



# GRREAT News

Millennium ~~Catalog~~  
Dog-alog in this Issue!

September/October, 1999

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## Let Me Tell You a Story Skip Nizer

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## Acupuncture – A Viable Alternative Treatment Doug Brown

About 17 years ago, a number of individuals banded together to form a new humane organization in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. They were Golden lovers who had been doing rescue work informally on their own with no financial help. They couldn't stand seeing so many Golden Retrievers being given to shelters and pounds or being destroyed. In June, 1986, they were being overwhelmed by the numbers of Goldens they were being asked to rescue, so they approached Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club for help. The response was a positive offer of help and support from the club, and GRREAT (Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training) was born.

Last year GRREAT rescued 219 dogs. Some of the dogs were owner give-ups, meaning that, for whatever reason, the owners could not to keep their dogs. The reasons are too numerous to list here, but for most they signify a lack of commitment. Others have been dropped at shelters that don't have room. Then there are the horror stories. In 1996, a pregnant female Golden was found chained to a tree, abandoned by her owners. Nearby was a second dog, a male. The owners had moved out two weeks before. The dogs' only source of water had been rainwater and there had been no food. A distant neighbor saw the dogs and called the authorities. When the county determined the dogs were really abandoned, GRREAT was called. The transport volunteer cried as she picked up these dogs with lifeless eyes. As she drove to the vet she heard a noise and looked back.

*The GRREAT Story and Leo, continued on page 4*

**The Leo Fund needs your help! Please see page 4 for more details.**

On an October Saturday in 1998, GRREAT was contacted by a Northern Virginia shelter and advised that they were in possession of an elderly male Golden Retriever with numerous problems. His problems were so severe that the shelter was unable to keep him. Our intake coordinator was told that GRREAT only had a few hours to pick him up or he would have to be destroyed – this Golden simply had too many problems for the shelter to deal with.

Th Golden, named Max, was picked up by a transport volunteer and immediately taken to a grooming facility to try and rid him of an extensive flea infestation that had invaded every inch of his body. There were other obvious problems with Max but first things first; the fleas had to be dealt with immediately. Max was then transported to the foster coordinator's home, where throughout the night, he received many more baths in an attempt to completely conquer the flea infestation.

The next day Max was taken to the Timonium Adoption Day where he was to be turned over to his foster family. This was one of the busiest Adoption Days in recent memory with wall-to-wall people and dogs. Shortly after Max arrived concern mounted that there was the possibility that Max could not hear. With all the noise of the ongoing Adoption Day, there was absolutely no reaction from Max to the surrounding activity. Several

*Max and Acupuncture, continued on page 3*

**The Simile-Finale Fund needs help too! Please see page 3 for details.**

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

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## Directions To October 24 Adoption Day

**Concord Pet Foods and Supplies**  
735 N. Broad Street, Middletown, DE 19709  
(302) 376-1616 (for directions *only*)

**From the Washington area**, take Route 50 East across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge (\$2.50 toll, eastbound only). When Routes 50 and 301 split, stay with Route 301 to Delaware. Several miles after crossing the DE state line, turn right onto Route 299 (large Wawa convenience store on near-right corner). At the next traffic light (about a mile), go left on Broad Street/Route 71. Concord Pet is about a mile further on the right in the same shopping center as the Thriftway. Allow about an hour and a half from Rte 50 and the Beltway.

**From the Baltimore area**, take I-95 north to the Delaware line. At the first exit past the DE toll plaza (\$2.00), take route 896 south. Continue on 896 about 10 miles. When 896 makes a left turn, continue straight on Route 71 another five minutes to Middletown. The shopping center will be on the left, just past the cemetery. Allow about an hour and fifteen minutes from the Baltimore Beltway.

#### Plan to attend the

### Seven Sweets & Sours Festival September 16-18, 1999 Intercourse, Pennsylvania

Autumn and Goldens go together, so come take a lovely drive to the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country, and have some GRREAT fun. Bring your family (both two and four footed), and help GRREAT.

The Seven Sweets & Sours Festival is a tribute to Pennsylvania Dutch cuisine, one of six annual festivals sponsored by Kitchen Kettle Village to support various charities and non-profit organizations. This year GRREAT was selected as a recipient of funds raised at this event. During the festival, the Village is decorated for fall, and there is sampling of new products, entertainment, and a variety of other activities. In addition, the local volunteer fire company holds its annual chicken barbecue. Parking is free and there's no admission charge. For a Village brochure and schedule of festival events, call (800) 732-3538 or email KKV1@AOL.COM.

Dates and Times: 9/16, 9:00 am - 5:30 pm; 9/17, 9:00 am - 7:00 pm; 9/18, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

**Directions from Baltimore:** (approximately 1 1/2 hours driving time) Take I-83 North to York, PA, then Route 30 East to Lancaster, PA, then Route 340 East to Intercourse exit, about 10 miles. The main entrance to Kitchen Kettle Village is in the center of town and well marked.

Turn left into entrance off Route 340.



*Max and Acupuncture, continued from page 1*  
people tried clapping their hands behind Max's head to see if there would be any response. There was no response! Calling Max by name produced no eye recognition, no cocking of the head and no raising of his ears. Max just sat there expressionless.

The next day Max was taken for his routine veterinary exam. He was diagnosed with internal parasites, external parasites, skin infections, ear infections, malnutrition, cataracts, the possibility of a compressed disc in his back, motor skills problems, and—oh yes—let's not forget the stray fleas that somehow eluded all the baths and treatments Max had endured. It was also noted that Max had such a bad habit of licking his skin due to infections and irritations that he literally changed the pigmentation of his skin to a dark brown/blackish color. And although Max had been bathed many times, he still had the most offensive body odor imaginable. In short, Max was in miserable shape!

At his foster home, Max was getting along well with his temporary brothers, Sonny (7 years old) and Dudley (2½). Both Sonny and Dudley checked Max out and gave him the "thumbs up." It was obvious that Max was not feeling well and was a very sore Golden. His legs were weak, he had trouble standing and most of his days were spent lying around just passing the time, among other things. Max would only go outside to do his business and then want right back in. At times it seemed as though Sonny and Dudley were watching over Max—watching out for their new buddy.

As Max became more comfortable in his new surroundings, he slowly began to come out of his shell. Although there was great concern over Max's ability to hear, this changed. In a short period of time Max was hearing everything around him. Apparently Max had been so traumatized and stressed he blocked everything and everyone out.

Over the next several weeks, many of Max's problems began to get better, but Max still

### ***A Message From Our President***

GRREAT is a very fortunate Rescue in the fact that so many of its members and followers have given so generously to the Simile/Finale Fund and the Leo Fund. Unfortunately GRREAT has seen a dramatic increase this year in the number of Golden Retrievers needing specialized care. **The Leo Fund has been completely exhausted** after 6 surgeries so far this year (3 hip, 2 spinal, 1 knee) and several on the waiting list (2 hip).

GRREAT's Golden Retrievers are still receiving the needed surgeries but the Leo Fund is operating in the RED. Used more this year than ever before, **the Simile/Finale Fund is very close to being exhausted.**

**Various fund raising events have been planned to provide a new infusion of cash for these funds but YOUR help is still desperately needed. PLEASE consider making an extra donation so that the Golden Retrievers we all love so much can continue to get the care they need and the love they deserve.**

**Douglas Brown**

had one very troubling and perplexing problem. On several occasions Max would be standing looking out a window or eating and without cause or warning, he would simply tip over. The poor thing would get right back up and look over his shoulder (as if he were in complete embarrassment) to see if anyone witnessed his mishap.

Although Max was still a bit under weight and weak, his problem was listed as neurological by the vet. Over the next couple of weeks Max's "tipping" episodes increased. It was very difficult to witness Max during these "tipping" episodes; all we could do was comfort him. We made several trips to the vet and discussed his options. Some of these options included the use of very useful but strong medications, which always carry the strong possibility of unpleasant side effects.

*Max and Acupuncture, continued on page 6*

### **Editor's Note**

Space in this issue of GRREAT News is limited because we wanted to include our annual Dog-alog without exceeding our usual postage. Regular features, such as photos, longer letters to GRREAT and the light-hearted essays and articles, will return in the next issue.

### **Where Can You Take Your Dog? We want to know!**

In preparation for an article about dog-friendly places in our area, we would like to know about interesting places and stores where dogs are allowed (and even welcomed). For example, most pet stores allow dogs on leash to visit. If you know of a pet-friendly establishment (indoors or outdoors), please drop me a note (by October 20th) in care of the GRREAT address, or send me an e-mail at [agfritz111@aol.com](mailto:agfritz111@aol.com).

## Helped by the Leo Fund 1997

**Ginger**—a 2 year old female, came to us with a broken leg her owner could not afford to fix.

**Rusty**—a 14 month old male, came from the SPCA. He had two bad hips, but a wonderful disposition, and so the SPCA asked us to help.

**Comet**—a 4 year old male, given up due to his owner's finances. He had been an outside dog since 7 months of age. He had an injury of his right eye that had not been treated, and it had to be removed.

**Brady**—a 2 year old male from a shelter, had a wonderful personality but bad hips.

**Rusty**—a 5 year old male whose owner never had his broken back leg fixed. He lived with a broken leg for 4 years before he finally came to us.

**Boomer**—an 8 year old male, hit by a car and his leg was broken in 7 places. The owner told the vet to euthanize him, but was convinced to call GRREAT. Boomer's leg was fixed but it was discovered he has cancer. He is living out his golden years in a long term foster home.

*The GRREAT Story and Leo,  
continued from page 1*

What she saw was a starving dog giving birth. By the time they reached the vet 10 puppies had been born. Somehow 5 survived in addition to the mom and dad. Several months later, mom had regained her health. Her lifeless eyes now glowed and her tail wagged. She now knew love and returned it. All seven dogs were adopted into loving homes. This was a sad story with a happy ending but only one of dozens—sad and happy—that I could tell you.

A new type of situation arose in 1996, when an eight month old dog named Leo was turned over to GRREAT. He was happy, playful, loving—everything a Golden should be—except he was born with two defective hips. He could stand only for a short time without pain. In the past, GRREAT didn't have the finances to help dogs like this and they were turned away.

Two questions arose: *What could be done for him? Could we afford it?*

Leo was diagnosed with hip dysplasia: in layman's terms, both hip sockets were not deep enough for his leg bones to fit properly. Since he was young, corrective surgery would make his hips 98 to 99% correct. But there was the cost factor – \$1,500 per hip.

How much could GRREAT afford to pay and what would the return be? It was a difficult decision for any nonprofit organization with limited reserves. The 99% effective repair rate said *yes*; his age said *yes*; his personality said *yes*. GRREAT said "We'll find the money somehow." GRREAT was also fortunate to find a surgeon willing to give us a substantial discount.

In spite of the fear of setting a precedent, GRREAT leaped into the void. There would be two separate operations about 2 weeks apart and *total* rest, meaning a crate for months. The only time he was allowed to walk would be to relieve himself and he had to be leashed. My wife and I volunteered to do his long-term care. The first surgery

showed us how serious it was. His leg was cut in 3 places, with 25 staples in each incision. Leo never whimpered while going in and out of the crate. The only sound he ever made through this whole ordeal was when first left alone after the first surgery. He was lonely and cried when left, so for a few nights we slept on the couch near him. As long as a hand touched him, he was happy. For about three weeks after the second operation, he walked with a towel under his belly to support him. Eight weeks later, off came the leash and he was slowly allowed to start being a normal dog. He is now walks and runs and is in a loving home. He even has his own Web site.

In concept, that was how the Leo Fund started. We still had to get the word out and get donations. An appeal appeared in the July/August 1996 newsletter, and very quickly a special lady, Jean Kahl, sent in our first donation.

The response to our initial plea has been wonderful, allowing us to continue affording surgeries on deserving dogs. The foster homes that volunteer for these special cases are tied up for months at a time, but all have found it very rewarding. In the past three years the Leo Fund has helped 15 dogs. Let me tell you about them.

In 1997, six dogs needed help from Leo's Fund. Their stories are at left. Each of these dogs had the surgery it needed and each found a new home.

In 1998, the Leo Fund came to the rescue of four dogs. Their stories are in the box on the next page. Again four more successes. We managed to afford these surgeries because of the momentum of donations to the fund.

This year, 1999, has already been busy for the Leo Fund with six surgeries so far, as you can see from the column at the far right of the next page. This year isn't over yet and there are two more surgeries being discussed. PJ is an 11 month old male that is

*The Leo Fund, continued on next page*



*The Leo Fund, continued from previous page* currently being evaluated for possible hip problems. Dolly, who came from a local shelter, is a very sweet mix, spaniel/golden, with an all-Golden temperament, 4-8 years young, with hip dysplasia so severe that the two doctors seeing the x-rays refer to her as “that dog with the really bad hips.”

I'm sure if you have read this far, you know we're asking for help—either for GRREAT's general fund or for the Leo Fund. GRREAT is entirely a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization that survives only through the generous donations of its members and supporters of our cause. So please consider helping us in our endeavor to save these wonderful dogs. There are donation forms on page 8 and page 11. In helping us, here's what you'll get in return:

1. A tax write off for donation in excess of the \$20 membership dues.
3. Annual membership in GRREAT and a bi-monthly newsletter, full of health tips, dog stories, advice, and pictures.
2. A good feeling knowing you've helped someone in need.
4. You can tell your friends, family, and your own dog that a GRREAT dog felt your helping hand.

## Helped by the Leo Fund 1998

**Sarah**—a dysplastic two year old female, also heartworm positive, and her owner couldn't afford the multiple treatments.

**Abby**—also a two year old female, came from a shelter with bad hips.

**Ginger**—a two year old female whose family had rescued her from a bad home, but couldn't afford surgery to correct her deformed front elbow joint. Trying to keep her quiet for a few months was a real challenge. She could chase her tail and catch it on three legs. Despite her youthful exuberance, she came through fine.

**Zack**—a 4 year old male, who had lived his life tied to a doghouse until he was turned over to the local SPCA. After completing heartworm treatment, GRREAT did corrective eye surgery.

That's all I have to say, so please go back to page 1 and read GRREAT President Doug Brown's part of this newsletter about our other depleted fund. If you have any questions about the benefits these dogs have received from the Leo Fund, write to me, Skip Nizer, in care of GRREAT. Thanks.

## What Your GRREAT Donation Can Do

**\$20**—A basic one-year membership covers cost of your newsletter and *allows us to send a free one to a shelter.*

**\$100 or more**—Includes a one-year membership and acknowledgement in newsletter. *Covers six months' heartworm preventive for three dogs.*

**\$250 or more**—Includes a one-year membership, acknowledgement in the newsletter, a GRREAT Certificate of Thanks suitable for framing, and a GRREAT 2000 calendar. *Covers the average cost of rescuing a healthy Golden.*

**\$500 or more**—Includes all of the above and a photo of a sponsored dog in need. *Covers one-third to one-half of a single surgery for a special needs dog.*

## Helped by the Leo Fund 1999 to date

**Precious and Dutchess** a 1 year old female and an 8 month old female, came into the Rescue about the same time. Their owners just couldn't keep them anymore. Once in the Rescue they were found to have bad hips. Both have had surgery and are enjoying the good life in their new homes.

**Buddy**—a 5 year old rescued from a shelter, was diagnosed with a spinal problem that is so severe that he didn't know where his back end was, and he fell a lot. He is currently recuperating from surgery in his foster home and doing well.

**Oscar**—a 4 year old male who was given up because his owners were moving, also had spinal problems and required surgery. Both Buddy's and Oscar's surgeries first required a costly test known as a myelogram, but in both cases, a full recovery and a long, normal life are expected.

**Max**—an 8 month old male whose owner was allergic to him. He was diagnosed with bad hips and is now recuperating in his foster home.

**Rosco**—a large 2 year old male who was chained his whole life. He was found to have a damaged knee cap that was repaired with surgery and he is recuperating in his new home.



*Patricia McAllister writes:*

I just can't believe it. You read the letters in **GRREAT News**, you feel so bad for the owners; their dog is dead—how terrible. Tears roll down your cheeks, you hug your dogs closer—you might even remember who the dog was from past parties.

And then you read on, happy articles about the new dogs who have found wonderful homes through GRREAT, where to buy the *Golden Favorites Cookbook*—you shove the thought of your own dog's death, far, far, far back in your mind. So far back, that you think it will never happen to your dog...

On May 5, 1991, through the wonderful efforts of Kathy Carbone and Mary Jane Shervais (in GRREAT's early, early years), my husband Patrick and I went down to Dale City Animal Hospital and adopted Stetson.

He was described as a "lively two year old male"—this was the all-time winner in understatements. Stetson was a whirlwind—constant excitement and motion. He loved everything—other dogs, cats, the UPS man, tennis balls, the ocean, the light summer breeze, GRREAT's parties and, best of all, he loved us. No finer, more wonderful dog has ever dragged their owner face down across an entire parking lot—all the while looking back to make sure I was still hanging on for the exciting ride.

He was my husband's very best friend, his buddy. He was my co-worker and protector. Not that he would have bitten anyone breaking in, but he would have been so damn glad to see them that he would have knocked them off their feet and pinned them to the floor, all the while shoving a ball in their face. I would have had at least an hour to summon help.

Life with Stetson was exciting and FUN, FUN, FUN. At ten years old, his energy level could put most 10 month old puppies to shame.

It took a massive, cancerous tumor to slow him down and when he stopped eating even ice cream, he let us know it was time. On that beautifully cool, breezy Sunday, July 11, 1999, with his favorite music playing, under his favorite trees in the yard, encircled by those that loved him so—the shot was given, the tail wagged, the heart stopped.

And now we are the ones writing the letter; we are the ones including the donation "In Memory of;" we are the ones suffering with the aching hearts over our loss.

But surpassing this terrible grief is the joy of the memories of the GRREAT dog that was Stetson.

*Max and Acupuncture, continued from page 3*

It was at this point that Georgie Bahler suggested we begin utilizing the money in the Simile/Finale Fund. This fund was established in 1997 with a generous donation from Elizabeth Oberdorfer designating funds for use in holistic and homeopathic treatment. With Max's history of hip and back problems he seemed to be the perfect candidate for acupuncture treatment, as he could likely benefit from holistic/homeopathic treatment. Encouraged by Georgie Bahler and also the attending vet, an appointment was made with a licensed veterinary acupuncture therapist. Acupuncturist Cathy Benedetto was contacted and an appointment was set up for her to visit Max in his surroundings to begin treatment. When Cathy arrived, I sat listening to her explain the logic and theory behind acupuncture therapy, and I must admit to being a little skeptical. But knowing the horrors that Max had endured in his previous life and the condition he was in, we were willing to try anything to get this poor guy some relief. My skepticism soon subsided when, as Max was lying on the living room floor his back full of acupuncture needles, an almost immediate calm and relaxed state came over him. It took a few treatments before we saw results from the acupuncture therapy, in regards to his hips and rear legs, but when we saw results, they were dramatic. Max's legs seemed stronger, his energy level picked up and his personality perked up. Max even liked going outside to sit in the sun and would even romp a little with Sonny and Dudley. I should note that while Max was receiving his acupuncture treatments he was not on any medications whatsoever.

Max has had several treatments and has not had any "tipping" episodes since his fourth treatment. Max was on a Golden high for several months and was truly enjoying his new found life. As Max's long-term foster family, we don't kid ourselves that Max remains a special needs Golden, but it was good seeing him enjoying life and do more than just lie around. As the months have passed, Max's cataracts are a bit worse than when he first came into the Rescue, he has started to become incontinent, he does not seem as mentally alert as he did just a few months ago, and his legs seem to be weakening at a rapid pace. Max's vet has indicated that Max is not suffering and still seems comfortable. However, Max has now been placed on several different medications for the varying problems that he is now dealing with.

Over the past year, Max has had many peaks and valleys. He has certainly had many more peaks than valleys and it is quite evident that his peaks were due to the availability of his acupuncture treatment. Again, with the encouragement of his vet, Max will be starting another round of acupuncture

*Max and Acupuncture, continued on next page*

*Max and Acupuncture, continued from page 6*  
treatment and we can only hope that he has as favorable a response as he did with his first go-round.

Although Max has had a decline in his condition, I am sure he would especially like to thank Elizabeth Oberdorfer and the others who made donations to the Simile/Finale Fund for the added months of quality life the acupuncture treatment obviously afforded him. If it were not for the Fund, this very specialized treatment would not have been affordable and Max's story may not have continued to this point. During one of Max's better days in the spring, he was found outside lying in the grass with a tennis ball in his mouth. He seemed so happy and cute that we took a picture of him and submitted it for the year 2000 calendar. You will see him as "Mr. May" in the calendar.

You may be wondering why Max was treated so terribly in his previous life. Did he bite someone? NO. Was he an aggressive dog? NO. So, just what on earth did this guy do? It seems, as is the case with many of our Golden, Max was a victim of circumstances. You see, Max's previous family was expecting a baby and did not know how Max would react. So instead of dealing with the situation, he was neglected and abused then finally dumped at the shelter. And just how does Max handle a new baby? For 11 months now Max has been in frequent contact with my 19-month-old nephew and he does just fine!

Other benefactors of the Simile/Finale Fund include Argus. He was treated for depression and grieving after being dumped at a shelter when his owner of 11 years was placed in a nursing home and the extended family did not want to deal with him. These Golden also send their thanks to Elizabeth Oberdorfer and other donors.

If you would like to help provide holistic treatment for a rescued Golden, please designate your donation to the Simile/Finale Fund. Thank you very much.

## **IN MEMORY OF...**

**Brandy** (99-120), our most recent foster dog, who crossed that Rainbow Bridge on July 20, 1999 (from Jean and Charles Hartman). *A Leo Fund Donation*

**Casey**, a GRREAT Golden Lady, who joined her "cousins" Cognac, Buddy, and Brandy at Rainbow Bridge (from Russell and Barbara Stephens).

**Honey Bear**, Bob and Krista Maslyn's beloved companion and Max's sister (from Julie Palais and Rick Stevens).

**Honey Bear** Maslyn (from Ken and Carol Stille).

**Java**, the one and only Jamaican Sled Dog and an Honorary Golden Retriever, most loved by Don and Amy Owen and family. He was admired and befriended by Bear and Roary, who have preceded him on the path we all must take. We shall join him again later and enjoy our walks together once again (from Charles J. and Jan Owen).

**Lord and Taylor** (from John DeForge).

**Nacho**, who died on May 15, 1999. We love you and look forward to seeing you when we get to the Rainbow Bridge (from Ron and Joan Apatoff).

**Redford**, a GRREAT dog in every sense and to thank April and Bob Fritz (and Marcus) for taking him in. It was an honor to know him (from Robin Graham).

**Stetson** (from Pat and Pat McAllister)  
*Please see the tribute on page 6.*

**Twin Pond's Oliver Twist** (from Bill Armstrong).

## **More Special Donations**

**In honor of Tawney**, my first foster dog and **to thank Penny and John March** for giving Tawney a wonderful home. I know he's loved and will appreciate their kindness (from Lynne Glennon).

**In honor of Leslie Hoy** (from M. Bruce Waters).

**In the name of Bobbie and Steve Rideout to honor their love for Noble** (from Alison and Tom Hinds).

# **Memorial Donations Received**

## **Thank You to these individuals for their recent donations**

**Carol and Ernst Clasing**

**Henry Evans, Jr.**

**Judith Grant**

**Dr. Jim and Ginny  
Hayes**

**Eric Heckman**

**Michael and Jan Marie  
Kohler**

**George and Jane Mayer**

**John Metter**

**Mobil Foundation  
(a matching fund)**

**Kathryn Murphy**

**Diane Rausch and  
Stephen Bandeian**

**Neil and Connie  
Schuster**

**Lynn Shine**

## In Memory of Thomas Edward "Bob" Johnson

Although he was not a member of GRREAT, we want to acknowledge the passing of Mr. T.E. "Bob" Johnson of Jefferson, MD after a brief and unsuccessful fight with cancer. He had retired about a year ago, and until this most recent bout, was in generally good health. According to a friend and former co-worker, Bob loved Golden Retrievers and horses. His obituary specified that donations be made to the hospice or to GRREAT.

GRREAT thanks both Mr. Johnson's family for remembering us and the following people for their donations in memory of Bob Johnson.

Terri and Cullen Burdette	Diane Julian
Gordon and Teri Cecil	Elizabeth McDonnell
Michael and Dorothy Clem	Bob, Chari and Lindsay Russell
Naomi and Willard Gaver	Jay and Amy Safir
Sally Henson	Austin and Mary Frances Trout
Doris and David Ifert	Robert and Frances Trout
Everett and Mary Johnson	

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### In Remembrance

#### Casey

*Julie Palais and Rick Stevens write:*

After four wonderful years and several deadly illnesses (Casey came to us with heartworm and survived leptospirosis last year), our Casey finally succumbed to liver failure on July 15, 1999. Casey was our first GRREAT dog and is the mother of our remaining dog, Sundance. Casey and Sundance were our not first foster dogs, but we became so attached to them that we decided to keep them both. Back in 1995, we had already fostered 8 other dogs when Georgie Bahler was looking for a home to place two foster dogs. Casey, the mother, did not like to let Sundance out of her sight and she would cry and yelp when Sundance used to dig out of our yard. After awhile he stopped escaping and then Casey didn't have to be an alarm for us anymore. Rick and I and Sundance are sending this donation in memory of Casey and to thank Dr. Morse from Ballston Animal Hospital for caring for Casey when she was sick.

*Casey, left, and Sundance Palais-Stevens, from the 1998 GRREAT Calendar*



## Many Thanks for These Fundraising Efforts!

Thank you very much for joining us for our Pet Education Day. We are planning to make some changes for next year to hopefully have cooler weather. Here is a small donation towards your cause. Thank you!

—Super Dog Pet Food  
Leola, Pennsylvania

Each year we have a silent auction at Camp Gone to the Dogs to raise money for worthy animal causes. We bring all our unused or unneeded items and with no guilt at all--and a lot of fun bidding--we raise quite a bit of money through a silent auction. The campers nominate their chosen groups. We want to help you continue your good work and ar thus mailing you this check as suggested by Martha Cole Glenn. Tails Up!

— Honey Loring, Camp Director  
Camp Gone to the Dogs, Putney, VT

Enclosed is a check for the proceeds from a Beanie Baby Raffle held at our store, Once Upon A Time in Vienna, VA. Since this raffle was as successful as the previous one we held for you, we would like to see the money designated for the Leo Fund this time. Keep up your GRREAT work with special needs dogs.

— Lynne Stierman, Owner  
Once Upon a Time, Vienna, VA

Thank you for participating in our recent Adopt-A-Thon. PETSsMART Charities and PETSsMART recognize the outstanding work put forth in finding new homes for many adoptable animals. Enclosed is a check from PETSsMART Charities to reward your participation.

We are delighted that Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training and PETSsMART can work together to end needless euthanasia as a means to controlling pet overpopulation.

—PETSsMART Charities, Phoenix, AZ

Please see Skip Nizer's story (page 1) about Leo and all of the other dogs helped by the fund named after the first recipient of special surgery. To date, 16 dogs have received surgeries to improve their quality of life. The fund is depleted and we need your help to rebuild it so that at least three other dogs can receive needed surgery this year.

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



**Leo's Corner**  
*The Leo Fund  
for special needs dogs.*

- Leo's Pals**  
**Jean and Charles Hartman**  
**Robert and Kathy Horowitz**  
**Theresa Niebuhr**  
**Mary Beth Schlichting**

**Foster Home Seminar  
Saturday, October 30, 1999  
Cherry Hill Park Conference Center  
College Park, MD**

GRREAT's Foster Home Seminar is ideal for experienced, new, and potential foster homes. Covered topics include: intake of the dog, evaluation of the new dog, how to handle behavioral and medical problems, crating, grooming, dealing with emotional attachments, adoption responsibilities, and how to select the best home for the dog.

Registration and a continental breakfast begin at 9:00 a.m. GRREAT will also provide lunch for all attendees. There is NO registration fee, but seating is limited for this all day event. Please call the GRREAT phone number, (703) 620-6593, and press 55 for further information about the seminar. You can leave a message in box 55 indicating your name, phone number and that you will be attending the workshop. Please register by October 23, 1999. The earlier you call, the better your chance to get a seat at this popular event.

**DIRECTIONS TO CONFERENCE CENTER**  
**From Washington Beltway**, I-495/95, use Exit 25 (Route 1 South toward 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.

*A Note of Special Thanks*

GRREAT thanks Lynne Stierman and her daughters Karen and Hannah for making nearly 100 scarves for GRREAT to use as a fundraiser. We plan to take the scarves to the Golden Retriever Nationals in Rhode Island, where they will surely become objects of desire for Golden lovers throughout the country.

Name	ID	Age	Sex
Alex	99117	5 1/2	M
BJ	99111	5	M
Cecil	99101	14 mo	M
Duke	99116	8 1/2	M
Goldie	99104	5 mo	F
Kelsey	95160	4	F
Madonna	99075	4	F
Mandy	99122	3 1/2	F
Max	99107	2	M
Mr. Moses	99072	7	M
Nicholas	99110	1 1/2	M
Ruby	99126	1	F
Samson	99061	3	M
Scud	98188	7	M
Shadow	99099	2	M
Sheela	97058	4	F
Tawney	99071	13	M
Taz	99129	3 1/2	M
Toby	99108	5	M
Woody	99083	8	M

**ADOPTION REPORT**  
**July 6 - August 20**  
 Between July 6 and August 20, 21 dogs were adopted through GRREAT, including 13 year old Tawney who advertised for a companion in the last newsletter. Congratulations to the new families!

However, as of September 1, there were still more than 40 dogs in foster homes awaiting adoption. If you know of families looking for beautiful dogs to adopt, let them know that now is the time to get their application in to GRREAT.

## Thanks!

Here's a donation in appreciation for all the dedicated work that you do. We only wish it could be more. We will continue to support GRREAT and the wonderful work you do.

—Patrick and Tanya Horning



*Scuba and Matt  
Hastman enjoying their  
home pool in Phoenix*



## Second Beanie Baby Raffle to Benefit Leo Fund

GRREAT's current raffle benefits the Leo Fund for special needs dogs. This is the second in a series of four raffles of collector's quality Beanie Babies donated to GRREAT by Sidney Morris in memory of her beloved Ted E. Bear. The winning ticket will be drawn on Sunday, September 19, 1999. You need not be present to win.

GRREAT's second Beanie Baby raffle features a collection of five bears:

- Princess (first edition)
- Curley (retired)
- Signature bear (current)
- Kicks, the soccer bear (current)
- Spangle (newly released)

Raffle tickets were published in the last newsletter and are available at the GRREAT Web site, [www.grreat.org](http://www.grreat.org). The page can be

copied and cut apart, or you can buy and send in the whole sheet, and we will cut them apart. The tickets are not numbered, so they must be filled in completely. (Make it easy: apply one of your stick-on return address labels to each ticket and add your phone number.)

PLEASE pay for the tickets with a check so you have a receipt for your donation. Tickets will not be accepted for the raffle without payment. Individual tickets are **\$1.00 each** or as a "pack" of **6 for \$5.00**, or (as printed in the newsletter) by the sheet of **8 tickets for only \$6.00**. Sell tickets as many tickets as you can to other Beanie Baby lovers and supporters of GRREAT.

Thanks for your participation and *Good Luck!*

FROM: The Hastman's

TO: GRREAT

I adopted Scuba in May '96. We lived in Virginia until we recently relocated to Phoenix, AZ.

I got a phone call last Christmas from a woman who had seen a published letter I wrote to GRREAT regarding Scuba's accomplishments in agility. She used to live next door to Scuba when he was a puppy and wanted me to know how happy she was that he had found a good home. That was a real treat for me!

I wanted everyone at GRREAT to know that Scuba is really enjoying his new home in Phoenix. I used an animal transport service to get him and his sister out here because we came in the summer and the

heat was a problem. They arrived safely without TOO much worry on my part.

I have attached a picture of Scuba and my son Matt in our pool. Scuba takes every opportunity he can to jump in!

I visit your website regularly and love the photos you added to the Dogs Available for adoption page. Take care and keep up the good work!

FROM: Bruce and Carole Kovacs

TO: GRREAT

We want to thank everyone in your organization for the many hours you spend in making sure the rescued dogs are well cared for and that, to the best of your ability, they are correctly and happily placed.

Our adoption of Rob Roy is just such an example. He appears to be exactly what one would expect in a Golden Retriever. Yes, he's probably well bred, but considering his life experiences, much of his wonderful temperament and refined characteristics have to be attributed to the care he received while in his foster home with Becky Ober and her family. He was accurately described in his adoption write-up and is doing his best to let the cats adjust to him.

Thank you again; we are going to join the GRREAT organization and will soon make a monetary contribution.

**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 2000 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 form to:

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you over age 18? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
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.** The appropriate GRREAT  
Coordinator will contact you 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

September 

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
★12	13	14	15	16	17	18
★19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

**September 16-17-18, 1999**  
**Seven Sweets and Sours Festival**

Lancaster, PA  
 See page 2 for details.

**Sunday, October 24, 1999 — Noon - 2:00 pm**  
**Adoption Day**

Concord Pet Foods and Supplies in Middletown, Delaware  
 Directions on page 2.

NOVEMBER 

		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30					

OCTOBER  HALLOWEEN

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
★24	25	26	27	28	29	★30
31						

**Saturday, October 30, 1999 — All day**  
**Foster Home Seminar**

Details on page 9.

Plan Now to Attend!

**Sunday, December 5, 1999**  
**GRREAT's Annual**  
**Howliday Party**

Details in the next issue!

DECEMBER 

				1	2	3	4
★5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
★12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		

**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*