



GRREAT News

November/December 2000

Volume 10, Number 6

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

From the President **Fostering and Volunteering** *Doug Brown*

On October 7, 2000 GRREAT celebrated its foster families by hosting the first Foster Family Appreciation Day. The event was held in conjunction with the Paxton School in Leesburg, Va. It is quite obvious that GRREAT could not do its wonderful work without the numerous foster families throughout GRREAT. There have been many descriptions of what a foster or foster family is, but here is my simple attempt at defining foster.

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GRREAT's fosters and foster families are people willing to take a diamond in the rough and turn it into an absolute gem. Somehow they look into those big brown eyes and see something special that many others simply cannot. They open up their homes to Golden Retrievers who have never seen the inside of a house. Housebreaking—what does that mean? Paper towels, a steam cleaner and a lot of patience—and before they know it the Golden is one step closer to being adoptable. Hot spots, ear infections, and other medical conditions are just part of the duties, ones that they willingly accept without question.

These people are willing to put their own Golden Retrievers and other house pets on hold (to an extent) while working with their foster Golden. And somehow it seems that the household pets understand this and accept their position as mentor. Fosters are people
Fostering and Volunteering, continued on page 4

The Cruellest Gift of Love *Skip Nizer*

A few weeks ago we received a phone call from Deb's mom. Banker, a.k.a. Banks, was allowed to cross over the Rainbow Bridge. He was named after the Outer Banks of North Carolina, which Deb's folks love and retired to. Banks was my father-in-law's faithful companion and my mother-in-law's protector.

I remember the night that they brought him home. I can still see Joe carrying this huge three month old German Shepherd through the front door. The dog looked bewildered and Joe looked like he was going to have a hernia. Banks had beautiful coloring and large straight ears. The more we looked at him the more something didn't look right. We couldn't figure it out and finally just put it off to be that oversized puppy look. Several days later the problem became obvious. His lower jaw was undershot. Babe (mother-in-law) called the breeder and informed them of the problem. They were told that they
The Cruellest Gift, continued on page 6

Holiday Etiquette for Dogs

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1. Be especially patient with your humans during this time of year. They may appear to be more stressed-out than usual and they will appreciate long, comforting dog leans.
2. Your humans may come home with large bags of things they call gifts. Do not assume that all the gifts are yours. It is OK to sniff, but do not open them.
3. Be tolerant if your humans put decorations on you. They seem to get some special kind of pleasure out of seeing how you look with fake antlers.
4. Your humans may bring a large tree into the house and set it up in a prominent place and cover it with lights and decorations. Bizarre as this may seem to you, it is an important ritual for your humans, so there are some things you need to know:
 - * this is not indoor plumbing for you; don't pee on the tree
 - * don't drink the water in the container that holds the tree

Holiday Etiquette, continued on page 5

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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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GRREAT News Bites

— REMINDER —

It's Membership Renewal Time

Please check your mailing label for this issue. If it shows 12/00 in the upper right corner, **your GRREAT membership expires with this issue.** In October, the GRREAT Board voted to raise dues for next year to \$25.00. However, an exception was made for members renewing by January 31, 2001. Membership dues will remain \$20 through the end of this membership period. Of course, annual membership dues include a subscription to GRREAT News.

Dues are payable now through January 31, 2001, after which membership will be forfeited. Renewals after February 1, 2001 will be \$25.00.

This is also the time to consider making a tax-deductible end-of-year 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!

Renew your dues NOW and save \$5!

Directions to Montgomery County Agricultural Center:
From the northwest side of the Washington Beltway (I-495) take I-270 North to Exit 11 (Montgomery Village/Fairgrounds). At the next light make a right onto Route 355 South; go through the lights at Perry Parkway and Odenhal Road. Make a right at the next light, which is Chestnut Street. Go through traffic light and make your next right behind the Standard Supplies Building. If you cross the railroad tracks, you have gone too far. Continue behind the Standard Supplies building and pull into the circle in front of the white block building to unload, but please park behind Building 2.



GRREAT's 6th Annual

HOWLIDAY PARTY



Saturday, December 16, 2000

11:00 am to 3:30 pm

New Location!

New Location!

Building 2, Montgomery County Agricultural Center

16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg, MD

(map and directions on page 2)

Cost: \$10.00 per family

SPECIAL EVENT THIS YEAR FROM 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Book signing by Patricia Burlin Kennedy, GRREAT member and author of *Bailey Bymyside: Golden Lessons for Life*, which expresses a universal story about the intelligence of dogs (especially Golden Retrievers) and the limitless joy that they engender. Excerpts from this beautifully illustrated book may be viewed at <http://landofpuregold.com/bailey.htm>. Books will be available for purchase and signing at the event.

Our new location has plenty of room for tables, doggie games, visiting the auction and merchandise tables, Santa's visit, and just sitting and watching all those beautiful dogs. Outside, there is lots of space for parking and walking four-legged guests. The people and pets costume parade is back by popular demand! Last year more than 110 dogs and 150 people attended the festivities. Plan now to attend—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 2:00

Instant Pictures with Santa Paws 11:00 - 1:30

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

Canine Costume Parade 12:30

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

Doggie Gift Exchange starts at 2:00

Book Signing by Patricia Burlin Kennedy 2:00 - 3:00

Ongoing Events

New GRREAT merchandise available!

Treats and gifts for 4-legged attendees

Please note: The party building has a concrete floor. If your dog is prone to hip problems or sensitive to the cold, please make sure Goldie's toenails are trimmed and bring a rug for him/her to lie on.



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, warm vegetables), munchies (pretzels/chips, dips, cut veggies), salad (pasta, green or fruit) or dessert (you know what they are!) to share *in proportion to the size of your family* (no need to feed 30!), as indicated below.

If your last name

starts with

A - F

G - L

M - R

S - Z

Please bring a

*side dish**

munchies

cold salad

dessert

*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 bringing a gift 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!

Join us for the social event of the season!



UPC Symbols Sought for GRREAT Foster Dogs

Do you give your dog Nutro dog food? If so, you can help GRREAT by sending the UPC (bar code) and receipts for the products you buy. As a rescue organization, GRREAT can receive one bag of dry Nutro product free for every six we buy. Canned food is included also in this program—we can get one case of canned Nutro for every ten cases we buy. The offer excludes Nutrix, Optichoice, treats, and biscuits. GRREAT will use this bonus food to help feed the dogs in our foster homes.

Please mail UPCs and receipts to Jo Bighouse, 420 Wildman Street NE, Leesburg, VA 20176.

Fostering, continued from page 1
who are more than willing to have their hearts broken at adoption time. It may seem hard to understand why someone would willingly set themselves up by caring, feeding, pampering and loving a Golden for a few weeks or months, only to say goodbye and turn it over to someone else. But you see, that is the whole idea and it is also why GRREAT is such a success. These people know that once that Golden is adopted out, a sometimes incredibly hard life has had that chapter closed and a new chapter, stable and loving, begins.

Our summer picnic, Howliday party, and now Foster Appreciation Day are all excellent venues for foster families to see how far their one-time foster dogs have come. The absolute joy that these Golden bring into the lives of their adoptive families is incredible and the adoptive families certainly can hold their heads high, push out their chests and gloat all they want. I have said it in past messages, but the inescapable truth of the matter is that without our foster program, GRREAT would not function, hundreds of success stories each year would not happen, and the dreams of many adoptive families would not come true. It never ceases to amaze me how giving and caring our fosters and foster families are.

With that said, I want to turn your attention to the many people who are listed with GRREAT as volunteers but who cannot foster. Over the past year GRREAT has had a presence at dozens of functions, both education and fundraising. At first glance this is a great thing; at second glance it has turned up a monumental problem. Even with

over 700 volunteers listed in our database, our volunteer coordinator has never had an easy time trying to find people to show up and volunteer their time.

Those of you who have been at any of our functions may have noticed that it is always the same people who are volunteering! This problem has truly come to light over the past month. GRREAT has been allowed to take part in what can only be described as an unbelievable chance to raise funds. In conjunction with the MCI Center in Washington, DC, we need five volunteers once a week to help work concession stands (selling hamburgers, hotdogs, pretzels and of course beer). The food is free and parking is reimbursable. It is not difficult work and is a terrific opportunity to meet other GRREAT people. What does GRREAT receive for this? 10% of all sales for the concession stand we work! This could mean anywhere from \$350 to \$1,000 for GRREAT in just a few hours each week. Other nonprofits can only dream of this arrangement! This Golden opportunity maybe slipping away because our volunteer coordinator and others are not able to find volunteers to give of their time. For further information about this activity, see page 5.

Please remember that for each Golden adopted out GRREAT spends approximately \$210.00. So far this year we have taken in over 250 Golden—you can do the math on our expenses. Please, reconsider in volunteering your time and make the call to help volunteer. ***We need your help and time. Our Golden depend on it!!! Please call Dan Keppler*** to volunteer for this amazing opportunity.

Thanksgiving
GR—eatings!



*Whose bird this is I think I know,
But they're not watching me and so
I'll sneak up on this hapless fowl
Without a whimper, whine or growl.*

*I know how wrong it is to steal
My mom and dad's Thanksgiving meal.
It smells so good, though, I can't wait
To get the leavings off mom's plate.*

*It's hours since breakfast after all—
If only I could make it fall!
A tiny shove from my big nose
and oops! onto the floor it goes!*

*Which makes it mine!
(Heh-heh-heh! Brrrrp!)*
***—Blaze Vetter, with a little help typing from
his mom Cheryl***
© 1998, Doghouse Doggerel. Reprinted with permission.

Holiday Etiquette, continued from page 1

- * don't chew on the cord that runs from the funny-looking hole in the wall to the tree
 - * if there are packages under the tree, even ones that smell interesting or that have your name on them, don't rip them open
5. Your humans may occasionally invite lots of strangers to come visit during this season. These parties can be lots of fun, but they also call for some discretion on your part:
- * not all strangers appreciate kisses and leans
 - * don't eat off the buffet table or finish the appetizers left on the coffee table
 - * be discreet when you beg for goodies
 - * be pleasant, even if unknowing strangers sit on your sofa
 - * don't drink out of glasses that are left within your reach
6. Likewise, your humans may take you visiting. Here again, your manners will also be important:
- * observe all the rules in #4 for trees that may be in other people's houses
 - * respect the territory of other animals that may live in the house
 - * tolerate children, especially those who don't know about dogs
 - * turn on your charm big-time
7. A big man with a white beard and a very loud laugh may emerge from your fireplace in the middle of the night. He is a good human, so don't bite him!!

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

—*from the Internet, author unknown*

Clip and take to work!

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(GRREAT)

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A 501(c)(3) all-volunteer animal rescue organization serving Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, Delaware, and parts of Pennsylvania.

GRREAT News Bites

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FOR MCI CENTER CONCESSION STANDS

Here's a GRREAT way to help raise money just by donating your time. And it's actually fun and easy.

It's easy because people **want** your product, they come to you asking for it. You don't have to "sell" anything. The miracle product? Hot dogs, pretzels, nachos, beer, and burgers.

GRREAT has an opportunity to work a concession stand at selected sports and concert events at the MCI Center in downtown DC (easily accessible by Metro) and keep ten percent of the money the stand makes from that event. In other words, if the stand sells \$10,000 worth of products during a hockey game, GRREAT gets to keep \$1,000. One weekend night recently, 10 people working for 4.5 hours on a slow Tuesday night made approximately \$600. We're sure more beer will flow on the weekends.

Working an event takes about a 4½ to 5 hour time commitment for hockey games, less time for basketball games, and concerts vary. Generally we have to be at the MCI Center one hour before the gates open. Also, the NBA All-Star Game is being held at the MCI Center this year and that will be available to be worked.

Contact Dan Keppler (daniel.keppler@wcom.com or 703-421-6597 or e-mail pam-lori@juno.com if you're interested in helping out for even one event.

Come on out, serve some nachos and beer,
meet some of the other GRREAT volunteers,
and help save some GRREAT dogs!



**YES! You can
donate to GRREAT
through the United Way!**

According to United Way officials, you can make a donation to GRREAT through the United Way process even though GRREAT is not listed in their leaflet of charities. If you have a United Way donation drive at your place of work, just write in GRREAT and provide our address so that United Way can forward the donation to us. Clip the handy note at left and use it to fill in your United Way pledge form. United Way will send GRREAT a check for the amount of your donation less a "pledge loss and processing cost."

Attention federal employees who donate to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC): Unfortunately, according to federal regulations (Office of Personnel Management), "an employee may not make a [CFC] designation to an organization not listed in the brochure." GRREAT is not listed with CFC this year.

Home Made “Frosty Paws”

32 oz. vanilla yogurt
1 mashed banana or one
large jar of baby fruit
2 Tblsp. peanut butter
2 Tblsp. honey

Blend all together and
freeze in either 3 oz.
paper cups or ice cube
trays. Microwave a few
seconds before serving.

This recipe can be made
with baby meat instead of
the fruit and peanut
butter and the dogs
REALLY like this version,
although I'm not so sure I
want to taste it.

—Recipe submitted by
Sue Ailsby, reprinted from
<http://www.showdog-magazine.com/recipes1.htm>

*GRREAT News thanks
Julie Palais for submitting
this to the newsletter.*

Julie adds: This is what I
use and it works wonder-
fully. The trick is to find a
good, small, durable
plastic container to put
the mix in to freeze. We
use recycled apple sauce
containers but almost any
small container that the
dog won't chew to bits
would work.



When It's Time

Toni Johns

We all hope and pray that our furry kids
will go quietly in their sleep some day.
Unfortunately, that's often not the case.

My husband and I had to make “that awful
choice” regarding our Katie Scarlett a year
ago (October 1999), but I'm writing to say
that her euthanasia was the very best it
could possibly have been. Years ago,
we'd asked a prospective vet if he would
be willing to make a house call “when the
time comes.” By agreeing, he became
Katie's doctor for the last seven years of
her life. When my husband called him
that final morning, he was at our home in
less than two hours' time.

This home visit spared Katie (and us)
further trauma on that difficult day—no
bumpy car ride, no entering a building that
always made her nervous, no heavy
panting on a cold steel table in a sterile
room. Although she did throw a quizzical
look at her vet when he first arrived, not
one flicker of stress crossed her face. She
just lay, quietly, in the spot she had chosen
in the dining room. Jim and I lay near her
face, whispering words of love and
stroking her head, while the vet shaved a
small spot on her back leg. In a few
moments, she was gone.

We wanted to share this experience with
our friends at GRREAT,
in the hopes that many
of you can arrange such
a peaceful passing for
your furkids too...when
it's time.

*Katie Scarlett Johns, still
missed by her family*

The Cruellest Gift, continued from page 1
would take the dog back and they could get
their money back or another dog. When Babe
asked what would happen to the dog, she was
told that he would be put down. We all realize
that there's something difficult about returning
a defective, living and loving thing. Fortun-
ately for Banks, he had found a place in two
big hearts. The only difficult decision they had
was to name him. Because his undershot jaw
made him resemble a creature of the sea he
was almost named Sharky.

The years were good for Banks, Joe and Babe.
Banks enjoyed chasing the gulls on the beach
and standing on the bow of the crabbing boat
supervising Joe as he hauled up the traps. And
as with all dog people, it was difficult to tell
who gave more love to whom. They were there
for him and he was there for them. Love makes
each one part of the other.

The passing of time is something that no one
can stop. A few months ago that outlaw time
caught up to Banks and started to rob him of
strength and body control. Joe and Babe had
him vetted and tried different medications to
see if he could be helped, but time and age
were winning the fight.

A few weeks ago they took their companion,
their friend, their child, their loved one to the
doctor realizing that they had exhausted all
options for his recovery. They knew it was
time to say goodbye, and to give the last gift
of love they could give—peace and freedom
from pain.

Their choice was the only one that could be
made. Their vet said that it was a gift of love.
To those of us who have had to make that
decision, we know that it is a gift of love to
our pet, for we have taken away their pain. We
also know that for us to make that decision, no
matter how right it may be, it simply hurts us
deep inside with the pain of loneliness and the
unanswered prayer—please let him die in his
sleep.

For us, the living, it is the cruelest gift of love.

P.S. Hey, Banks, say *hi* to Lucky, Rebel,
Shiloh, Maui, Gypsy, Bear, Sandy, Attatboy,
Girl, Dusty, Samantha, and the others for me.

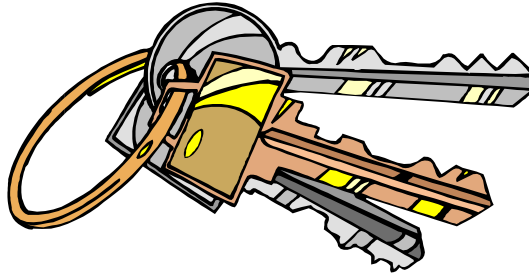
Thanksgiving Morning Rescue

Rose Roberts

One particular memory will always live with me during Thanksgiving each year. It was in 1998, one of the few times our family decided to have our own intimate Thanksgiving dinner at home here in Arlington. What this meant for me, the cook, was getting up early Thanksgiving morning and getting my last ingredients for this five-course extravaganza. I rushed outside the house and drove to the Safeway at the ungodly hour of 7:00 a.m. The rest of the family, my husband and six year old daughter were sound asleep, nestled in their own cozy beds. At about 7:45 a.m., I returned home satisfied that I had all the necessary ingredients from my shopping list. When I reached the front door with my hands full of filled plastic bags, I realized with a sunken feeling that I had grabbed the wrong set of keys. I had taken the set without the house keys—what was I to do?

I flipped open the mail slot of our front door and to my delight, our dog Tad, peeked out his nose to greet me. A quizzical look appeared on his face when he could not understand why I would rather be outside in the cold when our home was warm and toasty. Even though we only had adopted Tad only a year previously, I felt he was the brightest dog I knew and he could do anything once he set his mind to it. So I decided to put him to the test. I said, “Tad, you need to go upstairs and wake up Katie and bring her down here. Do you understand?” I repeated myself, and with that Tad started to get very excited. He was given a very important mission. He hopped on all fours and wagged his tail with gusto. Then he galloped up those stairs and headed straight to Katie’s bedroom.

According to Katie, Tad poked her softly to get her to wake up. She decided it would be best to ignore him and return back to sleep. Tad would not have anything to do with that



response. He jumped with his two front legs on top of Katie’s torso as she laid in bed. Surely an 85 pound dog’s weight cannot be easily ignored. Katie woke up and to find Tad a bit agitated as he was squirming about. Said Katie, “Tad, what’s wrong?” Tad replied, “Wooof,” as he turned toward her door. “Do you want me to follow you?” asked Katie. An affirmative bark was Tad’s answer.

As she got up, Tad impatiently waited for her to follow him down the stairs. At the bottom of the stairs was the front door with me holding up the mail slot to see inside. Katie nonchalantly said, “Oh hi, Mom, why are you outside?” I explained the key dilemma and pleaded with her to open the door. Casually she turned the knob and then headed for the TV room. Tad had saved the day! And what a sight he was! I gave him a hug, a kiss, and a doggie biscuit for a job well-done. He was so proud of himself. I honestly believe his biggest reward was that someone believed and relied on him. That will be a Thanksgiving I will not forget.

This year we are saddened by our faithful companion’s sudden death from cancer. In only a month’s time last March, we discovered Tad had this dreaded disease and there was no hope for recovery. Our life has become empty without his wonderful “Welcome Home” greetings at the door and his gentle presence in whatever room we were in, but what a wonderful and loving dog we had for those 2½ years. We will miss him and cherish all of those precious moments. I will always give thanks for such a loving and loyal dog.

Thank You to these individuals for their recent donations

American Express
Foundation Employee
Gift Matching
Program

John and Nancy
Bombooy

Walter and Dolores
Buchanan

June and Richard
Downing and
“Something Special”

James and Carol Funk
Jo-Ann Khan

Tom Ludwig

Judy Lumsden

The generous auction
bidders at Goldstock
(via Gail Lustig)

Ken and Sally Jonson

Jeffrey Joseph and
Lisa Merman

Ellen and Gary
Kasnett

Linda and James
Mahoney

Beverly Mustaine
(see also *Leo Fund*)

Ralph and Joyce Page

(continued on page 8)


 IN REMEMBRANCE
DAISY MAY




*Daisy May Borden,
friend and companion*

Thank You
to these
individuals
for their recent
donations

*(continued from
previous page)*

Barbara Prince

Mary Luise Semans

Stephanie Sites and
Curtis Dalpra

Barbara Stephens

Lee Ann Borden writes:

It's with a heavy heart that we're writing to let you know that our angel with fur and GRREAT Golden, Daisy (a.k.a. Baby) went home to be with her Creator at the end of September.

We adopted Daisy in May, 1996. We were told she didn't like kids much, and that she barked a lot. When we met her on Adoption Day, she had been shaven for treatment of a skin condition. Daisy wasn't the prettiest dog there. But she responded to me when I talked to her...and I became attached. I remember hoping and praying that the foster family would choose us over another interested family. Lucky us!

We renamed "Baby" as our "Daisy May" (May for the month of her homecoming), but over the months and years she became our "Snaggle Tooth," "Beedle Dee Boo," "Girlfriend" and finally "Good Girl" by our toddler. She became a happy and integral part of our family. We celebrated her birthday; she opened Christmas presents—she even exchanged gifts with her "cousins" with fur! She cuddled on the couch in the winter and sunned herself on the deck in summer. Daisy loved her walks around the neighborhood and all the kids knew her and said "hi." She became so friendly and loving. Once she climbed on our bed when I had a high fever—checking me out as if to say, "Are you okay?"

Daisy loved her car rides—any amount of time in the car (45 minutes to a 9-hour haul to vacation) was a treat to her. She'd always try to squeeze between the front seats just to be close to us. Being close was important to her...she'd follow us from room to room, even to the bathroom! Daisy didn't like it if we argued, but she'd loyally stay nearby—an example of unconditional love.

Now, Daisy had her moments of mischief—she'd get into the trash, spreading coffee grounds (of course) on the carpet; one summer she ate a whole box of sugar cubes, getting very ill. Her mischief had a quality that said, "Don't leave me out! I wanna be with you!" She cried at the storm door as

*Our Sincere
Sympathies*

to Trish Collier, a long time
 GRREAT volunteer, and her family
 on the passing of Trish's husband,
 Clayton Eakle.

she watched my husband walk me to my car in the mornings. Whatta Girlfriend!

Daisy May was our first "baby," our friend, and our companion. With love, play and lots of participation in family events, she showed us her sweetness and worked through her issues from her past. Within weeks of her adoption, Daisy had a smile that just made her face shine. Everyone who met her instantly remarked on her sweet personality.

Early in September, Daisy was diagnosed with cancer in her lungs and around her heart. Upon getting a second opinion we found out this cancer was secondary to liver cancer. We were devastated, simply heartbroken: we committed to ourselves and to Daisy that we would help her enjoy her last days but not allow her to suffer. Unfortunately, we didn't have much time.

We're hoping you'll print this memorial letter for Daisy and accept this donation in her honor...and in deep appreciation and gratitude to GRREAT for the gift of this dog. Had GRREAT not rescued this dog, we would never have had all the pleasure and joy of having Daisy May as part of our family these last 4½ years. We hope this donation to GRREAT might be used at your discretion to help other Golden Retrievers—angels with fur who are in need of medical care—so that they too might grow healthy and happy and bless another family as much as Daisy blessed our family!

With Gratitude and Love,
 Lee Ann, Rick and Andy Borden



Kong: King of Dog Toys

Every busy dog should have a Kong, that hollow, beehive-shaped, virtually indestructible hard rubber object of desire by large breeds and small. Kong Dog Toys are widely used and

recommended for therapy and prevention of under-stimulation, boredom, separation anxiety and other behavior problems.

Kongs are made of the highest grade of 100% natural non-toxic rubber possible.

The shape and unpredictable bounce make the Kong seem alive.

For dogs, the chase promotes a healthy, stimulating “nose to tail” workout of every muscle and reflex and triggers the dog’s natural hunting instinct. After the Kong is caught, the rewarding chew begins. Kong’s strong, thick, flexible walls keep springing back for more. A dog’s natural need to chew is satisfied while cleaning teeth and conditioning gums.

It is important for dogs to succeed at their “work”. Make it easy to remove the kong stuffing at first. As they become more experienced, you may want to make their job more challenging - here’s how:

1. Pack stuffing tighter.
2. Wedge biscuits inside the cavity using the inside rim of the opening to secure them.
3. Freeze it! Very popular! Try various combinations of canned food, gravy, noodles, rice and mashed potatoes mixed with food nuggets and freeze. Kongsicles are a favorite with many hot dogs! Put a dab of peanut butter in the small end of the

Kong to plug it. Turn it upside down in a cup. Fill it full of water, chicken broth or fruit juice and freeze. Kongsicles are recommended for outdoor use.

4. Cheese it! Mix cheese pieces or cheese spread with food nuggets and microwave until cheese melts. Let it cool to a safe temperature. Note: Use a cup to contain the Kong when freezing or microwaving.

Other suggestions (if your dogs are allowed healthy people food) include fresh fruit, fresh veggies, scrambled eggs, macaroni and cheese, steak scraps and cream cheese. Always make sure if you have microwaved the Kong that it has cooled thoroughly before you give it to your pet. Kongs are top-shelf dishwasher safe and should be washed regularly if stuffed with food.

Stuffing a Kong

EXAMPLE - Step One: Start with a few clean Kong toys appropriately sized for the largest dog that could access them.

Step Two: TANTALIZER
Place a little morsel of freeze dried liver, peanut butter or cheese into the little hole on top.

Step Three: DESSERT
Fill approximately one-third of the cavity with doggie treats such as biscuits, marrow bites, etc.

Step Four: MAIN COURSE
Fill the last two-thirds with canned food or food roll mixed with food nuggets.

Step Five: APPETIZER
Leave a nice tidbit sticking out of the opening. The “easy pickins” will provide an immediate pay off and entice your dog to “get serious” about the job.



—from www.kongcompany.com

The GRREAT Dog-Alog Your Kong Headquarters

Kong Toy Order Form

Qty	Item	Price
___	Extra large	9.95
___	King size	11.95
___	Large dental	8.95
___	Cool (floating)	7.95
Other Toys		
___	Sport N Dog training dummy	7.95
___	Biscuit ball	9.95

Total order _____
 VA residents add 4.5% tax _____
 15% shipping (multiply total order by .15) _____

Total enclosed: _____

Please provide the following information with your order:

- ✓ Name
- ✓ Address
- ✓ City/State/ZIP
- ✓ Phone number (day/evening)
- ✓ Total amount enclosed

Make check payable to GRREAT and mail to
 Jo Bighouse
 GRREAT Merchandise
 420 Wildman Street NE
 Leesburg, VA 20176

Thank you!

Grand Opening! The GRREAT Store

Now you don't have to shop by mail for all of the wonderful Golden Retriever items you love to give at Christmas. The new GRREAT Store in Leesburg, Virginia is open on weekends during November and December. Come visit us from noon until 4 pm on Saturdays and Sundays on the grounds of the Paxton Child Development Center, 420 Wildman Street, Northeast. If your weekends are just too full already, call Jo Bighouse at 703-777-0096 to arrange an appointment to visit us.

Map and directions on page 15.



The Foot Rule
from the Internet,
Author Unknown



There is a formula called the “Foot Rule” for figuring out how much bed space is allocated to each sleeper. You start by determining the total number of feet (as in those at the ends of the legs, not the kind made up by inches). Then you divide that total by the number of feet belonging to the person(s) or dog(s) in question. This is how it works: You and your spouse share your bed with 1 dog. You and your spouse total 4 feet and the dog also has 4 feet. That is a total of 8 feet. The dog has 4 out of 8 feet or 50%, therefore, the dog gets 50% of the bed.

You could work this in reverse as well. You have 2 out of 8 feet or 25% and so does your spouse, so each of you gets 25% and the dog gets 50%.

Now I have 5 dogs. At 4 feet per dog, that is 20 feet. Add to that my 2 feet and we have a total of 22 feet in the bed. I have 2 out of 22 feet which is 1/11th or 9.1% of the bed. The dogs, since they share a total of 20 of 22 feet, get 10/11ths or 90.9% of the bed. Simple, isn't it?!

Once I figured out my percentage of the bed space, the next step was to work out the exact area that I am entitled to. My bed is a California King which is approximately 6 feet by 7 feet.

Here is the math:
 6 ft x 7 ft = 42 square feet (sq.ft.)
 42 sq.ft. = 6048 square inches (sq.in.)
 9.1% of 6048 = 550 sq.in.
 550 sq.in. = 45.8 total inches
 45.8 inches = 3.8 total feet

In order to determine the exact size of my bed space, I needed to know the ratio of length to width - this comes out to 54% long to 46% wide. When I apply these percentages to my spot:
 550 sq.in. x 54% = 297 sq.in.
 550 sq.in. x 46% = 253 sq.in.
 297 sq.in. = 24.7 inches
 253 sq.in. = 21.1 inches
 24.7 inches = 2.1 feet
 21.1 inches = 1.8 feet

Now that the math is all done, the figures show that the dimensions of my part of the bed are 2.1 feet by 1.8 feet or, in other words:



Editorial note: Yes, this is somewhat ‘fuzzy math’ but 9.1% of the square footage of a California King bed really is equivalent to the square footage of a pillow!



Adoption Day
Sunday, November 19, 2000
Noon to 2:00 pm
Petsmart of Sterling
46220 Potomac Run Plaza # 150
Sterling, VA 20164-6620
703-444-6500 for directions only

From the west side of the Washington Beltway (I-495), take either VA 7 (Leesburg Pike) west through Tysons Corner, OR get on the Dulles Tollroad VA 267 West and exit at VA 7/Leesburg Pike, exit 16 towards Leesburg. Go about 10 miles to Bartholomew Fair Drive. Turn left onto Bartholomew Fair Drive and quickly turn right onto Potomac Run Plaza.

Hi, my name is Buddy (though it used to be Theo 99-091 when I was in your care) and I wanted to send you a donation because of the *grreat* work you do. You helped me find a home last September and I have never been happier. I went to a home that already had a Golden Retriever named Sandy and I instantly became her “Buddy,” hence the name change.

Anyway I recently had my second birthday and my family decided to throw a big party for me. When I learned of this I had some serious thinking to do. I already had more toys than anyone needs so I came up with a *grreat* plan. I asked my family if it was all right with them if everyone invited to my party brought a donation to GRREAT instead of presents. They thought that was a super idea and instantly gave their approval, so we started planning the party. We thought about which of my dog friends would like to come (and which ones would want to bring their owners) and we made a list. I still can’t work that darn computer so my Dad made invitations for me and my Mom planned the food and beverages and treats we would have. We sent out the invitations and had a 100% response.

The party was on August 27th, and although the weather threatened throughout the day, it was a *grreat* success. I had about 10 doggy friends there and 16 people. Everyone behaved wonderfully, even the people. Even though I didn’t ask for them, I received presents anyway and the donation plate quickly filled up. We played a lot of games and got to swim in the pool and then we ran around like crazy. It was one of the best times I ever had in my life.

I even had a cake with “Happy Birthday Buddy” and little Golden Retriever figurines and the balloons attached to it had the GRREAT logo on them that the cake lady got from your web site. It was wonderful!



Buddy Barham, party animal

My hope is that you’ll use the enclosed donations as you deem them necessary. Maybe it will help some other Golden who are not as lucky as I feel I have been—first to be saved by you and then placed with my sister, Sandy, and my adoptive parents. I’m one lucky pooch and I hope more of my “cousins” will find the same happiness.

With GRREAT Love,
Buddy (Barham)

Recently I celebrated my 9th birthday. Maybe that doesn’t sound like such a big deal with all the Golden Oldies out there...but since I was diagnosed with lymphoma back in February 1999, it is a BIG deal for me. To celebrate “we” had a pool party with all of my friends and their humans. Some of my friends gave special gifts in the form of donations for the Leo Fund. While I’m not a GRREAT dog, we’d like to see all the Golden retrievers that you rescue get the same great care that I do from Dr. Terrio and the staff at Alexandria Animal Hospital. We hope my birthday presents help a special Golden.

Love,
Tuli (Heininger)



GRREAT, Inc.
P.O. Box 3069
Falls Church, VA

LETTERS from GRREAT DOGS

GRREAT would like to thank the following party-goers and their fur-families for their generous donations:

Buddy’s party
Bill and Nancy Barham
Cynthia Beauman
Howard Berger III
Angela Casem
Therese Key
Dana Laster and
Frank Vollmerhausen
William and Julie
Svolos
Benton Warder

***Tuli’s party
(Leo Fund donations)***
Joanne Heininger
George Straubs and
Margaret Alvord
Edward McDermott and
Brian Lamb

Marcus’s Cajun Dinner
Robin Graham
Leslie Godfrey
Beth Smarr
Lynn Price



Marcus Fritz always loved the camera

IN REMEMBRANCE
MARCUS AURELIUS
RETRO, CGC
(THE GOLDEN ONE WHO
COMES BACK)

Editor's Note:

It's really hard to write a memorial about a loved and loving animal that is suddenly lost. After receiving and re-typing so many remembrances over the years, I can't find the words to describe my own sense of loss—I will let my sister speak for Bob and me in the accompanying remembrance.

A dog like Marcus comes along once in a lifetime—he made dog-loving converts of everyone who met him.

Marcus was the poster boy for FLGs everywhere (funny looking Golden). We think he was part Chesapeake on the outside, and we know he was 100% Golden on the inside.

We will treasure the pictures of Marcus, usually in the lap of one of our visitors, in our "Marcus and his Friends" photo album. He was a cool dude (and he knew it) and a happy guy right up to the last.

Marcus got us involved with GRREAT more than nine years ago. We will miss him, but we are also thankful he is no longer in pain.

Robin Graham writes:

This donation is in memory of Marcus, April and Bob Fritz's dear old GRREAT Golden, who went to the Rainbow Bridge October 2 at about the age of 15. Anyone who met him this last year knows just how frail and elderly he was. You also know how much he was still enjoying life.

On October 1, Marcus stopped enjoying life. He lay most of the day in the Sphinx position, not sleeping but looking around and nodding. Bob slept downstairs with him that night, but neither one of them got much rest. Bob carried him outside when he stirred as if trying to stand up, but Marcus' legs wouldn't support him.

Bob took him to the vet Monday morning (April happened to be staying the weekend with me between meetings). The vet tried to palpate Marcus' abdomen, but it was clearly too uncomfortable for him, so she took x-rays and found an enormous tumor on his spleen. Although Marcus received regular care for his Cushing's disease and arthritis, no one suspected a tumor. Marcus' prospects for recovery from anesthesia and surgery on top of his other problems were bleak.

April told me that she would know it was time to let Marcus go: when he stopped having fun. She talked to the vet and to Bob and asked Bob what he saw when he looked into Marcus' eyes. Bob saw that that time had arrived and did the right thing.

Marcus had a great life with April and Bob for almost ten years (he was adopted from

Dear GRREAT:

Please accept this donation in memory of April and Bob Fritz's "Golden Oldie" Marcus. Marcus was the Hospitality Committee Chairman for the Fritz household where, by the way, hospitality is never in short supply. Marcus was dangerous only to those allergic to tail beatings, happy breath, and welcome slobbers. He will be missed by me and many others who are personally made welcome in the Fritz household.

The world would be a better place if the principles and practices of your group were applied to all problems. I am impressed by your work and dedication.

—Karen Phillips (St. Peters, MO)

GRREAT just after Christmas 1990).

Fortunately, they had one last glimpse of the younger Marcus a few weeks before he died. A cold front moved in, the humidity dropped, and Marcus felt downright sprightly. When April took him out to "read the news," instead of making one brief circuit around the cul-de-sac and returning, he kept going, checking out the entire neighborhood for nearly half an hour. Later, he somehow managed to steal a bag of dog treats from the room divider. (Marcus used to be a notorious counter surfer. April would find wrappers, plates and silverware in the backyard where he always took his purloined prizes to eat. I was in awe of his ability to use utensils without opposable thumbs.) Anyway, Bob chased after the old guy, retrieved the dog treats and put Marcus in a disciplinary down-stay. Marcus just fell asleep.

I loved that dog. He had the softest fur! It was like baby hair. He won the Bark-B-Que prize for blondest dog several years running. I always felt deeply honored that he slept in my room when I visited, and I was hoping Marcus would hang on until Christmas so that I could see him again. I learned a lot about how to approach life from Marcus. What I envy most was his ability to give, ask for, and receive affection fearlessly. Gather your furkids around you tonight and hold them close.

Christmas Cards and Stocking Stuffers from GRREAT

To get you in the holiday mood, here are some ideas for stocking stuffers, including two new items and our ever-popular GRREAT calendar and Golden Christmas cards. The complete catalog was in the September/October issue of *GRREAT News*. You can download the entire catalog from GRREAT's web site, www.GRREAT.org, or call Jo Bighouse to have one mailed to you.

Christmas orders must be received by December 1 to guarantee delivery by Santa, but orders can be placed any time. **REMINDER:** Please send all merchandise orders directly to Jo Bighouse, 420 Wildman Street NE, Leesburg, VA 20176. Sending them to the GRREAT post office box only delays processing time for your order. Please include shipping and VA sales tax if applicable, as stated in the catalog.



New!

Thirstystone coasters with beautifully detailed Golden artwork by renowned artist Robert J. May. These four-inch, cork-backed coasters are natural sandstone that absorb drips without sticking to the bottom of glasses. This is a totally natural product that will retain its function and beauty for many years.

Coasters, set of four \$19.95



The 2001 GRREAT Calendar features thirteen color photographs of dogs GRREAT has rescued, rehabilitated and re-homed. These large 11³/₄ by 9 inch calendars are printed on heavy glossy paper for a year's worth of every day use. In addition to the cover portrait and wonderful pictures of our favorite dogs each month, the calendar includes a page of Honorable Mention photos, information about GRREAT and plenty of writing space for plans and appointments.

2001 GRREAT Calendar 10.00

Delightful **Avanti Christmas Cards** featuring full color photographs of our favorite breed. 12 cards and envelopes per box.

Please specify design by name.

\$9.95 per box

- A. Sealed With a Kiss (*Inside:* Sealed with a kiss! Merry Christmas)
- B. Puppy in Wreath (*Inside:* Hope your holidays are golden. Merry Christmas)
- C. Snow Buddies (*Inside:* Sending lots of love your way this Christmas)
- D. Waiting for Santa (*Inside:* Merry Christmas and Happy New Year)
- E. Santa Pup (*Inside:* Have a Merry Little Christmas)
- F. Sleeping Puppies (*Inside:* Warm wishes for a very Merry Christmas)
- G. Gift-wrapped (*Inside:* Hope your holidays are full of nice surprises! Merry Christmas)

A



B



C



D



E



F



G



Special Donations

were received

IN MEMORY OF...

Silent Auction Items Needed

Donations are again requested for our Howliday Party Silent Auction. Especially needed are unique items not readily available from the GRREAT Dog-Alog or other retail locations. Dog-related items such as hand-made or hand-painted objects, collector's items, autographed books, quilts, prints, services are desired, but *any type of contribution is appreciated.* Items not used for the Silent Auction will be advertised on e-bay in a special GRREAT account.

If you have items to contribute, please contact Sam Connelly (410-256-3113 or anigraphix@aol.com) to arrange for pickup.

Your help is needed to get GRREAT back on firm financial footing—thank you for your compassion and continuing support.

See you at the party!

Clayton Eakle, from Nancy and Dave Smith

John (Ray) O'Connell, beloved husband of Tommie O'Connell and owner of Angel O'Connell (97-120). —Cheryl Garbett and Rance Nymeyer

John O'Connell, my sweet husband who died in July, 2000. Angel and I miss him. —Tommie O'Connell

Alyeska Heaton from Tom, Marlene, Tim and Leslie Dean

Beau, Rascal and Rory—never forgotten, remembered with love, from TRI-J Goldens (Jody and John Culver)

Chelsea (96-113), my beloved pal of four years, from Joyce Bitzel.

Cindy, from Nancy and Dave Smith

Our first Golden, **Joshua**, from Neal and Judy McKinley

Kali—he was a GRREAT dog, from Elizabeth Ross

Marcus, from Bob and April Fritz

Marcus Fritz, a truly GRREAT dog, from Robin Graham (see remembrance on page 12)

Marcus Fritz, from Dr. Jack and Karen Phillips

Marygold's Whitewood's Mr. Trey, CT, TD, CGC, owned and loved by Joy White, from Tom and Noreen Stromer

Pippin and Buffalo, my first two Goldens. —Kathi Rechsteiner and Hilary Stanhope

Reilly Ray, who lost his battle with cancer at the tender age of four years. We'll always miss him. —Tim and Sheila Ray

Rusty and to thank all the people at the NY Poison Control Center for their help while I was taking care of Rusty. —Gail Ulanow

Shaemus, our cherished Golden, who passed away in October. He is in our hearts and thoughts every day. Although he was not a GRREAT dog, he was a g-r-e-a-t dog. —Jim and Lauren Myrtetus

Suzie, from Henry Magnusen, Jr.

Tawny, my son-in-law's Golden. Hope this helps to find another wonderful Golden a loving home. —Claire and Paul Klender

Zerelda, from Barbara Oestreich



And the Winner is...

Congratulations to **Mary Ann Hayden** of Lanham, MD, who won the Redskins Raffle tickets and attended the Redskins-Ravens game in October.

In honor of Sunny, from Jeffrey and Sharon Ackerson

In honor of Max, who has brought so much love into our lives. Thanks to GRREAT for making the connection for us; it has been a wonderful first year with Max. —Kevin Long

In honor of Jason, Willy, Happy and Summer, from Mary Gillett

In honor of Cinnamon (96-029) and Katie Scarlett (97-044)—we're lucky to have them. Dick and Cindy Wannemacher

In honor of My Buddy, from Lou Ernest

To cover the cost of vet bills for her current foster, from Terry Standridge

For seniors or emergency surgery where needed, **from Dolly, Boo, and Lacey**.
—Dr. James and Ginny Hayes

Ask and ye shall receive. This donation is for spay, neuter, and general vet expenses **in honor of Stiker, Rosie, Dutchess, and Kali**. —Marie Meehan

In honor of Schubert, our Golden Retriever, and **in memory of Woody**, and English Springer Spaniel **and Brooks**, a Brittany. —Pam and Jerry Ambrose

In honor of Marley's (formerly Jewel 98-159) third birthday and our two year anniversary of her adoption from GRREAT. We couldn't be happier! —Debra and Valentin Sapcariu

In honor of my foster dog, Nigel (00-229). I'm glad you were given a second chance—you deserve a wonderful life. —Lynne Glennon

In honor of Joshua and Flyer, from Tom Tucker

To thank Kristi Dight for loving Scotty, a great dog! —Barbara Bell and Andrew Kirschbaum

I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT **for my love of dogs** and the priceless love they give for free and **in honor of Summer** who I gave up for adoption with GRREAT and **to thank Kelly and Scott Daniels** for finding her a good family to give love to.
—Estelle Cripps



*Open Saturdays and Sundays in November and December,
Noon to 4:00 pm*

The GRREAT Store
on the grounds of the
Paxton Child Development Center
420 Wildman Street NE, Leesburg, VA
(703-777-4974 for directions)

Directions to Paxton Child Development Center: Take VA 267 west (Dulles Toll Road/Dulles Greenway) to US 15 South/VA 7 west. Merge onto Leesburg Bypass/US 15 Bypass South. Take US 15-Business exit towards Leesburg. Turn right onto South King Street/US 15 Business and go 1.4 miles north. Turn right onto Oakcrest Manor Drive NE. Paxton Child Development Center is at the corner of Oakcrest Manor Drive and Wildman Street.



**Special
Donations**
*were received
for the following
reasons*

**Be an
Angel**



**Send a little extra
to GRREAT with
your membership
renewal. Use the
handy envelope
enclosed in this
newsletter.**



Leo's Corner

*The Leo Fund
for special needs dogs.*

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

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

**Lee Ann and Rick
Borden**

**Frederick and Leslie
Glassberg**

Beverly Mustaine

**Tommie O'Connell
Doreen Wright**

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

Jeane Hostetler

**Paul and Christine
Umberger**

Leo Fund Donations for Special Reasons

In memory of Jimmy (Bishop), from
Jeane Hostetler

In memory of B.J. Mustaine, missed
and loved daily, and **in honor of Adam,
Lucas, and BJ—**Mom loves you!
—Beverly Mustaine

We hope this donation to GRREAT might be
used at your discretion to help other Golden
Retrievers—angels with fur who are in need
of medical care—so that they too might
grow healthy and happy and bless another
family as much as Daisy blessed our family.
—Lee Ann and Rick Borden (*Please see
remembrance on page 8.*)

To honor **Angel Girl** (97-120) who has
been with me three years—she's a great
friend. —Tommie O'Connell

Thanks

**to Terry Standridge and Gail Corby
for organizing the Roger Caras book
signing in October.**

**to Pam Briggie and Lori Bott for
coordinating the Redskins Raffle**

**and to all our volunteers who staffed
educational booths and tables this
summer and fall**

Peace



*to all creatures
great and small*

Special Donations received in honor of GRREAT

In honor of all the GRREAT folks who
helped bring Max (95-031), Alex (00-044),
Casey (99-159) and Brandy (00-111) into
our lives. Thank you. —Judy and Steve
Barker

To thank GRREAT on the anniversary of
bringing Bailey into my life! —Toni Stiefel

To thank GRREAT for Lucky Dog (Nikki
92-075), from Gwen Wood

To thank all of you for what you do, from
Evelyn Grau

To celebrate the GRREAT fun the A-team
has doing the dog list mailings! —Betsy
Davis

To thank GRREAT for their unyielding love
to those beloved Golden, from Joanna
Thalheimer

Here is a small but heartfelt contribution to
your effort. —Nancy Yannayon (St. John,
US Virgin Islands)

In honor of Golden Retrievers everywhere!
—Mary Nielsen

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

Three GRREAT Ways
to Christmas Shop for your dog...

1 Visit The GRREAT Store (see pages 9 and 15) Saturdays and Sundays in November and December.

2 Come to the Super Pet Expo December 2-3 (see below)

3 Order by December 1 from our catalog (see pages 9 and 13, or the full catalog in the September/October issue of GRREAT News, or download the color version from <http://grreat.org>).

Super Pet Expo
December 2-3, 2000

Capital Expo Center
4320 Chantilly Shopping Center
Chantilly, Virginia



Directions to Capital Expo Center: From the west side of the Washington Beltway (I-495), take Route 66 West and drive approximately 10 miles. Take exit 53B, "Route 28/Dulles Airport." This exit comes immediately after the Fairfax County Parkway exit. Make a left turn onto Route 28 North (towards Dulles Airport). Drive 3 miles. You will encounter traffic lights along the way. At the fourth traffic light, make a right onto Willard Road. Take the second left off of Willard Road into Chantilly Shopping Center. The Capital Expo Center is visible ahead and to the left. Follow signs to the Super Pet Expo.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>SEX</u>
Alex	00-094	8 ¹ / ₂	M
Angel	00-137	6	F
Bear	00-220	?	M
Belle	00-014	2 ¹ / ₂	F
Ben	00-194	7 mo	M
Bertha	00-021	3 mo	M
Brie	99-199	5	F
Brit	00-052	9 mo	F
Bruiser	00-027	3 mo	F
Buddy	00-019	5	M
Charity	00-026	3 mo	F
Conan	00-134	10	M
Custer	00-165	12	M
Daffodil	00-135	4 mo	F
Dottie	00-171	1 mo	F
Ella	00-170	1 mo	F
Ginger	00-120	7 ¹ / ₂	F
Ginger	00-206	1	F
Ginny	00-091	15 mo	F
Hercules	00-153	3	M
Jazz	00-121	8	M
Jumper	00-126	4 ¹ / ₂	M
Kara	00-140	5	F
Kasey	00-175	1 mo	M
Laddie	00-150	19 mo	M
Mack	00-089	2 mo	M
Oscar	00-159	?	M
Prowler	00-164	1 ¹ / ₂	M
Rio	00-069	1	M
Rocky	00-211	2	M
Rusty	00-139	2	M
Rusty	00-180	3	M
Tootsie	00-138	6	F
Ubu	00-110	2 ¹ / ₂	M
Valentine	00-228	8 mo	F
Zeus	00-197	1 ¹ / ₂	M

ADOPTION REPORT
July - September, 2000

Between July 1 and September 30, 36 dogs re adopted through GRREAT. 21 were males and 15 were females. Of the dogs whose ages are known, 13 were 1 year or younger, 4 were age 8 or older, and 17 were between 1 and 7.

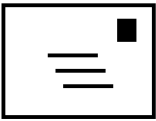
Congratulations to the new families. May your holiday hearths be warm with dog breath.

ATTENTION ADOPTERS!

GRREAT will not be hosting an Adoption Day in December due to the hectic holiday schedule. Instead, we will be sending out an additional dog list in December, so please watch for it in your mail!

Top 10 Items on Your Dog's Christmas List:

- 10. Treats
- 9. The GRREAT Howliday Party
- 8. Stuffed Kong
- 7. Food
- 6. Attention
- 5. More attention
- 4. More food
- 3. Belly rubs
- 2. Ear scratches
- 1. LOVE!



Letters to GRREAT

I've had her now three years and three months. I remember being so excited! My husband supported the idea (sort of), and my son, three at the time turning four, were bugging me with their 'masculinity.' Being seven months pregnant I knew I would really appreciate her 'feminine' qualities if she was a girl.

We went to adoption day April 1997. It was in Springfield. There were many that day, there are always so many. I saw her the minute we walked in. Everyone was standing around her. She was so beautiful, just standing there looking happy. Her hip was shaved, but she looked radiant. There was irony, the helpers said she would bond to my husband. But that day, there was only one thing for us to do. Adopt my girl!

She stood peacefully with her black collar, matching leash and blue GRREAT bandana. Six families signed up for her. Ginger, the most beautiful Golden Retriever I've ever seen. She had a shaved hip, because she had been hit on the Fairfax County Parkway. She jumped the 'fence' the family had and ran after an animal, we were told that day. We had a fence so, of the six families that signed up for her, we got her because we had the six foot privacy fence.

Dr. W. did her hip replacement. It was the first time GRREAT had worked with him, I later found out. Thank goodness for the lab technician who said *save this dog!* And thank goodness for Dr. W. I understand he continues to donate surgeries and time to our special Golden Retrievers. There is not enough space to say thanks—10,000 times, and it still wouldn't be enough.

Ginger is my girl. She sleeps on the floor next to my side of the bed, she snores, and I love it. She won't go outside for anyone but me. She gets doggy daycare with my mother and father, one mile away. My parents had a dog I got from the Pittsburgh animal shelter who lived 16 years because my mom and dad took such good care of her. I'm doing the same for my Ginger. And, thankfully, with the "planned parting" of Sandy in August, we all have Ginger. I'm so grateful for my 'feminine' companion.

Three months after Ginger came, my second human bundle came. The smartest thing I ever did was adopting my girl. The older boy had his Ginger dog, and that helped ease the stress of the new baby. I had all my babies. She walked with me every day before I had my son. I was walking her with my mom when I went into labor. She has helped me get ready for so many things with her gentleness and her total love for me.

This dog was meant for me, and I'm sure there are rescued dogs just right for you. For me, she has been one of the most wonderful additions to my life. I've committed myself to the breed and to continuing the rescue of animals. If you have any questions about adopting or mixing with families and young children, please contact me and I'd love to share with you what I've seen work.

—Marlys Norby



Left to right: Bear (9, rescued at 2) and Phoenix (13^{1/2}, rescued at 3)

A Thank You Ditty to GRREAT from Two Rescued Golden Retrievers

(Sung to the tune of *Hello, Muddah, Hello Fadder* by Allan Sherman)

We take our paws to write this letter,
We, Bear and Phoenix, send thanks together,
Both adopted through your kindness,
Two dogs who'd been so lonely for so long.

Both our futures looked alarming,
No one cared or thought us charming,
Thank you, GRREAT, for rescue efforts,
Helping dogs who'd been so lonely for so long.

Adoption Day was terrifying,
Fear and hope within us vying,
Our heads were hung in mute depression,
How could people see beyond our sad expressions?

Yet a family called us special,
Saw through wildness to potential,
Recognized that love's essential,
To a dog who's been so lonely for so long.

Now we're happy and obedient,
We adore them (it's not expedient!),
Seems that love's the main ingredient,
For a dog who's been so lonely for so long.

Thanks, GRREAT members, one and all,
For safe havens, food and balls,
For making happy endings happen,
From two Golden Retrievers who'll be cherished for so long.

—Transcribed by their loving Mom,
Susan McKelvey

**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 2001 membership dues.
(\$25 if mailed after January 31, 2001)
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



Sunday, November 19, 2000 — Noon - 2:00 pm

Adoption Day

Petsmart of Sterling, VA

Directions on page 10

Saturday and Sunday,

December 2-3, 2000 — 9:30 am to 6:30 pm

GRREAT Education/Merchandise Table at

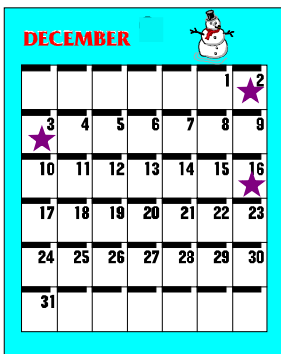
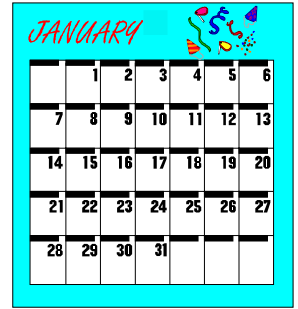
Super Pet Expo

Capital Expo Center

4320 Chantilly Shopping Center

Chantilly, Virginia

Directions on page 17



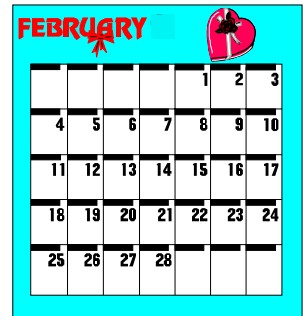
Saturday, December 16, 2000 11:00 am - 3:30 pm

Howliday Party

Montgomery County Agricultural Center

Gaithersburg, MD

Details on page 2 and 3



Coming in late January: Annual Business Meeting

Details in next issue.

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc.

P.O. Box 3069

Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

703-620-6593



*Happy Holidays
from GRREAT*

First Class Mail