

1983 - 2003



20TH ANNIVERSARY

# GRREAT NEWS

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## From Puppy Mill to Peace at Last Calle's Story

By Shelley Hunsberger, Her Foster Mom

Little did she realize that her life was only going to get better when she was dragged out of the truck by her legs and tossed in the yard of the local Mississippi shelter by the brutal breeder. That is how the story began for this three-year-old Golden girl. She had no name when she came to the shelter, so the staff named her Reagan from her dam's surname. From the local shelter, she was moved to the Memphis Area Golden Retriever Rescue. However, with her disabilities—three legs, severe malnutrition and a badly diseased heart—they could not find a home for her in that area. That's when GRREAT came into her life and helped her find a permanent home. Reagan was transported to Virginia and picked up en route by GRREAT president, Kim Wiff. Kim kept Reagan with her brood for a few days until she could join our family.

Reagan was quite a timid little girl when she rode home with me on a Tuesday afternoon. I lifted her out of the back seat and she was greeted by Shiloh, our six-year-old female Golden. There were a few sniffs and then Reagan came right in and made herself at home. Although she was not familiar with her new surroundings, she was curious and set out to experience all there was to see in this new place. Having only three legs did not slow her down much, other than her inability to climb stairs. Like all our new fosters, she followed me around everywhere I went and sat patiently until I gave her the attention she so desperately wanted. The first night we gated her in the kitchen area and she barked until someone came down to join her. I lay down with her and together we slept on her quilt in the kitchen. After that night she slept with us in our bedroom and there was no more barking.

During the day, while we were at work, she was content to doze next to Shiloh on the stair landing, look out the back doors, or nap next to the front door. She was always right there to greet the first person home. Since she did not respond to the name Reagan, we decided to give her a new

name—Calle. We introduced her to all our neighbors, and she eagerly went up to everyone, especially children. They were amazed to see a three-legged dog and everyone wanted to know more about her. Calle was always gentle and calm so people responded the same way toward her.

Although she preferred being inside the house, she could be coerced to go outside with Shiloh in the



**CALLE CAME FROM A PUPPY MILL IN MISSISSIPPI AND WAS FOSTERED BY GRREAT**

lead. Once there, she often would roll in the grass with her legs flailing and then take off to explore our fenced backyard. Sometimes she would have a burst of energy or see a squirrel and go running across the yard with her ears flapping. When she decided it was time to come in, she would patiently wait at the door.

After the first week she discovered that she could get up on the family room sofa, the coveted place for all our dogs. Once there, she would lie like a queen and wait for one of us to sit down beside her and start to pet her. She could never get too much petting, and having been ignored for most of her life, we gave her extra attention along with hugs and kisses too. Soon she was responding to her name or our voices and her tail would wag in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

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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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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

With the deadline for my message to you looming (okay, it passed), I am once again faced with the dilemma of what to write about. I have so many things I would like to say. There are so many topics that I could base my comments on. But, as I was in my very first message to you, I am once again focused on events in my own life. I hope that you do not mind that I will, once again, be making my message to you personal.

The loss of a beloved pet is a very difficult issue to address. While I am no expert on this subject, I thought that by sharing a few things I have learned, it might help you when this time comes in your life.

Within a week of one another, my husband and I said our good-byes to two of our Golden Retrievers and sent them off to the "Rainbow Bridge." One of the Golden Retrievers was our "long term foster" named Lacey. She came to us this past March at the tender age of 14. She was a beautiful little Golden that had been given to her owner when he was eight years old. I couldn't help but think of all the changes and events Lacey must have witnessed during her life: the boy that she first met and grew up with, and (I don't think I'll ever forget) the young man I met at the shelter, who gave her up when her life was nearly at the end.

I recently read an article that compared the lives of our dogs to the seasons of a tree. Think of the season of Spring and how it relates to a puppy. The Springtime, like a puppy, is filled with energy and newness as it grows, and we are the gardener that protects and nurtures it. The season of Summer is when the puppy grows into adulthood: spreading its branches like the tree, and learning to adapt to its surroundings. Then, we enter the season of Fall. In the autumn we see our dog outgrow its "leaves" of puppyhood and live the life of an adult. Finally, we come to Winter. In this season, like the snow that falls, we see the beautiful white, as it appears on our senior Golden. It is so easy to see their wisdom and the contentment that comes with their maturity. This is also a quiet season of rest and a time that should be cherished and treasured. Because before we know it, the season of winter ends and it's time to take the journey of the "passing" of our pets to a different type of spring and a different kind of life. During this time, it's so important to remember at the end of the winter, that there is always the promise and

hope of spring. The seasons, like the circle of life, are never-ending.

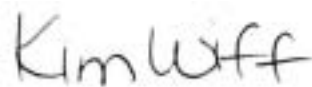
The seasons of our dogs' lives can, and do, pass so quickly. Some of the Golden Retrievers that come into our lives will be with us for many seasons, others only a few. Our very first Golden died at the age of six. I thought the pain of his passing would never fade. But I found in my grief that there were other lives that needed me: other lives that I could make a difference in. The lives of our other Golden Retrievers helped to heal the loss that I so deeply felt.

Those of you who have lost a pet: try not to do as I did and think only of their death. Remember that death is only one part of the circle of life. Instead, find ways to honor them and their life with you. Something that I did was to create a scrapbook or photo album. In this, you could include their life story, their collar or a favorite bandanna. This can, and will, become a treasured keepsake. Even though you will cry while you are doing it, it can be a way to help heal the pain you are feeling and pay tribute to the happiness they brought to you and your family.

My final advice to you is to take the time NOW to celebrate the life you have with your Golden. Find joy in all the things they do, even if they chew your socks, take up all the room on your bed, and jump up on the company that come to your house. Don't ever take for granted that friend you have who waits at the window for you to come home. Or the one who will listen to all your problems and makes you feel better after a bad day. Treasure the good friend you have, who thinks you are the center of the universe and loves you unconditionally. Let's celebrate our love for our Golden Retrievers, past and present, by having the hope and the promise of spring live in our hearts along with our memories.

Have a safe and a happy summer making those memories that will last a lifetime!

Sincerely,



Kim Wiff  
GRREAT President



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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

**August 2, 2003:**  
**Adoption Day**  
**Petco, Bowie, MD**

**September 6, 2003**  
**Adoption Day**  
**Petco, Alexandria, VA**

For directions to Adoption Days,  
see page 11.

## WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The newsletter welcomes your comments, suggestions and submissions for any section. You may mail them to our postal address or email [newsletter@grreat.org](mailto:newsletter@grreat.org). Our deadline is always the first of the month prior to the next issue. Our next deadline is August 1st.

## REMINDER

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](mailto: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.

## What is a Puppy Mill?

A Puppy Mill is a place that breeds dogs strictly for profit. Frequently, cages are stacked four or five high on top of each other and excrement from the dogs above fall on to those below. Female dogs are bred too young, too often and they not well cared for. Animals in a Puppy Mill are not fed well and aren't given the proper shots. They are not socialized with people. All of this leads to unhealthy, distressed puppies.

When the puppies turn eight weeks old, the commercial breeder (Puppy Mill operator) sells them to a broker. The broker then transports the puppies to the pet shop where people can purchase them.

Plain and simple, a Puppy Mill is no different than a steel mill, sawmill, grain mill or paper mill. A Puppy Mill is the starting point of a product that is mass-produced and destined for the retail industry via wholesale channels. Puppy Mills don't have to be dirty, although most are. They don't have to be illegal, though many are. They don't have to have sick and dying dogs, although the majority do. They just have to produce dogs for the wholesale dog industry.

Continued on page 5, sidebar.

## PUPPY MILL DOG Continued

response. During the first week, we carried her up and down the stairs to give her a bath and get her settled into bed for the night. The first time she went up stairs all by herself was so exciting. It took much time, coordination, effort and determination, but she did it. After that one time, she was able to go up and down all by herself. Sometimes she would falter or fall down a few steps, but she never gave up. Calle would do anything to be with people and be a part of a family. We were so inspired by her and amazed that she could still trust people after all she had been through as a poorly fed, medically- and socially-neglected breeding machine.

Unfortunately, all too soon, her diseased heart and years of malnutrition began to catch up with her. After only eleven days with us, she became increasingly weak and listless. When I came home on Friday her appetite waned, her abdomen was swelling abnormally and she did not want to go outside. Sadly, a change was happening in Calle, and we felt it was now time for a veterinarian's care.

So on that Friday evening, I took her to the Vienna Emergency Care Center and they examined her. Their findings were not good, Calle was retaining fluid in her lungs and stomach and the

recommendation was to keep her there until the pre-scheduled appointment with the cardiologists on Monday. My husband and I were heart-broken to have to leave her there, but we wanted the best in care for her, as did GRREAT, who without hesitation okayed and financed the request.

The Vienna Center was very accommodating and informative when I called in three or four times a day to get reports on Calle's progress. On Saturday I visited with her for an hour and on Sunday Bill and I spent the afternoon there. Sunday was a better day for Calle, and she happily responded as we petted and told her what a good girl she was. We were sad when it was time to go and the attendant carried her back to her kennel.

On Monday afternoon, I left work early and went in for the 2:00 appointment. The cardiologist was with another patient, so I asked to see Calle alone. Two young girls carried her in and gently placed her on some soft towels. She could hardly lift her head, so I helped place her head on my lap. As I spoke her name she wagged her tail; I brushed her velvety ears and her beautiful coat. Soon the doctor came in to tell me that the prognosis was not good. As well as having aortic stenosis (a diseased heart valve), Calle had a bad infection, her kidneys were failing and she

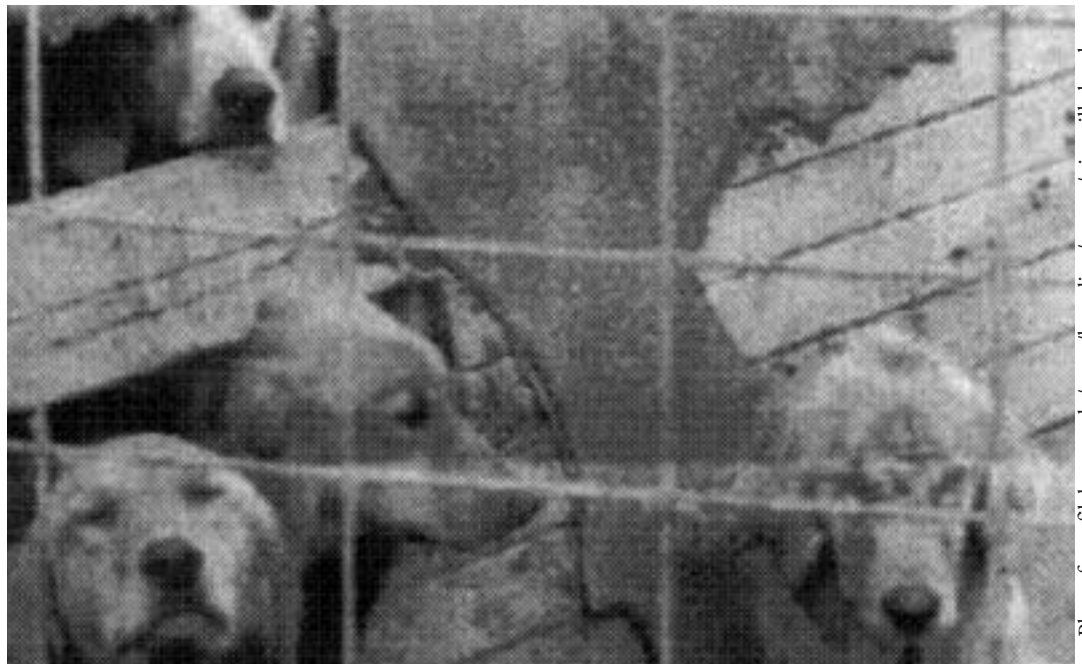


Photo from filebox.vt.edu/users/kgaeding/puppy/picsmills.html

PUPPY MILLS MASS PRODUCE DOGS AND USUALLY DO NOT PROVIDE PROPER CARE TO THEIR ANIMALS.

## PUPPY MILL DOG Continued

could not fight with her weakened body. My next question was so hard to ask, what was next? Just as the doctor began to respond, Calle wet herself and the doctor said that was a sign that the diuretics were working. As I lifted her out of the puddle, we noticed that her breathing was no longer labored. She took a few gasps for air and then she died in my arms. The end was quick, painless, and Calle was at peace.


Although my husband and I cried when she was gone, the tears were for us, not for Calle. Every moment she was with us, we were inspired by her sweetness, trust, resilience and courage. She had been mistreated, neglected, used and abused, but she never lost her spirit.

When I returned home with her empty leash in my hand, I was comforted as I pictured her running effortlessly and with joy through the bluebells in dog heaven with her other GRREAT friends. We are grateful that GRREAT entrusted us with this very special Golden and we feel so blessed to have had Calle in our lives. We are just sad that our time together was so short.

Please think of her when you go to pick out your next puppy. I am sure that Calle's puppies are



**CALLE HAD AN  
EVERPRESENT SMILE**

beautiful, just like her, but remember what it cost in the quality and length of her life. Check thoroughly to find out where that cute ball of fluff came from; please make sure it does not have a heart murmur and come from an unscrupulous puppy mill breeder. Resist the temptation and sometime soon this crime and vicious cycle will stop. 

### For more information, take a look at these Puppy Mill Websites:

[filebox.vt.edu/users/kgaeding/puppy/picsmills.html](http://filebox.vt.edu/users/kgaeding/puppy/picsmills.html)  
[www.stop-puppy-mills.com](http://www.stop-puppy-mills.com)  
[www.puppymills.com](http://www.puppymills.com)  
[www.turner.com/planet/promotions/puppies/prisoners.html](http://www.turner.com/planet/promotions/puppies/prisoners.html)  
[www.hsus.org/ace/11797](http://www.hsus.org/ace/11797)  
[www.helpuppies.com/pmill.html](http://www.helpuppies.com/pmill.html)  
[www.critterhaven.org/puppy\\_mills.htm](http://www.critterhaven.org/puppy_mills.htm)  
[www.caps-web.org/petshops\\_puppymills.shtml](http://www.caps-web.org/petshops_puppymills.shtml)  
[www.almosthomerescue.org/puppymill/puppymill.htm](http://www.almosthomerescue.org/puppymill/puppymill.htm)  
[www.lcanimal.org/cmpgn/cmpgn\\_012.htm](http://www.lcanimal.org/cmpgn/cmpgn_012.htm)

## What can you do to end the Puppy Mill cycle?

**Never buy your puppy from a pet shop.** Over 90% of the dogs in pet shops come from puppy mills. You're not saving a life; you're perpetuating a bad business practice.

**Spread the word.** If you know someone interested in buying a puppy, let them know about the dangers of buying from pet stores and backyard breeders.

**Alert the authorities.** If you suspect that a breeder is really a puppy mill, please contact your local humane society, animal shelter or animal control agency immediately.

**Adopt a dog from GRREAT.** By giving a puppy mill dog the love a support he needs, you'll be helping him forget the horrors of the past. Several of our current available dogs have been saved from puppy mills.

**Educate Yourself.** Take a look at the information available on puppy mills and make a conscious effort to halt their existence.

**Spay or neuter your pet.** A dog that cannot breed is a dog that cannot contribute to the problem.

This information was found on  
[www.nopuppymills.com](http://www.nopuppymills.com)

# DONATIONS

## In Honor of..

Judy McKinley. - *Robert and Constance Whaley*

Linda Igou. - *The Open Door Church, Chambersburg, PA.*

In honor of Carol Basham's birthday, and because of her love of Golden Retrievers, please accept this donation from her friends and coworkers at the Head Start Program in Loudoun County, Virginia. - *Holly Sontz*

This gift is made in appreciation of the guidance and care provided by Dr. Elizabeth Ross on the occasion of my 50th birthday.  
- *Benjamin Sherman*

For GRREAT and Rudi (97-175), our sweet Golden.  
- *Conway and Martha Robinson*

Please find the enclosed donation on behalf of Jan Brown who recently looked after Nikko and Brandy for us whilst we had a few days in Oregon. Jan wouldn't take and money, so we decided this would be the best alternative. - *Julie and Craig Wright*

Tyler, our Golden. Thanks to GRREAT's foster families, he has adjusted beautifully to our home since we adopted him in March 2000.  
- *Catherine and John Macco*

Recently Tina Moran came to speak to our Girl Scout Troop about dog training. In return, our troop is mailing a donation to GRREAT in her honor!! We love your work with Golden Retrievers and hope this helps!  
- *Girl Scout Troop #1196, Baltimore*

We got our Golden, Abby (01-249), through GRREAT a year ago. We love her so much. She is a fabulous dog. GRREAT is a wonderful organization!! - *Chris and Jan Jennings*

Here's a contribution to honor our GRREAT Golden, Teddy. To our joy he has lived one year with a large liver tumor that is inoperable. His quality of life is terrific—at age 15 he can still leap for a frisbee, and loves nothing better than a ride in the car to work with me. We are convinced he's with us still because his large and loving heart keeps him both young and happy. We are very blessed and honor the wonderful work you do to make families such as ours. - *John Clewett and Cindy Speas*

## Matching Gift Programs...

Pitney Bowes Matching Gift Program - matched a donation from John Campo

Axa Foundation - matched a gift from Brenda Pascal

## Ongoing Donations...

JCI, Inc. for Animal Den web site commission.

United Way of Central Maryland.

America's Charities donations received through employee campaigns at Lockheed Martin and GXS.

AnimalSafe Mastercards that designate GRREAT as beneficiary.

iGive.com

Food Lion MVP program

World Reach, Inc. - payroll deduction by USA Today employee Nancy St. John.

Janet Hauck's note cards recently purchased by Katherine Wehr, Deborah Lynn Lamb and others

Donations received through Networkforgood.org

I am a pet sitter and a Golden lover, I pledge to donate part of my fee when I have a Golden client.  
- *MaryAnn Burney*

For our Departed Elle. We miss you terribly girl.  
- *John Keating*

Jed and McLeod Goodwin - *Shawn Goodwin*

## Other Donations...



Thanks GRREAT for all the wonderful things you do for Golden Retrievers and extra thanks for my 2 boys, Tref and Jake.  
- *Jude and Gary Biedenkapp*

Please accept the enclosed check as a donation to your organization. Although you recently approved our application to be qualified to adopt a dog, we found a dog through the PGVRC that we adopted. We now have Eliza, a wonderful four year old female that had a litter of pups four months ago. Thanks for approving us to adopt a GRREAT dog, but we now have Eliza as a member of our family! - *Thomas and Donna White*

I've been sewing on patches for the Brownie and Girl Scout moms and telling them to give me a donation to GRREAT. Enclosed are checks from Nancy Silva and Nancy Dunn.  
- *Kathi Rechsteiner*



I send you a small donation in memory of our GRREAT Great Girl Precious CGC, 5-21-91 to 2-15-03. She was a very special girl. We adopted her in Nov. 1999. She was 8½ years old but she became my husband's therapy girl. After my husband had been in hospital and nursing home for 4 months, she was trying to help him. Her loss is very hard on us. She gave so much in that short time since we owned her. Her loss is very painful also for the rest of the Golden Retrievers. She played with them all the time. They lost a very good playmate. - *Leny and Cor Endlich*

In memory of Precious Endlich.  
- *Woodfield Veterinary Clinic, Damascus*

### *In Memory of Calle (03-085)...*

This donation is in loving memory of Calle (03-085). Thank you GRREAT for rescuing her after three years purgatory as a breeding dog in Oxford, Mississippi. Even with her badly diseased heart, malnutrition, and only three legs, she kept her loving spirit and shared it with us for her last fourteen days here on Earth. She will live on in our memories and we are comforted that she found her forever family with God and the angels.  
- *Shelley Hunsberger and the Hunsberger Family*

Second note from Shelley Hunsberger: This donation is from Richard and Dolores Stallings, friends of mine. I gave Dolores the 'Calle Mobile,' a used stroller I got Calle so she could join us on walks in the woods. Sadly, we never got a chance to use it.

Please use this check to help pay for Calle's medical bills. Bless you all for the wonderful work you do. - *Marlene Weinsbank*

*Editor's note: Calle's story can be found on page 1.*

### *In Memory of...*

Please accept this check in the name of my friend Patricia Kenney of Baltimore, who passed away at 64 on 2/14/03. - *Jan Regester*

Randy, loved by John and Dorothy Dean. - *Jan Rothman*

Rudy Hals-Dyke (96-135). Rudy was a retriever adopted by friends through your organization. He had to be put down on April 25, 2003. - *Sharon Connor and Connie Thompson*

Our dear Buttercup and Carolyn and Rhett Murphy's sweet Belli. Thank you for all you do. - *Lee and Melody Bernhardt.*

Alex Wilmot—our first wonderful Golden Retriever.  
- *Chuck and June Wilmot*

Tahoe, who crossed in March and was such a mentor to Sadie (00-059) who is with us still.  
- *Curtis and Stephanie Dalpra and Sadie and Marley*

How can my heart be breaking and singing at the same time? My heart is breaking because I helped my dear Brandi (93-093) to the Bridge on 14 December 2002. My heart is singing, too, because Lil' Brandi was almost 16 years old and spent nearly 10 years with me. In our time together, Brandi brought joy to my life in many ways. She made me laugh every single day because of her silly glances and antics. Most of all she made me a better person by teaching me about commitment, patience, and trust. I am grateful to GRREAT for allowing me to adopt this sweet girl. While I would now gladly like to be free of my sadness, I would never trade the joys of my years with Brandi. - *Ellen Ziegler Ward*

Tawny Hagyard (B-6/21/1997, A 7/7/2001, D-4/7/2003). The time she spent with her "mom and dad," Tannan and Mark, and her "sister," Miska, in her forever home was far too short, but they were so fortunate that she chose them to be part of her life and she would be such an integral part of their lives. She brought a great deal of happiness to their home and taught us all much about priorities and living. The most fitting tribute to her life would be to remember her boundless enthusiasm, the trust she exhibited and the positive effect she had on all who knew her. She will be missed, but never far from our thoughts and hearts.  
- *With love and special memories, Jane and Ron Brenneman.*



In memory of  
Judson Moore  
- *Robert Moore  
and Lucy Pearson*

*Editor's note: Jud's  
story can be found on  
page 8.*

## LEO'S CORNER

### THANK YOU LEO FUND DONATIONS

#### Golden Angels (\$500 or more)

Dr. and Mrs. James Hayes,  
Boo and Lacey  
Jeff and Maurine Schuller

#### Golden Heroes (\$100 - 499)

Dr. Joseph O'Neill  
Carl Kerby and Jeanne O'Donoghue  
Debbie Brent, Chelsey and Jamie  
Bob Hurd  
Doreen and Brad Wright

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

Diane Lanigan

What is the Leo Fund?  
The Leo Fund provides  
extraordinary medical care  
for special needs dogs. To  
make a donation, please  
see page 19.

## LETTERS TO LEO

In memory of my mother Miriam D Brent, on this fourth Mother's Day since her journey to the Rainbow Bridge. - *Debbie Brent, Chelsey, and Jamie.*

I want to help dogs that need special surgery. Here's a donation to the Leo Fund in memory of Einstein Hurd. - *Bob Hurd*

In honor of our 5th anniversary with Molson (98-041). - *Doreen and Brad Wright*

In memory of my first Golden, Nugget. - *Jeff and Maurine Schuller*



Please accept this gift for the Leo Fund in honor of all the wonderful work you do for Golden retrievers. The enclosed picture is from Oct. 2002 on the AHA heart walk - the 2nd time we "4" have attended with others from UVA's Cardiovascular Health and Fitness Center. Boo (11) is left, Lacey (9) is right. The Golden girls seem to be the most photographed girls at the event.  
- *Dr. and Mrs. James Hayes, Boo and Lacey*

## ALL WE EVER WANTED WAS FOR HIM TO LIVE . . . FOREVER

In memory of Judson Moore. April 28, 1988—March 18, 2003

Judson was the subject of a piece, *Anthropomorphically Speaking*, in the September/ October, 1998 *GRREAT News*, and again of a two-part piece, *Lucy Becomes a Dog Person*, appearing in the March/April and May/June, 1999 issues. Jud's brother, Grady (97-101), our GRREAT adoptee, is also in those (and is Mr. June in this year's calendar!)

Judson came into our life, a five-and-one-half pound, seven-week old, golden ball of fur, at 1:00 on the afternoon of June 18, 1988. Jud will never leave us, though he drew his last breath in this world on Tuesday morning, March 18, at 6:15. It was our privilege to share our life with this kind, unselfish and gentle family member for almost 15 years. We celebrate his life.

One of ten extraordinary Golden brothers and sisters, Jud immediately confirmed his pick-of-the-litter status by struggling up a long flight of stairs to contentedly sleep, that first night, amongst the array of shoes in our bedroom closet. Family intact, our love affair was off and running.

Over the years our boy helped to raise five grandchildren, amassed a wide circle of friends, relatives and other admirers, was a permanent fixture in our travels and even charmed his way into Lucy's mother's heart, where no dog had ever been.

The precious years passed much too quickly, but we appreciated every individual day. Active on the Pets On Wheels circuit until arthritis limited his ability to negotiate stairs and tile floors, Jud effortlessly became a favorite, with his graying hair and compassionate personality. A welcomed guest in hotels from New York to Florida, from Delaware to Indiana, we always felt exceptional when in his company.

The miles we walked, the trips we took, the friends we made, the love and respect we shared...our forever gifts from our sweet, beloved Judson.

We miss you terribly, Jud, but you are forever stitched into the fabric of who we are.

- *Robert Moore and Lucy Pearson*





# COMING SOON: GOLDSTOCK!

If you thought Woodstock was a blast, wait until you hear this: Goldstock will be celebrated again this year from August 29—September 1!

Goldstock is an event brought to us by the generosity of the Lustig Family (and the many volunteers who put in countless hours to make it enjoyable and successful). It is a weekend to celebrate how wonderful life is with our dogs, to see old friends and make new friends. Golden lovers around the country look forward to it year after year.

Held over Labor Day weekend, Goldstock is located at Camp Weequahic in Lakewood, Pennsylvania. Dogs are, of course, more than welcome. Accommodations are simple, but the fun never ends. This year's events include an auction, rescue parade, senior recognition, canine Olympics, CGC/TDI testing, Sweetest Dog Competition, Candle Ceremony and a Canine Astrologer.

All proceeds from the weekend go to the Goldstock fund, which provides funds to rescue organizations or individuals to pay for transportation, boarding, evaluations and medical costs of Golden Retrievers and Golden-hearted dogs taken into rescue. Goldstock 2002 was a smashing success and raised an astounding \$83,680.50!

Registration closes by number of people not by date, and fills up quickly, so if you're interested, do it soon! The cost is \$65 per person. To register or to get more information about the accommodations or events, go to [www.goldstockonline.com](http://www.goldstockonline.com)

Kim Wiff's report of last year's event: "If you have never been, check out the website and see what you are missing. I attended for the first time last year. Despite needing my umbrella, my Golden Cougar and I had a fabulous time! Please contact me if you'd like help or some more information."

## Pictures from Goldstock 2002



All photos printed with permission from [www.goldstockonline.com](http://www.goldstockonline.com)

## Wine Tasting Fundraiser... A Success!

Thank you to everyone who came to GRREAT's first annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser at Tarara Winery, despite the clouds & drizzle. Even though there was a chill in the air, those who came were warmed by the wine, friendship and, of course when needed, our Golden Retrievers. Everyone felt it was a terrific event and we are considering doing it again next year. A special thanks goes to April Fritz, Dan Keppler and Pam Ambrose for all they did to make the day a complete success!

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

Debra Blackowitz  
Dawn and Marshall Bowen  
Cheryl and Stanley Bozin  
Lee and Daniel Broh-Kahn  
Sharon and Sean Cassidy  
Rita Counts  
Liz Devane  
Patricia and Robert Dickerson  
Fetch Dog & Cat Bakery Boutique  
Toni and James Johns  
Dawn Lowe  
Stephanie Nagley  
Mary Pellegrini  
Jack and Micky Penkoske  
Laurie Powers  
Michelle Sam  
Don and Mona Shaw  
Susan Van Bell  
Thomas and Theresa White  
Jef and Heather Zibell

# ...AND THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER

## ADOPTION REPORT

The beginning of summer has brought the beginning of a new life for 42 lucky pups! Each of them will be able to share the joy of vacationing at the beach, eating hot dogs that fall off the picnic table and chasing spinning sprinklers with their new, loving families.

Congratulations to our adoptive families and furry friends, and thanks to all the terrific foster families that made these adoptions possible!

### Our statistics on this group:

- Total - 42
- Males - 19
- Females - 23
- Age under 2 - 11
- Age 7 and over - 12
- Age 2 to 7 - 19

REPORT Continued... →



## Aloha from Max!

By Jeannie Ng

My husband Sam and I adopted Max (then "Chance,") from GRREAT back in September 1998. Max has been such a GRREAT joy to us all these years! Thank you! We would just like to touch base and update you on Max's latest.

After adopting Max, we have since moved to Hawaii in the summer of 2001. Max just turned 7 this past February. He's been healthy, active and increasingly affectionate over the years. We took him with us on our three-week long cross-country road-trip when we were moving to Hawaii. We traveled in our van and made multiple stops (thanks to Motel 6!) from Gaithersburg, MD all the way to Los Angeles, CA. Max did perfectly well and seemed to enjoy the long trip very much (except when he had to patiently



MAX LOVES LIVING IN HAWAII WITH HIS GRREAT FAMILY

wait in the motel room while we toured the museums). He then flew with us from Los Angeles to Honolulu via ATA airline. Upon arriving in Honolulu, Max was quarantined for one month, instead of the usual three to four months, because

Name	ID #	Age	Sex	Name	ID #	Age	Sex
Bill	03-049	1	M	Maggie	03-054	10	F
Blake	03-096	8 mo	M	Maggie	03-088	6	F
Brandy	02-238	4	F	Max	03-079	2	M
Brandy	02-269	10	F	Maxie	03-083	3	F
Cam	97-092	10	M	Mikey	02-221	1	M
Coby	03-100	6	M	Molly	02-256	5	F
Cody	03-070	5	F	Murry	03-064	1	M
Denali	03-078	6 mo	M	Peanut	03-075	5	M
Emma	03-086	1	F	Quinn	02-239	4	M
Goldie	01-127	8	F	Ridge	02-096	5	M
Hannah	02-288	6	F	Rosie	03-018	2	F
Harley	03-065	1	M	Roxanne	02-027	10	F
Hollie	03-048	8	F	Sam	03-071	2	M
Honey	03-030	4	F	Sandy	02-132	11	F
Hunny	02-188	10	F	Sandy	02-225	10 mo	F
Hunter	03-029	6	M	Shiloh	03-045	8	M
Jasmine	01-131	4	F	Shiloh	03-092	1	F
Josie	03-091	2	F	Taffy	03-072	8	F
Kellie	03-097	1	F	Toby	03-073	8	M
Lacy	01-096	4	F	Tristen	03-074	6	M
Louie	02-229	8 mo	M	Wheatie	03-041	14	M

ALOHA Continued...



MAX ADMIRING THE FISH  
IN HIS POND

we started the paperwork and preparations way ahead of time. He survived the quarantine just fine and we promised him we'll never put him in such a restricted lifestyle ever again.

These days, Max enjoys long walks,

car rides and wrestling as usual; he absolutely loves sitting by the pond to admire the fish with a big smile on his face (is it true that dogs have a natural affection toward fish?) and when he's not romping around, he's equally contented sitting quietly by our side and affectionately rests his head on our laps.

Thank you GRREAT! Please send our warmest regards and gratitude to Dee and her husband, they were Max's (or Chance's) foster family before we adopted Max and they did such a marvelous job in training and caring for Max!

The Newsletter would love to feature your GRREAT dog's "Happily Ever After," story. It's a place to let the GRREAT community know how well you and your dog are doing. It's also a terrific way to thank a wonderful foster family. Please contact us at [newsletter@grreat.org](mailto:newsletter@grreat.org).

Interested in helping a GRREAT dog find a fantastic home?

Why not become a foster family? See page 16 or page 18 for more information on this program.

**As of June 17,  
124 GRREAT dogs have been adopted  
into happy families in 2003.  
That's almost one a day.  
CONGRATULATIONS!**

## ADOPTION DAY DIRECTIONS

### July 12, 2003

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

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

### August 2, 2003

PETCO, Noon-2pm  
15461 Excelsior Drive  
Bowie, Maryland 20716  
Ph: 301.805.4447

From I-97 in Maryland, take the MD-32 West exit (#7) toward Bowie/Odenton. After ten miles, merge onto Crain Highway. Turn slight right onto Collington Road. Turn left onto Town Center Blvd, followed by a right onto Excelsior Drive.

### September 6, 2003

PETCO, Noon-2pm  
6612 Richmond Highway  
Alexandria, Virginia 22306  
Ph: 703.660.1300

From I-95 in Virginia, take exit 1B toward Richmond. Take the US-1 exit (#177) toward Mt. Vernon Highway. Stay left. Merge onto US-1 South toward Fort Belvoir. After about 2 1/2 miles, turn right onto Richmond Highway. PetCo is 1/2 mile on the right.

*GRREAT assumes no responsibility for the above directions. Please call the individual businesses listed to verify the route from your address.*

**BOOK REVIEW**  
BY BETH LACEY GILL

*Amazing Gracie*  
By Dan Dye & Mark Beckloff

Published by Workman Publishing (2000);  
ISBN: 076111937X; Hardcover, \$18.95

Less a “dog book” than a tale of inspiration and triumph, *Amazing Gracie* is the exceptionally heart-warming story behind Three Dog Bakery and its two co-founders, Dan Dye and Mark Beckloff. The Gracie of the book’s title was their albino Great Dane, the dog who prompted them to begin what has now become their astonishingly successful business (even Target sells their stuff!). To start out, Dan brings home “the loneliest little dog he ever saw” to save her from euthanasia. The book then follows the adventures of raising a deaf (and enormous) puppy with a penchant for homemade dog food, starting a business and experiencing true success. Dye’s writing style is charming—warm, humorous and conversational. The book is a warm tribute to Gracie herself, as well as a terrific feel-good book for others to enjoy. I found it to be a moving, funny, inspirational tale. I cried, I laughed out loud and I cheered for Dan, Mark and the girls. *Amazing Gracie* is a dog-lover’s treat, full of hope and love. Plus, it’s an easy read for animal lovers of all ages.



Note: Profits from the sale of this book go towards the nonprofit Gracie Foundation to help abused and neglected companion animals.

## ASK GOLDIE

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

Dear Goldie:

*Inside the house, our dog has perfect manners. However, as soon as he's outside (on leash or otherwise), he acts like a maniac. He pulls hard and does not come when called. I'm concerned for his safety, since we live near a heavily traveled road. How can I get him to pay attention?*

Signed, Maniac's Mom in Maryland

Dear Mom:

Your golden maniac doesn't mean to act like a deranged doggie, nor does he mean to ignore you. It's just that there are a lot more distractions—sights, smells, noises—outdoors than indoors, and those distractions make it tough for him to focus on you. He needs your help and your patience to get him back on track.

You're off to a good start by making sure that he is on leash at all times whenever you two are outdoors—unless, of course, you're in a securely fenced area. Keeping him tethered to you is the single most important thing you can do to prevent his bolting into traffic or bounding into the woods. But it's just a start. Here are some other ideas:

**Get a head halter.** For long walks or outings, a head halter is indispensable for teaching a crazy canine to walk politely with his people. The halter—which is sold under brand

names such as the Snoot Loop, Gentle Leader and Halti—fits over the dog's muzzle like a bridle does on a horse. If your golden boy starts pulling, the halter will force his head downward. Most dogs learn very quickly to not pull when they're wearing these special devices, which are available at just about any pet superstore or specialty shop.

**Bring some treats.** If you want your dog to pay attention to you while he's distracted by the local floral and fauna, you need a powerful distraction of your own (no, your presence isn't enough yet). Most people find that bringing their pooch's very favorite treats serve that purpose very nicely. Flash the treat when you call him to come; he's likely to be much more responsive!

**Practice.** Try walking around the house on leash with your golden boy. When he's doing that well, graduate to the back yard for initially short, then longer walks. Gradually, start taking him for short walks on your block—have treats and the head halter with you—so that he can gradually learn proper walking etiquette. If he start to pull, stop and stand still until he turns around to see why you're not moving. When he does, the leash will slacken. When that happens, praise your pooch and continue walking. Soon, your golden guy will be the mannerly outdoor companion you've always hoped he'd be.

### Dog Days of Summer

Thanks to everyone who joined GRREAT on June 10th for the Dog Days of Summer event at Prince George's Stadium. Pooches of all sizes were invited to visit the park for the Bowie Basysox vs. Reading Phillies game. Dogs were invited to a pregame parade on the field and a dog trick contest. Special dog displays from dog food to grooming and dog care to pet societies, including GRREAT education table, covered the concourse. If this sounds like fun, attend the Bark in the Park event at the Harry Grove Stadium in Frederick. See the Upcoming Events on page 15 for more information.

# Letter to my dogs

*Dear Fuzzbutts,*

When I say to move, it means go someplace else, not switch positions with each other so there are still two dogs in the way.

The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help, because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king size bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue to sleep on the couch to ensure your comfort. Look at videos of dogs sleeping; they can actually curl up in a ball. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space used is nothing but doggy sarcasm.

When I am playing the pinball machine, jumping up and trying to grab the ball through the glass is not helpful. Barking at me because I'm not helping you achieve your goal does not win you any extra brownie points.

My compact discs are not miniature Frisbees.

For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, try to turn the knob or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. In addition, I have been using bathrooms for years; canine attendance is not mandatory.



The proper order is kiss me, then go smell other dog's butt. I cannot stress this enough. It would be such a simple change for you guys to make.

*Sincerely,*

*Your Human*

SOURCE: THE INTERNET

**IGIVE.COM**

Going to buy new dog toys? Need some more Nylabones for those heavy-chewers? Or maybe you'd like a new pair of socks (to replace the ones your Golden ate)?

Before you shop, why not link up with iGive.com, which sends GRREAT part of your purchase price as a donation every time you buy things on the Internet?

You can shop the stores you know and love, save money with exclusive coupons and deal, all the while you'll be helping GRREAT with every purchase. Plus, it's free for us and for you.

Your everyday online shopping can raise up to 25% for us! On their website, you can list and support your favorite cause, track your earnings and even see a complete list of your donations sent to us!

To sign up, visit [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) and select GRREAT as your charity of choice.

## My dog... cargo??

Traveling this summer?

Companion Air may be the way to go! It is the first airline created specifically for pets and their owners. Each plane is specially designed with a "pet cabin area," so your pet can be with you while you fly to a vacation or business destination.

Companion Air takes advantage of small airports, which allows passengers to spend just 15 minutes at the airport (instead of hours), resulting in less stress for pets. Plus, they don't treat your pet like "cargo." Instead, pets and their families fly first class.

Each aircraft is outfitted with pet related reading materials and other items of interest, like dog treats and toys. While in flight, Companion Air even accommodates those pets that would like to see their owners. Even their hubs are designed with pets in mind; they have the Animal Planet Channel broadcast at the boarding gate!

They also use "flex scheduling" to accommodate humans who need to travel at certain times. Rates are competitive with other airlines. Go to [www.companionair.com](http://www.companionair.com) to view information and pricing options.

## PICK OF THE LITTER

*Spotlight on a special dog in need of a special someone*

### LAUREL (03-059)

Because of the loyal support of its members, GRREAT is frequently able to go the extra mile and take in many Golden fuzzbutts that would be rejected by other rescues. This is especially true when it comes to our beautiful white-faced seniors. Since the beginning of the year, GRREAT foster families have opened up their hearts and homes to 23 seniors (defined as 8 years and older). Fifteen of them are in their permanent homes, but we are still looking to find forever homes for the other eight. Below is a description of a very, very sweet girl that truly deserves to be able to spend her final years in the love, security and comfort that only a truly GRREAT family can provide. Are you that family? Here's what Laurel's foster mom has to say about her:

**LAUREL (03-059):** 12-year old beautiful redhead female. As we know, ladies don't reveal their age, but even at her age, Laurel believes that admitting to be a youthful 6 yrs. old is acceptable. She is gracious with her dog-mates, ignores cats, is good with children, walks well on or off leash (she wears a teal harness that shows her feminine side), knows all basic commands (sit, stay, "walk", come), and she likes to sleep close to her human. Let us not forget that an abundance

of hugs and kisses are a must. Laurel likes to talk about her day and will listen (head tilted slightly) to the happenings of your day. Laurel is a perfect lady, housebroken, shy and coy, playful and joyous. Laurel's perfect home would be one with a devoted human, someone who likes to take long leisurely walks in the park, and a companion to grow old with and share memories.

*If you think that your home has a Laurel-shaped hole in it, please call Jane Medico 703.768.2619 to get additional information.*



LAUREL WOULD LOVE TO  
BE BY YOUR SIDE

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Doggie Happy Hours

Every Tuesday and Thursday  
5 pm – 8 pm  
Holiday Inn Select – Alexandria  
(703) 549-6080 x801  
www.doggiehappyhour.com

### Yappy Hour

Every Wednesday  
6 pm - 8 pm  
St Elmo's Coffee Pub – Alexandria  
Treats provided by Hydrant Dog Barkery & Boutique. For directions and information, visit [www.hydrantdog.com/yappyhour](http://www.hydrantdog.com/yappyhour)

### 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](http://www.frederickkeys.com).



© PATRICIA GAYLE PHOTOGRAPHY

SHADOW IS IN TRAINING  
FOR THE CANINE GAMES

### Canine Frisbee

Saturday, July 5, 2003  
Truxton Park in Annapolis, MD  
Contact Ray Lowman: 410.263.7128  
Skyhoundz Hyperflite Local Championships are held in over 100 cities, in over 30 states. They are administered and judged by locally appointed staff/volunteers utilizing Skyhoundz rules and format. It's free to enter, but you must register. Check out [www.skyhoundz.com/localchampionships](http://www.skyhoundz.com/localchampionships) to find an event near you.

### Patriotic Pooch Contest

Thursday, July 3, 2003  
Holiday Inn Select – Alexandria  
Is your dog the patriotic type? Enter your pet to win grand prizes, including meals at the 101 Royal Restaurant. Big or small, all entries will receive a prize. For more information, check out [www.doggiehappyhour.com](http://www.doggiehappyhour.com).

### Dog Wash and Pet Portraits

Saturday, August 16, 2003  
Weber's Pet Market in Fairfax, VA  
The SPCA of Northern Virginia will be holding its 5th Annual Dog Wash, open to everyone. Studio 2 Photography will be joining in to catch your just-washed dog in a great portrait. Check out [www.spcanova.org](http://www.spcanova.org) for information.

### Goldstock

Labor Day Weekend  
Lakewood, Pennsylvania  
Join Golden lovers from around the nation for a fun-filled weekend of celebration! See page 9 of this issue for more information. Or check out [www.goldstockonline.com](http://www.goldstockonline.com).

### Canine Games

Saturday, August 30, 2003  
Alexandria, Virginia  
Join hundreds of dogs and their owners at Chinguapin Park for the 12th Annual Canine Games. Dogs can compete in a variety of fun competitions including a 40-yard dash and an ice cream eating contest. More information is available at [www.alexandrianimals.org](http://www.alexandrianimals.org).

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

## Bone Appetit!

RECIPES FOR YOUR DOG

### Breath Biscuits

Specialty stores and catalogs charge a pretty penny to keep your Golden's mouth from smelling like...well...like a Golden's mouth. These home-made biscuits don't cost much and should do the trick just as well.

#### Ingredients:

2 cups brown rice flour  
1 tablespoon charcoal  
1 large slightly beaten egg  
3 tablespoon vegetable oil  
1/2 cup chopped parsley  
1/3 cup chopped fresh mint  
2/3 cup milk

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine flour, salt and charcoal. In a medium bowl, combine egg, parsley and mint; mix well. Slowly stir in flour mixture, then add enough milk to make a dough the consistency of drop biscuits. Drop heaping table-spoons of dough about one inch apart onto greased baking sheets. Bake 15 minutes, or until firm. Store cooled biscuits in tightly covered container in the refrigerator.

*Recipe courtesy of the "Dogs Are Gods" website: [www.dogsaregods.hypermart.net](http://www.dogsaregods.hypermart.net)*

*If you have a recipe you'd like to share with the newsletter, please email us at [newsletter@great.org](mailto:newsletter@great.org) and use "Recipe" as your subject line.*

**URGENT NEED FOR FOSTERS**

As with most rescues, GRREAT is always in need of foster homes. During the past six months, we have been able to keep our head above water due to the dedication of our current foster homes and our Foster Home Assigner Extraordinaire, Tom Janczuk. However, at the present time we have 16 dogs awaiting foster homes and more calls are coming in daily. Half of these dogs were pulled from high kill shelters to save their lives and are currently being boarded.

We have had to call a moratorium on taking in all mixes in order to handle the large number of purebreds needing homes.

We truly need folks who will open up their hearts and homes to foster at least one dog. We are not asking for a commitment beyond that, although we'd love to have your ongoing participation as a foster. It is GRREAT's policy that foster homes take only the number of dogs per year that fit within their schedule. If you are asked to take a dog and are not available, just let us know and we will mark you as unavailable until the date you specify.

If you will consider being a foster home, we would love to hear from you. Please write to Mary Ellen Lunde at [melunde@att.net](mailto:melunde@att.net). Be sure to provide your name, address, and e-mail address.

**BILL'S STORY-UPDATE**

by Adopted Dog, Bill (formerly Rebel)

**Who is Bill?**

Rebel, renamed Bill was a 1-yr-old unneutered male, an owner turn-in to a shelter. Bill gave his foster family quite a workout, but with a good foundation of structure, love and guidance, he has become a loving and cherished family member in his forever home.



**BILL WITH HIS NEW FAMILY**

Well Hullo Mersus Mary Ellen,

Time again to let you know who's winnin' around here. You remember, I was workin' this crowd real good the last time we barked? There's this one dog, named Treavor, that the humans call "coach". Boy, oh boy, did HE take me on! I thought I was pretty hot stuff, with my torturin' all the canines. Treavor stayed real cool and waited until he could move on me. Whoa, gheez and yowza, that dude taught me all there is to know about "real wrestlin", not the bite-as-hard-as-you-can kind, but the play-bite, roll over, get pinned, hack-in-each-other's-face kind!

It took a while but now I'm gettin' really good at it and tried it out on Reba. She's the girl dog but she's tough. By gum, it worked! We wrestle too, but she bosses me more. You know, women! ERRR are you "one of them"?

I keep testin' them with the trash cans but I'm getting nowhere, not one single, successful swallow. They open my mouth, take it out and say, "NO," real loud and that's startin' to hurt my feelings 'cause I sort of really love them a lot... Now, just listen to me...does that sound like a rebel? I think I am losing my identity. Can that possibly happen in six weeks? Everyone I know calls me Bill now. They say it kind of soft and sweet and it makes my tail wag. I thought I had that darn tail under control!

I love the walks we take, we four fuzzi-butties, with our Gentle Leader and Haltis, marchin' down the country road with Ma and Pa Kettle. The humans that pass us in their loud metal things wave and smile and sometimes stop and say gooey things about us. My tail gets movin' then, too, even if I tell it to shut up!

Mersus Mary Ellen, I feel confused. Can you help me understand? Am I a different dog or just a better one? Will these guys love me forever and help me stick to the rules? They call me special names now, like Billy Boy, Barnacle Bill, Billy-Bob and "WILLIAM!" and it makes me feel so special. I wonder if I am special now?

We went to PETCO on Saturday and lots of humans petted me and laughed when my folks told them about me. Two humans, who had a Golden named Max, stayed a long time with us. The two humans came to our house the next day. Funny, they petted all of us but I think they liked me best. I barked and whined when they left.

It was such a crazy day. Ma and Pa Kettle took me to a big field later in the day and would you believe it, there was MAX with his humans!! These humankind are so goofy! They kept me and Max on long leashes and they stood around barkin' at each other while we wrestled and chased and got tangled. Sure, they were laughin', they weren't hogtied like us!

On the way back in the noisy metal thing, they said something about adoption next Saturday. Mersus Mary Ellen, what is a-dop-shun? Is it a good thing? AAWW, never mind, I know in my happy heart not to worry. My humans only do good things for me, right?

Wish me luck!

Just,  
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, Halley, is quite a mommy's girl (of the 4-legged one, Quila.) She looks a lot like her mom, has basically the same temperament, and is quite intelligent like her mom. One time, while visiting Halley's breeders, they showed me the "high-five" trick they could do with Quila. So I took it upon myself to teach Halley. It took a little under 10 minutes to teach the basic "high-five." When she got bored of the repetition, I taught her to high-five my left hand with her right paw, and vice-versa. On day, on a whim, I asked her for a

"high-five," and once she pawed me, I stood up, faced both palms out to her, and said, "Gimme ten!" Halley jumped right up and gave it to me!

~Linda Kurtz

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



## THE PUP TENT



COLORING PAGE By Diana Fitchett

### Hey Kids!

The newsletter could use your help! We want to feature your drawings, poems and stories in a future edition! Tell us what you think about your Golden Retriever. Please mail them to:

GRREAT News Pup Tent  
1040 Grovehill Road  
Halethorpe, MD 21227



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## VOLUNTEER CORNER

### A BREED APART

Spotlight on a GRREAT Volunteer

*Mary Ellen Lunde*

Mary Ellen Lunde is a name known by nearly anyone who has ever had contact with GRREAT. When someone on the GRREAT Board says “ME needs a vote,” they’re not being egotistical, they want something that Mary Ellen has requested, such as a vote on whether or not a particular dog should have expensive surgery.

Mary Ellen Lunde has always had Golden Retrievers in her life. When one of her own was diagnosed with cancer in 1997, Mary Ellen joined GRREAT and became an active volunteer, as she says, “to prove I was worthy to adopt an adult Golden.”

She kept showing up at adoption days to help, and someone recognized her willingness to serve the organization. Mary Ellen was elected secretary as her very first volunteer position—but certainly not her last. When she retired from government service in late 1997, she felt she had more time to devote to “public” service. At that time, Georgie Bahler was overwhelmed as both Foster Home Coordinator and Intake Coordinator, and the decision was made to split Georgie’s duties into two positions. Mary Ellen, bless her heart, *volunteered* to serve as Intake Coordinator and Georgie’s back-up and respite person. When Georgie stepped down in 2002, Mary Ellen took on both Foster Home and Intake duties. In 2003, when the roles were split again, Mary Ellen retained Foster Home Coordinator responsibilities.

Mary Ellen estimates that, while wearing her dual Coordinator hats, she has contact with more than 1500 people per year regarding the 300-plus dogs coming into GRREAT. “Thank goodness for e-mail,” she says. Whether it’s a shelter or a person that contacts GRREAT about a dog needing help, Mary Ellen has been the point

person to respond to the call, find out about the dog, locate an available foster home, and arrange transport between the give-up/shelter and the foster home. In addition, she stays involved as long as the dog is in foster care, responding to behavior questions and other fostering issues, as well as serving as the liaison between GRREAT and a number of veterinary specialists.

Having done what most consider two of the toughest jobs in the organization, Mary Ellen is in the process of developing and cross-training teams of volunteers to handle various aspects of her jobs, which is a good idea, since there aren’t many folks who can devote 50 hours per week to GRREAT activities like Mary Ellen does.

Mary Ellen gets her personal satisfaction from the volunteers she works with in GRREAT. She says she draws strength from “the pure dedication and high caliber of the people associated with this organization who set their egos aside and only want to do the best they can for the animals. I love to see the mission achieved when a dog is successfully placed in its forever home. If just a quarter of the pet owning public had as much responsibility of ownership as GRREAT members and volunteers do, there wouldn’t be anywhere near the number of dogs needing rescue and there might not even be a need for an organization like GRREAT.”

Because we all know that there will be a need for rescue organizations for the foreseeable future, we appreciate the time, effort and organizational skills that Mary Ellen Lunde has devoted to GRREAT.

*Special thanks to April Fritz for providing this piece to the newsletter.*

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#### Need for Summer Fosters

If you would like to make sure that there is plenty of sunshine in your life this summer, why not consider being a substitute foster home for dogs whose foster families are going on vacation? Taking in a Golden is truly like adding a ray of sunshine to your home and heart! If you are available to dog-sit a foster dog for 1-2 weeks while the foster family is on vacation, we would love to hear from you. By getting as many folks like this on board as possible, we can cover most of our geographic area so that transport is not an issue. If you are available to do this, please email Mary Ellen at [melunde@att.net](mailto:melunde@att.net).



## 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 22043-0069

## 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 22043-0069**

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:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# AND THE WINNERS ARE...

This year's crop of GRREAT photos was magnificent. We had so many terrific shots to choose from! We had every kind of picture, from puppies in the snow to seniors at the beach and from light blondes napping to dark reds playing. After some long, hard consideration, the committee chose the following winners:



2003 Calendar Winners		
Cover	Cougar 01-136	Kim Wiff
January	Hutch -3-024	Jamison Family
February	Stary 01-135	Melanie Smith
March	Boone 01-153, Cody 02-179 and Amber 01-159	David Wolf
April	Traveller 02-095	Sharon McIlrath
May	Sassy 02-042	Julie Stevens
June	Copper 00-278	Becker Family
July	Jasper 02-078	Chmura Family
August	Maggie 01-083 and Cruiser	Roleff Family
September	Sam 03-071	Schneider Family
October	Cody 99-150	Rolland Family
November	Bronte 02-198	Sarah Navia and Harry Sethna
December	Beaver 98-098	Nancy Butler

Our winners will receive a free copy of the 2003 GRREAT Calendar. Photos and stories that didn't make the calendar may appear in future issues of the GRREAT News. Thanks to everyone who participated in the calendar contest. Special thanks to Deb Nizer for coordinating the contest and to April Fritz for editing the calendar text. Look for the calendar at the 2003 Goldstock event and on sale through GRREAT after that.

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.