



GRREAT News

NOTE: The GRREAT Dog-Alog is in a separate downloadable file.

Special Edition!
GRREAT Stuff
~~Cat~~ **Dog-a-log Inside**

September/October 1998
Volume 8, Number 5

Published by Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc.

From the President Storm Warning Shaaron Plate

There wasn't a cloud in the sky. In fact, the afternoon was sunny and bright, but I knew a storm was brewing even though I hadn't heard the weather forecast. Tucker, my seven year old Golden, was standing in her crate, shaking, panting, drooling and looking frantic. Luckily, I was home this time and could give her a small amount of tranquilizer to ease her fear, so that when the storm hit she'd be calm.

Tucker has a serious storm phobia and in years past she's broken off most of her teeth, torn toenails, actually bent or broken crates to escape, jumped into the bathtub, hidden in the shower, torn up carpeting in the corner of the family room (we presume to try to get into the wall so she could hide), toppled lamps from tables and generally freaked when a storm hit. We've tried everything the experts suggested and now have her on antidepressants. We've

From the President, continued on page 4

Anthropomorphically Speaking Robert H. Moore

I have this friend, a physicist, whose intellectual discipline propels him to the pragmatic conclusion that one can only believe that which one can see, touch, or otherwise "prove" by acceptable, anthropologically rational analysis. He perceives, in short, that neither of my two Golden, Judson or Grady, has the inherent capacity to "think" in any intellectually recognized sense. A dog, after all, has no "soul," no "mind," no intelligence to "think" or to "reason," in any sense that can be interpreted as truly cognitive. Such animals make their way through life purely by rote; begging for food, wagging their tails for attention, and so forth.

I myself am unconvinced of my own species' intelligence, and am in any event unwilling to claim a corner on the market. But living twenty-four hours daily with Jud and Grady, I am

Anthropomorphic, continued on page 3

Golden Memories Lou Wesly

A little while ago, we lost Mandy, our twelve year old. She was our first Golden and because of her we got hooked on Golden. That may tell you what a great dog Mandy was. We have been Golden people ever since. At one time we were even the (very) proud owners of seven Golden.

About a year ago, Mandy's right eye became cloudy, grayish. Our vet told us that she was developing cataracts which often come with old age. Very little could be done about it, besides surgery sometime in the future. After three months or so we noticed that her eye sight was failing rapidly. When we took her swimming and tossed her favorite bumper, she often could not find it even though it was in clear sight, bobbing on the waves right next to her. She just swam past it, thrashing around, searching frantically, almost in panic. We took her to a veterinary ophthalmologist who diagnosed her with severe glaucoma. Our efforts to help her failed entirely. Within a month or so the sight in her right eye was totally gone. With her left eye, she perhaps still saw the difference between bright light and darkness but only vaguely. For all practical purposes, she now was totally blind.

In the beginning it was very difficult for her to move about and she became very despondent. I can imagine. Every three or four hours we guided her on her leash out of the back door, down the deck and into the yard to do her business and back into the house when she was finished. We removed all obstacles from the path and were very careful not to move any furniture around or to let anything stick out that could hurt her.

Golden Memories, continued on page 8

Also In This Issue

Center Insert (Separate File)

GRREAT Stuff Dog-A-Log

Things We Can Learn	
From Dogs	2
Thank You	3, 5
Dear GRREAT	6, 7
Memorial and Special	
Donations	6
Adoption Report	7
Foster Homes Urgently Needed	9
GRREAT's Annual Holiday Party	10
Silent Auctions Produce	
GRREAT Benefits	10
Adoption Day 10/25/98	10
Volunteer, Donation and Membership Forms	11
Mark Your Calendar	12

Things We Can Learn from Dogs

—from the Internet

Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joy ride.

Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind
in your face to be pure ecstasy.

When loved ones come home,
always run to greet them.

When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.

Let others know when they've invaded your territory.

Take naps and stretch before rising.

Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.

Be loyal.

Never pretend to be something you're not.

If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

When someone is having a bad day, be silent,
sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.

Thrive on attention and let people touch you.

Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

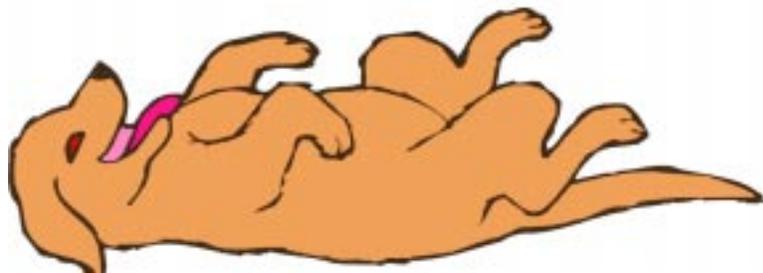
On hot days, drink lots of water
and lie under a shady tree.

When you're happy, dance around
and wag your entire body.

No matter how often you're scolded,
don't buy into the guilt thing and pout
run right back and make friends.

Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

Run, romp, and play daily.



Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc.

P.O. Box 3069

Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

Phone: 703-620-6593

E-mail: GRREATWEB@GRREAT.ORG

Web site: [HTTP://WWW.GRREAT.ORG](http://www.grreat.org)

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

1998 Officers and Advisory Board

PRESIDENT*

Shaaron Plate 410-667-6512

VICE PRESIDENT*

Debbie Nizer DNIZER@AOL.COM
or 410-590-6703

SECRETARY*

Mary Ellen Lunde

TREASURER*

Cy Plate 410-667-6512

ADOPTION COORDINATOR

Debbie Nizer 410-590-6703

ADOPTION ADMINISTRATORS

Dave and Linda Clark 301-933-9179

ADOPTION FOLLOW-UP

Leslie Peszczyński

EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Doug Brown (MD)* 301-595-7365

Laurie Anderson (VA) 703-327-4724

FOSTER HOME COORDINATOR*

Georgie Bahler 703-620-6698

FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR*

Sam Connelly 410-256-3113

GRREAT NEWS EDITOR*

April Fritz 301-330-5749

MAIL ADMINISTRATOR

Cheryl Garbett

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Robert Fritz 301-330-5749

MERCHANDISING COORDINATOR*

Becky Brown 301-595-7365

TATTOOING COORDINATOR*

Laura Schmitz 703-503-8961

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR*

Joan Gunby 410-647-8978

* members of the GRREAT Board of Directors

Anthropomorphic, continued from page 1

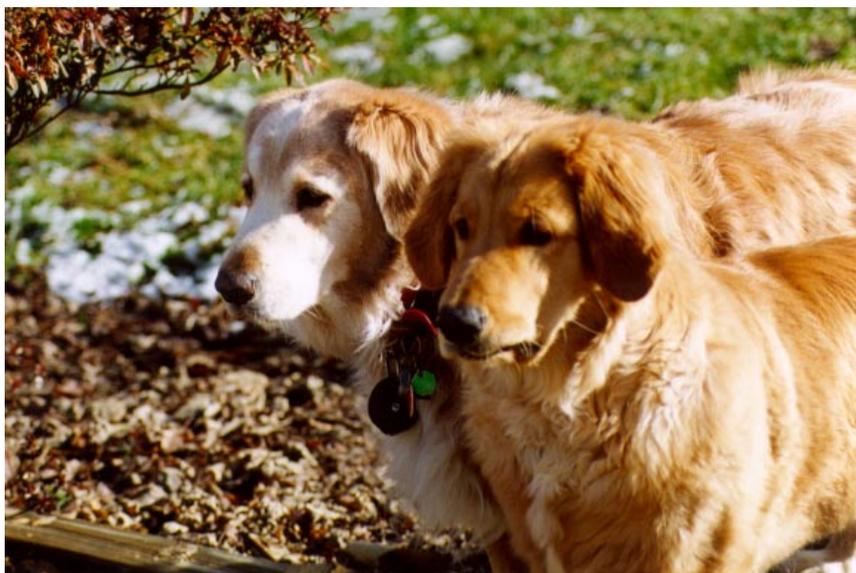
compelled to struggle to understand some of the daily vignettes these guys create. And the only way I know to go about it is to try reducing their actions to some theory recognizable within the limits of my human awareness. *They* seem to so effortlessly understand *my* daily routine that I can only imagine canine philosophers lamenting, for example, “Poor creatures, we understand their predictable little lives, but it’s a one-way street since they’re so limited in cross-species consciousness.”

So my friend the physicist—let’s call him “Jon”—insists that when Jud firmly positions himself at the front door on Fridays, as he’s done every Friday for the past eight years, he’s not waiting for his friend Carol, the cleaning lady who has appeared at the front door every Friday for the past eight years. Why is he there? “Jeez, I dunno!”, says Jon. “Maybe he can’t sleep; maybe he wants out; maybe ... how would *I* know? But—he’s a *dog*. He’s not *thinking*—about her coming or about *anything else*. He’s a dog; *dogs can’t think*.”

OH?

Then what prompts Jud, on a cool evening when we’re all sitting on the patio—his absolute favorite time—to suddenly race into the house and upstairs to retrieve a partially chewed bone from its hiding place, then bring it down to gnaw contentedly on the patio?

Or how about this: Grady (97-101) became a family member just last September. He’s barely a year old now, full of spirit and he dearly *loves* to eat. Jud, his ten-year-old elder statesman brother, eats a bit more slowly and often elects to resume his nap, forestalling after-dinner treats. Grady, quickly grasping the house rule that “treat time” is “family time” (meaning Jud’s attendance is prerequisite), wolfs down his food, then unobtrusively lays down beside Jud as Jud carefully savors his. Should Jud opt to rest after finishing his food, a noisy confrontation quickly ensues—Jud’s annoyed growling and such—followed *immediately* by the appearance of *both* guys, in the kitchen, ready for treats. *Somehow* Grady has discovered how to irritate Jud (not an easy task!), persuading him to show up so that happy hour can begin.



Judson (left) and Grady Moore, thinking about something in their back yard.

We live in an older house with a large back yard that abuts the likewise expansive yard of our rear neighbors. Jud was two years old when we moved here and quickly learned, after chasing two rabbits and a deer, that his boundary was the property line of our back yard. When Grady arrived, we doubted that such an energetic youngster could ever understand such limits.

But a funny thing happened. We took Grady out, securely leashed, several times daily for six weeks and he closely observed Jud fastidiously patrolling, nose aground, the entire back yard. Then one day Grady seized an opportunity to bolt out through an open back door. After racing around full tilt in ever-widening circles for 10 minutes, effortlessly evading my futile attempts to capture him, Grady settled down to the chore of meticulously inspecting the boundaries of *his* yard—the same exact ones that Jud carefully checked. When the job was completed to his satisfaction, he proudly pranced across the yard, up the rock walk, across the brick patio, and bounded into the house, pausing briefly to check on my whereabouts. To this day he has faithfully abided by the yard rules without a word of correction from me.

So I again posed the question to my physicist friend: *how did this thoughtless dog, this beast, this unreasoning creature lacking the ability to think, figure this out?* I had never scolded Grady for wandering, because he had never been outside alone. *How do you explain this, Jon?*

Anthropomorphic, continued on page 8

A GRREAT BIG Thank You goes to

Lynn Stierman and A. Porter, owners of *Once Upon a Time* in Vienna, Virginia, for holding a raffle of a Princess Di Beanie Baby which raised over \$500 for GRREAT.

Dr. Alan Frank and the staff of Hunt Valley Animal Hospital for their donation of Heartguard+ and Interceptor.

PETSMART Charities for their recent donation in appreciation of GRREAT’s participation at their Adopt-A Pet Days.

Super Dog of Leola, Pennsylvania, for donating the proceeds of a raffle at the store.

Storm Warning, continued from page 1
also grounded her crate to try to help her, but more on that later.

Tucker wasn't always afraid of storms. Like most dogs, her phobia intensified when she was an adult. I suspect a genetic basis because her dam and other dogs in her breeder's kennel exhibited similar fears. Dogs may also develop thunderstorm phobia after being frightened by a loud clap of thunder, a flash of lightening, the vibration of the house during a storm, the sound of rain or wind or even a sudden change in barometric pressure.

So what's to be done to soothe our frantic dogs who wake us in the middle of the night in a panic, who soil in the house because they are so terrified; who drool, shake, tear up household furnishings; hide under furniture, in the shower, bathtub, closet or behind the toilet; or who try to jump through screens or windows?

Many options are available to try. Some methods work like magic for some dogs while others don't seem to help at all, so start with the gentlest methods and keep trying until you find something that helps. Most require a serious commitment in time and effort, but the results are well worth it if your dog is helped. A review of current theories and recommendations includes the following suggestions:

⚡ Dogs are perceptive to your moods and anxieties. If you are nervous during storms your dog probably will be too. Likewise, if you expect your dog to be afraid he most likely will comply.

⚡ Never, never, never comfort your dog during a storm. This rewards the negative behavior you want to stop. Hard to do? Yes, but be strong. You should also not

punish your dog for its fears. Punishment won't stop the behavior, but it may make it worse.

⚡ Invest in a crate so you can keep your dog safe during a storm. This will also keep your household safe from your dog's destructive behavior, and knowing he is safe might allow you to go back to sleep if he awakened you. It's hard to be alert and productive at work after spending the night wrestling with a frantic dog who keeps marching around on your bed, panting, drooling and insisting on attention and comfort.

⚡ Try desensitization by exposing your dog to the sound of thunder, using a special audio tape, starting with a very low volume and gradually increasing to a volume similar to a real storm, always keeping it below the fear producing level. This may take months since you must carefully follow the instructions and slowly increase the intensity to avoid further trauma to the dog.

⚡ Counter-conditioning may help, especially if used in conjunction with desensitization. This process conditions your dog to react in a positive way during a storm or while hearing the desensitization tapes. For instance, while playing the tapes, teach a new trick or command, play ball, or give known commands and reward your dog if he obeys. This distracts him, and reinforces his positive behavior. He may then begin to associate the storm with something pleasant. In other words, redirect his attention through commands and reward his compliance. However, you should never give a dog treats just because it is storming. This is comforting him during a storm, and is reinforcing negative behavior. He should receive treats and praise only when he has worked and earned them.

⚡ Explore holistic options such as homeopathic remedies, massage techniques or acupuncture. There are many excellent local veterinarians who specialize in homeopathic and complimentary medi-

Storm Warning, continued on page 5



Just what is Dakota Abbott-Jester running from in the Congressional Cemetery on South East Capitol Hill?



Storm Warning, continued from page 4

cine who will work with you and your dog to relieve its fears naturally and gently. If your dog's fears are mild, *Rescue Remedy* or *Valarian* are two compounds that might ease their nervousness. Both are made from natural ingredients, and you can usually find them at health food stores or at drugstores or supermarkets carrying herbal remedies.



Try removing your dog's crate pad or mat and ground the crate to prevent the buildup of static electricity. Nicholas Dodman, BVMS, MRCVS, professor of behavioral pharmacology at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, espouses this in his book *The Dog Who Loved Too Much* as a possible way of relieving your dog's fears. He theorizes that the buildup of static electricity causes discomfort in some dogs, and they try to rid themselves of this buildup by seeking a connection to the ground behind toilets, in bathtubs or showers, in basements, even outside in pools of water or other conductive surfaces which drain the electrical buildup into the ground. I've tried this with Tucker and have seen moderate improvement. Cy simply ran a wire from her crate to a water pipe leading to the ground.



As a last resort, or if dealing with a dog who is severely affected, your only choice may be to turn to medication. There are two types of drugs that may be helpful. The first are antidepressants, which are mood altering chemical compounds that react on the dog by creating a calming effect. Antidepressants must be given on a daily basis and be started well in advance of the desired effect. Prozac and Elavil are two of the more common antidepressants prescribed. The second drug is a tranquilizer that is given when your dog starts to exhibit signs of nervousness. It acts as a depressant and may leave your dog confused, dazed or sedated. Tranquilizers only mask the problem; they will never make the fear disappear. Acepromazine is the most frequently prescribed tranquilizer for dogs, but Valium, which is somewhat milder, is also excellent and often prescribed.

A thunderstorm is Nature's way of reminding us that humans cannot control everything.



According to an article in the newsletter of Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue, recent work on thunderstorm phobia conducted at the University of Tennessee Veterinary School by E. Schull-Selcer, DVM, indicates promising results with new drug therapies. Traxene-SD, a long acting Valium-type drug, may be useful for working owners. A Golden-size dog is given a 22.5 mg dose once a day. All drugs in this class may have the opposite reaction and produce a paradoxical excitability, so they must be first given when the owner is at home. The dose should be tapered gradually rather than suddenly discontinuing use if the drug is prescribed over a period of time.

Another drug producing promising results for dogs with mild phobias is Propranolol (Inderol), which is commonly used for pets and people with heart conditions and high blood pressure. It has also been used by performers and musicians to relieve symptoms of stage fright.

Some Helpful Resources

Thunderstorm audio tapes with instructional booklet are available from K-9 Communications for \$19.95 by calling 1-800-952-6517.

T-touch massage instruction video tapes by L. Tellington-Jones are available for \$39.95 by calling 1-800-797-PETS(7387).

Referrals and information about homeopathic veterinarians in your area, or about homeopathic remedies, can be obtained from the **National Center for Homeopathy** by calling 703-548-7790.

THANK YOU to these individuals and corporations for their recent donations

Brett Abrams
(who donated a check he received for his ninth birthday)
Kurt and Chandra Bolland
Katherine M. Bowe
Greg and Jen Buck
Lorraine Delgado and Michael Pirato
Bruce Drake
Nancy Fowler
General Physics Corp. (to match a gift from Linda Watson)
Maureen C. Kelley
Carron McDonough and The Feed Bag, Phoenix, MD
Cindy Montgomery
Elizabeth Ross
Kate Symonds
U.S. West Foundation (to match a gift from Gwenifer Law)



**Leo's Corner
will return in the
next issue.**

Dear GRREAT,

I am enclosing a contribution for you all to use wherever it is needed. It is in memory of my mother, Rose Wildman Ketz, who loved and received so much pleasure in the last years of her life from Paxton and Marley, the August GRREAT Pin-Up Doggies! It is also in memory of my mother's siblings: Elise Wildman Hammer, who gave me my first wonderful dog, Princess; Robert Aprill Wildman, who loved and rescued many animals in his lifetime; and Herbert Tuttle Wildman, who was a lover of life and a clown with his Shriners Band. Thanks for the GRREAT work you all do!
—Elizabeth Ketz-Robinson



Memorial Donations were received in memory of...

┐ indicates a
Leo Fund donation

Nancy Blanford of Montrose, MI, wife of R.H. Blanford, from Gladys and Frank Godwin

Rose Wildman Ketz and her Wildman family, from Elizabeth Ketz-Robinson *Please see separate letter above.*

John Kendrick Towers, from the co-workers of John C. Towers

Abby, beloved companion of Joel and Patricia Amish, from Miriam Jacobson and David and Eva Cohen

Ambercrombie, loyal companion for 14 years, from Paul and Chris Umberger ┐

Blue, the spirit of grace and humor on all fours, from Carron McDonough ┐

Champ, from Lisa and John Bonato

Cindy, Nancy and David Smith's beloved Golden, from Trish Collier ┐

Cindy, from Dave and Nancy Smith

Doc, a wonderful, gentle soul, from Howard and Frances Wode

Kelly (94-177), from Connie Francis and Bob Feldman *Please see page 9.*

Morgan's Sir Pellinore (Pelly), a wonderful companion, from Evelyn Grau

Sandy, owned by Chris Saint, from Belli and Tippi [Murphy]



Special Donations were received

In honor of

Emma, the wonder dog (born Lady Bug), from Margie Gibelman

Emmy-Lou, from Diane Rausch

Maggie Moo, from Kathy Carbone

Max (98-018) and his new family, Sarah and Christian Petratch and Belle and Molly (98-083), from Amy and Tom Campbell

Molson, from Martin and Janet White

In appreciation

For the love and care **GRREAT foster homes** provide to homeless dogs, from Pat Balducci
To **GRREAT** for all you do, from Dr. Jim and Ginny Hayes and their three Golden

To thank

Foster family **Linda and Dave Clark** for taking care of Rusty until adopted, from Ralph and Joyce Page

To celebrate and honor

Our friend **Cathy Parrish** on her birthday. Thanks for all the GRREAT things you do, from Louise and Dale Gibson



Here's just a small donation to thank you for providing us with the joy of having Beau (98-023). He's been a very good, obedient pet. Still a little shy, but coming around and gaining weight and growing a curly coat. Also, thanks to Georgie Bahler for her concern with Beau's hip problem.

—Regina and Ken Wolfe

You've probably been involved in so many GRREAT matters that you do not recall this, but about this time last year you made an extra effort to help me adopt a dog. At the time, I was getting over the untimely death of the Golden whom I had raised from a puppy and who passed away from lymphosarcoma at the age of 7, despite many efforts to combat the cancer through chemotherapy.

I thought I was ready to have a dog again a few months later, and contacted GRREAT but initially was stymied by the great demand for the number of dogs available. You were kind enough to give me a heads-up on a Golden staying with Dave Clark which was still being evaluated and not yet listed.

As a result, I adopted Louie, who was then 7 and just turned 8. Louie is doing wonderfully, and we are both very much at home with each other.

But it didn't happen immediately. I know I read often in the newsletter about how many people fall immediately in love with their adopted dog, but I am sure you know from all your experiences with GRREAT that there is a flip side to this—that it can take a long time for an adopted dog and the new owner to feel at home with each other, especially if the owner had a previous Golden.

Louie was so different from Magic that there were many times in the early going when I felt I had made a mistake. Magic even at 7 was a playful puppy who was a fanatic about tug of war and playing fetch and who was very affectionate. Louie was a much "older" 7, and had clearly been brought up to be more subdued. In the early months I had him, this was compounded by the fact that he was down in the dumps about being in a new environment after being given up by the owners who raised him for so long.

But as time passed, the relationship grew. Louie livened up, although he will never be as playful as Magic. Now, we are both attached to each other and I also feel a sense of satisfaction that this older guy is going to live out his life happily, as he deserves to.

So, I'm sure GRREAT advises new owners on this. It's a very important point that new owners give themselves time to grow close to an adopted dog.

—"BDRAKE" via the Internet

Scuba and I had a wonderful time at the Oatlands Sheepdog Trials in Leesburg. My agility class held a demo there. For our first time in front of a crowd, we did OK. Scuba was a little distracted of course, and did some goofy things which got a lot of laughs from the crowd.

We really enjoyed ourselves. He is knocking the jump bars, though. I'm beginning to think his foot that was damaged when he was hit by the car is the problem. It seems he doesn't have total control over it.

Anyway, he certainly does enjoy it as I do, so it's OK if he's not the best. He's really come a long way and so have I. He's such a joy and really well behaved.

I feel very lucky to have him! Our best wishes to you all.

—Valerie Hastman

ADOPTION REPORT FOR JULY AND AUGUST

GRREAT found new homes for 31 Golden Retrievers in the dog days of July and August. There were 14 females and 17 males. Six were a year old or under; nine were age 6 or over. Unfortunately, several more dogs had to be turned away from the Rescue due to lack of foster homes. Please consider being a foster home—see the article on page 9.

Name (ID)	Age	Sex
Angel (98-095)	3	F
Blondie (98-101)	6½	F
Blondie (98-137)	7 mo	F
Buddy (98-135)	3	M
Casey (95-139)	9	F
Casey (98-092A)	5	F
Charlie (98-139)	2	M
Clay (98-089)	2	M
Conan/Bud Wise (98-125)	16 mo	M
Cub (98-119)	4	M
Dakota (98-107)	6	M
Duke (98-097)	7	M
Dusty (98-141)	3	M
Grace (98-126)	4	F
Jasmine (98-112)	6	F
Maggie (98-121)	4 mo	F
Majic (98-148)	4 mo	M
Mandy (98-120)	4½	F
Max (98-116)	4	M
Maxwell (98-106)	11 mo	M
Nellie (98-070)	1	F
Patti (98-118)	16 mo	F
Peggy Mack (98-075)	2	F
Puddy Cat (98-110)	6	F
Rusty (98-114)	3	M
Rusty (98-128)	6	M
Sandi (98-042)	2	F
Turk (98-123)	1	M
Woody (98-132)	9	M
Zack (98-062)	8	M
Zeke (98-087)	2½	M

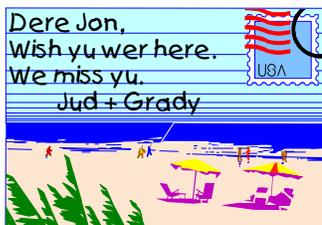
*Anthropomorphic,
continued from page 3*

How does this fit into your stingy recognition of “intelligence?”

Now, Jon is a great fellow. He publishes papers to enlighten other physicists and supervises other people like himself—he prides himself on his ability to stimulate bright, scientific minds. And recently, I notice more and more that he sits quietly, observing these guys Jud and Grady. Is he *looking* for something? Is he attempting to penetrate those improbable minds? Is he feeling the need to *explain*, even if his logically trained reasoning powers prevent him from *understanding*, some inscrutable phenomenon? Is there some truth hitherto *just beyond* the limits of his well-heeled imagination?

All I know is that now, whenever Jud and Grady send postcards to their favorite physicist from our beach vacation, or send birthday wishes, Jon has started *thanking* them—you know, like the guys could ever hope to comprehend his complex speech patterns.

And once he even wrote them a thank-you note.



Golden Memories, continued from page 1
After a while, she demonstrated how resilient Golden are. She started to navigate on her own, feeling with her nose or her front paws and using her excellent sense of smell. Before we knew it she could get in and out of the house completely on her own. We only had to keep an eye on her and extricate her when she got into trouble. How she found the steps to get back onto the deck is beyond me, but find them she did, time and time again. I guess she worked a lot with subtle differences in smell and could identify the wood of the deck and the flower pots that flanked the steps. Believe me, we did not move those flower pots.

You might think, who wants to do all that extra work for just a dog? How wrong you are if you think that way. She brought out the best in us as caring people and made us feel good about ourselves. We knew we were doing the right thing and that made it totally worth the effort. Have you ever observed parents of a child with special needs? They often go to enormous lengths for that child and seem to love it even more than their “normal” children. A dog with “special needs” is not much different.

A short while ago, Mandy’s eyes started bulging even more. They had become inflamed and were bleeding internally. In all likelihood, she was uncomfortable, if not in pain. Also, her hearing seemed to get poor. She was becoming totally shut off from her world, her pack, her people. It meant that the moment we had dreaded for almost a year had finally come. What quality of life was left for her? Is that not the only thing that really counts?

We had her euthanized. We both cried that day.

Eventually, we consoled ourselves with the thought that she had a great life, twelve-plus years full of adventure, rabbit chasing, field work, swimming, tracking and obedience training, and most important of all, a lot of attention and loving care. Our thoughts went back to Ginger, another great Golden we lost a few years back. Ginger was a rescue dog, a senior citizen, some ten years old when she arrived in our house. I do not really remember all the details of her background, but what

I do remember is that within a few weeks after her arrival she started to kind of blossom. She knew that, whatever misery had been caused to her in her past, we were the good guys. You could not have a more affectionate, loyal, grateful and loving dog.

Ginger died in her sleep after she had been with us for more than three years—three glorious and great years with one heck of a great dog. And that is the way it often goes with senior rescue dogs. Golden are such loving and people-oriented dogs that even after years of terrible abuse and neglect they do not lose their basic confidence in people. Just treat them lovingly and they come around, from trembling heaps of sheer misery into happy, loving and grateful members of their pack.

Most GRREAT rescue dogs stay in one of our foster homes for only a short while. Their veterinary needs have to be addressed and they have to be evaluated. Usually, they need very little time for recuperation beyond that. There is a reason for that: these great dogs are so resilient and so people-loving that you only have to give them a chance and they will love you to pieces in no time flat. And, again, they know that you are the good guy and they show it every day. It seems that the more senior dogs—even better than the younger whippersnappers—realize what a great and superb person you are. They practically trip over their own feet to show you their appreciation for you as their new alpha person. They *know*.

What about those rescue dogs who are old, ten years or more? Who wants all that hassle for just a few extra years? If you ever took care of a Golden Oldie, you would never again think that way. Yes, there is a chance they die after a few years. The life expectancy of a Golden is ten years. Beyond that you are living on borrowed time. But let me tell you, we took one in who was thirteen years old and she stayed with us—I should really say graced our house—for three more years. Three years with a very nice dog who was an absolute sweetheart and a pleasure until her very last day. Three great years. What is wrong with that?

Golden Memories, continued on page 9

Golden Memories, continued from page 8
Yes, you will have to make the sad decision to euthanize a dog more often than when you take in younger dogs, and that is never easy. But when you make that decision with only the interest of the dog in mind you will later think back of your time together with a smile on your face—*Gee, she was a nice dog and I am glad I could give her a few good years.* You will feel good about yourself. You were a decent person who did the right thing.

And that is what this rescue business is all about. We are in the business of giving dogs, in our case Golden Retrievers, as many good years as possible to make up for what other people have done to them. When I think about what people have done to these dogs, my blood pressure goes up, I get red in the face and I feel like wringing their dirty necks. No kidding. I am not a violent man, so I do the next best thing and try to make up for their misdeeds. I feel a strong moral obligation to do that. I take in rescue Golden Retrievers, preferably the senior citizens because they do not have much time left. How can I let them finish their life in misery?

Believe me, I get paid back for my troubles over and over and over again. And nobody and no dog owes me anything. I owe my Golden Retrievers.



IN REMEMBRANCE

KELLY

Connie Francis and Bob Feldman write
Please accept this donation in memory of Kelly (94-177) and with our thanks to all GRREAT volunteers, especially Sara and Carl Gepp, for their part in bringing her to us.



Kelly in 1994

When rescued in the fall of 1994, Kelly was a stray about 6 to 7 years old, underweight, with fur and skin in deplorable condition and showing signs of cataracts and arthritis.

We had concerns about adopting an older dog, as we had just lost our black lab of 13 years. However, with proper nutrition, medications and love, her health and appearance improved noticeably and her Golden Spirit was a true delight. She especially liked long walks and her favorite treat—Frosty Paws!

This spring we were cautioned by her veterinarian that, although on the newest medicines, she probably wouldn't survive the winter, and we tried to prepare ourselves emotionally for the change of seasons. But, as with many things that are out of our hands, we said our good-byes on a hot summer day and she was gently euthanized in July.

Recently, when even short walks became difficult, Kelly enjoyed sitting in the cool shade as we tended the garden. This garden is now the resting place of her extraordinary Golden Spirit.

Although together only three and a half years, our sweet old girl brought something unique to us and we'll always have her memory and the satisfaction that we gave what she so deserved—a loving home.

Foster Homes Urgently Needed

During 1997 GRREAT took in and found new homes for 178 dogs. So far (September 1) we have taken in more than 150 dogs. Continuing at this pace, we will rescue close to 225 dogs in 1998, a 25% increase in a single year. But the real heartbreak is that this 25% increase does not include the dogs that we have had to turn away because we don't have enough foster homes to care for them. In a single week in August, GRREAT received calls from 7 owners trying to place their dogs, which ranged in age from a 9 month old puppy to a 13 year old. At one point this summer, we had 14 dogs *waiting* to come into the Rescue but all of our foster homes were full.

First, you do not have to be at home full-time in order to be a foster. And being a foster home does not mean that you get "stuck" with a dog every time we ask you. You control when you can accept a dog and we will certainly work with you to place a dog that fits into your home situation (kids, cats, other dogs). GRREAT pays for all approved medical expenses and supplies. And *you* have the final say on which approved applicant adopts the dog.

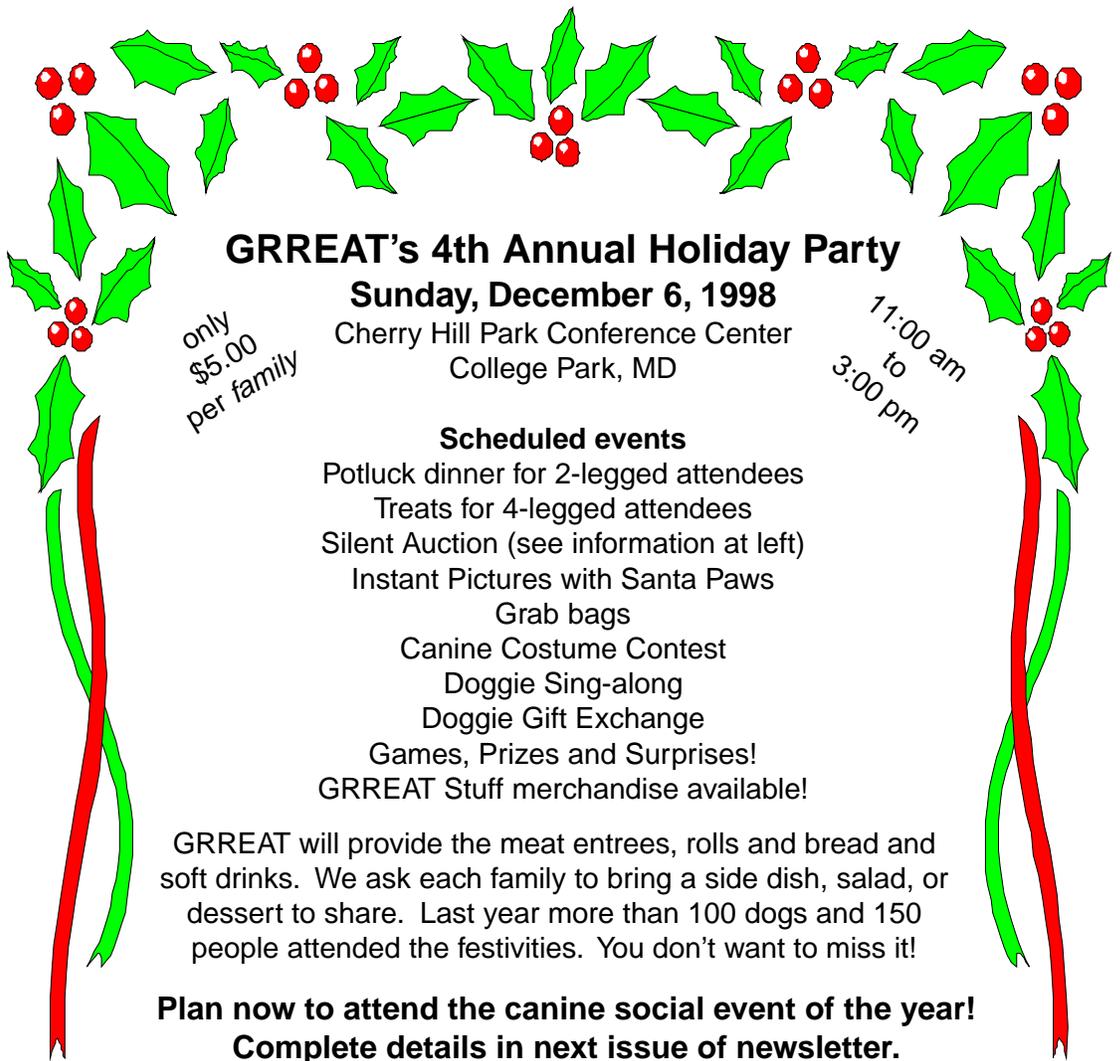
Taking one or two fosters per year (usually for 2 to 6 weeks per foster) means the difference between life and death for some dogs. Please consider making a difference to a Golden. Call Georgie Bahler (703-620-6698) or Mary Ellen Lunde (301-549-3156) for further information about the rewards of being a foster home.

Foster Homes for Senior and Special Needs Golden Retrievers Especially Needed.

**Silent Auctions
Produce
GRREAT
Benefits**

This year's Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club (PVGRC) Auction for GRREAT, held in conjunction with the organization's annual Awards Banquet, raised over \$3000, thanks to the generosity of PVGRC and GRREAT members and guests. PVGRC has passed on a number of items to be auctioned at GRREAT's Holiday Party on Dec. 6.

GRREAT is now soliciting additional Golden-related items, other hand-crafts and treasures suitable for a fundraising auction. If you have items to donate, please call Shaaron Plate (410-667-6512) or Sam Connelly (410-256-3113). Thank you for supporting GRREAT!



GRREAT's 4th Annual Holiday Party

Sunday, December 6, 1998

Cherry Hill Park Conference Center
College Park, MD

only
\$5.00
per family

11:00 am
to
3:00 pm

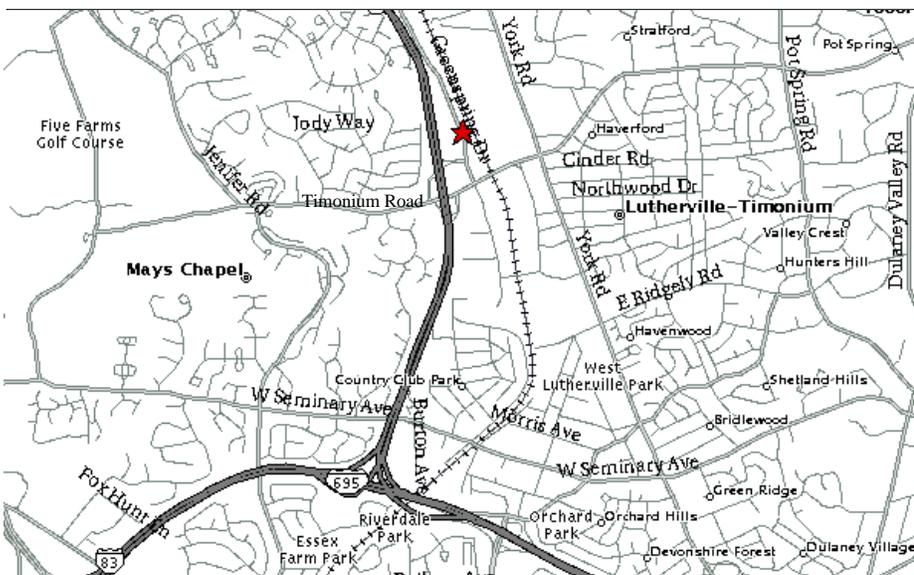
Scheduled events

- Potluck dinner for 2-legged attendees
- Treats for 4-legged attendees
- Silent Auction (see information at left)
- Instant Pictures with Santa Paws
- Grab bags
- Canine Costume Contest
- Doggie Sing-along
- Doggie Gift Exchange
- Games, Prizes and Surprises!
- GRREAT Stuff merchandise available!

GRREAT will provide the meat entrees, rolls and bread and soft drinks. We ask each family to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Last year more than 100 dogs and 150 people attended the festivities. You don't want to miss it!

**Plan now to attend the canine social event of the year!
Complete details in next issue of newsletter.**

**New Host Facility! Adoption Day Sunday, October 25, 1998 Noon to 2:00 pm
Pet Depot • 2151 Greenspring Drive • Timonium, MD • (410) 561-0931**



Directions to Pet Depot
From the BALTIMORE Beltway I-695, take the I-83 North exit (Exit 24 on the northwest side of the city) towards Timonium/York, PA. On I-83, take the Timonium Road West exit (Exit 16B) and keep left at the fork in the ramp, merging onto Greenspring Drive. Pet Depot is 100 yards from the exit on the right side of the street.

See you there!

**DEAR GRREAT:
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 gratefully
acknowledged in *GRREAT News*.
Thank you for your generosity.

MAIL IN MEMBERSHIP FORM

- New member Renewal (Member number
from label M_____)

Name _____

Address _____

Mark here if this is an address or name change.

Phone (____) _____

E-mail address _____

Circle as many as applicable:

1. I am enclosing \$20 for my 1999 membership dues.
2. I am enclosing a tax-deductible donation of \$_____
3. I am interested in becoming a GRREAT volunteer.
(Please complete Volunteer Form at right)
4. I am interested in donating the following services or
supplies to GRREAT:

Checks should be made payable to GRREAT.

***Thank You
for your support of GRREAT***

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please detach and return this form to volunteer for any of the
capacities below. If you have special talents that aren't listed
below, fill in the "Other" section at the bottom. Return the form
to:

GRREAT
Attention: Volunteer Coordinator
P.O. Box 3069
Falls Church, VA 22043

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Best time to call _____

Work Phone _____ OK to call at work? _____

County or area where you live _____

County or area where you work _____

Other areas where you visit regularly _____

Best days/hours to volunteer _____

PLEASE INDICATE ANY AREA OF INTEREST. You will be
contacted by the appropriate GRREAT Coordinator for more
information.

I would like to know how I can help

_____ As a foster home for a GRREAT dog

_____ As an emergency or short-term foster home

_____ At Adoption Days

_____ At Tattoo Clinics

_____ At information booths at dog shows,
community fairs, etc.

_____ At Fund Raisers, Pictures with Santa, etc.

_____ Transport GRREAT dogs (to/from vet, pick-up at
animal shelter, owner give-ups)

_____ Transport supplies, food

_____ Provide storage space for food, supplies, crates

_____ Stamp and address newsletters and flyers

_____ Donate the following services:

_____ Other: _____

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Sunday, October 25, 1998

Noon — 2:00 pm

Adoption Day

Pet Depot

2151 Greenspring Drive

Timonium, MD 21093

(410) 561-0931

Directions on page 10.



Plan now to attend

GRREAT's Annual Holiday Party

Sunday, December 6, 1998

Cherry Hill Park

College Park, MD

Information on page 10—more details in next issue!



Sunday, December 13, 1998

Adoption Day

PETCO of Tyson's Corner

Directions in next issue.



GRREAT BEGINNINGS



LEAD TO HAPPY ENDINGS!

Golden Retriever Rescue
Education and Training, Inc.

P.O. Box 3069

Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

☎ 703-620-6593

First Class Mail