



GRREAT News

November/December 1999

Volume 9, Number 6

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

From the President At Year End Doug Brown

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Some folks would say that GRREAT has had a trying year but, looking back, we really can't complain. As a 100% all-volunteer rescue, GRREAT did not miss a beat: all of our community, social and fundraising activities went on as scheduled and they were well-received by both the public and the membership of GRREAT. We also had a successful showing at the GRCA National Specialty Show in Rhode Island, where several of our volunteers represented GRREAT with both educational information and merchandise.

Of all the success stories this year, the most successful is that of our Golden friends. As of November 1, approximately 30 more Golden Retrievers have been rescued by GRREAT compared to last year at this time. It seems that we are well on our way to another record-breaking year for accepting abandoned, abused and otherwise homeless Golden Retrievers.

The success of GRREAT is not due to one single event or just a few individuals. It is the collective effort of all our many volunteers and generous members. You are to be congratulated and you should hold your heads high. You, the volunteers and members,

From the President, continued on page 8

Orthopedic Surgery for Dogs compiled by April Fritz

In the last issue of *GRREAT News*, we made an appeal for funds to provide special surgeries to a number of dogs recently accepted into the Rescue. These surgeries are very expensive (more than \$1500 each), even when performed at a substantially discounted rate by compassionate veterinary surgeons.

A previous article in *GRREAT News* (November-December 1998) discussed Canine Hip Dysplasia (CHD), a genetically transmitted disease unfortunately common to Golden Retrievers that results in the dog's hip socket being too shallow to accept the ball of the leg bone (femur), with the related looseness of the hip joint and partial dislocation. The Leo Fund article in the last issue talked about the dogs with severe hip problems who have been given a second chance at a pain-free life, thanks to several types of surgery. In this issue, we talk about the types of surgery available for CHD.

Canine hip dysplasia may not be diagnosed when the puppy is born, but symptoms usually develop by the time the dog is two years of age. Symptoms in a young dog include moderate to severe pain, a "bunny hop" gait when running, limping, and a reluctance to jump. If conservative treatment (maintenance of the joint's muscular

Orthopedic Surgery, continued on page 15

As the season of feasting and festivities approaches, it is important to remember that, as part of your family, your pet will be caught up in the holidays as well—hopefully for the better rather than for the worse. We repeat the list of holiday pet safety tips starting on page 16 every few years in this newsletter as a reminder that many of the things we might otherwise overlook in the excitement of the holidays can be potentially dangerous to your dog. We at GRREAT want you and your pets to have a safe and happy holiday!

Pet Safety Tips, continued on page 16

Pet Safety Tips to Make the Holidays Happy

Best Wishes On Chanukah



Merry Christmas

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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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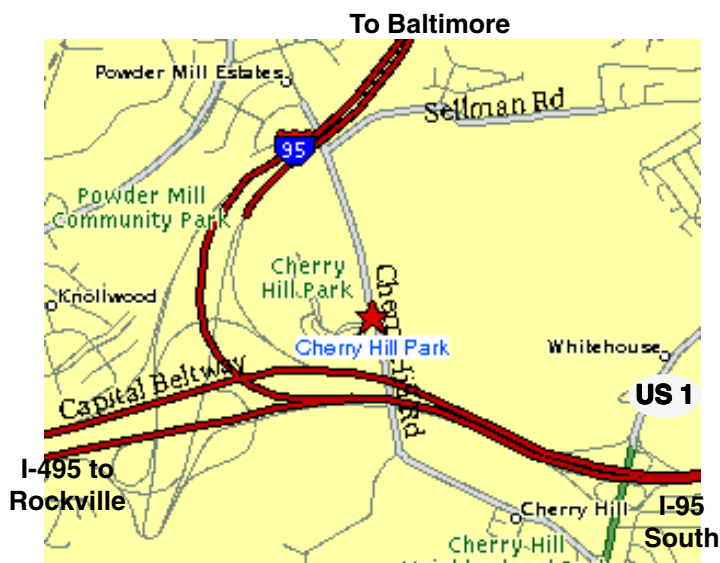
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DIRECTIONS TO HOWLIDAY PARTY AT CHERRY HILL PARK CONFERENCE CENTER

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.

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.

PLEASE NOTE

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

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM GRREAT**

Max and Clancy want to know...



Are you ready to PARTY???



Sunday, December 5, 1999
11:00 am to 3:30 pm

Cherry Hill Park Conference Center
College Park, MD
(map and directions on page 2)

Cost: \$10.00 per family

About the Pot Luck Dinner

The party will be an indoor picnic. GRREAT will provide the main dishes (turkey and ham), bread and rolls, condiments, chips, tableware, and hot and cold beverages.

Families are asked to bring a side dish (casseroles, dips, veggies, 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 - H

I - N

O - Z

Please bring a

cold salad

dessert

*side dish**

*if dish is to be served warm, please bring the appropriate heating device and serving utensils. Extension cords will be available.

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 the Silent Auction

At the party, you will have a chance to bid on wonderful, custom-made, Golden-related items contributed by generous donors and GRREAT members.

Don't forget your checkbook!

The Conference Center is seasonally decorated 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. The people and pets costume parade is back by popular demand! Last year more than 110 dogs and 150 people attended the festivities. You don't want to miss it!

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 let us know how many people and how many dogs will be attending. Call the GRREAT voice mail (703) 620-6593 and leave a message in box 54, or e-mail a message to GRREATEVENTS@AOL.COM.

Events Schedule and Approximate Times

Silent Auction starts at 11:00, closes at 2:30

Instant Pictures with Santa Paws 11:00 - 12:30 and 1:30 - 3:00

Potluck dinner for 2-legged attendees 11:30 - 1:30

Canine Costume Parade 12:30

Pets 'n' People Games 1:00 - 2:30

Doggie Gift Exchange starts at 2:30

Doggie Sing-along at the end of gift exchange

Virginia Perry Gardner gold jewelry raffle drawing

Door Prizes and Surprises awarded at 3:15

Ongoing Events

New GRREAT merchandise available!

Treats and gifts for 4-legged attendees

Plan to attend the canine social event of the year!

An abundance of APPRECIATION ON THANKSGIVING

Throughout the fall, many GRREAT volunteers have travelled long distances to provide a presence at dog events and raise funds for GRREAT. In this season of Thanksgiving, we are grateful to these volunteers for their devotion to the dogs we love. Thanks also go to all of the people who purchased GRREAT merchandise or otherwise contributed to our fundraising efforts.

GOLDSTOCK (Camp Weequahic, PA—over \$250)

Volunteers were: Sid Morris, Pam Thiess, Lisa Smith, Rance Nymeyer and Cheryl Garbett

OLD DOMINION ALL BREED DOG SHOW (over \$1,100)

Volunteers were: Julie Palais and Rick Stevens (and Mr. August, Sundance Palais-Stevens), Georgie Bahler, Donna LeCompte, Judy Daner, Barb Stevens, Margie Muldoon, Jeannie Haskell-Sampson and her mom Jean Haskell.

SEVEN SWEETS AND SOURS FESTIVAL (Lancaster, PA—over \$700

for Leo Fund despite Hurricane Floyd) Volunteers were: Dick and Mary Ann Newton, Ann Wakefield, Nicky Parisi, Richard and Carol Spangler, Trace and Kristin Oberholtzer, Scott and Kelly Daniels, Phil and Janet Jauck, Sam Connelly, Gail Corby, Sharon Meirose, Sidney Morris. Several other volunteers were unable to come because of the storm.

GRCA NATIONALS (in Rhode Island—over \$6,000!)

Volunteers were: Becky Brown, Deb Nizer, Deanna Edge, Georgie Bahler, Cheryl Garbett, Gail Corby, Laura Schmitz, and Sam Connelly.

The GRREAT merchandise booth at the GRCA Nationals in September



A Puppy For Christmas? Think Twice!



Illustration by Sam Connelly

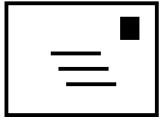
Dog owners who contemplate giving a dog as a holiday gift to someone near and dear should remember that not everyone cares for dogs as they do. **Never** give a dog as a surprise gift. Taking a dog into one's life is a big responsibility, and a potential owner should always have an opportunity to consider carefully what that means before making the commitment to care for an animal for the rest of its life. GRREAT knows—we see the effects of ill-considered gift choices in the spring, when these dogs are turned over to us because they are too big, uncontrollable, or no longer wanted.

Humane societies and other animal welfare organizations like GRREAT—recognizing that the holiday season is a popular time for “dog giving”—encourage gift certificates instead. Even though gift certificates don't breathe, bark and smell like a puppy, they enable recipients to pick out an animal that suits their lifestyle when the time is right, or to say ‘no’ if they don't want a dog.

Nor is the holiday season is the best time to introduce a new pet to a household. The hustle and bustle of guests and parties do not allow a new owner sufficient time to bond with a new puppy. In addition, there are too many extra, hazardous temptations around the house: extra electrical wires, more trash, an indoor tree (!) and who knows what else a new puppy can get into.

However, if after careful consideration the decision is made to add a new four-legged member to the family, GRREAT always has a number of dogs available for adoption. They are usually older, calmer, and have their personality characteristics developed. On the other hand, if a puppy is the decision, GRREAT has a new, free brochure, **GRREAT Guidelines for Buying a Golden Retriever Puppy**. Before you buy, learn what to consider when choosing a breeder and what questions to ask. An animal is a lifetime commitment.

adapted from Your Dog—A Newsletter for Dog Owners, from the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, Nov. 1994



Dear GRREAT

I just received your newsletter in the mail and immediately sat down and read it cover to cover. It is a wonderful publication, so full of emotion and love—just like our precious Golden. I'd like to share with you the story of my "special needs" Golden, Bambi.

Bambi at six months was diagnosed as having double bilateral entropion, meaning that both upper and lower eyelids were too large, and her lashes scratched her corneas and this would eventually lead to blindness. She was brought into the veterinary clinic where I worked to be euthanized. She was a beautiful Golden and I fell in love with her immediately, but her eyes pathetically blinked and teared and she pawed at them painfully.

I adopted her and had her eyes surgically repaired. All was well for about three months, but as she grew, the problem resurfaced. Back to surgery for recorrection. Still concerned, I took her to an ophthalmologist who rediagnosed her as having microphthalmia, meaning her eyeballs were too small for their sockets. Again, "darts" of skin were removed from her lids and her vision was not damaged. All remained well with her "doe" eyes (hence the name Bambi).

Then at age two she had her first of hundreds of grand mal seizures and was diagnosed with severe epilepsy. It took me almost three years to control this devastating condition and I almost lost her several times to "cluster" seizures or "status epilepticus." The massive doses of phenobarbital did not control the problem, so my vet added potassium bromide to her twice daily medication along with a high fat diet. She still has an occasional seizure, but for the most part, she is a happy, healthy girl.

Needless to say, my special needs sweetheart has become my baby. I am constantly with her and when I work, I have a pet sitter to care for her. I love her dearly.

Letters to GRREAT, continued on page 12

Pet Portraits with Santa by Linda Schisler

Sunday
November 14, 1999
11:00 - 3:00

3113 Richwood Ave
Baltimore, MD 21244

Call 301-549-3156
today to schedule your
appointment.



Funny looking Golden?
No, this event is open to all breeds!

Linda Schisler of Best Friends Pet Portraits will again be working with GRREAT to take professional photographs of your pet(s) with Santa. Golden lover Gregg Wessel has offered the use of facilities in the Baltimore area for this event. Proceeds from the photo sessions go to the GRREAT Leo Fund. Select a photo package from the following; the professionally developed photos will be mailed to the address you specify about December 1.

Package A: one 3½ x 5 size	\$15.00
Package B: two 3½ x 5, 8 wallet size	\$30.00
Package C: two 5 x 7 size	\$30.00

Each package includes sitting fee, single pose and shipping.

Tell all your pet-loving friends about this special event.

Call 301-549-3156 to schedule your appointment for a memorable pet photo with Santa.

Directions: From the Baltimore Beltway (I-695) take the Randallstown exit (18B, Liberty Road/Route 26 West). When you merge onto Liberty Road, immediately get into the left lane. At the first traffic light turn left onto Washington Avenue. Follow Washington Avenue to the end and turn left onto Castlemore, then a quick right turn onto Richwood Avenue. Follow Richwood to 3113, an old brick school house.

Cheese Marrow Bone — The Longest Lasting Dog Treat Ever!



Sterilized chew bones

Purchase a sterilized hollow bone with a thick cortex (beef shin bones are the best), and stuff it full of cheddar cheese or Velveeta (the slicing kind, not the squeezing kind). Set the bone on end on a plate and microwave it for about 10 seconds. The cheese will melt and stick to the core of the bone. Be sure to let it cool completely before giving it to Goldie. Your dog will spend hours trying to lick the cheese out of the marrow. If he is ever successful, just fill the bone with cheese again!

GRREAT Annual Business Meeting

Saturday, January 22, 2000

NEW LOCATION IN ROCKVILLE-GAITHERSBURG AREA
(directions in next issue)

All members are welcome to attend. You must be present to vote.

10:00 a.m. Get Acquainted Session

10:30 a.m. Business Meeting

Agenda

- Officers and Coordinators Reports
- Election of Officers

Proposed Slate of Officers

President	Doug Brown
Vice President	<i>Open*</i>
Secretary	Mary Ellen Lunde
Treasurer	Gail Corby

* See page 7 for information about this available position.

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

- Reports of 1999 activities
- Plans for the coming year's fundraising efforts
- Plans for the coming year's educational activities
- Coordinator reports

— REMINDER — It's Membership Renewal Time

Please check your mailing label for this issue. If it shows 12/99 in the upper right corner, your GRREAT membership expires with this issue. Membership dues are still only \$20 per year and include a subscription to GRREAT News.

Dues are payable now through January 31, 2000, after which time membership will be forfeited.

This is also the time to consider making a tax-deductible donation to GRREAT. Use the handy form on page 19, and mail it and your check to GRREAT's post office box in the addressed envelope included in this issue.

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



Point — Counterpoint



What is a Cat?

- 1) Cats do what they want.
- 2) They rarely listen to you.
- 3) They're totally unpredictable.
- 4) They whine when they are not happy.
- 5) When you want to play, they want to be alone.
- 6) When you want to be alone, they want to play.
- 7) They expect you to cater to their every whim.
- 8) They're moody.
- 9) They leave hair everywhere.
- 10) They drive you nuts and cost an arm and a leg.

Conclusion: They're tiny little women in fur coats.

What is a Dog?

- 1) Dogs lie around all day, sprawled on the most comfortable piece of furniture in the house.
- 2) They can hear a package of food opening half a block away, but don't hear you when you're in the same room.
- 3) They can look dumb and lovable all at the same time.
- 4) They growl when they're not happy.
- 5) When you want to play, they want to play.
- 6) When you want to be alone, they want to play.
- 7) They are great at begging.
- 8) They will love you forever if you rub their tummies.
- 9) They leave their toys everywhere.
- 10) They do disgusting things with their mouths and then try to give you a kiss.

Conclusion: They're little men in fur coats.

—From the Internet, author unknown.



At the beginning of the next calendar year, several GRREAT positions will become vacant as their current occupants step down. These are important positions that must be filled to keep the Rescue running smoothly. Each job carries significant responsibility to maintain the current operations of GRREAT. In addition, these positions are members of the Board of Directors, which oversees the activities of the organization.

Please consider becoming more active and stepping into one of these positions. Contact Doug Brown if you are interested.

Vice-President Assists the president and must be willing to become president if the president is incapacitated. This is an elected position. For more information, contact Doug Brown, B281@AOL.COM.

Education Coordinator Schedules education tables throughout GRREAT's area and provides the educational material that will be distributed. This is an appointed position. For more information, contact Doug Brown, DB281@AOL.COM.

Merchandise Coordinator Selects, orders, stores, inventories, and sells GRREAT merchandise with assistance of other volunteers. This is an appointed position. For more information, contact Becky Brown, DB281@AOL.COM.

Volunteer Coordinator Maintains GRREAT volunteer database and schedules and notifies volunteers of events. This is an appointed position and requires extensive computer work. For more information about this position contact Sharon Meirose, MEIROSE@EROLS.COM.

GRREAT is fortunate to have many volunteers and each is important to us. If you have volunteered and haven't been called, please be patient—we're sure that a special event or dog is in your future. If you haven't attended an event recently, think about the following poem.

Do You Just Belong?

**Are you an active member,
The kind who would be missed,
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?**

**Do you attend the meetings
and mingle with the crowd?
Or would you rather stay at home
Complaining long and loud?**

**Do you take an active part
To help the world along?
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind who just belongs?**

**Do you give a little time
And help to make things click
Or leave the work to just a few
And gripe about the 'clique'?**

**There's quite a program scheduled
That means success if done
And it can be accomplished
With the help of everyone.**

**So come to functions often,
And help with hand and heart,
Don't be just a member,
But take an active part.**

**Think it over, Member,
Are you right or wrong?
Are you an active member,
Or do you just belong?**

— Author Unknown, but various versions have appeared in print since 1952.

Please fill in the volunteer form on page 19, send an e-mail to www.grreat.org, or leave a message on GRREAT's phone line expressing your interest.

Thank You to these individuals for their recent donations

Barbara Baker

John DeNobile

Bill and Nancy
Goldcamp*

Bruce and Carole
Kovacs

Reinhard and Heidi
Schmidt

Sally
Schornstheimer and
Ken Jonson

Neil and Connie
Schuster

Mary Luise Semans

Leila Stiebel

** for Simile-Finale Fund*

Adoption Days in November and December

Saturday, November 13, 1999 — Noon to 2 pm

Petco

10708 Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA

(703) 352-3300 (for directions only)



Sunday, December 12, 1999 — Noon to 2 pm

Coventry School for Dogs and Their People

7165 Oakland Mills Rd, Columbia, MD

(410) 381-1800 (for directions only)



Directions to Petco in Fairfax: From the Washington Beltway (I-495), take I-66 west to Hwy 123 South (towards Fairfax). Make a right onto Route 50 and go west about 1 mile. Petco is in the shopping center across the street from a school.

Directions to Coventry School for Dogs and their People: From I-95 north of the Washington Beltway, exit at Highway 175 West. At Snowden River Parkway, turn left. Go to Oakland Mills Road and turn left. Go up the hill and turn left after the railroad tracks into the parking lot. The Coventry School address is 7165 C&D.

Adoption Report August and September

Between mid-August and the end of September, 23 dogs found new homes. These lucky dogs were almost evenly distributed between males and females. Of note is the fact that a third of these dogs are over 6 years old, and three were over age 10. Congratulations to the new families of these wonderful dogs, and best wishes to all for a warm and happy holiday.

<u>Name</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>
Amber	99138	8	F
Bailey	99135	9 mo	M
Brittany	99095	12	F
Bud	99109	11	M
Calli	99154	2	F
Cody	99139	6½	M
Cosmo	99082	1	M
Duke	99134	7	M
Gracie	99151	1½	F
Joey	98146	7½	M
Kaeleigh	99128	4½	F
Kenzie	99141	2½	F
Leah	99067	3 mo	F
Lexie	99144	2½	F
Marley	97110	3	F
Pasha	99149	11	M
Prance/Shadow	99046	4	M
Rob Roy	99113	6	M
Sam	99125	11 mo	M
Shane	99063	4½	M
Simba	99130	1	M
Taffy	99112	6	F
Tiffany	99031	8	F

From the President, continued from page 1
are what make GRREAT the fantastic organization that it is, and the Board of Directors wishes to thank you for your support.

There are many important items that must be included in this issue of the newsletter, including the Howliday Party (pages 2 and 3) and the upcoming business meeting and election/appointment of new officers (page 6 and 7), so my remarks this time will be brief. I will conclude with a personal thank you to the rest of the board members, volunteers and members. GRREAT has a full slate of activities planned for the year 2000 and we look forward to your continued support. We also look forward to seeing you at the party and wish you the very best for the holidays and the new year and millennium ahead. May you celebrate these special days with your loved ones and your favorite furrball at your feet.

VETERANS DAY
November 11, 1999



Veterans Day is coming up, and it makes me think of times past. I think about some of the guys from ‘Nam now and then, and about a special lady. Her name was Samantha—Sam for short. I think her original owners named her after Sam on the “Bewitched” show. Sam wasn’t a Golden—she was mostly a shepherd mix: tall, sleek and fast. She could jump into the back of a deuce-and-a-half (2½ ton truck) with ease.

Sam was a part of home that we all could touch, hug and talk to. I won’t go into details about her, but she knew friend from foe. Only a select few Vietnamese could get close to her.

There were times when her actions put our unit on alert, and we could be ready to rock and roll before the first round came in. There was also a time during the TET offensive when her lack of interest caused us to hold our fire, thus saving more than fifty guys moved into the line of fire by a stupid lieutenant. Those guys got another chance to go home due to Sam.

Sam was killed in March of 1968. She received no metals, no honorable burial. I still think of her now and then, and I’m sure Kenny, Anana, Baumer and others think about her, too. Who knows how many of us she saved. It’s funny, but that part wasn’t as important as the fact that she brought home within the touch of our hands and hearts.

So thank you, Seeing Eye dogs, Companion Dogs for the Disabled, K9 Search and Rescue, Pets on Wheels, bomb squad and drug dogs. You are protectors of our lives and homes. You never ask how rich or how attractive we are—only for the touch of a kind hand. We are grateful to have you as friends.



IN REMEMBRANCE
KATIE SCARLET
O’JOHNS



Toni Johns writes:

On October 5, 1999, our beautiful little girl succumbed to the cancer she so valiantly fought for more than a year. Katie was almost twelve years old, and she’d spent the majority of her life (more than 11½ years) cheering up elderly folks in local nursing homes through “Pets on Wheels.” She would gladly go through her repertoire of tricks in anticipation of all the goodies her friends would lavish on her. Flipping a Milk Bone off her nose into her mouth was a weekly request, but “whisper” and “high five” were two tricks that never ceased to bring a smile.

Much to the delight and amazement of a deaf resident, Katie learned 15-20 words in sign language, so she and Helen could communicate directly. Whenever Helen and Katie were “talking,” a crowd of nurses, aides, and visitors would always gather in the hall to enjoy the show.

In August of ’99, Katie happily joined her folks, Jim and Toni Johns, in welcoming their first foster dog, Honey, into their home. We think, however, that she may have been just as happy, twelve days later, when Honey went to live with the her new, adoptive parents.

We’re sending a memorial donation to the Leo Fund, in memory of our sweet Katie Scarlett, with heartfelt thanks for the thousands of hours of pleasure she gave to her Mom and Dad.

Sharon Alley writes:

Katie was a special joy for us as she and our son are the same age. She had her own way of touching the lives of everyone she met. Katie lifted the hearts and hopes of folks who might not have had the time or energy otherwise, but by just hearing her name, people would jubilate at her happy go lucky personality. Katie will be missed by all of us, but you can be sure she will live in our hearts forever.

We hope this small contribution in Katie’s memory will help others have the same wonderful pleasure of knowing how special Golden Retrievers are in their services to others.

Special Donations were received

IN MEMORY OF...

Mr. T.E. "Bob" Johnson, from Donald and Robin Greenfield
Mr. T. E. "Bob" Johnson, from "the Mill Folks"

.....
Abbey, our departed Golden, who will always be in our hearts, from Dennis Rivard and Charles George

Buddy, from Carol Bowlus

Buddy Norman, best friend of Linda Norman, from Kerry Norman

Katie Scarlet O'Johns, from Mr. and Mrs. Michael Alley (see note on page 9)

Millie, Lenny and Cor Endlich's GRREAT dog, another wonderful Golden whose life was way too short, from Patrick and Patricia McAllister

Sandy Maust, from Charles and Anna Marsch

Tropper, from Lois Maiman

A GRREAT BIG Thank You goes to

Eric Heckman for the donation of 200 pounds of dog food he received in a shipping mixup with one of those on-line pet supply companies. The supplier said he could keep it, but Eric called GRREAT!

Leslie Sachlis and Maureen Marshall for donating two crates to GRREAT. Maureen, a friend of Leslie's donated her crate after the sudden death of her Lab. Leslie spotted the crate she donated at a yard sale and immediately thought of GRREAT.

Laurie Doumaux for the donation of several pieces of original commissioned art work from reknowned artist Marcia Schlehr. The artwork has been used for clothing and notepads (please see page 17).



Special Donations were received

IN HONOR OF ...

Claudia and Herb Mittelman in celebration of their marriage September 25, 1999 and in honor of their loved ones who cannot be with them, from Pam Neale

AJ and Olive, from Kate Symonds (see letter on page 12)

Dusty, from Jonathan Gordon

11 year old Zack, from Pam Litten (see letter on page 13)

Marley (formerly Jewel), from Val and Debra Sapcariu

Sam (99-152). What a wonderful foster dog you were! I almost kept you. Thank you to Ruth and Mark Burdeshaw and children for providing a special home for Sam. I know he'll be a part of a loving family and will live the good life he so deserves. —Lynne Glennon



Special Donations were received...

In recognition of the care and concern of Bay Hills Animal Hospital in treating our beloved Golden, J.D. Dr. Stephen Romero has been our trusted veterinarian since J.D. came into our lives as an eight week old puppy. J.D. received excellent care from Dr. Romero and his staff for the 12½ years of his life, especially the last two weeks. Hopefully we will be successful in adopting a GRREAT dog and continue with Dr. Romero's sensitive and caring ways.

To thank Cathy Story for showing Whisper at the PVGRC Club Specialty 25th Anniversary Show, from Lois Maiman

and finally, HAPPY HOLIDAYS from Molson Wright, 98-041

We are extremely GRREATFUL for the following recent donations to the Leo Fund.

**Golden Angels
(\$500 or more)**

Elizabeth Oberdorfer

**Golden Heroes
(\$100 - \$499)**

Gail and Bob Bartley

Anita and John Funk

Neal and Judy McKinley

Beverly Mustaine

Tommie and John O'Connell

Eileen Pratt

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

Kathy Ayres

Annette Bennett

Jo Bighouse

Chip and Carol Clemmer

Trish Collier

Jonathan Gordon

Eileen Holloway

Denise Irwin

Christine and Jeff Jasmine

Tondra Johns

Diane Lanigan

Sue and Jim Lauver

Joyce Parkin

Kathi Rechsteiner and Hilary

Stanhope

Susan South

Fran Sullivan

Laura and Ricky Wolf

To honor our beautiful Angel Girl

(97-120), who continues to bring us much love and great joy. On September 21st, we celebrated her second adoption day. Thank you GRREAT for your love and hard work to rescue these wonderful Golden!

—Tommie and John O'Connell

Memorial Donations

to the Leo Fund

In memory of my father, Charles

Mortale, a true lover of Golden. Our Golden, Berkeley, would bring sunshine to his day when we visited the nursing home. She particularly loved pulling him down the halls in his wheelchair while he held onto her lead. Thank you for your good work. —Kathy Ayres

For **Chester**, from Chip and Carol Clemmer

For **Doc**—my youngest—another victim of cancer. Who's going to keep my back toasty warm this winter? —Susan South

For **Princess**, who wasn't a Golden, but was a friend of Jessie, June and Richard Downing's Golden, from Sue and Jim Lauver

For **Stetson**, please accept this donation to the Leo Fund. I wish it could be more, and I will try to help both of GRREAT's special needs funds in 2000 as my new millennium resolution. —Trish Collier

For **B.J. Mustaine** and **in honor of** our new GRREAT child, **Lucas**, from Beverly Mustaine

In honor of Jake, from Christine and Jeff Jasmine

In honor of Nicholas, our recently adopted Golden, from Laura and Ricky Wolf

Dear Leo,

I am sending this check for the Leo Fund. I have a foster dog with me that has benefitted from GRREAT's wonderful work and I would like to make this small contribution to help defray some of the costs. Thanks to GRREAT, our foster girl Ally has received the eye surgery she has needed for some time. This sweet little girl trotted into the Blue Ridge Veterinary Hospital with her favorite toy in her mouth and tail a-wagging. When I picked her up that evening, she had a sutured eye and was wearing an Elizabethan collar. I know she had to be uncomfortable, but that toy was in her mouth and her tail was still wagging. Thank you for giving Ally the quality of life she deserves. —Jo Bighouse

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.*

MORE LETTERS TO GRREAT



Letters, continued from page 5

Last year while visiting out of town, I went to a PetSmart and discovered GRREAT Adoption Days. I immediately became a member and am anxiously awaiting a home visit so I can become an adoptive parent. And Bambi can't wait to have a companion. She lost her beloved "KuKu" a short time ago.

Thank you, GRREAT, for your wonderful work, and thank you, God, for blessing us with our beautiful Golden angel bears.

—Debbi Evans

Just wanted you to know that we are really thankful for our rescued Golden, Teddy. We've done other rescue work with different breeds, and waited a long time for our Golden (one that could stay with *us!*). I knew I was ready (even though other people might have thought we had a house full with four other dogs) and we started calling foster homes on the "Doggie List." After a few tries, I decided to call Georgie about Teddy. I knew I wanted my Golden, but I also felt I wanted to try to help a less fortunate, or harder to place dog, thinking of maybe a senior or a not-so-healthy dog.

Teddy suffered from separation anxiety and was known to do some pretty wild things just for missing his people. Georgie

brought him to us the next day, and to be honest, I wasn't exactly sure of what I had gotten myself into. Teddy didn't adapt well to a crate—he would pant until his fur was soaked and he'd pace, pace, pace, and even chew at the wire. We tried talking to trainers and followed some advice that they offered. (I just had to know that Teddy and my house were safe—with Teddy in the crate when I left.) We kept a not-so-routine schedule and came and went throughout the days that followed.



Teddy-Shadow Schweitzer, waiting for Mom to come home

After a few days we put the crate away. He's not nuts about us leaving, but he tolerates it and waits patiently atop the radiator cover at the front window for us to return. He's adapted well to the other dogs and loves his walks with Loopy the greyhound.

I, on the other hand, feel quite a connection to this fine Golden pooch. He follows me everywhere and is in my car with me when I break away by myself for a little while. He's picked up a nickname—Teddy-Shadow—and he seems to like it. I know when he's feeling blue, and when I'm having one of those days, he'll come and rest his head on my lap and just stare at me as if saying "it's not so bad, friend."

There's so much more I could write about, and will someday... But for now, I wanted to say thanks for Teddy-Shadow. I think we were meant to find each other. We'll always be around to help and wish you a lot of success in the rescue efforts. You're worth your weight in gold!

—Heidi Schweitzer

The donation enclosed is in honor of Zack. Zack is an 11-year old boy I took in in the spring because he apparently didn't match the decor of his original family's new house. He was heartworm positive, but despite his age, he made it through treatment with few problems.

Last month he became very ill and a preliminary diagnosis suggested the possibility of a tumor on his pancreas. We immediately saw a specialist for an ultrasound, and miraculously, he didn't find a tumor, but rather Zack's intestine was blocked by something he should have thought better of eating! After the removal of 16 inches of his intestine, he made an astonishingly speedy recovery and as my husband says, acts like he is eleven going on six!

Please use the money wherever it is needed, perhaps to put the spring back in the step of another "senior teenager."

—Pam Litten



Have a *GRREAT* Millennium!

GRREAT Letters about Senior Golden

Dear GRREAT,

I always check your web page on my computer because it's so interesting! My dogs and my two-footed friend Glenn really enjoyed the picnic this year—especially Glenn, who did not get wet this year as he did last year. AJ, the adopted Golden, enjoyed the chance to really swim in real water!

Some of you have probably read my previous rave reviews of Apple Jack, the Ancient Golden. At 11, he has been with us for 18 months and has made such strides! He has hardly been on the leash at all since April of this year—a real breakthrough. He has decided it is much more fun to stick around and get pats for it rather than run next door and talk trash to my neighbor's dog whenever my back is turned. He checks to see where I am and if it is OK to carry on with some very important sniffing around the pasture—very important business indeed! It is a real joy to see him moving around and being a dog! He was a blob when I got him—so sad and starved and insecure. Probably his favorite time is when I get home and he has taken care of business outside and he can get lots of pats and be fussed over. My other dog was so annoyed when I got AJ that I had doubts about keeping him... No longer! She is glad for the company and often looks at him and says "You comin'? Let's go!"

AJ and Olive, his dogger teacher, are a God-send to me. I love them so much! AJ is the reason why anyone should adopt an older dog, especially a Golden! His heart is so Golden! What a dear! If anyone has any questions about whether adopting an older dog is a good idea, come and talk to us! You will be converted!

Thanks! —Kate Symonds

An Angel Named "Gus"

When my wife and I were married in 1980, Skipper, a Golden Retriever, became a part of our lives. We quickly learned of the Golden Retriever "charm"—unconditional love and the incessant desire to please. For 14½ years Skipper blessed us with this charm. His leaving for a place where he would no longer suffer created such a deep sense of loss that it took years to seek that charm once again.

To our unexpected surprise, we found out about Gus, a seven year old Golden Retriever rescued by GRREAT. While we had considered an older dog, seven years old was outside of our range. However, from the information we had received about him from our dear neighbor, herself the Mom of a GRREAT Golden, we decided to pursue adopting him. With our first visit of Gus, we immediately realized our prayers had been answered. The more I think about it, Gus found us rather than we found him.

From the minute he came into our lives, it was as though he had been with us for a long time. His love of life and people exudes continually and that's why I believe that anyone who met him immediately embraced him.

As quickly as he came into our lives, he departed due to cancer. We were blessed with Gus for nine months and he reminded us of the importance of unconditional love and to always seek out the good in life. To have never had Gus in our lives would have been an even greater loss than to have only been able to enjoy him for a very short time. Thank you Kim Connifey, GRREAT, his foster family, and the Good Lord above for enriching our lives with Gus. We were truly "Touched by an Angel."

—Carmen and Kim Villani

10 Reasons to Adopt a Senior Golden

1. **Adulthood.** In most cases senior Golden are well past the chewing and digging stages of life. They cause less destruction than puppies or younger dogs. They also have a longer attention span for training.

2. **Peace of mind.** Over 90% of older dogs are housebroken before they go to a second home. And an adult dog has a larger bladder and can go for longer periods of time without relief.

3. **Experience.** Most senior Golden have been socialized with other animals. They can provide an example and a calming influence to younger dogs.

4. **Tolerance.** Older Golden are good first dogs for children because they are patient with tail-tugging and rough petting. They'll walk away from a playing child rather than hurt him.

5. **Companionship.** Senior dogs don't demand constant watchfulness and attention. They're content just to be in the same room while family members are working

10 Reasons, continued on page 18

Two for One Special: A Remembrance

Linda Hunt

Roxy came to us with Shadow in a "Two for One Special" in July, 1994. We think she was six and he was four years old. They had been found together as strays and GRREAT wanted to keep them together.

Shadow captured everyone's hearts, an instant neighborhood favorite. He was a beautiful dark red Golden with a joyous gliding run, a demanding lover and deliverer of wet kisses, the center of all attention. Roxy existed in his shadow.

Everyone's comment when they first saw Roxy was "God, that dog is fat." She was short. She was chunky. She had incredibly thick fur accentuating her weight. She had an awkward, waddling walk. She could not tolerate being petted for more than a few minutes. It was hard to give her attention because she gave so little in return.

However, it was Roxy, not Shadow, who barked at the doorbell and strange bumps in the night. It was Roxy who defended the yard against squirrels, rabbits, groundhogs, skunks, cats and crows. She demanded her special treats—cheese and ice cream.

Roxy dominated Shadow and loved Shadow. She had first choice of dog bones, first smells on our walks and primary position on my feet. She teased him, tormented him, chewed his ears, his shoulder, his back, his tail, whatever, until finally he would wildly tear in circles around her, with her barking and lunging until both would become one ball of fur thrashing in the ivy.

Above all Roxy loved water. Given six inches of water in a drought-deprived stream, Roxy could completely saturate her three-inch thick coat. At a dead run she would leap into her plastic wading pool, sliding and crashing into the far side, with waves of water cascading over the edge. Then she would submerge and lay there with a satisfied look on her face.

*Illustration by Sam
Connelly of GRREAT
(please also see page 17)*



Her greatest pleasure came this past year, when we built a lily pond in the yard. Apparently it was precisely the right circumference and depth for an 85 pound Golden Retriever. She particularly liked to swim at 5:30 a.m. as I tried to leave for work, or at 10:30 p.m. before bedtime. Just her head, with a look of complete ecstasy, would remain above the water. Eventually she would drag her heavy body out, trailing strands of water hyacinths and streams of water across the yard.

Over the years Roxy became my primary greeter, hearing my car before I ever reached the driveway, positioning herself at the door for a wild, joyous greeting. She developed a fondness for thirty minutes of all over massage and scratching each night. She grew to tolerate being brushed for short periods, enough say, to do one shoulder, or her bushy tail. While her face had become totally white and sunken with age, her coat became even more lustrous, silky and thick. She now stood, sat and lay with the regal presence of an aging queen.

Of course, in the end, it was Roxy who had captured my heart. Her death came suddenly. We always joked that if Roxy did not consume her dinner in thirty seconds or less, we would know she was ill. A month before she had banished a skunk from the back yard, stinking up herself and the entire neighborhood. A week before she had taken a midnight swim in her pond. But she let dog biscuits fall from her mouth, turned her head away in disgust at a knucklebone, and dribbled dinner on the floor. The cancer was fast and invasive but apparently painless. We buried her ashes in the rose bed by her pond. She has left a giant void in my life and I miss her.

I suspect that when my turn comes to cross the Rainbow Bridge, Roxy will not be on the bridge. She will wade up from the stream below to greet me, water streaming down in a great torrential rain, with an expression of eternal joy on her face.

Orthopedic Surgery, continued from page 1

support through gentle exercise, and/or medication with polysulfated glycosaminoglycans) is not successful and there are no signs of arthritis, the pup may be a candidate for a Triple Pelvic Osteotomy or TPO. The procedure involves cutting the pelvis in three places, rotating the socket (acetabulum) to provide better coverage of the head (ball) of the femur (see Figure 1), and anchoring all the pieces in place with a special stainless steel plate. This stabilizes the joint so that the ball and socket are in proper alignment and damaging wear and pressure on the joint are avoided. Once recovered from the surgery, the dog can lead an active life, free of pain. Because CHD is frequently a disease of both hips, bilateral TPOs may be necessary.

Untreated CHD commonly results in degenerative arthritis of the hip joint, and a mature dog with arthritis of the hip is not a candidate for TPO. These animals suffer stiffness, lameness after exercise, pain, slowness on rising, and even muscle atrophy if the pain restricts joint movement. Two other options are available to these dogs, Femoral Head Osteotomy (FHO) and Total Hip Replacement. FHO, removal of the femoral head and neck, is not a good option for most Golden Retrievers and other dogs over 50 pounds. Many vets consider FHO more of a salvage procedure for those owners who cannot afford the cost of a total hip replacement for their dog, but need an alternative

to constant medication and debilitating pain.

Total hip replacement is the only treatment currently available that restores normal joint function after arthritis has developed. This procedure involves removing the hip socket (acetabulum) and replacing it with a plastic cup prosthesis, and removing the head and neck of the femur and replacing them with a metal prosthesis (see Figure 2). A success rate of 91% was reported in one five year study of dogs receiving total hip replacements.

Of the ten dogs who have received Leo Fund surgeries this year, seven have had hip operations, either TPOs or total hip replacement. Candidates for surgery are evaluated on a case by case basis, both by the veterinary surgeon and by the GRREAT Board of Directors. The dog's temperament, physical condition, remaining life span and general prognosis are carefully considered before the Board votes to commit precious funds donated by generous Golden lovers.

Once again, we thank you for your generosity—we couldn't have rehabilitated all these dogs without you.

Source: www.petsurgery.com. Used with permission.

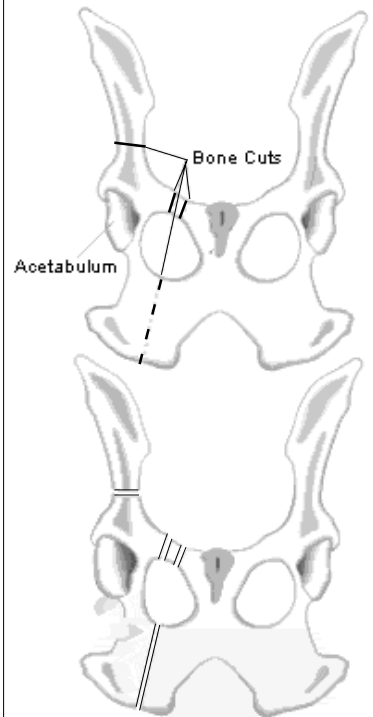
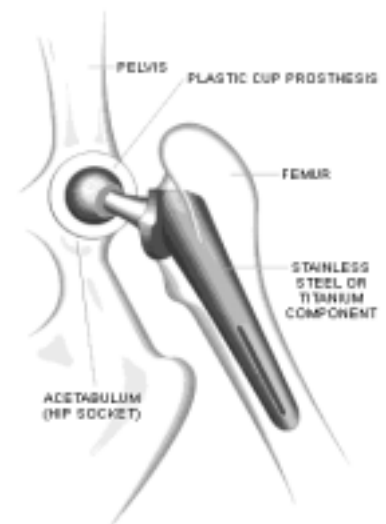


Figure 1.
(upper) Bone cut planes for triple pelvic osteotomy
(lower) Bones cut, ready for realignment and fixation.

Figure 2.
Total hip replacement hardware in place



Illustrations © 1998, Southern California Veterinary Surgery Group. Used with permission.

New Rescue Organization Formed

A new Golden Retriever Rescue has been formed in the area north of the region served by GRREAT. The new rescue, sponsored by the Chesapeake Golden Retriever Club and named GoldHeart, is a separate entity from GRREAT.

GRREAT wishes the new rescue success in their endeavors and the GRREAT Board of Directors has voted to make a start-up donation to the new organization from our general operating fund.

GRREAT members and volunteers near the region of the new rescue are certainly welcome—and encouraged—to remain within the GRREAT family and continue their rescue work as they have in the past.

Seasonal Plants Poisonous to Dogs



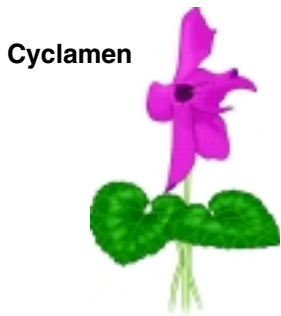
Holly



Mistletoe



Poinsettia



Cyclamen



Azalea



Amaryllis

Pet Safety Tips, continued from page 1

FOOD

Keep the dog out of the kitchen. Don't give in to your dog and feed it table scraps. Be firm with guests not to slip your dog any treats.

Under no conditions should anyone give a dog alcohol to drink because they think "it's cute." Alcohol is toxic to dogs, even in small amounts.

Dogs can become ill from drinking and eating rich foods—gravies, meats and desserts—that are not in their usual diet. Specifically, avoid fatty foods, foods high in sodium (salt), and any brittle, spiky bones from the table. Stay with their usual food.

Uncooked meat, poultry, and fish can contain disease-causing bacteria, both for pets and humans. Handle raw foods carefully, and don't feed them to Fur Face.

Remember that the dog's powerful nose can smell chocolate inside layers of wrapping paper when a human can't, so if you suspect a gift of chocolate, put it up out of the dog's reach.

If you simply can't resist that "I'm starving" look, add a few canine treats instead, but cut back on the dog's main meal if it gets lots of extra treats.

Turkey meat is not easily digestible and turkey bones are dangerous. Tie up garbage tightly and remove it as soon as possible so that dogs are not tempted to look for bones and food in the trash. Lots of other things in the garbage can cause trouble too: plastic wrap, 6-pack rings, string and ribbons.

DECORATIONS

Train your dog to stay away from the tree. Some dogs will be tempted to lie beneath it, but it's not safe. With a sweep of the tail, a dog can break ornaments and get mouth or paw cuts or swallow small pieces.

Tinsel and ornaments, particularly glass ornaments, can be attractive to pets, but once ingested, pieces can cause obstruction or intestinal damage.

Popcorn and cranberries on a string are irresistible and dangerous. (It's the string, not necessarily the popcorn or cranberries, that is hazardous.) Think about placing a fence or pen around your tree rather than around your pet. Don't hang candy canes or gingerbread where your dog can reach them.

Keep all decorations and electrical cords out of your dog's reach. If you see your dog chomping on an electrical cord, pull the plug from the socket immediately—even before you try to get the cord out of the dog's mouth. You or your dog might accidentally break the wire and be shocked.

Poisonous seasonal plants include mistletoe, holly, cyclamen, amaryllis, azalea, and the leaves of the poinsettia (*see pictures at left*). Keep all of these out of your dog's reach.

GUESTS

Monitor how your dog interacts with your guests (especially children). Create a quiet, secluded place where FurFace can get away from all the excitement. Remember too that paws and tails are more susceptible than usual to being stepped on when there are extra people in the house.

Guests who aren't used to having pets in the house can accidentally leave a door open, allowing your pet to take off down the street. Make sure that your dog has an up-to-date identification tag, especially if you are visiting in an unfamiliar area.

Guests are wonderful to have around, but don't neglect your pets for the sake of the visitors. Build plenty of quality time with your dog into your holiday schedule. Your dog will appreciate it, and you will benefit from a few moments of relaxation as well.

STAYING WARM

A senior dog can benefit from a pet heating pad inserted in his dog bed. Think about putting a sweater on the animal if it is really frail or sensitive to the cold.

Lying too close to a heat source, such as a fireplace or portable heater, can severely

Pet Safety Tips, continued on next page

Pet Safety Tips, continued from page 16

burn a pet who just wants to stay warm. Put a barrier like a fireplace screen between the heat source and the pet, and never leave your pet in a room where there is an open flame.

An animal that spends a lot of time outdoors needs extra calories in the winter to keep its body temperature regulated. Increase the amount of dog food it receives in cold weather.

OUTDOORS

Antifreeze is a major hazard to dogs. They are attracted by its smell and sweet taste, but even a few licks can be lethal. Call your veterinarian or an animal poison control center immediately if you suspect your dog has ingested antifreeze. Dispose of antifreeze promptly and place any drainage buckets that you do not discard up and away from your pets—even the residual fluid in the bucket can be harmful. Monitor the driveway or garage for any drips or radiator leaks and clean them up right away.

If you and your pet spend much time outdoors in the winter, be observant for “ice balls,” compressed snow that refreezes into ice crystals that lodge between the pads of your dog’s paws. Dogs tend to chew or lick away irritating ice balls, and this can be hazardous if you live in an area that clears sidewalks and streets with de-icers and calcium salts. Too much salt can make your pet sick. Instead, bring the dog inside, melt the ice with warm moist cloths, and wash the paws to remove chemical residue.

Even if the sidewalk salt is not ingested, it may irritate the dog’s footpads. Keep toe hair trimmed so that it does not attract and keep salty iceballs.

Even in the winter, don’t leave your pet in the car too long. Just as she can become hyperthermic and ill in the summer, in cold weather a dog can develop hypothermia which might lead to illness and even death. Leaving a dog in a closed car with the engine running is an invitation to possible carbon monoxide poisoning and other disasters.

GRREAT New Wrappings for Christmas

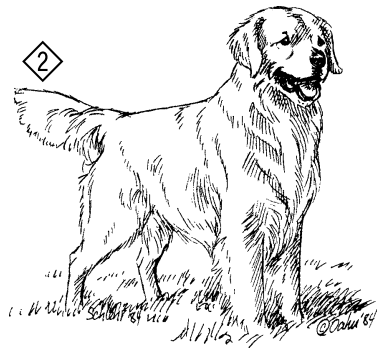
GRREAT is pleased to announce the availability of the following T-shirts and sweatshirts just in time for holiday gift giving. The new merchandise was a tremendous success when introduced at the GRCA National Specialty Show in September. These items are **not** in the GRREAT Dog-alog you received in the last issue of **GRREAT News**.

Drawn by nationally known artist **Marcia Schlehr**, these designs were commissioned by local Golden expert Laurie Doumaux especially for GRREAT.



Style ① **Child’s T-Shirt** Pre-shrunk, all-cotton, heather gray T-shirt. The puppy is silkscreened in black, and the ball in the puppy’s mouth is bright red. Youth sizes S, M and L. **\$15.00**

Style ② **Adult T-Shirt** Marcia Schlehr’s pen and ink drawing of Laurie Doumaux’ champion Golden, Cougar, has been silkscreened in black on a variety of colors and a wide range of sizes. On the back of the pre-shrunk, all-cotton shirt is the GRREAT acronym and full name, as well as GRREAT’s web address. Colors: tan, stonewashed bright pink, or light blue. Sizes M, L, XL and XXL, **\$20.00**. Sizes 3XL and 4XL, **\$22.00**.



Style ③ **Adult Sweatshirt** Drawn by Marcia Schlehr from a photograph of Woody (Schmitz) and Moose sharing a bumper retrieve from the lake at Camp Gone to the Dogs, this beautiful design is densely embroidered on a heavy, 80/20 cotton/polyester heather gray sweatshirt. The waves are black, the dogs are copper-gold, and the bumper is bright orange. This design is so wonderful that it is also available on a notepad (see below). Sizes L, XL, XXL, **\$45.00**; Size 3XL, **\$50.00**.



Also available

Golden Retriever Note Pads—the perfect stocking stuffers. **\$3.00 per pad**

The Bumper Twins (style 3 above), white paper, black ink with red-orange bumper, size 4¹/₄" w x 5¹/₂" h. 50 sheets per pad.

Sketches by Sam Two different pads, each having three views of puppies and Golden Retrievers doing doggie things, including the illustrations on pages 4 and 14. Size 5¹/₂" w x 8¹/₂" h. Black ink on cream paper, 50 sheets per pad.

Please include item name, size, color, and \$5 shipping for each \$50 (or fraction thereof) in merchandise ordered. Make your check payable to GRREAT and send to Becky Brown, Merchandise Coordinator, 11624 35th Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705. Questions? Call (301) 595-3344.

Happy shopping, and thank you for supporting GRREAT!



Marcus Fritz, age 14+ (he's not saying), poster dog for lovable Golden Oldies.

10 Reasons continued from page 13

or relaxing. A Golden oldie will be just as happy with a sedate walk as with intense exercise.

6. **Dignity.** Senior Goldens are generally calmer than young dogs; they won't scare small children or the elderly by jumping up to greet them.

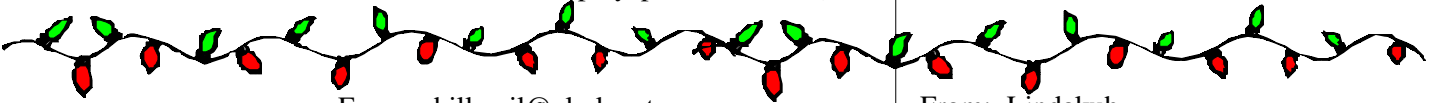
7. **Adaptability.** An adult dog will adapt more easily to changes in your household, such as a new baby, relatives or guests visiting, or being left alone for long periods of time.

8. **WYSIWYG** (*What you see is what you get*). A senior dog is fully grown, and most of its health history is known (hereditary diseases, arthritis, hip dysplasia are some).

There are no guesses about how big it will get, whether it will bark a lot, or what its energy level will be.

9. **Personality.** A senior dog arrives with its own set of likes (soft places, belly rubs, tennis balls) and dislikes (cauliflower, squirrels, vacuum cleaners), and each one is different. Discovering all the facets of a senior's personality makes life with them truly enjoyable.

10. **Memories.** Even if you have a senior Golden as part of your life for only a few years, the days and the adventures you share are precious. The love you receive will more than compensate for the sadness of eventually losing such a wonderful companion.



From: billmail@clark.net
To: GRREAT

Well, take Theo off the 'available dogs list' because he has found a new home and we love him very much already. Sandy, our wonderful first Golden, has welcomed him into our home with open paws. She was a teeny bit jealous at first but now loves playing with Theo to the exclusion of greeting me when I get home. We have changed Theo's name to Buddy, after a dog Nancy used to have and because he is now Sandy's buddy... He doesn't seem to mind and actually seems to respond to Buddy more than he did Theo..

He is assimilating wonderfully and has already started some obedience work and Sandy likes to show him what to do. He really enjoys it and is going to be another wonder dog. Believe it or not, one of the dogs jumped in the pool the other day and it was Sandy, not Buddy, even though she has been strictly trained not to go in without permission. I think she was showing Buddy just what fun they were going to have. :)

Anyway, I just wanted to drop you a line to relate how well he's doing and to thank you and all GRREAT people for sending him to us. He will do anything to please and I know he truly loves us too. Thanks again!

From: Lindakuh
To: GRREAT

It is with great sadness that our Golden Oldie, Mandy, whom we adopted in March, 1998, passed away due to cancer of the lymph nodes. We really miss her and greatly appreciate the 17 months that she was in our lives. We are very appreciative of GRREAT for allowing us to adopt her and hope to be able to adopt another Golden from you.

From: ggcruiise@netzero.net
To: GRREAT

Hello! I just joined the modern age by getting Internet access this weekend, and yours was one of the first sites I visited! I truly enjoy the information, and of course, the pictures of the beautiful Goldens. I was fortunate in being able to adopt Calvert from you in 1994.

Today he is 14½ and a much-loved, totally spoiled member of our family. Please pass along my best wishes and support to all your wonderful volunteers—you guys are unbelievably GRREAT!



**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



Saturday, November 13, 1999 — Noon - 2:00 pm

Adoption Day

PETCO

10798 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA

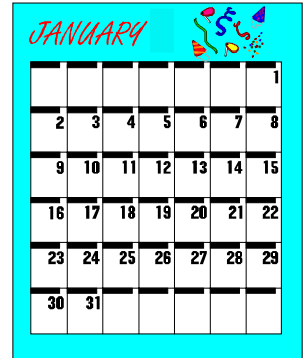
See page 8 for details.

Sunday, November 14, 1999 — 11:00 - 3:00 pm

Pet Portraits with Santa

Baltimore, MD

See page 5 for details.



Sunday, December 5, 1999 — 11:00 - 3:30 pm

GRREAT's Annual

Howliday Party

Details on pages 2 and 3!

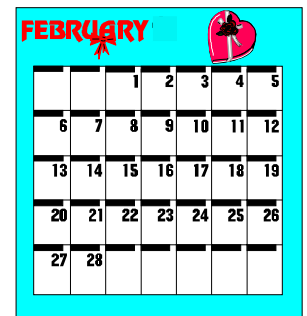
Sunday, December 12, 1999 — Noon - 2:00 pm

Adoption Day

Coventry School for Dogs and their People

Columbia, MD

Directions on page 8.



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