

# GRREAT

# NEWS

April - June 2014

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## GRREAT's First Master Agility Trial Champion MACH GRREAT Joey of Woodstock, MXS, MJS, XF, NJ-R

### ONE IN A MILLION by Carol Nansel

During the summer of 2004, we agreed to foster a year old Golden who had just been pulled from the Spotsylvania County, VA, shelter. Joey became our 17<sup>th</sup> GRREAT foster dog. He was an "owner give-up" who had developed kennel cough while he was in the shelter. A kind shelter worker named Lizz had taken him home to get him started on medication until Mary Collings, GRREAT's Intake Coordinator, could pick him up. I remember the day I met Mary halfway to get Joey. He was very tall, very thin, very dark and very calm. After we got him home, it became apparent that Joey was very calm because he wasn't feeling very well. Our vet

found that he had Lyme disease in addition to the kennel cough.

Once we got him well again, Joey perked up to show us the unbridled energy that undoubtedly landed him in the shelter in the first place. We've always liked fostering the young, energetic dogs, so he was in the right place. He was a clown and kept us laughing. He loved every person and every dog he saw and would squeal enthusiastically as he was dancing around his new found friends. We soon placed Joey with a wonderful GRREAT family, Patricia and Ivan, who already had a Golden named Bosco – only to find out 2 weeks later that a sudden, unexpected, out-of-country job change made it

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# GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

## Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT

Barbara Bertsch Boyd  
President@great.org  
410.309.3192

### VICE PRESIDENT

Jennifer Phillippe  
VP@great.org  
315.559.3619

### SECRETARY

Kellie Schroeder  
Secretary@great.org  
703.477.5509

### TREASURER

Harry Sethna  
Treasurer@great.org  
703.392.7497

### INTAKE/FOSTER HOME COORDINATOR

Mary Collings  
Intake@great.org  
540.720.8588

### ADOPTION COORDINATOR

Jessie Pickard  
Adoptions@great.org  
703.620.6593

### MEDICAL COORDINATOR

Lucinda Twining  
Medical@great.org  
703.754.4379

### EVENTS COORDINATOR

Carolyn Beyer  
Events@great.org  
703.254.4843

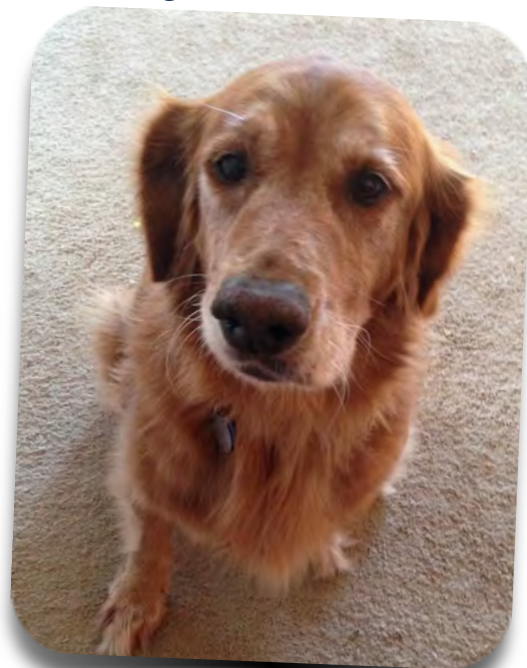
### MEMBER AT LARGE

Scott Daniels  
AtLarge@great.org  
302.383.3811

**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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**Maggie 08-058**

## Points of Contact



### TRAINING COORDINATOR

Camille Alexander  
Training@great.org  
202.590.5311

### MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR

Ed Nelson  
Merchandise@great.org  
540.459.7714

### VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Dianne Blackwell  
Volunteer@great.org  
703.216.2383

### FOSTER HOME APPROVAL COORDINATOR

Denise Malczewski  
BecomeAFosterHome@great.org  
540.623.5460

### POC COORDINATOR

Ann Nelson  
POC@great.org  
540.459.7714

### DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

Judy Bendig  
Membership@great.com  
703-587-5712

### TRANSPORT COORDINATOR

\*\*VACANT\*\*

### FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR

Dawn Edgerton-Cameron  
Fundraising@great.org  
201.400.4453

### EDUCATION COORDINATOR

\*\*VACANT\*\*

### MICROCHIP COORDINATOR

Jeff Twining  
Microchips@great.org  
703.754.4379

### FOSTER HOME FINDER

Shirley Coelho  
SCoelho@comcast.net  
410-785-3854

### SILENT AUCTION COORDINATOR

Chelsea Chu  
SilentAuction@great.org  
703.620.6593

### GRREAT NEWS MANAGING EDITOR

Erin Ledbetter  
Newsletter@great.org  
703.620.6593

# Opening Your Heart for the Golden Years

By Amanda Blankenship

When Dean and I got married we knew we would eventually adopt a dog. We first learned about GRREAT from an individual who took his GRREAT dog, Copper, to visit the residents of Copper Ridge, an Alzheimer's facility. We were so excited to go through the application process, home visit, etc. and, once we were approved, we checked the webpage multiple times a day to see which pups were being posted. We could not wait to bring a dog into our family!

Once we were approved, we called about one dog. After speaking with her foster mom, who learned that we both worked full-time and didn't have a fenced yard, she recommended that we try fostering first to see if a dog would fit into our lifestyle. We took her advice with the intention of becoming a foster failure. Well, let me just tell you, we hit the jackpot with Tucker. The day after Easter in 2009 my mother-in-law and I drove to West Virginia to pick up Tucker. Tucker immediately fit into our family. We learned the first night we had him that he was a Velcro golden—there was no way Tucker was going to be left out of anything and that was fine with us. Of course, there was an adjustment period with trips to the vet as we worked through some health concerns, but it was all worth it. Today we have a loveable golden that greets us with a toy every time we walk in the door. He makes us smile as he plays with his lovies and curls up in his bed.

Although we had officially adopted Tucker, we still remained on the foster email distribution list. For a while there, we were frequently receiving emails letting us know about goldens in need of help. After some discussion, we decided to start fostering. Our preference is for the older pups, as we know that not everyone is willing to open their heart to a senior.

Well, I must say, this is the best decision we made. Our first foster Max came to us a snowy, January weekend. A member of the give-up family was in the military and assigned to Guantanamo Bay. Max had previously traveled with the family overseas, but the last time he was at this location, he did not react well to the environment. Max had a few minor issues that we were able to resolve and when it came time to list him for adoption, I had already prepared myself that he would become ours, after all he was 12 years old. However, the first day he was posted on GRREAT's webpage I received a call about him. I couldn't believe it! A home visit was arranged and it was apparent that this family with two little boys had a lot of love to give. While living with his new family, Max helped a young boy get over his fear of dogs and helped his mom through a divorce. As tough as it was to let him go, it was apparent that Max and his new family were meant to be.

Fast-forward a couple of months and we were asked to take in Izzy. Izzy came to us from South Carolina and was heartworm positive. Neither my husband nor I had experience with treating heartworms and were freaked out of our minds. We kept hearing how important it was to keep a pup undergoing heartworm treatment calm. Izzy had other ideas. While we tried our best, Izzy was determined to be Izzy, a sweet but sassy golden-mix who loved to torment Tucker.

With the support of the foster team and our vet, Izzy made it through treatment and was adopted out to a different family with two boys—an active family in need of an active dog.

Since then we've fostered Angel, Cookie, Madison, and Maggie—two of them we adopted. Again, each one has come with some matter that needs addressing, but everything has been worth it. Dean and I are now more familiar with the various treatments used to address ailments, supplements used to keep them young, shampoos that address skin issues, and expert vets with specialties.

What we've learned from fostering is that every pup has its own personality. Sure, there may be some similarities, but each one is unique. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each of our fosters and their little quirks. While Tucker likes to play with his lovies by tossing them around, Maggie prefers to pick them up and relocate them throughout the house. While Tucker will bring one of his lovies to greet you when you come home, Max brought his food dish letting us know what time it was. Izzy had her own personality and really didn't listen to anyone. Cookie was the most gentle pup we have had—always quick to catch your eye when you were in range of the treats. Madison was a trooper through back surgery and continues to amaze those who love her. And Maggie, Maggie is just a lover that simply wants to shower you with kisses.

Many people who know that we foster dogs wonder how we can give them up. I'm not going to lie, for me it is very tough. I cry every time a foster finds his/her new home. I hope the new family keeps us up-to-date on the newest addition to their family, but I can't get upset when that doesn't happen. Sure, we take some time before bringing in a new foster waiting until we find one that seems to work best with our lifestyle, but I now cannot imagine us not fostering. In addition to meeting some amazing dogs, we have met some amazing people. We have developed a much closer relationship with all of our local vets and members of GRREAT. We have formed a connection with those who have adopted our fosters and know we are enhancing their life by allowing them to adopt a GRREAT dog. Best of all, we have helped the dogs and for us, that is the most important. □



# MY JOURNEY by Polo 13-123



Polo here! I know some of you have been following my story on Facebook, but everything has been so exciting the past few months that I just can't stop telling people about it!

I was born in Cairo, Egypt in December 2012 and had a pretty good life. Then one day, my human's gardener thought it would be fun to hit me on my back with a stick, I think it was a rake, but all I know for sure is that it hurt. Suddenly my back legs did not work, so my humans did not want to keep me. Unfortunately, in Egypt, only a small minority understand that compassion towards animals is not a luxury, it's a must, especially towards those of us with disabilities.

I was losing hope, but then some wonderful ladies helped me out. I began living with Bahra Fahmy, my first foster mom, and she had other dogs she cared for. I loved running around with them, my immobile back legs did not stop me at all. Bahra and her friend, Laila Fayek, knew that I was not likely to find a forever home in Egypt, so Laila sent an e-mail asking GRREAT to take me, if she could have me flown to the U.S. Bahra and Laila loved me so much that they knew they had to let me go in order to give me a chance at a better life.

The GRREAT Board discussed my situation and, although I was waaay out of their normal service area, they agreed to help me. So, on Saturday, December 14, I boarded an airplane with a "flight parent" volunteer and left Cairo for New York City. It was a very long trip. While Egypt is pretty warm, when we finally landed at JFK, there was white stuff falling from the sky. It was cold and wet. I was told it was snow!

By this time I was pretty confused, but some really friendly people met me at the airport. They had driven from a place called Delaware in the nasty weather and waited hours for my delayed plane. They told me that they were Scott and Kelly, my new foster parents. I was sad to say goodbye to Bahra, Laila, and my other Egyptian friends, but boy did I get lucky!

Driving through the snow was pretty scary, but we finally arrived at "home" a few hours later. They gave me a "Welcome to the USA" bath and wrapped me up in blankets to keep me warm. Then I had another bath because they found some bugs on me. My long trip and all the excitement had me totally bushed. I slept on a memory foam dog bed that night and was so comfy. When I woke up, I met all my new foster brothers and sisters, and felt as though I fit right in. When we went out to play in the yard, it was like I was back with my Egyptian buddies.

Since that first day, I have learned to use my Walking Wheels to get around in the back yard. I sure can run fast with them. My foster mom has made me a wardrobe of socks to protect my back legs, snow pants so that I can play in the white stuff, t-shirts with my name on them, and some covers for my diapers. I'm especially grateful for the snow pants because I sure have had a lot of chances to wear them since arriving here...I love playing in the snow! I like it so much that one day my foster dad let me out without the snow pants. Although he did not let me play too long and dried me off in front of the fire, my foster mom grounded both of us. It was worth it though. I had soooo much fun!! (It also gave me time to write this article for you.)

My first Christmas was super, I even had my very own ornament for the tree. I also got a collar with Egyptian designs on it so that I would have a little something of my home country. I'm so thankful that I got to celebrate with my awesome foster parents and siblings.

You are probably wondering about my medical condition, I don't really understand all this, but here is what I've been told... GRREAT's Chief's Fund paid for me to have an MRI. The MRI showed that my spinal cord has atrophied and the damage is "permanent and complete." There is nothing that can be done surgically to help me, but the orthopedic specialist said that acupuncture and/or physical therapy might be an option to help with my quality of life.

*Continued on page 5*



# MY JOURNEY

(Continued from page 4)

While this was not the news I was hoping for, I am still a happy pup. I now go to physical therapy at the Veterinary Specialty Center of Delaware where I do PT and hydrotherapy twice a week, as well as receive acupuncture. (I also do PT at home, but that is not as much fun.) What a great PT Team, they take such good care of me! They must really like me. Thank you Dr. Natalie, David, and Amanda...you guys rock the therapy world! A big thanks also goes out to my specialty doctors, Dr. Cafone and Dr. Groman, who have provided tireless care and treatment. I think they like me too. GRREAT's Simile-Finale Fund helps pay for my treatments.

I have had a few other health issues that have been treated. I have a parasite that I got from eating an African beetle in Egypt, it didn't even taste very good, it's called [Spirocerca Lupi](#). The specialist feels we caught this in time before it had the chance to become a serious issue. I also had a skin infection that was treated with antibiotics. Then one day my butt was really swollen! I had to visit the vet to have it drained of fluid, but I'm on the mend now. When all my "bugs" are cleared up, I will be neutered. That doesn't sound like it's as much fun as swimming and acupuncture!

In spite of all this drama, I am a very happy and energetic pup, as you would expect of a one-year-old Golden Retriever. I have no trouble getting around with or without my "wheels." I love everyone, especially the folks at GRREAT. One of the exciting things I have done is go to the GRREAT Annual Meeting in January where I got to meet the Board and other members in attendance. I wish more of you had been there so that I

could say thank you for giving me a chance for a "forever home" in the USA.

If you'd like to follow my progress, please "Like" my fan page on Facebook, I'm Polo@grreat.org. Not already on Facebook? Why not sign up now? You can also find updates by joining the [GRREAT Facebook](#) group. Also, I will be undergoing PT for the foreseeable future, thankfully I really like to swim! You can support my treatments by contributing to the Simile-Finale fund or the GRREAT general fund at [www.grreat.org](http://www.grreat.org), just click [this link](#).

I have only been here a few months, but I already feel so welcome and at home in America. Did you notice that the USA Winter Olympic Team even put my name on their sweaters? Thank you so much for rescuing me! □



Love and kisses,  
Polo



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## ADOPTION REPORT

| Name    | GRREAT ID# | Age | Sex | Name   | GRREAT ID# | Age | Sex |
|---------|------------|-----|-----|--------|------------|-----|-----|
| Angel   | 13-091     | 6   | F   | Harley | 13-096     | 3   | M   |
| Bradley | 13-062     | 12  | M   | Jack   | 13-109     | 1   | M   |
| Brian   | 13-055     | 8   | M   | Lita   | 14-002     | 5   | F   |
| Buddy   | 13-108     | 6   | M   | Maggie | 13-029     | 9   | F   |
| Chris   | 14-003     | 7   | M   | Maggie | 11-056     | 3   | F   |
| CoCo    | 13-059     | 3   | F   | Mickey | 13-052     | 7   | M   |
| Comet   | 13-071     | 13  | F   | Polly  | 13-092     | 6   | F   |
| Daisy   | 13-106     | 5   | F   | Riley  | 13-103     | 4   | M   |
| Diesel  | 13-086     | 7   | M   | Sammi  | 13-111     | 3   | F   |
| Duke    | 13-115     | 8mo | M   | Sawyer | 13-114     | 9   | M   |
| Gracie  | 04-096     | 10  | F   | Scout  | 13-101     | 9   | M   |

# JOEY 04-118, One in a Million

(Continued from Page 1)



© Dwight Dyke

impossible for them to keep him, so Joey came back to GRREAT and to our home. We agreed to keep in touch with Patricia and Ivan to let them know when Joey found his forever home.

Joey had come back to us during a busy fall agility season. Since we were traveling to agility trials almost every weekend, we just took Joey along to watch while our two Golden Retrievers, Aspen and GRREAT Murphy (01-060), competed. We put off showing Joey to new prospective GRREAT families until our schedule slowed down a bit. Our agility friends kept asking us if Joey was our new agility dog. “Oh no, he’s just a foster.” was our reply.

Sometime that fall, I started to wonder if Joey’s athleticism, when combined with his intelligence and his eagerness to please – might make him a good potential agility partner. When I asked Rory what he thought about possibly adopting Joey ourselves and training him in agility, his reply was “Well, I’m not saying no, but do we really need a third dog?” I knew we both liked him a lot. I agreed to take Joey to our training club and have a couple of the trainers help me evaluate his potential. I think Joey knew his future was on the line during that evaluation. We worked

with him on the A-frame, tunnel and a few jumps. He had natural ability and if I asked him to do one A-frame, he went back and enthusiastically did two more. As I was talking to the trainers afterwards, Joey was offering tunnels, A-frames and jumps and running back to me as if to say “See, I can do this! Want to see it again? I can go faster!” Needless to say, Joey officially joined the Nansel household shortly after that, got his AKC ILP registration, and began his agility training in earnest!

Joey started out as my agility partner and then became Rory’s agility partner several years ago. Joey has collected many AKC agility ribbons and titles and loves the sport. He is strong, smart and he tries so hard to please us. We have kept in touch with Patricia and Ivan, and they have been able to see him compete in agility and visit with us on several other occasions over the years.

At home, Joey has welcomed many more GRREAT foster dogs into our house. He often serves as

the “play police” and keeps an eye on all of the dogs to be sure everyone is playing nicely together. If not, he steps between dogs, or just gives “that look” that says “settle down NOW”. They respect him. Joey loves puppies and he has helped us raise two Golden puppies – playing gently with them and laying with them to comfort them when they were very small. He has special jobs around the house like bringing in the newspaper every morning, carrying cans of food, dog beds and toilet paper up from the basement as needed and picking up things that we drop, or toys that are out of reach in the back of a crate, and delivering them to my hand. He is special.

At the age of 5, Joey became a Dock Dog and started competing in Dock Diving competitions when he wasn’t competing in agility trials. He is a goof on the dock – making a big production of running to the edge of the dock and then diving straight in instead of soaring out over the water. For a big dog, he doesn’t jump very far, usually 10 feet or less, but he certainly entertains the audience while he’s on the dock.

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# JOEY 04-118, One in a Million

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In addition to competing in AKC agility trials in VA, NC, MD and PA, Joey competed, along with our other dogs, in the 2005 GRCA Nationals held in Gettysburg, PA, and was the only one of our dogs to bring home agility ribbons from that event. Joey also walked in the Parade of Rescues. During 2011, Joey competed in the GRCA Nationals held in Conyers, GA. He won ribbons, represented GRREAT in the Rescue Parade and also qualified to walk in the Parade of Titleholders. During 2014, Joey will be attending his 3<sup>rd</sup> GRCA Nationals in NC to compete in agility and to represent GRREAT in the Rescue and Titleholders Parades again.

Joey's crowning agility achievement happened last October, when he and Rory earned their AKC MACH (Master Agility Trial Champion) title in front of many good friends at a trial near Culpepper, VA. What does it take to earn the highest AKC agility title? The dog must have clean runs (no mistakes) in both Master level classes (standard and jumpers with weaves) in the same day – and must do this 20 times. It's called 20 "double Q's" because each time you run clean, you earn a qualifying score, or a "Q". It doesn't sound that hard, but Joey and Rory were frequent members of the "one little thing" club – with just one little thing preventing them from having two clean runs in the same day. PLUS, the dog has to accumulate 750 points. The dog earns a point for every second they run the course cleanly under the standard course time. Joey was earning anywhere from 2-20 points for a clean run, so that also takes a while to accumulate. It all came together on October 20, 2013, when Joey, at the age of 10, earned his final QQ to become the first GRREAT dog to earn a MACH! Cheers and applause erupted as they took their victory lap around the course and were congratulated by Judge Edie Allyn.

While they were chasing their MACH title, Rory and Joey were keeping their sights set on also qualifying for the AKC National Agility Championship event to be held in Harrisburg, PA, at the end of March, 2014. The NAC event moves around the country each year, so with Pennsylvania being so close, we had to try to qualify for it. The qualifying period was December 1, 2012 – November 30, 2013 and the dogs had to earn 20 Q's, to include 4 QQ's, and 500 points during that time period. Joey had earned the Q's but still needed lots of points. We concentrated on going to agility trials almost every weekend in the fall to earn points. On the day before the end of the qualifying period, Joey earned the last points needed to qualify! Joey is one of the top 3178 dogs in the United States to qualify for the 2014 AKC National Agility Championship! He will be the only GRREAT dog competing, and as far as we know, Joey may also be the only GRREAT dog to have ever qualified for the

AKC National Agility Championship. It will truly be an honor for Rory to step up to the line at this prestigious event with MACH GRREAT Joey of Woodstock, MXS, MXB, MX, MJB, MXJ, XF, NJ-R! Joey (04-118) has come a long way from that skinny, sick, shelter dog who came to our house in 2004. We can't imagine our lives without him now.



Over the years we have kept the GRREAT people from Joey's life informed of his endeavors and his successes. Lizz, the shelter worker who saved him, said recently "it is stories like Joey's that make all the money spent, difficulties and heartache of doing rescue all worthwhile."

Mary Collings, GRREAT Intake Coordinator, remembered "When my husband and I transported Joey to his foster Mom, Carol Nansel, he was so sick that he could hardly lift his head. We were really worried about him but as we drove away, we knew we'd left him in good hands. And we weren't wrong!! Not only did Joey recover quickly thanks to the care he received from his foster home and GRREAT, he turned into a Master Agility Trial Champion! When I see pictures and videos of Joey now, performing flawlessly at agility trials, the memory of that lethargic dog in the back of our SUV seems like a lifetime ago. Joey ended up in the perfect foster home who nursed him back to health and ultimately realized he was already "home", so they adopted him. Joey's journey in life started off with many hardships but his life now could not be happier or more filled with love."

And now, Joey and Rory are working on their MACH 2! Stay tuned for more GRREATness! □

# Plastic Is Killing Your Dog One Bowl, Toy, and Can Of Food At A Time - by Susan R. Stoltz

Ms. Stoltz' varied careers have ranged from singer, real-estate appraiser, artist, author, journalist, editor, and includes several others. Susan spent several years presenting a program about bullying to Kindergarten through third graders nationwide with her Jack Russell Terrier, Sharkey. As a journalist Susan reported and wrote two columns for an award winning newspaper The Glenrock Bird, in Wyoming. Her previous publication, 'Women Out West Magazine' was instrumental in featuring new authors, poets and photographers. A contributor to several magazines including Open Range, Florida Bird, and many others Susan recently was published in 'Wild Times,' the magazine for the Phoenix Zoo where she currently works as an Exhibit Guide. Her job at the zoo has inspired her to write a series of children's books about zoo animals soon to be published.

Other published works by Stoltz include *The Part-Time Thief and Other Appraisal Stories*, *Sharkey Helps ChooChoo*, *Sharkey Meets Kittyhead*, *ChooChoo Likes to Sleep*, and short stories *Old Blue*, *Wyoming Sky*, and *The Hunt*.

Plastic. It has become an integral part of our lives in every aspect. Even the keyboard on which I'm typing is plastic. What if I told you that plastic could be killing you and your pet? Stick with me readers as I give you a brief history.



In reality plastic has been around for the past 100 years. Its infiltration into every aspect of our lives is recent to the past 50. Look around you right at this moment. How many things can you see in front of you that are made with plastic? Water bottles, keyboards, cell phones, watch bands, calculators, shampoo bottles, dishes, eyeglasses, pens, scissor handles, plastic food containers, food wrap, shoes, garbage bags, the list is so endless it is no surprise that we seem to be slaves to its convenience.

In the last half century plastic has been perfected, made more durable, and become much more affordable. Let's face it, it keeps food fresh, is indestructible, and for all practical purposes now indisposable. Mankind has become so reliant upon plastic it's difficult to imagine life without it, but what, exactly, has it been doing to our health, environment, and future? I say let's narrow the subject down to this. What effect is it having on our pets? Hang on pet owners; just a bit more scientific explanation is worthy.

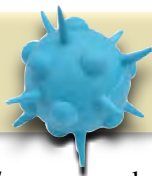
Plastic is rife with the chemical we call BPA or Bisphenol A. BPA has only recently been examined for the negative effects it has on all those who come in contact with it. According to a pharmaceutical report "The leaching of BPA from the polycarbonate plastics and the polycarbonate plastic lining of containers is particularly alarming in light of the serious health risks associated with BPA ingestion. More than 200 lab animal tests to date strongly suggest that BPA exposure, even at very low doses, creates risks of dangerous developmental, neural, and reproductive health effects in infants and children. Exposure to BPA, even at low and short-term doses, is linked to a staggering number of health problems, including: breast and prostate cancer, diabetes, obesity, hyperactivity, impaired and altered immune systems, miscarriage, chromosome abnormalities, Down's syndrome, impaired learning and memory, increased aggression,...." and the list goes on. Most canned food, including dog and cat food, is lined with BPA to prevent a 'metal' taste in the food it stores.



So, it would be fair to surmise that if BPA's are doing so much damage to humankind, what effect is it having on our pets? This time look at your pet's world. Plastic food storage, plastic bowls, toys, crates, chews, squeakies, gates, ball, Frisbee, pill bottles, and tags, to name a few. As I walked down the aisles of one of the pet product stores where I live, every aisle was filled with plastic and every product was packaged in plastic. The longer a product is stored in that plastic the more BPA's are leached into that item. Plastic in extreme temperatures leaches larger amounts of BPA, so freezing in plastic and microwaving in plastic increases the incidence of exposure.

# Plastic

(Continued from page 8)



*'Endocrine disruptors, such as BPA, may very well play a part in the etiology of classic reproductive disorders and cancers, as well as diseases not often linked to hormonal activity — immune system conditions, learning and behavioral disorders, diabetes, and even obesity. If BPA does indeed contribute to any of these epidemic disorders, the potential ramifications for public health are far-reaching.'* ~ **Environmental Working Group - Bisphenol A: Toxic Plastics Chemical in Canned Food: BPA and Human Diseases on the Rise**

It's interesting to note that in September 2010, Canada became the first country to declare BPA a toxic substance. The United States, on the other hand, is dragging its feet on the issue mainly due to big corporate lobbying and funding.



The solution? This is tough. I've been working hard to eliminate the plastic from my own life and thus, the life of my pets. Food storage is fairly easy. I switched dog treats from a tall plastic container to a tall glass one instead. Dog food went from a highly convenient plastic storage bin to a less convenient but much more healthy stainless can with lid. I've been fortunate in that my dogs don't enjoy playing with plastic toys. Sharkey will, if given the opportunity, consume them one small bite at a time. So I don't have any in the house. I called six dog food manufacturers about the BPA lining in their cans. When I could get no

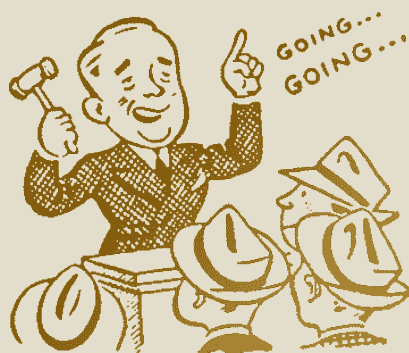
definitive answer from any of them I did my own study. I found one company that does not use BPA lining in their cans, Blue Buffalo, and thankfully that has been the product that my pets have been eating for quite awhile. All the more reason to make the food your dogs consume, but remember not to store it in plastic in the refrigerator.

Alternatives to plastic are out there; it just takes a bit of research and re-investment. I have eliminated plastic for refrigerator storage and now use glass instead. When I travel I bring water for the dogs and myself in metal water bottles. All dishes have been switched over to ceramic and metal. The crates in which my dogs sometimes sleep and travel are made of plastic, but the dogs don't consume them so I think I am safe in that regard. The company Simplhuman makes a dog food storage container out of stainless with a BPA free inner bucket. Solutions are available, but you need to look carefully.



In conclusion my dog adoring readers, the very things we give our pets to make their lives more exciting, more wonderful, more interesting, and more healthful, could be what is ultimately increasing their incidence of cancer, disease, and premature death. So think twice the next time you throw that ball, toss that toy, or open that can of food. □

## SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED



Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club (PVGRC) is hosting a silent auction to benefit GRREAT. PVGRC again will graciously be supporting GRREAT by donating the proceeds received from a Silent Auction held during their Annual Banquet on March 23, 2014. To help boost our proceeds GRREAT also includes items to be auctioned off. Unique Golden Retriever items are always a hit and generate lots of money. We are also looking for donations of baskets containing dog related items or items a dog enthusiast would enjoy. While we

love baskets already arranged we can also use smaller items to be combined into a larger basket. If you have donation items please e-mail [silentauction@grgreat.org](mailto:silentauction@grgreat.org). Items need to be received by March 16, 2013.

# From Foster Care to Flyball: Finley's Journey

By Lisa and Adam Bengston

As Adam and I drive down the highway headed for Clanton, Alabama to spend the weekend in an exhibition hall filled with people yelling and dogs barking (many of them Finley's friends), we reminisce fondly of how we got to this point. It all started seven years ago with a single photo of a snaggle-toothed smiling Golden boy.

Finley, formerly known as "Duke", 07-006, was born in Southwest Virginia and started his puppyhood in Blacksburg (ironically, where Adam and I went to college). His family quickly passed him off to another home because "he got too big". His second family gave him up not long after that because "he had too much energy". From there it was into rescue, where he eventually and fortunately found his way to GRREAT. Adam and I, along with Aidan, our adolescent Golden Retriever, were living and working in NOVA at the time, and had come to the decision that both we and Aidan were ready for a second dog to join the family. Of course, Finley's smile won us over, and we still laugh about how accurate his write-up was on the GRREAT website. Between the photo and his description, we immediately knew he was the perfect fit for our family. We celebrated his first birthday with an adoption contract and since that day have never looked back.



*"1-year old (on January 27th), handsome, 75-pound, neutered male with a beautiful soft, slightly curly, dark gold coat. He is 100% housebroken, has excellent house manners and is perfectly crate trained...Duke is a true Velcro boy and wants to be where ever his family is. Duke has lots of stamina and has a great zest for life...He gets on very well with children and is extremely tolerant and gentle with them...He is energetic and excitable and does jump up sometimes, and although we are working hard to correct this...Duke has plenty of character and also has a wide variety of expressions and words; he can squeak, moan, wiggle and smile, and generally*

*carry on a whole conversation when he wants to tell you something...He knows several commands and has been very easy to train since he arrived in our foster home...He is super affectionate and very gentle, he will lean up against you and sit on your feet. He likes to try and climb in our laps on the sofa and sometimes forgets he is 75-pound, once up on your lap he will curl up and close his eyes and groan in delight while being petted and kissed. The ideal home for Duke would be...a family who is committed to continue with his exercise regime and also his training and they will be well rewarded with a fun, smart and loving companion"*

Finley truly is a Velcro dog who loves his people more than anything else. He is a favorite with the neighborhood kids who regularly come to the door asking if Finley can come out to play ball with them. He's always extremely patient and gentle, seeming to know just when the situation calls for it. It's not just kids that he loves though, any humans will do. While on walks, he often stops runners and walkers in their tracks on the path, enticing them to give him a good long scratch before they continue on their way. His only minor downfall is that he loves his people so much that he never gives them a break - if you're in his presence you absolutely must be paying attention to him!



When it comes to Finley and other dogs, his love is not quite as free-flowing, but when he gives it he does so 100%. A few years ago, Adam found an old-man poodle in the road that had been abandoned by his owners. Knowing the shelter wouldn't be able to give him much of a chance, we contacted [Small Breed Rescue of East Tennessee](#). Thus began a journey in fostering we hadn't been looking for but have definitely enjoyed. More than ten fosters later, Finley and Aidan are seasoned pros at taking abused, scared Chihuahuas and other small dogs and showing them how life is meant to be lived. It's been good for Finley too, as it's taught him more about patience and self-restraint than any of the classes we've taken or training we've done. Finley seems to know just how to deal with the little ones, gently teaching them to play with toys and tug of war with him, how to enjoy the back yard, wait politely for their supper, and the joys of going for a walk. In turn, the fosters are drawn to Finley, and inevitably we find each of them snuggled up to him like the big brother they never had.



# Finley's Journey

(Continued from Page 10)

The boundless energy part of Finley's write up also still holds true, and as a result we have found various ways to channel his energy over the years. It was on one of our many hikes along the Potomac with both he and Aidan that we discovered Finley's love of the water. While walking along a bluff, Adam casually tossed a stick into the water far below. Next thing we knew, Finley flew up behind us and leaped off the bank into the water as if it was no big deal. We hiked down to the water and retrieved our Olympic swimmer, but there was no turning back at that point - we had a water dog on our hands. Since that time we've made a habit in the summer of taking the boys to the lake to swim. Finley loves to swim, but he also loves to fling himself into the water, which is how we ended up



participating in [DockDogs](#). While Finley has only entered one competition, he won the semi-pro division of Big Air, with a jump of 20'-4" off the dock in Bristol, VA. Since that time we've stuck to casual Saturday swims at the lake, where Finley and Aidan can jump as many times as they want and we can enjoy a day at the lake. It never fails though that as we drive past the water, Finley lets us know with a whine that we really should be stopping to swim.

Finley's description mentioned he was very easy to train, and the various titles he's earned are certainly evidence of that. From basic obedience, to earning his Canine Good Citizen, and following that with an excellent score on the ATTS temperament test, Finley has been busy over the years! One of the most important skills he has learned is how to play [flyball](#). Still always searching for ways to channel his energy, Adam and a couple of friends began a flyball club in our town, Knoxville, named the [Big Orange Blast](#). For those who aren't familiar, flyball is a competitive dog relay race where 4 dogs on a team take turns jumping four hurdles, triggering a spring-

loaded box that shoots out a tennis ball, catching it and returning over the hurdles with the ball. Two teams race each other, drag racing style, and everyone's excitement level is always high. While it is a high intensity sport, it also requires a lot of self-discipline which Finley worked hard to learn so that he could play. From a wild and crazy pup who knew so little about self-control, he has developed into a solid team member who will run for anyone and will do his "job" in the lanes no matter what. Flyball has been great for Finley and great for us (Aidan and I now play too), and we have made more friends because of the sport than I ever could have imagined when we started out.

So as we head down the road to another tournament with Finley, Aidan and all of our flyball friends, we have a lot of adventures to look back on fondly, and just as many ahead of us to look forward to. Looking back, Finley has earned many titles and awards over the years in flyball and other events: CGC, TT, FD, FDX, FDCh, FDCh-S, FDCh-G, FM, FMX, FMCh...but most importantly, seven years ago, he cemented a permanent place in our family and in our hearts. □



# Ruby Tuesday, a Very Special Golden Girl

by Don and Lyn Brock



Ruby Tuesday (05-213) had been abandoned and found tied to a fence around Gaithersburg, Maryland in 2005. This led to her being fostered by Nancy and David Ris, who at first called her Red, due to her beautiful red coat. This name soon morphed into Ruby, and it eventually dawned on them that she arrived to their home on a Tuesday---hence her new name.

We were very fortunate to adopt Ruby Tuesday in December, 2005, in what would become a very special Christmas for us at our home. We had been attracted to her laid-back and gentle personality when she first came to us. Ruby was a beautiful and lovable sweetheart right from her arrival, and she instantly trusted and bonded with us, her new family. She acclimated to her new surroundings even more quickly than we hoped.

Ruby instantly adapted to our changing schedules and she learned to split her time with us as a busy traveling couple. If one of us was away on business, the other got extra make-up time with her when they returned home. It had concerned us that Ruby never barked in her early days, but it soon became obvious to be just part of her quiet and obedient personality, and we said this was just part of her Golden heart. She loved to go for walks, and was a pro at hearing the leash coming

down from the mud-room hook. These walks really helped bring down her excessive weight. She was very soon a neighborhood favorite of all our neighbors and their pets. A group of neighborhood teenage boys played hoops daily, and they loved to see her arrive at their court. They would shout to her, "Ruby, what kind of Pizza would you like us to get for you, on your way back home?"

Ruby loved her vast toy collection, and she brought a favorite to us each night after her evening dinner. She blended into our lives so effortlessly, and became an integral part of our family. Our summer vacations often took us to Maine, to visit family and camp at Belgrade Lake. She traveled by car like a champ and only casually raised her head enroute, when those noisy rumble strips woke her before the toll booths.

Ruby made weekly scheduled visits to a retirement center named Oakcrest, here in Baltimore. Many residents waited for her and made her visits a special highlight of their week. She was sensitive to those needing extra time and attention, and was always circulating to greet and meet everyone. A special moment was when a resident with dementia raised her head and hand to Ruby, when she had not done so for a long time. The lady had been semi-comatose for some time, and Ruby had somehow reached her.

Ruby's story came to an abrupt end recently, she passed away peacefully in her sleep, on Wednesday October 9, 2013. She had been blessed on St. Francis Sunday on the prior weekend. We want to thank everyone at GRREAT for all they did for Ruby, and helping to bring her into our lives. We, of course, do miss Ruby Tuesday very deeply, but we value those many meaningful memories that will help us carry forward. ▣



# Max and Scout's Excellent Adventure 2013

by Barbara Bertsch Boyd, President *with Scout and Max Boyd*

About a year ago, my Max (11-069) wrote an article about the awesome time he and Scout (11-047) had at Goldstock. I asked Scout whether he wanted to write an article about this year's adventure. He declined because his big paws make keyboarding difficult, but he did agree to an interview. He also agreed that Max could chime in if he had anything useful to say.

This year our adventure was to Dewey's Golden Jubilee in Dewey Beach, Delaware. It was the first year for this event which was started by some Golden lovers who wanted to raise money for research on cancer in Golden Retrievers. Did you know that 75% of Goldens die from some form of cancer? That's not such good news. In fact, Scout has lymphoma, but he is doing very well on a combination of Prednisone and herbals.

Now on to the fun stuff. When the organizers began the planning, they did not know what to expect. The first time I checked the web site, only a handful of people had registered. Since I really like the beach and Max and Scout had never been to the ocean, I decided to go check it out. I asked my sister, Margie, to go along...she really likes the beach too and my last minute reservations had us in a two bedroom villa.

We arrived in Dewey Beach on Friday afternoon of the first weekend in October. We stayed at Adams Oceanfront Hotel and Villas.

*Q: Scout, what did you think of our villa?*

*A: Max and I really liked it because we had three decks that we could lounge on and bark at passers-by. You did not let us do that very much, though. It was something about wanting to come back next year. The beds were comfy too!*

The first event was a Blessing of the Animals. It was the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, so the timing was very appropriate. We went to All Saints Episcopal Church in Rehobeth.

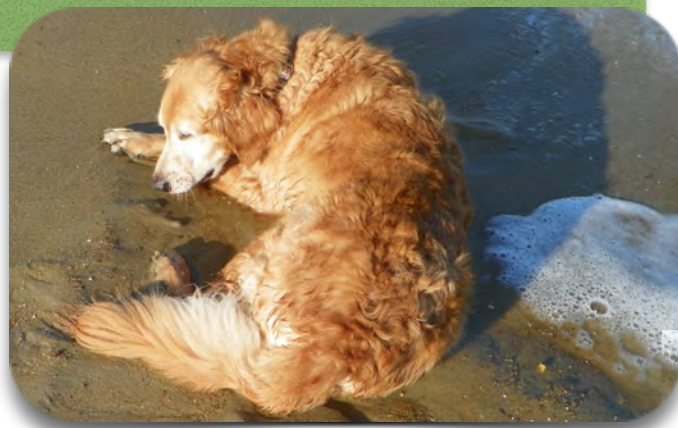
*Q: Tell us about that experience.*

*A: Neither Max nor I had ever been to church so it was pretty cool. We each got a special blessing from Father Max Wolfe. We had to be very quiet though. After that we joined other Goldens and their people in the Goldrush, a parade of Goldens on the Rehobeth Beach boardwalk. I'm not sure why it is called a boardwalk. It was cement and asphalt. Guess I'll never totally understand human thought.*

The evening was capped off with dinner at Grotto's Pizza just off the boardwalk. GRREAT's Maryland Events Team Leads, Melody and Jerry Phillips had arranged a Pizza Pawty to benefit GRREAT.

*Q: What was it like having dinner on a restaurant patio?*

*A: All the dogs there had bowls of water, but we did not get to eat any pizza....at least not officially. Max and I drooled over Aunt Margie's pizza, but even our pathetic looks did not get us anything but crusts.*



After a good night's sleep, Scout, Max, and I gathered just off the beach with other Golden lovers and their pups for a welcome by the Mayor of Dewey Beach. After the formalities, all the dogs were invited to take a commemorative tennis ball and proceed to the beach for a group picture and romping in the ocean. They started with 100 balls and after every dog had one, only fifteen were left! The event had grown from just a handful to 85 dogs. Wow!

*Q: What did you and Max think of the ocean?*

*A: At first I was a bit afraid of the waves. They seemed to be chasing me. Once I got used to them though, I had a ball (pun intended) running in and out of the surf. I especially liked trying to catch the foam. Wimpy Max did what he did last year at Goldstock....he ran into the water about a foot and then just plopped down to sun himself.*

*A: (from Max) Hey, I just want to make sure that I maintain my golden glow. I also had fun running around, kicking sand on people's blankets.*

Why were people there on their blankets the first weekend in October? The weather was amazing with temperatures in the 80s. I guess we paid for that this winter with all the snow and below freezing temps. In any case, my sister and I went swimming in the hotel outdoor pool and also in the ocean. Too bad Max and Scout could not join us in the pool. Saturday was capped off with an afternoon Yappy Hour at Sharkey's.

Sunday was free to do whatever we wanted to do. The Dewey/Rehobeth area has a lot to choose from...shopping, a winery, and numerous special weekend events. It's pretty easy to find dog friendly accommodations and many eateries with outdoor dining allow pups to join their humans. Leashed dogs may be on the beach any time of day after Labor Day weekend.

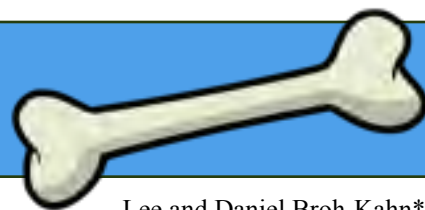
*Q: Scout, is there anything else you want to add?*

*A: I had such a good time that I hope we go back again this year. I'll even let Max go along. Maybe he'll be brave enough to chase waves with me. To join us, go check out deweygoldenjubilee.wordpress.com. They will be posting this year's information soon. You can also check out the Dewey's Golden Jubilee Facebook page for pictures and videos...I think we are in at least one.*

Scout, Max, and I hope to see you there, October 3-5, 2014! □

# Thank You for Your Donations

December 4, 2013 thru February 8, 2014



\*denotes total contribution of \$100-\$499

\*\*denotes total contribution of \$500-\$999

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Emily Porter  
Marcy Berger  
Jack Reimer  
Jessica Holland  
Denise and Jeff Irwin  
Joe and Carolyn Miller

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

My precious MIA whose death on October 5, 2013 created a void in my life that can NEVER be filled. She was the LOVE of my life and to thank Jill and Bob Kurtz who facilitated my adoption of MIA in 2006. -- Betty Yoast\*

Dennis O'Donovan's dog Reilly. -- Michael and Judith Wood\*, W. Malone and Booke Schooler\*, Robert Elgin\*\*, Frank Surface\*

Randy Rawson. -- Renee Morrison, David and Maura Mort, Brendan & Sheila Kemp\*, William and Cheralyn Cameron, Kathleen Ball, Kristy Balsanek,

As a friend of Jamie Rawson, this is In memory of Randy Rawson, per the family's request. -- Heidi McIntyre

Randy Rawson. Thank you for your work with a breed that was obviously close to his heart. -- Dennie Hunt\*

Randy Rawson, recently deceased, who listed GGREAT as an alternative to flowers regarding his passing. -- Robert Beverly

Jeffrey H. Brougher. -- Victoria Barron

GRREAT dog Sandy. Lynda and Bob Lake's Sandy was small in size but tremendous in personality and charm. I was lucky enough to visit with her trice and I have remained her admiring friend ever since. She came to GRREAT with severe injuries, was given the surgery she needed, and after rehab, found her perfect home with the Lakes, where she received and gave much love. -- Trish Collier\*

Mooch and Maggie beloved friends of Pam Stirling. -- Judith Mitnick\*

Albert Nace of Frederick, MD. -- Deane Shure\*

William "Randy" Rawson. -- Kay Farley

Riley Bob. -- Tim White and Anna Alt-White

Niki 09-036 such a sweet girl. -- Tom and Jean Klinger\*

The sweetest golden we were blessed to know, Cassie who was our family member for 13.5 years. She was loved by all and all loved her! -- Sima Blackmon-Hall\*

Blaze. -- Robin Forster and Jennifer Utz

Laurel and Charlie. -- James and Linda Mahoney\*

*Continued on page 15*

## In Memory of...

(Continued from page 14)



Ted D. Bear (pictured above) who passed away from rare nasal cancer. Teddy was the most goofy of all our Golden Retrievers. His antics kept us in laughter. No one was ever sad when Teddy was around. Our sweet Teddy is sorely missed by us, our son Josh, his wife Marnie and his sister Dixie. -- Philip and Sylvia Mogerman\*

Sherman 2000-2010... We still miss you every day. -- Jan and Tim Ambrose\*

Cayman Irwin. -- John and Chi Gustafson

Buddy- GRREAT (06-177) - The best decision we ever made was to turn you from our foster dog into our forever dog! -- Julie Palais and Rick Stevens.

Doug McKelvey. -- D.T. Dudley

Max (owner Phoebe Brown) who was a true gentleman, great neighbor, and all-around good dog. -- Julie Greenwood

Riley O'Donovan. -- Mark Elliott\*

Nicholas and Geebers. -- Jane Kunze

Our beloved Chico (10-195) who was greeted at the other side of the rainbow bridge by the rest of the Heffner-Goodwin gang: Shiloh, Rex (01-217), and Josh (07-181) and their cat, Audrey. -- Tonia Heffner and Jay Goodwin\*

Dennis O'Donovan's dog Reilly. -- Brent Doherty, David Thomas\*, Steve Fay\*, John D. Raffaelli\*, Barry Cline\*, Bob R Brooks Jr, John Quirk\*, Richard Hunt\*, Joel Kleinman\*, John Whittington, Edward Kearney\*

Kaleigh Leddy. -- Wendy Buzy

Our many GRREAT Dogs, fosters, and furry friends. -- Kathy and Wayne Hunter\*

Cornbread 07-188 and Traz 10-148. -- Carol Taylor

Daisy, and most recently Gina, most beloved and loving family members of Jennifer, Stephen & Andy Siegel. -- Roberta Siegel\*

Max 09-148 who died 15 Nov' 2013 of cancer. Max was my 4th golden, my second from GRREAT, and he was the sweetest, most loving dog I have ever had the good fortune to own. Thank you for your wonderful organization - I will be back. -- Phoebe Brown\*\*

Deceased neighbor M. Joann Stamates - a great friend to many GRREAT foster dogs. -- Irene Engle

Our Lucy (05-093) who crossed the rainbow bridge 6/28 and her horse friend, Anchor, who passed 7/18. Also in memory of Dennis O'Donovan's beloved Golden, Reilly. -- Courtney Matthews and Andrea Supp\*\*

Albert J. Nace. -- Henry and Jean Klemkowski

Gina Bianco. -- Dennis Buttacavoli

Martin, our special golden retriever friend who went to heaven on 1/16/14. -- Christina Dukes

Sydney and Mulligan. -- Gwen Bodnar

Max who enjoyed life to the fullest. With heartfelt sympathy to his loving parents - Mark Treadaway and Bob Kenney. -- Pam Alme

"Vinnie" Musgrave beloved golden of Judy and Joe Musgrave. -- Lexie Gerczak

Jupiter Bush. -- Jill Paulson

Stonehill's Sweet Emotion "Jamie." -- Barbara and Ace Oestreich\*

Keo. -- Carla McQuay\*

My son Mark Ketterman. -- Charles Ketterman\*\*

Mary Ann Shields who was the greatest golden retriever owner of all. -- Brad Short

Casey 09-215 who passed on November 6, 2013 and to those who took great care of him at TLC in Leesburg Virginia. We are grateful to have been your failed foster family and your forever home. -- Susan Leonard\*

Carol Morgan. -- Marie Barker

Kalea and in honor of her foster daddy, Scott Daniels. -- Jennifer Stillabower

## To Help With Costs...

For Bubby's surgery cost. -- Trish Collier\*

For Sammi's (13-111) vet checkup. -- Rebecca and Art Hotop\*

For the euthanasia and cremation for Trooper 09-209. -- Karen and Joe Yoho\*

Care of Golden Retrievers. -- Tomar\*\*

To help with your work for Golden Retrievers. -- Marshall Schy\*

In celebration of Scout's (12-047) 11th birthday and to help with his medical expenses. -- Barbara Bertsch Boyd\*\*\*

For Smokey and Rosebud's Boarding Costs - In Memory of Gina and Daisy, still much loved and missed. -- Jennifer Gallagher\*\*

For Smokey & Rosebud. -- Dawn Bowen\*\*

We are unable to foster Smokey and Rosebud but we would love to help out your organization with this donation. -- Michael and Anne Smith\*

For Smokey and Rosebud. -- Mary and Douglas John\*

For Boarding & Medical expenses. -- Nancy and Mark Burnette\*\*

## In Honor of...

Martha VanLandingham. -- David and Sherrie VanLandingham

Donating in the name of "The Crazy Ladies." -- Roger and JoAnn Adkins

Tanner adoption 2010. -- Rita Demma\*

Jasper and Marlene. -- Elizabeth McMillen and Robert Lalasz\*

Martha VanLandingham. -- Linda Eggebeer\*

Grady (ex-Teddy) who I rescued via GRREAT in February 2006 and who brings joy to our lives each and every day! -- Joseph Lenczycki\*

Murphy Quinn. -- Brian and Ann Marie Quinn

Theresa Sicheri's birthday. -- Sharon and Wes Butler

## **In Honor of...**

*(Continued from page 15)*

Rene Sollod for her enduring and passionate love of Golden. -- Gloria Garcia

The wedding of Shira Modell and Louise Hansen. -- Jean Veta & Mary Ann Dutton

Kim and Carl Wiff and Wendy. -- Diane Lanigan

The wedding of Shira Modell and Louise Hansen. -- Daniel Kaufman\*

Louise and Shira's wedding! -- Lois Greisman\*

Gloria, Bob, Ema & Kitten. -- Penny & Bob Watkin

Molson (01-202) We loved you dearly. There is not a day that goes by where you are not thought of or missed. Until we meet again our four legged son! -- Walter Grabowski and Robin Hoesch

Hope Polo continues to do well. -- Lynne Glennon\*

To help with Polo's therapy costs! -- Mary Jackson Weber

In memory of our precious Golden angel Sandy, who passed away on her 11th birthday, 1/30/2014 AND in honor of my wonderful husband Tom - the sweetest soul to ever grace my life. Please apply this donation to POLO's care. -- Kristin Shamel-Arsenault

To Honor Polo, in memory of our beautiful rescue Golden, Buddy, who crossed the Rainbow Bridge two days after Thanksgiving, 2013. -- Sharon & Bill Coale

Polo's story is only too typical of the way dogs, horses, donkeys and other animals are treated in Egypt and other countries in the region. I'm glad GRREAT is able to help ONE in a country where there doesn't seem to be much kindness toward animals, many of whom are hardworking till miserable deaths. We're a long way from perfect but light years ahead of Africa and the Near East. -- Patricia Collier\*

For my sweet Willy that I miss every day! -- Laurie Walker\*

## **For Other Reasons...**

I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for everything you do for Golden, and in addition, for those in need of medical care. -- Beverly and Steven Kreisberg\*

It is my honor and pleasure to be able to donate to such a wonderful organization. The dedication of the volunteers is unparalleled, as is their devotion to helping rescue any and all dogs in need. Please use this donation in need of medical care or other services. -- Ellen and Chris Courtney\*\*\*

This is a charitable Christmas gift in the names of Joe and Jodi Keyerleber. -- Mauree Crandall

For my wife, and in memory of Pooh Bear. -- Alan Davis\*

This donation is a Christmas present for SFC Gary Gowers. SFC Gowers came to our home while we were fostering Coco and fell in love with her! (Who didn't fall in love with her. :) ) -- Benita Kay

I sent an email regarding our RSVP for the Howliday party. We had signed up to attend, however we will not be able to attend. I do want to send you this check to cover the fee which we would have paid at the door plus a little extra for GRREAT. We even bought some toys for the dogs which we will not be able to send in time for that day. We don't have a dog, but have been approved to adopt. We feel sad that we can't come and enjoy all the Golden. -- Helen Skiba-Powell and Eugene Powell\*

A donation toward the Howliday party... for the registration I would have paid at the door and to make up for the silent auction item I was going to bring. -- Linda and Craig Wensley\*

## **Your Stories Wanted**

Every dog adopted through GRREAT is special; each has a unique story to share. Our readers love to read about your happy endings and shared journeys. If you have a story you think other readers would enjoy, please submit it via email to: [newsletter@great.org](mailto:newsletter@great.org). Be sure to include a photo as a separate attachment.

To wish Happy Holidays to the amazing staff at Adams Mill Veterinary Hospital. They have taken care of my Golden for many years with their gentle words, capable hands, caring hearts and compassion for all. Dr. Adams, Dr. Nelson, Dr. Hirsch, Dr. Gross, Theresa Gray, Trish Klintstiver, Susan Tolchin, Leigh Johnson, Brad Gaither, Marylou Janczuk, Kay Koelsch, Pegah Raj, Christina Martin, Matt Gnowles. -- Judy and Steve Daner\*

The weather kept us from the party - please use this where needed the most. -- Dave Grauer and Joy Levy

To thank the Hoffman Family and in Honor of Ben 13-110. -- Kathleen Rausch

I am so excited to meet my little Pip! Love, Charlie. -- Kathryn Frey

A small way of saying thanks to those that volunteer their time to GRREAT in making it an outstanding organization. -- Dot & Ernie Helmick\*

On behalf of Cindy and Michael Stevens. Merry Christmas! -- David Klepinger\*

From our current dog, Rylee (13-016) and in memory of Barkley. -- Dennis and Joyce Boykin\*

For our wonderful GRREAT companions, Madrigal and Barnaby, who want to thank you for all the terrific work you do! -- John Clewett and Cindy Speas\*

Happy Holidays to John Ganoe. -- Mark Sapitsky

In celebration of the wedding of Shira Diane Modell and Louise Ellen Hansen. -- Coleman Bird & Judy Campbell Bird

In celebration of Shira and Louise, and in loving memory of Murphy and Kinsey. -- Mamie Kresses

Keep up the "GRREAT" work. -- Mary Anne Hovatter

Please put this money to good use in helping a golden in need. I have a golden girl. She is a therapy dog at The Children's Hospital. -- Dorothy Winn\*

For Kalea. -- Pam Litten

In support of your activities with Golden Retrievers. We adopted our Shadow from GRREAT via Art and Rebecca Hotop in December, 2002. He is the best Christmas present ever! GRREAT had funded two hip surgeries for him. He is a fantastic member of our family and has brought much joy to our lives. -- Edythe and Stephen Alexander\*\*\*

To use where funds are most needed at this time. Our silly and active GRREAT pal Murphy (12-100) just turned three and continues to keep us laughing; he is a joy to have as part of our family. Joe and Judy Niebauer\*

We would like to make a donation dedicated to our vet, Tyler Anderson. Dr. Anderson works at McLean Animal Hospital in McLean, VA. He was on call the day we brought our 8 yr. golden retriever, Jupiter, into the office. Jupey was diagnosed with a hemangiosarcoma, and Dr. Anderson performed an emergency surgery. Dr. Anderson was with us every step of the way from diagnosis to chemo treatment to our final goodbyes. He not only gave great care to Jupey, but to our heartbroken family. We came to find out that Dr. Anderson adopted his golden from your organization. We thought a donation to your organization would be the best way to say thank you to Dr. Anderson and to do some good for other great Golden out there. -- Wes and Natalie Bush\*\*\*

For Pam Delnero and Karen Smith (GRREAT foster moms). -- Nichelle Reiter\*

*Continued on page 17*

# Donations

(Continued from Page 16)

## Corporate Giving

Heart Transfer Technology, Applied Heart Recovery\* -- In memory of Randy Rawson.

Aesys Technologies, York-shipleigh Global Division\* -- In memory of Randy Rawson.

Nationwide Boiler Inc\*\* -- In memory of Randy Rawson.

Eastern Performance\*

DoggieDrawings.net (custom pet portraits) -- Lili Chin

Chesapeake Community Advisor\*\*

American Boiler Manufacturers Assoc. -- In memory of Randy Rawson who recently passed away. This donation is on behalf of John Devine, GM - Fireye and the staff of Fireye.\*

Zeeco, INC. -- In honor of Randy Rawson\*\*

American Boiler Manufacturers Association -- The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company of Connecticut would like to make a donation on behalf of Randy Rawson.

Peter J. McBreen & Associates -- In memory of William Randall Rawson.\*

Webster -- In Memory of Randy Rawson.\*

Clark - Reliance Corporation -- In honor of our former colleague, Mr. Randy Rawson.\*

Robinson -- In Memory of Randy Rawson\*

Schwab Charitable Fund -- Donor: Brian Donovan.\*

Executive Consulting Services of Baltimore\*

Black Ink, LLC\*

Wells Fargo Advisors -- Donation in honor of Wells Fargo Advisor Associate Nancy D. Runion.

Burnham Commercial Boilers -- In memory of our ABMA colleague Randy Rawson\*

The Monocacy Pistol Club -- In memory of Mr. Albert Nace who passed away Nov. 7th.

Kingsbrook Animal Hospital -- In memory of Bizy Strathern, the best Golden ever and best friend of Ana Strathern.

Maryland Drum & Bugle Corps Hall of Fame -- In the name of our dear friend and member Albert Nace.

Petco Foundation -- Funds collected at our local Petco stores during 2013 Breeds in Need fundraiser.\*

Grotto Pizza -- Proceeds from Grotto Pizza Community Night during Dewey's Golden Jubilee.\*

America's Charities -- Donor: Barbara and Mark Forster, Heather Lay

Pet O Bed. -- David & Diana Guy

Cards for Cause -- Result of sales during the last calendar quarter where a customer designated your organization as the recipient

Igive.com -- Earnings through Aug 31, 2013.

IBM Employee Service Center -- Anonymous donors.\*

Aetna Foundation -- Donor: Jeff & Joni LeVine\*

## Forever Friends

Memorials can be seen at:

<http://grreat.org/foreverfriends/index.htm>

Buddy Mathews 03-115. -- Robin Mathews\*

Frisco --Jacqueline Moore

Thumper Illig. -- Leona Illig

## Sponsor Me!

For Faeden (12-077). -- Trish Collier

For Beeker (09-026), in loving memory of my "Sweet Golden" Max and Casey, who now run the fields together. -- Marian Thompson\*

For Beeker (09-026): dear momma (grammy)-- in honor of you and Chloe and all the love your work together brought to others... love you, Aanya, Kirin, Alex, and Chia. -- Rakhee Palekar

For Moosie (12-129). -- Katrin Greenberg

Please use these funds to care for the "Special Needs Golden's" listed on the GRREAT website including those listed in "Coming Soon". I would like you to apply these funds to the dog/dogs that have not received support and need it the most. In looking at the website recently I saw several dogs listed that you were able to support with my donation. I hope that this will continue to help them and others in the coming year. Thank you for all of the wonderful work that GRREAT does on behalf of needy Golden's in our area. -- Kathleen and Kerry Skeen\*\*\*

For Faeden (12-077): In memory of Murphy, my handsome red head. -- Marianne Pieper\*

For Stevie 08-208. -- Cindy Dominik\*

For Stevie 08-208 - From our current dog, Rylee (13-016) and in memory of Barkley. -- Dennis and Joyce Boykin\*

For Tess (11-120). -- Elizabeth LaVigne

For Beeker 09-026. -- Highview\*

For Tess 11-120. -- Karen Dauber

To help support special needs "pups" Dodger & Faeden. They seem so sweet. -- Helen Skiba-Powell and Eugene Powell

For Faeden (12-077) and Stevie (08-208): In memory of Duchess and Casey Girl. -- Jeanne O' Donoghue\*

For care for Humble and care for Stevie (08-208). To thank their foster families. -- Helen Skiba-Powell and Eugene Powell\*

For Humble 12-143: In memory of "Gracie" the dearest soul and best friend we've ever known. -- Lawrence and Elizabeth Tyler

For Dodger (11-134), Stevie (08-208), and Tess (11-120) who hasn't any sponsors except for her devoted foster parents! -- Trish Collier\*

In memory of Faeden. The beauty of the energy that a dog like Faeden brings to the world is priceless. The beauty of the loving foster home like Dan and Jessie Pickard's is a testament to the "heart" of rescue. We celebrate the loving care and share the pain of loss at Faeden's passing. -- Phil and Janet Hauck\*

In memory of Faeden and in support of her foster parents - all GRREAT foster homes. -- Mia and Tim Brown\*

For Zak . In memory of Bernie and Sam. -- Pamela Peet

For the on-going support of Maggie Mae 08-211. -- Denise Malczewski\*

For Faeden 12-077. Faeden, our hearts will forever remember the beat of yours. We are blessed, we are humbled, and we are forever changed because you came into our lives. Godspeed beautiful spirit. -- Jessie and Dan Pickard\*\*\*

# Donations

(Continued from page 17)

GRREAT operates three funds for dogs with special needs. The Leo Fund provides surgical care, the Simile-Finale Fund provides holistic and alternative therapies (acupuncture, swim therapy, etc.), and Chief's Fund provides MRI diagnostics.

To support these funds, make the selection on the online donation page [www.grreat.org/donate/donorinfo.htm](http://www.grreat.org/donate/donorinfo.htm)) or mention the fund in a letter with your contribution by mail. Thank you!

## Leo's Corner

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

Katrin Greenberg  
Susan Burns  
Harvey and Lenora Pascal  
Jo and Yvonne Kinkaid  
Michael Grossblatt  
For Polo: Joaquin A Cordero

Buddy, a wonderful Golden owned by Robin and Steve Mathews, who had a long and happy life. All dogs should be so lucky. -- Bernadette Carter

In honor of Carla Spinelli-Moraski and her love of animals. -- LaDonna Pierson

### *Leo's Angels (\$100-499)*

Renee Curreri  
Patrick and Sara Fogarty  
Linda Totels  
Jeffrey Twining

In honor of my mom, Marianne Little. She adopted her dog, Patch, from Grreat, and he passed about a year ago. She's been thinking about adopting another rescue, but in the meantime I thought she'd like to know that some young Golden are getting the care they need to live a long and happy life! -- Mollie Little

To help those special dogs in need of medical care. In loving memory of my old friend Bailey #98-167 who crossed the rainbow bridge in 2008. Thank you GRREAT for all the work you do! -- Kristin Simanek

Louise Ellen Hansen and Shira Diane Modell on the happy occasion of their marriage. -- Judith & Martin Schneider\*

In memoriam for Albert J. Nace who passed away on 11/7/2013. -- Cliff and Eleanor Fuller

For Polo: Erin Mullen

### *Leo's Heroes (\$500+)*

In memory of Biscuit, beloved Golden by the MacKinnon family. For 15 years he brought so much joy. -- Jim and Ginny Hayes

In memory of my Amber. Keep up the great work! -- Kim Rogers

In honor of our precious and amazing 2-year-old, Angel. We've had her for only 5 months, and she is truly amazing for us. -- Jim and Ginny Hayes

In Loving Memory of Marcie, 02-268, who crossed the Rainbow Bridge this past July. Please use this donation to help senior and special needs Golden find their forever homes. Thank you for all you do for the sweet Golden. -- Tim and Linda Daniel

## Chief's Fund

Chuck and Sandra Johnson\*\*\*  
Katrin Greenberg  
Linda Totels\*  
Susan Burns  
Michael Grossblatt

In loving memory of Charlie and our long battle against his seizures. -- Lucille Nowell\*

## Simile-Finale Fund

Katrin Greenberg  
Joan Taylor  
Michael Grossblatt  
Brian and Ann Marie Quinn

In lieu of a Christmas present for Jim Krist. -- Joan M. Eschner

For Polo:  
Shelby Walker\*  
Monica and Robert Walker\*  
Denny and Judy Smith  
Peggy and Richard Fowler  
Holly Rich\*  
Laura Whitbeck  
David Burroughs\*  
June J. Morris  
Nancy Carter  
Nicolette Parisi  
Barbara Hals\*  
Mark Jaffe

For Polo's care and continuing support. What an awesome golden! -- Susan and Richard Bottomley\*

For helping Polo in his rehabilitation. We hope it helps and we wish him well. -- Peggy and Richard Fowler

For Polo, or any amount needed beyond, please help other Golden needing special care for a better life. -- Eric Nguyen\*\*

For Polo: In honor of our GRREAT golden Wrigley and Alex, and our great golden, Bear and Buddy. -- Pam Oconnell\*\*

Thank you for the email you sent about Polo. It was such a touching story and continues to highlight the amazing work done by GRREAT and its volunteers. I am more than happy to do what I can to help Polo and dogs like him. -- Jennifer Turner\*

## 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 190, Merrifield, VA 22116

## 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 \$40 for my 2014 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 enclosing \$10 (each) for a 2014 Golden Membership(s). Please write name of dog(s).  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 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 190, Merrifield, VA 22116**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail 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, Fundraising & 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 online at**  
**[www.grreat.org/vol\\_form.htm](http://www.grreat.org/vol_form.htm)**



**GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

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Merrifield, VA 22116

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**SAVE THE DATE**  
**GRREAT's Annual Bark-B-Que**

**April 26, 2014**  
Quiet Waters Park  
Annapolis, MD



More D'Tails To Come



Jake 13-099

**GRREAT CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

There is a rescue for Golden Retrievers? This is a commonly asked question at the numerous events in which GRREAT participates. When people discover that GRREAT takes in about 250 dogs every year, you can see the shock and amazement on their faces and you can hear it in their voices. People know that Golden Retrievers are such good dogs, so they can't help but wonder "Why would anyone give up a Golden?" It is because of comments such as these that GRREAT attends events to help educate the public on the need for rescue and the Golden Retriever breed. GRREAT is always looking for and in need of committed volunteers who wish to give some of their time to attend events. For a list of upcoming events go to <http://www.grreat.org/events/>. For more information on any event, please e-mail [events@grreat.org](mailto:events@grreat.org) and if you wish to volunteer at any event, please e-mail [volunteer@grreat.org](mailto:volunteer@grreat.org).

**April**

**Adoption Day**

**April 5 @ 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm**

**PETCO,**

7434 Little River Turnpike  
Annandale, VA 22003

**May**

**Adoption Day**

**May 3 @ 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm**

**PETCO,**

10060 Baltimore National Pike  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

**McLean Day**

**May 17 @ 11:00 am - 5:00 pm**

*Lewinsville Day,*

1659 Chainbridge Rd. McLean, VA 22101

**June**

**Adoption Day**

**June 7 @ 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm**

*Webers Pet Supermarket - Fox Mill,*

2599 John Milton Dr.

Herndon, VA 20171

**GRREAT Bark-B-Que**

**April 26 @ 11:00 am - 2:30 pm**

*Quiet Waters Park - Red Maple Pavilion,*

600 Quiet Waters Park Rd.

Annapolis, MD 21403

**14th Annual Frederick Celtic Festival**

**May 10 @ 9:00 am - 6:00 pm**

*Mt. Airy Fire Dept. Fairgrounds,*

1003 Twin Arch Rd. Mt. Airy, MD 21771

**Please be sure to submit your adoption application at least four weeks prior to the event.  
We cannot approve applications on the spot.**