



GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc. • July/August 2007 • Vol. 18, No. 4

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Help for Golden Retrievers with Thunder and Noise Phobias

By Sandy Diamond

The sky begins to cloud up in the west, and as it moves closer, your Golden starts to pace, pant and whine. Or, you come home after a long day at work and discover your door moldings destroyed, carpet clawed up and a Golden with bloody paws. Or, after a loud clap of thunder you find 90 pounds of shaking dog in your lap. Summer storms and fireworks can be a real problem for dogs with thunderstorm or noise anxiety. The rescue takes in several dogs a year because give-up owners cannot deal with the problem.

It is unclear what causes dogs to be sensitive to storms and/or fireworks, and if it is even the same reason for all dogs. Some appear to be frightened by the noise, others may be sensitive to changes in barometric pressure, and still others by the static from an electrical storm. Some dogs have symptoms from their early years, but many develop anxieties as they age. So what can you do?

A number of different treatment options are available these days. You may need to try several before you find one that works for your dog.

First of all, create a safe place for your dog to go to when he becomes frightened, and make sure the dog has access if you aren't home (both in and out.) Possible areas might be under a bed, in a bathtub, in the basement, in a closet, etc. Having white noise in the background, or leaving a radio or TV on may provide a distraction. You should act calm and neutral, and do not reassure your dog or give him special attention. This can reinforce the fearful behavior. Try distracting your dog and playing a special game or activity with him.



Behavior modification techniques such as desensitization and counter-conditioning are preferred treatments because they help the dog to get over his fear. Desensitization training involves playing tapes of thunder or fireworks, first at very low volume and gradually increasing the sound when the dog is not showing signs of anxiety or distress.

Continued on page 15

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

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

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Letter From The President

By Sandy Diamond, GRREAT President

In last month's GRREAT News, one of our contributors wrote a story about "Rescue" and talked about how important all our dog rescues are. When I am out and about with my dogs and I tell people I adopted them from GRREAT, so many like to tell me they have "rescued" their dog as well – I think there is a certain cache if you have "rescued" your dog these days.

One of the jobs of a foster home is to find the right forever home for their foster dog. Many of our available dogs will fit into just about any household. Some need special requirements – a fence, or someone home during the day, or a doggie companion. And a few have even greater special requirements – a family that has the time and resources to care for a medical condition, a Golden that may not get along with other dogs or has issues with children, or an older dog. The dogs in this last category become very difficult to place, and to me, these dogs are truly in need of rescue.

Many families are not equipped or willing to take on the challenges of a dog with medical or behavioral issues. Somehow if a dog we adopt or buy develops these problems we do deal with them, but most people will not seek them out, for obvious reasons. But these are the dogs that most need help. When a dog with medical issues cannot find a forever home, GRREAT will keep the dog in a Long Term Foster (LTF) home.

While the dog is loved and well cared for, a valuable foster home is tied up and valuable financial resources are used to continue caring for the dog medically. We have very few foster homes that do not have other dogs, so tying one of these up with a dog who does not get along with other dogs for an extended period of time means other Golden retrievers may have to stay in boarding (a wasteful expense.)

I firmly believe that there is a home out there for all of our Golden retrievers, no matter what their problems are. If you are not in a position to help with one of these more difficult to place Golden retrievers, please tell your friends, family and neighbors about them. Help us find a forever home for these dogs. They deserve a home they can call their own, their own food bowl and dog bed, and a family that will go to the ends of the earth for them. The rewards the "rescuers" of these dogs will get are immeasurable – the love and loyalty of a best friend.

As an aside, I was very pleased to see how few faces I recognized at the last Adoption Day! At first I thought I was at the wrong rescue's adoption day – but then I realized how many new members are volunteering. Also, we have had many kind letters and donations on behalf of Colby and our other Special Needs Golden retrievers – thank you all so much!



Diamond, Red and Riley relax after a long day of greeting visitors at GRREAT's booth at Viva Vienna.



The GRREAT Booth at SPCA Walk For the Animals.

Animals and the Benefits of Alternative Healing and Proper Nutrition

By Sherry B. True

Many of us strive on a daily basis for the balance between the mind, body and spirit for our well-being. We as humans have the ability to seek out various modalities to heal ourselves and take care of ourselves in a way to maintain that connection. Our animal companions on the other hand need our help in maintaining their balance between mind, body and spirit. Animals are much like us; they too are affected by their surroundings, what they eat, and the amount and kind of interaction they have on a daily basis.

Recent studies have shown that living with an animal companion improves a person's physical health and well-being. Having a pet can lower your blood pressure, reduce stress, and release powerful endorphins. Many people also believe, as I do, that connecting with your animal companion will also help to improve your spiritual health. Animals have a seemingly boundless capacity to bring spiritual qualities such as unconditional love, gratitude, patience, and joy to our lives. They give all of this freely to us if we wish to accept it. However, at times there is a price they pay for living and sharing their lives with us.

We have a responsibility as caretakers and guardians to help maintain the health and well being of our animal companions. Often we don't think how our actions affect the animals we live with or come in contact with on a daily basis. Animals are "energy sponges".

They pick up on all sorts of energy in their environment, our energy, positive and negative, other pets in the home, the music we play. They can get stressed out from trips to the vet, surgical procedures, vaccinations, an environment where people smoke, thunderstorms or loud noises, exposure to toxic environments in the home such as chemicals, cleaners, electromagnetic fields from computers, TVs, microwaves, etc.

All too often I have run across animals and humans who have shared diseases. A friend of mine, Debbie had many gastrointestinal issues most of her life. Pippy was a little rescue dog she found one spring. Debbie took Pippy to the vet and except for being skinny and some arthritis she was in pretty good health. Pippy would often lie across her stomach at night while they were on the couch watching television. About two months after rescuing Pippy, the dog came down with similar symptoms. After taking Pippy to the vet it was discovered she too was suffering from intestinal issues that were not there before. Once Debbie was able to get her intestinal issues under control so did Pippy.

Animals have an innate ability to pick up on what is ailing us; whether it is mental, physical or emotional, they want to help us heal and will often absorb that energy to help us heal. Take a look at your animal companion(s) and see if they share any of your emotional, physical or mental characteristics. Is there something that you could be providing them right now that would benefit to them?

It's not always clear what the best ways are to support the body, mind and spirit of our animal friends. Sometimes a single form such as animal massage, Reiki or acupuncture work fine as standalones. Other


times a combination of healing modalities works best. It is up to how each individual animal responds to what treatment.

I believe that preventive medicine is best for both humans and animals. We all know the power and comfort of receiving a good massage or energy session, or having good healthy meals everyday to maintain clarity and well being for ourselves. Our animal companions benefit just as much from these simple acts. However, if we only take care of the physical being and don't care for the environment the animal lives in, his or her body will be unable to respond vigorously to those wonderful natural and holistic remedies we supply for them. It's hard to imagine trying to maintain a balanced mind, body and spirit if one of the elements is out of sync. It would be like taking a walk everyday, eating healthy food and then going back to an office or home that is filled with negativity and stress. Although the walk and food are healthy the third component in the triangle is not in sync with the other two.

Food is one of the simplest things to start with if you don't already have them on a good diet. It is my philosophy that I would rather pay extra now for good food then pay a veterinarian later for health issues from feeding them low grade food. Dogs and cats should live well into their 20's, yet most die between 13 to 15 years. A good website to check out for further information on food is www.shirleys-wellness-cafe.com. This website has a lot of terrific information on it.

Pet massage or energy sessions are also simple yet effective ways to help your pet maintain their good health. These modalities are no longer considered to be something of a luxury item for your pet. This type of care is considered to be part of an animals normal routine care program. These massages or energy sessions can greatly benefit animals who are recovering from physical injuries or illnesses and also help on a spiritual level by allowing them the space to relax and heal naturally.

Lastly is our heart and soul connection to animals. It is probably the single most positive thing you can do, to connect with your animals on a heart level to keep the energy of love flowing between the two of you. It is time for both of you to recognize the face of God in each other. Rejoice in the love that so many people seek out only to find it in the animal companions they share their lives with. Many people find the light of spirit residing in the eyes of their beloved animal companion. This love helps to keep you and your pet balanced and spiritually connected to the divine.

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

During the period of 4/27/07 through 7/3/07, 38 lucky Golden Retrievers found their forever home. Of these, 14 were female and 24 were male, and the group was relatively young – 16 dogs were age 2 or younger, 19 dogs were between the ages of 3 and 8, and 3 dogs were age 12. Congratulations to all!

Name	#	Age	Sex	Name	#	Age	Sex
Amber	07-061	2	F	Grissom	07-040	2	M
Bailey	07-026	5	M	Grover	07-025	7	M
Bear	07-043	3	M	Hunter	07-080	9mo	M
Becca	07-058	1	F	Jack	07-076	6	M
Bentley	07-059	3	M	Jasper	07-071	1	M
Bobo	07-018	7	M	Katie	07-038	3	F
Boomer	06-199	1	M	Maggie	07-037	12	F
Brody	07-070	3	M	Maisy	07-065	1	F
Buddy	06-230	1	M	Max	07-028	6mo	M
Cassie	07-032	6	F	Melody	07-035	2	F
Chase	07-083	3	M	Mickey	06-229	6	M
Chica	07-039	2	F	Rex	06-198	8	M
Chloe	07-007	3	F	Ripken	07-046	5	M
Cocoa	07-031	1	F	Roscoe	07-060	5	M
Daisy	07-096	7	F	Ruby	07-086	12	F
Diamond	06-218	2	F	Sally	07-063	7	F
Finn	05-068	4	M	Sam	07-053	1	M
Giljit	07-044	12	M	Shivers	07-041	2	M
Gordon	07-062	2	M	Spicey	07-068	4	M

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.

ADOPTION DAY DIRECTIONS

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.

Saturday, September 8, 2007

Noon - 2pm

Petco

615 Belair Road, Suite P

Bel Air, Maryland

410-420-6754

Take I-95 North toward Baltimore. Take exit #77B/MD-24 onto Emmorton Road [MD-24] toward Bel Air. Turn Left on Baltimore Pike [US-1-BUS]. Turn Left into the shopping center.

Saturday, October 6, 2006

Noon - 2pm

Petco

6612 Richmond Highway

Alexandria, Virginia

703-660-1300

Take I-95 South toward Baltimore. Take exit #52 onto MD-295 South toward BWI Airport. Take exit #1B onto I-95 South toward Richmond. Take exit #177B-A onto US-1 South toward Fort Belvoir. Go 2.4 miles and turn right on Richmond Highway. Go 0.1 miles and Petco will be on the right.

GRREAT assumes no responsibility for the above directions.

Please call the individual businesses listed to verify the route from your address.

I Don't Understand

By Skip Nizer

Dog are funny creatures. They are a lot like women, the more I am around them and the more I watch them the less I understand them.

Take Scout for instance. He loves being outside, running like crazy, searching the bushes for birds (or butterflies) and whatever he can find. Yesterday it was raining hard and he wanted to go out very badly. When we let him out he stepped just outside the door, put his face toward the rain and closed his eyes. He just stood there with his eyes closed until we made him come in.

Scout does not like baths. He doesn't fight us but he wants out of the tub. He gets a sad and forlorn look. However, he will come inside the house thru the basement patio door, walk over to the water bowl and dip his front paws (one at a time) in it and rinse them off. The first few times we couldn't figure out why the water bowl was so dirty and why there were wet circles on the floor. We are trying to get him to use a towel now.

Sadie will put a ball in her mouth, come up to you and just about shove the ball in your face but she won't release and you can't pry it out of her mouth.

Toby doesn't like it when you gently blow on his face, but when he gets into the Suburban I have to lock the windows because he knows how to stand on the window switch to get it down. Then at 65 mph he puts his head out of the window. If he can't get the window down he will lie down and sleep unless we are attacked by the motorcycle monster. At that point he is ready to kill and will not shut up until the neutral zone has been established (about 60 feet).

Shiloh had a built-in body clock that was set for 8 PM. Every night at 8 he would walk into the kitchen and sit in front of the cabinet by the back door. There he would wait for his evening treat. If I didn't get up from my chair after 5 minutes he would come to me and

start prancing between my chair and the kitchen. If I didn't get up after a few minutes he would add whining to his act. After getting his treat he would lay on his side by my chair and lift a front leg into the air and hit the side of my chair with it until I put my arm over the side and put his paw in my hand. He would then take a nap until I let it go. That was how I learned to hold my glass and use the remote with my left hand (funny the simple things that you miss in life).

Scout has energy to burn and I doubt if he sleeps much at night. He keeps a constant visual at the patio door and will bark to let me know if something has moved, might move or might be thinking about moving. And if something does move he wants to go out and find it. I tried closing the curtain but he just pushed that aside with his nose. Then I moved his crate against the curtain. After two nights he knew he could push it to the side. I then placed his hunting crate (heavier) with the bed and insulating cover inside it against the curtain. That worked. The funny part was we would find him in the morning sitting on top of the crate staring at the curtain. I guess he was all set when the curtain opened.

A few days ago all the dogs wanted to help do some repair work. So I had to block them and used my body as part of the barricade. As I sat on the ground Scout got behind me. I straightened my back for a second and suddenly there was a blur going over my head. As soon as I get someone to measure my height sitting upright I can tell you how high he jumped from a sit.

The biggest thing I don't understand is how a dog that has been neglected, unwanted and abused by humans can be so willing to give them another chance and to give them their love. Humans don't realize how lucky they are. Like the man said "Dogs are the only creatures that love man more than themselves".

By the way, can you all do me a favor? Tonight at 8 PM give your dog a treat, Shiloh would appreciate it. 🍖

Stop Scratching!

By Jo Bighouse

Frequently I am asked for advice to help a pet who is scratching, chewing on their feet, or plagued with chronic eye and ear discharge. These symptoms are often a sign of food intolerance or allergies, so my suggestions always begin with a change in diet. Removing grain from the diet and adding fresh, minimally processed foods can result in a positive change within a few weeks. For those pets who do not respond to a diet change, it is important to obtain a confirmed diagnosis from a veterinarian before beginning any treatment program. Although allergies are often determined to be the cause, there may be a more serious condition such as hypothyroidism, Cushing's disease or an immune disorder.

The conventional treatment for allergies is to suppress the symptoms with steroids and antihistamines. While this may lessen the itching and scratching, the underlying cause of the allergies is not addressed. A holistic approach is to treat the whole animal and help them heal from within. Nutritional supplements, herbs, acupuncture, and homeopathic remedies have been used successfully in treating allergic animals. Allergies may not be "cured," but it is possible to lessen their impact by improving your pet's overall health.

Antioxidants that may help an allergic pet include Vitamin C, Vitamin A, Vitamin E, Selenium, Manganese, Zinc, Co-Q10, and Grape Seed Extract. Because synthetic vitamins do not replicate every aspect of a naturally occurring vitamin, choose supplements that are in their whole, unadulterated state.


Herbs that may be helpful include Alfalfa, Burdock Root, Dandelion, Echinacea, Garlic, Chamomile, Ginkgo, Goldenseal, Licorice Root, Nettle, Red Clover and Yellow Dock. Aloe Vera can be applied topically as a rinse.

Homeopathic remedies for allergies and skin conditions include Arsenicum Album, Hepar Sulphuris, Hypericum, Lycopodium, Rhus Tox, Sulphur, and Thuja Occidentalis.

Blood titers are a better choice than regular vaccinations for allergic animals. Titers measure the immunity level which can help you and your veterinarian deter-

mine if re-vaccination is necessary. Blood titers for my own dogs have shown an acceptable level of immunity 6 years after the vaccination. If vaccination is necessary, such as rabies which is required by law, choose a time when your pet is free of allergic symptoms and after his immune system has been improved through a wholesome diet and supplements. The homeopathic remedy Thuja can be administered before and after the vaccination to help negate an allergic reaction.

More specific information on helping your allergic animal can be found in "The Allergy Problem, Making Sense of Allergy Problems and Solutions for Your Adult Dogs" by Monica Segal; "The Allergy Solution for Dogs" by Shawn Messonnier; "Dr. Pitcairn's Complete Guide to Natural Health For Dogs & Cats" by Richard Pitcairn and Susan Hubble Pitcairn; and "The Encyclopedia of Natural Pet Care" by CJ Puotinen.

Jo Bighouse is the co-owner of the Midas Touch Health Food Store in Berryville. She is a member of the Organic Trade Association, Flower Essence Society, Association of Pet Dog Trainers, and Animal Wellness Society. Contact her through her web site at MidasTouchHealth.com. 

VA License Plates

GRREAT and our partner to the south, SEVA GRREAT, are gauging interest in a Golden Retriever Rescue license plate for Virginia drivers. The basic program requires 350 prepaid applications. As 501(c)3 organizations, our rescues qualify for Revenue Sharing. With our combined memberships, we should be able to meet this criteria. Plates authorized for revenue sharing cost \$25 annually. Personalization is an additional \$10 annually. Revenue sharing provides \$15 of every \$25 paid to the DMV to be shared with the qualified organization after the sale of the first 1000 plates. If you are interested in this program, please contact Liz Haransky at goldenhappytails@yahoo.com.

DONATIONS

Thank you for your donations

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Allen & Kathy Shapiro
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Bob Taylor
Andrew Thompson
Duanne & Amalia Tollaksen
Mary Anne Walsh
Dick Wilcher
Doreen & Brad Wright
Betty Yoast*

In Memory Of...

Sunshine, the full time RV traveler and author of Sunshine's Adventures. – Terry & Karen Moses

Brady Cole. Although he was not a GRREAT Golden, he was our great Golden. – Tina & Will Cole

Butterscotch. – Sean Luster

For the last two years by Golden Zack swam every Saturday at the Canine Fitness Center. To us it was therapy for elbow dysplasia; to him it was pure joy. We lost Zack last week, but he will always be in our hearts. Please use this for the swim fund for Bailey (04-062.) - Donna-Bea Tillman

For Kim, in memory of Tosh. – Diane Lanigan

It was with tremendous sadness that we said goodbye to our precious GRREAT dog Jack. We will forever be grateful to Mary Ellen Lunde for sending him to us. He was such a light in our life, and we miss him terribly. Please accept this donation to help other Golden Retrievers find their perfect home. – Dawn & Ed Lowe

Nancy Howell's father. – Paws Pet Boutique

Zack Tillman. – Barbara Sitton

Zack Tillman. – The Tillman/Blunk family

Bear Whittaker. My daughter Judy and her family lost their dog Bear to accumulated debilitation of advanced years. Bear didn't have a drop of Golden in him but he was a wonderful example of all that is respected and endearing in a canine companion who will live on in our memories and whose strong spirit lingers close to those who loved him and whom he loved. – Trish Collier

Barclay Buchanan, who was a wonderful 13-year-old Golden who passed away on 4/23/07 of kidney failure. His family, Wiley and Janis Buchanan are great friends of ours and our Goldens; they miss him terribly. Please keep them all in your thoughts. – John & Lisa Walsh

Spenser Bennett. – Greg & Lois Utterback

Becky and McKenzi Helen Caudell. – Bernard & Bonnie Burton

Loki & Kyrie Yates. – Deborah Henderson

We recently found out we lost one of our fosters (Gus 06-212). We were devastated, as was his forever family, as they only had him for four months. In his honor, and to help Colby with his hip surgery, we are sending a special donation. Thank you and God Bless. – Bob & Lynda Lake

Pam & Conrad's three Golden Boys: Buddy, Bear and Alex. – Jeff & Lucinda Twining

Sam (06-215), foster dog of Jane Medico. Sam came to GRREAT crippled by arthritis, but a spirit and personality still going to strong. I would like to thank Jane for caring for Sam in his final months. – Sandy Diamond

Amber. – Eileen Powers

Thank you for your recent expression of sympathy for the loss of our beloved Berkely (01-165). Berkely, as in everything he did, dealt with osteosarcoma cancer over the last year in a selfless and graceful manner. He was truly the perfect dog. He was the most lovable, understanding and loyal companion any of us could ever want. Truly our best friend was "Pure Gold." From the moment we met Berkely at Corinne Sandefer's GRREAT foster home in the summer of 2001, we knew he was special. It was love at first sight. We were thrilled that Corinne chose us to give Berkely his forever home. The six years with Berkely were some of the best years of our lives. When we are ready we will look to GRREAT to help fill this tremendous void in our lives. Berkely will be in our hearts forever and is deeply missed by our entire family. Please accept this donation in Berkely's honor. – Catherine & Thomas Wood

Loki, dear friend of Carol & Dave Yates. – Sandy Diamond

Aspen, companion of Carol & Rory Nansel. – Sheli Ringlemon Rhodes

Shirley Davidson, who passed away 16 years ago, but whose love for dogs continues to inspire me in my work with GRREAT. – Louise Davidson

Nancy Howell's father. – Rae Ellen

Ronnie and John Martinez's Golden that was recently lost to cancer. Trooper was a very special dog – only three legs as he was a police dog which survived a gunshot wound. We hope that this gift will help another "Trooper" find the loving family they deserve. – Pamela Prather

DONATIONS

Trooper. – Col. (Ret) William & Rogette Wolfe

Jan and Bill Carlson's wonderful Tristan, who left too soon but will always be remembered with love. – Elizabeth Crane

Reba, who I recently lost to bone cancer after 13 years of being her mother. – Laurie Walker

Stoneale's Cherish the Ladies, "Romeo", a puppy from our last litter, 3/21/94 – 4/2/07. He was always a ladies man. And, for Penny, my parent's rescue Golden who began life in a puppy mill then was given up by her owners when they became allergic to her and she became destructive while being locked up in their basement all day and night. She was adopted at 2 years of age and had 12 great years of being spoiled rotten. – Barbara & Ace Oestreich

In Honor Of...

Beau Bien Snyder, now 5+ years old, rescued at Oakland, MD 9/26/02. – Marion Snyder

Jannus, the Golden Wanna Be. – Eileen Bennett

Amber. – Sheila & Al Vertino

As a thank you for finding and returning my purse. I would like to make this donation in honor of Carol Loay, who like me is an animal lover. – Cynthia Christian

Cady, a GRREAT Golden. In memory of Butter. – Debbie Buchanan

Dusty. – Jonathan Gordon

Our great mom, Natalie Nicholson. – Jonny Nicholson

Peaches. – Jessie Robinson

Charlie (07-064). – Kathy Thomas

Diane and John Hein, Echo's foster family. I am writing this on May 21, 2007, a year from the day Diane and John brought Echo (06-021) to us. Diane told me that Echo came into foster care weighing 113 pounds, so heavy he could not even roll over on his back (which is now his favorite position – especially on the bed!) John and Diane walked Echo every day and Diane cooked him

plenty of vegetables to supplement his normal portion of food, and Echo arrived to us a slimmed-down 89 pounds. Echo had a history of uncontrolled seizures, but Diane and John worked with the vet to determine the appropriate level of medication. Since Echo has been with us he walks 2-3 miles every day and has slimmed down to 79 pounds. He has a beautiful copper coat and doesn't mind if people ask us if he is an Irish Setter as long as they pet him to make up for their silly mistake. Echo loves going for ride, sunbathing, walking and wallowing in the water. Again, I want to thank Diane and John for all their work as a foster home for GRREAT, but especially for helping Echo become the happy and loving dog he is and letting him become the joy of our lives. – Michael Neff & Carla Brown

Erin Pattan's birthday. – Paul & Jamie Littmann

Cassie (07-032). – Peter & Tara Greenwood

Maggie (07-037). – Lynette & Robert Kaufmann

For Other Reasons

Two of our GRREAT Golden retrievers needed medical treatments before we adopted them. Both are happy and healthy now (years later.) Thank you!! – Nancy & Richard Hughes

I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for the love, time and energy you give to our beautiful Golden retrievers. We are thankful Roxie joined our family in August 2005, and continues to make us smile each day. – James & Sharon Qualls

For Steve Daner – Happy Birthday, Papa! Love from your two GRREAT pups, Cate & Ally Daner

Gift from the trust of Shirley Davidson. – Louise Davidson

I think you are doing a wonderful job saving these beautiful dogs. – Betty Van Dyke

Enclosed find a check from Mark and Leslee Percy to be used for Scout (94-144.) Mark and Leslee adopted Scout in 1995. But two years ago a change in their lives meant a move to California. At 13 years old, they felt that the move across the country would be too much

for Scout, so the Percy's made the decision to return Scout to GRREAT and he became part of our household as a long term foster. I have heard from them a few times in the last couple of years, and most recently a couple of weeks ago. I told them about Scout having cancer and the Percy's decided they wanted to make a donation to GRREAT to help pay for his continuing care. The note that accompanies the check reads, "Kim: This is for Scout. Take Scout's head in both hands, look him in those sleepy, sweet eyes and tell him we still love him and cherish all our memories with him. We love you, too. Mark & Leslee." – Kim Wiff

I helped an injured dog at an agility trial and asked the owner (Chris Zink) to donate to GRREAT instead of paying me. – Jeri Collette

This donation is to thank Melissa Guzman from Capital Chocolate Fountains for providing a delicious chocolate fountain for Linda's graduation celebration. Her generosity helped make the event very special. – Jill & Bob Kurtz

Corporate Giving

Sandy Spring Bank – on behalf of Sandy Diamond

Becton Dickinson and Company

Verizon Foundation – on behalf of Cathy Pollock

Microsoft Giving Campaign – on behalf of Bob and Carolyn Reagle

Wellpoint Associate Giving Campaign – on behalf of Renee Miller

America's Charities

iGive

CSC Employee Campaign – on behalf of Kim & Don Dawson

Simile-Finale Fund

Jessie Robinson

DONATIONS

Leo's Corner

LEO'S PALS (UP TO \$99)

For Colby's surgery. – Kevin & Betty French

Please accept this donation towards Colby's hip replacement. – Doug & Pam Browder

On behalf of David & Carol Yates. - Deborah Henderson

I am sending the enclosed contribution in memory of Mac Butler, a family Golden in the Butler family for almost 13 years. He had developed cancer in his later years and was in a great deal of pain with no other options for treatment, and was let go over Memorial Day weekend. The Butler family, including three other fur babies (all rescue but none Golden), will miss Mac. – Linda & Joe Wald

Linda Dibartolomeo

GOLDEN HEROES (\$100-\$499)

In honor of our 9th anniversary with Molson. Thank you, GRREAT, for all you do for Golden. – Doreen & Brad Wright

Joseph & Virginia Fry

AXA Foundation – on behalf of Brenda Pascal

Please accept this donation to the Leo Fund in honor of Nancy and Judd Howell, GRREAT foster parents, for the gift of Chance and, after his passing, my 'second chance' Reilly. I will be forever grateful to them for the honor of choosing me to take these wonderful boys. – Lisa Zolly

In honor of Morgan (98-133), for Colby's surgery. – Anita & John Funk

Happy 9th birthday Duncan, and 5th birthday Marcus. – James & Carol Peck

In honor of Jessie (a non-GRREAT Golden belonging to Gil and Patricia Beyer). Jessie just recently passed away after celebrating her 16th birthday. – Carolyn Beyer

Jesse Brown

GOLDEN ANGELS (\$500 AND MORE)

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

Jeanne O'Donoghue

For Colby

Please use my donation for GRREAT Boy Colby's hip surgery. – Allison Ciolino

For Colby, in memory of Summer. – Mary & Richard Gillett

For Colby's hip replacement. – Cindy Strohmaier

In memory of our angel Toby, who regularly shot through the yard at 100 miles an hour after recovering from his total hip replacement surgery. May Colby have many, many such moments. – Sangeeta & Ashwani Prasad

We were moved to donate to Colby's hip surgery out of our love for the Golden we've lived with (Kate, Amigo, Bascia, Nala, Sally and Roscoe) and our gratitude that none of them needed this surgery. – Steve Soderberg & Mary Ann McFarland

For Colby's hip replacement. – Nancy Alexander

For Colby. – Jonathan Tarlin & Vanessa Mitchell

For Colby. – Diane Lanigan

A little something to help Colby. In honor of Clark (04-061) and Hannah. – Lynne Glennon

For Colby's surgery. – Sandy Huber


Please use this donation for Boy Colby. – James and Marlene McGuirl

Please accept the enclosed for Colby's surgery. – Judith Eyler

Please accept this donation for the medical care of Colby, Jannus, Peaches, Red or any other Golden in need of extraordinary medical care. We have adopted two wonderful dogs from GRREAT over the years and would be pleased to help your worthwhile organization. – Lori & Peter Kubic

For Colby. – Wilma & Chris Sargent

I was deeply touched by the email about Colby and his need for extensive surgery to relieve him of severe pain and enable him to have optimal function. Since I am not going on a trip I had planned for, I am in the unusual situation of having more money available than I'd planned. How better to use it than to help towards Colby's surgery. I hope there will be an outpouring from GRREAT members and supporters as there often is, and that he will be able to have the procedure he needs. – Trish Collier

For Colby's surgery. – Becky, Paul, Anna & Matt Hoeft 


Goldstock Auction Items Needed

Once again, GRREAT will be attending Goldstock, a retreat held at Camp Weequahic in Pennsylvania. Golden Retriever rescue groups and enthusiasts from around the country attend this fun event, which is held over Labor Day weekend. There are activities for people and their dogs, and it is a big fundraising event for GRREAT.

Over the weekend silent and live auctions are conducted. GRREAT is looking for donated items for these auctions, and we need your help. Golden Retriever and dog-related items are the most popular, although any items are welcome.

Donations can be mailed to:
Sandy Diamond
PO Box 5162
Herndon, VA 20170

If you prefer to drop off your items or arrange pick-up, please contact Sandy Diamond at 703-919-8513 or e-mail president@grreat.org. We request that you send your donations by August 26, 2007. Thank you in advance for helping to make GRREAT's participation in Goldstock 2007 a success!

For more information on Goldstock, or if you would like to attend, go to www.goldstock2006.org 

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 with your dog in a natural, powerful way.

Step 3 – Play Dates!

Dogs who have ample opportunities to interact with other friendly dogs are proven to have fewer behavior problems. Assuming your dog does not have issues with other dogs, make play dates for him as often as possible – if not daily, then several times a week.

Humans ask dogs to do some pretty weird things, and dogs are awfully nice about it. We ask our dogs to drop all their natural inclinations and needs in the presence of other dogs. Many dogs are kept as lone pets and rarely or never have opportunities to interact with other dogs. When they do, their humans send all kinds of weird messages to them, or ask them to accept and interact with animals they've never met or even seen before.

By nature, dogs are built to spend all of their time, awake and asleep, in the company of other group members. In their normal environment they forage, romp, rest and groom together. I've been told by canine behaviorists that romping is one of the most significant forms of exercise for dogs, and I believe it after watching thousands of dogs interact over the years. Most dogs are exploding with interest and the need to interact with others of their species. And many owners are unable or afraid to let their dogs meet other dogs and make real friends among them.

Fewer than half the dogs I see have been socialized well with other dogs. To me, a socialized dog is one who can behave appropriately in a given situation. He may not romp like a lab, but he knows how to behave politely, read other dogs, and send clear signals to get his message across without a fight. For example, our little girl, Ricky, prefers not to play with most dogs, but enjoys being in their company. She will sit down with her back to a rude

youngster who insists on trying to sniff her butt before she's ready to be sniffed.

Here are some suggestions for helping your dog become well-socialized:

1. Make friends. When you meet a likely-seeming dog, make friends with the owner and ask for play dates. You'd do it for your kid – your dog needs it at least as much! Keep a constant lookout for dog buddies who can be suitable playmates or sniffing buddies for your pup. Suck up your pride or embarrassment and start chatting.
2. Educate yourself about body language, vocalization, play styles, and healthy ways to introduce dogs to other dogs. My absolute favorite book (still) on the subject of canine communication is Turid Rugaas's *Calming Signals*. Another is Patricia McDonnell's *The Other End of the Leash*. Both books are wonderfully readable and filled with useful information about how dogs communicate with each other and us, and how you can apply that information to daily life with your dog. Check out www.dog-wise.com.
3. Find safe places where the dogs can romp off leash. Leashes can create weird tension (with nervous owners yanking on them) and dogs need to posture and bounce in their own way. Look for a fenced area like a tennis court or someone's yard.
4. Stay out of it. It's dog time. Watch and supervise from the sidelines but don't get into the middle of things. Let him do his doggy thing with the other animal(s). Don't correct him for butt sniffing, for pete's sake. Humping looks stupid and embarrasses us but it's up to the humpee to say something about it. (I've met exactly four dogs in my life so far who were problem humpers, and I separated them from the other dogs. Normally, it's just another dog thing.)

No toys, chewies, food during play time. Save the treats for later. This makes it easier to avoid potential problems.

Continued on page 17

Book Review

By Marie Lavallee

David Rosenfelt is an author who has published a number of books chronicling the adventures of a lawyer named Andy Carpenter. Andy has a golden retriever named Tara who, according to him, is "the best dog the world has ever known".

The first book, *Open and Shut*, finds Andy defending a death row inmate named Willie Miller. Andy's father, who suddenly dies in the book and leaves Andy a \$22M fortune, has asked Andy to defend Willie and in so doing, Andy uncovers a secret that had been buried for decades. In his second book, *First Degree*, after having won his freedom, Willie finds a stray dog, takes him in and then with Andy, using the money left by Andy's father, starts a foundation for dogs they name the Tara Foundation. In reality, David and his wife did start a foundation in Southern California named after their beloved Tara, a golden retriever who died in 1993. The focus of the foundation is to rescue goldens and other large dogs and to date they have been successful in rescuing and placing over 4,000 dogs in new homes. After years of abuse or after having been abandoned by their families because of medical concerns, David takes these dogs to fill their last years full



of love and comfort. Those dogs that are too old or infirm that no other adoptive homes will take them are taken in by David and his wife. David's official site can be found at <http://www.davidrosenfelt.com/home.htm>.

Softball Team Holds Soft Spot for a Golden Named Gloria

Gloria the K9 lives the good life! She is spending the dog days of summer literally basking in the glory - the Washington Glory that is.

The loveable Golden is the furry mascot for the Washington area's professional women's fast pitch softball team which is currently playing their inaugural season at George Mason University. Having quickly become a fan favorite at the stadium, Gloria spends each game leading cheers, attempting to retrieve foul balls, and distracting the umpires as she winks her long lashes at them.



Throughout the season, Gloria and the team will be hosting special GRREAT "tailgate" nights at the stadium, so stay tuned to our website for specific dates and times. In the meantime, gather up the family & the dogs, and catch a game with the Glory. The full 2007 schedule and tickets are available online at www.washingtonglory.com.

Sunshine's Final Adventure

To all of the GRREAT people that have read the stories of Sunshine's (GRREAT 98-011) adventures we are sorry to announce that Sunshine left yesterday on his last adventure. I had to lose Sunshine in Pahrump, NV. For those of you that know him, you would know what a lovable and affectionate puppy he was and will be missed by all who knew him.

He really came into his own when we started full timing in the motor home. For someone that was mistreated his first two years he would go to anyone seeking hugs and kisses and everyone would tell him how pretty he was and wonderful a puppy he was. During the time he had a major tumor removal and then the cancer surgery he never complained and remained a happy puppy through it all. He had been having eating problems for the past week and we thought he was just having a bad time since we were both working and he was alone for most of the day. I took him to the vet and was informed that he had an inoperable tumor. It was a hard decision but I had to think of him and while he lived with dignity I could not let him live with anything less. Sunshine turned 11 on 1/1/07.

We are bringing him back to his home in VA to for his final resting place. Thanks to all that treated him well, Karen and I will miss him very much.

Thanks, T and Karen

Got Fleas?

By Jo Bighouse

It's that time of year, when we see an increase in fleas and ticks. Below are some helpful tips to control these pests naturally.

Adult fleas live about 3-4 months. During that time they are steadily laying eggs. Flea eggs hatch out into larvae that live in the cracks and crevices of rugs, upholstery, blankets, floors, sand, earth, etc. After 1-2 weeks the larvae go through a cocoon stage. A week or two later they hatch out as small fleas that hop onto the nearest warm body. The cycle takes anywhere from 2-20 weeks depending on the temperature. During summer the entire cycle is usually just 2 weeks long.

No matter how many adult fleas you kill, numerous future fleas are developing in the environment simultaneously. Because the developing fleas are so immobile they are most concentrated wherever your pet sleeps so focus your efforts there.

Regular cleaning interrupts the life cycles of the fleas and greatly cuts down on the number of adult fleas that end up on your pet. Steam-clean your carpets. Though it is somewhat expensive, steam cleaning is effective in killing flea eggs.

- Thoroughly vacuum and clean floors and furniture at least once a week to pick up flea eggs, larvae and pupae.
- Launder your pet's bedding in hot, soapy water at least once a week. Dry on maximum heat.
- Bathe the animal with a natural flea control shampoo. Use a nontoxic shampoo such as one containing d-limonene.
- Use a flea comb to trap and kill fleas that are on your pet. As you trap them pull them off the comb and plunge them into a container of hot, soapy water. When you are finished flush the soapy water and fleas down the toilet.
- Mow and water your lawn regularly. Short grass allows sunlight to penetrate and warm the soil, which kills larvae. Watering drowns the developing fleas.

- Encourage ants. They love to eat flea eggs and larvae. Do not use a pesticide that kills all the insects in the yard.
- Sterilize bare earth sleeping spots. Cover bare or sandy areas where your pet sleeps with heavy black plastic on a hot, sunny day. The heat that builds up under the plastic will kill the fleas.
- Apply agricultural lime on grassy or moist areas.
- Use an herbal flea powder or herbal flea collar or bandana.
- Use a natural skin tonic: Thinly slice a whole lemon, including the peel. Add it to 1 pint of near-boiling water and let it steep overnight. The next day sponge the solution onto the animal's skin and let it dry. You can use this daily for severe skin problems involving fleas. It is a source of natural flea-killing substances like d-limonene and other health ingredients found in the whole lemon.
- Add ample nutritional or brewer's yeast and garlic to the diet. Some studies show yeast supplementation significantly reduces flea numbers, though others indicate no effect. You can also rub it directly into the animal's hair.

If all of these do not work:

Get your carpets treated with a special anti-flea mineral salt. Fleabusters and Radar Rex are two of the companies recommended. Once or twice a year sprinkle natural unrefined diatomaceous earth along walls, under furniture and under cracks and crevices that you cannot access with a vacuum. Do not use the diatomaceous earth sold for swimming pool filters. Use a spray or powder containing pyrethrins or natural pyrethrum.

There are some essential oils that are flea repellents: spike, lavender, geranium, citronella, eucalyptus, clove, camphor, and Atlas Cedarwood. A word of caution: these essential oils should not be used around cats or small dogs. 🐾

Competing in AKC Events

By Bob Kurtz, PVGRC President

In my last few columns, I've talked about competitive events that PVGRC has held. You may have noticed that most of these events are sanctioned by the American Kennel Club (AKC). Generally, the AKC requires that dogs that compete in AKC-sanctioned events be registered with the AKC. Of course, GRREAT rescue dogs don't come with an AKC registration.

Fortunately, the AKC has anticipated that unregistered dogs and their owners may wish to compete in AKC events. To allow this to occur, the AKC created the Indefinite Listing Privilege (ILP), an alternative form of listing which can allow your unregistered dog to compete in AKC events. A dog can qualify for ILP listing if it is of a breed recognized by the AKC and has been spayed or neutered. Most GRREAT dogs meet these qualifications.

To request an ILP listing, fill out the AKC form available on the web at <http://www.akc.org/pdfs/ilpform.pdf>, and include two color photographs (from the front and side) and a spay/neuter certificate. There is a \$35 application fee for ILP listing. The ILP generally takes four to eight weeks.

Once your ILP listing is completed, you will be able to enter your dog in obedience, rally, agility, field, and other AKC events. Let the fun begin! 🐾

More Ways to Help GRREAT

Sign up for the Food Lion Shop & Share. Link your MVP card to GRREAT and Food Lion will donate a percentage of your shopping total to GRREAT. There is no cost to you, and it's easy.

- 1) Go to:
<http://www.foodlion.com/IntheCommunity/ShopAndShare/default.asp>
- 2) Click on "Register MVP Card"
- 3) Select "VA" for the state (even if you live in another state)
- 4) Select Falls Church for the City
- 5) Select Golden Retriever Rescue (GRREAT)
- 6) Click Add MVP Card
- 7) Follow the instructions to register your card

Sign up for iGive. If you shop online, hundreds of retailers will donate a portion of your purchase back to GRREAT just for signing up. It's very simple:

- 1) Go to www.grreat.org, scroll down and click on "Visit the GRREAT Shopping Mall."
- 2) Click on the link for iGive.
- 3) Enter your e-mail address to join.
- 4) Sign up on each computer you use for shopping – any purchases made on that computer to a retailer signed up with iGive will benefit GRREAT. 🐾

Thanks from GRREAT

Greg Russell - for donating GRREAT Banners

Weber's Pet Supermarket, Chantilly - for donating dog food

P.U.P.S. Dog Training - for donation of a training class

Connect With Other GRREAT Members

Are you looking for a new place for your dog to swim or play? Do you want to share tips on health, behavior and training with other GRREAT members? Find other GRREAT members to set up play dates? Check out the GRREAT Member Forum - go to www.grreat.org and look for GRREAT Member Forum on the menu. You can start your own posts and reply to others.



Bodie

Continued from page 1

Training can take several weeks and should be done when there is no threat of a storm, as this can cause the dog to relapse if the training has not been completed.

Counter-conditioning is used to change the dog's response by rewarding him for a new response. If you play the tapes of thunder and the dog stays calm, you would reward him so he will associate thunderstorms as non-threatening. Fearful behavior should not be rewarded, and the dog should not be punished if he does exhibit distress.

For dogs that are sensitive to the static from the storms, try putting a tight t-shirt on the dog or swiping the dog's back with a dryer sheet. There are also two commercial products available – the Anxiety Wrap (www.anxietywrap.com) and the Storm Defender Cape (www.stormdefender.com). Both cost in the range of \$60 to \$70 and feedback has been good for both of them. The Anxiety Wrap is a snug fitting suit that provides “maintained pressure” to calm the dog. The Storm Defender cape has a metallic lining that discharges a dog's fur and helps to prevent static buildup. Another item to try if your dog is afraid of noise are “Mutt Muffs.” These are headsets made for dogs, originally used for dog who fly with their owners in small planes. They help to block out noise and can be found at www.safeandsoundpets.com.

Natural remedies include Rescue Remedy, Calming Essence or Five Flower Formula, which are flower essences. More information on these is available at www.bachflower.com/Pets.htm. Melatonin has been helpful for some dogs, as has a Dog Appeasing Pheromone (DAP) diffuser.

Finally, if your dog suffers from a severe case of thunderstorm phobia and none of the other remedies work, anxiety reducing drugs may help. Drugs are usually a last resort, as they don't help the dog with its fear – he is just too drugged to react. Common drugs are Acepromazine, Valium, Xanax, Clomicalm and amitriptyline.

Talk to your vet about which method(s) are most appropriate for your dog. You can find additional information at www.wonderpuppy.net/canwehelp/1dbfear.php, www.vetinfo4dogs.com and www.hsus.org/pet_care/our_pets_for_life_program/dog_behavior_tip_sheets/.

Also helpful is the book “The Dog Who Loved Too Much: Tales, Treatments and the Psychology of Dogs” by Nicholas Dodman. 🐾

Bark-B-Que a Big Success

A record total of 234 people and over 140 dogs attended the Bark-B-Que at Quiet Waters Park on June 24th. There was plenty of food and fun for dogs and their human companions. Rory and Carol Nansel put on an agility demonstration, there were games for the dogs, a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction.

We would like to thank the following people for their help:

Betsy Bake, for coordinating the event

Scott & Kelly Daniels for providing and preparing the food

Jessie Robinson for designing and mailing the invitations

Joy Scrimshire, Kathy Thomas and Nicky Parisi for manning the Merchandise Table

Rory and Carol Nansel for providing the agility demonstration

Nancy Howell, Jessie Robinson, Allison Ward, Betsy Bake, Betty Anne Schubert, Christine Shelly, Trish Huginin and Janet Hauck for donations

Joe Lamp for taking photos



Microchipping FAQ

By Bob Kurtz, GRREAT Microchipping Coordinator

DOES MY GRREAT DOG NEED TO BE MICROCHIPPED?

All GRREAT dogs must be microchipped before their adoptions are final. In rare cases, the Microchip Coordinator may determine that a dog should not be chipped for medical or behavioral reasons.

DOES MICROCHIPPING HURT?

Most dogs do not even notice the microchipping. The loose skin around the shoulder blades has very few nerves; this is where mother dogs carry their puppies. Occasionally smaller dogs and puppies may experience minor momentary discomfort when microchipped.

CAN YOU MICROCHIP MY OTHER DOG(S)?

Yes! GRREAT can microchip non-GRREAT dogs, at the volunteer's discretion, for a cost of \$35.

CAN YOU TRACK MY DOG'S LOCATION WITH THIS MICROCHIP?

No. The dog must be scanned to be identified. Scanners are only effective over a distance of a few inches.

WHO CAN READ THIS MICROCHIP?

Inexpensive handheld scanners are available for less than \$100. Most animal wardens, animal shelters, and veterinary hospitals and offices have scanners.


DOES THIS MICROCHIP REPLACE MY COLLAR TAGS?

No! The microchip is important because it is permanent and cannot be easily lost or removed. However, it requires special equipment to read. While a local veterinarian or animal shelter can probably read the microchip, your neighbor or a helpful passer-by cannot. Your first and most important identification tool remains a personal collar tag, as well as a GRREAT ID tag.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY DOG IS FOUND?

An animal shelter or veterinary hospital can scan your dog and get the unique AVID ID number from the microchip, then notify AVID by phone. AVID will look up the ID number and call GRREAT's 24-hour hotline. GRREAT volunteers will identify your dog and call you. If you cannot be contacted, GRREAT volunteers will recover your dog and care for it until you can be located.

HOW WILL GRREAT FIND ME?

GRREAT uses a database to record the name, address, phone number, and email address of each adopter. If you move or change your phone or email, it is important to notify GRREAT so our records can be kept up to date. 

Thanks!

Thank you to the following volunteers for helping at:

APRIL 29 – SPCA WALK
FOR THE ANIMALS
Jan Brown
Greg Russell

SATURDAY, MAY 5 – ADOPTION DAY
Eileen Powers
Al Rudmann
Elizabeth Reimer
Chris Ronald
Larry Ronald
Allison Ward
Chuck Johnson
Janet Hauck
Phil Hauck

SATURDAY, MAY 5 – PET FIESTA, RESTON, VA
Julie Palais
Carla Brown
George Toll
Pete Peterson
Adam Conley
Lisa Conley
Sherry Abramson
Michael Abramson
Judy Daner

SATURDAY, MAY 19 - STRUT YOUR MUTT, BETHESDA, MD
Al Rudmann
Marie Liebetrau
Lew and Sheila Cohen
Kathryn Eszeki

MAY 20 - HOWARD COUNTY PET EXPO, HIGHLAND, MD
George Toll
Al Rudmann
Nancy Alexander
Ed Underhill

MAY 27 AND 28, – VIVA VIENNA, VA
Kathy Thomas
Trish Huginin
Julie Palais
Pete and Andrea Peterson
Marian Walsh
Liz Haransky
George Toll

JUNE 2 - ADOPTION DAY
Trish Huginin
Susan Bandel
Lee Bandel
Liz Haransky
Sue Erbele
Laura Catalano
Julie Palais
Rick Stevens
Sue Sands
Jennifer Ware
Al Rudmann
Lucinda Twining
Jeff Twining

JUNE 2 - MANCHESTER DAYS
Chris Ronald
Melissa Vecera

JUNE 9, WALK-N-WAG, FREDERICK, MD
Joy Scrimshire
Sandy Diamond

JUNE 10, 2007 - 4 PAWS FUN FEST, FOREST HEIGHTS, MD
Trish Thomas
Greg and Louie Sowers

JUNE 23, 2007 – BARON'S K-9 COUNTRY STORE, BEL AIR, MD
Nicki Parisi
Al Rudmann 

Help Wanted!

GRREAT is looking for volunteers 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.

Merchandise Coordinator. We need someone to set up the GRREAT online store, order merchandise and process and ship orders. Good organizational skills and the ability to process and ship orders in a timely manner are necessary. Access to e-mail and post office needed.

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

Continued from page 11

6. Dog parks are mixed bags. Lots of us trainers are leery of them for a few reasons, mostly because of how owners handle (or fail to handle) their dogs. I've heard some hair-raising firsthand accounts of small children running around in dog parks, of people failing to remove unfriendly dogs, of toys or treats being brought in and fought over. You know your dog – screen the park carefully and for heaven's sake, be one of the great owners – watch your dog at all times and speak up to enforce the rules.

If your dog is reactive to dogs or has other issues that concern you, contact a qualified trainer or behavior consultant. Get your dog evaluated and yourself educated on how to manage and/or correct this sad problem. Two excellent sources for locating a trainer or behaviorist: International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (www.iaabc.org) or Association of Pet Dog Trainers (www.apdt.com).

Remember - all dogs are hard-wired to differentiate their family members from strangers. After a certain age, it's simply not fair to expect your dog to play merrily with all comers. Be considerate of his personal style and preferences, and learn to recognize when he really likes another dog. Our boy Mike is way too serious with almost all other dogs, but for his girlfriend Emma, well...

Next time: Fast and Fun: Training for the Rest of Us!

Liz Hauck owns Drop the Leash, providing positive and practical training for pet people. Liz has studied dogs and their people for nearly twenty years and has trained professionally since 1999. Visit www.droptheleash.net or phone 410-800-7069 for resources, questions, comments. 🐾

Grapes and Raisins

By Joy Scrimshire, Education Coordinator

In this issue I want to share an article reprinted with permission from Suzanne Clothier's website, Flying Dog Press. Most of us give our dogs treats from time to time and often those treats are some form of food that we are eating. Personally, I used to give my dogs a few grapes; that is, until I started seeing articles about raisins and grapes being toxic to dogs. The article reprinted below is a comprehensive one which includes just how many grapes/raisins are toxic to dogs by the weight of the dog as well as describing symptoms and treatment. Please read it carefully.

Raisins & Grapes

Update by Susanne Clothier

Based on report provided by VMRCVM Vet Notes

Animal Poison Control Center has documented multiple cases of grape and raisin poisoning in dogs within the last couple of years. Presumably, this has occurred in the past but attributed to other causes.

WHAT KIND OF GRAPES & RAISINS?

The source of the problem has been varied. Grapes of all varieties and growing conditions (including homegrown) have been implicated. Raisins are usually made from white seedless grapes, but all raisins of any source should be considered kidney toxic (chocolate covered raisins as well).

WHY?

The toxic principle is unknown. Grapes contain low amounts of tannins compared to acorns, a known kidney toxicant in large animals. Grapes lack significant amounts of Vitamin D, another known kidney toxicant. It is unlikely pesticide residue is involved due to the wide variety of grape types involved. So far the majority of toxicosis reports have been in dogs. However, feeding grapes or raisins to cats and ferrets should also be discouraged, as poisonings have been reported in these species as well.

HOW MANY WOULD POISON YOUR DOG?

The minimum toxic dose is approximately 0.3 oz/kg body weight. This would correspond to about 2 grapes per kg body weight, or roughly 1 grape per pound of body weight.

15 lb dog = 12-14 grapes could be deadly

25 lb. dog = 23 grapes could be deadly

50 lb. dog = 50+ grapes could be deadly

75 lb. dog = 75 grapes could be deadly

Raisins, having lost their water content are considered more toxic at 6 raisins per kg of body weight, or 2-3 raisins per pound of body weight. Think how many raisins are in

ONE small snack pack of raisins – maybe enough to kill your dog.

15 lb. dog = 30-45 raisins could be deadly

25 lb. dog = 50-75 raisins could be deadly

50 lb. dog = 100-150 raisins could be deadly

75 lb. dog = 150-225 raisins could be deadly

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Symptoms appear 6-24 hours after the dog eats raisins or grapes (average is 12 hours). Initially, symptoms are gastrointestinal signs, followed by kidney problems.

Vomiting is usually the primary sign, with diarrhea, depression/lethargy, anorexia, colic, dehydration and sharply decreased urine output. The course of the toxicosis is anywhere from 3 days to 3 weeks. Dogs with kidney problems have a guarded to poor prognosis.

Diagnosis is based on history of recent exposure and clinical signs. On blood work, the kidney values are increased. Typically BUN, creatinine, phosphorus and potassium are elevated (sometimes serum calcium as well). The urine sediment will have hyaline casts and the urine specific gravity will be either hyposthenuric or isosthenuric (diluted to the concentration of water of less concentrated than water) at SG 1.006 to 1.010.

TREATMENT

If the raisins or grapes have been ingested within 2-3 hours, vomiting should be induced followed by activated charcoal to limit further absorption. Treatment is based on preventing further absorption if appropriate and maintaining urine output & electrolyte balance. The vet may also give an osmotic cathartic (to speed up GI passage of toxin without absorption). The animal should receive an isotonic saline solution IV at twice maintenance rates for 48 hours. Anti-nausea medication, diuretics and peritoneal dialysis may be needed in some cases.

*Suzanne Clothier has been teaching seminars nationwide since 1989. Suzanne has taught for a wide variety of kennel clubs, dog training clubs, humane organizations, national specialty clubs, private groups, FEMA Northeast Region Disaster Dog Teams, the Association for Pet Dog Trainers, Alaskan Dog Musers Association, Wolf Park, Berkshire Mountain SAR, as well as speaker for AKC Obedience Judges Education, key speaker for National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors Annual Conference, and the first European Dog Trainers Conference. She has taught in the US, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Belgium. Also, please visit Suzanne's web site where you can read an excerpt from her most recent book *Bones Would Rain From the Sky: Deepening Our Relationships with Dogs*. as well as obtain some outstanding training and behavioral articles.. <http://www.flyingdogpress.com/>*

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.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 21, 2007 - 7:00 pm
Join GRREAT at the Washington Glory game
Bring your family (including your event-friendly 4-legged members)
to watch the area's new women's professional fast pitch softball
team play, and help raise funds for GRREAT.
George Mason University Softball Complex
www.washingtonglory.com

Saturday, July 28, 2007 9:00am – 12:30pm
Berryville Dog Days of Summer
Visit the GRREAT Education and Merchandise table, and sign up for
fun games and events for your dog
Rose Hill Park, East Main Street
Historic Downtown Berryville, VA
<http://berryvillemainstreet.org/>

Saturday, July 28, 2007 9:00am – 9:00pm
Herndon Petco Customer Appreciation Day
Visit one of the stores that hosts our adoption days for a fun-filled
day of contests, demonstrations and special offers.
2441-F Centreville Rd
Herndon, VA 20171
www.petco.com/ASP/StoreEventsCalendar/Calendar.asp?storenum=768

Friday, Aug. 31 – Monday, Sept. 3, 2007
Goldstock 2007
Join GRREAT, other Golden rescues and Golden lovers for a week-
end of fun with your dog. Doggy Olympics, dog contests, Rescue
Parade, Senior Parade, Candle Ceremony, Live and Silent Auctions
and shopping at the rescue booths.
Camp Weequahic, PA
www.goldstock2006.org

Saturday, Sept. 1, 2007
Watch GRREAT on Petline 9 at 7:30 am.
WUSA TV (Channel 9)
www.wusa9.com/life/community/pets/default.asp

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2007 11:00am – 3:00pm
GRREAT Dog Wash at Bark 'N Bubbles Dog Wash
Bring all the dogs to get squeaky clean at the GRREAT Dog Wash
Fundraiser. Shampoo, Crème Rinse, Brushing and Drying included
(\$21-\$27). Blueberry facial, Nail clipping, Ear cleaning and Pad balm
available for an additional fee (\$2-\$5). You can relax at the coffee/
smoothie bar while you are waiting!
Bark 'N Bubbles Dog Wash
795 Center Street, #1A&1B
Herndon, VA 20170
www.barknbubblesdogwash.com

Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007
Chip 'n Dip
Get your dogs washed and/or microchipped
Whole Foods, Annapolis MD
Check the GRREAT calendar for more information

Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007 10:00am – 3:00pm
Pets On Wheels Dog-a-Thon
Oregon Ridge Park
Cockeysville, MD
Check the GRREAT calendar for more information

Sunday, Oct. 7, 2007 12:00pm – 3:00pm
Fredericksburg Dog Festival
Visit the GRREAT booth, join the parade and participate in pet con-
tests.
Downtown Fredericksburg, VA
Check the GRREAT calendar for more information

Saturday, Oct. 20, 2007
PWSPCA Adopt-a-Thon and Fall Festival/Dog Walk
Check the GRREAT calendar for more information

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, Nov. 10, 2007
Annual GRREAT Dog Walk

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

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GRREAT BEGINNINGS



LEAD TO HAPPY ENDINGS!

Golden Retriever Rescue
Education and Training, Inc.
