



GRREAT News

May/June 2001

Volume 11, Number 3

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From the President
**Golden Oldies are
GRREAT!**
Dan Keppler

Features In This Issue

Home Check Volunteers	
Needed	2
Annual Bark-B-Que	3
Dog Wash	4
10 GRREAT Reasons	4
2002 Calendar Contest	5
Good Dog, Chessie	10
Volunteer Positions	
Available	11
Where Do Pets Come	
From?	13
Autumn	14

**How Many People
Does It Take to
Rescue a Golden?**

Susan McKelvey

**West Nile Virus,
Your Pets, and You**

compiled by April Fritz

Regular Departments

Adoption Report	15
Calendar	20
Directions to Events	16,17,18
Donations	12,13,14,15
Leo's Corner	16
Letters to GRREAT	7,13,15
Remembrances	10,17
Thank You's	15
Volunteer, Donation and Membership Forms	19

Now that the Easter/Passover season has ended, I am hopeful that many of you will have the time and space in your lives to take in a Golden Oldie. I wish I were writing to bring good news, but GRREAT is now facing an ever-increasing problem. It seems more and more older dogs are entering the rescue. In fact, **10** of the **19** dogs on the most recent dog list were at least age 8. Currently, there are 6 dogs waiting to enter the rescue that are age 8 or older. ***We are now in desperate need of foster and adoptive homes for these dogs!***

Most of these senior dogs are truly wonderful animals who are victims of circumstances. (These dogs really deserve better lives.) I am asking our GRREAT families to open their homes to these wonderful animals either through adoption or fostering. These dogs are typically easy to handle and adjust to new homes with relative ease. Some have the spunk of five-year olds, while others are only looking to curl up at your feet to be petted. *You get to choose!*

I realize the biggest drawback for many families is the fear of getting too attached to the dog only to have him leave too soon. Think about the joy you'll derive from knowing that you provided a good home to one of these animals in his later and most crucial years

Golden Oldies, continued on page 4

The saga of three year old Penny is a reminder to all of us of how many dedicated people it can take to recycle a Golden. ***A kind lady*** found Penny wandering a country road on Maryland's Eastern Shore. She took her home and kept her only three days before giving her to the county animal control because Penny "didn't get on well" with her dogs. ***A volunteer*** at Animal Control named ***Jackie*** (a GRREAT volunteer) offered to help rescue Penny, who was terrified by five large male dogs who were attacking her as she cowered in the pen they shared. Jackie fell in love with this pretty dog, who was sweet and gentle but wary and skittish. But Jackie already had too many dogs, so Penny came to ***me, a***

How Many, continued on page 6

Early in April, 2001, Reuters Health News Service issued a warning that the West Nile virus will return to the eastern US this spring, and it is likely to threaten a much larger geographic area than last year. "The virus seems to have really moved right down the I-95 corridor," said Dr. Stephen M. Ostroff, an epidemiologist with the CDC, referring to the highway that runs down the East Coast from Maine to Florida. The virus spread southward with the migration of infected birds over the winter. It made its presence known in the mid-Atlantic last year when the virus was found in birds in Montgomery County, Maryland, and Alexandria, Virginia, but receded when mosquitoes were killed off by sustained freezing temperatures. With the return of migrating birds to the north, West Nile virus is back.

West Nile virus can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) in humans, horses, and other domesticated animals and birds. There is no specific treatment for West Nile

West Nile Virus, continued on page 8

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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



Home Check Volunteers Needed

Want to get out of the house? Spend quality time with your dog? Visit exotic locales? GRREAT can make it possible!

You and your dog can help us evaluate potential adoptive families. We are looking for home visit volunteers throughout GRREAT's service area.

If you have a GRREAT dog, then you've had a home visit, so you have some idea of what is involved. What we ask is that you imagine you are interviewing these people as a prospective home for your dog. Then you fill out the home visit checklist and mail, email, or fax it to the Application Coordinator. It's that simple!

With just a little of your time, you and your dog can help another rescued GRREAT dog find a good home!

If you can do home visits in MD, PA, or DE please contact Eric Heckman at ERIC-HECKMAN@MINDSPRING.COM or 301-762-1540

For VA, DC, or WV please contact Diane Lanigan at DIANELANIGAN@HOTMAIL.COM or 703-860-5430

We have an **urgent** need for volunteers in the following areas:

<u>In Virginia:</u>	<u>In Maryland:</u>
Ashburn	Baltimore
Falls Church	Montgomery Village
Nokesville	Olney
South Arlington	PG County
Sterling	Southern Maryland
	Towson
	Timonium

and the Delaware beaches



Saturday, May 19, 2001

THE GRREAT ANNUAL BARK-B-QUE

Knights of Columbus facility
10142 Cherry Hill Road, College Park, MD

Fun from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Only \$10.00 per family!

Enjoy a beautiful day outdoors with dozens of other Golden Retrievers and their families. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with old friends, your dog's foster family and our wonderful volunteers. We are in a private facility, more centrally located to our members, with more picnic tables, plenty of parking, a full shelter, playground equipment for the kids, easily accessible restrooms and other improvements. There will be games, contests and fun for all!

Plan now to attend a GRREAT day of Golden fun in the sun!

Scheduled Events

Bark-B-Que Registration	10:30 - Noon
Welcome	11:00
Lunch (coals ready)	Noon
Contests galore!	Noon - end
<i>ribbons for the</i>	
• tallest Golden older than 1 year	
• shortest Golden over 1 year	
• reddest Golden	
• blondest Golden	
• youngest Golden	
• oldest Golden	
• which Golden can retrieve the most tennis balls from a bucket of water in 30 seconds	
Raffles and Guessing Games	all day long!
Closing and Clean-up	3:00

We'll have games and contests with ribbons and prizes, as well as other activities for pets and people—and some surprises! A very special event at this year's picnic will be a search and rescue demonstration by one of GRREAT's own rescued dogs.

Don't forget your checkbook—there will be a raffle table featuring Golden-related items and other desirables. GRREAT merchandise will also be available.

GRREAT will provide soft drinks and charcoal for the grills. Please bring your own picnic food. You can cook burgers, hot dogs and chicken on the grills. Please, no alcoholic beverages.

To help us plan for beverages and the games, please call GRREAT's voice mail 703-620-6593 box 54 and let us know how many people and pets will be attending. GRREAT requests a \$10.00 donation for the entire family to cover the cost of renting the facilities. The donation can be made at the picnic.

Meetin', Greetin' and Sniffin'



Just Hanging Out on a Nice Day



Doggie Games—GRREAT Fun!



Golden Oldies, continued from page 1

(not to mention the joy that one will bring you). We as Golden owners and lovers can do no better service than to open up our hearts and homes to one of these senior dogs. Also included in this issue are a piece on Senior Golden Oldies [below] that was published several years ago in GRREAT News and a more recent poem celebrating the joys of senior dogs [page 14]. Both emphasize that Golden Oldies are GRREAT!

Please don't let this plea go unnoticed. Please think hard about whether there is room in your heart and home for one of these Golden Oldies.

I am continually impressed by the dedication of the members of this organization and I am only asking for your help due to the sheer number of older dogs presently in or waiting to enter the Rescue. Thanks so much to all who have generously donated their time and money to our organization and a special thanks to all our foster families (who have been very busy this year). If it were not for all of you, GRREAT would not be the incredible organization it is today.

Ten GRREAT Reasons to Adopt a Senior Golden

- 1. Adulthood.** In most cases senior Golden Oldies 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 Oldies have been socialized with other animals. They can provide an example and a calming influence to younger dogs.
- 4. Tolerance.** Older Golden Oldies 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 where family members are working or relaxing. A Golden Oldie will be just as happy with a sedate walk as with intense exercise.
- 6. Dignity.** Senior Golden Oldies 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 Oldie 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.



GRREAT's 2nd Annual Dog Wash

Suggested Donation: \$5.00 per dog

Saturday, May 12, 2001

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Olney Indoor Swim Center

Olney Manor Park

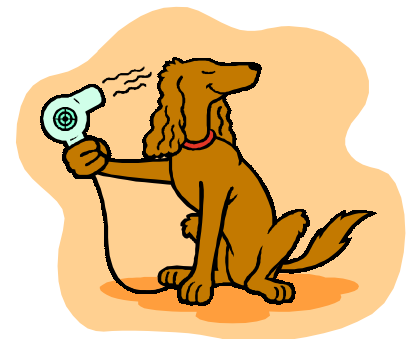
16601 Georgia Avenue

Olney, MD 20832

Directions and map on page 18.

Come One, Come All!! This is an equal opportunity dog wash—dirty dogs of all breeds are welcome! The dog wash is FREE, but donations are GRREATfully accepted. Last year over 90 dogs went home looking gorgeous. Bring your dog to Olney and let our volunteer scrubbers do their washing, drying, grooming and trimming of doggie toenails while you enjoy coffee and bagels and doughnuts (and dry clothes). No appointment is necessary.

This dog wash is a community service project sponsored by the Rockville Montgomery Swim Club – Olney Site.



*I'm ready for
my close-up now,
Mr. Spielberg!*

*The contest deadline is rapidly approaching!
Get out your camera and send us some photos!*

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

It's time for the GRREAT 2002 Calendar Contest!



Back by popular demand, GRREAT will be creating a 2002 calendar featuring the most photogenic Rescue dogs in the world—yours! Photos will be selected for the cover and for each month, plus a collage page of honorable mentions. Photos are judged by a committee of GRREAT members using the following criteria:

- composition (balance, centering, color and contrast between dog and its surroundings; top of head, paws and tail not cut off by photo)
- background (uncluttered, nothing sticking up behind the dog's head; a simple background is best)
- sharpness (your photo will be enlarged to 9 x 13; fuzzy pictures only look worse when enlarged)
- general appearance (no glowing eyes, but muddy, wet, or snow-covered dogs show what this breed is all about)
- appropriateness (holiday, spring, summer, fall, and winter settings and activities that maintain the dignity and beauty of the animals; costumes are discouraged)
- variety (old dogs, puppies, in action or posed, light, dark, big, little—just like the dogs we rescue)

Suggestions for taking better photographs of your pets are included in this issue on page 6.

Send the photo(s) of your GRREAT dog, with its GRREAT ID number, age, and a brief description of the dog's past or present life, together with the name, address, and phone number of the person submitting the entry to

Deb Nizer
GRREAT Rescue Calendar Photo Contest
327 Thelma Ave
Glen Burnie, MD 21061.

Deadline for entries: June 1, 2001

Calendar Photo Contest Rules

1. Only GRREAT Rescue dogs are eligible. Dogs featured in the 2001 calendar (other than honorable mentions) are not eligible this year, but other dogs in the family are.
2. Animals only in the picture, please (no humans, although other family pets may be included).
3. Horizontal shots (picture wider than tall) are required, due to the design of the calendar. Vertical pictures will not be considered.
4. Color photographs and color digital images are eligible; Polaroid instant pictures are not. Maximum photo size is 5 x 7 inches.
5. Submitted pictures and stories are not returnable, but may be used in a future issue of the newsletter.

How Many, continued from page 1

GRREAT foster. A visit to *our vet* revealed a bullet lodged in Penny's flank. She was bone-thin and floppy-legged from no exercise but otherwise healthy.

Penny had a major behavior problem: she would attack other dogs over food, space, toys, anything. She obviously had had to fight for her food as well as her life. I made the difficult decision to pass her on to someone more skilled in dog training. She lived with *two other fosters*, in West Virginia and Frederick, Maryland, and at each home she made progress. But the unprovoked and unpredictable attacks on other dogs continued, and it looked as if Penny's behavior was too iffy for adoption. Where could we find a home where she would be an only dog with people who had dog training experience and lots of time and patience?

Enter **the Morgans**. They had called me several months before upon the recommendation of my vet, who has been so caring with my many fosters. She had helped the Morgans ease the death of their beloved elder Golden and knew they were anxious for another. As we at GRREAT pondered Penny's bleak future, I remembered that the Morgans were waiting for a dog to adopt and, best of all, wanted an only dog and were experienced in gentle training. When I told them about Penny, they were anxious to meet and take in our wild child. They drove willingly from the Eastern Shore to Frederick to meet her and, of course, fell in love.

And so our Penny has come full circle, back to the Shore where she was found, now a beloved pet and poster puppy in her neighborhood for rescued Golden and GRREAT. She is a tribute to the many people who saw beyond her behavior and never gave up on her. I count nine of these people in this brief summary alone, and that doesn't include *the transporters, trainers and officials at GRREAT* who kept their faith in this troubled dog. To all of them, my thanks and blessings. And to Penny I wish a long life filled with love.

Penny on guard while Tootsie the Cat takes a snooze



GRREAT Tips for Photographing Your Pets

Taking photos of your pets is more important than simply entering a picture contest. If your pet is ever lost or stolen, adding a current photograph to a "lost dog" flyer could make the difference in having your pet returned to you. Here are eight suggestions from professional photographers for taking good—and potentially prize-winning or lifesaving—pictures of your pets.

1. Photos taken at dog's-eye level bring out the true beauty of the animal, without the distortion of looking down on it as humans usually do.
2. Get close. Fill the view frame with your pet, but unless you are doing a face-only shot, make sure all paws, tail and ears are also in the picture. Using a zoom lens will allow you to take a big image without crowding the dog.
3. Take lots of pictures. Skimping on film is not the way to get a "cover girl" shot—there's a direct relationship between the number of pictures you take and the number of good ones you get.
4. Use an assistant standing behind you to attract the dog's attention by holding a treat just outside camera range or making a loud noise to attract a dog's attention. A dog looks particularly handsome with his ears and eyes alert.
5. Keep the background clean and simple. Watch out for wires or lights or other distractions that might end up "growing out of the head" of the animal being photographed. Be aware of patterned upholstery and wallpaper and busy or cluttered surroundings.
6. Be patient. Pets get bored and tire easily, so shoot your pictures over several sessions. Break frequently for play time and start again when the dog is fresh. Patience and luck often produce better pictures than expensive camera equipment.
7. Avoid using a flash, if possible. Go outside on a bright cloudy day or one with hazy sun. Experiment with different times of day, with varying lighting, angles and shadows. If a flash is necessary, shoot with a bounced flash or with the dog looking to the side in order to avoid the problem of glowing eyes.
8. Use ISO 200 speed film or faster to stop motion, especially if you are trying to catch your dog in action. If your dog is very light colored, close down the aperture by a half or full stop. Otherwise, the shot may accidentally be overexposed by the light reflecting off Goldie's fur.

Dear GRREAT

I just wanted to drop you a note to tell you how happy we are with Buddy! We adopted him back in October and he has become such a part of our family that people cannot believe we have not always had him. We did not expect to adopt a dog of such advanced age (9½) but he has been wonderful and is so gentle and protective of our year old daughter, Isabela. The feeling is mutual too! Her first two syllable word was “Buddy” and she continues to say it every day upon waking. Now she gives him hugs and kisses too.

We are thrilled to have Buddy for the remaining years he has (and he’s pretty active so he may be around for awhile.) In fact, we’re a little concerned that he’s spoiled us for other dogs – we just can’t imagine ever having another one that’s as wonderful as he is. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to make him part of our family.

—Cristina and Will Warlick

I am sorry to write that we have lost our dog Sophie (94-061) to cancer. She became very ill in early December and was finally diagnosed with a hemorrhaging type of sarcoma . She had surgery and it turned out to be liver cancer. They removed 20% of her liver and she made a remarkable recovery and had another good two months. Unfortunately, the cancer spread and she became very ill again at the end of February. We put her to sleep on March 1. She was a wonderful, maverick dog who became a sweet, cherished pet. We miss her terribly.

—Judie Keithley

You all mean so much to me. My adoption of Archie has meant so much. Your volunteer Denise Irwin will never hear thanks enough.

—Linwood Jones, Jr.



Jake, pin-up boy for the Kier family

Our beautiful Jake turned three years old in April. He has been a source of joy to us since you brought him into our lives in August of 1998. He is a wonderful guy – sweet, loving, obedient and very gorgeous! Last year we adopted a buddy for Jake – our five year old Newfoundland, Daisy. They are the best of friends and we are so lucky to have them. Thank you for all you do.

—Dave and Diane Kier

I am writing to express our appreciation for your volunteers’ good working on behalf of the organization. Everyone was extremely helpful in the process of the adoption of our two year old Golden, Madison (formerly known as Sassy). We love her and she is a fantastic companion. It has only been two weeks since she came to live with us and I have loved every minute of it. Thank you!

—Laura Caliguiri and Jeff Hicks

Our donation is in honor of our two wonderful Golden, Gus the Giver and Max (97-171) the Receiver.

It’s three years now since we brought Max into our home as a foster dog, and shortly thereafter we adopted him.

When we came to pick him up that December night, he was a sad sight, being very overweight (109 pounds), with drooping infected eyelids, a matted coat, arthritic spine and right front radial nerve damage to his leg giving him a severe limp. The leg injury, we were told, was from him being hit by a car in southeast DC as a

Congratulations 

Dear GRREAT:

This is a gift membership for my boss, Steve Matthews and his new wife, Nikki. Since they are an established couple and household, all the usual wedding gifts like toasters were redundant. The couple has two Golden, so I’m sure they will love getting the newsletter. Thanks for your work and for making our gift choice easy and unique.

—Shelby Shoup and Janet Fenton, ACS Defense, Inc.

Congratulations Steve and Nikki!

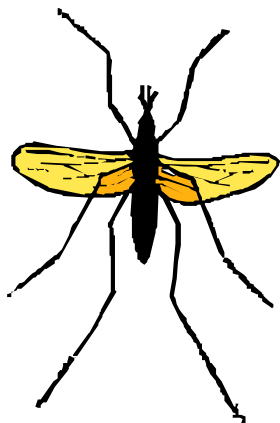
Dear GRREAT, continued on page 13



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.



West Nile Virus, continued from page 1
infection in humans, although efforts are underway to develop a vaccine against the virus within the next few years. The virus has been known since the 1930s in Africa, the Middle East and Mediterranean Europe, but first appeared in the United States in New York in 1999.

West Nile virus is spread to humans and animals by the bite of an infected mosquito (primarily *Culex pipiens*, the common house mosquito). Mosquitoes become infected by feeding on birds that carry the virus. After an incubation period of 10 days to two weeks, infected mosquitoes can then transmit West Nile virus to humans and animals while biting to take blood. The virus resides in the mosquito's salivary glands. During blood feeding, the virus is injected into the animal or human, where it multiplies and can cause illness.

The risk of a human becoming being infected with West Nile virus by a bite from an infected mosquito is less than 1 in 1000, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. Even then, the odds of developing a symptomatic illness are only about 1 in 300. However, the disease is fatal in 3% to 15% of infected people, with the greatest risk of death in elderly people. West Nile virus cannot be spread by person-to-person or animal-to-person contact such as touching or kissing or licking, nor by human contact with infected animals, although caution should be used in handling diseased animals. And once the infection has run its course in a human or an animal, the victim probably cannot become ill from the virus again.

Many people who are infected with West Nile virus experience no symptoms. Others may have a mild course of infection, such as low-grade fever, headache and body aches, skin rash or swollen lymph nodes, occurring three to seven days after a bite from an infected mosquito. In some people, particularly the elderly, children, or people with weak immune systems, the virus can cause encephalitis which can result in permanent

neurological damage and, in rare cases, death. Encephalitis symptoms include the rapid onset of severe headache, high fever, disorientation, tremors, convulsions, stiff neck, muscle weakness and coma.

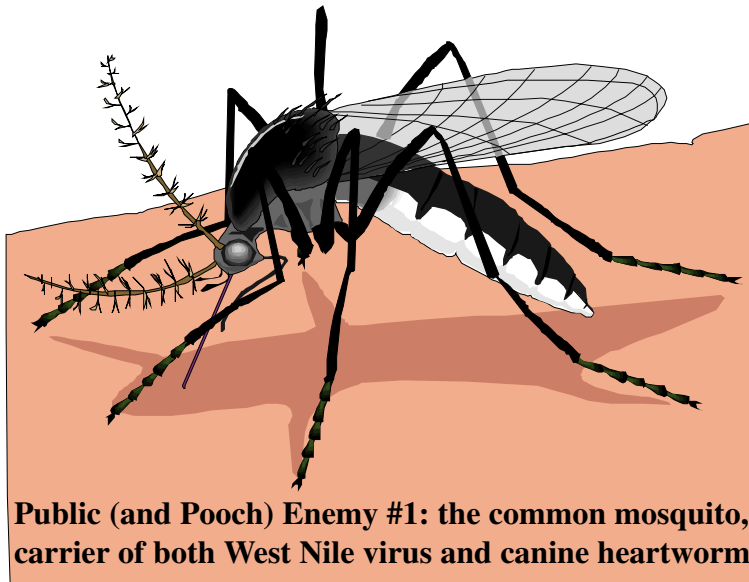
Dogs and cats can become infected the same way as humans—by infected mosquito bites. Most infections are asymptomatic or mild. Full recovery from the infection can be expected in most cases—there is no reason to destroy an animal just because it has been infected with West Nile virus. The animal receives supportive care customized to the clinical signs and symptoms. However, if your pet shows signs of fever, depression, incoordination, muscle weakness or spasms, seizures or paralysis, see your veterinarian.

“The risk of a dog developing a serious infection by West Nile virus is minuscule compared to the ongoing risk of heartworm,” states Dr. Bonnie Hileman of the Gaithersburg Square Veterinary Clinic. “West Nile fever is getting all the publicity this year, and pet owners should take reasonable precautions, of course, but it is much more important to maintain year-round heartworm preventive medication for dogs in this area. The risk of a dog developing heartworm is far more serious.”

All things considered, then, the risk of you or your pet developing a West Nile virus infection is small, and humans are probably at greater risk than dogs and cats. Even so, how can you protect yourself and your animals from West Nile virus? In general, what's good for your dog is good for you, and what's good for you is generally good for your dog.

Decrease the chances that you and your animals will be exposed to the virus by reducing the mosquito population around your home and other areas where animals are housed. Take preventive measures, such as these:

- Remove any potential sources of water in which the mosquitos can breed, including bottles, cans, plastic contain-



Resources used in this article:

Media

- www.moonbowmedia.com/ei/wnv3.htm
- www.medscape.com/reuters/prof/2001/04/04.10/20010409pub1002.html
- www.thesentinel.com/mcfolder/westnile.htm (Montgomery County Sentinel)

Government Agencies

- Factsheet on West Nile Virus, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, April, 2000.
- www.state.ct.us/doag/wnvfact2.htm (Connecticut Department of Agriculture)
- www.vdh.state.va.us/epi/wnvf.htm (Virginia Department of Health)
- www.edcp.org/html/wn.html (Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene)
- www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/ (Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases, National Center for Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Special thanks to

- Dr. Bonnie Hileman, Gaithersburg Square Veterinary Clinic
- GRREAT volunteer Deanna Edge, who generated the idea for this article



ers, and ceramic pots. Mosquitoes can breed in any puddle that lasts more than 4 days.

- Dispose of any water-holding containers, including discarded tires. Used tires are the most important domestic mosquito producer in this country.
- Drill holes in the bottom of containers that are left outside. Holes drilled in the sides still allow enough water to collect for mosquitoes to breed.
- Clean clogged roof gutters annually. Plugged up gutters and drains allow water to accumulate.
- Turn over plastic wading pools, wheelbarrows, buckets and pails when not in use.
- Don't allow water to stagnate in bird baths or water gardens. Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools and hot tubs that are not in use and be aware that mosquitoes can breed in the water that collects on swimming pool covers.
- Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property.
- In rural areas, thoroughly clean live-stock-watering troughs every month.

What can you do to protect your pets and yourself when you are enjoying the outdoors this summer?

- Minimize the time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitos

are most active.

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors.
- Apply insect repellent sparingly to exposed human skin and clothing following the manufacturer's directions. Avoid applying repellent to the hands of children as it may irritate eyes and mouths that are rubbed.
- For animals, apply products that kill or repel mosquitoes and are approved for animal use.
- If the dog goes outside infrequently, application of a product such as Avon Skin-So-Soft or a citronella-based mosquito repellent to the dog's fur is considered safe. For more long-term effectiveness, tick collars and products such as Revolution and Advantage have shown mosquito repelling properties.
- **Do not apply human products containing DEET to your animals because they are very toxic (especially to horses). DEET is present in OFF, Cutter, Repel and other products.**
- Indoors, use screens on windows and doors at home and, if possible, where animals are housed.

Despite all the publicity about West Nile virus, it should not be the reason to limit outdoor activities with your dogs. Let common sense and the suggestions above guide you through a safe and happy summer.



*Beau (left) and Allie
Bottcher-Peddicord
enjoying life at Deep
Creek Lake, MD*



Sharon Bottcher and Joan Peddicord write:

Beau came into our lives in May, 1994. He was a healthy, handsome and strong-willed boy, but also wanted to be loved. This was a first-time adoption for us, so Beau taught us a lot about being adoptive parents and welcoming him into our lives with loving patience.

Shortly after Beau came to us, it was apparent he had some significant dermatologic challenges. He became an itchy, irritated mess and after unsuccessful treatment with our local vet, we took him to Dr. Barbara Kummel, who specializes in animal dermatology. With allergy shots and oral medication, Beau became a beautiful and itch-free golden!

Beau also became a good buddy to our other Golden, Molly, and then subsequently, to Allie. Their favorite activities revolved around tennis balls, romping in the back yard and going on vacation to Deep Creek. Even after Beau developed cataracts, he still knew when we had arrived at Deep Creek and was comfortable in the home we rent there from year-to-year.

In the last year or so, Beau had developed several significant problems associated with old age in Goldens. Physically, his hips were giving him difficulty and he also developed some stomach ailments. We knew Beau was slowing down and that our time with him was precious. To the end, he was a “gamer” and loved us faithfully and with great zest for life. He literally could wrap you up in a bear hug at a moment’s notice!

Thank you, GRREAT, and Skip and Debbie, for blessing us and allowing us to be loved by Beau for the last seven years.

Thank you, Beau, for all your gentleness, joy and faithful companionship. We love you and we’ll see you again some day.

Good Dog, Chessie A True Story Bill Daisley

When we adopted Chessie (then known as Penney) about five or six years ago, she was a beautiful, untrained, timid, frightened dog. She had lived through a divorce and the husband, who had “custody” of her, worked all day and left her confined. Finally he did a nice thing and gave her up for adoption. Although she was good on a leash and a wonderful car traveler, she knew no basic commands and for some reason, turned out to be frightened of small children and all loud noises.

She still hates loud noises, but has come to love—and is now fully trustworthy with—small children, even infants. She knows and obeys all simple commands...most of the time! Occasionally, she will ignore an order—especially if wild animals or birds or swimming is involved.

One day this winter while walking her, I fell on the ice. I could not immediately get up. Like most dogs, she licked my face and tried to nudge me. I gave her a command I have never given her before—“go home and get Linda (my wife).” She did just that and barked at the front door for a few minutes until my wife realized she was there. And back they came. I was able to get home—I was physically OK (no broken bones), but still sore. I could have broken a hip and thought at the time that I had. Had I been in a life-threatening situation, Chessie would have truly saved my life.

The most remarkable part of the whole story is that Chessie had never before been given that command or anything like it. But she did just what I asked—only that once.

She is, indeed, a GRREAT dog.

GRREAT needs YOU!



Volunteer Positions Available

As the number of dogs GRREAT rescues continues to increase, we are looking for ways to become more efficient. We have identified some additional positions that we think would help share the volunteer workload. Please review these positions very carefully and ask for more information if you are interested in volunteering, since some of them require a substantial time commitment each week.

Anyone interested should contact the GRREAT President Dan Keppler. Send your e-mail to DANIEL.KEPPLER@WCOM.COM. He will forward the information to the appropriate people for review.

The current Foster Home Coordinator position has become too big for one person to handle. Therefore, these responsibilities are being divided into three new positions. These positions are absolutely critical to the operations of the rescue and should not be undertaken lightly. The Intake Specialist

and the Home Care Specialist positions have been filled. We are currently looking for a very special volunteer:

FOSTER HOME COORDINATOR/ HOME PLACEMENT SPECIALIST

The person who accepts this position should currently be or have been a foster home, be dog savvy, and have computer and basic administrative skills. This person is responsible for overseeing all actions pertaining to foster homes and is usually appointed to the Board of Directors. The individual will identify the proper foster family for each dog that enters the Rescue and for relocating the dog if necessary. This person will also be responsible for maintaining the foster home database and providing the necessary supplies to foster homes. The time involved is estimated at 20-30 hours weekly. This is a high profile job involving an extensive time commitment, but the personal rewards are enormous.

For further information, please contact DeAnna Edge (vaedge@aol.com), Mary Ellen Lunde (melunde@erols.com) or Georgie Bahler (gabahler@erols.com).

MERCHANDISE ASSISTANTS (2)

These individuals will assist the Merchandise Coordinator and will be responsible for operating a GRREAT merchandise table at various GRREAT or community events. They will be provided with a sample of the GRREAT merchandise and our "Dog-Alog" merchandise catalogs. Each will be responsible for a geographic area. We are currently looking for volunteers who can cover Maryland (north of Baltimore) and Northern Virginia. Depending on the time of year and geographic location, these positions could require up to 20 hours per month.

If you are interested in a Merchandise Assistant position, contact Jo Bighouse, Merchandise Coordinator, at midastouchgoldens@starpower.net



**is great if you're a
vitamin, but not
when you are a
Rescue.**

To date (May 1), GRREAT has taken in **113** dogs this year, and there are **15** more awaiting space in the Rescue. **That's MORE than one Golden per day** given-up or abandoned in GRREAT's service area and rescued by our organization.

Spread the good word—Goldens are GRREAT! We are always looking for more foster homes and home checkers (*please see page 2*).

And, of course, we are always looking for homes for the dogs we have in the Rescue.

Celebrate the 86th Annual
Be Kind to Animals Week
May 6-12, 2001



Do something special with your fur kids!

For more information on activities, visit the
American Humane Association web site,
<http://www.americanhumane.org/bekind/default.htm>

**Special
Donations
were received**

Dolores Noe, who passed away in February. Our Golden and I miss her very much.
—Bernie Noe

Michele Keeney —David Keeney

Amber, beloved Golden of David and Joanne Simmons. —Greg and Linda Sowers

Bailey —Patricia Kennedy

Chelsea, Kirbie's Lady Chelsea (1988-2001). You were my introduction to the world of Golden and gave me almost 13 wonderful years. I miss you a lot, Chelsea, but I will never forget your sweet face and how you had such a mind of your own. —Lynne Glennon

My beautiful little Golden Girl, **Chelsea**. —Jan Brown, fur-kids Cindy and Moosie, and fur-angel Chelsea. *Please see remembrance on page 17.*

Chelsea, the very much loved mixed Golden of Janis Brown. —B. Gregory Russell

Chester —Barbara Prince

Rusty, who blessed us with love and joy for almost 13 years. —Peter and Barbara Manchester

Samantha (95-007), owned and loved by Stuart Painter. —Julie Palais and Rick Stevens

Saucy, beloved friend, companion and family member of Diane Curley, Julia and Richie Stone. —Dr. Patti Meehan and John Morrell

IN MEMORY OF...



**More
Special
Donations
for special
reasons**

In honor of Bailey (99-135) who I love so very much. He is my dearest friend. —Toni Stiefel

In honor of Dusty —Jonathan Gordon

To thank GRREAT for the work they do and for finding Bailey, who has brought so much love into our lives. —Kristin Simanek and James Kochan

In celebration of three years with **Molson** (98-041) —Doreen Wright

This is a contribution from two families in the Battery Kemball Dog Park area of northwest DC to support the care and veterinary needs of **Sammy** (01-065) and to thank GRREAT for providing so well for him. —Rodger and Ann Hurley

To defray expenses for **Sammy** (01-065) —Alan and Eileen Steinberg

Dear GRREAT,

continued from page 7

puppy. The couple had purchased him a year before from the DC owner, but they then had little time left in their busy day for him. The young couple lived in a townhouse without a back yard; both had full time day jobs, a 2 year old toddler, and another baby due in less than a month. When we first saw him, Max seemed very sad and obviously starved for attention.

When we brought him to our back yard, our Gus (the Giver) welcomed him by running and playing, but it was soon obvious that big Max (The Receiver) was going to be the Alpha Dog. He pushed his way in for head and body pats first and was the dominant one over Gus who had been the shyest puppy in his litter.

Gus was good and allowed Max to take the upper 'paw' in everything as if he knew Max had rough years in his past with not the best treatment that a Golden should have.

Not long after we took Max in, I entered a photo of Gus in the 1999 "365 Dogs" calendar. In it he was standing next to our statue of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. Not only did he make it into the calendar, he was winner of the week!

We feel that Gus the Giver was rewarded for being kind and sharing his home and 'Top Dog' spot with Max the Receiver who had a rougher start in life.

Both now enjoy each other's companionship and do everything together, even dressing alike as wrapped Christmas

packages at the GRREAT Howliday Party. Max is now a trim 75 pounds, in good health all around, and still The Receiver. Shy Gus is still The Giver. St. Francis once said, "it is in the giving that we receive."

—Jule Ann and Dick Cheslock

St. Francis, patron saint of all animals.



Where Do Pets Come From?

A newly discovered chapter in the Book of Genesis has provided the answer to "Where do pets come from?"

Adam and Eve said, "Lord, when we were in the garden, you walked with us every day. Now we do not see you anymore. We are lonesome here and it is difficult for us to remember how much you love us."

And God said, "No problem! I will create a companion for you that will be with you forever and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourselves."



And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam and Eve.

And it was a good animal. And God was pleased. And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and Eve and he wagged his tail.

And Adam said, "Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom and I cannot think of a name for this new animal."

And God said, "No problem, because I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG."

And Dog lived with Adam and Eve and was a companion to them and loved them. And they were comforted. And God was pleased. And Dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that an angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam and Eve have become filled with pride. They strut and preen like peacocks and they believe they are worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught them that they are loved, but perhaps too well."

And God said, "No problem! I will create for them a companion who will be with them forever and who will see them as they are. The companion will remind them of their limitations, so they will know that they are not always worthy of adoration."

And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam and Eve. And Cat would not obey them. And when Adam and Eve gazed into Cat's eyes, they were reminded that they were not the supreme beings.

And Adam and Eve learned humility. And they were greatly improved.

And God was pleased.

And Dog continued to be happy and loving.

And Cat didn't really care one way or the other.

—*from the Internet, author unknown*



Autumn Christy Caballero

*A tribute to senior dogs
everywhere*

*Reprinted with
permission from
the author.*

What do we do when our loving pets face the last leg of the race? We do all we can to help them finish well, of course. We take time to read the unspoken needs of the friends we've come to know so well.

We give the simple reassurance of a loving touch when the old boy seems confused for no reason.

We groom them faithfully, but more gently, as age brings muscle wasting and the arthritic bones aren't so well padded.

*Ellie (l) and Elsa (98-048&9),
ages 3 and 10*



We learn to slow down for their sake, as they enjoy the scent of the wind, or track a visitor's trail across their yard.

We expect to be inconvenienced, and aren't angry when it happens.

We watch for pain and treat it, watch for changes in vision and hearing and do what we can to help preserve those precious senses as long as possible.

We take care of their teeth, and make sure their food is a manageable texture for them.

We remind them of the need for a potty walk when they seem to forget.

Lady (00-244), age 11



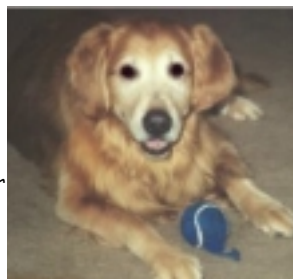
We remember the little rewards. We scratch the graying ears and tummy, and go for car rides together. When the pet we love has an unexplained need for comfort, we give it freely. When infirmities

Whiskey (99-141), age 9

bring a sense of vulnerability, we become our old guardian's protector.



We watch their deepest slumbers, when dreams take them running across long-forgotten fields, and we remember those fields



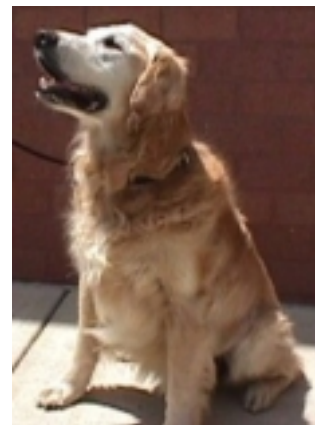
too. When they cannot stand alone, we lift them. When their steps are uncertain, we steady them.

Teddy (00-263), age 9

And if their health fails, it falls to us to make the choice that will gently put them to rest. But until that is absolutely necessary, we pause to let the autumn sun warm our old friend's bones. And we realize that autumn is not a bad time of year at all.

Old age is not a disease or a reason to give up. It is a stage of life that brings its own changes.

Autumn can be a beautiful time of harvest. And, sometimes, that harvest is love.



Wheatly (00-107), age 10+

Please note: All of the dogs on this page have found new forever homes. If you would like to experience the quiet joys of adopting a senior Golden, please contact any GRREAT board member.

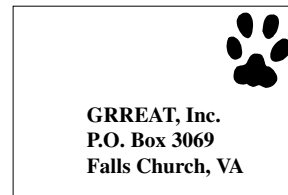
Adoption Report

January 1 – March 15, 2001

Brandy, Buddy, Jake, and Teddy were popular names for the 31 dogs adopted in the first 10 weeks of 2001. Thirteen were females and the remaining eighteen were males. The youngest was seven months old, and the oldest was 12. Congratulations to these lucky dogs and their new families!

April	2000-075	3 1/2	F
Baldo	2000-283	3	M
Barney	2001-010	5 1/2	M
Brandy	2000-282	1	F
Brandy	2001-031	2	F
Buddy	2001-002	5 1/2	M
Buddy	2001-004	4	M
Casey	2001-030	3	F
Chance	2000-274	2	M
Comet	2001-008	7 1/2	M
Conner	2000-109	8	M
Copper	2000-252	2	M
Fluff	2000-160	4	F
Honey	2000-264	1	F
Jake	2000-279	12	M
Jake	2001-026	5 1/2	M
Kasey	2000-248	7 mo	F
Lexi	2000-273	2 1/2	F
Mercy	2000-067	8 mo	M
Nicholas	2001-017	13 mo	M
Pongo	2000-278	4	M
Reba	2000-254	2	F
Remington	2000-156	2	M
Riot	2001-001	4	M
Sammie	2000-260	7	F
Savanna	2000-276	8 mo	F
Sweetie	2000-221	3 1/2	F
Teddy	2000-263	9	M
Teddy	2001-009	2	M
Thor	2001-028	2	M
Trixie	2001-014	3	F
Zachary	2000-275	2	M

LETTERS from GRREAT DOGS



I've been wanting to write to you sooner, but I have been so busy the past six months being spoiled and pampered by my new parents that it has been hard to find the time.

It's been a lot of hard work, but I've finally got them trained. They give me lots and lots of love, they take me everywhere the law allows, they don't even care about my hair in the car. They let me run in their huge yard chasing the resident ground hog and they let me bark at the neighbor's dog.

They have been so good to me. I'm doing everything doggedly possible to please them. I don't steal food or mess up the carpet and I give them as much love as they give me. Thanks again for sending me to my new family. I really love it here and they are really nice. I think I'll keep them.

—Madison (00-099) Osborne



Madison Osborne, trying hard to please

My name is Sandi Moriarty (00-146), and I am writing you on behalf of my new owner, in order to complete their obligations regarding my adoption in August, 2000.

First I thought you might want to know that I am having a wonderful time and I love my new home. Ed and Tracey are

Letters, continued on page 16

Thank You to these individuals for their recent donations

Jim Bruno

Michael D' Aiuto

Bob and April Fritz

Harvin Foods of
Wilmington, DE

Caroline Hill

Linda and Al Hunt

Dottie and Marie
Kilcarr

Arnie and Judy
Mahachek

Vanessa Mitchell

Sheila Monahan and
Piper Murphy

Stuart Painter

Joyce and Scott
Parkin

Conor and Lauren
Phoenix

Gary Powers

Patricia Scahill

Mary Jane Shervais

John and Theresa
Wallingford

...and an online
donation made through
Helping.Org
(donor not specified)



Leo's Corner

The Leo Fund
for special needs dogs.

Golden Angels (\$500 or more)

William and Geri Guwang

Golden Heroes (\$100 - \$499)

Sandy Huber

Dr. and Mrs. James Hayes

Doreen Wright

Leo's Pals (up to \$99)

Kim and Jason Hall

Alison Martinek

Kathy Zeiler

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

Notes to Leo

Thanks for your wonderful and caring efforts. Geri and I lost our Golden in 1999 at the age of 15½. Taffy had knee surgery at age 10, so I understand the importance of the Leo Fund. Our life is now filled with Comet (01-008), who turned out to be the honor student in the obedience training that GRREAT required when we adopted him. He is healthy and we love him dearly. What is life without a Golden? Please accept this from Taffy and Comet to help the life of a precious Golden. Thank you for the GRREAT job you're doing.

—William and Geri Guwang

In memory of Corey, my beloved therapy Golden.

—Alison Martinek

For all our Pure Gold friends.

—Dr. and Mrs. James Hayes

Letters, continued from page 15

great and really treat me well. Not only are they doing the regular stuff that every dog needs, but they are taking the time to learn new stuff. Since I arrived, I have taught them how to walk on a leash, run around the back yard chasing squirrels, play fetch (they still need some work), and take long walks in the woods. They still have this desire to get me in the water and I tried to explain to them that if I was supposed to swim, I would have fins. Who knows, maybe next summer I'll give it a try.

Something else I learned about Ed and Tracey is that they have more friends than I could possibly count on all four paws, and some of these friends have dogs as well. I have made lots of new friends.

That's about all for now. Regarding the deposit you're holding—I convinced Ed and Tracey that half should go to renewing our membership to GRREAT and the other half should go back to GRREAT to help with operating costs. Thanks again for your help!

Sandi (Moriarty)



Saturday, June 2, 2001 — Noon to 2 pm
PETCO, 2441 Centreville Rd #F, Herndon, VA
703-713-1552 (for directions ONLY)

Directions: From the Capital Beltway (I-495) take the Dulles Toll Road West towards Dulles Airport. Exit onto Rt. 657 (Old Centreville Rd., Exit 10) South towards Chantilly. The total toll will be approximately \$0.75. PETCO is in the corner of the first shopping center on the left. There is a Red Lobster and a Crestar Bank in the front.

Visit GRREAT's Information and Merchandise Display at
The 10th Annual Anne Arundel SPCA Walk for the Animals
Sunday, May 20, 2001
8:00 am to Noon (Rain or Shine)
Quiet Waters Park
Annapolis, Maryland

GRREAT walkers welcome too!

From the Washington Beltway (I-495):
 Take US-50 East towards Annapolis. Take the MD-665/Aris T Allen Blvd exit 22 towards Riva Road. Merge onto Aris T Allen Blvd/MD-665 South. Stay straight to go onto Forest Drive. Turn right onto Hillsmere Drive. Turn slight right onto Quiet Waters Park Road.

From the Baltimore Beltway (I-695):
 Take I-97 South/MD-3 South towards the Annapolis/Bay Bridge. Merge onto Aris T Allen Blvd/MD-665 South. Stay straight to go onto Forest Drive. Turn right onto Hillsmere Drive. Turn slight right onto Quiet Waters Park Road.



Jan Brown writes:

On March 14, Chelsea passed away peacefully in my arms, nuzzling me as she left, as if to thank me for letting her go. She was such a wonderful ambassador for disabled dogs during the past few years, showing many people how happy a dog could be in a wheelchair. Sadly, her disease finally paralyzed her front as well as her rear. Her beautiful body was just worn out from the struggle and it was clear from the look in her eyes during the last weeks with me that it was time to let her go and have some peace. Our time together was all too short, but something I will forever cherish. Thanks for all you do for these wonderful creatures.



Steve and Tish Lobb write:

It is with sadness that we inform you that Benson (96-156) passed away from cancer in December, 2000. He had turned 11 in November. He was a great Golden whom we adopted on November 11, 1996 at the age of seven.



He kept up with our other Golden, Sandy, company until she died, and he also filled our days and nights. We will miss his soft fur and loving attention. Thanks for letting us have the chance to know and care for him these past four years.



Benson Lobb, demonstrating age with dignity

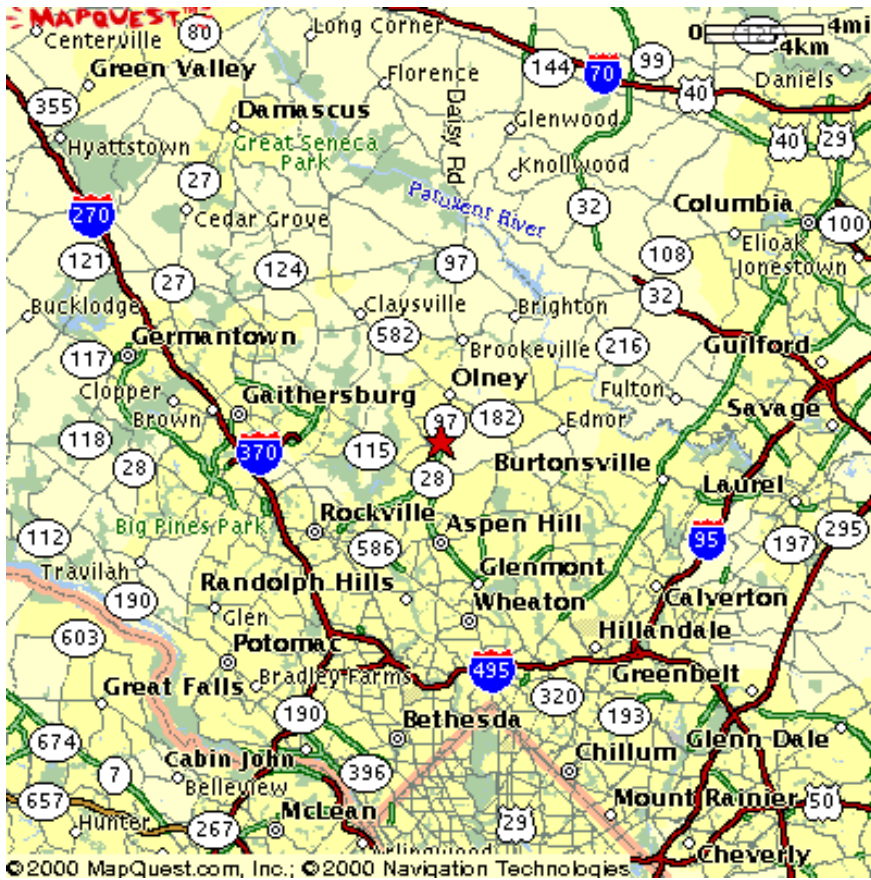
GRREAT Dog Wash May 12, 2001

**Olney Indoor Swim Park
Olney Manor Park
16601 Georgia Avenue
Olney, MD 20832**

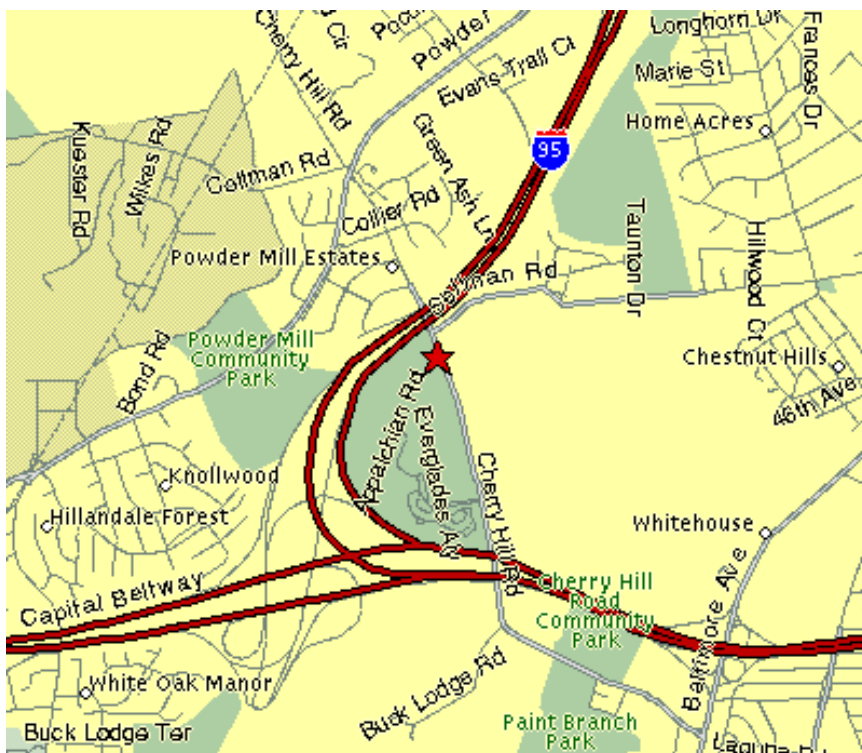
Directions: Georgia Avenue is Maryland Route 97, which intersects with the Washington Beltway (I-495).

From Baltimore and other points north and east, take I-95 to Highway 32 West. Exit on MD 108 West and take that to Olney. Turn left (south) onto Georgia Avenue in the center of Olney.

The last one to the dog wash
is a dirty dog!
See you there!



GRREAT Bark-B-Que and Picnic — May 19, 2001 Directions to the Knights of Columbus Grounds



(If you know the way to Cherry Hill Park where previous GRREAT events have been held, the K of C facility is very close!)

From the Washington Beltway (I-495), take Exit 25 (U.S. 1) south toward College Park. Take the first right onto Cherry Hill Road. Go about 3/4 mile and make a left into the Knights of Columbus property. Then make a quick left onto a gravel road and follow it a couple hundred yards to the picnic grounds.

From Baltimore, Southbound I-95, take Exit 29B (Route 212 Calverton). Follow Route 212 (Powder Mill Road) one mile and turn left onto Cherry Hill Road. Go a mile and a quarter and turn right into Knights of Columbus property. Then make a quick left onto a gravel road and follow it a couple hundred yards to the picnic grounds.

**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 \$25 for my 2001 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
- _____ 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

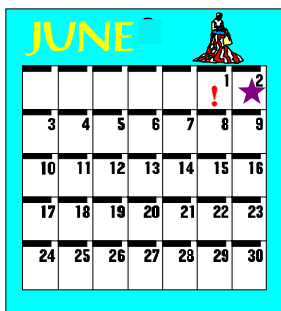


Saturday, May 12, 2001 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Dog Wash

Olney Indoor Swim Park — Olney Manor Park
16601 Georgia Avenue, Olney, MD 20832
Information on page 4; directions on page 18.



Saturday May 19, 2001 — 10:30 am - 3:30 pm
GRREAT Annual Bark-B-Que
Knights of Columbus facility, College Park, MD
Details on page 3; directions on page 18.



Sunday, May 20, 2001
Walk for the Animals
Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis, MD
Information and directions on page 17.

Saturday June 2, 2001 — Noon - 2:00 pm
Adoption Day
Petco of Herndon, VA
Directions on page 16.



! Friday, June 1, 2000—Deadline for Calendar Contest (see page 5)

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc.

P.O. Box 3069

Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

☎ 703-620-6593

Address Service Requested

GRREAT BEGINNINGS



LEAD TO HAPPY ENDINGS!

Golden Retriever Rescue
Education and Training, Inc.

First Class Mail