



GRREAT News

November/December 1998

Volume 8, Number 6

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

From the President A Time to Give Thanks Shaaron Plate

My definition of Golden Retriever Rescue work is: *a never-ending labor of love*. So what could be more appropriate as our twelfth year draws to an end, than to extend heartfelt thanks to **YOU**, our loyal members and supporters who have worked so hard for the welfare of the breed we love? Without you, hundreds of Golden lives would have been lost, and hundreds of families would have never known the joy that only a beloved Golden companion can bring.

There are a number of individuals without whom our jobs would be nearly impossible, and I'd like to publicly recognize them for their dedication and devotion to rescuing homeless Golden Retrievers. These people unselfishly give many hours of their time to work on our behalf—many of them completely behind the scenes—and I hope that the next time you see them you, too, will say thanks for a job very well done.

From the President, continued on page 2

Hip Dysplasia Marty Smith, DVM

We have found that many people have misconceptions about hip dysplasia, thinking it is a congenital form of arthritis that affects the hip joints. While it is true that severe arthritis is seen in dogs with hip dysplasia, arthritis is the secondary result of dysplasia, not the primary problem.

Canine Hip Dysplasia is an inherited disorder of one or both hip joints that is brought about by a laxity of the muscles, connective tissue and ligaments that support the joint. Significantly more common in the larger, rapidly growing breeds, the soft tissues that

Hip Dysplasia, continued on page 13

Fostering— The REAL Story by Molly of Pack Haisenleder

Nancy (my pet) read to me the article that Shaaron wrote a while back about fostering. I found it truly interesting that our pets at times have to explain why they foster homeless Golden Retrievers. That's people for you—everything is always about *them!* Brother! Don't they know fostering also requires skilled services from the resident dogs, birds, cats and what have you? Oh, yes, introductions first. *I am Molly Haisenleder*. While not a GRREAT-rescued dog, I was rescued en route to the pound by Nancy and Dan. I am a 3 year-old Golden lady trapped inside a 12 year-old body. Makes it a bit awkward at times when those "wild dog" urges hit, let me tell you. Can't throw the ball nearly as high in the air. But never mind that. Back to the subject of fostering.

The way fostering works, as I see it, is that a Golden is let down by its humans—and I'm not talking about simply being left alone with no treats for more than a few hours or forced to endure another trip to that Vet person. No, it is usually something *much* worse. I can't really imagine what that might be, but some of my foster dogs have arrived with a major "pound stink" on them... and some are *soooo* skinny and sad. Anyway, these unfortunate fuzz-butts somehow get in touch with an angel named "Georgie" (she must be a Golden in disguise—a human couldn't do as much as she does for us) and she listens to their stories and then calls a human, like Nancy, my pet. Georgie tells Nancy to "come" and "retrieve" the unfortunate Golden. She tells her to "sit and stay" like a good girl until the rescued Golden is cleaner and healthier and happier (which is what I help with). Then my work begins.

The Real Story, continued on page 5

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From the President, continued from page 1

To **Deb Nizer**, Vice President and Adoption Coordinator, thank you for the many hours spent coordinating GRREAT's successful adoption process. Thanks to Deb's husband, **Skip Nizer**, for your sometimes sad, often humorous, and always wonderful newsletter articles. To **Georgie Bahler**, our Intake and Foster Home Coordinator extraordinaire, thank you for your caring heart and for expert guidance provided to so many, and to your wonderful assistants, **Leslie Peszczyński** and **DeAnna Edge**. I extend sincere appreciation for all that you do. To **Linda and Dave Clark**, thanks for doing the hard work necessary to ensure the adoption process progresses smoothly and for your invaluable assistance with coordinating our adoption days. Thanks to **Mary Ellen Lunde**, GRREAT's Secretary and substitute Intake Coordinator, who does an excellent job when Georgie isn't available and whose correspondence is letter-perfect.

Our Mail and Information Coordinator, **Cheryl Garbett**, always does such a wonderful job of picking up and distributing GRREAT's mail as well as mailing out our newsletters and manning the information table at Adoption Days that thank you hardly seems enough to say. And speaking of newsletters, bravo to **April Fritz** for writing, editing and producing *GRREAT News*, unquestionably the best club newsletter I've ever seen. Talent abounds in the Fritz household, and you can see firsthand what I mean by visiting our excellent WEB page at WWW.GRREAT.ORG, designed and maintained by April's husband, **Bob Fritz**, who is also our membership coordinator.

And a huge thank you to the Browns, who select, purchase and sell our merchandise, in addition to acting as GRREAT's good-will ambassadors. **Becky Brown**, Merchandise Coordinator, and husband **Doug Brown**, Public Education Coordinator, have given up many weekends and spent many more hours driving to dog events to sell our merchandise and to help educate the public to responsible dog ownership and ethical breeding practices.

Our tattoo program has become one of the most successful of any rescue organization in the country thanks to the efforts of **Laura Schmitz**, Tattoo Coordinator, and her team of talented tattoo experts. To **Joan Gunby**, Volunteer Coordinator, I extend a well deserved thank you for all of the time and effort you've spent staffing our many events with wonderful volunteers.

Fundraising is a constant challenge, and **Sam Connelly** has accepted that challenge by providing GRREAT with new and unique ideas for raising much needed funds, for which we are very grateful. And of course I can't pass up an opportunity to thank my husband, **Cy Plate**, Treasurer and super foster dad, who keeps a close eye on GRREAT's finances, writes the checks, keeps the books balanced and keeps me on my toes.

GRREAT would not exist today if not for the foresight of a handful of **Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club** members who, many moons

From the President, continued on page 5

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

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

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** members of the GRREAT Board of Directors*



**only
\$10.00
per family**

GRREAT's 4th Annual Holiday Party

Sunday, December 6, 1998
Cherry Hill Park Conference Center
College Park, MD

**11:00 am
to
4:00 pm**

Events Schedule and Approximate Times

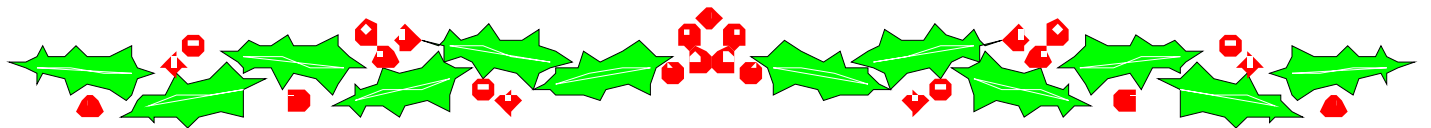
- Silent Auction starts at 11:00, closes at 2:30
- Chinese Raffle, starts at 11:00, drawing at 2:30
- Instant Pictures with Santa Paws 11:00 - 12:30 and 1:00 - 3:00
- Potluck dinner for 2-legged attendees starts at 11:30
- Canine Costume Parade at 12:30
- Pets 'n' People Games start at 1:00
- Doggie Gift Exchange starts at 2:00
- Doggie Sing-along at the end of gift exchange
- Door Prizes and Surprises awarded at 2:45

Ongoing Events

- GRREAT Stuff merchandise available!
- Grab bags
- Treats and gifts for 4-legged attendees

Last year more than 100 dogs and 150 people attended the festivities. You don't want to miss it!

Plan to attend! This is the canine social event of the year!
Complete details on the next page.



DONATIONS NEEDED FOR GRREAT SILENT AUCTION DECEMBER 6th

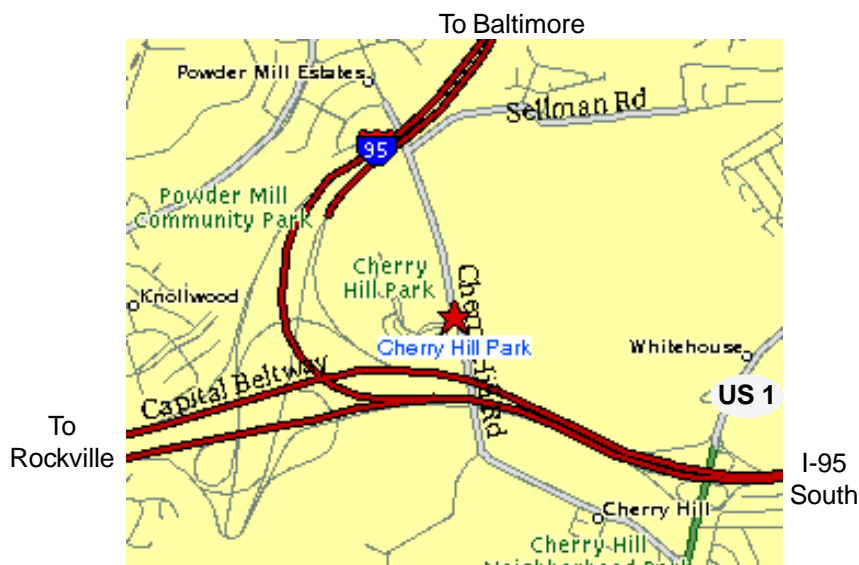
Back by popular demand, the Silent Auction at the GRREAT Holiday Party will take place again this year. We need your help to make this auction a success. Any items that you think would appeal to the bidders would be GRREATLY appreciated. Items that have traditionally brought high bids are hand-crafted or Golden Retriever-related items. Last year, hand-made ornaments and Golden collector plates were popular items. This year we will also have several retired Beanie Babies available for bid.

Look around your home or workplace (some companies donate things for charitable organizations). Perhaps you have a hobby, such as woodworking or quilting, knitting or painting, and you can create something special to donate. Or maybe you

have a friend who makes an item that you could buy or barter for and donate to the auction. If you are purchasing your donation, or if there is a major investment for supplies or time spent making the item, please indicate a minimum bid so that people know what would be a reasonable starting point.

If you have items to donate but can't bring them to the party yourself, please call Sam Connelly any evening before midnight at (410) 256-3113 and she will make arrangements to have them picked up. Thank you so much for your generosity in helping GRREAT continue doing so much for the dogs we love.

All About GRREAT's Fourth Annual Holiday Party



DIRECTIONS TO CHERRY HILL PARK CONFERENCE CENTER

From Washington Beltway, I-495/95, use Exit 25 (U.S. Route 1 South towards College Park) Make first right onto Cherry Hill Road. Go one mile to park entrance on left. The Conference Center is at the back of the park.

From Baltimore, Southbound I-95, use Exit 29B (Route 212-Calverton). Follow Route 212 (Powder Mill Road) one mile, turn left onto Cherry Hill Road. Go one mile to park entrance on right. The Conference Center is at the back of the park.

PLEASE NOTE

There will be a designated pet walking area near the Conference Center. Please obey the signs and pick up after your pet.

About the Pot Luck Dinner

We're planning an indoor picnic. The facility is lovely and there is plenty of room for doggie games, visiting the auction and merchandise tables, Santa's visit, and just sitting and watching all those beautiful dogs. Last year there were over 100 dogs and their families at the party. This year we have expanded space at the facility.

Cost: \$10.00 per family

For the dinner, GRREAT will provide the main dish (turkey and ham), bread and rolls, tableware, and the beverages (hot and cold). Families are asked to bring a side dish (veggies, chips, dips, munchies), salad (pasta, green or fruit) or dessert (you know what they are!) to share, as indicated below.

If your last name

starts with

A - K

L - R

S - Z

Please bring a

dessert

side dish

salad

About the Doggie Gift Exchange

For *each* of your dogs that participates in the gift exchange, bring a loosely wrapped "gift" **under \$5.00** appropriate for a dog. Gifts will be placed in a pile, and each dog will have a chance to retrieve a gift!

About Party Reservations

Reservations and prepayment are not necessary for this event. However, to plan for beverages, treats, main course, goodie bags, and table settings, we need an estimated nose count (wet and dry). Please call the GRREAT voice mail (703) 620-6593, box 54 and let us know how many people and how many dogs will be attending.

About the Silent Auction

You will have a chance to bid on wonderful custom-made items and **retired Beanie Babies** at the party. Donations of Golden-related items and other treasures are needed for the auction (please see page 3 for more information). A Chinese raffle of very special items will be held for the first time during the party.

Don't forget your checkbook!

Sound System Needed

GRREAT would like to borrow a sound system or karaoke machine for the party so that announcements can be heard above all the joyful noise. If you have one available on the day of the party, please contact Shaaron Plate at (410) 667-6512 or Bob Fritz at 301-330-5749.

About the Costume Parade

Back by popular demand, you and your pet can participate in a costume parade. Audience applause will judge participants and the winner will receive a prize.

About the Conference Center

Cherry Hill Park is privately owned. The Conference Center is at the back of the campground. Once inside the park, follow the main thoroughfare through the park and turn right at the end. The conference center is on the left. There is plenty of free parking.

The ballroom has a beautiful hardwood floor. For better four-legged traction, we recommend that your dog's toenails be trimmed. If your pet is prone to hip problems, it might be a good idea to bring a crate or non-skid mat for Fur Face to rest on.

From the President, continued from page 2
ago, recognized the need for a local rescue organization. We thank them, as well as current PVGRC President, Bob Crowley, his Board of Directors and all the members of PVGRC for their continued support, generosity and encouragement. And a very special thank you to **Martha Cole Glenn**, who for the past two years has coordinated the highly successful PVGRC silent auction to benefit GRREAT. In 1997 Martha was also in charge of raffling a gold pendant, the proceeds from which contributed substantially to our treasury.

As our organization looks towards an even more successful future we can't forget about GRREAT's obligations and the many needs of the rescue. Our obligation was recently tested and resulted in a dilemma when, between August and October, more than 40 dogs had to be turned away because we simply had no place to put them. Our foster homes were filled to capacity and we had no choice but to ask owners to wait until we had room for their dogs or to find an alternative option. Heartbreaking though it is, too often the alternative options chosen by the owners was surrendering the dog to a shelter or euthanasia.

In order to meet the growing demand from owners who need to relinquish their pets, we desperately need more foster homes. Combined with the need for more foster homes, the challenge of paying for vet care and foster home expenses is ongoing and will continue to increase. Much has to be done to continue our work of saving Goldens, but we are confident that with your support we will succeed. If we are to reach our goals we must have a successful merchandise sales effort, so when selecting gifts for the holiday season, please don't forget about our merchandise.

And so, to the many of you who aren't mentioned by name here, but without whom the rescue couldn't exist, thank you for all of the support you've given GRREAT. It is because of YOU that we continue to prosper.

The Real Story, continued from page 1
I fostered one dog so skinny he could almost not stand up—he was just a kid, you know, so he had terrible manners. But somehow my brother, Henley (97-103), and I just couldn't really reprimand him for his trespasses. We knew he needed food, sleep and to be part of a pack again. We were glad to accommodate. He learned a few basic pack lessons, like it is impolite to grab balls away from me—I had to teach him to wait for me to throw them. Henley showed him how to find nice sticks to chew and I taught him how to shake a teddy just right—so it makes you feel kind of dizzy, but you don't actually fall down.

Then there was that brazen *hussy* female we took in. She wasn't with us long enough for me to fully retrain her, but she knew who was the REAL queen of the pack by the time she left, let me tell you! Honestly! I mean, every toy was *hers*, every cool spot was *hers*, Henley was *hers*...I could go on and on. Of course, soft-hearted Nancy couldn't see through to the devious side of this one. I had to do *all* the correcting. Shaaron wrote that people wonder how she deals with giving up the rescued dogs to someone new. If they had seen *this* loose lady, they would have never asked such a question.

Our pack is pretty perfect as it is—Henley, me and our two pets, Dan and Nancy. Usually the foster dog just adds a bit of diversion and spice to our lives and then moves out. Sometimes, though, there are special dogs that actually add to the pack—you know, they realize there are jobs to be done and they pitch in, becoming contributing members, so to speak. BJ (Bailey 98-167) was like that. He saw the huge responsibility I have for maintaining social order around here. Every morning there are school buses, trash trucks, random walkers—each requires a bark or two to remind them not to forget we are here (but seldom does this have the expected effect of getting these people to come up to our fence to give me a few strokes. Humans can be *so* dense!)

The Real Story, continued on page 6



Ms. Molly Haisenleder offers her opinions on tennis balls and being part of a foster family.

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
FROM
GRREAT**

The Real Story, continued from page 1

Henley reserves his bark—which is very impressive—for important things like deer and such. So I get left with the daily barking chores. BJ saw he was needed and for the month he was here we were a wonderful team. I must say, I really hated to see him go. I actually think he is just outside somewhere—he was *so* responsible, it wouldn't be at all like him to just leave the job site—so I'm sleeping by the door for a while, just in case.

Henley would like me to add that these foster dogs often try to challenge him for his Alpha dog spot, so there are some rough moments at times. He came to us through GRREAT, so he knows the pain of rejection. But still, he hates being forced to share his place. He is much



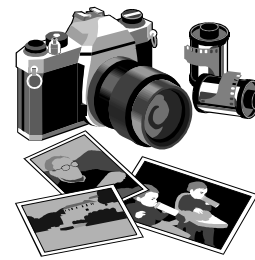
Handsome Henley, alpha dog of the Haisenleder pack.

more serious than I, and feels things much more deeply. He is slower to take up with these foster dogs, but trusts my evaluations. As long as they don't try to take one of his favorite sticks and they don't monopolize our pets, he accepts them. But he is *always* glad to see them

find new homes. He sees it—as do I—as the responsible thing for fortunate Golden Retrievers such as we are to do for those who just need a little break. It's not like we have to share our pets with them forever, just until a new set of humans can be evaluated, trained, approved and given to the foster dog. Naturally, there will be a lifetime of constant retraining ahead for these foster dogs, as their new humans will have some rough edges—but I know they will soon find, as I have, that their pets are well worth the effort. As unkind as some humans can be to us, we dogs know that somewhere out there is that special human pet who will love us and be happy to join our pack. While we wait, it is good to have a safe place to live. That is something all lucky Golden Retrievers can provide for less fortunate dogs. I encourage other dogs to become involved with fostering. It is something you and your pet can share and enjoy together.

—as told to Nancy Haisenleder

Coming Soon! It's a GRREAT Year 2000 Calendar Contest



Watch this space in the next issue for contest rules, deadlines and more details!

But just to get you in the spirit of things, here's a list of photographic hints from the Internet.

How To Photograph A New Puppy

1. Remove film from box and load camera.
2. Remove film box from puppy's mouth and throw in trash.
3. Remove puppy from trash and brush coffee grounds from muzzle.
4. Choose a suitable background for photo.
5. Mount camera on tripod and focus.
6. Find puppy and take dirty sock from mouth.
7. Place puppy in pre-focused spot and return to camera.
8. Forget about spot and crawl after puppy on knees.
9. Focus with one hand and fend off puppy with other hand.
10. Get tissue and clean nose print from lens.
11. Take flash cube from puppy's mouth and throw in trash.
12. Put cat outside and put peroxide on the scratch on puppy's nose.
13. Put magazines back on coffee table.
14. Try to get puppy's attention by squeaking toy over your head.
15. Replace your glasses and check camera for damage.
16. Jump up in time to grab puppy by scruff of neck and say, "No, outside! No, outside!"
17. Call spouse to clean up mess.
18. Get a drink.
19. Sit back in Lazy Boy with drink and resolve to teach puppy "sit" and "stay" the first thing in the morning.

MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark your calendar!

**GRREAT Annual
Business Meeting**
Saturday, January 16, 1999
George Marshall High School
7731 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA

10:00 a.m. Get Acquainted Session

10:30 a.m. Business Meeting

All members are welcome to attend.

You must be present to vote.

Agenda

- Officers Reports
- Coordinators Reports
- Summary of year's activities
- Election of Officers

Proposed Slate of Officers

President Shaaron Plate
Vice President Deb Nizer
Secretary Mary Ellen Lunde
Treasurer Cy Plate

Nominations for officers will also be taken during the business meeting.

- Plans for the coming year's fundraising efforts
- Plans for the coming year's educational activities

Directions to Marshall High School

Take the Capital Beltway I-495 to Route 7 East (Falls Church) in Northern Virginia. Proceed about one-half mile. The high school is on the right side of the road. Signs will be posted directing you to the classroom where the meeting will be held.

Note: This is a 'people only' event. Please do not bring your dog to the meeting.

— REMINDER —

It's Membership Renewal Time

If your mailing label shows "Renew Now" your GRREAT membership expires with this issue. Membership dues are \$20 per year and automatically include a subscription to GRREAT News.

Dues are payable now through January 31, 1999, after which time membership will be forfeited.

A membership card will be mailed to new members. Use the back of the membership card to record your GRREAT volunteer hours so that you can become a voting member of the organization.

This is also a good time to make a tax-deductible donation to GRREAT. GRREAT is a 501(c)(3) organization, as listed with the Internal Revenue Service. Use the handy form on page 15, and mail it and your check to GRREAT's post office box.

You can designate your donation to the Leo Fund for special needs dogs (see page 15) or to GRREAT's operating fund, where it will be used as needed. If you choose, you can make your donation in memory of, or in honor of a favorite pet or person.

Tuck a note in the envelope about your pride and joy—and maybe a picture—we love to hear from you!



Thank You
to these
individuals
for their recent
donations

Barbara Ail Apollo
Kathy Dyjack
Jennifer Giffen
Gail and Tom Koch
Virginia Lewis
Bob and Anita Rohr

Sally Schornstheimer and Ken Jonson
Neil and Connie Schuster
Jan Wolf Shapiro
Christine Taft
Susan Yanoff, DVM

Memorial
Donations
were received in
memory of...

Ⓛ indicates a
Leo Fund donation

In Memory of
Mrs. Lillian S. Reichel
(mother of Katie Dyer) from Natalie Foster

Tawnee, our beloved Golden, from Judy and Steve Barker

Barbara Clem's "original five:" Bear, Sunny, Amanda, Bruiser and Maisie. Thanks for all the Golden Memories, from Teresa Standridge

Lochivier's Buckminster (Buck, died '96), from Nancy Alexander

Aspen, from Julie Reid

Ginger Snap, owned by Kristin Ogdon of New York, from Karen van Es Ⓛ

Max's Good Golly Miss Molly, CD, CGC, with love from Nick, Sharon, Honey, Teddy and Lance



IN REMEMBRANCE

DANCER

Dancer, previously named Randy (93-050), was a long-term foster dog in the home of Lou and Hattie Wesly. Lou wrote the wonderful essay on Golden Oldies and the rewards of fostering them that appeared in the last issue of *GRREAT News*. Although Dancer had lived with the Weslys only a short time, they will miss him very much. Dancer died of a pancreatic tumor that had invaded his intestine.

GRREAT extends its deep sympathy to the Weslys on their loss of Dancer.



Special
Donations
were received

In honor of Duffy, the GRREATest Dog, from Sheila Urquhart

In honor of Hearthside's MacGyver (born '97), from Nancy Alexander

In honor of Moose (97-115) from Janis L. Brown (see Letter to GRREAT at right)

In honor of Angel Girl (97-120) and to **thank Dick and Mary Ann Newton**, foster parents of Angel, from Tommie and John O'Connell (see Letters to GRREAT on page 9) Ⓛ

In honor of Olive and Apple Jack, from Katharine Symonds

Because we love Goldens! from Marion P. Shields

Dear GRREAT:

Angel Girl has now been with us one year. She is so sweet and full of energy and love. Our many walks and her special diet have changed her from 80 pounds to 56 and as our vet said, "she is a different lady." She can now run and loves to chase the squirrels and catch balls.

Adopted Golden's are very special. She is the fifth Golden who has been a part of our family. The others grew from puppies to senior ladies. Angel Girl has been such a joy and we hope she will continue to be healthy and enjoy her new home.

Our thanks to all at GRREAT who made our adoption of Angel Girl possible.

—Tommie O'Connell

We've had Sweetheart for about 14 months and are even more crazy about her now than when we first brought her home. She's had no adjustment problems at all with us, our two other dogs, and all the other relatives and friends who pop in and out nearly every day. She truly is a sweetheart. We weren't keen on her name at first but quickly came to realize that it is perfect for her. She loves everybody and people instantly reciprocate.

Sadly, Sweetheart does have some criminal tendencies: she likes any kind of food and will strike in a heartbeat if no one is looking. To date, she has eaten an eye of round, a loaf of banana bread, a loaf of wheat bread, and three pounds of filet mignon that were to be the main course for a dinner party. All this in addition to the approximately 17,000 dog cookies fed to her by our grandsons on their visits. When it comes to food, Sweetheart is a hardened gangster with no sense of shame. We've had to adopt a whole new strategy of putting anything edible up high or in a container.

Oddly, Sweetheart is indifferent to both car rides and tennis balls. She does, however, have her favorite destinations: Home Depot and my office, where she serves as the goodwill ambassador. We are very, very lucky to have her and want to thank GRREAT and her foster parents Wendy and Chris for making this possible.

—George and Pat Connell

Moose is doing well, although he drinks a great deal of water, coughs some, and pants heavily at times. The vet doesn't think he's in any pain, though, as he seems active (for his age and personality!) and generally happy. I had the vet do a blood workup on him and his profile results were all within the normal ranges, although some related to liver function were "low normals" so we are going to follow-up with a urinalysis. He's also going to get his teeth cleaned again (he has AWFUL teeth and breath!) and have a very small lump removed. The vet doesn't think the lump is anything to be concerned about, but since he's under

anesthesia anyway, I'd feel better if it was off, given his past history.

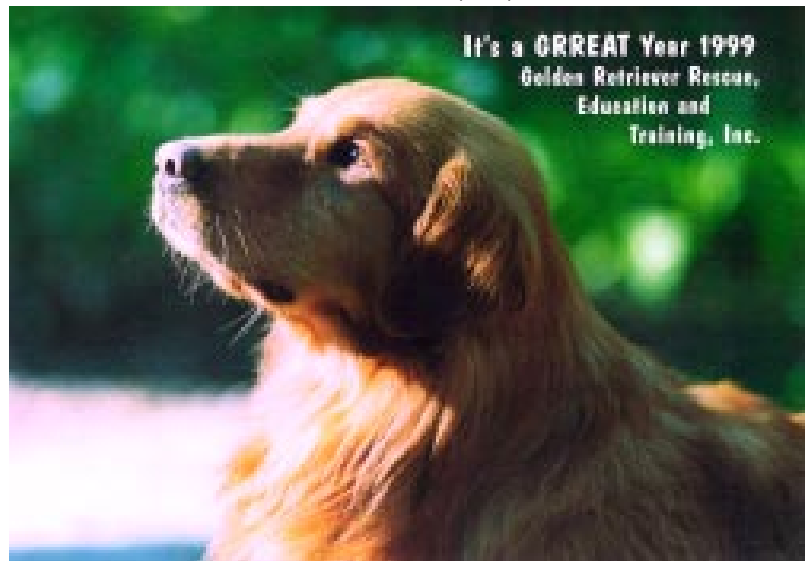
Anyway, Bernie, my 12 year old lab mix who helped me train my foster puppies and dogs over the years (now mostly retired, he pretty much supervises from the sofa now); Chelsea, my 8 year old Golden mix who never did or will like other dogs but has come to accept the many strangers who pass through; Cindy, my 8 year old Golden who was my first GRREAT foster dog and just loves her job doing pet therapy at our local nursing home; and now Moose (11 years?), the magnificent love sponge, all hope this contribution can help other dogs in need.

GRREAT is one of the best, if not *the* best organized animal group I have ever been associated with, and all the support you have provided in the two years since I joined your group and have been fostering is very much appreciated. Not having this same type of support was the major reason I could not keep fostering for other groups. Speaking as a foster home, I hope you know that all the help you provide really does make a difference!

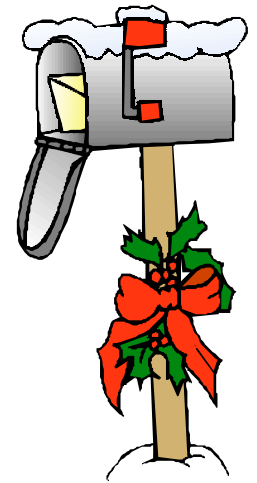
Thanks for all you have done, and I hope to see you soon at a GRREAT event!

—Jan Brown

The GRREAT Calendar, featuring color pictures of dogs rescued by GRREAT, has been tremendously popular with our members. It makes a perfect gift item at only \$10. See the GRREAT Dogalog for more information or contact Becky Brown, GRREAT Merchandise Coordinator at (301) 595-7365.



Letters to GRREAT



NOW AVAILABLE!

What You See is NOT Always What You Get!

Jan Skadberg

Thank You to our Volunteers!

We are GRREATful to the following volunteers who helped with the October 25 Adoption Day in Timonium:

Jim, Gail and Robert
Frahm

Michelle Fitzgerald
Amanda and Gail Corby

Jo Dempsey

Sidney Morris

Greg Russell

Brad and Kathy Bowser

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through

No. Actually, it was two nights before Christmas, three years ago, when I received a call from GRREAT foster mom, Jill Fisher, asking if I had room to foster an elderly, abused, male Golden she'd taken into her home. We hadn't had a foster dog in awhile, so I said yes, and on the day after Christmas we picked him up. What a sack of bones and sores this smiling, wiggling mass of fur was! I could count every rib from a block away, and it was obvious that walking was a chore for him. Jill stated that his estimated age was 11-12 years, and that the vets had said euthanasia was as viable a choice as rehabilitation. Today it is obvious to me that Jill saw a remarkable spirit in this little boy, and that her only choice could be rehab. So onward to West Virginia Connor came.

To make a long story short, after six months of antibiotics, home-made food and supplements, thrice-weekly baths, and so forth, this bundle of love blossomed. Where four sets of vets said he'd never be able to walk more than a mile due to his moderate to severe bilateral hip dysplasia, this Mountain Man has walked over 4,000 miles with us in the last three years, and today they have down-graded his age to 10 yrs.

Imagine my delight, when seven months into his stay, I awoke in bed to feel this cold, wet something pressed into my neck and a body plastered so tightly to mine that there wasn't room to turn over. He had tried and tried and tried before, but just couldn't quite climb into bed on his own. This Golden taught me the lessons of patience, perseverance, and a love that knew no age boundaries. Yes, initially I had not wanted to adopt him because of the fear of losing him too soon, the subsequent heartache and the supposed belief that he could not be incorporated into our active lifestyle. This just goes to show you how love and care can fool you!



*Connor, left, and Cheshedh Skadberg
enjoying a hike on the Appalachian Trail*

To prove that point even further, my six year old Golden Cheshedh (Hebrew for "Covenant between God and woman") was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in April, and after a leg amputation in May, was given one to four months to live. We're going on towards six months now, and with prayer, herbs, and acupuncture, she is thriving and feisty as ever! I am so very grateful for every single day I have both her and Connor. It has also made me aware that I cannot assume longevity in a dog just because the dog is young.

The moral of this story? You might want to take a second look at that "Golden Oldie" when you go to the next Adoption Day. Adopting Connor and going through Cheshedh's surgery has taught me that love is to be practiced fiercely on a daily basis, and not to be taken for granted. It has also taught me to slow down and to embrace and seek out the quiet moments.

Oh, how they bless me!!!

Best Wishes On Chanukah

Merry Christmas

Foster Homes Urgently Needed

During 1997 GRREAT took in and found new homes for 178 dogs. So far (November 10) we have taken in more than 185 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. As noted in Shaaron Plate's president's message in this issue, between August and October, more than 40 dogs had to be turned away because all of our current foster homes were full and we simply had no place to put them. Imagine if your life was in the balance and someone put you "on hold."

Please consider becoming a foster home. 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. GRREAT is planning a seminar in late February 1999 for new foster homes.

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 Goldens Especially Needed.

Name	ID	Age	Sex	Name	ID	Age	Sex	ADOPTION REPORT For September and October
Addie	98-143	2	F	Foley	98-124	2½	M	
Al	94-035	4½	M	Fripo	98-152	8½	M	
Argus	98-131	8	M	Holly	98-153	2½	F	
Bailey	98-086	1	F	Jewel	98-159	1	F	
Beethoven	98-142	11 mo	M	Jimbo	98-175	11 mo	M	
Ben	98-117	5	M	Mac	98-166	1	M	
BJ/Bailey	98-167	6	M	Maggie	98-027	2	F	
Bob	98-079	3	M	Matt/Happy	98-122	2	M	
Boomer	98-168:	8	M	Max	98-077	6 mo	M	
Brady	98-127	1	M	Max	98-109	10 mo	M	
Brinklee	98-158	3	F	Nelson	98-094	1½	M	
Buddy	98-136	2	M	Paint	98-134	4	M	
Butter	98-174	2	F	Peaches	98-133	1	F	
Cassie	98-149	1	F	Piper	98-147	5	M	
Chance	98-145	2½	M	Sam	98-140	3½	M	
Chance	98-165	3	M	Sandy	98-111	8	M	
Chas	98-130	4	M	Sandy	98-151	8	F	
Chessie	98-161	6	F	Sarah	98-057	2½	F	
Chloe/Joey	98-146	6	M	Scooby	98-138	1½	M	
Cooper	98-061	6	M	Shea	98-154	13 mo	M	
Dexter	98-171	11 mo	M	Teddy	96-145	5	M	
DJ	98-156	5	F	Travis	98-144	3	M	
Ellie	98-049	3	F	Vince	98-162	8	M	
Elsa/Sara	98-048	10	F					

Make the Holidays SAFE for your pets

The holiday season is not a time for an emergency visit to the veterinarian. There are many potential threats to our animals hidden in holiday decorations and the general excitement of the season. In particular, some of the holiday decorative plants can be poisonous to pets. We recommend that you keep the plants shown on this page well out of the reach of curious dogs who might eat the leaves, berries, flowers or bulbs of these plants.

In addition, a number of toxic substances are more prevalent during the holiday season. These include **antifreeze**, which is a deadly poison, as well as **alcohol**, **fragrant oils**, and **chocolate**, all of which can be toxic even in small quantities.

Even non-food items can cause problems if ingested, for example, **tinsel**, **ribbons**, **yarn**, and **string** from wrappings and decorations, or **plastic wrap**, **bones**, and **6-pack rings** from the garbage can, any of which can cause intestinal obstruction and even require surgery.

Also, chewing on strings of lights or extension cords can result in electrical shock, so keep them out of the reach of pets.

Knowledge of these hazards and planning ahead can help avoid a tragedy. We at GRREAT wish you the safest and happiest of holidays!



Holly



Mistletoe

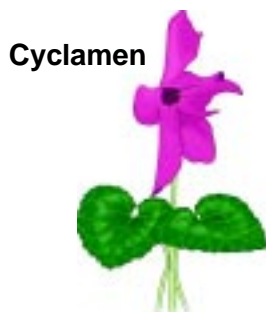


Poinsettia

Azalea



Amaryllis



Cyclamen



Kirsten Williams Steele writes:
Please accept the enclosed donation in honor and in memory of Duke Shay—a great Golden Retriever, who was with us for too short of a time. Duke lost his battle with cancer after a valiant effort. With this donation, all of his friends would like to know that another Golden Retriever would be able to have as enjoyable a life as our dearly beloved Duke had. Duke's 'parents' are Tad Shay

and Monica O'Neill. Please let them know that we all miss Duke.

Karen Mathiasen
Kathy O'Brien
Ana Revenga
Harold and Deannie Williams
Deb Baskin
Rob Larsen
Rob Steele
John Dorsey
Kirsten Williams Steele

Hip Dysplasia, continued from page 1

surround the joint start to develop abnormally as the puppy grows, even though the puppy may be born with normal hips.

To better understand the condition, let's first look at the hip joint of the dog.

Your dog's hip joint forms the attachment of the hind leg to the body and is a ball-and-socket joint. The "ball" portion is the head of the femur (the long bone between the knee and hip), while the "socket" (also called the acetabulum) is located on the pelvic bone. These two form the joint in the normal dog with the ball rotating freely within the socket (see Figure 1).

To facilitate movement, the bones are shaped to perfectly match each other, and are held together by a ligament and a very strong band of connective tissue called the joint capsule. The smooth area where the bones actually touch each other is called the articular surface, which is cushioned underneath with a layer of spongy cartilage. In the normal dog, all of these factors work together to cause the joint to function smoothly and with great stability.

In dysplastic dogs, these bones are not held in place but actually move apart. The joint capsule and the ligament between the two bones stretch, causing the articular surfaces of the two bones to lose contact with each other. This separation of two bones with a joint is called *subluxation* and this, and this alone, causes all of the resulting problems we associate with this disease.

If two bones within any joint lose their normal positional relationship with each other, the surrounding muscles work to force the bones back together but they are never totally successful. Because of the dog's weight, the femoral head now rides up onto or over the edge or rim of the socket. With every movement of the dog, we now have two areas of the bones grinding against each other without a nice smooth articular surface to act as a cushion.

Whenever these bones come into contact and irritate each other, new abnormally shaped bone grows. It is a vicious cycle as

this new bone causes further irritation which causes more new bone growth, and so on. That is what we call arthritis and it is one of the most painful conditions we know of. The femoral head that once looked like a smooth billiard ball, now looks like a head of cauliflower. The acetabulum (socket) that was once deep enough to enclose the femoral head is now shallow and its edge is covered with bone spurs (see Figure 2). As the condition progresses, more new but abnormal bone forms with further deformation and pain.

Symptoms

The affected puppy usually starts showing signs of mild discomfort to extreme pain between 5 and 10 months of age when using its hind limbs. The problem will usually be noted following prolonged activity and when the dog is trying to get up or lie down. Later on in life, the signs become more consistent and may be noted daily regardless of activity levels. Adult dogs that are in severe pain usually decrease their activity. They are unwilling to run and climb stairs and with decreased use, the muscles of their rear legs atrophy. There are some, however, that will learn to compensate or change their gait and show few or no signs of discomfort even though the bony changes are severe.

Treatment

In the past, treatment of the dysplastic dog was limited to decreasing or eliminating the pain with pain relievers and anti-inflammatory medications, or through surgery. Today, however, many veterinarians and pet owners report significant, and frequently astonishing, improvements after placing dogs on a nutraceutical containing glucosamine hcl, chondroitin sulfate and vitamin C.

Hip Dysplasia, continued on page 14



Figure 1. Healthy hip joint. Joint is a neatly fitting smooth ball and socket.



Figure 2. Dysplastic hip joint. Fit is loose, with cartilage erosion, excessive and abnormal new bone growth and roughened joint surfaces.

Top 3 Ways to Help a Dog with Joint Problems

- buffered canine aspirin for the pain
- moderate exercise for muscle strength
- nutraceuticals containing glucosamine and chondroitin* to strengthen the cartilage of the joints

*editor's note: A nutraceutical is a non-prescription dietary supplement that provides health benefits. There are several glucosamine-chondroitin products available, including Joint Care (marketed by Drs. Foster and Smith) and Cosequin (manufactured by Nutramax Laboratories of Baltimore).

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Hip Dysplasia, continued from page 13

Keeping excess weight off a dog with dysplasia is important to minimize joint stress, and moderate exercise to maintain muscle mass will also help. Dogs that show signs of pain should be given a buffered canine aspirin and receive rest. A firm orthopedic bed with dome-style foam also provides the support these dogs need while sleeping or resting and is recommended.

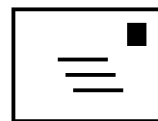
As the dog matures, and if outward signs of discomfort are consistent, surgery is also an option.

Diagnosis and Prevention

The way dogs are diagnosed with hip dysplasia also provides the hope for the elimination of this debilitating disease. Only with x-rays can we truly diagnose it. You can never be positive that a dog showing rear leg lameness has dysplasia unless it is x-rayed. And, you can never be positive that a dog showing no signs of rear leg dysfunction does not have dysplasia without an x-ray.

Hip dysplasia is a disease spread from one generation to the next through genetics. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise. Canine parents that have the trait can pass it on to their offspring. Today we can certify that dogs are not dysplastic by having them x-rayed after they are 24 months old. These radiographs are then sent to OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) for grading, and those that show no indications of the disease are so certified.

Only by breeding those dogs that are certified free of the disease can we continue our efforts to eliminate this disease. Breeders that are not x-raying their breeding animals are not part of the solution, they are part of the problem. When buying a dog, particularly any of the larger breeds, we suggest that the first thing to ask from your breeder is the copy of the OFA certification for the parents certifying that they are free of the disease.



Dear GRREAT,

Last fall Georgie Bahler asked me to help Brady (97-090) recover from a dysplasia [*see the veterinary article that starts on page 1*] operation, a bilateral femoral head osteotomy. This is the removal of the ball from the femur and stitching his muscles up to help hold him together. For a few days following the operation, Brady had to be supported in a sling in order to walk, but I am happy to say he very quickly completely recovered from his surgery. He runs like a rabbit and jumps and has no appearance of having a "reworked" rear end. My wife and I were pleased to adopt Brady, and he knows he will never be mistreated or put out as a stray, as he was when GRREAT found him.

In April of this year, Georgie again asked me to help a young female who was a stray in DC and was adopted by a person who could not afford to treat her for heartworms or to handle her dysplasia problem. I again accepted the challenge and got Sarah (98-057) after she had been spayed. We subsequently made many trips to the vet for her heartworm shots and blood tests. It took a month to get rid of the parasites; she received a clean bill of health after two months.

Sarah had a total hip (ball and socket) replacement on her left side in early September. She came home the next day and did not need to be supported by a sling under her belly as she walked. We had to keep Sarah in the house and quiet for a month, allowing the bones to grow around the man-made parts that were inserted into her hip. She was only allowed to go outside to do her business and then back into the house.

Sarah did not require the cone-shaped collar to keep her from pulling her stitches out. I put a little bitter tasting "no lick" cream around the incision, which Sarah licked only once and then never again.

Dear GRREAT, continued on next page

Dear GRREAT, continued from page 14

After a month of confinement, Sarah has now been allowed to go for walks, but she is not to romp or do acrobatics until Christmas time.

Sarah has been through an awful lot and has been a real trooper about all that has been done to her. I have found it extremely rewarding to help her when she needed so much care, and she has thanked us over and over again by her unconditional love. She is totally devoted to us after seven months of being in our home.

I have thoroughly enjoyed helping the poor unfortunate homeless Golden retrievers that Georgie has asked me to foster, even the rough ones like hip dysplasia patients. If any members of GRREAT should ever be asked to foster an unfortunate Golden, I would recommend that they do it; their reward will be far greater than any effort they will have to expend in helping.

A million thanks to GRREAT for what they have done for Brady and Sarah and for the hundreds of other Golden retrievers in need.

—David H. Long

Helped by the Leo Fund

Brady (97-090, standing), bilateral femoral head osteotomy; and Sarah (98-057), left total hip replacement. Both were fostered and then adopted by the Long family.



Leo Fund Report

	1997	1998*
Number of dogs assisted by fund	6	4
Contributions	\$3,740	\$4,772
Vet expenses	\$5,058	\$4,210
Difference	-1218	562

* to 10/22/98

WE NEED YOUR HELP

To date, Leo Fund outlays for dogs needing extraordinary veterinary treatment are roughly \$650 more than generous GRREAT members have contributed. We need your help to close the gap and have funds in reserve for the next special needs Golden that comes along.

Using the Leo Fund is considered on a case by case basis by GRREAT's Board of Directors. The money is spent on dogs that have a reasonable chance of returning to a nearly normal life. The story at left describes two of the dogs helped by the Leo Fund and also reiterates the joys and rewards of fostering these wonderful animals.

In this season of giving, please consider writing a tax-deductible donation to the Leo Fund. On behalf of GRREAT and these very special dogs, thank you.



Leo's Corner

The Leo Fund for special needs dogs.

Thank you to everyone who has made a tax-deductible donation to the Leo Fund this year.

Recent Donations Golden Heroes (\$100 - \$499)

**Bev and Ed Cortwright
Carron McDonough
Tommie and John
O'Connell**

Leo's Pals (up to \$99)

**Trish Collier
Crete and Ed Gross
Alison Mento
Paul and Chris
Umberger
Karen van Es**

Dear GRREAT:

I want to help dogs that need special surgery. Here's a donation to The Leo Fund.

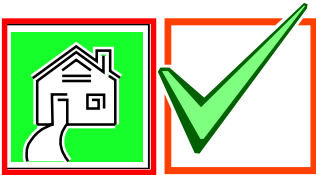
Please send me a donation acknowledgment.

Name _____

Address _____

Mail to: The Leo Fund c/o GRREAT
P.O. Box 3069
Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



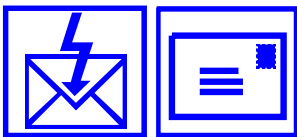
Deb Nizer, GRREAT Adoption Coordinator, needs additional home check volunteers in the following areas:

District of Columbia
Howard County, Maryland
Eastern Shore (Maryland, Delaware, Virginia)

Home Check Volunteers

Home check volunteers make brief visits to the home of an adoption applicant to assess the dog's potential future living situation. Home checks take about 15 minutes plus travel time. Sometimes a home check has to be completed within a short time, but generally it is up to the volunteer to contact the adoption applicant and arrange for a convenient time to stop by. During the visit, the volunteer follows a list of items to check or ask about. Once the visit is over, the form can be mailed or faxed back to Deb Nizer, or (coming soon) it can be accessed on GRREAT's Web site and submitted electronically.

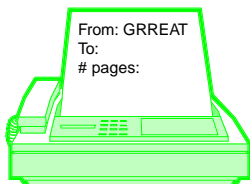
If you are interested in becoming a home check volunteer, contact Deb Nizer by e-mail at DNIZER@AOL.COM or by phone at 410-590-6703.



Mailing Help

Every three weeks between Adoption Days, a list of available dogs is mailed to applicants actively looking for a dog. We are looking for a volunteer in the Rockville area to assist with the process, which takes a couple of hours. The process involves collating inserts, stuffing about 160 envelopes and applying a mailing label and stamp. The material is time-sensitive, so the volunteer must be dependable.

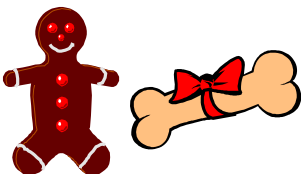
If you are interested in assisting with mailing of the dog lists on a regular basis, please contact Deb Nizer (listed above) or Linda Clark at 301-933-9179.



Correspondence Assistant

The Adoption Coordinator is looking for someone to help with mailing activities approximately 2 to 3 hours per week. The volunteer must have access to a fax machine and having e-mail would be a plus. The material will be time-sensitive and will have to be sent out in a timely fashion. GRREAT will absorb the cost of supplies and mailing expenses. As a correspondence assistant, you will be helping GRREAT in their search for new homes for Golden Retrievers in need.

Please contact Deb Nizer if you can help with this important activity. She can be reached by e-mail at DNIZER@AOL.COM or by phone at 410-590-6703.



Holiday Party Volunteers

GRREAT needs volunteers to help for a few hours at the Holiday Party on December 6. If you are planning to attend the party, why not volunteer for a 1-2 hour shift while you are there. We need helpers for setting up, making sure that the food is set out, keeping the coffee pots filled, as dog holders while families are in the buffet line, assisting with Santa photos and other activities, assisting with the auctions, serving at the welcome table, cleaning up the party room afterward and other duties. You do not have to work the entire length of the party. Your volunteer help will give others a break and allow them to enjoy the party too. If you volunteer for a shift at the party, GRREAT will waive your family's fee, and you can have all the cookies you want! When you call to register for the party (see page 4), leave a message that you are willing to volunteer, and one of our organizers will get back to you to discuss an assignment.

PetsMart Adopt-a-Thon A Huge Success for GRREAT

GRREAT volunteers participated in a multi-store educational opportunity on November 7. PetsMart stores in Virginia and Maryland invited various Rescue organizations to show shoppers the wonderful possibilities of adopting pets rather than purchasing new puppies from puppy mills. As a result of our presence in eight stores in our area, the PetsMart Foundation has made a substantial donation to GRREAT. Thank you PetsMart, thank you for this opportunity to educate the public about responsible dog ownership.

And thanks to these GRREAT volunteers and their exemplary pets for their time on November 7.

Columbia	Doug and Becky Brown, Skip and Deb Nizer
Towson	Cy and Shaaron Plate, Kathy Landis, Rona Love
Bel Air	Dick and Mary Ann Newton, Christine Marotta, Pat Balducci, Amanda Corby
Fairfax	Laura Schmitz, Karen Steirman, Elizabeth Ketz- Robinson, Leslie Sachlis
Manassas	Elizabeth Byrne, Gale Golumbeski, Glen McDonald, Dee Brown
Falls Church	Cheryl Garbett, John Saunders, Craig Saunders, Steve Rothert
Springfield	Deanna Edge, Julie Cheslock, Art Hotop, Marcia Wallen
Sterling	Jo Dempsey, Georgie Bahler, Jo Miller, Kathy Rougeux

Directions to Adoption Day Sunday, December 13, 1998 Petco 1929 Old Gallows Rd Tysons Corner, VA

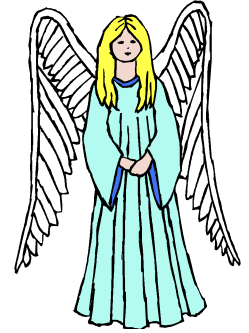
From the north: Take I-495 south to Exit 10 (Tysons Corner/Leesburg Pike/Route 7). Continue directions below.

From the west: Take I-66 East and exit at 64B which is I-495 North (toward Baltimore) Get in far right lane as soon as possible as you will exit in 1 3/4 miles at exit 10B (Tysons Corner/Route 7 West). Continue directions below.

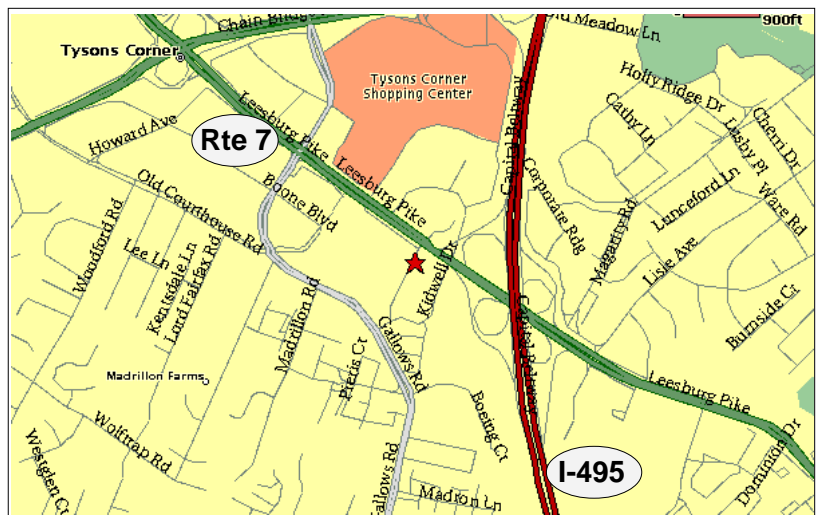
From the south: Take I-495 north to exit 10B. Continue directions below.

From Washington, DC: Take I-66 west and exit at Tysons Corner/Route 7. Go through 5 stop lights (1.7 miles) and stay in right lane. Turn right on Towers Crescent Drive.

Continuation of directions: Stay in far right lane at end of ramp. (You can see Petco directly across the street from the ramp but it is not accessible from Route 7 West.) Go 1/10 mile past the Marriott Hotel and turn right on Towers Crescent Drive. Follow this until it becomes Old Gallow Road and stay in right lane. Petco is 7/10 mile from exit ramp and it is directly behind the 7-Eleven Store on the right.



*Be a
Golden Angel-
Make a year-end
donation to
GRREAT*



© Geosystems Global Corp. via Yahoo



Foster Home Seminar Planned for February 1999

If you are new to fostering, or if you are thinking about becoming a foster home, mark your calendar for February 27, 1999. At a seminar especially for foster homes, GRREAT coordinators will discuss a variety of topics, including initial intake of the dog, behavioral and medical problems, grooming, emotional attachments formed with foster dogs, and adoption responsibilities. There will also be an opportunity to ask individualized questions of designated experts on various topics.

Further details will appear in the next issue of *GRREAT News*.

Subj: Sunshine
Date: 98-10-08 17:02:45 EDT
From: tmoses@erols.com

Thought it was time I gave you an up-to-date report on Sunshine. As you may or may not know, when we adopted Sunshine in March, 1998, he was a little overweight. At 94 pounds, he made a quick trip to the vet and was immediately placed on a very strict diet. To date, he is now down to 78 pounds, a 16 pound weight loss in 6 months. He still has about 8 to 12 more pounds to go and should reach his weight goal by next March.

The vet and his groomer are of the same opinion, that Sunshine was abused through neglect. His coat was very stiff and had no life, indicating a poor diet. Both could tell from his weight that his diet was not the best. The vet was able to determine through various tests that he had been abused through neglect. He is deathly afraid of storms, indicating he had been left outside during severe weather and one or more storms.

Also, he was afraid to meet new people when they entered the home. However, during the past six months with us, his diet and weight have improved. He has a coat that is soft and bright and now greets visitors with a request for a back and belly rub.

Sunshine's association with Kelsey (Kelsey Jamson Moses, Golden Retriever) is something remarkable. Kelsey is 13 and having trouble with his back legs. He was not very active and we thought he was not going to be with us much longer. However, Sunshine has changed that. Kelsey now *tries* to romp and play with Sunshine. Sunshine realizes Kelsey is the Alpha but, sometimes takes charge when Kelsey needs help.

During Kelsey's bad days Sunshine will lead Kelsey around the yard. If Kelsey gets tired, Sunshine will let Kelsey prop himself against him until Kelsey can get started again. Kelsey is no longer an old man but a 13 year old puppy (or so he thinks).

Sunshine and Kelsey just returned from their vacation in Boston where they had a good time romping in the surf, lounging in the sun (in their screened in porch), and chasing skunks. Thankfully, they didn't catch any of the striped pussy cats.

I will continue to keep you up to date and welcome visits by any of the great staff from GRREAT.

—Terry and Karen Moses

VISIT GRREAT'S WEB SITE WWW.GRREAT.ORG

Thanks to the generosity of June and Richard Downing and their store, Something Special in Stafford, VA, who donated space to GRREAT on their Internet server, GRREAT has its own domain on the Internet. We're also constantly updating our web page with new items, a list of available dogs and pictures, directions to Adoption Days and other events, and links to nearby Golden Retriever groups. The color version of the GRREAT Stuff merchandise catalog can be downloaded. Each issue of the newsletter is available for downloading as soon as it goes to press. Stories about special dogs, articles of enduring interest, and membership forms are also available from the web site. Join the more than 19,000 visitors to the GRREAT web site since March of 1998. You'll like what you find!

[HTTP://WWW.GRREAT.ORG](http://WWW.GRREAT.ORG)



**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 _____

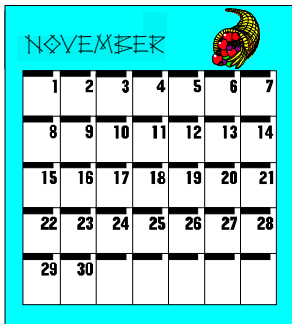
PLEASE INDICATE ANY AREA OF INTEREST. You will be
contacted by the appropriate GRREAT Coordinator for more
information.

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
- _____ Perform home checks prior to adoptions
- _____ Provide storage space for food, supplies, crates
- _____ Stamp and address newsletters and flyers
- _____ Donate the following services:

Other: _____

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



GRREAT's Annual Holiday Party

Sunday, December 6, 1998

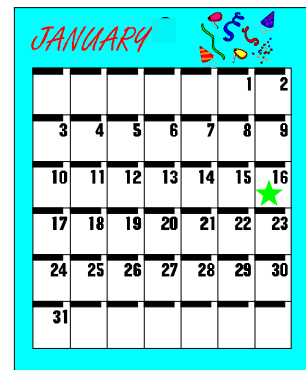
Cherry Hill Park
College Park, MD

Information on pages 3 and 4!

Sunday, December 13, 1998

Adoption Day
PETCO of Tyson's Corner

Directions on page 17.



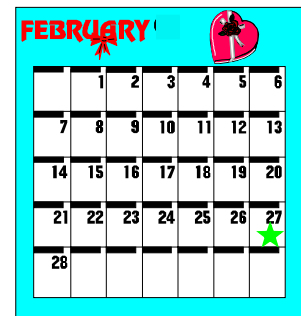
Saturday, January 16, 1999—10:00 am GRREAT Annual Business Meeting

George Marshall High School
7731 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA

Directions on page 7.

Reminder: GRREAT memberships expire 1/31/99.

Saturday, February 27—Foster Home Seminar
(details in next issue)



Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc

P.O. Box 3069

Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

☎ 703-620-6593



Happy Holidays from
GRREAT

First Class Mail