



GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc. • September/October 2006 • Vol. 17, No. 5

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My Miss Kelly and Pet Partners® The Human-Animal Health Connection at INOVA Fairfax Hospital

By Meg Ellacott, GRREAT Contributing Writer

OK, so I'm the proud Mom. I can't help it...it's true...let's get that out of the way right off the bat! Kelly is doing an amazing job as a Therapy Dog for INOVA Fairfax Hospital's Pet Partners Program. I wrote about Kelly's being accepted in my last article and thought I would catch you up on how it's going.

After a month of workshops, tests, vet visits, TB shot and hospital security procedures, Kelly and I were finally ready for our first visit as part of the Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) Pet Partners® Program at Fairfax Hospital. You may have seen our Program Director, Leslie Horton on Fox 5 News the end of April and/or on Animal Planet. There are approximately 15 dogs and their handlers who are currently part of this volunteer program at Fairfax Hospital – during evaluations Kelly was one of just two dogs to be chosen so far this year to be a part of the program.

Our first visit: Kelly came to me via GRREAT, already trained not to jump

on beds or couches. I thought this might be a problem when I learned that often the patients want the dogs on the bed with them. When Kelly met her first patient, she looked at me and instinctively knew that she should



jump up on that bed (not an easy feat for a slightly overweight golden.) Somehow Kelly just knew that this patient needed some extra TLC. I looked

down at her to say it was OK and she jumped right up and curled next to this woman to give her lots of love and support. The bond shared between the two of them was something to behold. There was another time when a stroke patient could barely move, but seeing Kelly brought the slightest of smiles to his face. Well, I walked out of there all teary and again was just so proud of my girl.

Since that day Kelly and I have worked with mostly stroke patients, head traumas, and heart/lung transplant recovering patients. Sometimes

Continued on Page 14

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

P.O. Box 3069, Falls Church, VA 22043-0069
Phone: 703-620-6593 • Web site: www.grreat.org

GRREAT, Inc. is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) all-volunteer organization dedicated to the rescue, foster care, and placement of Golden Retrievers in Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, Delaware and parts of Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

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Letter From The President

By Kim Wiff, GRREAT President

Dear Friends:

I have never liked going to an animal shelter. Those of you who have done this know that a visit there is often heartbreaking and distressing. The looks on many of the faces of the dogs there is truly unforgettable. In the shelters, these dogs take up space--for a few days at least--at least until they are adopted, or sadly and unfortunately euthanized to make room for other dogs who are coming into the shelter. Clearly, many owners who relinquish dogs to rescues or shelters have legitimate reasons for doing so. Family illness, relocation, allergies, death, divorce, or other crises can force surrender of a beloved pet. Just as clearly, many others give a dog up because it does not meet their needs or because they have created a maniac because they failed to teach the very basic of things to their dog.

Currently about 25% of the dogs that are at the shelters are purebred, and they are often the first dogs to be adopted. Interesting to me, is that 67% of the purebred dogs in shelters are reclaimed by their owners and with mixed-breeds, the number goes down to 41%. There are many shelters who will contact rescue groups like

GRREAT when purebred dogs come in, hoping we will be able to take them, and give the mixes who cannot be accepted by some groups the chance to be adopted. Today, as you know there are thousands of people involved in rescue of virtually every breed, including mixes, who are relieving some of the pressure on the shelters and giving dogs a second or third chance with a family who cares about them.

Many people who are involved in rescue started out as breeders and exhibitors. This was how GRREAT began. Mary Louise Gabrielle and Peggy McCurdy in 1982-1983, were the heart and soul of our first rescue efforts, which lasted just over two years. Eventually their desire to help Golden Retrievers in our area and hard work paid off with the support from the Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club (PVGRC) and other members of the club which included Chris Zink, Pat Scahill, Carol Windsor, and Sue Armstrong. Together they laid the groundwork for GRREAT by creating a constitution, bylaws, and incorporation which laid a foundation for the rescue that remains intact today. 🐾

2007 GRREAT Calendars are on Sale!

You can now purchase the 2007 GRREAT wall calendar, which includes 13 full-colored photos of our wonderful rescued goldens. The calendars are available at www.grreat.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 \$12. A special thanks to everyone who submitted photos, to Beth Gill and Sandy Diamond for coordinating the project, and to Kim Wiff and Julie Palais for their help in judging the pictures.



Foster Corner – Straight From the Mouth’s of Foster Homes

Part 3

By Allison Ward, Foster Home Coordinator


In my last two columns I asked several people why they became foster homes for GRREAT, and what they like best about it. In this final installment, I asked them what they find most challenging. I hope some of the insights shared over the past several months will inspire you to consider becoming a GRREAT foster home – we are always in desperate need!

1) Walking 3 dogs at once. At times, we get all tangled and it’s like “Keystone Kops”. 2) Figuring out the foster dog’s personality and making it “work” with our schedule. 3) Talking to all the interested adopters who really want the Golden and calling those back who didn’t get picked and telling them he/she went to another forever home. – Lynda & Bob Hunt

1) That wet cold nose waking you up at 5am to go outside. 2) Teaching a new foster not to chase the cat. 3) Saying goodbye when they get adopted, it’s always hard to see a good friend leave. – Jane Salter

1) Dealing with my own dogs’ reaction to a newcomer in the house. 2) Sometimes having to deal with less desirable behaviors of a foster dog. 3) Having a hard time trying to pick only one family, from so many deserving ones – Trish & Chuck Thomas

1) Getting too attached to some of the fosters (what do you mean I can’t keep them all?!!!). 2) Finding appropriate homes for the harder-to-place fosters (i.e., those with severe anxiety or less desirable behavior issues). 3) Turning down interested adopters if they are not the best home for a particular foster. – Jan Brown

The absolute most challenging thing about being a foster home is when there are health problems or when you lose a foster animal. The hurt isn’t any easier just because the animal isn’t “yours.” The first time I lost a kitten I sobbed for days. Now that we have Jedi, a GRREAT golden, who is terminal, I am blessed that he’s here with me for the time he has left. - Rachel & Pete Bagnulo 

Doggie Definitions

LEASH: A strap which attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your person where you want him/her to go.

DOG BED: Any soft, clean surface, such as the white bedspread in the guest room or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.

DROOL: Is what you do when your persons have food and you don’t. To do this properly you must sit as close as you can and look sad and let the drool fall to the floor, or better yet, on their laps.

SNIFF: A social custom to use when you greet other dogs. Place your nose as close as you can to the other dog’s rear end and inhale deeply, repeat several times, or until your person makes you stop. This can also be done to human’s crotches.

GARBAGE CAN: A container which your neighbors put out once a week to test your ingenuity. You must stand on your hind legs and try to push the lid off with your nose. If you do it right you are rewarded with margarine wrappers to shred, beef bones to consume and moldy crusts of bread.

BICYCLES: Two-wheeled exercise machines, invented for dogs to control body fat. To get maximum aerobic benefit, you must hide behind a bush and dash out, bark loudly and run alongside for a few yards; the person then swerves and falls into the bushes, and you prance away.

DEAFNESS: This is a malady which affects dogs when their person wants them in and they want to stay out. Symptoms include staring blankly at the person, then running in the opposite direction, or lying down.

THUNDER: This is a signal that the world is coming to an end. Humans remain amazingly calm during thunderstorms, so it is necessary to warn them of the danger by trembling uncontrollably, panting, rolling your eyes wildly, and following at their heels.

WASTEBASKET: This is a dog toy filled with paper, envelopes, and old candy wrappers. When you get bored, turn over the basket and strew the papers all over the house until your person comes home.

...to be continued in the next issue of GRREAT News

ADOPTION REPORT

For the period of June 12 through August 18, 2006, 44 goldens found their forever home. Of these, 16 were age 2 or less, 17 were between the ages of 3 and 6, and 11 were over age 7. Congratulations to all.

Name	#	Age	Sex
Abe	06-131	2	M
Ally	06-089	4	F
Amber	06-087	6	F
Andy	05-261	4	M
Bennett	06-068	9	M
Britta	06-116	4	F
Brittany	06-006	8	F
Brody	06-129	1	M
Bruno	06-016	8mo	M
Buck	06-092	3	M
Bullet/Buc	06-119	4	M
Buster	05-175	11	M

Name	#	Age	Sex
Butkis	06-070	7	M
Cate	06-090	4	F
Chance	06-084	2	M
Chewie	06-112	1	M
Cinnamon	06-136	4	F
Clyde	06-121	2	M
Cody	06-065	5	M
Cody	06-088	6	M
Cookie	01-096	6	F
Daisy	06-113	5	F
Dakota	06-094	7mo	F
Drake	06-093	3	M
Ginger Snap	06-049	10mo	F
Ginger	05-188	8	F
Griffin	06-114	1	M
Hunny	06-036	8mo	F
Jax	06-104	7	M
Jodie	06-046	6	F

Name	#	Age	Sex
Liberty	06-076	1	F
Lindy	06-126	1	F
Max	06-099	1	M
Max	06-115	2	M
Molly	06-100	10	F
O'so	06-109	10	M
Phoebe	06-081	6	F
Rusty	06-055	9	M
Samantha	06-117	11	F
Scooter	06-066	1	M
Sipriana	06-125	10	F
Sugar	06-086	1	F
Sydney	06-098	6	F
Tucker	06-105	3	M

ADOPTION DAY DIRECTIONS

Saturday, September 9, 2006

Noon - 2pm

Petco
10383 Reisterstown Road
Owings Mills, Maryland
410-581-9888

Take I-95 North toward Baltimore. Take exit #49B onto I-695 North toward I-70/Towson. Go 10 miles and take exit #19 onto I-795 North. Take exit #4/Owings Mills Blvd. North toward Reisterstown Rd. Turn right toward Reisterstown Rd. Go 0.1 miles and turn right on Reisterstown Road (MD-140). Petco will be on the left.

Saturday, October 7, 2006

Noon - 2pm

Petco
9230-B Old Keene Mill Road
Burke, Virginia
703-455-2007

Take I-95 South to I-495 West toward Silver Spring. Take exit #57A onto I-95 South toward Richmond. Take ramp onto Old Keene Mill Road[VA-644] - go 5.1 miles and Petco will be on the right.

Saturday, November 4, 2006

Noon - 2pm

Petco
15461 Excelsior Drive
Bowie, Maryland
301-805-4447

Take MD-295 North to US-50 East toward Annapolis/Richmond. Take exit #11/MD-197 onto Collington Road [MD-197] toward Bowie - go 0.7 miles. Turn on Northview Drive - go 0.2 miles. Turn on Excelsior Drive - go 0.1 miles and Petco will be on the left.

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

GRREAT Golden Retrievers in the News

COPPER (00-278), who owns Andy and Barbara Becker, was featured in the May 11, 2006 issue of Sykesville/Elderburg Gazette (www.gazette.net), was the one of the Family Pets in the April 19, 2006 issue of The Advocate of Eldersburg and Sykesville (eldersburgadvocate.com), and then was featured in the Advocate's July 12, 2006 issue. Copper is a Pets on Wheels volunteer, and he has worked for the past year and a half at Copper Ridge. Copper loves people of all ages and loves his Thursday visits to the Alzheimer's/dementia unit of the facility. When Andy and Copper arrive, Andy puts a bandana on Copper and hands him his own leash. With leash in mouth, Copper walks through the automatic doors, goes up to the front desk for a treat, and then makes his rounds. His visits are eagerly awaited by the residents. One woman told Andy that she had been afraid of dogs her entire life, but she is not afraid of Copper.



RUBY TUESDAY (05-213) was featured in the August 3, 2006 issue of the Catholic Review (www.catholicreview.org), highlighting her service as a Pets On Wheels volunteer. According to Ruby's humans, Don and Lyn Brock, "Many truly consider Ruby's weekly visits to see them at the Total Care Center at Oakcrest, to be the highlight of their week. There are some with no family or friends left and who have few or no other visitors at all. Ruby does seem to remember all, and eagerly wants to spend and share her time there with everyone. A truly special



elderly lady with advanced dementia had not raised her head or acknowledged anyone or anything - until Ruby approached her in an early visit. The woman raised her head off her chest and put her hand out onto Ruby's head. It was almost a miracle, to see this very emotional event. We love Ruby, and thank everyone at GRREAT for helping us find each other."

Auction Items Needed

It's never too early to start thinking about the Winter Holiday Season. Mark your calendars for the 2006 Annual Howliday Party to be held at The Great Frederick Fairgrounds on December 10. We're starting our collection for Silent Auction Items now. So think about contributing holiday items, certificates for services, tickets to events, time at your vacation home, specialty baskets, Golden Retriever novelty items etc. We prefer items that can be mailed unless you bring it to the party. All donations should be received by December 2. Anyone wishing to donate items should contact Pam Ambrose at Goldenshu@aol.com, Kim Wiff at president@grreat.org, or Betsy Bake at eabbake@aol.com. 🐾

We Need Your Email

The most cost-effective way for us to stay in touch with you is by e-mail. We use your e-mail address to send you periodic updates and other messages from the rescue.

Please help us keep our records accurate. Send any e-mail updates to mail-admin@grreat.org. We do not share e-mail (or mailing) addresses with any other organizations.

Please note that we have ongoing problems reaching AOL e-mail addresses. Although we comply with anti-SPAM laws, AOL routinely refuses to deliver our messages. 🐾

Being a Leader

By Jo Bighouse

Bringing a recycled golden into your home is a wonderful experience, which can also bring some not-so-wonderful challenges. Many of our GRREAT dogs have not been trained, some have been mistreated in their previous life and some have had minimal human interaction. They do not know what is expected of them and may find ordinary household events frightening. All dogs need a consistent, loving environment with clear rules and expectations. It is especially important for dogs with fears and a troubled past to be able to look towards their owner as the leader.

It is human nature to want to coddle these sweet goldens who have been treated unfairly in their previous life. We look at those sad brown eyes and think about what they must have endured. And they are so appreciative of our love. But for these goldens to feel comfortable and confident, they need us to give them consistent signals and have consistent expectations. To allow them to pull us down the street during a walk, jump on the counter, jump on people, or in general have bad canine manners, is actually doing our beloved goldens a disservice.

When you bring a dog into your home he becomes part of your “pack.” As a pack animal he expects someone to be a leader. In your home the humans must be the leaders. But if the humans of the family do not step up to that role the dog will feel obligated to take over. It is a survival instinct that is hard-wired into the canine psyche. A household is not a natural environment for a canine leader so this role will actually cause the dog much stress. Separation anxiety, pacing, vocalizing, inappropriate elimination, destruction, and many other unacceptable behaviors are often the result of a dog who has been forced to take over as the “alpha” when his people did not.

When you think of yourself as the leader, think of the type of person you would feel confident following. A leader does not dominate, abuse, force, or intimidate. A leader lets you know exactly what is expected and those expectations do not change from day-to-day. Imagine having a boss who encouraged you to take a one-hour lunch break on Monday but reprimanded you for taking a one-hour lunch break on Tuesday. This is what your dog feels when you allow behaviors one day but scold him for the same thing on another day. Such as jumping on you

is OK but jumping on visitors is wrong. We must be consistent in our expectations.

We often ignore good behavior and focus on the negative. When training your dog it is important to catch your dog doing the right thing and let him know you are pleased. At my house, my youngest golden, Sara, used to jump on the counter to see what was being put in her bowl. Each time I would tell her, “NO” in a deep voice, “off” in a regular voice and use my body language to show her I wanted all of her feet on the floor. The instruction was given only once and I would not touch her. I let her know with my demeanor that I was serious and expected her to follow my command. The minute the fourth foot hit the floor I told her what a wonderful, polite dog she was. This would elicit her big golden smile and wagging tail. It was obvious she was very happy to have pleased me. And I made it obvious I was pleased with her. It didn’t take long for her to sit politely with the other 6 goldens while I prepared breakfast. But at times, if I am fixing something especially tasty, I can see it is taking every ounce of her composure to sit quietly. When this occurs I acknowledge her restraint by telling her what a wonderful, polite dog she is and she will again give me her big golden smile and wag her tail.

Having rules and expectations should not be confused with domination. Harsh techniques like the “alpha roll” are scary for the dog and can be dangerous to the owner if the dog feels the need to defend himself. Training should occur every day as a natural part of the interactions with your dog. Teach him to look at you by consistently rewarding him with a treat or verbal praise when he makes eye contact on command. Reward him when he sits for his meals, waits before going through a door, stays off the counter. It will not take long before he realizes that following your rules pays off with tasty treats and praise. And he will be a happier dog for it.

GRREAT member Jo Bighouse is the proprietor of Midas Touch Naturally Healthy Pets, LLC. She is a member of the Organic Trade Association, Flower Essence Society, Animal Wellness Association, and Association of Pet Dog Trainers. 🐾

DONATIONS

Thank you for your donations...

Jo Bighthouse
Elizabeth Crane
Ricki Ernest
Janis Foshay
Heather Gaetano
Kelly & John Iffland
Elke Jack
Alice and Robert Krobock
Diane Lanigan
Jeffrey Smith

In Memory Of...

Joe Cassizzi. - Sara Moran

Enclosed is a check from the proceeds from a garage sale that we have in our neighborhood yearly. Please use it wherever is the greatest need. In memory of our granddaughter Madeline Rose Hunter (age 21 mos.) who died in Aug 2005. - Kathy and Wayne Hunter

Enclosed is a donation to GRREAT in memory of Opie, our GRREAT adoption sweetheart. Opie recently passed away after a brief vicious illness wore him out and took him away from us way too soon. Opie was originally renamed Snuggles by his foster family for his loving and sweet personality. There wasn't a day that went by that we didn't realize how accurate that characterization was for him. As you can imagine, we miss him terribly and he is equally missed by his soul mate "brother" that we adopted last year, Archie. They played incessantly and sometimes when things got just a little too rough, Opie would make it perfectly clear to Archie who was in charge. We will forever be indebted to you and GRREAT for bringing us such joy in Opie. We will always wish we had more time with him, but we will trea-

sure our memories and the love he shared. - Arthur and Joanne Lehrer

Molly. The Pasterick's first Golden, Molly taught us how to be better humans. Pretty Molly, you will forever be in our hearts. - Emily Pasterick

Enclosed please find a check to be used by your association in memory of Joe Cassizzi. - Frances Krause

Joe Cassizzi. - Mary and William Abell

Joe Cassizzi. - Gino and Gretchen Cioffi

My nephew's dog, Roxie, who went to the Rainbow Bridge on May 24, 2006. Although she wasn't a golden, she had a heart of gold and was a very sweet girl. She will be greatly missed. - Greg and Linda Sowers

My sister's dog, Bailey Moore Sutthoff passed away June 16. Bailey came from your group. I'm enclosing a donation in her memory. - Constance Sutthoff Kelly

Kipling, a great and wise and mannerly golden and a great neighbor. - Patty and Bob Means

The Miller's faithful companion Sam. - Douglas Simmons and Connie Johansen

Kris Heldt. Sunshine Pet Care gives their deepest sympathy to Buffy and family for the loss of their 15 1/2 year old golden Kris. Although her passing has broken their hearts, they are very

grateful for all the wonderful years Kris made their lives so special. They thank Kris for her devotion and love. - Sunshine Pet Care (Sandra Boyko)

Aspen. - Joseph and Dorothy Feldman

Curtains, Jake, Abby, Briney and Chester. - Dale and Louise Gibson

Our Golden Lady Dynamite. She brightened our lives for 15 1/2 years. We miss her! - Wendy Beyer

Joe Cassizzi. - Ronald & Karen Vida

Mildred Wilfong who passed earlier this year. - Estelene & Cara Wilfong

Jane Carter, Reston VA. - Engelbert & Bonnie Roth

Joe Cassizzi. - Cara Mar Condominium Assoc.

Lucy Bosley, a truly giving and loving dog who gave as much as she received. Lucy passed away on June 12, 2006 as a result of Stage 4 Lymphoma. - Ann Marie & Richard Simmons

Sadie (94-155), who crossed the Rainbow Bridge on 5/26/06. We miss her very much, she was our pal. - Jane Smith

In honor and memory of Montana, our most wonderful golden from GRREAT. We were blessed to have him. Chase squirrels, ride in car, and swim to your heart's content. We love you and miss you, good boy. - Carol Copeland

Levi, who died quickly and unexpectedly from an autoimmune deficiency. He was only six years old. He was my sister Vicki's dog and she loved him very much. - Cindy Conard

DONATIONS

Dallas. A great friend to the neighborhood kids! - Shari Wolfe

To celebrate our birthday and adoption (7-17-06), we would like to make this donation in memory of our sister Cally. She passed into everlasting life just one year ago (7-24-05). Cally taught our Mom about love and goodness wrapped up in a Golden Retriever.

A poem written by Mom & inspired by her niece, our cousin, Sydney Cantor.

For Cally...

Although we never met you,
We know you through our Mom.
We would have loved each other,
And had great times running strong.
We've heard a lot about you,
But there's more we want to know.
We're sure you're watching over us,
Each day as we grow.
Please wait for us at Rainbow Bridge,
For someday we'll be there.
And then we will all be complete,
Angels with Golden hair.

With love from 2 GRREAT pups,
Cate and Ally Daner

P.S. Thank you Jessie, Lucinda, & Allison for finding our "forever home" and guiding Mom & Dad. We will tell everyone we know about the GRREAT things you do. - Judy and Steve Daner

Corporate Giving

Microsoft Giving Campaign,
Employee matching donation – from
Bob and Carolyn Reagle (for the Leo
Fund)

CSC Employee Campaign, Employee
matching donation
- from Kim and Don Dawson

Leo's Corner

GOLDEN ANGELS (\$500 & MORE)

Jim and Ginny Hayes

For Chassidy and Polar Bear. - Joe
O'Neill, Walt Atha

GOLDEN HEROS (\$100 TO \$499)

I want to help dogs that need special surgery. Here's a donation to THE LEO FUND. I would like for this donation to be used specifically to help pay the medical costs for any GRREAT dog in need. - Jeanne O'Donoghue

LEO'S PALS (UP TO \$99)

My friend, Katherine Wallace, lost her sweet girl yesterday. Hannah was such a wonderful girl and a true joy to be around. She gave birth to my baby, Chance, who I lost 2 years ago. We'll never forget and will always be grateful for the time we had with her. May God bless her and keep her until we see her again at the rainbow bridge. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. - Love Brandy, Jason, and Sammy Tapman

In Honor Of...

Dedicated to Amber. - Sheila and Al
Vertino

Shira Modell's Birthday! - Lynn Bufka

Mary and Ken Collings' Retrievers.
- Brian Robey

Dusty. - Jonathan Gordon

Jamie & Jeremy Appenzeller. - Family
Veterinary Clinic

Sandy Kowalski's birthday. Sandy has
been involved in the golden retriever

breed and I though a birthday
donation in honor of her birth-
day would be perfect. - Deb
Matthews

Diane and John Hein, for their
loving work of fostering. -
Bertha Hein

Patricia Miles' birthday. - Mark
Hattan

"Belle" . - Marie Donnelly,
Debbie Haller

Max (06-115). Our lives are
enriched through our association
with GRREAT. Samson (99-
061) whom we've loved since
July 4, 1999, and Max (06-115), a
bundle of affection and energy,
along with Rosie, the matriarch
of this Golden-centered family,
are proof that there is a God
that rains blessings on us daily.
We've adored the other Goldies
we've fostered and look forward
to welcoming more as opportu-
nities and circumstances make
possible. The GRREAT Board
and volunteers rock! - Diana
and Doug HELLINGER

Rusty. – Russell and Barbara
Stephens

For Special Reasons

Proud parents of Ben - adopted
from GRREAT in December
2002. Sorry we let our mem-
bership lapse! - Jeff and Kristin
Walker

I'd like to make a donation to
GRREAT for medical expenses
for Benny (06-074). - Emily
Pasterick

DONATIONS

We have fostered for GRREAT in the past but we have 3 rescue dogs now and aren't able to foster. God Bless you all for the good work you are doing! - John and Diane Chaney

Donation towards Brittany's vet expenses. - Alice Jaeger

Please accept this check to be used for all the "great" work you do. Thanks! - Sarah Allworth

I've been sewing on more scout patches-here are two more checks. - Hilary Stanhope, Kathi Rechsteiner

I am writing to thank you for the wonderful work your organization does. Last week I had two apparently stray and abandoned Golden Retrievers show up at my door. I am not sure how they picked my house since it is in the middle of the woods and not close to much of anything. I can only suspect that they somehow knew I owned a Golden and would try to help them. I fed them for a couple of days, but knew they needed more help than just food and water. They were very gentle and seemed to be starved for attention; however, my Golden didn't seem too fond of them. I wasn't sure where to turn for help, but remembered seeing your website when I was looking to get my puppy a little over a year ago. I had called animal control, but didn't like the sound of what may happen if they came to get the dogs. I left a message on your answering machine and received a call from one of your volunteers who said they would make arrange-

ments to have someone come and get the dogs later that same evening. I was sad to see them go, but knew they would be getting the care they needed. I learned a few days later from the volunteer that had come to get them that after taking them to the vets one was in very bad shape with a large cancerous tumor and had to be put down. Although this made me very sad, I was glad that he at least had a few days at the end where he knew someone cared and that he did not have to die alone out in the woods. I also understand that the female dog was doing okay except for the loss of her companion. I am enclosing a check to help with the expenses associated with their rescue. I only wish there was more I could have done. I still can't believe people can just abandon a pet, it makes me so angry. Thank heavens there are organization like yours. - Cindy Wesolowski

Berry, a stray, was found along a roadside on one of the hottest days this past June. A kind man took Berry to a vet, where they learned Berry was heartworm positive. I was contacted about Berry and arranged for my friend and fellow golden lover, Marta Spry, to keep Berry while we weighed the options. Sadly, the disease had progressed to the point that Berry was in the final stages of heart failure. We tried to make him comfortable his last days. Although Berry was probably a golden mix, his personality was all golden. He met, and touched, many people in his last weeks. It was a sad day when the decision to let him go was made, but knowing the last weeks of his life were spent with people who cared for him brought comfort to us. - Jim Wilmoth

For Guido's (06-108) teeth. - Chris Evert

Donation in lieu of reimbursement for Jackson's obedience class (06-019). - Anthony & Samantha Durso

Simile-Finale Fund

In memory of two Golden Retrievers, Simile & Finale for which the Simile Finale Fund is named for. The donation is to be used to "keep the fund going." - Elizabeth Oberdorfer

I would like to make a donation in memory of Joe Cassizzi. - Alethea Patten

In loving memory of Maddie Jack, a GRREAT dog adopted in 1991 who for over 15 years brought much joy to everyone she met but especially to her owner mom Eva. She will always be lovingly remembered as the princess she really was, a wonderful companion and the perfect therapy dog. She will be missed but never forgotten. Thank you for all the GRREAT work you do to help golden retrievers live the life they deserve. - Heidi Jack

For Peaches

Peaches' story really touched my heart. I hope this check will help defray her medical expenses, at least for a little while. Keep up the GRREAT work! Peaches' foster parents are angels. - Robin Graham

I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for Peaches. - Catherine Campbell

Care for Peaches. - Carol and David Yates

For Peaches. - Eileen Bennett

For Peaches' food. - Jessie Robinson

Dog-A-Poolooza-Swimfest in Middleburg, VA

Come join us for a dog filled pool-day to benefit GRREAT!!

WHEN: September 16th, From 1-4 PM

WHERE: Northern Virginia Animal Swim Center
35469 Millville Road, Middleburg, VA

*For directions & more information about the Animal Swim Center visit:
<http://www.nvasc.com/>

CONTESTS: GRREATest (dog) Swim-Suit, Retrieving, Raffles, & More!

COST: \$10 per dog & \$5 for additional dogs.

Free instruction provided if your pup has never been swimming.

QUESTIONS: Contact Kim Wiff: president@grreat.org or 703-724-4853

Come enjoy a day in the beautiful horse country of Middleburg Virginia and support GRREAT!



Renew Your Membership Now for 2007

It is time to renew your GRREAT membership for 2007.

We rely on membership dues, donations, and fund-raising to operate. Your \$30 membership dues keeps this newsletter coming to your mailbox every two months and will help us save more Golden Retrievers in 2007.

To renew, please visit our online membership center at http://www.grreat.org/online/mbr_center.htm

Or, simply clip and complete the membership renewal form on page 19 of this newsletter. Be sure to include your current mailing and e-mail addresses. Mail the form along with a check for \$30 (payable to GRREAT) to: GRREAT, PO Box 3069, Falls Church VA 22043.

If you have any questions about your membership status, please send a note to Jill Kurtz, membership coordinator at memberships@grreat.org or at the mailing address above.

We hope that you will continue to be a part of our GRREAT family!

Thank You!

Weber's Pet Supermarket
14508-G Lee Highway
Chantilly, VA
703-631-2738
....for a donation of dog food

Ruth Chase
The Coventry School Inc.
For Dogs and Their People
7165 A-F Oakland Mills Rd.
Columbia, MD
410-381-1800
....for hosting Einstein and Rocket at doggy daycare



Misty (04-178) Meier-Rogers takes time out to charge her battery. She joined the Rogers/Meier household in December of 2004 and is now 4 years old. Misty loves life and everything that moves, especially frogs!

Pick of the Litter: Jake (05-160)

Spotlight on a special Golden in need of a special someone

By Emily Pasterick, Contributing Writer

One long year ago, in September 2005, GRREAT took in a now 7-year-old Golden Retriever named Jake from a family who found themselves unable to support the care for his severe allergic condition and ear infections. An initial medical evaluation revealed that his poor body was overmedicated with antibiotics, antihistamines, allergy shots, and steroids, such that his immune system was not able to function properly. Despite these medications, Jake still licked and scratched his skin so much that he needed to wear an Elizabethan collar all the time.

Jake's rehabilitation priority, therefore, was the detoxification of his body from all of the chemicals; the second priority was to diagnose his allergies more precisely so that a medically sound and wholesome treatment regimen could be determined. Once his health was stabilized, then GRREAT could focus on the more important task of moving Jake into a forever home. It is at this stage that Jake waits.

As with any profound and dramatic change in body chemistry, there was an "aesthetically" strong reaction in Jake – most of his fur fell out, and he was left with large patches of dry, red skin all over his body. He was understandably uncomfortable and miserable – but relief was coming.

Extensive (and expensive) allergy testing was conducted, and it was determined that Jake is allergic to cotton, carrots, flax seed, and more, which meant that significant exposure to most dogbeds and dog foods would be a problem. Additionally, Jake tested positive for hypothyroidism, which can exacerbate skin issues. Lastly, Jake is allergic to cats. Clearly, Jake's



environmental and medical treatment would need to be carefully administered and monitored. To facilitate this recovery, Jake was placed in Blue Ridge Veterinary Hospital, where he has received excellent care, and where he remains

It was here that I met Jake recently, armed with all the information about his miserable allergy issues and the mental photographic image of the "before" photos taken during his "detoxification period" (see http://www.grreat.org/doglist_special.htm), so even despite positive "after" photos, I was braced for a homely dog. Instead, I was greeted by a bouncing, fully-furred, energetic, gorgeous Golden straining to meet me on a short leash held by one of his rehabilitators, LaMae. He was so excited to be out of his kennel that we were in danger of disrupting the dogs and their owners in the lobby waiting to be seen, so we quickly made our way into LaMae's office for uninhibited introductions. Jake was clearly attached to LaMae, but responded readily to my call, and let me pet him all over while he wiggled around. He

has lively brown eyes that followed my movements in the hopes of a belly rub or tossed toy. He rolled over for the rub at every opportunity, and was so sweet and playful. With the exception of an area on his hip, there was barely a hint of the terrible fur loss that plagued him just months earlier, and LaMae spoke proudly of how far Jake has come since arriving at Blue Ridge. LaMae brought me a leash, and Jake and I promptly made our way outside for a little stroll on the sunny Blue Ridge grounds. The way Jake tore out of that office, I was sure that I was in for a herky-jerky walk requiring great arm strength – but Jake surprised me with a calm and curious approach, keeping in line with my stride even around an uncertain perimeter. During our quiet walk, I took in all that was Jake, and saw a precious Golden with a spirit confined for too long behind kennel walls and scratchy skin, restless and hopeful for "home" – the way a hung Christmas stocking with your name on it says, "this is yours; you are home." Our walk was short-lived, as was Jake's time with me, for technician duty called. Jake was placed back in his kennel, and when I leaned down for a final goodbye, I saw those hopeful eyes, and my heart broke a little.

Before I left the clinic, I spoke with LaMae about his diet and the kind of home she felt would serve him best. I expected her to detail a high-maintenance routine of food acquisition and preparation suited to Jake's dietary restrictions. However, the veterinarians and technicians at Blue Ridge conducted research to identify a high quality, low maintenance food source that would function well with Jake's allergy challenges. The search led to Innova Evo dog food, procured at a vet's office or the better pet stores. Evo is not particularly expensive as compared with other high-quality dog food brands,

Continued on Page 18

Emergency Animal Rescue: Volunteer Next Time

By Julie Palais

In the May/June 1999 GRREAT newsletter I wrote an article entitled "Hurricane Season is Coming: Are You Prepared?" (<http://www.grreat.org/news.htm>). This was long before Katrina and before most people had thought about disaster preparedness. With the 2005 hurricane season fresh in our minds and the 2006 season upon us we should all be thinking of how to prepare ourselves and our families (including the furry ones) for the inevitable "next time". In addition to donating money and supplies to those organizations that help out during disasters you can volunteer your time on the front lines if you have the necessary training, background and have made the necessary personal preparations.


The Red Cross, the premier disaster response organization in the U.S. does not do animal rescue and only provides for human members of the community. Family pets are not allowed in Red Cross shelters however in the future animal shelters will likely be co-located close to human shelters run by the Red Cross. Some states (e.g. Florida) already operate pet-friendly human shelters in some communities: <http://www.floridapets.net/petfriendlyshelters.html>.

United Animal Nations (UAN) and their Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS) (<http://www.uan.org/ears/index.html>) recently partnered with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), to better prepare communities to care for animals when disasters occur. The two groups have complimentary expertise and will train volunteers around the country this year, including a 2 day course in Washington, D.C. on November 18 & 19. Noah's Wish (<http://www.noahswish.org/>) an organization started in 2002 by Terri Crisp (originally involved with EARS) was actively involved in rescuing animals during Hurricane Katrina. Their courses are more "hands on" and

involve "in-field" courses that last for 3 days. Check out their web site for upcoming training dates and locations.

The Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS) (<http://www.hsus.org>) has Disaster Action Teams (DAT) and gives Disaster Action Response Training (DART) throughout the country. Information is available on the HSUS web site at the "Disaster Center". In early June the HSUS-sponsored the "National Conference on Animals in Disaster 2006- Learning From Katrina: A Commitment to the Future" in Arlington, Va. The meeting was a great success and was well attended. On Sat. June 3 an all-day FEMA certification workshop on the National Incident Management System (NIMS) was held. The workshop included discussions on the special issues of animals disaster response within NIMS and allowed all participants to become NIMS certified.

Last Spring the Animal Welfare League of Arlington hosted a two day training course given by the American Humane Association (AHA) for people who want to volunteer with their Animal Emergency Services (<http://www.americanhumane.org/site/PageServer>). The Animal Emergency Services Volunteer Training courses train volunteers to respond during disasters and use a combination of classroom and mock shelter set up practice activities.

Finally, please support the legislation that is before congress called the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS Act) of 2005 (S. 2548 & H.R. 3858) which requires state and local authorities to take into consideration the needs of individuals with pets and service animals in the event of a major disaster. To learn more look at the HSUS web site: https://community.hsus.org/campaign/FED_2006_PETS3?qp_source=gac4ly. 

Thanks to Our Volunteers	Adoption Day July 8, 2006 Petco - Annapolis	Adoption Day August 5, 2006 Petco - Alexandria	PVGRC Specialty Lunch August 20, 2006
	Wayne Hunter Kathy Thomas Al Rudman Lisa Hecker Kate Hall Barbara Boyd Prerna Kumar	Lucinda Twining Jeff Twining Marian Walsh Lisa Burke Carolyn Beyer Stef Nelson	Peter Peterson Andrea Peterson Janet White Ginny Schultz Al Rudman Duncan Pregnall

Kelly is a little shy, instinctively understanding how much pain the patient may be experiencing. In those cases, she's gentle and does not 'push it.' But usually, I gently place the patient's affected arm or hand on Kelly's head so we can test their ability to move the affected area. Or we'll try to test their cognitive abilities by just talking and asking a few questions. I then report back to my program leader who shares my therapy notes with patients' rehabilitation therapists.

It's not always easy, I don't have medical training and Kelly and I both have our good and bad days. But I can tell you, it's the most rewarding work I've ever done. Every time I leave that hospital, my heart is so warmed that I am almost brought to tears. I truly believe Kelly knows she's helped someone feel better that day. And that feels good...really good. That's what life's all about really, isn't it? Giving back and helping others?

If you want to give back by volunteering at the Fairfax Hospital and you think your dog has what it takes, contact the Pet Partners Program Leader Leslie Horton at 703.776.3536. Your golden should know the basic 'sit/stay' commands, have a calm, sweet demeanor, no jumping, no (unnecessary) barking and be able to handle some (slightly) stressful situations. You, the handler, will need patience to go through the steps to becoming certified and then accepted as a part of the Fairfax Hospital Auxiliary. But trust me...it's all worth it! 🐾

Preventing Heartworm Disease

By Sandy Diamond, Education Coordinator

I am currently fostering my third heartworm-positive dog in three years. GRREAT takes in between 10 and 15 HW+ dogs each year. This is very unfortunate because this is a very preventable disease.

When you adopt a GRREAT dog, you are given a month's worth of heartworm preventative (either Heartgard or Interceptor), so most of our readers have heard of heartworm. But most people don't actually know what this is, and the damage it can do to a dog.

Heartworms are transmitted to a dog by a mosquito bite. Worm larvae travel to the heart, begin to grow and develop into adult heartworms that begin to reproduce. Just as the name suggests, the worms live mostly in the heart and are usually about 6 inches long. As the disease progresses, it causes damage to the heart and lungs. Blood vessels become tortuous and dilated, blood clots and aneurysms can occur, and small blood vessels can become completely blocked. Fluid can develop around these blocked vessels and affect the useful lung tissue. The dog may eventually exhibit signs of exercise intolerance, coughing, shortness of breath, nosebleeds and/or a form of pneumonia. If the disease is left untreated, it will eventually be fatal (although a dog can live with heartworms for several years.)

The disease can be detected by several different types of blood tests and x-rays. It can take seven to 12 months for an infected dog to test positive. Unless a dog has

a very severe case of heartworm disease, it can usually be successfully treated. However, the treatment can be expensive, and can be painful and dangerous.

Heartworm treatment is done in two stages. First, the adult heartworms need to be killed. This is done with an intramuscular injection of an arsenic-based drug called Immiticide. Depending on the level of severity of the disease, two shots are given a day apart, or two or three shots are given a month apart. After receiving the injections, the dog must remain quiet for about four weeks. As the worms die, the dog's system will absorb them. However, physical exertion could cause the dead worms to dislodge, travel to the lungs and potentially cause death. Once the adult worms have been killed and absorbed into the dog's system, the baby worms (called microfilariae) are killed using a different drug (often ivermectin, the same drug used in regular heartworm preventative.) It can take up to four months to verify the heartworms are gone.

Although heartworm can be found in all 50 states, GRREAT's territory has a high infection rate for dogs that are not on preventative. As mentioned above, the treatment for the disease can be very expensive, between the drugs and all the vet visits required. And try keeping a golden quiet for four weeks! Keeping your dog on preventative (Heartgard or Interceptor) year-round is much easier and cheaper. Please pass the word to your friends and neighbors who have dogs. 🐾

Dear Dr. Grasso:

Q. My golden has allergies and is always itchy. He has been on multiple courses of antibiotics, anti-fungals and steroids. They clear up the problem for a short time, and then it all comes back again. Is there anything else I can do for my dog?

A. Allergies in dogs can be very complex and frustrating for both the pet guardian and the veterinarian. Though not usually life threatening, the patients can be quite uncomfortable if they are constantly itchy or inflamed. Golden Retrievers are particularly prone to allergies. They often show their allergies as hot spots, ear infections, or hair loss and itchiness.

Conventional medicines can have a temporary effect by suppressing symptoms of the allergy. As soon as these medicines are stopped though, the symptoms often reappear. The reason behind this is that the allergen (the cause of the allergy) is still in your pet's environment.

One of the first steps to treat allergies should be ensuring your dog is on the right food. A food allergy test (a blood test) can be done to narrow the choices of foods. With the variety of foods on the market, it can be like finding a needle in a haystack to find the right food. With the results of a food allergy test, a natural healthy food or home-prepared diet will be suggested.

If the allergies have been going on for some time, it can take weeks to see positive results after changing the diet. Most dogs will respond immediately to some extent. You will see an improvement in their general health as well.

Often fish oil or other fatty acids combined with herbs or antihistamines can be given to keep your pet comfortable in this adjustment period.

In Golden Retrievers, ruling out hypothyroidism with a complete thyroid profile is important. Hypothyroidism can also make your dog more susceptible to allergies.

Once your dog is adjusted to the new diet, homeopathic treatment can also help with allergies. When chosen and used correctly, homeopathic remedies can work to help your pet eliminate the allergy problem with only a few doses. Acupuncture can also help to relieve some of your dog's allergy symptoms.

Overall, an all-natural healthy diet is most important. By finding the cause and treating your dog holistically, hopefully your furry friend will be more comfortable and on fewer medications.

Dr. Pam Grasso, MS, DVM, CVA, practices at Ashburn Farm Animal Hospital (www.ashburnfarmvet.com), in Ashburn, VA. She practices both traditional veterinary medicine as well as holistic medicine including acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine, and is currently studying Homeopathy. 🐾

Calendar of Events

Dog-A-Palooza-Swimfest
Northern Virginia Animal Swim Center
35469 Millville Rd, Middleburg, VA
September 16, 2006
1pm-4pm
www.grreat.org

Virginia Scottish Games
Fort Ward Park, Braddock Rd, Alexandria, VA
September 16, 2006
9am-4pm
www.vascottishgames.org

Education Seminar – Reading your Dog's Body Language
All About Dogs, Inc.
14885 Persistence Dr., Woodbridge, VA
October 16, 2006
11am (Reservations required)
www.grreat.org
www.allaboutdogsinc.com

Barcstoberfest
Patterson Park, Baltimore, MD
October 21, 2006
11am-6pm
www.baltimoreanimalshelter.org

Winchester SPCA Adoption Day
115 Featherbed Lane, Winchester, VA
October 21, 2006
10am-3pm
www.winchesterspca.org

GRREAT Dog Walk
Weber's Pet Supermarket
11021 Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA
November 11, 2006
10am
www.grreat.org

Howliday Party
Great Frederick Fairgrounds
Frederick, MD
December 10, 2006
www.grreat.org

Letters to GRREAT

Dear GRREAT,

Happy Birthday, Jefferson (96-108). Doesn't he look grreat? Six months ago our family moved to beautiful Venice, FL. On our first visit to the new vet, Jeff weighed an embarrassing 88.4 lbs. I sadly explained that his health issues (hip displasia, arthritis and epilepsy) were taking their toll on his spunk I thought would last forever. He no longer could take our long walks or play soft Frisbee. Dr. Garner admonished me, "If you really want to help Jefferson you'll get this weight off him." The doctor said I would have a "new" dog and add years to his life.



Once again I set out with a new food and a new determination not to give in to those "hungry eyes" that goldens are famous for. The exercise issue solved itself. Jefferson discovered swimming in "his" pool is at the top of his lit of things to do. Once again we play fetch. Jefferson swims out to the tennis ball and actually "leaves it" at my side. Who said you can't teach an old dog new tricks? On our June visit to Dr. Garner, Jefferson weighed 68 lbs. The doctor was as thrilled as I was.

I believe Jefferson's 13th birthday will be his best. We're busy planning a pool party.

Love,
Ricki, Jefferson and Sissy Ernest

Dear GRREAT,

My beloved rescue Aspen (05-194) passed away last night, at nine years....

When I adopted him, he was a skinny 53 lbs, and you could see his skin and bones. His teeth were a wreck, he was at the threshold of kidney failure, and he had an irritable bowel. With a good diet the and love of the neighborhood, he astonished us by turning into a lovely dog. I am distressed I missed the Bark BQ, to show him off. God bless GRREAT for rescuing him.



I got into golden rescue to help dogs with medical needs, and I should not be surprised, but I am stunned to have had only six months or so with him. But it seems like we were together for years. He knew I loved him, but in the last few weeks, he showed me extra special love.

That massive storm last night, for me, was the passing of his soul - he was a giant of a dog in terms of his love - that sounds crazy, but that's the way I feel, and the freedom of fearing a storm ever again..., or fearing ever again. My boy, always pure and simple.

-Will Buklad

Hometown Hero

GRREAT member Connie Swanson was recently selected as a Hometown Hero by Commerce Bank for her contributions to education in Northern Virginia. Connie was also recently awarded the Presidential Citation for Outstanding Education by the Virginia Governors School for Humanities and Visual and Performing Arts. She has taught at Oak Hill Elementary School for 19 years. In her spare time she has been a foster home for GRREAT. Connie chose GRREAT to be the recipient of a \$500 donation from Commerce Bank in her honor. Thank you, Connie! 🐾

2006 GRREAT Beginnings Lead to Happy Endings 3K Walk

November 11, 2006

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/E-mail: _____

In case we need to contact you about your registration.

T-Shirt Size: Small Medium Large X-Large

Sorry, only adult sizes are available.

Registration Fee: \$12 (by November 1)
 \$15 (after November 1)

Please make all checks payable to GRREAT.

Waiver: Registrants and their accompanying family members, friends, and pets participating in the GRREAT Beginnings Lead to Happy Endings 3K Walk to be held in Fairfax, Virginia on Saturday, November 11, 2006 hereby assume full responsibility for the risk of bodily injury, death, or property damage, and hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue the City of Fairfax, Weber's Pet Supermarket, GRREAT, or their respective successors, assignees, officers, employees, and agents for any and all loss or damage therefore on account of injury to person or property, whether caused by negligence, breach of contract otherwise arising out of or resulting from any act of omission, while traveling to or participating in the 2005 GRREAT Beginnings Lead to Happy Endings 3K.

I have read and agree to the above waiver:

Signature

Please mail your completed registration to:

GRREAT

Attn: 3K Walk

P.O. Box 3069

Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

Thank you for your support!

Join the Fun at GRREAT's 3rd Annual 3K Walk

Preparations are under way for the annual GRREAT Beginnings Lead to Happy Endings 3K Walk. The walk is an important fundraiser, with all proceeds used to continue our rescue work.

This year's walk will be held on November 11 at Weber's Pet Supermarket in Fairfax, VA. The walk will begin at 10 a.m.

GRREAT is in need of sponsors to help cover the cost of this event.

We are looking for sponsors on several levels:

FRIEND OF RESCUE: for \$100, the person or business will be listed on the back of the event t-shirt that will be given to every walker.

RESCUE PARTNER: for \$300, the sponsor's name and/or logo will be carried on the shirt.

RESCUE ANGEL: for \$500, the sponsor will have their logo and name on the shirt, plus a table at the event to raise awareness on your services or products.

All sponsors will be named on the event flier, in GRREAT News, on our web site, and in all other publicity for this event.

GRREAT is also looking for items that can be awarded to walkers as door prizes.

To become a sponsor or to donate a door prize, simply send an e-mail to event coordinator Linda Kurtz at thekurtzes@yahoo.com.

For those of you interested in supporting this event as a walker, registration is \$12 before November 1 and \$15 afterwards. Please look on the web site, www.grreat.org, for more information as the walk gets closer. 🐾

Sunshine's RV Adventures: Alaska

Part III

Continued from Page 12

The next part of the trip found us at the Summit Canyon in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. We stayed on the side of the road marveling at the snow-covered mountains. Master would take me for a walk and of course I would do what champion Goldies would do, I would sniff to identify everything in the area. There was one smell I could not identify. The next morning my humans and their traveling partners were all excited about the bear prints on the side of the trash dumpster. The prints were from a bear that visited during the night. What is a bear? We traveled for about 175 miles that day and saw: moose, deer, goats, wild horses, bison, three red fox, and a small bear. Now I know what a bear is and no thank you very much! I arrived in the Yukon and saw a big bear this is too much, I don't want to meet any bears one-on-one.

I finally arrived in Alaska! I wonder if I'm the first Golden Retriever from GRREAT to travel to Alaska by RV? The trip from the border of the Yukon to Tok, Alaska was worse than the trip last year from St. John to Quebec. The area around Kluane Lake near Destruction Bay had 28 miles of gravel and construction. It took us almost two hours to drive the 28 miles. We followed (but not closely) some other motor homes while the semi-trucks flew past us with no regard for stone dings to the other vehicles. We expected a damaged windshield but got through it OK. Tok is one of the bigger cities on the AlCan. The town was about 1.5 miles long with the vast majority of the restaurants, gas stations, and other facilities closed.

On to Anchorage! Anchorage was wonderful! The campground had many wonderful smells and lots of trees. While I didn't see a bear, I did have a moose encounter of the first kind. While taking my master for a walk I started smelling something and when I looked up I was one foot from a moose. Of course my master not being conscious most of the time didn't realize what was going on and just kept on walking. He finally realized what was going on and was just

amazed at my encounter and talked about it for days.

Our first stop after Anchorage was Seward. My master and mistress are expert fishermen but really got carried away on this part of the trip. We ended up buying a small freezer for the back of the truck. Of course, guess who lost their space in the truck? They ended up with about 135 pounds of fish and I got none. There was something about the fat in salmon and how I smell after eating halibut.


We visited the towns of Soldotna, Homer, Keni, Anchorage, Denali Park, and Fairbanks. During the trip we saw grizzly bears, moose, caribou, elk, fox, sheep, bison, and mountain goats. It was a really fun but not as much fun as the moose encounter. Don't think I'll forget that one.

The stay in Alaska was three months. The first of September we started back down the AlCan for the "lower 48." At Dawson Creek we turned west and headed into Alberta, Montana and Wyoming.

While in Wyoming I learned about chickens. Let me tell you that was fun! Chickens are escape artists. One day the humans were trying to put them back into the coop; I thought it looked like fun and put my herding instincts to work. I rounded them up into a corner and stood guard while the folks put them back into the coop. I had to round them up a couple more times; I'm now labeled a Chicken Herder. After seeing all of my friends in Wyoming we headed for our starting place, Santa Barbara, CA.

I'll tell you, this was really some trip and did I ever have fun. I made some really great friends and of course some wonderful humans (everyone loves to hug and pet a Golden). I need some time to rest and then plan on getting on the road again for the winter.

I heard my humans talking and they are planning on visiting Virginia next spring. I may have an opportunity to see all of my GRREAT friends if we get there in time for one of the GRREAT picnics.


*By Sunshine Moses
Edited by Karen and Terry Moses
All are full time RV'ers temporarily living near
Santa Barbara, CA and heading for Virginia next
year.* 

and is specially designed to provide all the key nutritional benefits received from the feeding of raw food diets based on ground chicken & turkey meat, bones, fat, cartilage and connective tissue, with whole, raw fruits and vegetables which contain health promoting phytochemicals and micronutrients (visit www.naturapet.com for more information). Hypothyroid medication and allergy shots would need to continue also, and all told, Jake's health care needs are estimated at around \$150 a month. Other than that, all Jake needs is a happy forever home; the rewards of Jake's addition to a family would far outweigh the monetary commitment.

Ultimately, Jake is looking for a place to call "home" that has lots of love and care, patience and persistence with his special food and medical needs, and an energetic family that will engage Jake in the everyday hustle of life, helping to restore his trust in a family that will hang up his Christmas stocking for years to come.

"Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam, be it ever so humble, there's no place like home." John Howard Payne

For more information about Jake, please visit his profile on the GRREAT website at http://www.grreat.org/doglist_special.htm.

If you are interested in finding out more Jake, please contact Allison Ward, Foster Home Coordinator, at fosters@grreat.org 

CORRECTIONS:

In our July-August edition we left out one team of our Home Visit Volunteer team – thank you to John and Linda Bowlin for all your help!

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 *GRREAT News*.

Checks should be made payable to GRREAT.

Please mail forms with your contribution to:

GRREAT, P.O. Box 3069, Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

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 \$30 for my 2006 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:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please complete this form to volunteer. Return to:

GRREAT

Attention: Volunteer Coordinator

P.O. Box 3069

Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

Cell Phone (_____) _____

Work Phone (_____) _____

OK to call at work? Yes No

Please indicate any area of interest.

The appropriate GRREAT Coordinator will contact you for more information.

____ Become a foster home for GRREAT dogs

____ Help at Adoption Events, Education Events,
Fundraisers & Micro Chipping Clinics

____ Help operate a beer stand at RFK Stadium events to
benefit GRREAT

____ Transport GRREAT dogs (to/from vet,
animal shelter, etc.)

____ Perform home visits for potential adopters prior to
adoption

____ Additional Information or Comments:

This form can be filled out on-line at www.grreat.org.

The GRREAT Store Featured Items

We have been busy adding many new and wonderful items to the GRREAT store the past couple of months. Two new styles of t-shirts are now available.

Our blue tone-on-tone shirt is as soft as it is stylish. The 100% cotton Velocity Color-Wash shirt features our favorite breed of dog on the front and the GRREAT web site address on the back. It is available in sizes Medium, Large, X Large, and 2X.



For the younger members of GRREAT we have a new youth shirt. This gold Gildan Activewear, 100% cotton shirt has the “GRREAT Beginnings Lead to Happy Endings” slogan imprinted in black on the front with the GRREAT web site on the back. It is available in youth sizes Small, Medium, and Large.

We have also added purses, wallets, tote bags, cell phone holders, ornaments, blankets and a golden bust. So stop by the GRREAT store – either on-line or in person - and shop for some wonderful golden items while helping golden in need.

Visit the on-line store by following the link from the GRREAT web site www.GRREAT.org. Or visit the GRREAT shop at Midas Touch Naturally



Healthy Pets in Berryville, VA, which is open every Saturday from 10-5. Directions to the GRREAT shop can be found at the on-line store. 🐾

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.
P.O. Box 3069
Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

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