



GRREAT News

November/December 2001

Volume 11, Number 6

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

From the President
**What Your
Donations Help
Support**
Dan Keppler

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Often we do not realize all the time and effort that is donated by our foster families—as well as our participating vets and surgeons—to help the dogs that come into GRREAT. While we can never guarantee the long term health of the dogs we adopt out, we do a lot of work behind the scenes to make sure we know as much as we can about the dogs we rescue. This information is vital to our foster and adoptive families when they make the decision to adopt a dog.

While preparing for a recent GRREAT board meeting, I was looking over our financial statements and was compelled to share with you, our members and generous donors, some numbers pertaining to the medical-related expenses for this year. As of November 2nd, GRREAT has spent more than \$87,000 caring for the 244 dogs that have come into the Rescue since January 1, 2001. I'm sure that this figure comes as a shock to some of you, but please understand that this expense is a direct result of GRREAT's policy to take the absolute *best* care for our dogs. The breakdown is as follows:

- Veterinary Care — \$48,923 These are direct, pass-through costs related to receiving dogs into the Rescue, taking them into the vet for a check up, and having their shots updated if necessary, as well as any other medical services that do not fall into the Leo Fund category.
- Leo Fund — \$30,334 Again, these are direct, pass-through costs to veterinarians related to extraordinary surgeries for dogs that we rescue. Because these special surgeries are expensive in nature, any work performed on these dogs requires a board vote and iden-

Your Donations, continued on page 4

**The First Dog:
A Christmas Story**
Author Unknown

Long, long ago in the deepest of winters, all of the animals on earth were abuzz with the news.

"He is born! He is born!" cried the snowy owl. *"Come one and all, rejoice!"* roared the mighty lion. *"Bring gifts to the new king!"* The forest grew bright with the din of excitement. Every creature was running towards the star. The noise was so loud and joyful that it traveled to distant lands.

In a quiet glen under a bramble bush, a small lonely dog raised his head from slumber and heard the sounds from afar and wondered. Slowly, he raised his tired body and sniffed the air. He knew something was amiss, but he knew not what. A voice ever so sweet was singing in the distance—this he could hear. The words were not at all clear, but the sound was of waterfalls, misty mornings and everything dear. Eagerly he followed the sound and soon saw a star. It shone so brightly that his little eyes watered. What was this shiny thing that happily glowed? What could be happening that would bring about such a lovely sight?

His little legs beat the path for many days. He became tired and hungry...but still he walked on. He had to follow the sound of that voice. The voice that reminded him of warmer and kinder times. He just had to follow the light of the star...the star told him of happy things to come.

The First Dog, continued on page 6

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**Golden Retriever Rescue,
Education and Training, Inc.**

P.O. Box 3069

Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

Phone: 703-620-6593

Web site: [HTTP://WWW.GRREAT.ORG](http://www.grreat.org)

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

2001 Officers and Advisory Board

PRESIDENT

Dan Keppler* PRESIDENT@GRREAT.ORG 703-421-6597

VICE PRESIDENT

Doug Brown* DB281@AOL.COM 301-595-3344

SECRETARY and INTAKE COORDINATOR

Mary Ellen Lunde* MELUNDE@WORLDNET.ATT.NET 301-549-3156

TREASURER

Gail Corby* GAILDC@AOL.COM 302-378-2543

INTAKE and FOSTER HOME COORDINATOR

Georgie Bahler* GABAHLER@EROLS.COM 703-620-6698

FOSTER HOME ASSISTANTS

DeAnna Edge VAEDGE@AOL.COM 703-250-9009

Susan McKelvey SMCKELVEY@EXPRESSHOST.COM 410-745-0134

ADOPTION COORDINATOR

Jessie Robinson* JRGOLDEN4314@HOTMAIL.COM 301-577-8350

ASSISTANT ADOPTION COORDINATOR

Judy Barker* BARKER.BARKER@VERIZON.NET 301-858-1950

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Sharon Robinson-Boonstra THERBS@CROSSLINK.NET 410-626-1720

EDUCATION COORDINATORS

Denise Gettier (MD) DAGETTIER@HOME.COM 410-969-3095

Jo Dempsey (VA) JOMOOSE@EARTHLINK.NET 703-327-6179

FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR

Sam Connelly* ANIGRAPHIX@AOL.COM 410-256-3113

GRREAT NEWS EDITOR

April Fritz* NEWSLETTER@GRREAT.ORG 301-330-5749

MAIL ADMINISTRATOR

Jill Kurtz THEKURTZES@YAHOO.COM 703-250-3012

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Jill Kurtz* THEKURTZES@YAHOO.COM 703-250-3012

MERCHANDISING COORDINATOR

Jo Bighouse MIDASTOUCHGOLDENS@STARPOWER.NET 703-777-4944

TATTOOING COORDINATOR

Scott Daniels* ESDCHEF@MSN.COM 302-368-5821

WEBMASTER

Bob Fritz WEBMASTER@GRREAT.ORG 301-330-5749

* members of the GRREAT Board of Directors

GRREAT News Bites

**Help Get the Word Out
About GRREAT**

Packets of GRREAT brochures and business cards are now available to our members. When folks ask where you got that beautiful dog of yours and you tell them about GRREAT, now you can also hand them a business card or trifold brochure telling them how they can contact GRREAT to become members or foster parents, to make a donation, or to rescue a Golden of their very own.

Please remember the cost involved in printing and mailing, so if you get a packet, be sure to spread them around. You can always request more!

If you would like a packet of 15 business cards and 15 trifold brochures, please contact Diane Anderson at goldenrescue@aol.com or 410-208-6508.

**UPC Symbols and Receipts
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.

Please note that Nutro does not accept UPC labels with out a receipt—both are required for us to take advantage of this offer.

ATTENTION FOSTER HOMES: When you submit dog food receipts to the GRREAT Treasurer for reimbursement. Please include the UPC label. The UPCs and receipts will be forwarded to Jo Bighouse for this project.

GRREAT's 7th Annual

HOWLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 15, 2001

11:00 am to 3:30 pm

Building 2, Montgomery County Agricultural Center

16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg, MD

(map and directions on page 4)

Cost: \$10.00 per family



Our indoor location has plenty of room for tables, doggie games, visiting the auction and merchandise tables, Santa's visit (and pictures), and just sitting and watching all those beautiful dogs. Outside, there is lots of space for parking and walking four-legged guests. The pet costume parade is back by popular demand! Last year more than 150 dogs and their 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 11, or e-mail a message to PRESIDENT@GRREAT.ORG.

A special event this year will be a demonstration by a group of dog dancers. Come watch the fun and see what this new sport is all about.

Events Schedule and Approximate Times

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

Pictures with Santa Paws 11:00 - 1:30

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

Canine Costume Parade 12:30

Dances with Dogs Demonstration 1:00

Pets 'n' People Games start after the demonstration

Doggie Gift Exchange starts at 2:00

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

dessert

side dish*

munchies

cold salad

*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!

**Thank you,
Julie Palais
and**



The GRREAT-Dogma Bakery Doggie Social and Education Table on October 20 in Arlington, VA, was a big hit with both people and dogs! Julie Palais coordinated the event for GRREAT and was assisted by the following volunteers: Barbara Stephens, Stephen Cheney, Catherine Nance and Barbara Prince. Thank you all for your efforts; let's do it again soon!

Your Donations, continued from page 1

tifying a foster home available to help the dog recover. This year we have repaired a broken jaw, a broken tibia, and numerous hips and knees. ***The Leo Fund is currently operating at approximately a \$10,000 deficit.***

- Spay/Neuter — \$8,291 Not all the dogs that come into the Rescue are spayed or neutered, and GRREAT's policy is that, as long as the dog's health permits, all dogs leave the rescue spayed or neutered.

What is not reflected in these medical costs is the indirect costs that our volunteers absorb as part of their devotion to this beloved breed. Not one of our elected Board members nor any of our volunteers is paid for the innumerable hours that they contribute to our organization. Our foster homes sometimes travel hundreds of miles to visit participating vets. Georgie Bahler and Mary Ellen Lunde work with our participating vets and locate new ones to make sure that GRREAT is getting the best care along with the best price. And our local unsung hero is Dr. Walker: without his incredible talent, many of the dogs you see running around happily would still be limping and in immense pain. ***Thank you to everyone for all that you do.***

Without the tremendous financial support and volunteer efforts of our membership and

donors, we would not be able to cover all the costs mentioned nor the other ones, smaller in nature but no less important in running the organization. I want to thank everyone who has contributed to GRREAT already this year and also those who may consider contributing in the future. This is the time of year that we make our annual membership renewal appeal and ask for end of year contributions, as evidenced by the renewal and donation envelope included in this issue.

We know that the generosity of our members is being tapped by numerous organizations as a result of the tragic events of September 11th and the resulting effects they have had on our economy. Please keep in mind that organizations such as ours that do not make the headlines must also rely on your generosity. With your donations we can continue to help the greatest number of dogs get the best care possible and a chance at a better life the second time around.

One of our big events is coming up in December—our annual Howliday Party. We hope that you and your four-legged family will join us in celebrating the joys of providing a second chance to a beautiful animal. Have a great holiday season, and as always, thanks to everyone who makes GRREAT what it is today, the best Golden Rescue in the world!!!!!!!

Plan to attend the GRREAT Howliday Party December 15, 2001



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 take the 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.



**Auction Items Needed
For the Howliday Party Silent Auction
December 15, 2001**

*Come crafters, come painters, come sculptors and more,
Bring ornaments and artistry, in "gold" by the score!
For the season of giving is getting here quick,
And we need some assistance for good ole' St. Nick.*

*Gold statues, gold pictures, gold dishes and toys,
Gold blankets and bedding for gold girls and boys,
Whatever your gold gift I know they will want it,
The Howliday Bidders, the table, they'll haunt it.*

*They'll cleverly eye up the best of the gold stuff
And bid 'til their wallets cry "STOP PLEASE – we give up!"
So tempt them with goldies – you know they will rave
At the Howliday Party and the auction they crave.*

*Please bring your donations to the party with you
Or if you must miss it, please send something to
Sam Connelly the GRREAT Howliday auctioneer
'Cause it's all for our Goldies that we hold so dear.*

Thank you in advance for your generosity (and not laughing at my poetry)

**GRREATfully,
Sam Connelly
410-256-3113 or e-mail: Anigraphix@aol.com**

**GRREAT Store Open for
HOLIDAY
SHOPPING**

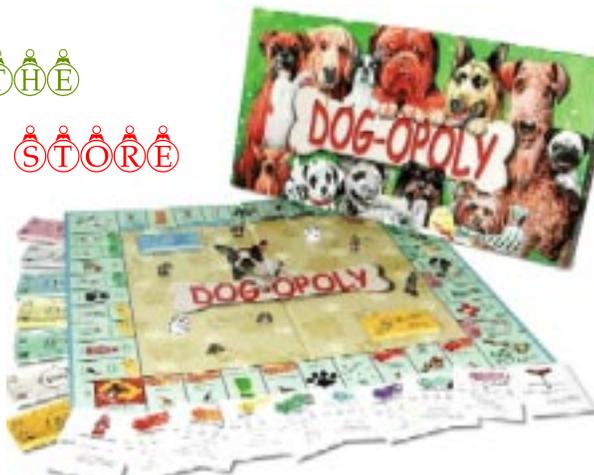
Got some last minute shopping to do for that Golden-loving friend or family member? Why not visit the GRREAT store in Leesburg? It's open by appointment days and evenings, weekdays and weekends—just contact Jo Bighouse, GRREAT Merchandise Coordinator, 703-777-3960, extension 11 (daytime) or 703-7774944 (evening), or at MIDASTOUCHGOLDENS@STARPOWER.NET.

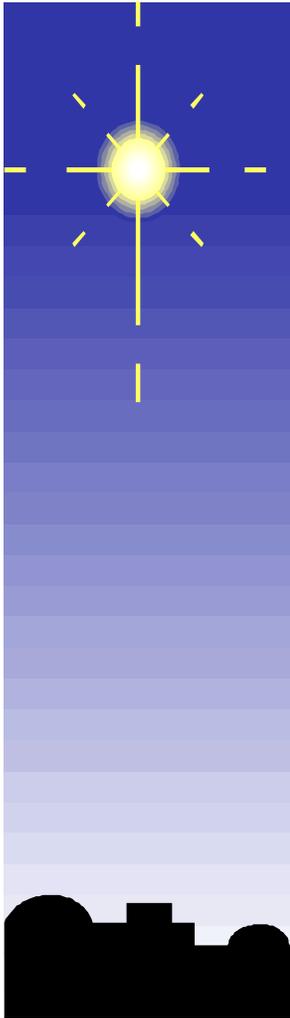
A visit to the GRREAT Store allows you to view *and purchase on the spot* any of the items in the annual GRREAT Dog-alog, as well as many items that were not included in the mail-order list in the last issue of this newsletter, such as

- **paw-shaped Christmas stockings lined with satin**
- more stuffed animals, including a Christmas-colored platypus
- a full range of books, including *Golden Retrievers for Dummies* and a variety of beautiful table books
- **Christmas cards featuring our favorite happy Santa do**
- artwork for your home
- leashes and matching collars in a variety of colors
- an extensive selection of doggie health and beauty items, including a new line of brushes
- pewter jewelry and figurines
- sale items, such as discontinued sweatshirts, now only \$24.50 while they last (they were \$40 in last year's catalog)
- **this year's most popular gift item DOG-OPOLY, only \$24.95**—all of the fun of the traditional "Opoly" game with some doggie twists, like real estate arranged by dog breed size, Good Dog and Bad Dog cards (Chance and Community Chest), doggie game tokens, and more!



V I S I T T H E
G R E A T S T O R E
S O O N





The First Dog, continued from page 1

At last, he came into a clearing and his eyes beheld a mystifying sight. Animals were everywhere and each had a precious gift. Some brought shiny berries from the forest, some brought beautiful leaves, others brought twigs from the rarest of trees and some even brought the most precious wild flowers of the field. They were laying these gifts at the entrance of a stable. Above the stable, the light of the star twinkled more brightly than before.

He turned to the deer and asked: "What is all this? Where have I come?" "You have come to see the new King. He is Born. Where are your gifts for the child?" asked the deer reproachfully. "I have no gifts ... I, I didn't know..." stammered the lonely little dog, with his head hung low. The deer sneered and snubbed him, quickly walking away as he tossed his head indignantly. The little dog's body trembled all over, his tail flew between his little legs, and his head hung lower than ever. He was ashamed. And yet ...he still wanted to get a little peek at the New King.

Quietly, ever so carefully, he crept over to the stable. He was so small he could easily hide under the other animals. Ever so sleekly, he crept up to the manger and peeked inside. "Who are you?" boomed the voice of the Lion. "Why do you dare not bring gifts for the new king?!!" And the miserable dog cowered, much humbled...he laid his little head at the foot of the manger and hid his eyes. He was ready to be killed by the Lion...and yet...he spoke ever so quietly, ever so meekly, ever so bravely.

"I have no gifts, I have no berries or twigs or bright flowers of the field—all I have is my life and I will gladly give that, for I have shamed all my brethren tonight..."

He waited with his eyes closed, thinking that if he did die tonight, at least he would die beneath the cradle of his King. That's when a warm and gentle hand was upon him. He did not dare to open his eyes until he heard a woman's voice speak. It was same the sweet voice that had led him to this place. "Do not fear little one. You are safe here. This bramble in your fur speaks of the gift you have brought to him."

The lonely dog opened his eyes and looked up at the woman. "But I have no gift to offer, save for myself, and that is very little ..." he shyly protested. The woman smiled and scratched his ears. "Little dog, you traveled far to see the King ... that is gift enough when it comes from your heart. What gift is more precious than one given in innocence and humility? No, little one, you are welcome here." As she spoke she raised the little dog up. "Behold, your King, the Son of Man. You shall serve him well." And the baby smiled ...

So it came to pass that the dog was lonely no more...and dog has served man ever since—loyal to a fault, and humble he remains. A gift from God to us, for who but dog will travel miles without explanation? Who but dog will cower from you even if he is not wrong? Who but dog will take a scolding even when he is not to blame? Who but dog is content to die at our feet if he so must? Let us care for him well.

REMINDER

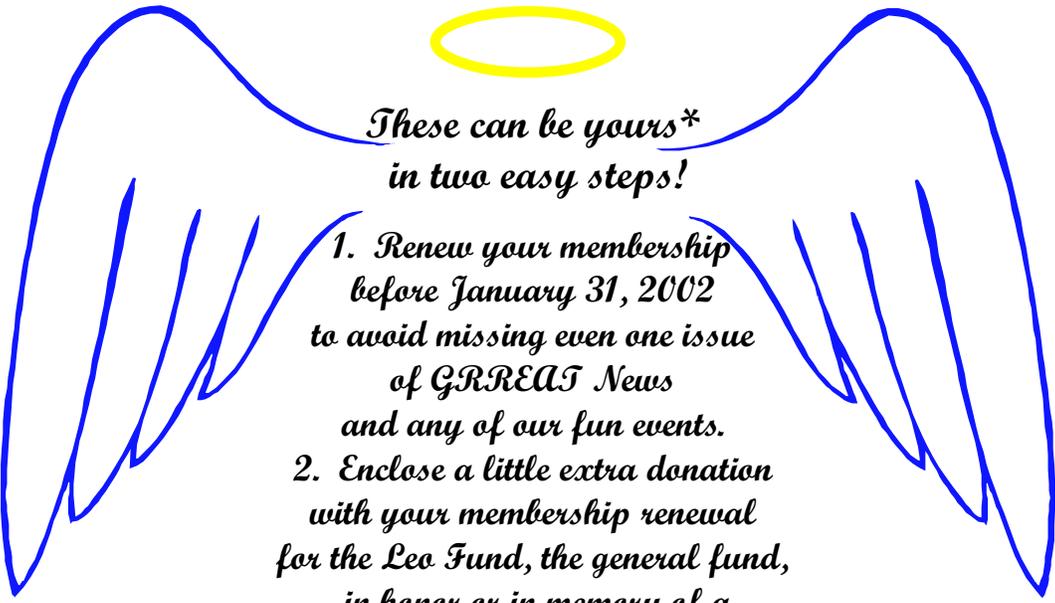
It's Membership Renewal Time

Please check your mailing label for this issue. If it shows 12/01 in the upper right corner, **your GRREAT membership expires with this issue.** Membership dues for 2002 are \$25 and include a subscription to GRREAT News.

Dues are payable now through January 31, 2002, after which membership will be forfeited.

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!



These can be yours
in two easy steps!*

- 1. Renew your membership before January 31, 2002 to avoid missing even one issue of GRREAT News and any of our fun events.*
- 2. Enclose a little extra donation with your membership renewal for the Leo Fund, the general fund, in honor or in memory of a special someone.*

**sorry, no gift wrapping available*

United Way Donations Work!

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 right 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" of between 13% and 23% depending on the local United Way office.

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.

Clip and take to work!

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc.

(GRREAT)

P.O. Box 3069

Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

(703) 620-6593

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



Adoption Day

Saturday, December 8, 2001

Noon — 2:00 pm

Weber's Pet Supermarket

14508 Lee Rd, Chantilly, VA 20151

(703) 631-2738 (for directions only)

Directions: From the Washington Beltway (I-495), take I-66 west. Exit onto Route 50 west. Go through Chantilly and pass under Route 28. Turn left onto Lee Road, then right into the industrial area parking lot. Weber's Pet Supermarket faces out on Route 50.

SERVING AT GROUND ZERO IN NEW YORK CITY

Although these are not GRREAT Goldens, our beloved breed has been making its contribution too. We were not able to find pictures of Goldens working at the Pentagon site, but we are sure there were dogs working there as well. In addition to the immediate search and rescue efforts shown here, Goldens and other certified therapy dogs helped console the families of victims.

The pictures on these pages were taken by photographers for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or the U.S. Navy and are reprinted in accordance with their guidelines.

For more pictures and stories about Golden search and rescue or therapy dogs, please visit www.landofpuregold.com/disaster6.htm and <http://www.dogsinthenews.com/issues/0109/articles/010915a.htm>.



Above and below: Kent Olson and his dog, Thunder, from Lakewood, Washington, search through the rubble for victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. 9/21/01

Right: An Urban Search and Rescue crew member takes a well-deserved break from the search operations underway at the World Trade Center. 9/23/01

Photos by Andrea Booher/FEMA News Photo





Riley, a Golden search and rescue dog owned and handled by firefighter Chris Selfridge of Johnstown, PA, is transported out of the debris of the World Trade Center at the end of its shift. 9/15/01

Photo by US Navy / Preston Keres

“They go underneath into void spaces—anywhere we can get the dogs in. The site is very difficult agility for the dogs. They’re crawling on their bellies and squeezing through things. It’s incredible to watch.”

— Sharon Gattas, Riverside Urban Search and Rescue

If you would like more information about becoming a search and rescue team with your Golden, please contact GRREAT volunteer Sam Connelly at anigraphix@aol.com.

For information about becoming a therapy dog team, visit the Delta Society web page at www.deltasociety.org/.



Above: Two-legged and four-legged rescue workers take a break at Ground Zero.

Photo by US Navy / Preston Keres

“He’s used to working. He just worked a little too hard this time.”

— Michael Norkelun of the Suffolk County SPCA, speaking about SAR dog “Ammo” sleeping nearby.



Left: One of the dozens of Urban Search and Rescue dogs involved in the search for survivors at the World Trade Center. 9/23/01

Photo by Andrea Booher/FEMA News Photo

Welcome at Rainbow Bridge

by Alexander Theodore, Bouvier
(Fourth Year Resident)

*From the Internet, reproduced on many web sites;
original author unknown*

On the morning of September 11, 2001, there was an unprecedented amount of activity at the Rainbow Bridge. Decisions had to be made. They had to be made quickly. And they were.

An issue, not often addressed here, is the fact that many residents really have no loved one for whom to wait. Think of the pups who lived and died in hideous puppy mills. No one on earth loved or protected them. What about the many who spent unhappy lives tied in backyards? And the ones who were abused. Who are they to wait for? We don't talk about that much up here.

We share our loved ones as they arrive, happy to do so. But we all know there is nothing like having your very own person who thinks you are the most special pup in the Heavens.



That Tuesday morning a request rang out for pups not waiting for specific persons to volunteer for special assignment. An eager, curious crowd surged excitedly forward, each pup wondering what the assignment would be. They were told by a solemn voice that unexpectedly, all at once, over 5,000 loving people had left Earth long before they were ready. All the pups, as all pups do, felt the humans' pain deep in their own hearts. Without hearing more, there was a clamoring among them—

"May I have one to comfort?"
"I'll take two, I have a big heart."
"I have been saving kisses forever."

One after another they came forward begging for assignment. One cozy-looking fluff pup hesitantly asked, "Are there any children coming? I would be very comforting for a child 'cause I'm soft and squishy and I always wanted to be hugged."

A group of Dalmatians came forward asking to meet the Firemen and be their friends. The larger working breeds offered to greet the Police Officers and make them feel at home. Little dogs volunteered to do what they do best, cuddle and kiss. Dogs, who on Earth had never had a kind word or a pat on the head, stepped forward and said, "I will love any human who needs love."

Then all the dogs, wherever on Earth they originally came from, rushed to the Rainbow Bridge and stood waiting, overflowing with love to share, each tail wagging an American flag.



In Honor Of Treevor (99-009)

In February of 2000, when Doug Brown brought us our first foster, it was the beginning of a GRREAT Golden adventure. Treevor (99-009), was as handsome as his ears were "bad"! It took us less than 48 hours to fall head over "ears" in love with him! That, of course, slowed our fostering plans since he became our third Golden.

Time passed, and our 15½ year old, Brandy, crossed the Rainbow Bridge. His loss opened our hearts to fostering again. From August, 2000 to August, 2001, we fostered 8 goldens for another rescue in Maryland.

We could never have been so successful without the loving assistance of Treevor and his sidekick Reba. Treevor became known, fondly, as "Coach." If a foster needed a playmate, he made himself into the style needed. One seriously ill foster benefited from Treevor as the gentle bear to lean on for warmth.

Treevor shared his home and family with such generosity. He waited patiently for things because he seemed to know when there weren't enough hands to deal quickly with all the demands.

His original owners had given him up because he was too wild and uncontrollable. He turned out to be the anchor and ambassador of our foster home.

Please accept this donation to the Leo Fund in his honor.

—Phil and Janet Hauck

A Golden Tribute

Doug Brown, GRREAT Vice President

As many of you saw in the last newsletter, Becky and I lost two of our Golden Retrievers in an extremely short period of time, Max on August 18th and Sonny on August 20th. Losing one family member is hard enough, but losing two so close together was simply devastating.

If you have been a continual reader of the GRREAT newsletter you already know both of these wonderful Golden Retrievers. Sonny was featured in the July/August 2000 newsletter and Max was featured as the acupuncture dog in another newsletter. If you were fortunate enough to purchase a GRREAT calendar you have also seen both of their smiling faces, Sonny in March 1999 and Max in May 2000; Sonny also made honorable mention for the 2002 calendar.

As you may recall both of these Golden Retrievers entered the Rescue beaten, bruised and with broken spirits. Sonny stayed with his foster mom, Georgie Bahler, for quite some time before he was deemed ready for adoption. Max was intended to be a short term foster but after discovering his neurological problems and other health conditions, the decision was made that he would stay in our home as a long term foster. Both Sonny and Max flourished when given the TLC that they both deserved.

When I initially began putting this remembrance together in my mind, it basically took on a tone of being extremely sad and quite depressing. Many times I could not even think about writing about these two wonderful guys without getting all choked up. It then dawned on me that, instead of being in a continual state of mourning, I should celebrate their lives and the absolute joy that they brought to my family and me. Looking at it another way, if these two Golden Retrievers had not made such an impression on my life, I would in no way feel the sadness and loss that I have experienced every day since they



Max Brown, never long without a tennis ball,

have not been in my house. Knowing that Sonny and Max had several good years with us more than enough makes up for the emotional roller coaster that we have endured over the past weeks. Although my heart is broken, I can live with that knowing that Sonny and Max were happy and not living the hell they were in prior to being rescued by GRREAT.

It may sound like I am blowing my own horn about Sonny and Max—not at all. Many Golden Retrievers that come through the GRREAT doors are in the same shape, if not worse than Sonny and Max, and for each of those Golden Retrievers someone opens their heart and home to these fantastic creatures. I am continually asked why our fosters—especially long term fosters—open themselves up to an obvious heartbreak. To me, my home would not be complete without one or two furry friends running around. Imagining myself pulling into my driveway and not having at least one set of brown eyes looking out the picture window for me to open the door is something I cannot see happening.

So in a brief yet grateful goodbye, I say thank you, Sonny and Max, from the bottom of my heart for all of the memories you have given to my family and me. And I would like to offer another thank you to all the well wishers who have conveyed condolences to us since our sad events of August.



Sonny Brown, backed by brilliant azaleas in his back yard

Dugan's Tale



IN REMEMBRANCE DUGAN

Kevin Barron writes:
I am sad to report the loss of a friend. Dugan (Boomer/Flynn) passed away Sunday Oct. 14th. His passing was sudden though peaceful. Peaceful, as Dugan lived his life with me. I'd had Dugan only since this past March. I adopted him from GRREAT, the second Golden I've adopted from GRREAT. He was truly a great dog and will be missed by many.

Something doesn't smell right here
There are many different scents, but still
One is more powerful, more potent, and
ominous.

The warmth is overshadowed by a cold
undertow.

They are not like others I have been with
Their touch is rough, their manner uncaring
Their presence is foreboding, these two-foots
worry me.

I would like to eat soon; it's been so long.

There are other four-foots about.
I have not seen them and yet I know them.
They are not like me, will not like me—
No good shall come of our meeting.

Dark, cold and damp where I lay
Food is provided but it provides little comfort
The two-foots have left, but the four-foots
are close,
Too close for comfort. Nothing in this place
can comfort.

Blinding light and a fierce pummeling
Many two-foots and even more four-foots
Pulling and tearing, jumping and clawing
Relentless. Finally all light is removed. I am
unaware.

Without shelter once more. Exposed and
vulnerable,
Too weak to eat if there were food at all.
Must move on. To stop is to die. Not yet.
Not me.
The brush provides respite from the
elements. For now.

More two-foots but their scent is comfort
More so than I have ever known
I ache; I'm tired and hungry. I don't feel
well—
I don't feel at all. To give up is to die. Not me
Not yet.

These two-foots have other four-foots in
their midst.
Still, I smell no danger. Only compassion
and kindness.

Oh, to be stroked again. I'd almost forgot-
ten how it feels
Wouldst that I could stay here, that's all I
ask.

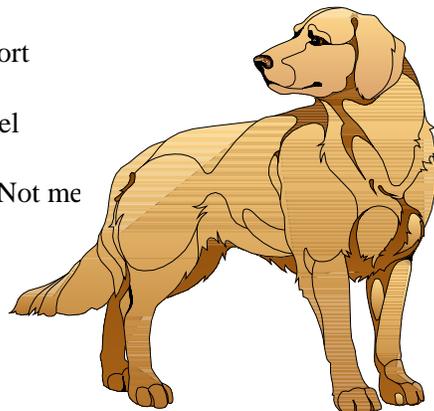
Into the moving home we go. Sunshine! and
my tail wags itself.
Another place. Two-foots and four-foots
mill about—
All eyes are on me. That's how I feel. I feel
good.
Something good is about to happen. I just
know it.

A two-foot approaches. He pays me hom-
age. As I do him.
He goes and others come. He is still here,
somewhere. I just know it.
There you are. You did not go away.
Neither did I
Wherever you want to go, I will come
along.

My tail is still wagging. It just won't stop.
We walk, we ride, we stop. I have arrived.
More two-foots, but not as close.
Another different kind of four-foot. She's
been here for some time.

So, this is where I was meant to be.
He is who I was meant to be with.
The journey was long. The road was rough.
This is my home, my forever home.

—Kevin Barron
March 12, 2001



IN REMEMBRANCE ALEX

Alex was Judy and Steve Barker's long term foster that was diagnosed with cancer over a year ago. GRREAT saw to his medical care and although his leg was amputated, he did extremely well for 13 months (really a long time considering a dog's lifespan). In the last month the cancer came back with a vengeance and Judy and Steve, being the true Golden spirits that they are, provided the final kindness to him when it was obvious that he was in pain.

Please accept this check as a donation toward what you do best. . .finding forever homes for homeless Golden Retrievers. We consider ourselves some of the lucky ones: we were chosen to be “parents” for Grady (01-116). When Grady joined us at the end of July, we knew that we were dealing with one special boy. He settled into our home beautifully, and he continues to amaze us with his intuitive responses to whatever we ask of him (and don’t ask of him!)

Last week, he graduated from his “Family Dog” obedience class and now has an impressive certificate for the wall of his office (our den). He’ll never be an obedience champion, but he will always be our family dog!

The real reason for this check is to honor his foster parents, Judy and Keith Koval, who so graciously kept him while we were out of the country this summer. We never intended to even look for a new Golden before we left on our trip, but your web site picture and description told us that we needed to “just check” on Grady. After a visit to his foster home, we knew that he would fit into our home. However, we didn’t want to bring him home for just a couple of weeks before leaving him for our long-planned vacation. Judy and Keith did not hesitate to agree that, if we were selected, they would keep him the extra time. They even delivered him the day after we arrived home! Now that’s true dedication on the part of your volunteers!

Please know that GRREAT will always be mentioned when we hear of people looking for new canine friends. This is not our first contact with GRREAT. Our late Golden, Grendel, was not a GRREAT orphan, but we were referred to her owners by GRREAT when we called looking for a Golden to adopt. For future reference, your web site is bookmarked on our computer. All I need to do now is convince my husband that Grady needs a friend! Who knows, maybe we will consider fostering in the future. Keep up the good work.

—Emiel and Lynda Smet

Enclosed is a donation in honor of Pasha (I should say the late Pasha), 99-149. He was not the brightest Golden that ever graced this planet. With his short front legs and slightly crossed eyes, he sometimes looked more like a befuddled yak than a dog. But there was no mistaking that Golden personality and good humor. He was a sweet, happy dog and we miss him.

—George and Patricia Connell

It was one year ago that we got Rebel (00-243) from you. I want you to know he is without a doubt a sweet and outstanding Golden. I am sure he was well trained before we got him. I thank you for the good work you are doing in placing dogs like Rebel in good homes.

—Lawrence and Jeanne McKay

Tomorrow night there is going to be a party for Bailey. This sweet New Zealand golden girl will be two years old. Her family, Julie Palais, Rick Stevens, and big brother Sundance (95-085), have requested that instead of bringing toys or treats, a gift be given to GRREAT. This is most appropriate since all the pups on the block who will be attending are spoiled fur children like Bailey and Sundance. Please accept the enclosed in honor of Bailey to be used where the need is greatest.

—Barbara Stephens

I have enclosed a copy of a certificate that our dog, Whitney (01-001), completed a Basic Dog Obedience Level 1 class through the Fairfax County Community and Recreation Services. Whitney and I participated in all ten of the classes from late June through early September. I enjoyed working with Whitney and I think that she enjoyed the class too. We continue to work on training concepts and may participate in additional classes in the future. Please accept this donation in honor of the work you do with all Golden Retrievers. The whole family enjoys Whitney and we are glad that she is a part of our family.

—Patricia and Robert Dickerson

Dear 
GRREAT

Thanks

From Judy Barker:
Thanks to the volunteers who helped at the November Adoption Day in Annapolis. Thank you for making the day a success!

Angie Adams

Barbara Barshinger

Jude Biedenkapp

Diane Bossle

Judi Bucklaeu

Becky Brown

Doug Brown

Steve Cheney

Linda Daniel

Tim Daniel

Roberta Dorn

Irene Engle

Kathy Heck

Barbara Nastus

Denise Pelletier

Connor Phoenix

Lauren Phoenix

Lynn Shine

Monique Shutsky

More Letters to GRREAT



Please accept this small donation in memory of Lucky. He was not a Golden but he had the heart and disposition of one. He was a Lab mix, and was 12 years old when his first owner died. Relatives placed him in the "Heavens Gate Animal Welfare Sanctuary," (this is in England) where he was adopted by my friend Phyllis and her husband. They had just lost their faithful companion of 13 years. These wonderful people took in this heart-broken "Golden Oldie," and they had 4½ years of joy and love together. God bless people like them.

When they first got Lucky, they said he smiled all the time after being so sad when they brought him home. He was a re-born "Geriatric", who went for long walks, made a lot of new friends, and was very well behaved. Thank goodness for people who will take into their homes and heart an older dog so that its last few years of life will be happy and secure. And think of all the joy this adopted dog will bring.

Please use this money where it is needed most. Thank you GRREAT for all your wonderful work.

— Jo Dempsey

Hi, my name is Sunnie (GRREAT 00-265). I am ten and was adopted in December 2000 by my family, the Hunters. I finally convinced my Mom and Dad to write a note telling you how GRREATful I am that I was able to join your program. It has taken some time for me to teach my new

Sunnie Hunter, popular with the neighborhood kids



owners how to play fetch my way. Now, they know how to retrieve the ball after I roll on it. I have also taught them how to groom me daily and take care of my aches, pains, and hip problems. I don't bark or mooch from the table, and my humans are trying to teach me to play with toys.

I was lonely, so my humans adopted a five year old girl from the pound, Stormy, to keep me company. She is trying to teach me to play fetch like other Golden retrievers. She is also trying to teach me how to wrestle, chase squirrels off the bird feeder, chase rabbits under the shed, and keep the deer out of the yard.

Mom and Dad (Kathy and Wayne) have introduced me to all the neighbors. One of my favorite neighbors is Evan, who is 8 months old. He was good at scratching my ears, so I gave him my paw when this picture was taken. I hope you like it.

—Sunnie (Hunter)

Just a quick note—I have put in a cheque for our membership and the rest is to go in Molly Jones' name to where ever it is needed. Without Lin Jones' (of Millsboro, DE) knowledge of your organization we would not have Casey (00-112) who is so much part of our family and is adored as well by the local children. He is doing well in Germany and the vet who takes care of him is very pleased with his back legs as they have got stronger over the last year. In other words he is thoroughly spoiled. He likes the cool weather, but when it was really hot he learned how to swim in the local lake which he loves. We could go on for a long time about his improvements and Golden nature. Once again many thanks. We will send more when we can.

—CMSGT Wilbert and Margaret Lawson
(and Casey of course)

Dog Owners' Fitness Program

From the Internet—original author unknown

You've seen those ads on TV promising amazing results from all sorts of contraptions. Well, there's no need to invest in fancy equipment. If you have (or can borrow) a dog, you have everything you need to get in shape now! The following exercises can (and will) be done anywhere, anytime.

Upper Body Strength: Lift the dog—off the couch, off the bed, out of the flower bed. Repeat, repeat, repeat. As the dog ages, this exercise is reversed—onto the couch, onto the bed, into the car and so on.

Inner Thighs: Place the dog's favorite toy between thighs. Press tighter than the dog can pull. Do not attempt bare legged—dogs who favor shortcuts to success will just dig the toy out. You could be damaged.

Balance and Coordination:

Exercise 1) Remove your puppy from unsuitable tight places. If they're too small for him, they're certainly too small for you. Do it anyway!

Exercise 2) Practice not falling when your dog bounds across the full length of the room, sails through the air, and slams both front paws into the back of your knees.

Exercise 3) (for use with multiple dogs) Remove all dogs from lap and answer the phone before it stops ringing.

Exercise 4) (alternate) For older dogs, attempt to cross a room without tripping over the dog. Get off your couch without crushing any part of a sleeping elderly dog.



Upper Arms: Throw the ball. Throw the squeaky toy. Throw the Frisbee. Repeat until nauseous.

Upper Arms: (alternate) Tug the rope. Tug the pull toy. Tug the sock. Repeat until your shoulder is dislocated or the dog gives up (we all know which comes first).

Hand Coordination: Remove foreign object from locked jaw. This exercise is especially popular with puppy owners. Repeat. Repeat. Repeat. Remember, this is a timed exercise. Movements must be quick and precise (think concert pianist) to prevent trips to the vet, which only offer the minimal exercise benefit of jaw firming clenches.

Calves: After the dog has worn out the rest of your body, hang a circular toy on your ankle and let the dog tug while you tug back. **WARNING:** This is feasible only for those with strong bone and small dogs. Have you taken your calcium supplement today?

Calves: (alternate) Run after dog—pick any reason, there are plenty. Dogs of any size can be used for this exercise, but greyhounds are not recommended.

Neck Muscles: Attempt to outmaneuver the canine tongue headed for your ear, mouth, or eyeball. This is a lifelong fitness program. A dog is never too old or too feeble to “French Kiss” you when you least expect it!

And don't forget these exercises that can be performed without having a pet handy. Calorie burn varies by activity and time involved...

- Beating around the bush
- Jogging your memory
- Jumping to conclusions
- Climbing the walls
- Swallowing your pride
- Passing the buck
- Grasping at straws
- Beating your own drum
- Throwing your weight around
- Dragging your heels
- Pushing your luck
- Making mountains out of molehills
- Hitting the nail on the head
- Spinning your wheels
- Flying off the handle
- Turning the other cheek
- Wading through paperwork
- Bending over backwards
- Jumping on the bandwagon
- Balancing the books
- Beating your head against a wall
- Patting yourself on the back
- Sticking your neck out
- Racing against time
- Running around in circles
- Chewing nails
- Eating crow
- Fishing for compliments
- Tooting your own horn
- Climbing the ladder of success
- Pulling out all the stops
- Adding fuel to the fire
- Pouring salt on a wound
- Wrapping it up at day's end



Special Donations were received

IN MEMORY OF...

Meggie. —Heather Manatos

Sam Hilton (9-24-94 to 10-30-01), beloved dog of Kathy Hilton. He was a wonderful Goldie that recently passed away from lymphoma. Thanks for the great work you do.
—Rosary Bovello

Jazz, Dr. Gardsbane's magnificent friend. —Gerald and Ziva Schuchman

Our dear, sweet; loving gentle **Rusty** who died last November at the age of 13^{1/2} years. He was so loving and gentle and playful even in his older years. I thank God for all the Goldies you rescue and place in loving homes. We love receiving your GRREAT newsletters. P.S. We now have Molly, 10 month old, a bundle of joy and mischief." —Peter and Barbara Manchester



More Special Donations for special reasons

Thanks

From Judy Barker:
Many thanks to the following volunteers who helped at the September Adoption Day in Towson.

Lauren Phoenix
Connor Phoenix
Linda Scher
Talya Scher
Tracy Chapman
Keith Parent
Patty Miller
Nicky Parisi
Deborah Dowell
Lee Beaton

In honor of search and rescue dogs working in NY and the Pentagon. —Doreen and Brad Wright

In honor of the marriage of Scott Mason and Rebecca Reed (who met Jo's Brandy last Christmas and have been sold on GRREAT ever since.) —Barbara Dunnington

Thanks **in honor of Victoria and John West** of Herndon, VA. —John and Kathleen Vollbrecht

To thank Tanya Horning for introducing GRREAT to the club. —Community Woman's Club of Rockville

To thank Lou and Teri Stachowiak for being great foster parents to Dudley.
—Judith Eyler

To thank Debbie Brent, Buddy's foster mother, for choosing us as Buddy's new family (he is 01-004). —Janet Hamel and Marty Mendis

I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT **for any dog who needs it.** —Kathleen Teitel

Here's a donation to say **'thanks' for my girl Goldie.** —Mildred Fink

On behalf of Jack, our beautiful, much loved GRREAT friend and the joy he brings us every day! Please use where needed. —Michele and Matthew Bensen

In honor of our wonderful Chantilly. She gave us Lacey and Cali and is grandmother to Lilly. At 11, she continues to enrich our lives with her love and devotion. This is also **in memory of her mother Tally** (owner Laurie Anderson)." Joyce and Foster Riggs

In honor of Dakota (Cody 00-176) for his one year anniversary with us.
—Pascale and Mark Centola

Adoption Report through October 31, 2001

Truly happy holidays are ahead for a GRREAT number of adoptive families. Congratulations to 51 lucky dogs who found new homes through October 31st. Our statistics on this group: 17 females and 34 males; 25 age 2 or under; 10 age 7 or older including one 12 year old, and 16 dogs age 2 to 6. *There are still more dogs looking for homes—this has already been GRREAT's busiest year ever!*

<u>Name</u>	<u>ID #</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>
Abby	01-158	3	F
AJ	01-202	1	M
Annie	01-149	4	F
Bear	01-169	2	M
Beau	01-157	1½	M
Berkeley	01-165	3	M
Bronte	01-007	6	F
Bud	01-220	10	M
Buddy	01-210	3	M
Casey	01-139	6	M
Charlie	01-181	5	M
Cody	01-197	6	M
Cooper	01-182	2	M
Cougar	01-136	8	M
Daisy	01-185	7	F
Dakota	01-187	5	F
Dudley	01-192	2	M
Duke	01-178	7mo	M
Duke*	01-190*	12	M
Elmo	01-216	10mo	M
Emma	01-215	11mo	F
Ginger	01-186	1	F
Grady	01-177	1	M

*Long term foster with sibling Molly

<u>Name</u>	<u>ID #</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>
Hanna	01-203	6	F
Hannah	00-076	11	F
Hannah	01-194	8	F
Jack	01-093	1	M
Jake	01-183	8mo	M
Jake	99-202	7	M
Jasper	01-170	7	M
Lucy	01-211	3	F
Major	01-213	5	M
Molly	01-191	9	F
Molly	01-218	2	F
Pete	01-195	10mo	M
Prancer	01-174	1	M
Rugby	01-140	2	M
Sadie	01-196	1	F
Sammy	01-086	4	M
Sandy	00-242	2	F
Scoobie	01-110	10	M
Scottie	00-183	3	M
Shannon	01-232	1	F
Sherlock	01-193	2	M
Sunny	01-209	17mo	F
Tanner	01-133	1	M
Teddy	01-207	2	M
Toby	01-155	5	M
Tucker	01-172	2	M
Tucker	01-199	2	M
Tyler	01-198	3	M

**And now that you're in your
forever home in time for the
holidays, we hope to see you at
the Howliday Party
on December 15th!**



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

Toni Delacorte
Patricia and Robert
Dickerson
Robin Graham
Bill and Geri Guwang
Constance Holcombe
John M. Keppler
Suzanne Miller
Joyce and Ralph Page
Kathleen Spotts
Sally Tongren



Leo's Corner

*The Leo Fund
for special needs dogs.*

Golden Angels (\$500 or more)

Bill and Geri Guwang

Golden Heroes (\$100 - \$499)

Community Woman's
Club of Rockville

Phil and Janet Hauck

Joseph O'Neill

Kathy Thomas

Leo's Pals (up to \$99)

Joyce and Foster
Riggs

Dear GRREAT:

I want to help dogs needing special surgery with this Leo Fund donation.

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

NOTESTOLEO

In memory of Tally (owned by Laurie Anderson), our Chantilly's mother.

—Joyce and Foster Riggs

In remembrance of Chassidy.

—Joseph O'Neill

In honor of Comet (01-008) and his eighth birthday. We adopted Comet earlier this year and he is precious. Thank you for your GRREAT work.

—Bill and Geri Guwang

In honor of Treevor

—Phil and Janet Hauck

Please see Treevor's story on page 10.

OTHER DONATIONS (THANK YOU!)

A total of \$200 was received from PipeVine, Inc. for donations made through WWW.HELPING.ORG. Many thanks to those unidentified individuals who contributed through this mechanism.

Please accept the enclosed donation. It has been made as a function of my "Golden Greetings" PhotoCards contributions program, a project developed in August 2001 and featured at

LANDOFFPUREGOLD.COM/GREETINGS.HTM.

—Rochelle Lesser

The Charles Schwab Corporation Foundation Matching Gifts Program matched a generous donation by employee Sandra A. Diamond.

Your generosity is GRREATly appreciated!

Christmas is a Time of Joy and Remembrance



Dear GRREAT:

Like so many before him that we have read about in the newsletter, Yuri left us October 13, 2001. Yuri was a composite of all those dogs we have read about over the years. He really was "a good boy". He developed a blood disorder that was not detected in time. Thoughts of him will bring tears for a long time and also will bring many smiles. Here's a picture of him opening a new toy last Christmas Day. Thanks, GRREAT, for letting us have him.

—Ray and Freda Rever,
Grand Junction, Colorado

**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 2002 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 MCI center events
- _____ At information booths at dog shows, community
fairs, education days, 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, December 1, 2001—11:00 - 2:00

**GRREAT Education and
Merchandise Table**

PETCO

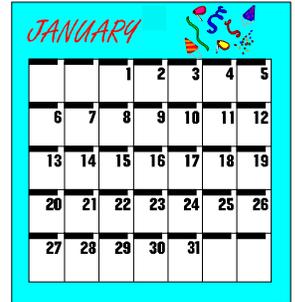
200-250 Fort Evans Rd NE
Leesburg, VA

Saturday, December 8, 2001

Adoption Day

Webbers Pet Supermarket, Chantilly, VA

Directions on page 7



Saturday, December 15, 2001—11:00 - 3:00

GRREAT's Annual Howliday Party

Montgomery County Agricultural Park

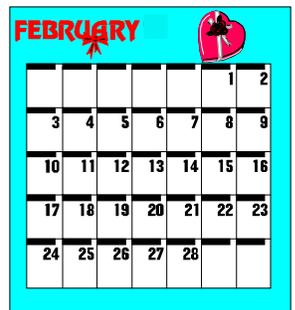
Gaithersburg, MD

Details on pages 3 and 4

Coming in January:

GRREAT 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