

GRREAT

NEWS

October - December 2016

www.GRREAT.org

Vol.27 No.4



President's Column: From Egypt With Love

It all started on Nov. 23, 2013, with this e-mail: "Hope all is well. My name is Laila and I live in Cairo-Egypt. Polo (a Golden retriever) is 11 months and is paralyzed. He needs a forever caring home as soon as possible, and I can arrange for all expenses required until he reaches his new home, wherever it is. He was a very playful puppy, 'til a few months ago, when his owner's gardener thought it was fun to hit him on his back with a big stick, and his owner no longer wants him. He is now fostered, but his current foster parent cannot keep [him] and is not giving him the attention he needs. Egypt is way back with regards to animal rights and unfortunately only very few understand the value of animals, so please help if you can." Two days later the GRREAT Board voted to accept Polo. Little did we know the adventure had only just begun.

Polo (13-123) arrived at JFK Airport on a snowy night in December. He was met by Scott (a GRREAT Board member) and Kelly Daniels who had agreed to foster the paralyzed pup. They had driven to New York from their home in Delaware through the snow and waited hours for Polo's plane that had been delayed by the weather. But finally, Polo was here!

His fosters took him in to see an orthopedic specialist who looked at the x-rays that were taken in Egypt and recommended an MRI to see whether there was any way that we might be able to help Polo regain some control of his legs and/or bladder and bowels. Unfortunately, we didn't get the news we were hoping for. The MRI showed that Polo's spinal cord had atrophied and that the damage was permanent and complete. Polo then went to the Veterinary Specialty Center of Delaware where they developed a plan to strengthen his muscles through physical therapy and hydrotherapy twice a week, physical therapy at home, and acupuncture.

Now, his foster Mom and Dad will tell you that Polo doesn't know he's different from other dogs. He runs like the wind and he plays as hard as any other young Golden. He has a wheeled cart that helps him get around on hard outdoor surfaces. Polo is a permanent GRREAT foster dog. You can follow Polo's adventures (and philosophy) on his Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/polo.grreat.org>.

Almost a year later, we again received an e-mail from Laila. Lilly (14-090) was one-year-old. Her mother was not from Egypt and gave birth to Lilly on a plane. Lilly was injured during birth (her hind leg was broken), so the owner gave her to one of his workers who locked her in a cage on the roof. A rescuer had to buy her from the worker. Lilly had surgery that corrected the break, but a few months later she was limping on her front legs. A vet in Egypt diagnosed her with polyarthritis, an inflammation of multiple joints. The rescuer wanted Lilly to have better treatment, so Lilly was accepted into GRREAT.



Continued on page 3

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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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Molly 14-023

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FROM EGYPT WITH LOVE

(Cont'd from Front Page)

After two orthopedic consults, it was determined that Lilly's right shoulder and right hip did not develop correctly. One vet commented that "nature did a remarkable job" at making her malformed joints workable. He did not recommend surgery for either her shoulder or her hip unless she sustains an injury that makes surgery necessary. He recommended that she be given glucosamine supplements and that she be kept on the slender side to avoid excess stress on her joints. Going forward, she will require plenty of low-impact activities like walks and swimming, but she should avoid surfaces like ice, snow and slippery flooring and avoid dog parks and rough play (particularly body slams) with other dogs. Lilly was adopted on April 2, 2015.

After a few months (you guessed it), we again heard from Laila. Jessie (15-008), now known as KC, was an eight-month-old with a dislocated hip (*pictured below*). She needed medical attention she wouldn't get in Egypt. Once seen by a GRREAT orthopedic vet, it was determined that KC's hips are malformed. This leads to an altered gait (bunny hop) but she does not seem to be in any real pain or discomfort when she is walking, running, or playing. While she may require surgery in the future, it was not recommended at that time. It is also possible that she will never need it. Her treatment includes keeping her on the slim side, going on walks and going up and down the steps a few times per session to help build muscle. She is on a glucosamine supplement and is given an NSAID as needed if she seems to be in pain. KC bunny hopped her way into her forever home on March 29, 2015.



Cujo (15-062), who quickly became Mojo, came to GRREAT in August 2015 (*pictured above right*). He was found limping on the street in Cairo getting abused by children who were throwing stones and plastic bags filled with water at him. Laila sent him to GRREAT when he was just eight months old. Not only did Mojo limp, but he was also too thin. This poor little guy had several things going on. First because his testicles had not descended and were up in his abdominal cavity, he could not have standard neuter surgery; they needed to get into his abdomen to remove his testicles. The second issue, his inability to put on weight, was more of a puzzle. Numerous tests had ruled out most things, but inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) was suspected. The only

definitive way to diagnose IBD is through a biopsy of the intestinal wall. The plan was to get the biopsy during his neuter surgery. The third issue was that he had significant orthopedic problems: dislocated knee caps, femurs twisted out of alignment on both rear legs, and possibly malformed leg bones. Vets recommended a CT scan so that they could get a better look at his bone structure before they made a recommendation about orthopedic surgery. Mojo came through his neuter surgery well. The biopsy showed that he did not have IBD but he did have an infection that was treated with antibiotics. His CT scan showed that his leg bones were indeed malformed, likely since birth. Since Mojo is not in pain, no additional surgery was done. He received physical therapy which improved his gait. He put on weight and was adopted on February 6 just in time for Valentine's Day!



Pola (16-012) became Miss Liberty (AKA Libby) before she even left Egypt (*pictured below*). She was going to be fostered by the Daniels who said they could not have a Polo and Pola in the same house! Landing at JFK, she would fly over the Statue of Liberty, hence her new name. Like Polo, her back end was paralyzed. However, her rear legs were also extended straight out and rigid, resulting in her spine being twisted. She was unable to move around on her own and could not use a wheeled cart. The decision was made to amputate her rear legs and tail to give her mobility. After the surgery, she received therapy to strengthen her front legs.



From Egypt With Love

(Cont'd from Page 3)

She is now able to get around on her own, with and without a cart. While in the house, she wears a diaper and cover-up as she does not have control of her bowel and bladder. Libby's foster mom has made her several custom outfits to assist with keeping her diaper in place, and she couldn't look cuter all dressed up. She requires regular diaper changes and frequent baths and laundry changes. At one-year-old, Libby is now available for adoption, but she will require a very special forever family.



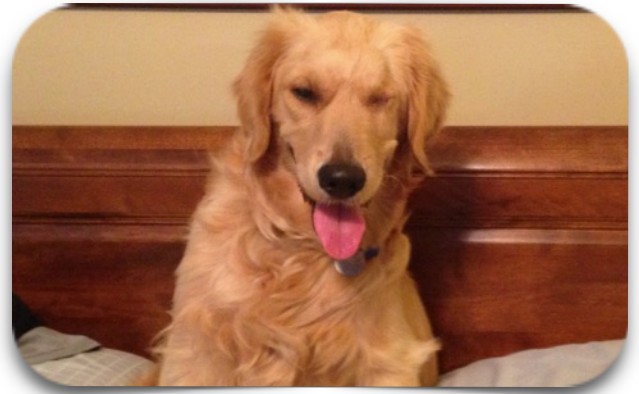
So far in 2016, Laila has sent us four more Golden pups from Cairo. Happy (16-012), whose name is now Sonar, was born blind (*pictured above*). He was just two months old when he came to GRREAT, but after arriving he wasn't all that happy. He was battling bouts of diarrhea off and on and only gained about 1 ½ pounds which was too little for a puppy his age. After multiple rounds of deworming medication, antibiotics, special food, and added fiber, he continued to have problems. We sent him to an internal medicine specialist for a consult and ultrasound. The ultrasound showed what appeared to be evidence of an intussusception. This is a very serious condition in which a portion of the dog's bowel telescopes into an adjacent section of the bowel. While not common, it tends to occur most often in puppies and kittens, though it can occur at any age. Happy was put on another round of antibiotics and de-wormer and then had a second ultrasound that showed that he **did not** have an intussusception!! No surgery would be needed! Happily, he finally began to put on weight and went to his forever home on April 20.

Lexi (16-011) arrived on the same plane as Happy. We knew before she arrived that she was probably the most difficult case to come to GRREAT from Egypt. Upon reviewing X-rays taken by a vet in Cairo, a GRREAT orthopedic specialist suspected that her birth defect was a severe hemivertebrae -"half vertebrae." He said that things didn't look good for the six-month-old puppy. He felt that we could "keep her going" for a couple of months, but that would be it. When Lexi was seen in person, the vet confirmed what he saw on the x-rays. She had a hemivertebrae that damaged and killed a large portion of her spinal column. This wasn't something that could be repaired or reversed. Lexi had no control of her bladder or bowel which caused urine and feces to continuously flow out of her body. There was no way to keep her dry/clean even for

a short while. This would have led to continual infections which would have led to more drug resistant infections that would eventually overtake her body, resulting in her death.

Her quality of life was poor and would only continue to get worse causing additional problems because the vertebra would continue to compress on her spinal cord. Given the very poor prognosis, we made the very hard decision to let her go. As always when a GRREAT dog is euthanized, a Board member was with Lexi as she peacefully went to the Rainbow Bridge.

Nile (16-018) is a one-year-old who got his name because of his rescue story (*pictured below*). He was found in the Nile River away from shore with several open wounds from a dog fight and an infected, draining eye. He was found by a college student rowing team. We will never know what he went through, but he was either stolen/dumped, had a fight with a stray dog, and fell in the Nile OR was a victim of dog fighting who was thrown in the Nile. Unfortunately his eye could not be saved, but after his wounds were treated, Nile was adopted on May 15.



Leo (16-049) is another one-year-old who came to GRREAT because of an accident (*pictured below*). The original owner worked long hours and didn't have time for Leo. He was sent to the same shelter as Polo. They found an adopter in the U.S. and he flew into JFK in early August. Unfortunately, on the way to the airport, the adopter was in a very serious car accident and her husband was critically injured. It was decided that the adopter was no longer in a position to adopt Leo, so we were asked to take him. A friend of the adopter went to JFK to pick Leo up and held him until the Daniels could go pick him up in NY. Leo was adopted in September.



All of these dogs arrived at JFK and were picked up by Scott and Kelly Daniels. They kept them at their home at least over night, giving them a nice warm bath and making sure that they were safely delivered to their foster homes. We really appreciate their dedication to helping these dogs on their way to a better life.

Why can't these pups find homes in Egypt? As Laila has shared with us, Egypt does not have a culture of animal rescue. Most people only want a perfect dog. Those with imperfections are treated poorly or turned out on the streets to fend for themselves. In addition, Egypt does not have veterinary specialists and the general practice vets are not always well trained or well equipped. They are not able to handle complicated cases. Thanks to Laila and a circle of her friends, these nine dogs have found their way to a chance at loving homes. However, we did not know the extent to which GRREAT had helped the dogs of Cairo until we received the following e-mail from Laila (*pictured below*):



“Please please please thank the board for taking in Jessie. God bless all your great hearts. I know that most of the Board don't know me, and maybe don't know how hard it is for animals and the few rescuers in Egypt, but I really want you all to know how much I appreciate what you do, and how much impact you indirectly did for a lot of animals that you don't even know about. I really want you all at GRREAT to know that you are THE reason I went into animal rescue deeper because you gave me hope. I didn't even know it was possible to fly out dogs in need. Polo was the first dog I helped travel and I really couldn't be happier that GRREAT accepted him. When I heard about Polo through FB, I couldn't believe that someone would dump their own dog because he got handicapped, and all I thought I could help him with was buy a wheelchair.

When I googled, I only found it on a website in the States called handicappedpets.com. So I thought why not try with

rescues...the worst answer I will get is a No. I googled Golden Retriever rescues and I sent Polo's story to a lot of rescues. And I couldn't believe myself when you replied. You really literally restored my faith in humanity. I know that you know this story :) But you really need to know that you helped a lot of animals just by accepting Polo. I counted and GRREAT is the reason I helped around 60 dogs travel to get a second chance in life...And I swear this would have never been possible without your first push. And getting more involved in rescue, let me help a lot of dogs and cats here in Egypt too. If it wasn't for Polo and GRREAT, I wouldn't have even known that it was possible for dogs to find help and homes abroad. Thank you for opening your heart. Thank you for not discriminating and thank you for not seeing... dogs with nationalities.”

In a world that often seems full of war and hatred, it is possible to make life brighter for at least a few dogs and their adopters. By reaching across seas and cultures, it is possible to share the love of some very special Golden Retrievers. From Egypt with love!

Membership Renewal 2017

Don't miss a thing!

Renew your GRREAT membership now. Dues paid beginning October 1 will be considered 2017 memberships. Your \$40 keeps the GRREAT News coming four times a year, and will help save more Golden Retrievers in 2017. **For the 7th year in a row, we have not increased membership fees!** More good news...the \$40 is fully tax deductible.

Membership also confers one vote in GRREAT elections and other decisions requiring membership approval.

Don't forget that your fur babies can also become members with a Golden Membership for \$10 each. We are dependent on membership dues, donations, and fundraising to operate.

Please support GRREAT in 2017 by becoming a member at: <http://www.grreat.org/how-to-help/become-a-member>.

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN: GRREAT is once again participating in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). This has become a significant source of income for GRREAT. If you are a Federal employee, a member of the military, or know someone who is, please designate GRREAT as your charity. Our CFC Code is **51768**.

MARYLAND CHARITY CAMPAIGN: GRREAT is excited to be part of the Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC) for the second year. All state employees and University faculty and staff can designate a donation to GRREAT. Our MCC code is **521602298**.

Annual 3K Fundraiser

By Carolyn Beyer, Member at Large



Grab your sneakers and your dog and head over to Weber's Pet Supermarket cause the talk around the dog park is GRREAT's 3K Walk is the place to be, 11021 Lee Highway, Fairfax (Rear Parking Lot) on October 29, 2016. The walk starts promptly at 10am, but please come early to register. Registration begins at 9:30am. Each participant will receive a 3K walk event shirt. Refreshments and dog treats will be provided during the event. Door prizes will be given away at the conclusion of the event.

REGISTER NOW!

\$20 per human walker on or before Oct. 17th. \$25 Oct. 18th and after. Go to: <http://grreat.org/3kwalk.htm>

If you don't want to pay via PayPal, you can print out the registration form and mail a check to GRREAT (P.O. Box 190, Merrifield, VA 22116). Walkers can also register at the event. Register early to ensure you receive an event shirt in the size you prefer; quantities will be limited.

VOLUNTEER: We are looking for donated items for the door prizes. For more information or if you wish to volunteer at the event, please email volunteer@grreat.org. You can volunteer and walk - the only exception is if you volunteer for the snack station position.

VIRTUAL WALKER: For those who are unable to attend, don't fret as you can still participate in spirit by becoming a virtual walker. An event shirt will be mailed to you so you can still show off your GRREAT support around town.

If you have a smart phone, please download the dog walking app, Walk for A Dog by Wooftrax <http://www.wooftrax.com> onto your phone before the walk or anytime you walk your dog. GRREAT receives money for every walk you take with your dog after you register. If you have any questions we can help you out the day of the event or email ahead of time at transmittals@grreat.org



MEET THE GUESTS OF HONOR: Libby 15-092 and Brownie 16-014 (health permitting) will be at the walk for you to meet. Their stories can be found on pages 3 and 11, respectively. You will see how sweet these two angels are despite their difficult circumstances and medical issues. You will be able to see how not having rear legs does not hinder Libby in being a happy, loving, normal pup. And Brownie is working on his stamina every day so he will be able to show all how well he is walking with the help of his leg braces. You will also get to meet Brownie's "Dream Team." Derrick Campana with [Animal Ortho Care, LLC](#) provided prosthetics and braces for Brownie at an amazing discount. Schon Gross with [Phoenix Design Solutions](#) created wraps and pads to protect his legs and paws. And Dr. Peter J. Lotsikas of [Skylos Sports Medicine](#) is the orthopedic specialist behind all of this. If you're viewing this newsletter online, please take a look at these two videos to see how well Brownie is walking despite his disability: [walk #1](#) and [walk #2](#).



REGISTRATION FORM: GRREAT Beginnings Lead to Happy Endings 3K Walk

Saturday, October 29, 2016

Weber's Pet Supermarket – Rear Parking Lot

11021 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA

Registration Fee: \$20 (before Oct. 17) or \$25 (Oct. 18 and after)

Return Registration and payment to:

GRREAT P.O. Box 190 Merrifield, VA 22116

NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

T-shirt size (Please circle one. Adult sizes only.): Small Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large

Waiver: Registrants and their accompanying family members, friends, and pets participating in the GRREAT Beginnings Lead to Happy Endings 3K Walk to be held in Fairfax, Virginia on Saturday, October 29, 2016 hereby assume full responsibility for the risk of bodily injury, death, or property damage, and hereby release, waive, discharge covenant assignees, officers, employees, and agents for any and all loss or damage on account of injury to person or property, whether caused by negligence, breach of contract otherwise arising out of or resulting from any act of omission, while traveling to or participating in the 2015 GRREAT Beginnings Lead to Happy Endings 3K Walk.

Signature

All proceeds benefit Golden Retriever Rescue, Education & Training (GRREAT), a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to the rescue, foster care and placement of Golden Retrievers in the Washington, D.C. area. Please make checks payable to GRREAT. For more information about the walk or GRREAT's work, visit www.grreat.org or call 703-620-6593

An Update on Clementine

by Denise Malczewski, *Foster Home Application Coordinator*

Clementine 16-029 was featured in the Spring/Summer issue of the GRREAT Newsletter ("Introducing Clementine"). She was the painfully thin 4-month old puppy given up to a shelter in Virginia and turned over to GRREAT in June. Clemmie is now 7.5 months old and a healthy 30.6 pounds.

GRREAT arranged for Clemmie to have a CAT scan, and it revealed that she had a Persistent Right Aortic Arch (PRAA) causing segmental megaesophagus. That means that an artery was crossed over her esophagus, and it prevented her from easily swallowing food. This is a rare condition that many veterinarians have never encountered.

Clemmie had surgery at the Regional Veterinary Referral Center in Alexandria, VA to tie off the aortic arch and clean up some scar tissue inside her esophagus. Dr. Greg Griffin and Dr. Rochelle Anderson performed the surgery, discounting their surgeon fees for GRREAT. The surgery was successful, and Clemmie was back at her foster home two days later. The only mishap that occurred was that Clemmie lost one of her baby teeth pre-surgery while trying to grab a stethoscope.

Clemmie was left with a small pocket in her esophagus where food can catch, but she eats almost normally now. She tends to gobble her food, perhaps because she was food deprived as a tiny puppy - or perhaps just because she is a typical hungry puppy. In any event, I have found it best to control her rate of intake by feeding her small quantities of food while she stands. Meals have become a bonding time for us, but I get barked at when the food delivery is too slow. And for a little girl, she has a big bark! Clemmie also receives a supplement of Slippery Elm bark made into a tea to help soothe her esophagus.

The next step for Clemmie is to be spayed, and that is to happen in late September. After that, Clemmie will be looking for her forever home. She is a wonderful, sweet, cuddly girl to have around, and I know that some family out there is going to be very lucky to have her.



BOARD OF DIRECTOR NEWS

NEW SECRETARY

Following the resignation of Kellie Bock, the GRREAT Board of Directors appointed Katie Lenss to fill the remainder of the two-year term as GRREAT Secretary. Katie and her husband adopted Bailey (15-014) in March of 2015 which prompted her to seek other ways to help Golden Retrievers find their forever homes. She conducted home visits before volunteering for the Board of Directors position. Katie has also served as Secretary on several other organizational Boards. A fun fact is that Katie was a Teaching Assistant for an Introduction to Wine course.

Katie has a BS in Hotel Administration from Cornell University and an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. She spent a year at the Institut De Touraine studying French language and history. Katie is currently a Director of Development at an international real estate development firm where she oversees all facets of the development process. One of her recent projects included the Residences at CityCenter, a \$200 million condo project in downtown D.C. We welcome Katie to her new role!

GRREAT EVENTS??

For many years, GRREAT has held three annual events: a spring Bark-B-Q, the fall 3K Walk, and a party to celebrate the December howlidays. Unfortunately, we no longer have an Events Coordinator. As a result, we have not had a spring event for two years and we may not be able to hold a Howliday Party this year. We cannot continue to sponsor events without volunteers to plan and run them!

All of these events include your furbabies, fun, and food. Those who attend always have a GRREAT time! With registration fees, silent auctions, and/or merchandise sales, our events also help us raise funds to help more wonderful Golden Retrievers.

If you are able to coordinate one of these events (either on your own or with the help of a team), please contact president@grgreat.org.

ADOPTION REPORT

Name	GRREAT ID#	Age	Sex	Name	GRREAT ID#	Age	Sex
Abbey	16-033	1	F	Henry	15-033	1	M
Bear	16-015	8	M	Jake	16-036	7m	M
Bella	16-045	9m	F	Jake	16-048	4	M
Bella	15-042	10	F	Jax	16-027	10	M
Bella	16-009	9m	F	JP	16-017	14	M
Bogey	13-120	4	M	Krissy	16-024	11	F
Buddy	16-025	2	M	Leo	16-049	1	M
Dolley Madison	16-026	9	F	Lila	16-035	2	F
Dozer	16-034	11	M	Lucy	16-037	4	F
Eloise/LuLu	16-022	3	F	Luke	14-054	3	M
Faith	15-101	10	F	Mojo	15-062	1	M
Fran	16-038	7	F	Sadie	16-046	8	F
Frazier	16-028	12	M	Sam	16-031	7	M
Goldie	16-032	13	F	Shiloh	16-039	6	F
Gracie	16-041	3	F	Titan	16-019	10m	M
Harry	16-030	7	M				

2017 Election: Nominations Now Open

GRREAT's membership elects its officers for two-year terms. The President and Treasurer are elected in odd years; the Vice President and Secretary, in even years. Nominations are now being accepted for the offices of President and Treasurer for two-year terms.

Nominees shall be presented to the membership for **voting** at the Annual Meeting on February 11, 2017. Nominations for these offices are made as follows:

- You may nominate yourself or another GRREAT member for either of these offices;
- If you are nominating someone other than yourself, please obtain the individual's consent before submitting the nomination;
- You may make nominations for one or more of these offices, but you may not nominate the same person for more than one office. All nominations must be received by GRREAT no later than Monday, October 31, 2016;
- No nominations will be taken from the floor during the annual meeting.

Please return your nominations to secretary@great.org so that they are received no later than Monday, October 31, 2016.

Board of Directors membership is a privilege as well as a time and emotional commitment. If you love the Golden **Retriever** breed and want to be involved in helping these incredible beings find their forever homes, please consider volunteering to become a member of GRREAT's Board of Directors. If you would like more information on what each position entails, please email president@great.org.

Special Funds for Special Dogs

Many dogs come to GRREAT requiring expensive medical attention. In 2015, our veterinary costs totaled 70% of our expenses. In order to help with our high medical bills, donors have established three funds that honor their special dogs:

- The **Leo Fund** provides extraordinary surgical treatment for GRREAT dogs. It was started in 1997, and over the years a wide variety of surgeries have been performed with monies donated to the fund, including: correction of genetic orthopedic abnormalities of hips, elbows, and knees; repair of fractures and wounds due to car accidents, gunshot wounds, and other injuries; leg amputations; repair of damaged knee and elbow soft tissues; intestinal blockage surgery; removal of bladder stones; cancer surgery; eye and ear surgeries; dental extractions and jaw repair; and laryngeal and soft palate surgery to improve breathing.
- The **Simile-Finale Fund** was started in 1998 to provide acupuncture treatment for GRREAT dogs. It has evolved to provide other sources of holistic medical care including hydrotherapy, cold laser therapy, massage therapy, physical therapy, allergy testing and treatment, TENS (electrical stimulation to control pain), as well as other homeopathic and natural remedies and treatments. The fund has helped our rescued Golden Retrievers recover from a wide variety of medical conditions including surgeries, injuries from accidents, neurological and muscular deficits, pain, arthritis and the effects of aging, separation anxiety, thunderstorm and noise phobias, and allergies.
- **Chief's Fund** was established in 2008 to provide MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) procedures for GRREAT dogs in need of advanced medical diagnostics. Because of the expense, MRIs were sometimes a last resort. This fund allows MRI procedures to be performed for GRREAT dogs early enough for a medical condition to be better understood, thus eliminating other diagnostic costs and needless suffering.

Additional information about these three funds can be found under the Donate/Support tab at www.grreat.org.

While Chief's Fund is fully funded by the very generous donors who established it, the older funds do not receive sufficient donations to meet the needs of all the dogs requiring significant surgery or those who would benefit from alternative therapies. At the end of 2015, the combined

deficit for the Leo Fund and the Simile-Finale Fund was \$10,000.

The first half of 2016 was especially draining with five dogs benefitting from the Leo and/or Simile-Finale Funds incurring total costs over \$5,000 each. This has resulted in a combined deficit of over \$20,000 in the two funds. You can read the stories of Miss Liberty and Mojo in the President's Column. Here are the other three.

Molly is a Permanent Foster who requires ongoing traditional and alternative treatments to keep her healthy. Soon after she was born it became apparent that her back end was paralyzed. After at least five different homes and two surgeries (one spinal and one to remove a severely infected tail), she came to GRREAT at age three. Molly is vivacious and outgoing; she loves to go on adventures, loves to play with other dogs and people, and especially loves to snuggle. She has even learned to walk on her front paws! Her medical issues are ongoing. Because the nerves in her lower back are damaged, Molly's bladder does not function properly. In terms of daily living, this means that she has to wear a diaper, and she must be helped to eliminate fully. Unfortunately, this also means that severe bladder infections are common. The real danger is that, one day, the infection will travel to her kidneys, and this is what will limit her lifespan. For the rest of her life, Molly will require orthotics, acupuncture, chiropractic treatment, and other therapies on a regular basis. Total veterinary/Simile-Finale cost in 2016: \$9,764.



Brownie came to GRREAT from a very rural and poor county shelter. He had been found with another dog; they were not being fed and were abandoned. Brownie's back legs were bent backward at the knees so that he walked on the tops of his legs and paws. Some of his teeth were broken as if he'd been eating rocks. GRREAT had him evaluated by orthopedic specialists. They gave us four options for treatment; two were non-invasive and two were very expensive with uncertain surgery.

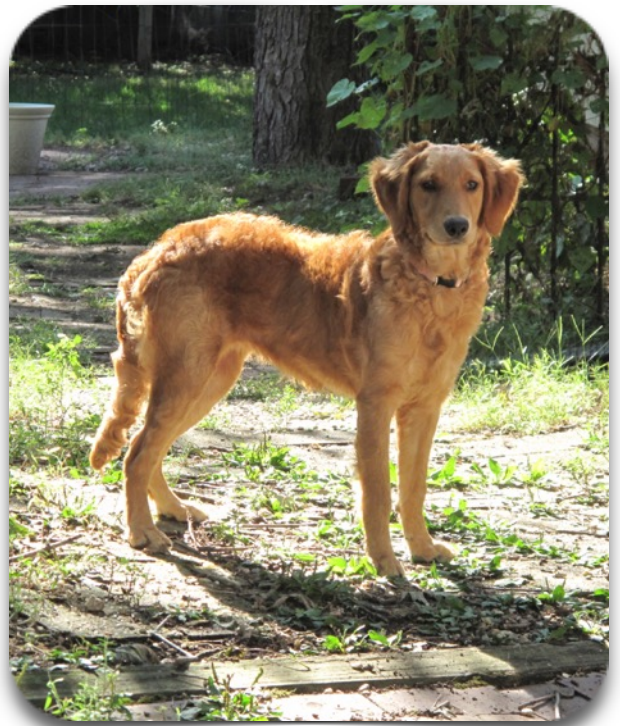


Since he was not in pain, we decided to try one of the more conservative approaches first. Brownie has since been fitted with wraps and coverings to protect the tops of his legs and paws (that are upside down behind him) to help prevent abrasions from contact with the ground and carpet. He has also been fitted with custom, 3-D printed prosthetics that enable him to go for walks and help to straighten his spine. Specialists don't know what caused Brownie's condition, but it may be due to malnutrition suffered when he was abandoned. Once he has adapted fully to his new "legs," Brownie will be available for adoption. Total veterinary/Simile-Finale cost: \$6,113.



Clementine (AKA Clemmie) presented GRREAT with an entirely different challenge. She came from a shelter at four months old, painfully thin with a problem swallowing.

A CT scan showed that a segment of the aorta that should have disappeared once Clemmie was born was still there and constricting the esophagus. It also showed that there was a second abnormal artery branching off the aorta constricting the esophagus. The surgeon said that, based on a CT scan, he could do the surgery but it would be a risky surgery for Clementine. If she survived the surgery she would need to be fed in a Bailey chair so that she could eat in a vertical position. She would also be prone to aspiration pneumonia. Amazingly, during the operation, the surgeon found that there was only one artery that was constricting her esophagus...and post-surgery she is able to eat with four paws on the floor! Her foster home is now working on strengthening her so that she can be spayed before she goes to a forever home. You can read more about Clemmie on page 6. Total 2016 veterinary/Leo cost: \$4,030 plus upcoming spay surgery.



Please consider donating to the Leo and/or Simile-Finale Funds. We would love to be able to report that these funds ended the year with little or no deficit. This will help insure that dogs like Molly, Mojo, Miss Liberty, Brownie, and Clementine are able to receive surgeries and alternative treatments without taking funds away from other GRREAT activities including more routine medical expenses, educational activities, and events that help us fund our mission.

To make a donation, go to: www.grreat.org/donatesupport.

GOLDSTOCK 2016



We had a GRREAT time at Goldstock 2016!

The annual event held over Labor Day weekend hosts several hundred 2 and 4-legged guests for three days of fun and fundraising for Rescue.

This year GRREAT was well represented by the following families: Kathy and Dean Crouse and Alan and Molly Dickerson came up in their RVs. Lee Beaton, Carolyn Beyer, Shirley and Bob Coelho, Sam Connelly, Dan and Jessie Pickard, and Mary and Guy Spalding were the cabin crews. And Dena Evans and Mike Sambuco came up during the day on Sat and Sun to help out.

The events kicked off on Friday night with a Trivia Party, and the rest of the weekend was filled with activities like parades, field and agility demos, tests, games, auctions and more, not to mention hours of fun swimming at the lake!

GRREAT's pups were well represented in several of the events. Odie Pickard passed his CGCA, and Brewster and Kane Coelho represented GRREAT in both the Senior and Rescue parades. Jake and Lila Crouse swam for the first time at the lake. Molly and Odie Pickard, Beau and Nala Spalding, and Probe Connelly did well at the Doggie Olympics, with Molly taking silver in the Sassy Walk! And Nugget Dickerson carrying his stuffed bear was a favorite all over camp.

We have a lot of people to thank this year! Without their generous donations of time and treasure, this event would not be nearly as successful - or fun!

The following people helped at the "Goldstock Auction Party" the week before. We went through all the donations, created the bid sheets, and made the multi-item baskets for both the Silent and Live Auctions. It was a lot of fun but a lot of hard work too! Thank you Carolyn Beyer, Dianne Blackwell, Barbara Boyd, Mia

Brown, Shirley and Bob Coelho, Janet and Phil Hauck, and Lucinda and Jeff Twining.

At Goldstock, almost everyone volunteered a little of their time to the Merchandise table and the auctions, and a special thanks goes to Shirley Coelho for donating a LOT of time to the table, thank you!

Special thanks go to Mia Brown for creating a beautiful big basket full of cheer for us to raffle off. Bob Coelho was chiefly responsible for selling the raffle tickets and the combo of the marvelous basket and Bob's ticket-hawking skills meant that the raffle brought in \$1200!!! THANK YOU MIA AND BOB!

GRREAT thanks also to the people and businesses that donated for the

LIVE and SILENT Auctions at Goldstock. GRREAT made more than \$2500 that will be put towards the care of our precious furrkids!

Donors:

Lee Beaton
Barbary Boyd
Mia Brown
Shirley and Bob Coelho
Sam and Linda Connelly
Dena Evans
Janet and Phil Hauck
Dan and Jessie Pickard
Holly Rich
Marie Sciscione and Pat DeGuilini
Teri Stachowiak
A Little Unique
Orvis
Pet-O-Bed
Whole Pet Central

Hope to see YOU there next year!!



Photographer: Steve O'Byrne

Thank You for Your Donations

June 18, 2016 - September 16, 2016



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

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

****denotes total contribution of \$1000 or more*

The Estate of Diana Hellinger***
Kate and Art Chutuape
Diane Lanigan
Bob Taylor*
Inge and Herman Molzahn*
Joe O'Neill and Walt Atha*
Mike and Betsy Damitz*
Marsha Gowdy
Thomas Warwick*
Gail Wollerton
Marta Droddy*
Constance Virginia Dobernez Estate**
Eugene and Marcia Belford
Mac and Trudy Ogilvie*

In Memory of...

Ed Copenhagen. -- Linda and Les Brandwin, Sandra Marks*
"Gracie" Bowser. -- Debby Brannan
Sadie, a GRREAT dog who recently passed away. Her owners are Bonnie Tester and George Meyers. -- Beth Bohac
Our past Golden: Toby, Twister, Shadow and Bailey. -- Eileen Webster*
Jennifer Phillippe's Molly 10-034. -- Jeff and Lucinda Twining*
Sadie Myers. She was a GRREAT rescued dog and was beloved by her parents Mr. & Mrs. George Myers. -- Dr. & Mrs. Paul McClelland
James J. Abromitis. -- Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts*
A great neighbor and man, Stan Zalenski Jr. -- Francis McDonough
Joan and Tim Kirchner's beloved golden boy, George. -- Karen Huguley
John, who was rescued through GRREAT nine years ago by Eileen & Mark Monteviodoni. -- Albert and Mary Ullman
A GRREAT adoptee, Shandy, who walked the Rainbow Bridge last week, 13 years after her adoption. -- Ronald Starr
Madison 13-049. -- Jeff and Lucinda Twining*
Alice -- Cathy, Rick and family

In Honor of...

The 7 Golden's who have lived and loved with us for 49 years. -- Mary Ann Rodgers*
Riley Patt 02-208. -- Julie and Brad Parker
Karen and Joe Yoho and their 60th Birthday. -- Susan Valenti
Trish Collier. -- Nancy and Dave Smith*
Bob Kenney and Mark Treadaway. -- Barbara Warner*

Shandys. -- Carolyn Carson*

Kim W. & her 5 blondes. -- Diane Lanigan

The life of Madison (13-049) and to thank her foster and then adoptive family, Holly and Jim Meckling, for everything they did for her. -- Denise Malczewski

Mark Treadaway and Bob Kenney and their unlimited devotion to one another and to ALL golden retrievers! -- Gerald Fiset

To Help With Costs...

For Eloise's (16-022) medical bills. -- Marion and Jeff Shields***

For Other Reasons...

You have not heard from me for a while due to some medical issues; however I have not forgotten our Golden Retriever friends. -- Marshall Schy*

In celebration of Bob Kenney and Mark Treadaway. -- Tara Hamilton*

In celebration of the wedding of Mark Treadaway and Bob Kenney. -- Donald Fields*

For Bob Kenney and Mark Treadaway -- Helen Carter*

To celebrate the marriage of Bob Kenney and Mark Treadaway. -- Ann Pina*, Bill Rennie and Virginia Rennie*

Best wishes to the wedding of Bob Kenney and Mark Treadaway. -- Kim and Bobby Moore*

My good friend, Diane Yamini, supports your cause and has requested on special occasions to remember the Virginia Golden Retriever Rescue. So on her behalf I am making this donation in her name. Thank you for all of the good that you do! -- Colleen Kurdziolek

I have attended Goldstock for 15 yrs. I was not able to attend this year and really missed all the activities...all my great friends...and all the wonderful dogs...and the amazing rescue people. I asked my good friends Doug and Karen Coulter to help me choose a rescue that I could make a donation to. So I am making a donation to GRREAT. Keep up the good work...I appreciate all Golden rescues as well as all rescues to help all dogs and animals. Thank you for all you do. -- Charlotte Grossarth*

Corporate Giving

YourCause, Neiman Marcus Group Assoc. Giving Program
IBM Employee Match
United Way
Pfizer Foundation, Matching Gift Program*
America's Charities - Donors: Mark Forster, Heather Lay, Brenda Gage
Maryland Charity Campaign**
Combined Federal Campaign
Igive Proceeds

Forever Friends

Memorials can be seen at:

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

Honolulu "Lulu" -- The Edmonson family- Jim, Terry, Brittany, Chelsea, and Golden brother Bentley

Sponsor Me!

For Brownie, James Dean, Molly, Polo and Stevie – Trish Collier**

For Miss Libby. I hope she is continuing to recover following her recent surgery. -- Sharon Carr*

For Libby 15-092. – Bob Taylor*, Pam & Conrad O'Connell*

For special needs dogs. -- Kate Werner

For Molly 14-023. -- Marcia Rinker, Liz Spann

For special needs dogs, in honor of Dotty's 5th Birthday. -- Helen Skiba-Powell and Eugene Powell*

For Owen (16-021) - In memory of Romulus, Belle and Zappa. -- Deborah Trunzo*

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 or mention the fund in a letter with your contribution by mail. Thank you!

Leo's Corner

Leo's Pals (up to \$99)

Marcia Rinker

Leo's Angels (\$100-499)

Bob Taylor

Leo's Heroes (\$500 and Over)

Joseph O'Neill and Walt Atha

Chief's Fund

Simile-Finale Fund

In Memoriam



We adopted our Shadow 02-190 from GRREAT on December 15, 2002. He was the most wonderful Christmas present ever! His time with us was the most wonderful 14 1/2 years. Shadow went to God peacefully in his sleep this past summer. He was perfect for his entire life and we miss his kind, gentle, sweet soul every day.

Shadow would snuggle up close to the side of the bed in the evening to catch all the bedtime stories with the children. He loved to play with other dogs, especially his best dog friend Sammy and his best dog girlfriend Delilah, both Golden Retrievers. He loved to take long walks and then swim - in the pond, in the bay, in the pool. He had such dignity. He would roll onto his back, paws to the sky in what I called his "praise the lord" position and lie that way and smile, so very happy. Shadow was happiest when he had a stuffed animal in his mouth! And he gifted them to visitors to our house. He would ride on the floor of our boat, snuggling Delilah as we crossed the Chesapeake Bay, and then would stand and wave his tail hello to everyone he saw while we went through Knapp's Narrows to the Choptank.

Thank you to GRREAT for the wonderful work you do. Special thanks to Shadow's Foster Parents, Rebecca and Art Hotop, who saw Shadow through his surgeries and to whom we are so very grateful to for choosing us as Shadow's Forever Family.

There were so many people who helped us keep Shadow healthy for so long who we want to thank: his primary care veterinarians, Dr. James Reed and Dr. Kim Cheney and the wonderful staff at Annapolis Animal Hospital; Dr. Jennifer Levitsky, for Shadow's acupuncture; Healing Paws Veterinary Wellness Center especially Marie and Michelle; Chiropractor Dr. Amber Langmeier; the Canine Fitness Center; Dr. Lesli Wyant of Chesapeake Veterinary Surgical Specialists; Vet Techs Diana and Kira and Chris Fritsch; friends Bruce and Judy Lowery.

To my beloved Shadow, thank you so very much for your deep love, your understanding, your kindness, your gentleness, and for being my dear friend, my "big ol' hunk of man dog." I am so blessed to have had you in my life. You will always be your Dadee's Big Dog and you will always be your MaMa's Shadow Baby. You filled all of our lives with joy.

Edythe, Steve, Ian Shayne, Ariana, and Evan Alexander

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 2017 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 2017 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
<http://www.grreat.org/how-to-help/volunteer-form/>



GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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GRREAT CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Sofie 16-042

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 100 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 and if you wish to volunteer at any event, please e-mail volunteer@grreat.org.

Instead of monthly Adoption Days, GRREAT will be holding ad hoc events. Please check our website and Facebook page for the most up to date information on upcoming events. Stay Tuned!

GRREAT'S Annual 3K Walk

October 29 @ 10 am - 12 pm
Weber's Pet Supermarket
11021 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22030

GRREAT'S Annual Meeting

February 11, 2017
More d'tails later