



GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc. • May/June 2007 • Vol. 18, No. 3

IN THIS ISSUE:

Letter from the President	3
Animal Communication	4
Adoption Report	
Adoption Day Directions	5
Second Chances	6
Natural Gardening Rescues	7
Donations	8-10
Dog & Cat Diaries	
Fun With Your Golden	11
Help Wanted	12
2007 Annual Bark-B-Que Info	13
Microchip Returns a Dog Thanks	14
Maggie May	15
Calendar Contest	17
Happy Tails	
Summer Fun	18
Donation, Renewal, and Volunteer Forms	19
GRREAT Art Contest	20

What Should I Feed My Dog?

By Dr. Pam Grasso

In light of the recent food recalls, I felt a discussion of diet should be the topic this month. While the subject has only recently entered headline news, it has a much longer history of controversy within the conventional and holistic veterinary community.

So what is the debate? To begin with, science tells us that the food must be balanced and complete. AAFCO (Association Of American Feed Control Officials, Inc.) recommends guidelines as to what should be in a "complete" diet. While many food companies boast that their diets meet this standard, it is important to keep in mind that these are only minimum requirements. A variety of ingredients, some natural and some not, can be mixed together to create what AAFCO considers complete. While these ingredients - which may include processed food or chemicals - may actually contain nutrition, they may not be the healthiest alternative available.

Most holistic veterinarians agree that the first step to a healthy diet is VARIETY. Variety is important in any diet, as it is with ours. People cannot be optimally healthy

eating the same thing every day for their entire life, so why would we think this is appropriate for our dogs? Do we really know that that "balanced and complete" bag of dog food is all they need? Sure, most dogs can live on that, but is their health optimal? (A subject for another time...) So, giving your dog a variety

of vegetables and meat sources is very important.

For those who are concerned about which pet food will be pulled off the shelf next, there are many programs that allow you to prepare wholly nutritious meals right at home. They are not always user friendly, but can help give you an idea of what is balanced. A good place to start is with the "Balance It" diet (www.balanceit.com). There are also several books on cooking for dogs and multiple websites discussing diets for specific issues from sensitive stomach to cancer. (Some are legitimate, some are not.) In recent discussions, I have learned that most of these diets are not complete and balanced according to nutritionists, even if they are written and designed by veterinarians.

The best pet diets available always start with whole, fresh meat as the main ingredient. Most holistic veterinarians will agree that fish oil or omega fatty acids should be added to any home cooked or raw diet.

Generally a vitamin source is also needed. Some will recommend a human multi-vitamin. Vitamins are supplements, which are not regulated, so a reputable source is an absolute necessity. Remember that

what you read on the label is not necessarily what is in the product, unfortunately. Also, dogs have a very different digestive tract than people. The digestive system of the dog moves faster than that of a human, so a multivitamin designed for people might require crushing prior to giving it to your



Continued on page 17

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.

2007 OFFICERS AND ADVISORY BOARD

PRESIDENT		
Sandy Diamond*	..... president@grreat.org	703.787.6708
VICE PRESIDENT		
Lori Bott*	..... vp@grreat.org	301.808.0734
SECRETARY		
Louise Davidson*	..... secretary@grreat.org	703.281.7698
TREASURER		
Kathy Thomas*	..... treasurer@grreat.org	301.588.8481
ADOPTION COORDINATOR		
Jessie Robinson*	..... adoptions@grreat.org	301.577.8350
INTAKE COORDINATOR		
Mary Collings*	..... intake@grreat.org	540.720.8588
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR		
Lisa Cook*	..... volunteer@grreat.org	410.569.8142
FOSTER HOME COORDINATOR		
Vacant.	..... fosters@grreat.org	
FOSTER HOME APPROVAL COORDINATORS		
Denise Malczewski (DE, MD, DC)	..... fosterasst_md@grreat.org	443.305.2184
Kim Wiff (VA, WV, PA)	..... fosterasst_va@grreat.org	703.724.4853
TRANSPORT COORDINATOR		
Vicki Eurice	..... transport@grreat.org	410.893.5412
EDUCATION COORDINATOR		
Joy Scrimshire*	..... education@grreat.org	301.627.4674
MEMBERS AT LARGE		
Pam Briggie*	..... atlarge@grreat.org	301.808.0734
Janet White*	..... atlarge2@grreat.org	301.831.0017
PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR		
Sandy Diamond*	..... publications@grreat.org	703.787.6708
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR		
Jill Kurtz	..... mail-admin@grreat.org	703-250-3012
MICROCHIP COORDINATOR		
Bob Kurtz.	..... microchips@grreat.org	703-250-3012
SILENT AUCTION COORDINATOR		
Pam Ambrose	..... fundraising@grreat.org	301.972.0457
MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR		
Erin Ledbetter	..... merchandise@grreat.org	410-982-6316
NEWSLETTER		
Leigh Rutter	..... leighmegan@yahoo.com	410.638.7552
WEBMASTER		
Bob Fritz	..... webmaster@grreat.org	301.330.5749

* members of the GRREAT Board of Directors

Letter From The President

By Sandy Diamond, GRREAT President

A big focus for the GRREAT Board of Directors this year is to try to get our members more involved. As we head into the summer season, this is more important than ever.

Many of our volunteers and foster homes tend to go on hiatus during the summer, with family vacations and other activities going on. Donations also tend to slow down this time of year, as many people make their donations when they renew their memberships.

However, this is one of the busiest times of the year for new dogs coming into the rescue. Many give-up owners contact us to take their dog before they go on vacation, as they don't want to pay boarding expenses. Shelters become overwhelmed and we get more calls from them. With more outdoor activities, thunderstorms and fire-works, there are more stray dogs that never find their former homes and come into GRREAT. With more dogs, comes increased costs for veterinary care.

We have a greater need than ever during this period for foster homes, as well as temporary and vacation foster homes (if we don't have enough foster homes, we incur increased boarding costs.) We also need volunteers to help staff education tables, as spring and early summer are the busiest times for dog-related community events. And we have a number of ongoing jobs that still need to be filled for the rescue.

I would like to thank some of our new volunteers who have stepped up over the last few months – Linda Hunt and Kathryn Eszeki as POCs; Joan Sills as Vet Coordinator; Chuck Johnson and Robin Heinecke as Application Coordinators; Kim & Paul Mayberry as Home Visit Coordinators; Susanne Lazanov, Jan Brown, Liz Haransky and Linda Daniel as Education Assistants; Erin Ledbetter as Merchandise Coordinator; Kate Chutuape and Cindy Hsu as Grant Writers and Diane Lanigan and Nancy Alexander as Training Coordinators. Your help has been invaluable and much appreciated!

If you have some time to give, and you aren't sure how you can help, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Lisa Cook, at volunteer@grreat.org. She is more than willing to help find a role for you. Your support is what keeps GRREAT running!

P.S. Thank you to all who have renewed your memberships. 🍗



Animal Communication

Why do it? Just Ask Your Animal

By Sherry B. True

Questions always abound when people are considering talking to an animal communicator. I often hear, “I hope they won’t say anything bad about me”, “I hope they really like me”, or my favorite “Will my animal tell my secrets?” These are just a few questions that often come up before a consultation. Once we get past all of the concerns about what your companion might say we can get to the real reason for the consultation; that is, you want to know what your pet is thinking or feeling. Sometimes the sessions are as simple as “Does he like his food?” or “Does she like her new bed?” Sometimes there are behavioral issues that need to be resolved. The questions are endless.

Our animal companions want to talk with us just as much as we often want to talk with them. Most animal caretakers already talk to their animals. They know by a certain movement or look exactly what the pet is thinking. That is animal communication. Most people already do it but often negate what they receive from their animal(s). One example I like to use is with my two dogs. I often spend hours on the computer writing and they are off in another room sleeping. All of a sudden and for no reason I start thinking, “I really need to go over and pet them and give them each a cookie for being so good.” I know that message was communicated to me from my dogs because I was so focused on what I was doing that my thoughts were not about them whatsoever. So why did that thought just pop into my head?

Many of them come to us as rescue animals with broken spirits. There are often trust issues, behavioral issues or just a complete lack of understanding of what they have been through. Part of the role of an animal communicator is to help bridge the gap between caretaker and animal so that the two may enjoy a fulfilling and healthy relationship together, to understand from the animal’s perspective what is going on in a certain situation. Just like us, animals are unique and they have very definite opinions on many different subjects. All you need to do is ask and then listen.


In helping them to heal we are frequently able to heal a part of ourselves that may also need healing. There are no

accidents as to the animals that choose to come into our lives. I would ask you to look at each animal that is in your life or has been in your life to see what is it that the two of you have in common? What is it they represent?

Anyone who takes care of any kind of animal knows they love us unconditionally. They want us to be happy and we in turn want the same for them. They want us to lighten up, live in the moment as they do and not worry so much about things we have no control over. They bring us great lessons, not only of love but of patience, gratitude and pure joy. They have many lessons for those who choose to listen. We have a chance to glimpse into a world that is pure love through our animals if we allow ourselves to truly be quiet. In honoring them you honor yourself and the rest of the beings on the planet.

Animals communicate telepathically through a series of pictures, words or colors. We can think of it in the context that it is a foreign language we need to learn. We expect them to learn our language and behaviors while we, however, are often unwilling to learn theirs. A greater connection can be made with anyone or anything if we are willing to learn a new language.

Animal communication is not about an animal communicator telling your animal companion how to act or behave in a certain way. As with anyone we can make suggestions and try and get to the heart of the matter, but it is up to the individual spirit to decide what action to take. The true art of animal communication lies in something we all have the ability to experience, the heart connection. It is through that heart connection we are able to make the true God connection with all of life. An open heart soars!

Sherry B. True is owner and service provider for Spirit Paws, alternative animal wellness services. Her services include animal communication, pet massage, animal blessings and Healing Touch for Animals®. For more information please visit www.spiritpaws.com. 

ADOPTION REPORT

We Need Your Email

From February 17, 2007 through April 24, 2007, 25 lucky Golden Retrievers found their forever home. They ranged in age from 10 months to 12 years. Congratulations to all the Golden Retrievers and their new families!

Name	#	Age	Sex	Name	#	Age	Sex
Blondie/Lani	07-033	6mo	F	Mickey	05-232	6	M
Buddy	06-214	2	M	Mojo	06-195	1	M
Dakota	07-029	2	F	Mollie/Penny	07-024	4	F
Duke	06-223	12	M	Ozzie	07-017	11mo	M
Gracie	06-141	8	F	Sampson	07-034	3	M
Gracie	06-205	5	F	Sheba	07-030	5	F
Guido	06-108	7	M	Shelley	07-003	6	F
Gunner	07-023	1	M	Stone	07-004	3	M
Herndon	07-036	7	F	Stryker	07-014	2	M
Jake	05-160	9	M	Taylor	07-022	5	F
Kumo	06-225	1	M	Trixie	01-014	9	F
Lucky	06-220	10mo	F	Zeus	07-019	6	M
Max	07-021	9	M				

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.

ADOPTION DAY DIRECTIONS

Saturday, June 2, 2007

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, July 7, 2007

Noon - 2pm

Petco

12960 Middlebrook Rd
Germantown, Maryland
301-515-8153

Take I-495 to I-270 Spur North toward Frederick. Take exit #6 onto I-270 Local North toward W Montgomery Avenue. Take the I-270 North Left exit toward Frederick. Take exit #13B/Middlebrook Road West onto Middlebrook Road. Make a U-turn at Century Blvd. onto Middlebrook Road. Petco will be on the right.

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Noon - 2pm

Petco

2441-F Centreville Road
Herndon, Virginia
703-713-1552

Take I-495 W towards Virginia. Take exit #45A/VA-267 Toll West toward Dulles Airport. Continue on 267 for about 10.7 miles. Take exit #10/VA-657 toward Chantilly. Go approximately 0.3 miles and turn left on Centreville Road. Drive approximately 0.6 miles and turn left at McNair Farms and then right into the shopping center.

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

Second Chances: Do More Through Donations

By *Emily Pasterick*

The March/April issue of the GRREAT newsletter featured an article about the power of the “Do More” potential within all of us to be more than who we are, to do more through GRREAT rescue. One avenue for testing this potential is the generosity encouraged by our GRREAT volunteers and beyond to support the medical needs of our rescued Golden Retrievers who come to us in a physically debilitated state. As those on the GRREAT Board can attest, GRREAT very rarely (if ever) turns away a Golden for anticipated medical expenses. The great capacity of our rescue is made possible only through the donations sent in memory, in honor of, in tribute to, beloved lost Golden Retrievers, or contributed specifically to assist a special needs Golden (for instance, through the Leo Fund).

It is generally recognized by the generous GRREAT community that donations help GRREAT “do what they do.” But do you ever wonder specifically how your donations are applied? How they help our Golden Retrievers rehabilitate? What medical issues our Golden Retrievers suffer that require donations of such value? And how these Golden Retrievers are doing now? Here are a few Golden Retrievers who would not be the lively spirits they are now without your assistance:

BINGO/MILO [07-047]: Bingo (now named Milo) came into GRREAT in March 2007, whereupon it was determined during an examination that both of his lower eyelids rolled inward, causing the hair to rub directly on the corneas – which could lead to ulceration and infection. Additionally, there was some question as to whether Milo’s hips were sound. Surgery was recommended to remove the extra skin from his eyelids, and while he was under anesthesia, to x-ray his hips. Bilateral Entropion surgery was successfully performed, and x-rays revealed no hip abnormalities (likely just overall muscle weakness from being tied up so long in his previous life). [Check this site for infor-

mation on bilateral Entropion surgery: <http://www.upei.ca/~cidd/Diseases/ocular%20disorders/entropion.htm>]

RED [07-045]: Red is 1-year-old male who was hit by a car in March 2007 and suffered contusions and a fractured elbow; his owners surrendered him to GRREAT because they could not afford the necessary surgery and medical care. The GRREAT Board voted “Yes” to the intake, and Red was immediately brought in to Blue Ridge Veterinary Clinic for surgery, where it was noted that, despite his obvious discomfort, he continued to smile and wag his tail. His fracture was repaired with pins and wires, and after removal, he will continue to make a full recovery with swim therapy and lots of love from his foster home.

DIAMOND [06-218]: Diamond, 2 years old, was dropped off at a shelter in November 2006 by a woman claiming to be the neighbor of Diamond’s owner – when all attempts to contact the owner failed, it was suspected that the woman was actually the owner. Diamond arrived injured, with skin loss along her side – it appeared that she had been run over by a car and dragged along the road. The shelter contacted GRREAT, who voted to bring her in, and examinations from the vet revealed an injured right rear leg (possibly an old injury that had been untreated), a fractured vertebrae, severe hip dysplasia, acute flea allergy along her tail and lower back, and skin loss on her side so traumatic that entire layers of skin had been scraped off in certain areas. Following surgery to repair her vertebrae, Diamond continues to heal with regular swim therapy, and engages in playful toy-chewing, biding her time until rehabilitation completion will allow her to chase her foster brothers and sisters and scamper around the yard.

SHEBA [06-182]: Sheba, a 1-year-old female, was surrendered by her owners after a diagnosis of painful hip dysplasia and the sad realization that surgery could not be afforded – they even considered they might have to euthanize her. The GRREAT Board voted to bring Sheba in, and though the vet was hopeful a

few months of swimming and exercise would do the trick, an evaluation determined that surgery was needed after all.

REMY [06-171]: Remy, 8 years old, was brought into GRREAT by a neighbor of Remy’s owner who was moving and was going to take Remy to a shelter. During a careful period of evaluation during which Remy was initially thought to be aggressive, it was determined that she was overwhelmed by changing circumstances, and was walking with a limp. She diagnosed with a sprain, and provided with a pain reliever/muscle relaxant which worked short-term, but after vigorous activity the limp returned. X-rays later revealed a ruptured cruciate ligament in her left rear knee.

JANNUS [07-015]: Jannus, 9 years old, was brought into GRREAT in January 2007 with a diagnosis of diabetes that had been under control with a prescription diet and regular blood-glucose screenings, until one day he appeared “woozy,” and was brought to the vet, where it was found that his glucose levels were off the charts. Several examinations and tests later, it was recommended that Jannus see an internal medicine specialist for a pancreatic ultrasound and further examination of an abnormal EKG to identify any other concurrent complicating diseases. His illness is still being investigated at this writing.

Thanks to your care and generosity, these six Golden Retrievers (and many more not mentioned) have a second chance at a playful, vibrant life, where they otherwise may have none at all. On average, one in three Golden Retrievers taken in by GRREAT will require medical care over and above standard exams and vaccinations – care that ranges from heartworm and Lyme treatment, to hip and elbow surgeries; from diabetes, to heart murmurs, to digestive disorders. The range and degree of our GRREAT Golden Retrievers’ medical needs is broad, and extends in many directions – just like the Do More spirit. Consider which direction yours wants to take you. 🐾

Natural Gardening

By Jo Bighouse

It is the time of year when many of us are planning our gardens. If pets are part of the family, potentially poisonous plants should be avoided or placed in an area that is not accessible to four legged friends. Many common plants can be toxic. Some may cause relatively mild symptoms such as an upset stomach while others can result in death. A list of hazardous plants can be found on the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center web site at aspca.org.

Consider creating an animal friendly garden both for you pet's enjoyment and health. Animals in the wild have free access to medicinal plants and have an innate ability to choose the vegetation their bodies need. Allowing our pets to choose from a variety of plants in their own yard can be beneficial.

Some plants to consider for your pet's garden are:

Couch Grass (also known as dog grass) is eaten by both dogs and cats, sometimes to the point of regurgitation. Although we may find this practice unpleasant, it does serve a purpose and should not be discouraged. Couch Grass is an aggressive perennial so it should be located away from other plants.

Parsley leaves and stems are very nutritious, containing vitamins A, C, B1, B2 and K. Parsley is easy to grow in rich, well-drained soil. It will return each year and if allowed to go to seed will spread throughout the garden.

Dill can relieve nausea and flatulence and may be the herb of choice for a pet who has had a sudden change in diet. It is easy to grow from seed or nursery plants and will spread throughout your garden.

Thyme grows well in light soil with neutral acidity. It is helpful for the digestive and respiratory tracts. Pets may choose this herb to expel worms.

Sage can be a remedy for infections of the mouth, skin, or digestive tract. It grows well in heavy, slightly acid soil and full sun.

With some imagination and planning you can create an aromatic, attractive garden that both you and your pets can enjoy. And your pets will have the added benefit of using their own instincts to naturally supplement their diet.

Jo Bighouse is the co-owner of the Midas Touch health food store on West Main Street in Berryville. She is a member of the Organic Trade Association, Animal Wellness Association, Flower Essence Society, and Association of Pet Dog Trainers. www.midastouchpets.com

Rescues

By Skip Nizer

Rescue is a word that makes you think of a fireman carrying a child out of a burning building or the Coast Guard pulling a sailor out of a stormy ocean. It seems to have a dramatic sense to it. That isn't always the case. Sometimes it's as simple as writing a check or offering your home as a place of shelter.

Did you know that there are elephant rescues?

That makes me happy that I help rescue Golden Retrievers. My suburban isn't big enough to transport an elephant and I certainly wouldn't want to clean the yard. Though taking one for a walk might be fun and teaching one to retrieve would be a ground shaking experience.

Most of our rescues are of finding a home for a displaced dog, the puppy that grew too big or too wild, late Aunt Betty's dog that no one wanted to care for and the lost dog that a family never found or maybe they just never went looking for.

Then every once in a while a real rescue takes place.

I remember one that was found huddled outside of a 7-11 during a severe cold spell. The dog was so cold that it had to be carried because its joints were immobile. The rescuers used hair driers to warm the dog's joints. Then there was the dog that had been left with a friend to be "cared for." The owner never returned. Everyone in the house weighted over 250 lbs and the family dog was well over weight too. The "cared for" dog just didn't eat - no one knew why. The vet told the rescuers that the dog needed to gain at least 35 lbs. Funny thing was the dog ate anything the rescuers put in front of him.

There was a 8 month old pup that the owner was going to shoot because it pooped all over the yard. Thankfully a neighbor stopped the man and she knew about the rescue. That dog was lucky and so was the family that adopted him. Let's not forget the dog that would fall to the floor, pull his shoulders forward, close his eyes and shake at hearing the word "NO" (no matter how is was said) or seeing a hand raised. Or the old crippled dog that would crawl across the floor slowly trying to get as close to a human as it could hoping for a kind hand and not a slap.

Maybe your rescues by adopting, fostering, transporting or donating money might not be dramatic but they are rescuing, they are helping and they are needed.

It may bring tears to your eyes or rage to your soul but it always brings love to your heart.

DONATIONS

Thank you for your donations

Linda & Don Baier
Mary Anne & James Beagles
Beth & Chris Bogusky
Linda & John Bowlin
T. M. Broccolino
John & Diane Chaney
Colleen Colangelo
John Corr
Elizabeth Crane
Kathleen Davidson
Deborah Frey
Judy Gartlan
Wade Hampton
Patricia Hutnik
Kelly & John Iffland
Joan Kirchner
Karl & Heather Lady
Diane Lanigan
Jane Martin
Marilyn Mehlberg
Ginny & Ed Miller
Joe & Anne Sloan
Carol Taylor
Diane Wolfe

In Memory Of...

Jason, Brandy and Sundance. Our wonderful Golden – gone but not forgotten. – Donald & Lynlee Brock

The three wonder Golden Retrievers: Chance, Rashee and Girlee Walsh, belonging to John & Lisa Walsh – Carolyn Witt

Sadie, Debbie and Gary Kramer's Golden who went to the Rainbow Bridge on Saturday, February 24, 2007. – Stephen & Kristina Hays

Drake and in honor of his loving family Brad, Judy, Katie and Matthew Weinsheimer. – Karen & DeMaurice Smith

It is with great sadness I write to inform you of the loss of my beloved Tank (96-028) on Dec 23, 2006. We were united through your organization in 1996 and had 10 wonderful years together. While I rescued him, truth is he rescued me. He filled my life with so much love and happiness. Just the sight of him made all the cares of the day disappear. Fortunately he aged gracefully and though he slowed down a bit in the last 2 years, he still



had the heart of a young dog. He loved to swim and when he came to me at 2 ½ years old it was difficult to keep up with him in the pool. He could outlast us all. He wasn't perfect by any means. I "lost" more shoes than I care to remember, and now I just smile about those shoes. He was a "beggar" and not just for food. He would give you that nudge with his nose, or that paw on your knee that demanded your attention. Oh how I miss those demands. He was a HUGE part of my life and I am so thankful that GRREAT brought us together. Tank was the first dog I had on my own, and I feel so lucky to have had the life and experiences we had together. Please accept this donation in Tank's memory to be used directly for the care of your Golden Retrievers. Thank you for all you do in caring for and rescuing these wonderful dogs and seeing that they are placed in the right homes. I will be forever grateful that I was chosen to be Tank's Mom.
– Christine Denning

Mrs. Doris P. Rothenhoefer, as suggested by her son, Francis P. Rothenhoefer. – Betsy McAlpine

My family's dear friend and neighbor, Doris Rothenhoefer. – John & Erin Long

Mrs. Doris Rothenhoefer, who passed away in Frederick, MD on February 15, 2007. – Nancy Saltzman

Rosie, a Golden Retriever who was rescued and provided a wonderful life for two years by Jennifer Davis. – Kingsbrook Animal Hospital

Maggie Mae. – Ken & Lisa Funk

Kinsey, Kathy Thomas' faithful friend. – Sandy Diamond

Jake Nisenfeld, who was owned by Leon Nisenfeld & Jim Silva. – Animal Clinic Investigations

Tosh, beloved foster dog of Kim and Carl Wiff. Under their love and care he was able to go from being on the streets, to having a warm bed, plenty of company, abundant food and overwhelming love. – Sandy Diamond

Elmo (04-051). – Elizabeth & Michael Schmidt

We received your calendar as a Christmas gift and would like to make a donation in memory of our rescue Golden, Cinnie, the best Christmas gift we ever received. – Susan & Stu Greenberg

DONATIONS

Doris P. Rothenhoefer. – Judge & Mrs. Samuel W. Barrick

Doris Rothenhoefer. – Edgar & Cornelia Crutchley

Doris Rothenhoefer. – Betty & “Doc” McClellan

Doris Rothenhoefer. – Ralph Fry

Sunny. She was my forever rescue girl. I miss her very much. She had to go over the Rainbow Bridge because of her cancer. The other 2 Golden's were looking for her for 2 weeks. They finally stopped looking for her. She was very special.
– Leny & Cor Endlich



Corporate Giving

CSC Corporate Giving Campaign.
– on behalf of Kim & Don Dawson

Mikel Miller and Helping Udders.

Freddie Mac Foundation Matching Program. – Michael L. Dawson

DGI Plumbing & Heating

In Honor Of...

Amber. – Al & Sheila Vertino

Copper (06-127), who we adopted from GRREAT. Thank you!
– Abby Krobock

Chas (98-130) who brings joy to our lives every day. – Gail & Tom Koch

Happy 60th birthday to Virginia Fry – she loves her Golden very much. – Joanne & Rick Pinette

Virginia Fry, who is a huge Golden Retriever lover! – Jennifer & Rich Riordan

Charley (06-018) is doing fabulous!
– Patricia Beetham

Jannus, the Wanna Be Golden.
– Eileen Bennett

Lucinda Twining for her birthday. Happy Birthday, mom. We all love you. – Dominic, Brooke, Mandy, Mo, Brittany, Meghan, Devin, MJ and Madeline

Our 12-year-old grandson, Michael Auberry, lost for three days in the woods of North Carolina and the dog that rescued him (although not a Golden.) – Jim & Ginny Hayes

Bailey (07-026). – Rebecca & Art Hotop

Please use this check to cover Cassie's (06-183) boarding. I know Mary Collings is trying to find a solution for her. Keep up the good work, Mary! – Rick Stevens & Julie Palais

To Thank

Dee Brown & Glen McDonald for keeping Travis while I was away. Please use where most needed. – Beth Mendelson

We are sending this donation as a token of gratitude for our GRREAT Golden, Bella. We have never had such a wonderful dog. We are so lucky to have her as a member of our family. – Jon Rolf & Meredith Pearson

Jeffrey Balenson, volunteer. – from his family and Lucy, Scout and Kodiak (06-187).

Theresa Lester, for taking care of my dog. – Joan Ansheles

Wow! Its been a year (in February) since we adopted Hayley! I don't know how it is possible to love her more and more as each day goes by, but we do. God has blessed us so much with this beautiful girl. She has two people brothers (ages 5 and almost 2) and a little kitty sister. She and her kitty, Cinnamon, are best friends and curl up together. Cinnamon even grooms Hayley! We just adore her and are so grateful to GRREAT for all the love and care of these wonderful friends. I know we are not alone – so many people and super dogs have each other because of all the wonderful efforts of GRREAT and its volunteers. Thank you! – Cameron & Tom Phillips

DONATIONS

Leo's Corner

GOLDEN ANGELS (\$500 AND MORE)

For Chassidy and Polar Bear. – Joe O'Neill & Walt Atha

LEO'S PALS (\$99 AND UNDER)

This donation is given as part of the Mary Chapin Carpenter Birthday Project. Thanks for your good work! – Margaret Carpentier

In memory of Boo-Boo Vandercook, owned by Bruce & Crystal Vandercook. – Kingsbrook Animal Hospital

A TOAST TO BRITTANY (03-089). Britty was GRREAT's calendar gal in May 2005. She said goodbye to us on January 15, 2007, just a few months shy of her 12th birthday. We were sad to see her go, and her passing brought back a flood of memories. Some three years ago we had fostered Britty, who was an owner give-up. She had been relegated to the yard and the basement all her life. She was distrustful of us and of Bronte, her foster sister. She lacked many of the social graces that come naturally to Golden Retrievers. It took us a while to find the perfect forever home for this complicated canine. Enter Karen and Eric Rowe. They opened up their hearts and home to her and Britty immediately formed an uncritical canine attachment to them. They brought out her softer side. They showed her what life and love were meant to be. We know the final years of her life were the happiest. "Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Others leave footprints on our hearts; and, when they are gone, we are never the same again." – Harry Sethna & Sarah Navia

For Peaches

For Peaches. We adopted a GRREAT dog last year after our golden, Penny, died. The last line of Peaches' bio says the effort to provide for her complicated needs is "worth every penny." Well, we were already touched by her story, but felt it was meant to be that we celebrate what would have been Penny's 13th birthday just last month, by helping Peaches! While we are a home with small children and really could not adopt her ourselves, we would be honored to be contacted should Peaches find the right family that still needed some financial assistance to help care for her! We love and miss you, Penny! And Peaches, we wish you happiness, tail wags and improving health! - Love, The Phillips Family

For Peaches' food. – Jessie Robinson

For Peaches. She looks so sweet, just like our golden boy Fergus! – Molly & Frank Hermogeno

Monthly Giving

By Julie Palais

Do you consider yourself a loyal friend of GRREAT? Do you donate once or even several times a year to help the rescue with the enormous task of caring for and re-homing the dogs (over 230 in 2006) that come into the rescue every year? Then why not consider setting up an automatic monthly donation to GRREAT. It's easy and it's painless and you'll know that you're helping GRREAT maintain a consistent, stable and reliable funding base to help support the rescue.

Regular monthly donations help with cash flow during times of the year when most people are not thinking about donating to charities and will spread your costs out over the whole year (vs. giving in one larger check at the end of the year when everyone else is asking for money.) Funds can be automatically deducted from your bank account using an automatic bill pay or via your credit card through Paypal. Regular monthly income would enable GRREAT to plan and budget for dog care and other expenses that the rescue incurs (veterinary care, medications, behavior evaluations, alternative therapies etc.).

A monthly donation of \$10 is only about \$2.50 a week, and would cover the cost of a vet visit and some basic vaccines for a dog. A donation of \$25 per month would cover the cost of a neuter or spay. Consider giving up one cup of high-end coffee or one lunch out per week – that's all it takes! 🐾

Dog & Cat Diaries

DOG'S DIARY ENTRIES:

8:00 am -- Dog food! My favorite thing!
9:30 am -- A car ride! My favorite thing!
9:40 am -- A walk in the park! My favorite thing!
10:30 am -- Got rubbed and petted! My favorite thing!
12:00 pm -- Lunch! My favorite thing!
1:00 pm -- Played in the yard! My favorite thing!
3:00 pm -- Wagged my tail! My favorite thing!
5:00 pm -- Milk bones! My favorite thing!
7:00 pm -- Got to play ball! My favorite thing!
8:00 pm -- Wow! Watched TV with my master! My favorite thing!
11:00 pm -- Sleeping on the bed! My favorite thing!

CAT'S DIARY ENTRIES:

Day 683 of my captivity:

My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while the other inmates are fed hash or some sort of dry nuggets. Although I make my contempt for the rations perfectly clear, I nevertheless must eat something in order to keep up my strength. The only thing that keeps me going is my dream of escape. In an attempt to disgust them, I once again vomit on the floor.

Today I decapitated a mouse and dropped its headless body at their feet. I had hoped this would strike fear into their hearts, since it clearly demonstrates what I am capable of. However, they merely made condescending comments about what a "good little hunter" I am. The audacity!

There was some sort of assembly of their accomplices tonight. I was placed in solitary confinement for the duration of the event. However, I could hear the noises and smell the food. I overheard that my confinement was due to the power of "allergies." I must learn what this means, and how to use it to my advantage.

Today I was almost successful in an attempt to assassinate one of my tormentors by weaving around his feet as he was walking. I must try this again tomorrow -- but at the top of the stairs.

I am convinced that the other prisoners here are flunkies and snitches. The dog receives special privileges. He is regularly released - and seems to be more than willing to return. He is obviously retarded! The bird has got to be an informant. I observe him communicating with the guards regularly. I am certain that he reports my every move.

The captors have arranged protective custody for him in an elevated cell, so he is safe.....for now.... -author unknown

Fun with Your Golden: Rally and Fieldwork

By Bob Kurtz, PVGRC President

The Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club recently had a busy weekend holding a Specialty Show and Obedience Trial as well as a Working Certificate / Working Certificate Excellent test. While these events were happening, I kept thinking that both offered opportunities for GRREAT members to have fun with their dogs.

One of the events at the Specialty Show was the AKC rally obedience event. In rally obedience, the dog and handler work their way through a planned course with different obedience activities – heel, turns, figure-eight, and others. Rally is less formal, more active, and more fun than traditional obedience. It's a great activity to build a sense of trust and partnership with your dog. Rally obedience classes may be offered through your local park system; private trainers and clubs are also available in the area. You can find more information about rally obedience at <http://www.akc.org/events/rally/index.cfm>.



For those retrievers who live to retrieve, the Working Certificate and Working Certificate Excellent events are challenging tests of retrieving skills. PVGRC offers field training days to help dogs and owners learn these skills. Our next event is on Saturday, May 26; see http://www.pvgrc.org/training/FieldTraining_2007.htm for more details. To participate in field training, dogs should be comfortable retrieving training bumpers, and must be able to work off-leash. Let us know you're a first-timer, and we'll team you up with an old hand to get you started.

If you're interested in learning more about these events, or about other aspects of Golden Retriever sports such as obedience or agility, e-mail me at president@pvgrc.org. The Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club would love to help you to have more fun with your Golden!

Help Wanted

Do you have a few hours a month, a week or a day to volunteer for GRREAT? We need enthusiastic people to fill the following positions. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Cook, our Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteer@grreat.org. Please include the position(s) you are interested in, any experience you have with GRREAT, and contact information.

FOSTER HOME COORDINATOR. Do you love goldens? Are you good with people? Do you have experience as a foster home? Do you have an extra 3-4 hours or so a day? If so, please consider our Foster Home Coordinator (FHC) position. This person oversees our Foster Home Program, approves medical expenses for foster dogs, helps the POC's solve foster home problems and works closely with our Intake Coordinator, Foster Home Finder and Adoption Coordinator. Access to e-mail and phone calls during the day is required.

FOSTER HOME FINDER. The person in this role works closely with our Intake Coordinator and FHC to place new foster dogs in the right foster home. Knowledge of GRREAT, previous fostering experience and good people skills are essential. The work load depends on how many new dogs come in – some weeks there are one or two, some days there are three or four. Requires access to e-mail and phone during the day.

POC. This person acts as a liaison between Foster Homes and the Foster Home Coordinator. The POC maintains regular con-

tact with the foster homes, provides support, reminds foster homes about procedures and upcoming adoption days and refers problems to the FHC. We are looking to add to our existing POC team. Knowledge of the GRREAT foster program, good people skills, access to e-mail and the ability to respond quickly are required.

FUNDRAISING COORDINATORS. GRREAT needs several people around our coverage area to plan and coordinate fundraising events. Responsibilities will be to generate ideas, get board approval, arrange locations/donations and supervise volunteers helping at fundraisers. Energy, creativity and enthusiasm are the main requirements for this job.

EDUCATION ASSISTANTS. Do you love talking to people about GRREAT or bragging about your rescued golden? We still need volunteers to identify and staff education tables in our coverage area. This could be at a dog event at a local park, at a pet-store or doggy bakery or an expo. Most events are held on weekends, so availability on Saturdays and Sundays is required, along with good knowledge of GRREAT. We particularly need volunteers in the following areas: Howard County, MD, Frederick County, MD, Washington, DC, Delaware, Western Loudoun County and Eastern West Virginia, Prince William County, VA.

FOSTER HOMES. Would you like to make another family as happy as you were when you were chosen to adopt your GRREAT Golden? We are always in need of foster homes. Support and education is provided,

as well as medical care for the foster dog.

HOME VISIT VOLUNTEERS. We need volunteers to help us evaluate potential adoptive families. If you have a GRREAT dog, then you've had a home visit and you have some idea of what is involved. You will need to fill out the home visit checklist and e-mail it to the Application Coordinator. A Golden, knowledge of GRREAT, access to a computer and ability to quickly complete and submit the checklist are all that are required.

TRANSPORT VOLUNTEERS. We often have a need to move a Golden from one part of our covered territory to another, and we need volunteers willing to help. If you like to drive and don't mind dogs (and dog hair) in your vehicle, this critical job is for you. 🐾

Thank you to Nancy Powell of Dog Krazy in Fredericksburg, VA, for hosting an education table in her store on Saturday, March 17, 2007.

You can visit Dog Krazy at 1013 Caroline St., Fredericksburg, VA 22401
www.dogkrazyva.com



Come to the 2007 GRREAT Annual Bark-B-Que

Join us on Sunday, June 24 for our annual Bark-B-Que at Quiet Water Park in Annapolis, MD.

Quiet Waters offers an off-leash, fenced park for the dogs to play and an off-leash dog beach for swimming. Quiet Waters also has more than 6 miles of trails for spectacular walk/hiking. While the Picnic is over at 3 p.m. you're welcome to stay until dusk.

Food and beverages will be provided. Activities for both two- and four-legged guests will be available. This is a wonderful way to start the 2006 Summer season with friends, food, games, merchandise, prizes and lots of fun for all.

We will have an Agility Demonstration, Dress-up Relay, Popcorn Toss and Dunk for Milk Bones!

In addition to the 50/50 drawing, we'll hold a raffle for gift baskets and other donated items. If you can donate items for the raffle, please contact Betsy Bake, Event Coordinator, eabbake@aol.com .

For information on the park, call 410-222-1777 or visit the web at www.aacounty.org/RecParks/Parks/quiet_waters_park .

BARK-B-QUE DETAILS:

DATE: Sunday, June 24
TIME: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (park open until dusk)
PLACE: Quiet Waters Park
Red Maple Pavilion
600 Quiet Waters Park Road
Annapolis, MD 21403
COST: \$10 per Person
\$20 per Family (2 adults + children)
RSVP: events@grreat.org or 703-620-6593 (box 5)
Tell us your name, # of people and # of dogs attending

DIRECTIONS:

From US-50 East, take exit 22 (Rt 665) or Aris T. Allen Blvd. Stay on Rt 665 until it ends and merges with Forest Dr. Follow Forest Drive for 2 miles. Turn right at the Exxon Station onto Hillsmere Dr (you'll see a "Quiet Waters Park—Next Right" sign). The park entrance is 100 yards on the right hand side. Parking is included, just tell the gatekeeper you're with GRREAT.

Bark-B-Que

Volunteers Needed!

As always your help is needed to make this event a success. If you would like to devote some of your time helping out we would really appreciate it. Volunteers are needed for the following:

SETUP - We need 2 people to help move coolers, ice, food, merchandise, prizes, etc., setup tables for the auction/merchandise, organize the food/cooking area, etc. Volunteers for Setup need to arrive at 10:00 am and this will take just a bit of your time before the picnic, you can then sit back and enjoy the party.

REGISTRATION - We need 4 people to help with registration. We will have two groupings for registration volunteers; 10:30am - 11:30am & 11:30am - 12:30

FOOD COOKING AND SERVING - 4 Volunteers are needed to cook at the grill, replenish the food and paper goods, and help guide members through the food line. Grill times will be rotated so no one person gets stuck cooking the entire time – 11-a.m.—NOON; Noon—1 p.m.; 1—1:30 p.m.

GAMES – 2 Volunteers are needed to help organize and run the doggie games. We'll play dunk for bones, dress-up relay, and popcorn toss.

50/50 RAFFLE - Need 3 volunteers to sell 50/50 balls. Please sign up for one of the following time slots: 11am - 12pm, 12pm - 1pm, 1pm - 2pm Raffle will be held at 2pm

MERCHANDISE TABLE - 2 volunteers to help sell GRREAT merchandise

BASKET RAFFLE -- Ticket Sellers: Need 3 volunteers to sell Tickets Please sign up for one of the following time slots: 11:am - 12:pm, 12pm - 1pm, 1pm - 2pm. Raffle will be held at 2 pm.

CLEANUP - We need to 4 people to assist with cleaning up the pavilion.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lisa Cook, GRREAT Volunteer Coordinator (volunteer@GGREAT.org) and let us know what you'd like to do. ☺

Microchip Returns a Dog Halfway Across the Country

By Bob Kurtz, GRREAT Microchipping Coordinator

Since the beginning of 2006, 173 dogs have been adopted from GRREAT. Through the hard work of our volunteers, 165 (more than 95 percent) of these dogs are identified by microchips. Why is this so important for our dogs?


An identifying microchip is a lost dog's last chance to be reunited with its family. Even if a dog loses its ID tags or slips its collar, the microchip can still save the day. The first step most animal shelters and veterinarian's offices take with dogs that have been found as strays is to scan for a microchip.

Earlier this year, a GRREAT member in Florida sent me an article from The St. Petersburg Times. The article tells the story of Sam-I-Am, a Golden Retriever from Largo, Florida. Sam's backyard fence was destroyed by a hurricane in 2004, and a few days later Sam disappeared. Sam's family searched for him for a year, to no avail, before finally giving up.

Early in December 2006, Sam's vet got a phone call from the national microchip registry. Sam had been found...in Chicago, Illinois! Sam has been found wandering and taken to the local animal shelter. The shelter staff scanned him for a microchip and called the national registry, which contacted Sam's vet who in turn called Sam's family. Shortly afterward, Sam-I-Am was reunited with his family.

Success stories like this are why GRREAT began using microchips in 2004. While we don't have any stories of our own to match Sam-I-Am's adventure, there are already more than 600 GRREAT dogs with microchips that can help get them returned to their owners.

If a GRREAT dog is found and scanned, the national registry will contact GRREAT on our 24-hour hot line. GRREAT volunteers will then contact the owner. For this reason, if you have adopted a GRREAT dog, please update GRREAT if you move or change your telephone number or e-mail address.

Please make sure that your furry companions have a way of getting back home if they are lost. If your recently adopted GRREAT dog is not microchipped, remember that the adoption is not final until that step is complete. We also offer microchipping for non-GRREAT dogs and GRREAT dogs adopted prior to 2004 for a nominal fee. For details, please contact me at microchips@grreat.org. 

Thanks!

Thank you to the following volunteers for helping at:

ADOPTION DAY

MARCH 3, 2007

Betsy Bake
Andy Becker
Jan Brown
Carol Fink
Lynne Glennon
Al Rudmann
Greg Russell
Greg Sowers
Linda Sowers
Jan White

DOG KRAZY

MARCH 17, 2007

Susanne Lazanov

MURPHY'S GRREAT

HAPPY TAILS

PAWS PET BOUTIQUE

MARCH 24, 2007

Jan Brown
Kathy Dai
Sandy Diamond
Diane Hein

John Hein

Nancy Howell

Joe Lamp

Greg Russell

George Toll

ADOPTION DAY

MARCH 31, 2007

Lew Cohen
Sheila Cohen
Jim Eurice
Vicki Eurice
Marilyn Flavin
Rebecca Hotop
Mary Kendall
Julie Palais
Alan Rogers
Al Rudmann
Rick Stevens
Jeff Twining
Lucinda Twining

PVGRC SPECIALTY

MATCH

APRIL 14, 2007

Sandy Diamond
Al Glaser
Linda Hunt
Al Rudmann
Joy Scrimshire
Kathy Thomas

PVGRC AWARDS

BANQUET

MARCH 10, 2007


Pam Ambrose
Pam Briggie
Sandy Diamond
Jill Kurtz
Dan Pickard
Jessie Robinson
Carl Wiff
Kim Wiff

CANINE COUNTRY

JAMBOREE

APRIL 21, 2007

Carla Brown
Mary English
Marion Lynders
Al Rudmann
Joy Scrimshire

A special THANK YOU to PVGRC for again hosting the GRREAT Silent Auction at their annual awards banquet. Over \$2,000 was raised! Also, PVGRC invited GRREAT to set up a merchandise table at their Specialty Match, which was also a big success. Thank you!! 

Maggie May

Dear Grreat:

Maggie May (formerly Goldie 98-044) crossed over the Rainbow Bridge on June 3, 2006. She is and will always be missed.

This story is not about her passing, but about celebrating her life.

My wife, Lisa, and I lost our last Golden Retriever, Jesse James, to cancer at the age of 10-1/2 years. We were heartbroken and knew we could never replace him, but we also missed having a Golden around the house.

We heard about GRREAT from a work associate. She had adopted a Golden from GRREAT and told us what wonderful work they do and all about the adoption process.

We joined GRREAT in February 1998. We sent in our Request for Adoption to Debbie Nizer, had our home inspection and then were off to an adoption day in Beltsville, MD. We didn't come away with a new addition to our household, but we did come away with a greater understanding of GRREAT.

We checked the website for available dogs daily. Then on March 18, 1998, we read about the Golden Retrievers that were available. We spotted Goldie, an 11-month-old Golden Girl who had just come to GRREAT. She was at the foster home of June and Richard Downing. She sounded perfect for us. We called and on March 21, 1998 we got an appointment to see her.

It was love at first sight for us. She was the same blond color as our Jesse, but much smaller and only 42 pounds. She was frightened, skinny and very shy, but did love getting attention. She had spent her first 11 months living in a bathroom of an apartment in Fairfax, VA and we suspected had been abused. The most exercise she got was to walk to the mailbox and back. Her owners gave her up because she had grown too big and they didn't have time for her. After much talking with June and Richard, we filled out the paperwork and we were granted the privilege to take Maggie May to her new forever home.

Maggie May was completely house broken. Everything else she had to learn. She hid under the dining room table most of the time. She didn't wag her tail for months. She ate very little. But eventually she began to trust us. She started to eat better and gained weight, up from 42 to 57 pounds.

Maggie May became the sweetest Golden we had ever seen. She was an inquisitive, bright, loving, playful and energetic hair shedding machine with a truly unique personality. She loved to grab stuff and run away with it. She would take clothes out of the dirty clothes basket on washday and run away, what a great fun game! Pulling toilet paper off the roll and wrapping herself in it was also special fun.

We took Maggie everywhere. Long walks or just in the yard; as long as she was near us she was happy. She was Lisa's shadow. We often said her name should have been "Shadow". It was clear Maggie did not want to ever be left alone again. When we did leave her at home, she would do something to remind us of that fact. Maybe eat the contents of the bathroom trash, or chew up a magazine – always something. When we'd return home, she would look at us with those beautiful eyes as if to say, "Where have you been? I missed you." Then she would wiggle and wag and greet us at the door, and all would be forgiven.

Maggie loved going with us on our boat. It wasn't so much loving the boat, but just being close to us. She truly thought she was human. We had a special bond and we communicated in those ways that only real dog lovers know. Maggie was one of us, just missing thumbs.

Her absolute favorite pastime was riding in the SUV, or as we said "the Truck." If either one of us said "truck," she would scamper to the front door, tail wagging, looking back at us as if saying, "come on, let's go." "Oh Boy, Oh Boy, the Truck!" If we said it loud, quiet, soft, in a different tone or even singing the word "truck" she would react the same. At first she could easily jump into the back and then take up her position leaning on one side for balance. As time passed, we had to assist her, but she never wanted to stop riding in the Truck.

Unfortunately, Maggie suffered greatly from allergies, arthritis and ear infections. Not having the proper exercise, food and love in her first 11 months set the stage for her entire life. She never complained, though, because she knew we would always take care of her. She willingly went to the Vet (in the Truck of course.) Her trips were so frequent she became best friends with the Doctors and staff. However, over time her physical problems and the many medications got the best of her. Her kidneys were failing, her organs were shutting down and she just

Continued on page 16

Better Behavior Now

By Liz Hauck

All dogs need to do doggy work – sleep, socialize with the group, romp, collect and leave information around the territory, and find food. In this series, you'll get easy ways to provide environmental enrichment for peak mental and physical health for your dog. A natural result will be to strengthen the bond in a natural, powerful way.

Step 2 – Smell Me!

Dogs who have ample opportunities to use their noses in a variety of situations are proven to have fewer behavior problems.

Hold your wrist up to your nose. Look down at your hand. That's about how big your nose would have to be, to do what your dog's nose can do. Dogs are built to use their noses to an extraordinary degree that we can barely imagine.

Use walks primarily for your dog to investigate the world with his nose. Rushing him past interesting smells is like never letting him read the story - only the titles. We mistakenly think we enforce obedience and exercise the animal by forbidding them to stop and sniff. We're probably blurring their view of the world and setting them up for frustration.


1. Get the dog out of the back yard. Unless you have an unusual setting, he's already been there, smelled that. You don't have to go far – just into new territory for his nose.
2. Go at his pace and let him sniff. Don't force him to move along if he's busy smelling something. If he wants to sniff that bush on the corner for five minutes, fine. It's his walk.
3. Let him leave pee mail. You set limits on where, but understand that it's not a "dominance thing". It's a community bulletin board thing! He is taking in masses of information and wants to leave his own note. "Hey, those Johnson dogs were all out last night and – say, they got leftover meatloaf with dinner! Lucky!"

4. For really nice results, use a retractable leash for sniffing walks and let the dog move around you in a more natural way. My dogs wear regular body harnesses that happen to have O-rings on the chest; I clip the leash there, which gently inhibits pulling. I generally don't care if they walk behind or in front of me. Do they know where I am? Do they rejoin me happily?

5. Do this twice a day, for 15-20 minutes per walk, and watch your dog's head fill with his own special important things to think about when you get home.

Your dog's brain will be thrilled to have all that variety and interesting work to do. Dogs may show calmer behaviors in just a day or two. Give it time – weeks, months, the rest of his life.

Next time: Make a Play Date!

Behaviorist/teacher Deb Winkler introduced me to the concepts of enrichment and taught me the elements of this program. For more about certified behaviorists visit www.iaabc.org. Visit www.droptheleash.net or phone 410-800-7069 for resources, questions, comments. 

Continued from page 15

wanted to stay comfortable under the dining room table and observe her humans. Her eyes would follow our every move. Then, when we were out of sight, she would move her head so she could keep an eye on us.

Finally the day came when the Doctor said he had done all he could. The blood tests showed she was in great pain and we knew she just couldn't keep going on this way. That was June 1, 2006. Two quality days later, on June 3, 2006, we took Maggie for her last ride in the Truck. We made the extremely difficult decision to let Maggie May cross over the Rainbow Bridge to her new Forever Home. We know she is there waiting for us.

It has taken us nine months to be able to write this letter. The hurt is terrible and is with us every day, but we are able to openly talk about the wonderful 8+ years we were allowed to be with such a wonderful Golden Girl.

Sincerely,

Ken Funk



GRREAT Calendar Contest

LAST CALL! Get out those pictures of your GRREAT golden – it's time to submit them for the 2008 GRREAT Calendar!

Entries are now being accepted for the 2008 GRREAT Calendar. The calendar is sold through GRREAT and given to shelters and veterinarians within our coverage area. We encourage everyone to send in the best pictures of their Golden canine companions. Thirteen photos will be selected, one for the cover and one for each month of the year. A committee of GRREAT members will judge submissions using the following criteria:

- Overall composition – we look for balance, centering, color and contrast between the dog and its surroundings.
- Quality of background – we look for an attractive background, and the dog should be the focus of the photo.
- Sharpness and clarity – no fuzzy or blurry pictures.
- General appearance of the dog.
- Seasonal shots (however, no costumes, please)
- Variety - we want to see them all!

2007 GRREAT CALENDAR CONTEST RULES

1. The deadline for submission is June 8, 2007, and judging will occur in early June.
2. Only GRREAT dogs are eligible. Dogs featured in the 2007 calendar (other than honorable mentions) are not eligible this year, but other GRREAT dogs in the family are.
3. All entries must be horizontal due to the design of the calendar. Vertical pictures will not be considered.
4. Color film photos or digital photos taken at a high resolution (3 mega pixel camera or higher) may be submitted. No black and white or Polaroid pictures will be accepted. We WILL accept CDs and DVDs this year.
5. Other pets may be in the pictures, but no humans, please.
6. We reserve the right to use any images and/or stories you send us in future issues of the GRREAT newsletter. Sorry, but photos cannot be returned.

We are also looking for those silly or goofy pictures of your GRREAT golden, for a special project. Please send those in as well.

Send the photo(s) of your GRREAT dog along with his GRREAT ID number, age and a brief description of his past or present life, along with the name, address and phone number of the person submitting the entry to: Sandy Diamond, GRREAT Calendar Contest, PO Box 5162, Herndon, VA 20172. 🐾

Continued from page 1

dog. I use Vibrant Pets for my dogs along with a variety of supplements.

I realize that it is not possible for everyone to cook for their dogs. Even if you choose to feed a commercially produced diet, as a holistic veterinarian, I have always recommended adding fresh veggies and meat to a “good quality” kibble. A good quality kibble is usually more expensive because the main ingredients are whole meat (not by-products). I encourage people to look at the ingredients. Meat should be listed first. Avoid preservatives and by products. The guidelines set out by The Whole Dog Journal (WDJ) (www.whole-dog-journal.com) in evaluating foods are a good rule of thumb. According to WDJ, the foods must contain high quality animal proteins, whole grains, and vegetables. By-products, fat or protein that is not identified by species (i.e. animal protein), preservatives, artificial coloring, artificial flavors, and added sweeteners are not acceptable.

As the list of recalled foods continues to grow, even some of the better quality foods are being recalled. The culprit – “gluten” - a protein source that is not meat! On the product label, these are often listed as wheat gluten, rice protein, or corn gluten. These proteins are not dangerous by themselves, but apparently many pet food companies purchase from the same source. The main problem here stems from the desire to remain profitable by utilizing the cheapest ingredient sources. While more expensive to the company and the consumer, a pet food producer that uses human grade ingredients, such as Natura (www.naturapet.com), is a safer bet. Also, organic foods are always the best, though often cost prohibitive, especially for those of us with many dogs.

In light of the food recall, I have had many people ask me “What should I feed my dog?” Unfortunately, there is no blanket answer. Each dog is an individual. And, I realize, the circumstances of each caregiver is individual. This recall has made us realize that we have to be more involved in what we are feeding our companions. More pet caregivers now realize that optimal health can only be achieved if we feed a quality, varied diet, from a reputable source. How to do that is a learning process...but shouldn't be feared. I too am in this learning process with my own dogs and cats. One thing I have learned and am sure of – it is worth the time and money to gather a variety of healthy foods - my companions not only feel great, but I know they appreciate my efforts. My goal is to see them and all of my patients in my office for wellness exams only!

Dr. Pam Grasso, MS, DVM, CVA, practices at Ashburn Farm Animal Hospital (www.ashburnfarmvet.com), in Ashburn, VA. She is a Western and Holistic veterinarian practicing traditional medicine as well as acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine, and Homeopathy. 🐾

Happy Tails

The final funds have been collected from the GRREAT Happy Tails Hour sponsored by Paws pet boutique in Annapolis on March 24, 2007. With the approximate \$135 donation collected by GRREAT volunteers, Jan Brown and Greg Russell, the day of the event, we raised \$2,063.81 for GRREAT. Our goal was \$2,000, so we are pleased to be in a position to make this donation in honor and memory of Murphy Burlbaugh, a GRREAT dog.

Special thanks go out to Nancy Howell for her tireless efforts to make this event a success. Nancy secured our raffle's grand prize, a 2-night stay at Savage River Lodge, and donated half the value from her business, Sundance Travel. Paws pet boutique donated several raffle prizes, but it wouldn't have been as successful if we didn't have the generous donations from other local businesses, including beachdecor.net, Pinky's Liquor Store, Spoiled Rotten Dogs, Happy Pet and Muddy Paw Wash. We are thankful for everyone's support.

Enclosed, please find a check that includes donations collected from the GRREAT Happy Tails raffle, cash collected from Paws counter donation jar and a donation from Watermark for their Animal Tails walking tour that day.

We sincerely appreciated you taking the time to join us for our 6th annual GRREAT fundraiser. Thank you for all GRREAT does to ensure pets are treated with compassion.

Best Regards,

Michelle Kownacki, President, Paws Pet Boutique



Summer Fun

By Joy Scrimshire, Education Coordinator

We're very fortunate to be living at a time when our society is becoming more and more dog friendly. The summertime gives us more opportunities to take our Goldens (and other pets) along with us to enjoy time and activities with them. From dog friendly beaches, parks, outdoor restaurants, doggy bakeries and dog events for dogs and their people to share the fun, there are a growing number of local places to explore.

Two websites holding a wealth of information and suggestions are listed here to get you started. The first is <http://www.dogchannel.com/>. Among the finds on this web page are local weekly dog events listings, dog shows and sports local competition listings, a brief explanation of dog activities such as agility, earthdog, freestyle obedience, weight pull, sure-coursing and dock jumping. Within the descriptions of each of these activities, there are links to dog clubs, associations, etc. who sponsor and teach the skills needed to participate. The second website is <http://www.dogfriendly.com/>. Here you'll find travel guides for dogs by state, city guides for dogs, RV parks and campgrounds for dogs, beach guides, parks and hiking guides, off-leash dog parks, outdoor dining guide, dog-friendly attractions and dog-friendly event listings.

One local example of dog friendly restaurants with outdoor patios for you and your best friend is Pat Troy's in Alexandria, VA, where a doggy menu offers four meaty options (think lamb stew and chicken) each served with a bone. www.pattroysirishpub.com.

Many local bookstores carry a variety of books describing local area parks, beaches, restaurants that are dog friendly with ratings of each. One such book is "The Dog Lover's Companion to Washington DC and Baltimore" by Ann & Don Oldenburg. This particular volume contains listings by county in Maryland and Virginia and listings in Washington DC. Every listing is rated on a paws scale where a 4 paws rating denotes the top of the line, the best of the best where you can come close to finding doggy nirvana.

So gather up your Goldens, pick out your favorites from the web sites and books and take off to have a wonderful summer exploring and enjoying the many local events and opportunities to spend time with your best friend.

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 2007 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

_____ 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.

GRREAT Art Contest

Are you looking for a way to help Golden Retrievers that uses your artistic flare? If you said yes, then we are looking for you! We are conducting a contest to select art to appear on GRREAT merchandise. The contest is for all ages and all abilities; we will be considering all entries where grreat effort has been made. We will accept digital art as well as actual pieces of drawn and/or painted art, so it's okay if you are more inclined to use PhotoShop versus your ink pen. Your submission may be a one color drawing or a painting with unlimited colors; let your imagination and creativity go wild. Get the kids and grandparents involved and most importantly have fun!

Your medium must be paper and whatever drawing instrument you choose, whether it be pencil, pen, crayon, watercolor, cursor or your dog's paw! Your muse will be the always enchanting Golden Retriever.

We will use the winning entries to adorn GRREAT merchandise, such as T-shirts, dog shirts, tote bags and other items. Winners will receive a free T-shirt with their design. The size of the submitted artwork must be between 4" x 4" and 8.5" x 11". Digital art work must be submitted in either PNG or JPG format, and the resolution must be at least 200 DPI with a maximum file size of 7MB.

2007 GRREAT ART CONTEST RULES

1. The deadline for submission is June 22, 2007. There is no limit to the number of entries you may submit. Judging will occur in early July.
2. By submitting a design, you represent and warrant that the design does not infringe on any copyright, any rights of privacy or publicity of any person, or any other right of any third party, and that you have the right to grant any and all rights and licenses to GRREAT.
3. GRREAT reserves the right to use, reproduce, edit, display, and otherwise make use of the submitted designs for any purpose.
4. Personalized images with identifiable markings will not be considered, as submissions need to be universal.

Entries must include your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address (if applicable).

Your entry must be submitted to:

GRREATArtContest@comcast.net

or :

Erin Ledbetter

GRREAT Art Contest

PO BOX 3069,

Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

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

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

GRREAT BEGINNINGS



LEAD TO HAPPY ENDINGS!

Golden Retriever Rescue
Education and Training, Inc.
