



# GRREAT NEWS

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**Special Edition:**  
**Tribute to Senior Golden!**

## Zack's Chariot

By Edie Galpin

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Zack (DOB: 11 May 1989) came to GRREAT in 1991 and was adopted by his then-new family in early 1992, with whom he spent the next ten years of his life. He was very obviously a well-loved member of that family. In June of 2002, that family made what they considered to be the only kind decision and took him to their Vet to be euthanized. You see, Zack simply couldn't negotiate the many, many stairs in their town house any longer. Well, the attending veterinarian, a lady with a heart for Golden Retrievers, thought that there was still life and joy left for Zack to live and experience. She contacted GRREAT after discovering that he had a GRREAT tattoo.

We at GRREAT, of course, welcomed "our" boy back with open arms, regardless of his medical shortcomings. He couldn't see too well anymore, couldn't hear much anymore (nope, not the selective hearing we're all quite familiar with) and he did have pretty severe difficulties getting around. Volunteers picked him up at the vet clinic and took him home, where he spent the night, and his journey to his foster home in Annapolis continued the next day. He had been started on Glucosamine/Chondroitin/MSM supplements and pain management and was responding very well. He could even go on nice walks again! His foster Mom, Mrs. Trish Collier in Annapolis, is an exemplary lady, a senior with failing hips herself—but with a heart the size of Texas! She cared for Zack, loved him, walked with him and spent most every day of more than a year with him. Life was good for Zack.

As time went on, Zack's rear legs failed his body more and more. His sight got worse...his hearing, too. His laryngeal paralysis and the many lumps and bumps all over his body didn't help at all, either. But he never lost that Golden spirit, the zest to eagerly embrace life, even if it meant falling often. He is the epitome of the Golden Retriever we all would hope for our Golden Retrievers to

be! Drop dead gorgeous in his day—a beautiful senior whose features still say: "You should have seen me in my prime!" What a sweet, sweet disposition—forgiving the world for all that isn't right. As his foster Mom's hips got worse and she was facing bilateral surgery herself, the big question was, now what? Where will Zack go now? Trish experienced increasing difficulties heaving his 93-pound body upright, standing him back onto his feet—her hips hurt badly, too. Another foster home was found to welcome Zack, and he moved there on 30 June 2003.



**THIS IS THE TYPE OF 'CHARIOT' GRREAT OBTAINED FOR ZACK**

Zack's new foster Mom initially was horrified having to watch this sweet old man struggle so terribly for every step. She hadn't seen him get worse gradually. She just about went nuts with worry. Her vet confirmed that he has severe neurological damage in his hindquarters, something called progressive myelopathy, which is why he literally throws his stalking rear legs in a forward motion, hoping they land under him sufficiently to balance him for the next lurch. With such motion comes a certain momentum and speed in a dog this size! More times than not, his rear legs do not land within balance range and he collapses or goes out of kilter so far that his whole body reels. While the muscle tone in his upper torso has the amazing strength befitting an acrobat, it can't always catch the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

# 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 VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

“I don’t want a senior dog; I just lost 12-year-old Goldie, and I can’t face another loss anytime soon.”

I’ve heard that statement from many people who are interested in adopting a GRREAT dog. It’s very understandable, and I suppose it’s a natural reaction following the loss of a beloved elderly friend.

In fact, when our first golden Cally passed away four years ago, our first action was to start looking for a new puppy. Somehow we got the feeling that in order to have a new start we needed to start with a brand new dog.

That new puppy Halley is now almost four,

“...the depth and mutual benefit of the person-dog relationship has little to do with its duration.”

and we’ve loved every minute of having her in our lives. But over the past few years I’ve discovered that a senior golden can be as precious a treasure as a perky young pup. Right now I have the privilege of sharing a home with two seniors—Orion, 8, and Augie, 15. These are two of the sweetest boys you could ever hope to know.

We adopted Augie at 14½ years old, when he came to GRREAT from a shelter. Our goal was simple enough, we just wanted to make him comfortable for his last few weeks or, dare we hope it, maybe a few months. To our surprise, Augie’s health improved quickly with good veterinary care, a healthy diet, and lots of love and attention. A year later, he’s still going strong! Every day is a delight for Augie—he starts off each day at sun-up

(“Come on! Time’s a-wasting, guys!”), enjoys breakfast and a morning walk, then settles down to a busy day of napping at our feet. It’s a real joy to walk into the room and have him look up, smile, and thump his tail on the floor in a happy greeting.

I know that Augie’s good health can’t go on forever, and that one day soon we’ll have to say goodbye. But I also know that we’ve made a big difference in his life, and that he’s enjoyed his time with us this past year almost as much as we’ve enjoyed having him as part of our pack.

We recently had the pleasure of fostering our first senior, 10-year-old Rusty. Unlike the many young “wild child” fosters we have had, Rusty quickly integrated himself into the routine at the house. We enjoyed his company and found that he was a wonderful, loving dog. We wondered if anyone would take a chance on adopting him and were pleasantly surprised when we got several phone calls about him. Today, Rusty lives with his new mom Tricia Tipton in Waldorf. She has shared many stories and photos with us and is thoroughly enjoying every minute of life with her “new” furry kid.

All of this has led me to understand that the depth and mutual benefit of the person-dog relationship has little to do with its duration. The love and companionship that the relationship brings is far more important than how long it lasts.

Sharing your life with a senior golden is like sitting by the fireplace on a winter’s evening. It’s a mellow time, good for sharing quiet moments together. Perhaps the coals will glow warmly all night, perhaps they’ll grow cold sooner than you’d like. Either way, it’s a special time to spend with a treasured friend.

Sincerely,  
Bob Kurtz  
GRREAT Vice President



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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

**October 4, 2003**  
**Adoption Day**  
**PetCo, District Heights, MD**

**November 1, 2003**  
**Adoption Day**  
**PetCo, Fairfax, VA**

**November 2, 2003**  
**Volunteer Picnic**  
**Annapolis, MD**

For directions to Adoption Days, see page 11. For more information on the Volunteer Picnic, see page 8.



## 2004 GRREAT Calendars are on sale!

You can now purchase the 2004 GRREAT wall calendar, which features 12 full-color photos of our spectacular rescued golden! Calendars will be available at [www.great.org](http://www.great.org) (click on the GRREAT Store link on the left hand side), at Goldstock and at GRREAT functions, including adoption days. The cost of the calendar is just \$10. Special thanks to everyone who submitted photos and to Deb Nizer for coordinating the project.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES TO INCREASE FOR 2004

GRREAT's annual membership drive begins about October 1 and runs through the end of January 2004. As you may notice on the membership form on page 19, membership dues will increase for 2004 to \$30 per family. The GRREAT Board reluctantly voted to increase dues when the costs of obtaining insurance for the organization soared and other increased expenses were observed. In approving the dues increase, the Board also voted to phase-in the increase. Any member who renews before January 31, 2004 may do so at the current \$25 rate. The rate for new members joining after October 1, 2003 will be \$30. Members whose dues are delinquent on February 1, 2004 will be able to renew at the \$30 rate. A detailed explanation of why the increase has been necessary will be published in the next GRREAT News.

### Congrats Linda Kurtz !

Fourteen-year-old Linda has been announced as the 2003 recipient of the Golden Retriever Club of America's Junior Achievement Award! At this year's Nationals, Linda will be presented with a plaque and a \$100 savings bond. Congratulations!

# Just an Old Golden Retriever

By Sara Whalen

I grew up in your average middle-class Jewish home where pets were not available. I never had a pet. There was a lot of plastic on the furniture. Basically, pets were considered dirty, unwanted things. Animals were not part of my experience, so I had no conscience about them.

I got married in 1968, and in 1970 I had a baby. When he was 18 months old, we were living in a bungalow colony in upstate New York while waiting for our home to be built. An elderly woman and her old golden retriever lived next door. I used to see them together when the woman was outside gardening. My son liked the dog, and she was a friendly animal, but that was all, as far as I was concerned.

When the woman died, her relatives came, and they emptied her house of her treasures, her clothing, anything they thought of value. They contacted a real estate agent who put out a "For Sale" sign on her property. Then they locked the dog out and drove away.

Because I'd grown up with no conscience about animals, it didn't even cross my mind to say, "Wait a minute. Someone should be taking care of this dog," or "Who is going to be responsible for her?" It just didn't. I was not responsible for the dog.

Some of the neighbors mentioned that they'd feed her occasionally, but the dog mostly stayed near the house where she'd lived, where her owner had died. When the dog would come over to play with my son, Adam, he would feed her cookies; once in a while I would give her some leftovers.

One afternoon I went to get Adam, who'd been outside playing in our yard—a safe, level grassy area—and he was gone. Just gone. I was frantic. I looked for him, and then neighbors helped me look for him. We called the police. For three hours the police looked for him; then they called the state police. The state police brought in helicopters. My husband rushed home from the city. I was hysterical. We could not find Adam. We didn't know if he'd been abducted. We didn't know if he was alive. We could not find him.

The search had been going on for six hours when a neighbor, who'd just returned home, said, "Where's Brandy?"

Brandy? The dog? Why was he asking about the dog?

Someone else said, "Maybe she's with Adam."

What did I know about animals? I said, "Why

would she be with Adam? What does that mean?" One of the troopers recalled that he'd heard a dog barking deep in the woods when they were doing the foot search. And suddenly everybody started to yell "Brandy!" including me.

We heard faint barking and followed the sound. We found my 18-month-old son, standing up, fast asleep, pressed against the trunk of a tree. Brandy was holding him there with one shoulder. One of her legs was hanging over a 35-foot drop to a stream below.

She must have followed Adam when he wandered off, just as a dog will with a child, and she saw danger. She was a better mother than I; she'd pushed him out of harm's way—and held him there. This was an old dog. Adam was an 18-month-old child. He struggled, I'm sure, but she'd held him there for all those hours. When I picked him up, she collapsed.

As the trooper carried my son back home, I, sobbing with relief, carried Brandy. I knew in that instant that she was coming home with me, too. Brandy spent the rest of her life with us, and I loved her completely; she lived to be 17 years old.

From then on, I made it a point to learn everything I could about animals. My focus at the time was old golden retrievers. Obviously, I thought they were the smartest, the best, and there was nothing else like them. I started the first golden retriever rescue, and have had as many as 35 of them in the house at a time; and it mushroomed from there.

Because of Brandy, I have a calling. I have a reason to get up in the morning. Because of Brandy, thousands of unwanted animals have been given safe lives. I can't save them all, but I can make a difference. We now have 300 animals—all kinds, including birds and pot-bellied pigs—and are a well-recognized humane animal sanctuary. We take the animals that other shelters won't take—the ones my mother would have said were dirty; the old ones who are incontinent, the blind, the ugly ones; they're all beautiful to me. So many organizations feel it's easier to euthanize these animals. I don't agree. How could I? If someone had put an abandoned 11-year-old golden retriever to sleep 29 years ago, I would not have a child. I wouldn't have a son who is the light of my life.

Pets Alive is a life-affirming memorial to Brandy. There are many Brandys dying alone on the streets or in shelters. Not all the people who read this have room to give them a lifetime of comfort in their senior years.

*Special thanks to Debbie, Chelsey & Jamie Brent for providing the newsletter with this piece.*



## ZACK'S CHARIOT Continued

whole mass and counter it to continue. Splat, there he lays again. Foster Mom and her vet are very, very concerned that Zack will hurt himself during such a spill. He might break bones or rupture something. When he stalks around, it looks as if he's totally drunk—the instability of his rear end fishtails his whole body. Compounding the agony is the fact that, due to his neurological damage, his



**ZACK SWIMMING ON THE  
FOURTH OF JULY**

toes curl under most of the time and he ends up standing with his paws turned under. While walking, this causes open, bleeding sores, even on grass and soft surfaces. When he eliminates, his toes curl under while positioning himself and he ends up collapsing into his own discharge. BUT, the old man is STILL interested in life! He'll just about kill himself going after a precious morsel of food—though mostly he has to pass it up, because he can't get there. The big question became: does he have any quality of life left, or would it be kinder to let him go be whole once again at the Rainbow Bridge? Opinions vary. Escorting him into forever peace is such a final step. Foster Mom felt that there might still be a chance for Zack to get some joy out of life; he surely isn't really acting like he's done living. You should see him enjoy food!


Rambling around the block every early morning and late at night (well, whenever it's cool enough). He misses his walks—sniffing the neighborhood doggie newspaper and greeting the days—which we haven't been able to, literally, carry his 93 pounds to let him do. Meantime, Zack took to water and swimming like that activity was an old

friend. Underwater massages and range of motion exercises seemed to help a lot, but they didn't restore any self-sufficient mobility.

Hence, the idea of a wheelchair for Zack! It would be a gift that keeps on giving, because even after he is done using it, another GRREAT Golden in need—and we have many—would find relief using it...time and again...one after the next!

As it appeared that a large-enough loaner cart could not be located for the duration of whatever time Zack has left with us, we saw no alternative but to purchase one. One of GRREAT's wonderful members, Mrs. Anneliese Johnson, took up the quest and became a most formidable supporter, searching for a cart and the assistance items like a walk-about support sling—and funds! A temporary "Zack's Fund" has been established, which we hope will become a permanent fund for the procurement of "Quality of life enhancing appliances for mobility challenged GRREAT Golden." Due to the combined efforts of Anneliese, other members and volunteers, this foster home didn't have to raid its grocery fund to pay for his chariot. Zack's gracious acceptance of his failing body and the subsequently rendered assistance by support sling and wheels, his obvious joy when he's relieved of his weight while in the soothing warm water, and the big happy grin he shows when he is around food and family, have taught us humility—and spurred our curiosity to find out what other mobility aids might help restore some dignity and quality of life to other GRREAT Golden who might benefit—just like Zack. What a legacy!

*Editor's note: A few days after the wheelchair arrived and this story was written, Zack suffered a massive stroke that left his right side completely paralyzed. He is now waiting for all his foster families at the Rainbow Bridge with the grace of a gorgeous, young Golden having absolutely no movement problems. GRREAT plans to continue "Zack's Fund" to help other mobility-challenged Golden, such as the young lady with a club foot who is currently in foster care and the senior who needs swim therapy to strengthen leg muscles without weight-bearing.*

*If you would like to contribute to "Zack's Fund" GRREAT will deeply appreciate your consideration. You can send any donations to GRREAT at P.O. Box 3069, Falls Church, VA 22043.* 

## FARE WELL, MARY ELLEN LUNDE

Mary Ellen Lunde was just profiled in "A Breed Apart" in the last newsletter, so it came as a real surprise when she announced that she, her husband Michael, and their furkids were relocating to Oregon at the end of August. She says that the opportunity to retire "for real" came up suddenly and they wanted to take advantage of it.

Mary Ellen will be missed by everyone involved in Golden Retriever Rescue, especially the GRREAT Board, where she has worn many hats over the past several years, and the hundreds of folks with whom she has had contact, as both Intake and Foster Home coordinators. However, she has worked diligently to get various foster advice and transport teams up and running to replace her. Mary Ellen promises to remain accessible by e-mail once their cross-country trek is completed.

Mary Ellen, thank you for all your service to this organization and others. You are truly a GRREAT person. May our best wishes for your future carry you safely to your destination and into your (fully) retired future.

# DONATIONS

## ***In Honor Of...***

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Lisa Cook, for bringing Jake (03-017) into our lives. He is the sweetest, cutest, kindest, gentlest Golden in the world. Thanks for being a great foster mom for him and thank you for choosing us to adopt him. We can't tell you how grateful we are to you. - *Elaine and Lester Goodman*

My Amazing Grace 98-126—my gift from God and the main reason I joined GRREAT to help with rescue. Please use donation to cover the cost of this blood work bill for my foster, Cody/Kodi (03-082). - *L. Sidney Morris*

Dusty. - *Jonathan Gordon*

## ***In Memory Of...***

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In memory of Clancy (alias Bingo 99-160). He was my constant friend and wonderful companion. These last few years there were only us two. This guy was only 8 years old. He is missed by all who knew him. I promised him there would be another rescue Golden in the house. - *Bernie Noe*

Our beloved retriever, Tara. - *Kathryn Vieweg*

Jan Brown's GRREAT big hearted guy, Moosie. - *B. Gregory Russell*

Dutchess (94-154). She filled my life with love and sweetness. - *Michelle Seiler*

Max, our wonderful Golden Retriever. 5/4/90 – 5/19/03. - *Peggy and Carl Allen*

## ***Special Donations...***

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Please use this donation for Julie's expenses while she is in foster care. Keep up the good work! - *Bernadine McPherson*

I just lost my wonderful adopted Golden and my 6-year-old lab (yellow). I miss them and am interested in adopting another golden (female). - *Barbara Meyer*

## ***Ongoing Donations...***

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United Way of Central Maryland

United Way of the Bay Area (California)

Enclosed is a sample of the Golden Retriever keychains that were created and are being used to raise money for the golden retriever rescue programs. Hopefully, more checks will follow. Thanks! - *Charlie Nicosia*

JCI, Inc., for Animal Den web site commission

iGive.com

BigDaddyDog.com of Trussville AL: "Our policy lets the customer donate 6.5% from their sale to the rescue group of their choice. We look forward to contributing to your organization again in the future." - *Michael Norrell*

## ***Matching Gift Programs...***

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Computer Associates submitted a 200% match of a donation made by employee Monica Thomas.

Microsoft Giving Campaign matched a donation through payroll deduction by Robert Reagle.

America's Charities program, representing donations made by Lockheed Martin employees.

World Reach, Inc., representing a donation made by payroll deduction by USA Today employee Nancy St. John.

Pitney Bowes Matching Gift Program: "Our support of employee volunteer activities and non-profit initiatives like yours help us address serious social problems such as illiteracy to make our world a better place to live and work. Pitney Bowes also recognizes the valuable service that GRREAT provides in educating the public and raising awareness regarding Golden Retriever health and welfare. Thank you for helping us to make a difference."

## ***Simile-Finale Fund...***

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I'd like to make a \$1000 donation to GRREAT to refill the Simile-Finale Fund in honor of my adoptee Kenai (4) and my 8-year-old Akea and in memory of my Goldens: Simile and Finale, who have been deceased for several years. - *Elizabeth Oberdorfer*

*Editor's note: The Simile-Finale Fund was set up by Ms. Oberdorfer many years ago and is dedicated to holistic care of special needs Goldens. If you would like to help replenish this very important fund, please send a donation to GRREAT, P.O. Box 3069, Falls Church, VA 22043-0069 and let us know it's for the Simile-Finale Fund.*

## ***Congratulations...***

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To Robert and Debby Shaffer on their July 12, 2003 wedding.  
- *Charles and Diane Shaffer.*

To Robert and Debby Shaffer on their July 12, 2003 wedding.  
- *Cletus and Linda Schultz.*

To Carol D. Melamed on her birthday, from her son.  
- *Wynne Brown.*

## ***Thank You for Your Donations...***

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Dale Sackett  
Alan and Michele Smith

## ***Zack's Fund for Mobility-Challenged Goldens...***

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*This is in response to an e-mail sent to all members and volunteers looking for a wheel chair for a senior Golden with rear end mobility issues. A special thanks to GRREAT friend Anneliese Johnson of Ana's Ark for promoting Zack on her website.*

Sherry and Richard Carson  
Sharon and Bill Coale  
Susan and Devin Edwards  
Bernard and Susan Flanigan  
Duane P. Lambeth  
Denise and Ray Malczewski—In memory of Rusty  
Heather Manatos  
Michael and Judith McGuire  
Jeff and Maurine Schuller  
Nancy Whitnall

## ***In Memory of Nicholas...***

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Dear GRREAT,

In January 1999, we took in our first foster dog "Nicholas." We had adopted Brady (98-127) from GRREAT a few months earlier and had such a wonderful experience. Brady's foster parents, Carl and Sara Gepp, were great and we wanted to give something back to the rescue in appreciation for Brady. We had no experience with fostering but found it to be a wonderful, enriching experience.

We had Nicholas for only two weeks when he found his forever home with Shane Hammond at a VA Adoption Day. Shane and Nicholas later moved to Massachusetts but we stayed in touch. Nicholas was approximately one year old when he was adopted so you can imagine our shock to receive a letter earlier this year telling us Nicholas had passed away. "Nick" had been diagnosed with a rare and terminal liver disease. Although Shane did everything possible for Nick, he had to make the heart wrenching decision to let him go just 8 weeks after he discovered his illness.

I write this note for three reasons. First, we wanted to make a small donation in honor of Nick and we are sorry it can't be more. Second, we wanted to say a long overdue thank you to Carl and Sara Gepp and to GRREAT for bringing us Brady, our Golden pride and joy. Brady is almost six years old and now has a Golden brother who is also a rescue. He is the best dog we could have ever hoped for and he is the reason why we became active in Golden Rescue!! Third and most important, I wanted to encourage everyone who has adopted a wonderful dog from GRREAT to give fostering a try. It is a really rewarding experience. It was because of Nicholas that we became a foster home for several more Goldens over the last few years. Thank you Nicholas! We'll miss you!

Sincerely, Sandee and John O'Neill, Lucky and Brady

*Editor's Note: Foster homes are desperately needed. If you can find room in your heart and home for a foster dog, please send an email to Tom Janczuk at [tjanczuk@earthlink.net](mailto:tjanczuk@earthlink.net).*

## ***For Chloe...***

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Dear GRREAT,

Enclosed is a donation, albeit small, to help out with medical and/or expenses for 03-113 named Chloe, rescued from Fluvanna County, Virginia. I knew this lovely Golden 7 years ago! I was devastated to hear the news that she had been surrendered. It's such a long story! On the other hand, I'm relieved to hear that she is in such loving hands.

Give her an extra special hug from me...and whisper in her ear that someone from the past still loves her. I've been putting out my feelers to find a new and forever home. Let's hope she finds one very soon, as she's a special old woofier.

Thank you for doing a wonderful job to help unwanted Goldens.

- *Annie Simon*

# LETTERS TO LEO

### THANK YOU LEO FUND DONATIONS

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

Eileen and James Hollaway

Karen and Dave Mergerian

Dr. Joseph O'Neill

Kathi Rechsteiner

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

Debby Brent

John and Dorothy Dean

Fred Gray and Pat Bailey

Phil and Janet Hauck

Patricia and Charles Thomas

In memory of Stuart Malcolm Hoff (1928-2003), beloved father of Laurel R. Vincenty & family.  
- *Debbie Brent*

I'm still sewing on patches for Girl and Boy Scouts and asking for a donation in return. Enclosed are checks from Holly Hand and Severin and Shelly Sorensen. Please direct this to the Leo Fund. - *Kathi Rechsteiner*

Please accept this donation for the Leo Fund in memory of Nellie 03-052 and to that her wonderful fosters, Karen and Dave Mergerian and Gracie. - *Phil and Janet Hauck*

In memory of Nellie 03-052. She lived in our home for a short time, but she'll live in our hearts forever.  
- *Karen and Dave Mergerian*

In memory of Nellie 03-052. - *Fred Gray and Pat Bailey*

In memory of our Golden Randy Travis adopted from GRREAT 13 years ago in Leesburg, Virginia. He was a valued and much loved member of our family. He is with our other Golden Rusty, both who passed over the Rainbow Bridge. Please use this for the Leo Fund. - *John and Dorothy Dean*

In memory of our sweet girl, Bailey, whom we lost too soon. We miss her so much.  
- *Patricia and Charles Thomas*



## Volunteer Appreciation Picnic!

Join us on Sunday, November 2nd to celebrate GRREAT's wonderful volunteers and all of our Golden Retrievers. This event is open to all members, volunteers, foster families and adoptive families! This year's annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic will be held at the White Oaks Pavilion at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis, Maryland from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Quiet Waters Park has a special fenced area for dogs to play, run, and jump without a leash! Activities of both the 2- and 4-legged kind are planned.

This is a celebration of our volunteers, so the cost is FREE, the food and beverages are FREE (hamburgers, hot-dogs, soda, water and juice). Donations, of course, are welcomed and gratefully accepted. So that we can have enough food available for everyone, **please call the GRREAT phone number (703.620.6593) and leave a message in box 51 stating how many people and dogs will be attending.** For information on the park, call 410.222.1777 or visit them on the web at [www.aacpl.net/rp/parks/quietwaters/index.htm](http://www.aacpl.net/rp/parks/quietwaters/index.htm).

Directions: From US-50 East, take Exit 22/Rt. 665 (Aris T. Allen Blvd). Stay on Rt. 665 until it ends and merges with Forrest Drive. Follow Forrest Drive for 2 miles. Turn right at the Exxon Station onto Hillsmere Drive. (There is a sign in front of Exxon saying "Quiet Waters Park-Next Right"). The park entrance is 100 yards on the right hand side.



COME CELEBRATE GRREAT'S  
FANTASTIC VOLUNTEERS



# ONE BY ONE

By Leslie Whalen

One by One, they pass by my cage,  
Too old, too worn, too broken, no way  
Way past his time, he can't run and play.  
Then they shake their heads slowly, and go on their way.

A little old man, arthritic and sore,  
It seems I am not wanted anymore.  
I once had a home, I once had a bed,  
A place that was warm, and where I was fed.  
Now my muzzle is grey, and my eyes slowly fail.  
Who wants a dog so old and so frail?  
My family decided I didn't belong,  
I got in their way, my attitude was wrong.  
Whatever excuse they made in their head  
Can't justify how they left me for dead.

Now I sit in this cage, where day after day,  
The younger dogs get adopted away.  
When I had almost come to the end of my rope,  
You saw my face, and I finally had hope.  
You saw through the grey, and the legs bent with age,  
And felt I still had life beyond this cage.  
You took me home, gave me food and a bed,  
And shared your own pillow with my poor tired head.

We snuggle and play, and you talk to me low,  
You love me so dearly, you want me to know.  
I may have lived most of my life with another,  
But you outshine them with a love so much stronger.  
And I promise to return all the love I can give,  
To you, my dear person, as long as I live.

I may be with you for a week, or for years,  
We will share many smiles, you will no doubt shed tears.  
And when the time comes that God deems I must leave,  
I know you will cry and your heart, it will grieve.

And when I arrive at the Bridge, all brand new,  
My thoughts and my heart will still be with you.  
And I will brag to all who will hear,  
Of the person who made my last days so dear.

*Ms. Whalen wrote this poem, originally entitled "Tray's Poem" in honor of her dog Tray & all senior dogs who await a new home and deserve a second chance at a life and happiness.*

SOURCE: THE INTERNET

## Your everyday grocery shopping can help GRREAT!

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

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

If you would like to enroll, you can visit [www.foodlion.com](http://www.foodlion.com) to link your card.

## Help spread the GRREAT word!

The week of September 22, 2003 is the 75th anniversary of "National Dog Week." There will be parades all over the nation. Additionally, October is "Adopt a Shelter Dog Month," sponsored by the American Humane Society. In celebration of these events, spread the word about GRREAT. To find more information and ideas, visit [www.vapaws.org/events](http://www.vapaws.org/events).

# ...AND THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER

## ADOPTION REPORT

This summer was one of the most productive on record, with 49 Golden Retrievers finding their forever homes. Gray faces abound, as 10 stupendous seniors are included in this group. Ranging in age from 7 to 16, these dignified dogs have found their perfect places: happy homes with warmth and companionship. We wish them all the best!

Thank you foster homes, and congratulations to all of our boys and girls of summer!

### Our statistics on this group:

Total - 49  
Males - 28  
Females - 21  
Age under 2 - 15  
Age 2 to 6 - 24  
Age 7 and over - 10

REPORT Continued... →

Please contact the newsletter about your Golden's "Happily Ever After" Story! It's a perfect way to let everyone know how well your 4-footed family members are doing. Send an email to [newsletter@grreat.org](mailto:newsletter@grreat.org) for more information.

## Julie—the rest of the story

By Norm & Gail Bleakley

We introduced Golden Retrievers into our family 12 years ago. Our first Golden, Czar, was purchased from a local breeder. We then purchased a female, Ritz. Czar left us at the age of seven with cancer. His sudden crossing was the saddest day of our lives. Ritz is now 10 years young. She has been the joy of the family and has survived six grandsons. Norm and I thought about bringing in another Golden to be Ritz's companion for many years. We felt that the timing was never right, until fate showed us it was.



JULIE IS HAPPY IN HER NEW HOME WITH THE BLEAKLEYS

We first read about Julie and her companion, Goldie, on the GRREAT website. GRREAT was hoping to place both Golden Retrievers together in a home. Norm and I felt we could not take in both dogs, but hoped that someone could. Our hearts went out to Julie and Goldie.

Now the rest of the story, Norm's side in his words: During the July 4th weekend, while

working the night shift, one of my Nuclear Security Officers, Tara was on the Internet reading about GRREAT. She turned to me and mentioned that she had seen the license plate for GRREAT. She was looking at the adoption pictures and from across the room, I

Name	ID #	Age	Sex	Julie	03-146	12	F
Albert	03-159	6	M	Laurel	03-059	12	F
Angel	03-101	1	F	Lindy	03-011	7	F
Bella	03-130	3	F	Lucy	02-211	2	F
Brandon/Jordan	02-271	11 mo	M	Max	03-107	1	M
Buddy	03-115	2	M	Molly	03-109	7	F
Catie	02-021	13	F	Moose	02-222	1	M
Ceili	03-116	4	F	Murphy	02-300	10	M
Chester	03-084	2	M	Perry	03-112	1	M
Cody	03-082	2	M	Prism	02-294	2	M
Dixie	02-093	3	F	Ralphie	03-125	10	M
Duke	03-114	2	M	Rex	03-066	7	M
Ellie	03-025	7 mo	F	Ripken	03-022	6 mo	M
Foster	02-302	1	M	Roxy	03-038	1	F
Frankie	03-133	6 mo	M	Rusty	03-108	10	M
Goldie	03-124	6	F	Sadie	03-110	6	F
Gus	03-104	10	M	Sammy	03-158	1	M
Halle	03-127	3	F	Sarah	03-137	5	F
Hesther	99-121	6	F	Sarah	03-154	2	F
Hunter	02-204	6	M	Sargent	00-210	16	M
Hutch	03-024	8 mo	M	Scooby	03-027	6 mo	F
Jake	03-076	2	M	Shadow	03-151	6	F
Jake	03-095	4	M	Sprite	01-224	5	F
Jazz	03-081	3	M	Teddy	03-150	3	M
Josh	02-161	1	M	Winston	03-152	7 mo	M

JULIE Continued...

saw the picture of Julie and mentioned that the two Golden retrievers had been together for so long and that their current situation was so sad. Tara told me that Julie's companion Goldie had crossed over, which I was shocked and saddened to hear. Especially being with Ritz after we lost Czar, I knew exactly what Julie must have been going through.

OK, here's where it gets good!! I said to Tara, what a shame it was for Julie to lose her owner and companion. Tara turns to me, and states, looking hard; "Boss, you should get this dog!" I reply: "Well, Gail is in Florida and I'll wait until she returns etc., etc." Just then my cell phone rings: Yeah, it was Gail calling from Florida to say "Hi!" As they say—the rest is history. I told her the story, she started to choke up a little and said: "Do it today, email everyone and get the paperwork started."

I sent an email to Stephanie Nelson (the adoption coordinator in our area) and told her that my wife and I wanted to adopt Julie right away. We even offered to complete our own home visit paperwork to speed up the process, since we have volunteered to complete home visits for other families wishing to adopt. Several days later, we received a phone call from Pat Johnson to set up a time for a home visit. Pat came over asked us some questions and immediately completed the paperwork.

A few days later we received a phone call from Fay Jenkins, Julie's foster mom. Fay and Gail talked for hours about Golden retrievers, Julie, Ritz, etc. Fay offered to bring Julie over the following Saturday to see how she and Ritz would get along. Fay was hesitant at first to let Julie be adopted, because she had become so attached in such a short time to Julie. Fay and Julie arrived Saturday, July 19th. Fay opened the back of her vehicle and out came Julie. Julie is a beautiful 12-year-old, almost-all-white Golden retriever. Julie was shy and a little afraid, not sure of her surroundings. She even tried to go into the woods and hide. When Julie and Ritz met, it was like they


had been together forever. Before Fay left, Julie had become relaxed and seemed to enjoy her new home.

Julie has been with us for almost six weeks. Julie follows us everywhere; she lays her head on our laps and is very excited to go on walks. Julie will talk to us now when she gets excited. She has become very curious and loves to watch the wild rabbits in the yard. We found out the hard way that we have to be careful when a wild rabbit runs out in front of us while walking Julie and Ritz. Ritz has always liked to run with the rabbits, but now Julie also joins in.

One morning Gail was walking Ritz and Julie in the back yard before going to work when all of a sudden a wild rabbit ran out from under the bushes and across the yard. You never would have known that Julie was 12 years old, as her ears went straight up and her tail went out and Julie took off after the rabbit, along with Ritz. Gail had no choice but to run with Julie and Ritz across the backyard through the apple trees, under the grape vines and then into the woods chasing the rabbit.

Although Julie has only been with us for a short time it feels like she has been here forever. She is a great Golden retriever with a wonderful personality. Julie sleeps in our bedroom with Ritz and our cat Blizzard. We just bought Ritz and Julie matching monogram bed covers for the family room.

Gail and I have decided that we will continue to adopt older Golden retrievers so they may have a good life during their remaining years.

We would like to thank GRREAT for giving us the opportunity to adopt Julie. Thank you Fay Jenkins, Stephanie Nelson, Chris Grob and Pat Johnson who all helped expedite the adoption process which allowed Julie to join our family within a few weeks from our initial request. - *Norm, Gail, Ritz and Julie* 

## ADOPTION DAY DIRECTIONS

### September 6, 2003

PETCO, Noon-2pm  
6612 Richmond Highway  
Alexandria, VA 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.

### October 4, 2003

PETCO, Noon-2pm  
5628 Silver Hill Road  
District Heights, MD 20747  
Ph: 301.420.5800

From I-95 in Maryland, take exit 11B (MD-4W/ Pennsylvania Ave) toward Washington. Turn right onto Silver Hill Road (you may need to make a U-turn). PetCo will be 1/3 mile on the right.

### November 1, 2003

PETCO, Noon-2pm  
10708 Lee Highway  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
Ph: 703.352.3300

From I-495, take I-66W towards Manassas/ Front Royal. Take VA-123 South (exit 60) toward Fairfax. Stay straight onto Chain Bridge Rd. Turn right onto Lee Highway. PetCo is 1/2 mile on the right, across from the high school.

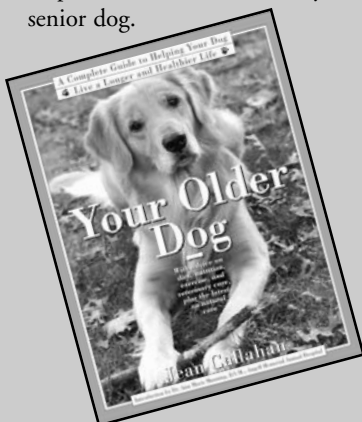
*GRREAT assumes no responsibility for the above directions. Please call the individual businesses listed to verify the route from your address.*

**BOOK REVIEW**  
BY BETH LACEY GILL

*Your Older Dog:  
A Complete Guide to Helping  
Your Dog Lead a Longer and  
Healthier Life*  
By Jean Callahan

Published by Simon & Schuster Trade  
Paperbacks (2001); ISBN: 0743203097;  
Paperback, 144pp \$16.00

Watching a beloved pet age can be a painful process: Joints start creaking, tempers get short and the goofiness of the puppy you had years ago may disappear entirely. But, with the right kind of care, you can help your pet stay healthy and happy well into his golden years. *Your Older Dog* explains the basics of nutrition, exercise, grooming and health requirements specific to senior dogs. With plenty of information on maximizing your dog's active years and a complete guide to age-related health problems, it offers the latest research from veterinarians and pet care experts, including: what to expect, how to recognize the onset of old age, preventive health care, safe and effective alternative treatments (including acupuncture) and the best approaches to common illnesses such as arthritis, diabetes and periodontal disease. Death and grieving are discussed sensitively, with tips for easing the process for all surviving family members. A practical and sensitive all-in-one reference, *Your Older Dog* guides you through the aging process in dogs and gives you the vital information and reassurance you need to provide the best care for your senior dog.



# 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:

*Lately, when I call my 12-year-old dog, she hasn't turned around to respond, and I've noticed that she doesn't awaken nearly as easily as she used to. Could she be deaf? And if so, how do I help her cope?*

Signed,  
Worried in Virginia

Dear Worried:

Many dogs become hard of hearing when they become senior citizens. However, dimming senses need not diminish the quality of a dog's life. The key is to find ways to compensate and offset the loss of one sense by engaging the dog's remaining powers of perception.

But before you do anything, take your dog to the veterinarian for a full examination. A veterinarian may be able to figure out why your dog is losing her hearing—and may even be able to treat a condition that might be causing her problem.

However, if the vet confirms your suspicions and can't offer any treatment, it's time to find ways to communicate with your dog that don't require her to hear you. For example, you can teach your dog to respond to hand signals instead of verbal commands. A qualified positive reinforcement trainer can help you do this. To find a trainer in Virginia, log onto the Association of Pet

Dog Trainers website ([www.apdt.com](http://www.apdt.com)), click onto the "Find a Trainer" tab on the left side of the home page, and follow the prompts.

The same idea of compensating for a lost sense by finding new ways to use what remains also applies to a blind dog. In that case, experts suggest that owners make sure that they don't rearrange furniture or other household items. A blind dog quickly learns to navigate through his own home—as long as that home and its contents remain familiar and unchanged.

However, helping your dog to compensate for her lost hearing isn't enough to keep her safe. A deaf or blind dog—indeed, any dog who doesn't have all her faculties—should be kept on leash at all times when outdoors, unless the dog is in a safely fenced area. In addition, such a dog needs to be protected from being surprised by people who might unwittingly startle the animal—and people need to be protected from the bite that might result from the dog's being surprised. Make sure that neither you nor anyone else (especially a child) approaches your dog from behind, disturbs her while she sleeps or catches her by surprise in any way.

Living a full life doesn't require full use of all senses. Your deaf dog's life can be happy and high-quality for both you and her—if you help her adjust to her hearing loss now.

## GRAND OPENING: GRREAT STORE!

The GRREAT store is now open on-line! You will find t-shirts, sweatshirts, books, gifts, toys and more. Of course, 100% of the proceeds will be used to continue GRREAT's rescue efforts. Your purchase will help GRREAT continue its efforts to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome golden retrievers in need.

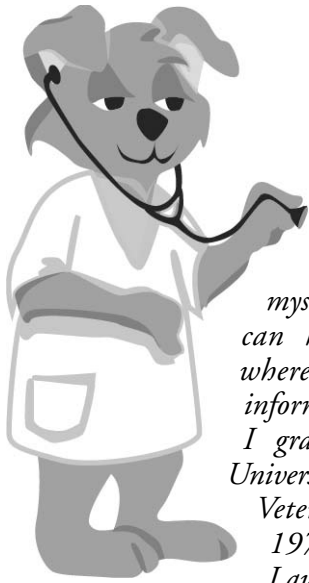
Stop by the on-line store at [www.grgreat.org](http://www.grgreat.org) and click on the GRREAT Store link on the left. Here, you can view all of the GRREAT merchandise. And check back often as we are adding items daily.



You'll find something for every member of the family at the GRREAT Store!

# VET'S COLUMN

Featuring your questions answered by Dr. Ronald Spikloser



*Hello. My name is Ronald Spikloser. Let me introduce myself to you, so you can have an idea of where my veterinary information comes from. I graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School in 1973 Magna Cum Laude, after attending the University of Maryland for three years and graduating with high honors. I worked in Glen Burnie for one year before starting the Timonium Animal Hospital. I sold it three years ago and now do relief work and housecalls. At most places I work, they call me Dr. Ron, for obvious reasons.*

In this issue I will touch on geriatric problems of old dogs and Golden Retrievers in particular. The most important thing to realize is that as we are able to keep our pets (the 4-footed members of our family) alive longer, they encounter most of the same problems as older people. Name a geriatric problem in humans and chances are, man's best friend gets it also.

**Arthritis** is one of the most common conditions of older pets. Arthritis, or osteoarthritis, is a degenerative joint disease that is chronic and progressive. It starts slowly and gradually progresses, even with treatment. Drugs such as Rimadyl, Etodolac, Phenylbutazone, Zubrin and Dermalone help your pet feel better, but do not stop the progression of the disease. These drugs work differently in the body, but their goal is to make your pet feel more comfortable as it goes about its daily tasks.

Many older dogs begin to lose their vision and hearing. **Cataracts** are common. They begin as nuclear sclerosis, which is the cloudiness many people

begin to see in their dog's eyes. Cataract surgery can be done in pets but is usually done by a veterinary ophthalmologist. The first sign of **hearing loss** is when your dog does not hear you pull up at your house and then progresses until he doesn't hear you come in the door. Hearing loss can be helped, but the treatment is more dangerous than the problem itself.

**Dementia**, commonly called canine cognitive disorder, in dogs is also increasing as pets live to be older. Wandering aimlessly, staring, and that so-called "lost look" are symptoms. There are drugs to help this also.

**Kidney problems** are the biggest killer of our older pets. The common signs are drinking and urinating excessively. In more advanced cases, uremic poisoning develops and with that vomiting and diarrhea. Tests can be done and treatment started, but kidney problems are often fatal. There are special diets that help slow the progress of the disease and other treatments are available.

**Diabetes** is common among older pets. The symptoms are similar to kidney problems and therefore blood tests must be done. Other diseases also cause an increase in drinking and urination, such as Cushing's Disease and pyometra.

In addition to the problems that old dogs get, they also can still get most of the problems that they got when they were younger. For example, ear problem, teeth problems and the usual vomiting and diarrhea are possible.

In conclusion, any problem you find in older people can also be found in your pet. Also, as in people, there is a specialist in most areas of veterinary medicine.

Please feel free to e-mail your questions to [newsletter@great.org](mailto:newsletter@great.org) and I will use them for future articles.

## Enter the "Help! The Editor has Writer's Block" Contest!

The Newsletter is in need of a creative name for the brand new "Vet's Column" written by Dr. Ron Spikloser. We're looking for something fun, clever and, of course, dog-oriented! Please e-mail your suggestions to [newsletter@great.org](mailto:newsletter@great.org).

The selected entry will win a free GRREAT T-Shirt, compliments of the GRREAT News.

The submission deadline is Wednesday, October 1st, 2003.

## Goldstock 2003: Fun and Funds for GRREAT

Over Labor Day weekend, Goldstock will be held at Camp Weequahic near Lakewood, PA. The purpose of the weekend is to raise funds for Golden Retriever Rescues across the nation. We're sure it will be a huge success for everyone—it was sold out a full month before the event! Look for in-depth coverage and photos in the November/December edition of the GRREAT News.

## Pick of the Litter: Update



The last issue of the GRREAT News featured Laurel (03-059), a joyous senior lady in need of a special home. Good News: Laurel has been adopted to a wonderful family and is now loving life. Her forever family also includes her new Golden sibling, Mattie. It's another success story for a 12-year-old Golden with the heart and energy of a 6-year-old. Congratulations, Laurel!

## Save the Date!



The Annual Howliday Party will be held on Saturday, December 13th, 2003. This event is open to everyone and will feature a Pot Luck dinner for 2-legged attendees, Pets 'n' People games, instant pictures with Santa Paws, a Canine Costume Parade and a Doggie Gift Exchange. Look for more information in the next issue of the GRREAT News!

## PICK OF THE LITTER

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

### CHLOE (03-113)

Chloe came into the rescue, because her owners no longer wanted her. She is around 11 and she is a doll, whose only objective in life is to give and receive love. She is completely housebroken and would love a house where she can spend lots of time outside (her favorite pastime is sitting on the deck as long as possible).

This special girl loves to watch the neighborhood and will let you know when there is a wild animal around. She does a little bit of barking, but usually only when there is something strange around. Although she does not play very much because of arthritis, Chloe periodically will pick up a soft toy and will sometimes even go after a tennis ball. She loves going for walks and likes visiting everyone at the doggie park.

If she ever learned any commands, she does not remember them and may be hard of hearing. She will "come" and does watch you to see what she is supposed to do. She is very interested in pleasing her people, so not having any obedience training is not really a problem. She stays fairly close and sleeps right by the bed. The ideal home for her would include someone at home much of the time (she does need a number of hours of sleep during the day), who would give her lots of love and cuddles. She is very loving and wants a family that will give her the love and attention she deserves.

When Chloe came into GRREAT, it was clear that she had been severely neglected. She was so full of mats and ticks, that all of her fur, except her tail, had to be shaved off. Her coat is just starting to come in and it appears to be a medium yellow. She had never had any shots or

other testing. GRREAT made sure she got her shots and all of her tests were negative. She did have a large growth on her leg and another one just behind the right eye (which was determined to be cancerous). Both of these were removed and her teeth were cleaned. It's unclear whether or not Chloe's cancer has spread. Because of the lack of medical care, Chloe's hips are terrible. She can navigate stairs, but has trouble climbing into the car. She is currently on medicine that is helping.

Indeed, Chloe is a senior with a couple of medical issues. She is also a fabulous girl with a world of love to give and plenty of time to give it. If you think that your home has a Chloe-shaped hole in it, please call Mary Cornelia Ginn at 703.938.0074 to get additional information.



CHLOE WOULD LOVE TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Doggie Happy Hours

Every Tuesday and Thursday

5 pm – 8 pm

Holiday Inn Select – Alexandria, VA

(703) 549-6080 x801

www.doggiehappyhour.com

## Yappy Hour

Every Wednesday

6 pm - 8 pm

St Elmo's Coffee Pub – Alexandria, VA

Treats provided by Hydrant Dog

Barkery & Boutique. For directions

and information, visit them on the web

at [www.hydrantdog.com/yappyhour](http://www.hydrantdog.com/yappyhour).

## Goldstock

Labor Day Weekend

Lakewood, PA

Join Golden lovers from around the nation for a fun-filled weekend of celebration! Registration filled early, but check out, [www.goldstockonline.com](http://www.goldstockonline.com) for more information.

## 12th Annual Furry Friends Field Day

September 20, 2003

9am – 3pm

Stolzfus Feed Store – Gap, PA

(800) 233-0331

Food, games, door prizes, vendors, face painting and demonstrations.

## Responsible Dog Owner Fun Day

September 20, 2003

10 am – 5 pm

Oregon Ridge Park – Hunt Valley, MD

In celebration of the AKC's first annual

Responsible Dog Ownership Day,

Oriole Dog Club will be hosting activities

and training demo for the general

publics. For more information, contact

Betty Galloway 410.665.5183 or e-mail

[bjgdal@comcast.net](mailto:bjgdal@comcast.net).

## Paws for a Cause 3k Walk

October 5, 2003

12pm

Weber's Pet Supermarket – Fairfax, VA

This is the 8th annual walk for Fairfax

Pets on Wheels. Pets on Wheels pro-

vides pets to visit nursing facilities in

Fairfax County. There will be water and

human and canine treats along the way.

Both dogs and cats are welcome. Call

703.385.3766 for directions and more

information.

## Walk for Paws

October 11, 2003

11 am - 2 pm

Lake Elkhorn, Columbia, MD

This annual event is run by Animal

Advocates of Howard County. Enjoy

many activities (including a mile long

walk) with or without your dog and

help raise money for homeless pets.

Water and disposable bowls will be

available for pets; lunch for humans will

be sold. Contact (410) 880-2488 for

more information.

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

# Bone Appetit!

RECIPES FOR YOUR DOG

## Frosty Paws

This recipe will be great for the remaining hot days of the summer. Frosty Paws is a doggie treat preferred over ice cream, because dogs are generally lactose-intolerant. Frosty Paws at Giant costs roughly 80 cents per serving, which is less than half a cup. The recipe below makes 8-12 servings (depending on size of cup) at about 45-30 cents each. Plus, they're easy treats for kids to help out with.

### Ingredients:

32 oz. plain yogurt

1 banana-smashed

2 tbsp. peanut butter

2 tbsp. honey

### Variations:

Add any pureed fruit

Use 1-2 jars of baby food fruit

Add Brewer's yeast (for a natural flea preventative)

### Directions:

Blend together ingredients.

Use a spoon to scoop the mixture

into cups (plastic bathroom

cups, Teflon muffin tins or

standard ice cube trays). If

desired, use chew sticks as

handles. Place on tray and

leave in freezer overnight.

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

SOURCE: THE INTERNET

©PATRICIA GAVIE PHOTOGRAPHY

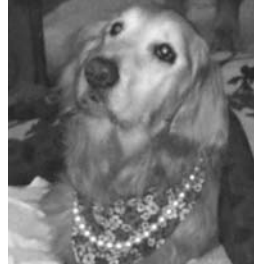


ATTEND AN EVENT WITH  
YOUR SPECIAL SENIOR





©CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE FURRY KIND



©CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE FURRY KIND



# Senior Golden Photo Tribute



©CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE FURRY KIND





# 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 sweet golden, Bailey, has a lot of personality and was quite obviously bored with the mundane tricks we taught him, like sit, give paw and rollover. We even tried to liven things up with spin and shake (his head not his paw). But he had other things in mind and taught us many tricks, including nudging the ball to us so we'd throw it and telling us when we forgot his treats. However, our favorite is his singing to "Whomp! There it is!" I have often thought of Letterman's Stupid Pet Tricks when he does this. It all started when I was painting the house five years ago and had the 5-disc CD changer playing the same CDs over and over. Bailey kept howling and I just figured it was the fire engine sirens outside. I soon realized it was the song, "Whomp! There it is!" Every time it plays, he

sings. It has gotten to the point where even if I sing it, he sings with me, but he won't sing any other song. He hits a few sour notes, but his voice has really improved over the years... He is quite serious about his singing career, but we always end up giggling—even after all these years."

- Diane Wolfe & Bailey

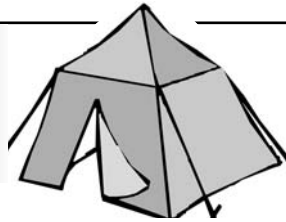
*Editor's note: This canine caper is in memory of Bailey, beloved pet of Diane Wolfe, a mentor to many foster dogs, especially Beau (98-023).*

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

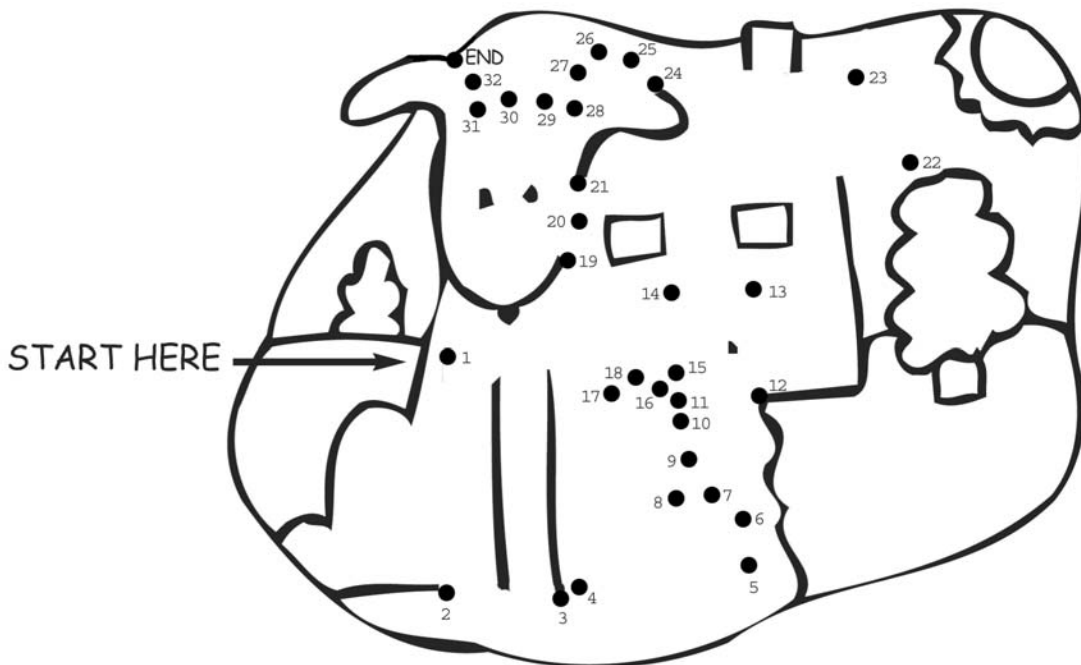
Whomp! There it is!  
Whomp! There it is!  
Whomp! There it is!  
Whomp! There it is!

Whomp! There it is! Whomp! There it is! Whomp! There it is! Whomp! There it is!

## THE PUP TENT



### CONNECT-THE-DOTS By Dara Fowler



## VOLUNTEER CORNER

### A BREED APART

Spotlight on a GRREAT Volunteer

*Trish Collier*

GRREAT foster mommy Trish Collier wasn't too busy last summer and decided she had the time and room to foster a dog. Little did she know, that decision would bring a special soul into her life.

At 70-something years young, Trish has enjoyed helping GRREAT over the years. Among her activities, she has fostered several senior dogs. "I am dedicated to taking older dogs. I just get so much joy from working with them," Trish said.

Trish responded to a call for a foster home for an elderly male dog. Zack was a 13-year-old GRREAT dog whose adoptive family could no longer care for him. He was very arthritic and could not climb the many stairs in his three-level home. No longer able to sleep in the bedroom with his people, he spent every evening whimpering at the bottom of the stairs.

Zack's vet felt that he had more quality days ahead of him if he could be placed in the right home. The GRREAT foster home network sprung into action, looking for a place with no stairs and room for an elderly gent.

Zack arrived at Trish's in June 2002. Barely able to walk, mostly deaf, and really depressed, Trish didn't imagine Zack had much time left. Boy, was she mistaken! By September, she and her Golden pal Sunny (92-098) had been totally charmed by their new friend. Now lovingly referred to as "Mr. Zacharias," Zack had begun to thrive in foster care.

She wrote the following report on his progress, "When my dogsitter's young son comes by to walk him and Sunny, Zack gets all excited and SMILEY, you just know he was used to having a boy or boys to play with in his younger days."

When he arrived, Zack could not walk two steps, but Trish got him conditioned to 1/2 mile walks each day. The quiet, friendly nature of her senior community allowed her to let Zack have rest stops along the way and gave him the chance to make many friends.

Zack thrived on the routine in Trish's home: the walks, the affection and the food! "I'm so glad I lucked out to be his longterm foster caregiver," Trish said. "He's family here."

A year later, Zack was still loving life with Trish and Sunny. It was time, however, for Trish to get a little special care of her own. She made the emotionally tough decision to ask for Zack to be placed in a new foster home.

Once again, GRREAT found a good home for Zack, who now enjoys his days with the Galpin family. "I am disappointed that I had to give Zack up, but so appreciative that GRREAT found him another good home."

Trish's volunteer days with GRREAT are not over. She reports that she's thinking of all the things she can still do, like help at adoption days and do home checks.

"It's such a wonderful organization," Trish said. Yes, Trish, a wonderful organization because of people like you!

*To find out more about fostering for GRREAT, contact one of our foster home assistants. In Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania contact Mary Ellen Rubenstein at [Mellen4@earthlink.net](mailto:Mellen4@earthlink.net); in Maryland, Delaware and Washington, DC contact Susan McKelvey at [susan@susanmckelvey.com](mailto:susan@susanmckelvey.com).*

*Special thanks to the Kurtz family for providing the newsletter with this piece.*

### Silent Auction Items Needed!

With Christmas not too far away, GRREAT is starting to collect items for its silent auction at the annual Howliday party on December 13th. If you have an item or service that you would consider donating or if you have some ideas, contact Kim Wiff at [president@grreat.org](mailto:president@grreat.org).

### Foster Homes Needed!

GRREAT wants to continue to do its best for all the Golden retrievers it takes in. However, we are still dreadfully short on foster homes. If you've been considering fostering, but haven't yet applied—now is a great time to help. Please contact Tom Janczuk at [tjanczuk@earthlink.net](mailto:tjanczuk@earthlink.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 (\$25 until 1/31/04)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

- Mark here if this is an address or name change

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

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mark as many as applicable:

- I am enclosing \$30 for my 2004 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:

# TOP TEN REASONS TO ADOPT A SENIOR GOLDEN

1. **Adulthood.** In most cases senior Golden Retrievers are well past the chewing and digging stages of life. They cause less destruction than puppies or younger dogs. They also have a longer attention span for training.

2. **Peace of mind.** Over 90% of older dogs are housebroken before they go to a second home. And an adult dog has a larger bladder and can go for longer periods of time without relief.

3. **Experience.** Most senior Golden Retrievers have been socialized with other animals. They can provide an example and a calming influence to younger dogs.

4. **Tolerance.** Older Golden Retrievers are good first dogs for children because they are patient with tail-tugging and rough petting. They'll walk away from a playing child rather than hurt him.

5. **Companionship.** Senior dogs don't demand constant watchfulness and attention. They're content just to be in the same room while family members are working or relaxing. A Golden oldie will be just as happy with a sedate walk as with intense exercise.

6. **Dignity.** Senior Golden Retrievers are generally calmer than young dogs; they won't scare small children or the elderly by jumping up to greet them.

7. **Adaptability.** An adult dog will adapt more easily to changes in your household, such as a new baby, relatives or guests visiting, or being left alone for long periods of time.

8. **WYSIWYG (What you see is what you get).** A senior dog is fully grown, and most of its health history is known (hereditary diseases, arthritis, hip dysplasia are some). There are no guesses about how big it will get, whether it will bark a lot, or what its energy level will be.

9. **Personality.** A senior dog arrives with its own set of likes (soft places, belly rubs, tennis balls) and dislikes (cauliflower, squirrels, vacuum cleaners), and each one is different. Discovering all the facets of a senior's personality makes life with them truly enjoyable.

10. **Memories.** Even if you have a senior as part of your life for only a few years, the days and the adventures you share are precious. The love you receive will more than compensate for the sadness of eventually losing such a wonderful companion.

PHOTO © SHARON EIDE AND ELIZABETH FLYNN/ SANDEPHOTO.COM



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Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

GRREAT BEGINNINGS



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