Canine Capers	
The Pup Tent	17
Volunteer Corner	18

SHARING THE LOVE: THERAPY DOGS

By Julie M. Palais

Sundance (95-085) has always loved people, preferring to make friends with the humans at the dog park rather than the canine visitors. After reading numerous articles about dogs visiting nursing homes and sick children in the hospital, I decided to register Sundance to become a therapy dog. Although various local animal groups have programs to visit such facilities (e.g. Pets on Wheels, volunteer activities through your local animal shelter, etc.) there are two prominent organizations in the U.S. that register pets to do what is commonly called Animal Assisted Therapy: Delta Society and Therapy Dogs International (TDI). While Sundance and I are registered with Delta Society as Pet Partners, I am registering one of my other dogs with TDI.

Both groups require you to get a veterinarian to certify that your dog is healthy and up to date on his vaccinations. Then someone needs to evaluate your dog. Although both organizations have certified evaluators to test potential therapy dogs, the Delta Society allowed a professional dog trainer to do our testing. Delta Society holds Team Training Courses throughout the country, but you can also take a Home Study Course which involves watching a video, studying a workbook and taking an open-book test.

Most of the testing is very similar to the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test designed to ensure that companion dogs have good manners in public and are well behaved around people and other dogs. In addition to being able to do all the things required of a CGC, your dog must be comfortable around people with canes and wheelchairs and must be confident in unfamiliar surroundings where there are many strangers who might behave in erratic ways. The process was not too difficult, although it did take a few months to get everything in place so we could start our visits.

Once we were registered, I contacted several assisted living homes and hospitals in our area, but many were not interested in what we had to offer. But don't get discouraged, keep trying. I eventually found a nursing home nearby, which makes it

convenient to go anytime. Since we only go twice a month, it is something we always look forward to.

It is very common for the health care workers at the nursing home to spend just as much time interacting with Sundance as the residents that we go to visit. In addition, family members who are visiting a loved one and who are often under stress find comfort in the unconditional love that Sundance has to offer. One of the nicest things happened to us during a recent visit—a man told me that he was so pleased to



SUNDANCE IS DELTA SOCIETY CERTIFIED.

see his father raising his hand to pet the dog. He said it was the most animated he had seen his father in a long time. This comment sent chills up my spine and brought tears to my eyes. It was our most memorable moment and one we will cherish forever. Sundance and I have really enjoyed our year as Pet Partners and would recommend it to anyone.

If your dog loves people, like Sundance, consider registering him as a therapy dog so that he can share this love with others. For more information contact:

Delta Society, 289 Perimeter Road East, Renton, WA 98055; (425)-226-7357; e-mail: info@deltasociety.org and Web: www.deltasociety.org

Therapy Dogs International, Inc., 88 Bartley Road, Flanders, N.J. 07836; (973)-252-9800; e-mail: tdi@gti.net and Web: www.tdi-dog.org

American Kennel Club, Canine Good Citizen Department, 5580 Centerview Drive, Raleigh, NC, 27606; (919)-233-9767; e-mail: cgc@akc.org and Web: www.akc.org/love/cgc/index.cfm 

GRREAT Friends Move On

Former GRREAT president Dan Keppler is moving from the area, but not before making a huge impact on our organization and helping to rescue hundreds of goldens. Dan and his wife Colleen will be missed, but their golden hearts will be part of GRREAT forever.

The Kepplers joined GRREAT only a few short years ago. Dan became volunteer coordinator and energized the volunteer ranks by starting up an e-mail distribution list. Through it, many people were able to get involved by learning about opportunities large and small.

Soon Dan was elected vice president. He and president Doug Brown provided guidance and leadership as GRREAT continued to grow and he made sure that the focus remained on rescuing goldens. He had an unflinching energy and willingness to keep a positive attitude and work through issues.

Even when Dan held the "lofty" title of president, he never asked anyone else to do something that he himself was not willing to do, be it transport, coordinate events, set up, or clean up. At most GRREAT functions, Dan was the first to arrive and the last to leave.

Dan and Colleen served as a foster home for many years. They served as foster buddies to several GRREAT families and helped with the transport of many dogs as they began their new lives in rescue. One special girl never left: Maddie (00-013). Maddie joined "sister" Sandy, who has been Dan and Colleen's furry kid since puppyhood.

Best of luck with your new home in New Jersey,
Dan,
Colleen,
Sandy,
and
Maddie!



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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.

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

* members of the GRREAT Board of Directors

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I'd like to tell you about my eight-year-old Golden, named Ben. He holds the honor of being the first foster dog I couldn't let go of. He also holds the award for being the smelliest and dirtiest dog I have ever seen. With a shaggy and matted coat the first time I saw him, I thought he hardly resembled a Golden Retriever. I gave him three baths (that didn't really help) before I even allowed him access to the whole house. I remember the evening I picked him up from the groomer. I thought they had brought me the wrong dog, because I hardly recognized him. My foster dog was now beautiful! Despite that Ben was now gorgeous on the outside, what was on the inside still needed some work. However, looking into his eyes and seeing the smile on his face made the issues he had easier to work through.

An event this week with one of my foster dogs brought to mind the personalities and quirks that some of our previous fosters had when they first came into GRREAT. Many of the foster dogs we have had came to us from circumstances that kept them from "being beautiful" to someone else.

So, what does it mean to be a foster home? In part, it means being someone who can look into the big brown eyes of the dog they have just met and see something special that others cannot. One of the responsibilities of a foster home is to take a true "diamond in the rough" and turn it into an absolute gem. It means opening your home and your heart to a Golden that may have not seen the inside of a house before. Housebreaking – what does that mean? Paper towels, a steam cleaner, and a lot of patience. Counter-surfing? This means teaching a few basic house manners. Hot spots, ear infections, food allergies? Foster homes work through many medical issues as well. It's all part of a role that so many take on gladly and without complaint. They all know that in working through these issues, they are a few steps closer to placing their foster dog in its new home.

Foster homes are also people who are willing to have their hearts broken at adoption time. It may

"It may seem hard to understand why someone would willingly set themselves up by loving a Golden for a few weeks, only to say goodbye and turn it over to someone else. But, that's the whole idea."

pampering and loving a Golden for a few weeks or months, only to say goodbye and turn it over to someone else. But, that's the whole idea. That is why GRREAT is such a success. Being a foster home means that you know that once a foster golden goes to their new home, that chapter is closed and a new exciting chapter begins.

Yes, it is hard work. Yes, it does take time and dedication. And sadly yes, sometimes circumstances beyond anyone's control can cause an ending to not always be a happy one. But, that is all part of being involved in rescue. Having said that, I would like to mention that GRREAT is always in need of new foster homes. We applaud and appreciate anyone who applies to foster a Golden, whether it is one, two or five Golden's per year. Think about it. If you foster one Golden per year, that is one Golden you have helped to save and one Golden you have helped find a "forever home" for.

GRREAT is unique among rescues in our area in that we have foster homes that are able to foster on an ongoing basis and take more than one Golden per year. However, even these families need a break occasionally. With summer approaching, I'd like to ask you to do some soul searching. I'd like you to think about opening your heart and home to one of our Golden's by becoming a foster home. If you think you might be interested in becoming a foster home, then go to the GRREAT web-site, and take the "Foster Home Quiz" to help you decide if it is right for you.

I cannot begin to tell you the rewards that come from fostering. For those involved, it has meant so many different things. When I personally think of those rewards, I think of the famous quote, "Some dogs come into our lives, and quickly go. Others stay for awhile, leaving footprints on our hearts, and we are changed forever." For me at least, it has become so true.

Sincerely,
Kim Wiff
GRREAT President



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

May 3, 2003:
Adoption Day
PetCo, Dale City, VA

May 17, 2003:
Family Picnic at
Tarara Winery

May 24, 2003:
Calendar Contest
Photos Due

June 2, 2003:
Adoption Day
Ana's Ark, Rockville, MD

July 12, 2003:
Adoption Day
PetCo, Arlington, VA

For directions to Adoption Days, see page 9; to Picnic see page 20.

Update on Molly

There probably aren't many of us who have forgotten the story of Molly, who was lost last fall on the Appalachian Trail near Harper's Ferry, in West Virginia. A heartfelt thanks goes to all of you who have inquired about Molly and said prayers in her behalf that she would be found. Sadly, there have been no sightings of Molly in several months. After doing all that was humanly possible to find her, and with Jan's health deteriorating, the active search for Molly was called off.

While many of us believe in miracles, please continue to hope that somehow, Molly will be found and returned to Jan. Until that time, please support Jan in her decision and give her the space and time to heal from a loss that has affected her greatly.

LETTERS TO GRREAT

OOPS!

We missed something! In the last issue's Transfusion Medicine article, we left out some text: It should have read:

"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 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."

The GRREAT News regrets the omission.

FOOD LION MVP CARD DONATIONS

Don't forget that each time you shop at Food Lion and use your MVP card, a portion of your total grocery purchase can be donated to GRREAT.

To enroll, contact Leigh Rutter at leighmegs@cablespeed.com or visit www.foodlion.com to link your card to GRREAT.

HOME NEEDED

A GRREAT dog and his people are looking for a home to rent in the Baltimore/ DC area. If you know of an available home with a fenced-in-yard, please contact the managing editor.

Dear Friends at GRREAT,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. Your continued thoughts and caring have been a great support to our family. - *Jessie Robinson and Lee Beaton*

Dear GRREAT,

Rufus (02-059) is doing GRREAT! The vet is amazed everytime we go in, and says he's not the same dog she saw a year ago! Despite his health problems (thyroid and arthritis), people still mistake him for a puppy, even though the vet says he's probably about 10 years old. Thanks for the outstanding work you do. - *Terry Stewart*

Dear GRREAT:

I joined GRREAT after working with Edie Galpin at a GRREAT rescue event in White Marsh, MD. I have always loved Golden Retrievers and working the rescue booth was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some real beauties.

I share my home with Autumn Joy, a four year old Jack Russell Terrier rescue. I wanted to share my experiences with canine lymphosarcoma. My first experience was with Shannon, my geriatric rescue Jack Russell Terrier. I adopted Shannon from the county shelter in February of 1995, and she lost her battle with lymphosarcoma on September 1, 1999.

I went away for two days in July of 1999, and when I returned home, Shannon looked like she had developed a goiter. My dog sitter and I were both worried, and I took her to the vets the next day, and she performed tests that confirmed canine lymphosarcoma.

Shannon was put on Prednisone and Tagament and felt better immediately. She ate well and only needed help once in awhile coming up the porch steps. She even ate breakfast the last day of her life.

I took a friend to a doctors appointment, and when I returned home, I found Shannon dead.

It is important to note that both dogs in this article received regular vet care and showed no signs of illness until the lymphosarcoma appeared.

Many of you met Spanky at GRREAT events. He was in the Christmas parade a couple of years ago as "Blackbeard the Pirate." He was also an honorary "shortest" Golden at a picnic.

Spanky was my Pembroke Welsh Corgi, born January 25, 1995. He became a beloved family member shortly after his second birthday. He loved sheep herding, and received his first title in October of 2001.

On January 8, 2003, he didn't want to eat his breakfast. I got a little rice and milk into him, but he just wasn't interested in food. It is a known fact that Pembroke Welsh Corgis are food-a-holics. I made an immediate appointment for him and the blood test came back canine lymphosarcoma. He had a large node on his neck and several along his back. The nodes just seemed to appear overnight.

His vet and I discussed chemo, but we both felt it best to keep him comfortable with Prednisone and Tagament. He had a couple of good days, but went downhill very, very quickly. It was hard to see him lose interest in food and my coffee. I no longer had to keep my coffee cup out of his reach. Spanky lost all the sparkle in his big brown eyes, and I made the decision to let my handsome boy go. I held Spanky as he went to the Rainbow Bridge three days before his eighth birthday.

It was wonderful to have a trusted veterinarian in your corner while dealing with this dreaded disease. Dr. Ann Landerveen of Public Veterinary Clinic in Baltimore County, Maryland was with both Shannon and Spanky. Thank you for your wisdom, patience, kindness and respect that you showed both me and my beloved companions.

In closing, I hope this can be of some help to others facing this dreaded disease. Here's to many more Golden Years. - *Judy and Autumn Joy Rollins*

Soul Mates: Amber and Jenny

Dear GRREAT:

We are writing a long overdue letter to tell you about our fabulous experience with GRREAT as well as our new best friend and loving companion, Sierra.

We came to GRREAT after suffering without a dog for six long months after we lost our 12-year-old golden Chamois to bone cancer last Easter. Since my husband and I both work away from the house, we decided it would not be fair to bring a puppy into our household. We had heard great things about GRREAT, and decided that adopting would be a good option for us, since we could get a young dog that is already housebroken and able to be left alone for about 6-8 hours during the weekdays.

Our application process and home visit went without a hitch and we were approved in about two weeks. We pored through the list of available dogs both online and in the mailed lists. We spoke with several foster families and found them to be very forthcoming about both positive and negative traits of their dogs. We visited two foster families and went to one adoption day. Sierra was the second dog we saw, and we fell in love with her at first sight. I have to admit that the description given to her by her foster family as "The Love Sponge" said it all; I have never known a more affectionate dog to us and even to strangers.

I believe that Sierra is the ultimate GRREAT dog for several reasons. First and foremost, she is an unbelievably loving and kind dog and absolutely a beautiful representation of her breed. She is the perfect companion to our family, and bonded with us fully within three days. Secondly, Sierra had severe hip dysplasia, and was operated on by GRREAT prior to being placed on the available list back in September. It was heartwarming to find out that GRREAT has terrific doctors willing to do these surgeries pro-bono to help these homeless dogs have a better life. When we got Sierra, she was fully healed and we are proud to say that she now runs like the wind.

We want to thank you so much for such a wonderful dog that had a second chance at life thanks to GRREAT. We hope to be able to volunteer in the future, and have already told many of our friends about the terrific organization that you are, and the wonderful service that you provide for the dogs and for our community. - *Mollie Vardell*

Dear GRREAT,

It takes but a few minutes to sit down and write out a check, but it has taken three reminders from you to get around to it. I am sorry it has taken so long. Here is my 2003 dues payment and a small contribution for where the money is needed most.

I really miss doing things with GRREAT, but my health has not been up to par recently. I am hoping that I'll soon be able to help out more, but for now I'll have to limit my activities to spreading the word. There are an awful lot of people who do not know about the rescue leagues, and I hope by word of mouth can help some poor dogs lead happier lives.

Here is a story and picture about my "Forever Dog", Jenny. She passed over Rainbow Bridge a few years ago, but she still occupies a big part of my heart. I've heard that there is always one special dog, Jenny was mine. All of my dogs have provided special memories, but Jenny was my soul mate.

Thank you for all the good you do; it is so vital.
- Jo Dempsey



JENNY WAS AMBER'S SOULMATE

The First Indication

In December 1993 Amber and her Mom and Dad were visiting Grammy and Grampy in Virginia for Christmas. After the usual hugs, and kisses, and exchange of greetings, six-month old Amber ended up sitting in the middle of the living room floor. Grampy let Jenny in from the back yard, and naturally she headed straight for Amber. Upon hearing Grammy's stern, "Jenny, No!", Jenny dropped down on her belly, crawled the rest of the way, and laid her head in Amber's lap. With Mother and Grandmother anxiously wondering what Amber's reaction would be, she bent over and kissed Jenny on the head. From that moment on, Amber and Jenny were soul mates!

After Christmas, Grammy, Karen, Amber, and Jenny loaded into the Escort station wagon and headed for Alabama, with Amber and Jenny sharing what little room was left on the back seat. After some time, Amber became a little tired and irritable. Knowing exactly what to do in this cramped situation, Jenny put her head on Amber's lap. Amber responded by laying her head on Jenny and immediately falling to sleep. Jenny didn't stir until Amber awakened.

The Big Event:

The following July, Grammy, Karen, Amber, now 13 months old, and Jenny were again on the move, this time heading for Ohio. Somewhere along the Pennsylvania Turnpike they stopped for a short break in the trip. Amber was in her car seat on the picnic table, and Jenny was tied to the table leg. After awhile, Jenny became very agitated and began to whine and paw at Amber. Not knowing why Jenny was acting this way, Karen lifted the car seat to move it away from Jenny. At that exact moment, Jenny gave a great lunge and actually dragged the table about six feet. Naturally, Grammy, and Karen who was carrying Amber in the car seat, went after her.

What happened next will always remain one of those difficult to explain events, but just as everyone moved in pursuit of Jenny and the table, a great tree limb came crashing down right where the table had been! Instead of what would have been serious injuries, Amber had only a minor scratch on her shoulder. Was it intuition, a sense of danger, or just sensitive hearing? Or was it Jenny's duty to her soul mate?

DONATIONS

Donations In Honor of..

Your wonderful work. I am very appreciative that you were able to take care of Laurel, the dog of my daughter's family, the Steinheisers. Good luck to you in all your endeavors. - **Rae Robfeld**

Danielle and Jared Goldstein's 2nd Anniversary. Love, Mom
- (aka **Jan Regester**)

Dennis and Melinda Garvin for allowing our family to adopt Robin. She has brought so much joy, fun and love to our lives over the last 5 months. - **Patrice and John Scanlon**

Doug Allen. - **American Gas Association**

GRREAT for our wonderful new companion Bailey. He does need another dog to play with. - **Joe and Anne Sloan**

Last week on Valentine's Day and my day off, I helped deliver flowers for a local flower shop. I decided that on this day of love, what better way to celebrate my golden love but to donate my day's earnings to help rescue. Included is a \$10 tip I received as well! I'd like the donation to honor Mary Ellen Lunde. I appreciate her extra kindness and dedication. I was so impressed by her call about my foster's successful surgery on the same day she managed to find foster homes for seven dogs. Her tireless efforts in helping the dogs we all love onto a better life is greatly appreciated. Sincerely, **Sid and Amazing Grace 98-126 - (aka L. Sidney Morris)**

Zach. - **Anonymous**

My rescued Golden, Mason (SR Sawdust of Golden Oaks UD, JH, WCX, CGC, TDI), who got 3rd place in Veterans Novice Obedience at the Golden Retriever National Specialty in November 2002—at age 13!!!! - **Martha Cole Glenn**

Brownie (00-005) our lovable couch potato.
-**Ann, Michale and Sam Brace**

Dusty - **Jonathan Gordon**

Our lovely Sandy (Zoe-Belle). - **Stephanie and Howard Weiss**



Special Donations

Thanks for all you do – and for a GRREAT newsletter, too.
- **Jack and Karen Phillips**

Donation of tips from working at the MCI Center for a GRREAT fundraiser. - **Susan and Devin Edwards**

We are still in Germany and the mail arrives later than in the US. We still have Casey, although he is in his 12th year now he doesn't seem to be slowing down any. He has finally learnt how to swim so this way we can exercise his back legs without any strain, although it is very cold at the moment so there is no swimming at the moment. But he loves the snow and will play and eat it for hours. He still doesn't like to go out in the dark on his own so we have to go with him at night. The Veterinarian was pleased with him and can now stroke him without Casey flinching. We will be in the US in March and Casey will go into a boarding kennel where they take excellent care of him and even take him for a walk every day. We will supply his food though, as we don't believe in changing it if it is not necessary. Well this is all for now, please keep up the great work. Please put the [donation] into whatever fund needs it. Sincerely, The Lawsons and Casey too.

- **CMSGT Wilbert and Margaret Lawson**

Ongoing Donations

Phil and Janet Hauck for the proceeds from the note cards that Janet makes and sells

United Way of the Bay Area

PVGRC

iGive.com from their website

PipeVine, Inc. for donations received through networkforgood.com

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Ed Hanrahan - **Jill Breen**

Dr. E.B. Hanrahan. - **Julie Forman**

Mark Newman - **Valerie Clark**

Mr. Beaton. – *Jim and Carol Peck*

TK Harvin. – *Keith Harvin*

Popeye, our brave little man. – *Thomas and Donna Frankhouser*

Woody and Brooks and in honor of Schubert. – *Pam and Jerry Ambrose*

Golden haven angels, past and present. – *Jackie Pentel*

Honey (99-081), whose last 3 years were her best thanks to Dave and Helen Kinzer. – *Shelly and Fred Donnell*

Max, our best boy. We miss you every day. - *Heather, Tom and Lily Stroup*

Terry and Cliff Standridge's beautiful little golden girl, Annie. She will be missed by many.
– *Jan Brown*

Jennie, a very special golden loved by Julie, Craig, Michaela and Sarah Wright. – *Jan Brown*

Shane, the beloved pet of Patricia and Jackson Warden. – *Sally Trebbe*

Charlie, a GRREAT dog adopted by the Chamowitz family a few years ago. She went to the law offices and calmed many an anxious client as well as being a wonderful companion. Thanks for all you do. P.S. It was our pleasure to put the C's in touch with GRREAT as all of our retrievers have come from your rescue. – *Pat Taylor*

Abercrombe, for Calloway, and GRREAT needs. – *Joseph and Tracey McGovern*

January 11, 2003 - The Mighty Golden Firpodiah (98-152) crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Four years ago it was LOVE at first sight at a GRREAT adoption day and it became a GRREAT treasure. It was a totally new experience that has opened up a new world for us. Firpo was the master of our hearts and all who encountered him. He taught us that daily walks, of a few miles, were not only healthy but enabled everyone encountered, man or beast, to pet and yes, speak a kind word to him. He truly was the best neighbor in our neighborhood. Firpo came to us with 2 stuffed toys; his "babies" and his kingdom grew to over 20 "babies." He picked a new baby off the table each year at the GRREAT Christmas party for his moms to purchase and he was delighted to pick another in the gift exchange. Friends would often bring food for our dinner parties and a "baby" for Firpo. During a beach trip visit to a bookstore he went to the stuffed animal basket and picked a red stuffed dog while we looked for books. The clerk remembered him the following year during our annual visit, as he had tried to leave without paying on that first trip and the clerk more than understood. It was so natural to think of him while away from him. He was soft and cuddly, liked to snuggle in the mornings, especially on the weekends, and "ruled" us in a sometimes-demanding way, like food time, out for "business time" and walk time. "FIRPO RULES" was how we explained to friends when we would immediately do what he "requested" in his boisterous manner. Our broken hearts and tear stinging eyes will soon open up to another four legged friend, because of FIRPO's greatest gifts ...LOVE and JOY. He made our hearts smile. We both thank GRREAT and especially June and Richard Downing, Firpo's Foster Parents, for this "Love In." Your guidance and tender care was evident and we will never forget you and hope to continue our mutual admiration of all Golden. Most important because of the Downings we will spread the good word of GRREAT, both the dogs and people. - *Tracy Blount and Cheryl Udy*



GOLDEN GIRL LOST ...AND FOUND

On Sunday, March 9th, some GRREAT volunteers met in West Virginia to search for 9-year-old "Golden Girl," (GG) who bolted when she was being taken from the crate and into the kennel at Finale Farm in Martinsburg. She was turned over to GRREAT in late February, after having been used for the sole purpose of breeding.

There had been no sightings of her in the near by area since March 1st. A thorough search of the area was conducted, but GG wasn't located.

Miraculously, on March 10th, GG was found! Neighbors sighted her, which allowed Carolyn and Wally Bishop to catch her and get her to a vet. The good news according to the vet report is that she should be just fine with some R&R indoors.

Thanks to everyone (two-footed and four-footed) who helped with the search. It may have been leaving lots of dog scents and covering the area that helped flush her out.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

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Joann and John Rice
Dan and Lillian Roach
Kelly and Peter Schauer
Mary Sexton
Cheryl Sharpless
Stanley Smith and Sheri Ulrich
Susan Soultz
Neil and Cornelia Strawser
David and Elizabeth Swingle
John and Victoria West
Charles and June Wilmot
Robin Youngren

THANKS PVGRC!

In March, the Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club invited GRREAT once again to their annual awards banquet, where we held a silent auction. This year's auction, organized by Pam Ambrose, was very successful and raised \$2,065. Many thanks to our golden friends at PVGRC!

LEO'S CORNER

LETTERS TO LEO

In memory of my 5 previous golden: Shaun, Rasberri, Shadow, Roxie and Sammie.
- *Linda and Al Hunt*

In memory of my golden Amy who died in 1991 and is the reason I got involved with GRREAT. - *Leslie Thornton*

In the name of Maryanne De Putron in memory of Sash from the staff of Dynamic Physical Therapy Kirwood Office.
- *Staff at Dynamic Physical Therapy*

In memory of Tuli. - *Joanne Heining*

I want to make a donation to assist your continuing efforts to help these wonderful dogs. We have just said good-bye to Rocky (officially Hooligan's Rambling Rascal). He was the soul of this house and gave joy to everyone who met him.
- *Elizabeth and Tom Parbuoni*



In memory of Morgan Nelson, and in honor of his sister Aspen and their parents (and mine), Jim and Stephanie Nelson.
- *Charles and Leigh Nelson Rutter*

In honor of Boo, Lacey, and Dixie.
- *Dr. and Mrs. James Hayes*

In memory of Dinah, a wonderful black lab with a golden heart, faithful companion to Daniel and Ann Robayo.
- *Paul and Christine Umberger*

In memory of Corey. - *Alison Martinek*

In memory of Luther Dilatush, loving father and philanthropist.
- *Phil and Janet Hauck*

THANK YOU LEO FUND DONATIONS

Golden Angels (\$500 or more)

Anne Peck

Golden Heroes (\$100 - 499)

Linda and Al Hunt

Sandy Huber

Dynamic Physical Therapy Kirkwood Office

Joe O'Neill and Walt Atha

Dr. and Mrs. James Hayes

Elizabeth and Tom Parbuoni

Phil and Janet Hauck

Leo's Pals (up to \$99)

Leslie Thornton

Tevis and Bill Thompson

Joanne Heining

Charles and Leigh Nelson Rutter

Paul and Christine Umberger

Alison Martinek

Eileen and James Hollaway

ADOPTION DAY DIRECTIONS

May 3, 2003

PETCO, Noon-2pm
4167 Cheshire Station Plaza
Dale City, VA 22193
Ph: 703.590.8823

From I-95 in Virginia, take the exit for Potomac Mills Mall. This puts you on Dale City Boulevard. Follow it for about 5 miles, then turn right onto Minneville Road. PetCo is the first turn on the right.

June 2, 2003

Ana's Ark Doggie Day Care Center
Noon-2pm
601-5 Dover Road
Rockville, MD 20850
Ph: 301.738.6781
Web: www.anasark.com

From I-270, get off on the Shady Grove Rd exit, going north. Head east on Rt. 355 (Frederick Road). Turn left onto Goude Dr. Turn right onto Dover Road. Ana's Ark Doggie Day Care is on the left.

July 12, 2003

PETCO, Noon-2pm
3200 N. Washington Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia
Ph: 703.276.7387

From I-495 South towards Washington, DC, merge onto Rt. 66 going east. Take the Spout Run exit. Turn right at the light. At the next light, take another right. Go to the second stop light, and turn left into the PetCo parking lot.

ADOPTION REPORT

April showers may bring May flowers, but January, February, and March brought 57 Golden Retrievers springing into their new families! What a way to start springtime. These newly adopted Golden Retrievers are taking their people for walks in the warm weather! Of those 57 walkers, 41 were bounding boys and 16 were graceful girls. There were 16 puppies (a year old or less) in the group, and 4 seniors (who were all 10). We'd like to thank all of the families who found a new furry friend, and of course the foster parents who helped them come together. Congratulations and Happy Spring!

Our statistics on this group:

Dogs - 57
Males - 41
Females - 16
Age 2 and under - 15
Age 7 and over - 24
Age 2 through 7 - 29



Taylor and Dominic would like to introduce the newest member of the Bayat Family... MESA. Mesa is a Golden Retriever/Kuvaz mix. She was born in April 1999 and now weighs 82 pounds. Mesa is a very gentle and loving girl and has adjusted very well to her new forever home with us!

The newsletter would love to feature your story! Please email us at newsletter@grreat.org, if you'd like to be part of the fun!

Name	ID #	Age	Sex
Abbey	02-149	11mo	F
Abbie	01-269	3	F
Abigail	03-033	4	F
Amber	02-119	5	F
Andy	03-009	1	M
Bailey	02-147	6	M
Barney	03-001	6	M
Bart	03-037	10	M
Bashful	03-010	1	F
Bear	03-008	5	M
Belle	02-044	5	F
Benny	03-062	6mo	M
Bonnie	03-039	3	F
Chance	02-258	3	M
Clyde	03-040	1	M
Cody	03-031	1	M
Copper	03-061	1	M
Daisie	03-002	6	F
Dean	03-034	10	M
Deidle	03-051	5	M
Devon	02-228	6mo	M
Duffy	02-182	5	M
Duggins	03-036	3	M
Dusty	02-065	1	M
Freddie	03-053	3	M
Halie	02-216	4mo	F
Hooper	03-004	3	M
Jake	02-291	3	M
Jake	03-017	8mo	M
Jordan	02-275	2	M
Julius	02-236	3	M
Maggie	03-050	1	F
Marcus	02-207	8mo	M
Max	03-013	2	M
Max	03-032	1	M
McKenzie	03-060	3	F
Mesa	03-020	3	F
Mickey	02-292	1	M
Murphy	02-272	2	M
Nash	03-007	2	M
Pilgrim	01-259	2	M
Ranger	01-119	3	M
Rock	02-080	5	M
Roll	02-081	5	M
Rusty	03-019	4	M
Saint	03-006	1	M
Sally/Merica	02-118	6mo	F
Sampson	01-219	10	M
Sassy	03-016	5	F
Scout	02-189	3	M
Shyanne	03-015	5	F
Simba	03-068	2	M
Taylor	03-035	10	M
Trixie	01-124	3	F
Valentine	03-046	2	M
Winston	03-042	5	M
Wrecks	03-021	3	M

IS YOUR DOG UP TO THE JOB?

June 20 is

Take Your Dog To Work Day!

This year marks the fifth anniversary of Take Your Dog To Work Day! This day encourages businesses everywhere to consider the positive impact of pets in the workplace.

Take Your Dog To Work Day calls attention to the wonderful companions dogs make and encourages pet adoptions from animal shelters, humane societies and rescue groups. Every year in June, dogs have the chance to earn their kibble, while owners and co-workers enjoy the companionship of furry friends. Employers will be able to experience first hand the benefits of pets in the workplace!

It's easy and fun to participate. But more importantly, your actions could save lives by encouraging dog-less co-workers to adopt homeless pets from your local shelters and rescues! For information on how to make a workplace dog-friendly, including a "dog office pack" you can visit www.petsitters.com.

YAPPY HOUR

Tails were waggin' at the second annual GRREAT Happy Tails event in March. Twice as many people (and pets!) as last year turned out on this beautiful day to support a GRREAT cause. Hosted by Before & After and Paws pet boutique on Maryland Avenue in Annapolis, the event raised approximately \$1000 to benefit the work of GRREAT. Thanks to Before & After, Paws pet boutique, all those who donated prizes for the raffle (32 drawings were held!), and everyone who attended for helping raise awareness of GRREAT.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS BY CARING FOR THEIR PETS

compiled by April Fritz

The Washington, DC, area is home to the Pentagon and numerous military installations for all the services. In addition, thousands of others in this area serve their country part-time as military reservists. These families keep dogs, cats, and other pets just like civilian families. However, as more and more reservists are called to temporary active duty for deployment overseas, the future care of military family pets becomes an issue. In many circumstances, the family that remains at home, a relative, or friend can care for the animal. In other circumstances, particularly where more than one family member is called to active duty, the immediate family may not be in a position to keep the pet.

Stay-at-home patriots in many areas of the country have stepped forward to offer foster care for military pets whose owners have been called to duty. In our area, the Montgomery County (Maryland) Humane Society has a program to match foster home volunteers with military families who must temporarily give up their pets. Called the Home Away From Home Military Pets Foster Program, the purpose of this program is to avoid permanent give-ups or, worse, the desperate measure of abandoning a beloved pet on the streets to fend for itself. For further information about the Montgomery County Humane Society's foster listing program, please contact Pete Kennedy at (301) 774-7650.

In other areas, including Delaware, the District of Columbia, and Virginia, national pet fostering programs such as the Military Pets Foster Project are in place. Founded in September, 2001, this program has already registered more than 5,000 foster homes, but more are still needed. Applications to be a foster home and applications for military families that need pet care assistance are available at <http://www.netpets.org/netp/foster.php>. Even if you can't be a foster home, you can make a donation to the Military Pets Foster Project at the same website. Other ways to become involved in supporting our troops and their pets include transporting the pets between their military and foster homes, spreading the word about these programs, and helping to interview foster parents. Operation Noble Foster is the feline counterpart to the Military Pets Foster Project, allowing cat lovers willing to foster to be matched with cat owners who need assistance. Further information about Operation Noble Foster can be obtained from www.felinerescue.net/.

It is important to note that the organizations that make these matches are not responsible for the care of the pets themselves. Any foster care agreements are between the military personnel and the foster home. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) offers a great deal of information about the discussion that should take place before the foster home arrangement is finalized, including sample foster care agreements between foster care volunteers, shelters and military pet owners and pet personality profiles that provide information for matching the foster pet with the pets in the foster home.

The following issues should be discussed between the military pet owner and the foster home:

- The pet should be spayed or neutered to avoid unwanted litters or damage to the foster home from marking territory.
- The pet should be up-to-date on vaccinations and should have a current rabies tag or license as required by community law.
- The pet should come to the foster home with a complete set of veterinary records and complete disclosure on the part of the owner of any health concerns, necessary special care or ongoing treatment.
- The pet should also come to the foster home with a collar and tag showing the foster home contact information.
- There should be a written agreement describing the foster care arrangement covering such important items as who is liable for any damage done by the pet, what happens if the pet is injured or dies while in the temporary home, what would happen if the temporary caregiver can no longer care for the pet, and what should happen to the pet if the owner is unable to reclaim it.
- If the foster family lives in the same area as the military family, arrangements should be made to continue taking the pet to the same veterinarian. The military pet owner could leave a credit card, perhaps with a dollar limit, with the vet to cover routine and emergency care if the foster home and veterinarian agree with that plan.

SUPPORTING Continued

- Financial arrangements should be clearly understood, including who will pay for routine and emergency care; who pays for food, toys, grooming and other routine needs; and whether there are any dollar limits on spending.
- A personality profile should be provided to help the pet's caretaker understand the pet's habits and preferences, such as a list of the pet's likes and dislikes, commands it understands, where it sleeps, diet plan (what brand and how much), regular medications taken, and any other important information.

Caring for military pets can be very rewarding for the foster family. In addition to providing peace of mind to the military person dealing with so many other deployment issues, the foster family can feel good knowing that they are making a contribution both as pet lovers and patriots.

Further information about military pet fostering, both from the military and foster perspectives, is available from the Humane Society of the United States website:

www.hsus2.org/sheltering/library/shelter_military_pets.html

Providing Assistance for Pet Owners Reporting for Active Duty

www.hsus.org/ace/11827

Checklist for Care

<http://www.hsus.org/ace/11821>

Foster Care Agreement

<http://www.hsus.org/ace/11783>

Dog Personality Profile



Pet Personality Profile

If a pet is to be left with a caretaker for an extended period of time, the pet's owner should completely disclose the pet's habits and preferences so that the caretaker will understand how the animal behaves. The Humane Society of the United States offers downloadable dog and cat personality profiles that should be completed before the animal goes into its foster home (available from <http://www.hsus.org/ace/11783>). The items on the questionnaire include feeding (brand of food, amount, time of day when fed, type of treats, and food allergies), information about house training, crate training, and sleeping habits, and contact information for the pet's veterinarian.

In addition to those items, additional details on the pet's habits may be important. The following suggestions for briefing the caretaker are based on the questions GRREAT intake coordinators ask about dogs that are being given up.

- Names, dosages and delivery of specific medications.
- Date that heartworm should be given
- How does the dog "ask" to go outside?
- How long can the dog be left alone in the house?
- What games does the dog play?
- What is the dog's tolerance for exercise? (long walks, hills, swimming)
- Is he allowed on furniture?
- What might trigger the dog to bark inside?
- What might trigger the dog to bark outside?
- Does the dog have any bad habits? (digging, counter surfing, garbage diving, tearing up toys)
- Does the dog get car sick?

The more the caretaker knows about the pet, the quicker the adjustment in the foster home.

GRREAT News: Under New Management

April Fritz was the editor of GRREAT News since shortly after moving to Maryland and adopting the first of five GRREAT dogs in 1990. She recently decided it was time to turn the duties over to a new editor.

In fact, there is now a team of GRREAT members working together on the GRREAT News: Managing Editor Beth Lacey Gill, Newsletter Coordinator Leigh Nelson Rutter, and Contributing Editor A. Hailey Morgan.

These three young women are hoping to continue the positive work that April accomplished over her 11 years as Editor. Thankfully, April will remain as contributing writer and all-around helpful force.

We would very much appreciate knowing your thoughts and suggestions. Please direct any story ideas or corrections to the Newsletter Coordinator.

Please direct feedback regarding the newsletter to the Managing Editor.



BOOK REVIEW

BY A. HAILEY MORGAN

The Simple Guide to Getting Active With Your Dog By Margaret Bonham

Published by TFH Publications (Feb. 2003);
ISBN: 0793821096; Paperback, \$12.95

In *The Simple Guide to Getting Active With Your Dog*, author Margaret Bonham takes Best in Show. Covering 23 activities from pet-assisted therapy to agility to skiing, there is something for every dog, large or small, young or old, pedigree or mix. Each activity is rated on a scale of \$ to \$\$\$\$\$, with \$ being inexpensive and \$\$\$\$ being very expensive. Breed restrictions are listed where applicable. The events range from fun and fairly simple (freestyle dancing, teaching tricks) to competitive and challenging (field trials, tracking). Bonham gives an overview of each activity and in the case of AKC sanctioned events, provides a checklist of what to bring and tips on what to expect. Among other things, I learned how to choose and fit a backpack on my golden, how to screen an agility instructor, and what titles are available for tracking dogs. I did find the sections on therapy dogs and dog shows to be disappointingly brief. Bonham covers all the bases. Part one includes a discussion on nutrition, exercise, and positive training techniques and recommends a veterinary exam before your dog begins a new activity. A checklist for making a first aid kit and tips on selecting a pet sitter or boarding kennel are included at the end of the book. For those who prefer to travel with their pets, there is a chapter on that too. Dozens of color photos throughout show dogs engaged in the various activities. *The Simple Guide* belongs in every dog lover's library and is an especially good resource for those with working and sporting breeds. Whether you and your dog currently lead an active lifestyle or a sedentary lifestyle, there is an activity in here for you.

ASK GOLDIE

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

Dear Goldie:
I have a Golden puppy who is almost 1 year old. His previous owner did not teach him any verbal commands and he doesn't even know his name. He does not pay attention when I speak to him at all. (He is not deaf because he responds to noise.) He isn't interested in treats either, so they don't get his attention. What can I do to make him listen to me?
Signed, Jane in Vienna, VA

Dear Jane:
Goldens, like the rest of us, can sometimes be fussy when it comes to their palate preferences. During the early stages of training a Golden, it's important to offer a treat or other incentive that really interests him, or — as you have discovered — he probably will not pay much attention to you. In other words, he may not like the treats that you're offering, but he might adore another dietary option. Consequently, you need to come up with something that is so enticing, so wonderful (from his point of view) that he will want to listen to you.

Here are some possible treat alternatives. One possibility is a product called Rollover™: essentially, a tube of meat-based dog food that can be sliced and crumbled as needed. Flavors include beef, turkey and lamb, and it's available at pet specialty stores. Goldie has seen dogs of every breed (including, of course, Goldens) go bonkers over this stuff. More information about this product is available at www.rolloverpetfood.com.

Another possibility is nutritious stuff that comes from your own kitchen, such as bits of boiled ground beef, or even raw or frozen vegetables.

And, in case your dog is one of those rare canines who doesn't like any treat (I've yet to meet one, though), consider offering a play session or a special toy as an incentive for good behavior. Many search-and-rescue handlers teach their dogs the art of search and rescue by using a special tug toy as a reward when the dog performs as required.

The bottom line here is that you need to be willing to experiment. Your Golden is a unique individual, with preferences all his own. Take the time to discover those preferences, and he will learn his name and everything else you want him to know.

Of course, once you find that treat that makes your dog want to do tricks, you need to monitor his intake so that he doesn't put on too much weight. Make sure that any treat you use is reasonably nutritious, and adjust his regular meal portions accordingly.

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

Calendar Reminder

Don't forget the deadline for GRREAT Calendar Contest Submissions is **May 24th, 2003**. Photos will be selected for the cover and for each month. There will be a collage page of honorable mentions. Calendars are given to area vets and shelters, and are also for sale to the general public. Proceeds from the sale of the calendars go directly to GRREAT. Photos should well represent the Golden Retriever breed and must be in color with a horizontal layout. We regret that we cannot accept digital photos this year (unless they are 300dpi at a size of 9x12). Send the photo(s) of your GRREAT dog, along with his GRREAT ID number, age and a brief description of the dog's past or present life, together with name, address and phone number of the person submitting the entry to: Deb Nizer, 327 Thelma Ave. Glen Burnie, MD 21061.

SUMMER'S ALMOST HERE—TAKE A TRIP TO THE DOG PARK!

By A. Hailey Morgan

What dog lover wouldn't welcome an area in their community where dogs could run free and play with other dogs off leash? Residents of Northern Virginia, and more recently Anne Arundel County, are fortunate to have several such "dog parks." These provide an ideal place to exercise and socialize your dog while meeting other dog lovers. What can we as responsible dog owners do to ensure the success and enjoyment of our local dog parks?

First, follow dog park etiquette. A quick list accompanies this article. For more in-depth coverage of each topic, visit www.herndondogs.org/etiquette.shtml.

Second, get involved with your local dog park. A number of dog parks, especially in the Northern Virginia area, have incorporated as non-profit entities with membership dues, newsletters, websites, fundraising events, and even corporate sponsorships. Other dog parks have a less formal, loosely organized group of volunteers. Either way, these park supporters contribute to the maintenance of the park, enforce park rules, and make both aesthetic and functional improvements to the park. Find out what the needs are at your dog park. Perhaps you can volunteer your time to help with a fundraising event or donate your services to design a park website. Maybe your company would be willing to sponsor a bench or donate landscaping materials. Even your kindergarten class can collect plastic grocery bags to donate to the poop scoop station. Whatever your abilities or finances, there is something you can do to help improve your local dog park.

SUCCESS STORY

Quiet Waters Dog Park in Annapolis, MD held a Howl-o-ween Barkin Bash this past October. Over 200 dogs and their humans attended and over \$2000 was raised for improvements to the dog park. There were costume and dance contests, doggie themed games, a police K-9 demonstration, and numerous other activities. Rescue groups and other pet organizations had tables and sold merchandise at the event. The local business community was incredibly supportive, donating services and merchandise for the raffle drawing. The Bash was covered by local news media and was deemed a Howling Success.



©PATRICIA GAYLE PHOTOGRAPHY

YOU CAN TELL THIS GOLDEN IS A "REGULAR" AT THE DOG PARK.

To locate a dog park near you or to learn how to start a new dog park, visit:

www.dogpark.com
www.thebark.com

Some fun websites:

www.ArlingtonDogs.org
www.HerndonDogs.org
www.RestonDogs.org
www.HoCoDog.org
(Howard County)
www.QuietWatersDogPark.org
(Annapolis)

DOG PARK ETIQUETTE

1. Scoop the poop!
2. No pups please! Under four months that is...puppies under four months do not have the necessary immunity to fight off the germs they may be exposed to. And even the most outgoing pup can be frightened when faced with a pack of large dogs!
3. Keep your dog leashed until inside the dog park (or inside the double gated area). Not only is this the law, but it also shows respect for the rights of non-dog owners to enjoy the park. Your dog may be friendly but not everyone enjoys being approached by a strange dog.
4. Remove choke or prong type collars once inside the park. A dog could easily get his collar tangled with another dog during play and the result could be deadly. Use a buckle collar or harness instead.
5. Leave small children at home. Each dog park sets an age limit, check the rules for your park.
6. The dog park is not the place to begin socializing an aggressive or fearful dog. If this is your dog, please consult with a trainer or behaviorist before coming to the dog park.
7. Leave female dogs in heat at home.
8. Watch your dog. Even the friendliest of dogs can sometimes rub each other the wrong way. If your dog is bullying another dog or is being bullied, call it a day.
9. Speak up! If you see a dog owner fail to clean up after his pet, offer him a baggie. If a dog is being aggressive, contact the park ranger or other authority.
10. No food, dog or people. Some dogs can be food aggressive.
11. Follow all posted dog park rules.

DOG'S LETTERS TO GOD

Dear God,

Are there mailmen in Heaven? If there are, will I have to apologize?

How come people love to smell flowers, but seldom, if ever, smell one another? Where are their priorities?

When my family eats dinner they always bless their food. But they never bless mine. So... I've been wagging my tail extra fast when they fill my bowl. Have you noticed my own blessing?

When we get to Heaven, can we sit on your couch? Or is it the same old story?

Why are there cars named after the jaguar, the cougar, the mustang, the colt, the stingray, and the rabbit, but not one named for a dog? How often do you see a cougar riding around? We dogs love a nice ride! I know every breed cannot have its own model, but it would be easy to rename the Chrysler Eagle the Chrysler Beagle!

If a dog barks his head off in the forest and no human hears him, is he still a bad dog?

If we come back as humans, is that good or bad?

More meatballs, less spaghetti, please.

When we get to the Pearly Gates, do we have to shake hands to get in?

Are there dogs on other planets, or are we alone? I have been howling at the moon and stars for a long time, but all I ever hear back is the beagle across the street!

Is it true that dogs are not allowed in restaurants because we can't make up our minds what NOT to order? Or is it that thing about carpets again?

The new terrier I live with just peed on the Oriental rug and I have a feeling my family might blame me 'cuz they think I'm jealous of his stupid dog. Since they have no sense of smell, how can I convince them I'm innocent?

Sincerely,

The Dog

RESCUE POEM

By Arlene Pace, September 1998

Once I was a lonely dog, just looking for a home.
I had no place to go; no one to call my own.
I wandered up and down the streets, in rain, in heat, and snow.
I ate what ever I could find; I was always on the go.
My skin would itch. My feet were sore. My body ached with pain.
And no one stopped to give a pat or gently say my name.
I never saw a loving glance. I was always on the run,
for people thought that hurting me was really lots of fun.
And then one day I heard a voice, so gentle, kind and sweet,
And arms so soft reached down to me and took me off my feet.
"No one again will hurt you," was whispered in my ear,
"You'll have a home to call your own where you will know no fear.
You will be dry, you will be warm, you'll have enough to eat.
And rest assured that when you sleep, your dreams will all be sweet."
I was afraid I must admit; I've lived so long in fear.
I can't remember when I let a human come so near.
And as she tended to my wounds and bathed and brushed my fur,
She told me 'bout the rescue group and what it meant to her.
She said, "We are a circle, a line that never ends.
And in the center there is you protected by new friends.
And all around you are the ones that check the pounds,
And those that share their home after you've been found.
And all the other folk are searching near and far,
to find the perfect home for you, where you can be a star."
She said, "There is a family, that's waiting patiently,
and pretty soon we'll find them, just you wait and see."
"And then they'll join our circle; they'll help to make it grow,
so there'll be room for more like you, who have no place to go."
I waited very patiently; the days they came and went.
Today's the day, I thought, my family will be sent.
Then just when I began to think it wasn't meant to be,
there were people standing there just gazing down at me.
I knew them in a heart beat; I could tell they felt it too.
They said, "We have been waiting for a special dog like you."
Now every night I say a prayer to all the Gods that be.
Thank you for the life I live and all you've given me.
But most of all protect the dogs in the pound and on the street.
And send a Rescue Person to lift them off their feet.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Doggie Happy Hours

Every Tuesday and Thursday
5 pm - 8 pm
Holiday Inn Select Old Town - Alexandria
703.549.6080 x801
www.doggiehappyhour.com

Pet Fiesta

Saturday, May 3, 2003
Reston Town Center
8:30 am - 3 pm
Pet Fiesta is a celebration of pets and pet ownership in Northern Virginia. Meet area rescue groups, view products and services from area merchants and participate in a number of fun activities, including the Mutt Strutt Dog Walk to benefit Paws & Claws Animal Rescue. The 5K walk will bring you back to Reston Town Center in time for the official Pet Parade to start Pet Fiesta. For more information, check out www.petfiesta.org.

Walk for the Animals

Saturday, May 10, 2003
Bluemont Park, Arlington
703.931.9241 x280
www.awla.org

Walk and Wag

Saturday, May 17, 2003
Baker Park, Frederick

Walk for the Animals

Sunday, May 18, 2003
8 am - 12 pm
SPCA of Anne Arundel County
Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis
Christina: 410.268.5285

Paws in the Park 5K

Sunday, May 18, 2003
10 am
Wheaton Regional Park
Drew or Shelly: 301.279.9677

Animal Wellness Day

Sunday, June 8, 2003
9 am - 1 pm
Low cost vaccinations, spaying and neutering and training
410.243.7692 x1

Bark in the Park

Tuesday, July 1, 2003
Frederick Keys vs Myrtle Beach
7:05 pm
Harry Grove Stadium goes to the dogs with their annual Bark in the Park. Pre-game activities include a Fly Ball Demonstration. Dogs are free but must be accompanied by a paid adult; the first 500 dogs through the gate receive a dog bowl courtesy of Helping Hands Veterinary Clinic. For information, visit www.frederickkeys.com

Dog Days of Summer

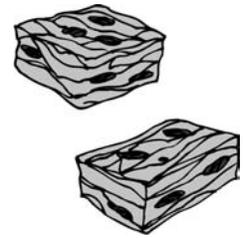
Tuesday, June 10, 2003
Bowie Baysox vs. Reading Phillies
7:05 pm
Bring your pooch to the ballpark to participate in a dog trick contest or sign your dog up to win one of their special dog prizes! For more information, visit www.baysox.com



This list is for information purposes only. GRREAT does not sponsor nor endorse these events.

Bone Appetit!

RECIPES FOR YOUR DOG



Sunshine Liver Brownies

Want an easy recipe to make your golden's mouth water (more than usual)? These brownies may be cut to any size and will not crumble in your pocket. They also freeze well.

Ingredients:

1 lb. calf of pork liver
1 cup flour
1/2 cup corn meal
2 tbsp garlic salt
1 tbsp garlic powder

Directions:

Puree all of the above in a food processor. Pour onto a cookie sheet lined with aluminum foil which has been oiled. Mixture will be thick. Press flat and even. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Brownies are done when the pink is gone. Do not overbake or the brownies will crumble. Recipe may be doubled. You can also use fresh garlic instead of garlic powder, and/or parsley flakes for color.

*Recipe courtesy of the "Dogs Are Gods" website:
www.dogsaregods.hypermart.net*

If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please email it to newsletter@grreat.org with "recipe" in the subject line.

BILL'S STORY

by Foster Dog, Bill (formerly Rebel)

Who is Bill?

Rebel, renamed Bill, 03-049, was a 1-yr-old unneutered male, an owner turn-in to a shelter. He was a very sweet boy, but of course full of young energy and completely untrained. Needless to say, he was neutered quickly and fortunately one of our very experienced foster homes, Janet and Phil Hauck, agreed to foster him despite his "enthusiasm" and "exuberance" (rescue words for a wild child!).

As you can see, Rebel/Bill is giving the Haucks quite a workout, but Rebel/Bill is getting a good foundation of structure, love and guidance that will make him a loving and cherished family member when he gets adopted to his forever home.

Bill is a terrific example of how fostering helps GRREAT. Look for an update on Bill in our next issue.



BILL (aka REBEL) HAD QUITE THE EXPERIENCE WITH HIS FOSTER FAMILY

Wanna foster?

Check out the GRREAT website or email Mary Ellen Lunde (melunde@att.net) for an application and more information about this helpful program.

Deewr Mersus Lunde,

Bill's my name and WINNIN'S my game! For sure, I'm still a REBEL! I'm at this house where there's tons of snow and a bunch of dogs who I get to BOSS around. The guys that don't have tails are fun to torture too.

I try stealing kleenex out of trash cans but they just take it away and look disappointed, or is it disgusted? So then I stick my head in the kitchen trashcan for a sniff and snack but this "alpha" bitch type squirts my head with this salad dressing stuff (vinegar)! GHEEZ! I like it better when I get yelled at.

They have this big, sorta cozy wire den where they put me at night to sleep. I cry in the morning to let them know I'm awake and ready for more REBELFUN.

I like the food and treats they give me but they do this sit/stay thing before I get anything. Speaking of sit, they make me do that a lot during the day. Sometimes, if I don't feel like it, I sit and just slide down into a helpless (ha-ha) furball. That works pretty good!

I always rush to be first to the water bowl and push the other guys out of the way. They look at me like I'm a rude dude. What is that anyway? You should've seen the looks on their faces when I really had to pee and let go right in front of them on the kitchen floor. Couldn't help it, tried to tell 'em. Oh well, they just took me outside and cleaned it up.

I got the big guy going pretty good with a game yesterday. His bathroom door doesn't shut tight and I push it open...he shuts, I push, he shuts, I push. We got a real good rhythm goin' there for a while. I think he was laughing.

Do you see anything wrong with biting the other dogs tails when they try to get away from me? I think its a pretty good move but they don't! I am so fast and clever that I always win with balls. Well almost always.

Ya know, the big guy has a real fetish! When he walks me for "potty" he carries these bags. I poop and he picks it up "hot" and puts it right into the plastic bags (something about worms and the ground). It seems pretty weird to me?! It's pretty funny when it's raining and he has an umbrella, too!

I was really excited when I found out that they give ice cubes after dinner. But boy, that didn't last long for me! Ya see, I want 'em all, every single one and everybody's...So guess what? Now I don't get any but THEY do! HHHHMMMMPPFFF!

I still get to steal bones and toys from the other furry ones. Do it all the time! I think I'm cool. The trick here is to be always doin' something so they can't get a handle on ya! Taking the feather duster off the wall in the pantry was a real hoot! They said, "What's he got now?!"

What does "BRAT" mean?

I'm very tall when I stand on my back legs so I can get a good look at what's on the counter. I didn't take NUTHIN"! I like to look out the window too, so I jump on the windowsill a lot. What's the big deal? How else can I see out? When I jump up on the storm door, they close the door so I can't look out. GHEEZ!

I have really been tempted to chew some furniture; just gnaw a little...but they have plenty of nyla bones to chew so I just lick a little.

The big guy has a glass of this "red smelly stuff" every night before dinner. It really "ruffles his fur" if I steal a lick out of it!

I hate that Halti thing for walks. I showed 'em. Got it off PDQ! They say I walk pretty well with just the leash. Glad there's something I do right!

Ya know, this place isn't all bad. They forgave me for the battles with the "boys". But now they wear referee whistles and have an air horn on the mantle. Do you think we're gonna play some football?!

My surgery spot is fine and I don't try to lick it any more at all. I have a really good time in the yard playing with my dog friends. Yesterday, I saw these HUGE big dogs in the next yard (horses) and I decided I'd like to go investigate. Mr. Phil wouldn't let me.

Sometimes, just lately, I find myself going to the big guys (with no tails) and wanting them to put their hands on me and rub me and kiss my nose...but hey, not so it means I have to "listen to them" or anything....

GHEEZ, now these guys are starting to wear ME out! I can't get away with hardly anything. I really AM very SMART but they seem to know it! They keep on bein' nice to me and just workin' on me to do it their way. I think they're playin' "mind games," don't you?

Do I still seem like a REBEL? I don't want to lose my identity or nothin'.

Signed,
Just her "BILL"



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 dog Aspen has a few tricks up her, uh...sleeve. Aspen is the queen dog of the house and almost always will finagle a situation to suit herself. On more than one occasion, she has duped a visiting foster dog into giving up a prime spot next to one of us. A prime spot she feels is by all rights hers, not theirs. She uses a simple trick...the trusty bark at the door routine. Aspen will go to the door and start barking like a horde of pillaging Mongols is right outside and the house needs to be warned and protected. The naive foster will jump up to join in on the bark-a-thon and Aspen probably chuckles to herself. As soon as the foster dog is

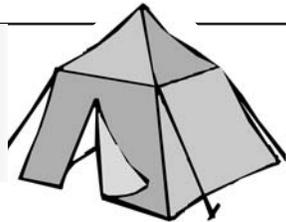
clear of the "area of affection" that we humans are creating, Aspen doubles back to fill the void. The foster will bark for awhile until they realize nobody is there and Aspen is gone. They come back to us to see Aspen has taken their place. They fall for it every time.

-Jim Nelson

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



THE PUP TENT



FUN FACT:

May 4 to 10, 2003 is the 88th annual **Be Kind to Animals Week!**

This was created by American Humane Society in 1915 to provide humane education in the United States. This week offers adults and children opportunities to develop compassionate attitudes toward animals in our world. How can you participate? Log on to www.hsus.org for some fun ideas!

WORD JUMBLES By Seth Bondroff

Can you rearrange these letters to make words? Here's a hint: they all have to do with our furry friends.

- 1) IALT _____
- 2) TFCEH _____
- 3) ONLGDE _____
- 4) EVRIERETR _____
- 5) NSOBE _____
- 6) AYPL LALB _____

Answers: 1) Tail, 2) Fetch, 3) Golden
4) Retriever 5) Bones 6) Play Ball

VOLUNTEER CORNER

A BREED APART

Spotlight on GRREAT Volunteers

June and Richard Downing

June and Richard Downing are indeed, "Something Special." They own a consignment craft store in Stafford, Virginia by that very name with a corner devoted to merchandise for GRREAT. Sometimes Richard makes the merchandise in his woodshop; other items are donated by local crafts people or are dog-related items that June stocks.

Wanting to rescue a dog, the Downings started work with GRREAT in 1997. Since then, they have adopted Jessie and Prance. They have fostered many deserving goldens and have been a gateway for dogs who come from the southern Virginia area. They sometimes keep intakes overnight or drive them to the vet and points north. Also, June and Richard do lots of home visits and dog evaluations for the intake coordinator.

A few years ago, the Downings raffled off donated beanie babies to help support the rescue. Their couple-thousand dollar donation was exceptionally critical at that time, because GRREAT was considering shutting down, as it was extremely low on funds. Also, June and Richard tried for years to get their hesitant county shelter to work with GRREAT. They even cemented the good will with baked goods!

The Downings are known in their area as "golden rescuers" and people contact them as GRREAT representatives because they trust them as their local liaison. Many a dog would not have come to GRREAT except for June and Richard wearing their hearts on their sleeves and in their store.

Special thanks to Georgie Babler and Mary Ellen Lunde for providing us with the information for this piece.

Thank You Artists!

This month's volunteer artists include Diana Fitchett and Melody Sarecky. Diana lives in Florida with her two goldens and Melody is a children's book author. The newsletter staff would like to thank them both for their hard work.

Home Checkers

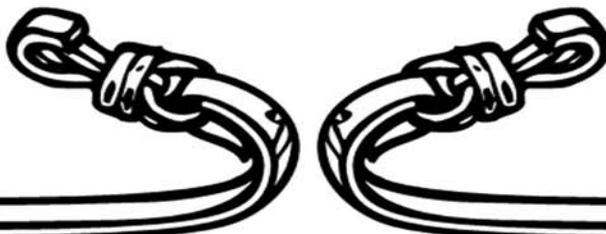
Want to get out of the house, spend quality time with your dog and visit exotic locales? GRREAT can make that possible! You and your Golden can help us evaluate potential adoptive families. We are looking for home visit volunteers throughout GRREAT's service area. We have an urgent need for volunteers in the following areas: VA (Falls Church, Franconia, Springfield, Vienna and Haymarket/Warrenton/ Middleburg), MD (Catonsville/ South West Baltimore County area, Prince Georges County, Silver Spring, Lower Southern MD, Kent Island area, east of the Bay bridge, Waldorf, La Plata, Baltimore City) and DE (Newark, Wilmington, the beaches). If you can do home visits in MD, PA, or DE please contact Chris Grob, CRSaul140@aol.com For VA, DC, or WV please contact Diane Lanigan, dianelanigan@hotmail.com.

Concession Stand Workers

GRREAT is looking for volunteers to help staff a food concession stand during events at the Patriot Center at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. Events generally involve time commitments of 4-5 hours, and the proceeds from concession sales benefit GRREAT. Tasks to be performed include limited food preparation, concession sales and stand clean-up at event end. No experience is necessary. Each stand has a stand manager (a Patriot Center employee) to manage things and answer questions and ad hoc training is provided when necessary. Volunteers receive complimentary food and beverages. If you are interested in helping, please send an e-mail to Eric Cooper at eric.cooper-contractor@mda.osd.mil.

Thanks Patricia Gayle!

Patricia graciously donated some wonderful professional golden retriever photos to the newsletter. Thanks, also, to her models: Shadow (owned by Gian Farris of Lake Oswego) and Barney and Tyler (owned by the Paul and Gerogette Bowlby family of Lake Oswego).



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

Don't forget our Wine Tasting fundraiser coming up on Saturday, May 17. This event will be held at the Tarara Winery in Leesburg, VA, and features festival-style wine tasting for the first 300 people to sign up (ages 21 and older, please). And if wine's not your thing, you can still join us for picnicing (bring your own food), softball, volleyball, a silent auction, and other fun. Dogs on leashes are welcome. The cost is \$25 per person for the wine tasting, or \$10 per family for the picnic and other fun. You do not need to be a GRREAT member to attend. You can find more information on the GRREAT website at <http://www.grreat.org/winetasting.htm>.

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.



©PATRICIA GAYLE PHOTOGRAPHY

SPEND A FANTASTIC DAY OUTSIDE WITH YOUR DOG (AND FRIENDS) AT GRREAT'S FIRST ANNUAL WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER!

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

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GRREAT BEGINNINGS



LEAD TO HAPPY ENDINGS!

Golden Retriever Rescue
Education and Training, Inc.