



# GRREAT NEWS

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## Almost Heaven

### Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary, Inc.

By Founding Member Carol Free

First of all, I want to thank GRREAT for inviting me to participate in their wonderful newsletter. As a founding member of GRREAT, I have watched it grow and develop into the magnificent organization that it is. It has not been an easy road, and all those who have contributed their time, money, services, sweat and energy along the way are to be congratulated. I am very proud to still be a part of this group.

It was in the early days of GRREAT that it became very obvious to me that the Senior and Special Needs Goldens were often overlooked or deliberately forgotten. Foster homes were at a premium, and these dogs often became permanent residents, thereby tying up a valuable foster home indefinitely, or they were bounced from place to place until they left for the Bridge. It was then that I formed my dream of a place that all these otherwise unwanted, hard to place, special needs and senior canine citizens could call home. In October of 2002, that dream became a reality, and Almost Heaven Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary, Inc. was born.

We have many Goldens here, all complete with their own stories, but I would like to take this opportunity to talk about one of them—Penny.

Penny (age 13) belonged to a lady who

decided that she could no longer care for her. She had allowed petite Penny to cross the 100-pound barrier, which added to the strain on her already arthritic joints. At this point, Penny was barely able to drag her huge body around, and was taken to a vet hospital to be euthanized.

A friend of rescue saw Penny, and decided to make the effort to save her. Penny's owner really didn't care if rescue took her or not as long as she was "rid of her." The weight was not Penny's only problem, however, as when she stood up, there was the biggest "hot spot" I think any of us had ever seen. It literally covered the entire length and breadth of one side of her body.

Foothills Golden Retriever Rescue in South Carolina accepted Penny into their program and began treatment of her problems. Almost Heaven was contacted by Foothills regarding intake of Penny, which we readily agreed to, and she was transported here by a wonderful lady who has since transported many more Goldens to us.

Penny was very arthritic. It would take her several minutes to stretch out enough to get going. She reminded me of those children's toys that we had years ago that you would rub on the carpet several times to "rev them up" and then

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# GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

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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 and West Virginia.

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

I cannot believe that it's almost the end of the year. Soon, the holidays will be here, and another year will be starting all over again. It has been an eventful year for me, both personally and as President of GRREAT. To pick up dogs coming into the Rescue, I have been to places that just barely had roads! And on each road-trip I have taken, I have managed to get lost almost every time!

As you know, GRREAT is celebrating a milestone this year. Twenty years! You can take great pride in knowing that we are a Rescue that is highly regarded both in our community and by other rescues. Each year that passes is proving to be busier than the year before as far as the number of Golden Retrievers that need our help. At the time I am writing this, we are nearly a month ahead of last year's intake numbers. This is partly due to our growing reputation and the fact that GRREAT is now working with more than 70 shelters in five different states and the District of Columbia.

However, with the increase in the number of Golden Retrievers coming into GRREAT, our expenses to provide care for them have also increased. While many veterinarians are generous enough to give us a much-needed discount for the care of the GRREAT dogs, we still have very high expenses to obtain the care these dogs need before they are adopted out. Since memberships represent a major portion of our operating budget each year, this is in part why we will need to increase membership dues by \$5 to cover these increased expenses.

Another reason is that, for the first time in several years, GRREAT (and many other rescues in the country) had to find new insurance coverage. Why does the

Rescue need insurance? For the same reasons as we insure our homes and cars—to protect our volunteers and to protect the organization itself from lawsuits for injuries or accidents. As an all-volunteer organization, a single lawsuit or claim could shut down the Rescue and prevent us from the work we do for Golden Retrievers in need. Many, many rescues do not have insurance of any type and do their work with their fingers crossed that no one will sue them. GRREAT is too large and widespread an organization to do that. You may even think, like some of us did, that finding rescue insurance would be as easy as finding home or car insurance, but this could not be farther from the truth. Several companies who formerly wrote insurance policies for rescues no longer offer them. The few that continue to write these policies are in a buyer's market. Another issue in finding rescue insurance is that we are a multi-state rescue, and finding a company to give us coverage for all of the areas GRREAT serves was not easy. Thankfully Jill Kurtz took on the job, and persevered until she was able to find a company who was able to write the policy for GRREAT. However, GRREAT still does not have all of the needed coverage in place. The GRREAT Constitution and bylaws require that the Treasurer be bonded. To get this portion of the insurance it has been necessary to implement some financial controls. As part of that effort, the Board decided to hire an outside company to oversee our finances and keep all of our licenses and tax information current and up to date. All this, of course, comes with a price tag. When we finally have our bonding insurance in place, our total insurance cost will be more than double from that of last year. Add the costs of the financial services company on top of that. Based on our

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**November 1, 2003**

**Adoption Day**  
PetCo  
Fairfax, VA

**November 2, 2003**

**Volunteer**  
**Appreciation Picnic**  
Quiet Waters Park  
Annapolis, MD

**December 6, 2003**

**Adoption Day**  
PetCo  
Gaithersburg, MD

**December 14, 2003**

**Howliday Party**  
Frederick Fairgrounds  
Frederick, MD

**January 25, 2004**

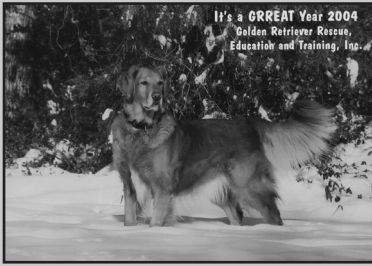
**Annual Business Meeting**  
TBA

For directions to Adoption Days, see page 11. For more information on the Volunteer Picnic, see page 5; for the Howliday Party, see page 20.

## Auction Items Needed!

GRREAT is in need of items for its Silent Auction at the annual Howliday Party. We need holiday items, certificates for services, tickets to events and Golden novelty items. We prefer mailable items, unless they can be brought to the party. Anyone wishing to donate an item should contact Pam Ambrose ([Pam.Ambrose@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Pam.Ambrose@montgomerycountymd.gov)) or Kim Wiff at [president@great.org](mailto:president@great.org).

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## 2004 GRREAT Calendars on sale!

Don't forget to purchase the 2004 GRREAT wall calendar, featuring 12 full-color photos of our spectacular rescued Golden Retrievers! Calendars are available at [www.grreat.org](http://www.grreat.org) (click on the GRREAT Store link on the left hand side) and at GRREAT functions, including adoption days. The cost of the calendar is just \$10, and all proceeds go toward helping more Golden Retrievers. Plus, they make terrific holiday gifts for the special Golden Lover in your life!

## REMINDER

Keep us up-to-date on your e-mail address, so we can keep you in the loop on the latest news from GRREAT. Please send all e-mail address changes to Jill Kurtz at [thekurtzes@yahoo.com](mailto:thekurtzes@yahoo.com). Also, if you do not currently receive e-mail updates from GRREAT and would like to, please send your address to Jill.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Continued from page 3

current membership numbers, the costs for the insurance add up to \$4 per member. I hope that you understand the importance of having all of these "safeguards" in place in order for GRREAT to survive in this day and age, and to be here for the Golden Retrievers that will need us next year, and in the years to follow.

I remember several years ago I was asked to play on a woman's softball team for my church. While I was flattered to be asked, I had to admit to them that I lacked the one skill that was needed to play softball: I couldn't catch. In fact, I was terrified of any ball that came towards me. Desperate for players, they asked me to play anyway, and I quickly learned to catch because I was given some good advice from my coach. He told me that in order to catch, I needed to remember one thing—keep my eye on the ball. I'd like to talk about "keeping our eye on the ball" for a moment.

Through all of the work to find needed insurance and get our financial and tax records in order, the one thing that has remained the focus for everyone is the Golden Retrievers that come into GRREAT. As I've already mentioned, we are running ahead of last year in the number of dogs coming in. Because of your donations, we've been able to truly make a difference in the lives of many Golden Retrievers. I'd like to tell you about a few of them. The first one was one of my own fosters, named Scout. He was given to GRREAT because his family couldn't afford his much needed hip surgeries. Thanks to the Leo Fund, Scout had two hip surgeries and is now enjoying a pain free and active life with his new family. Another Golden that came into the rescue this year is Brandy. Born with a clubfoot, she recently underwent orthopedic surgery to extend



### Brandy had necessary orthopedic surgery thanks to GRREAT

that portion of her paw, which will give her more use of her leg for the first time in her life. Finally, since we all love puppies, I have to tell you about a brother and sister that captivated many of us. Cally and Ben came to GRREAT through a local shelter at 12 weeks of age. Very thin from their lack of care, they both became extremely ill with Parvo-virus. When many would have to admit defeat to this illness, the vet's office and their foster home refused to give up on them and did all they could to save this pair. And they succeeded! These two are now enjoying their lives the way that all puppies deserve to!

These are just a very few examples of the dogs your membership in GRREAT and your donations help. I know I speak for everyone on the Board when I tell you that we appreciate ALL of you who give so generously to GRREAT—whether it is your time or your donations. We cannot continue the work of rescuing Golden Retrievers and helping them to find a better life without you!

Sincerely,

Kim Wiff  
President, GRREAT

## ALMOST HEAVEN Continued from page 1

let them go. She was also very bossy. She definitely had Queen Bee syndrome.

I placed Penny with the older, less active dogs, and within minutes she let me know that that was NOT where she wanted to be. She just carried on over it until I let her in with the younger dogs, where she was obviously happy—and in charge! Penny was just a pipsqueak compared to some of our younger males, but she kept them all in line. All, that is, except Shambee. Penny would bark her disapproval of any other dog's actions. Mosby, my 3-year-old, would probably have walked to California to avoid a confrontation with her, and would frequently stick his head into the room to "scope out the situation" (Penny's location) prior to entering a room. If she was in the pathway, he would take the route behind chairs, into another room, under tables, wherever! It was truly funny to watch. Outside, they would romp and play together, but the house was "Penny Territory."

Shambee had another way of handling Penny. He ignored her, which escalated her vocalization and frenzy to get his

attention. One day while Penny was shrieking her disapproval of Shambee through the backyard fence, he meandered over, lifted his leg, and peed right on her. Then, he just wandered away again. I guess he let her know what he thought of her bossiness!

Penny came to us housebroken, trained, and a delight to be around. She was truly one of the funniest dogs I have ever had the pleasure of having here. Unfortunately, her time with us was very short. During the week of March 2, 2003, she developed gastric problems. We took her to the vet, where she was put on medication and sent home. The problem was not thought to be serious. In two days, however, she was not better, and seemed to be getting worse, so we once again took her for medical attention. But before the test results were back, on March 2, 2003, Penny staggered in from the back yard, collapsed, and left for the Bridge.

Penny has left us with many smiles, laughs, and memories. It was hard losing her, but the experience of knowing her and loving her made it all worth it. She will live forever in our hearts. ☺



Penny lived senior life at Almost Heaven Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary, Inc. Run by Carol Free, they accept senior or special needs Golden Retrievers from shelters, owner give-ups and other rescues. Almost Heaven is a refuge for those Golden Retrievers who otherwise may be labeled "unadoptable" by ordinary standards. No Golden Retriever is ever turned away from Almost Heaven because of age or health. Each Golden is considered a valued member of their "family." For more information, visit [www.almostheaven-golden-retriever-rescue.org](http://www.almostheaven-golden-retriever-rescue.org).

## GRREAT VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC

Attend GRREAT's annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic, to be held this year at beautiful Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis. The park features a one-acre fenced off-leash dog park and an off-leash dog beach in addition to over six miles of trails for you and your buddy to roam. GRREAT Picnic festivities include doggy games and a picnic lunch. What a GRREAT way to meet and greet other volunteers and their dogs!

GRREAT will provide hamburgers and

hot dogs or veggie roll-ups, chips and other sides, cookies, fresh fruit, drinks, condiments, tableware for two-legged attendees, and water and dog treats for four-legged attendees. To arrange for sufficient quantities, PLEASE LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING by sending us an email at [grreatevents@grreat.org](mailto:grreatevents@grreat.org) or by calling GRREAT's voice mail (703.620.6593 BOX 5). Tell us your family name, how many adults, how many kids and how many dogs will attend. Please also advise if you are requesting a vegetarian lunch.

### PICNIC DETAILS

**Date:** Sunday, November 2

**Time:** 11am - 3pm

**Place:** Quiet Waters Park  
White Oaks Pavilion  
600 Quiet Waters Park Rd.  
Annapolis MD. 21403

410.222.1777 (directions only)

**Cost:** FREE! (At the park entrance, tell the gatekeeper that you are attending the GRREAT picnic)

# DONATIONS

## *In Honor Of..*

Victoria West. - *Kathy and John Vollbrecht*

In honor of all the wonderful fosters. - *Marion Shields*

Our family and friends who attended our wedding on July 25, 2003! - *Christine and Bob McCreary*

Brandy (01-080) and to thank GRREAT for the opportunity to know a very precious Golden who brightens all my days. - *Marilyn Cloyd*

“Annie’s spirit.” This Golden Retriever was well loved by Laurie and Jeff Stewart-Gerrardo. She passed away, unexpectedly, at a young age. - *MaryJo VanWingerden*

## *In Memory Of..*

Gloria Reid, who died September 14, 2003. Her Golden Retriever Bailey was her constant companion during her illness. - *Colleen Pritchard and Sulene Han*

Rusty (00-032), who died suddenly on May 30, 2003. I adopted him when he was 10 years old and had him for a wonderful 3½ years. He was a very independent dog and had an incredible spirit about him—as if he knew who he was and what he was about! He joined our family and immediately made us more “family.” It has taken me several months to do this—I miss him so. Somehow he very quickly worked his way into all our hearts. I am grateful that the old guy didn’t suffer. It seems a tumor we were unaware of burst and there was nothing to be done. Please let Daniel Keppler know, as he fostered Rusty for a few days before he came to us. I’m not ready yet, but I hope to adopt another senior Golden. Rusty was my second and I need some time to accept his loss. - *Mary Ambrosio*

Miss Sunny Bunny, beloved girl of Steve and Pam Litton. - *Felicia Mazur*

Our beloved GRREAT dog Vince (98-162), who brought us tremendous love and joy for four years. - *Nancy and Dave Smith*

Alec, adored companion of Ginny Rutter. We miss you terribly, Al. - *Virginia Rutter*

Madison Leven, 2-9-91 – 9-11-03. I am writing through tear-soaked eyes to donate to you on behalf of Madison, the most wonderful Golden who ever was. We lost her today at the age of 12½ years. She lived a very long, healthy life and brought nothing but joy to my family each day. She will be loved and missed forever. Thank you for caring about Golden Retrievers. - *Allyson Leven*

## *Other Donations...*

Please accept this donation for allowing the Bleakley family to adopt Julie (03-146). Julie is the greatest! Please use some of money towards Chloe’s medical bills. - *Norm and Gail Bleakley*

In honor of Dixie Lou (02-244) and in memory of Molly Jo. I miss you so much. - *John Glowacki and Kristen Erickson*

Please accept this enclosed check as a donation to GRREAT to thank Jan Brown and in memory of Moosie. Once again, Jan Brown looked after Nikko and Brandy whilst we returned to the UK and wouldn’t take payment, so this was the best way to thank her by sending this donation. Both boys love going and I am happy leaving them. I would also like part of this payment to be in memory of Jan’s Moosie, who unfortunately died recently. Moosie was a close companion of Jan’s and I know is deeply missed. - *Julie and Craig Wright*

Miss Rusty, owned and loved by Barbara and Russell Stephens who lovingly came to the rescue when GRREAT needed a foster home for two elderly dogs, a mother and son, Rocky (00-096) and Rusty (00-097). One thing led to another and before long Barbara and Russell decided to adopt the pair. Rusty was very fortunate to find such a GRREAT home. - *Rick Stevens and Julie Palais*

### ***Ongoing Donations received from...***

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AbsolutelyGolden.com, representing a percentage of purchases made at the site

United Way of Central Maryland

United Way of the National Capitol Area

iGive.com (Numerous unnamed donors)

Microsoft Giving Campaign, representing a donation made through payroll deduction by Bob Reagle

World Reach, Inc., representing a donation made through payroll deduction by Nancy St. John

Network for Good

Julie Cincotta "In memory of my best girl, Cassidy."  
Betsy Prescott for "medicine for Special Needs Goldens"  
Eric Roell  
Paul Shapiro  
Alyssa and Joe Springman for "Shaffer Wedding"  
Anonymous  
Other unnamed donors

Community Health Charities of the National Capital Area, representing donations made through the Washingtonpost.com workplace giving program by Toni Stiefel

Janet Hauck, representing proceeds from the sale of her note cards.

### ***Thank You for Your Donations...***

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Jo Bighouse  
Kate and Art Chutuape  
Christina Desmond  
Lynne Glennon  
Jonathan Gordon  
GT Ludwig  
John and Nancy McCord  
Hugh Spitzer and Dinah Stevens  
Gerald Venanzi  
Doreen and Brad Wright

### ***Zack's Fund for Mobility Challenged Goldens...***

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Carol and Jim Crew  
Jason Hicks and Lisa Pfeifer

The enclosed check is in memory of Zach, whom I fostered for 12 of the last 13 months of his life. Due to the neurological condition that affected his hind legs, he was limited in his ability to walk, but had progressed to a 1/2 mile a day (with a long rest 1/2 way) before his condition, similar to multiple sclerosis in a human, slowly worsened. He made many friends, though, on those walks and rests and was quite a familiar presence in my neighborhood. Unfortunately, I too was deteriorating and fast becoming unable to handle him physically. I will always regret that I did not hang in just a little longer, as Zach died one month to the day after he went to his new foster home with Edie Galpin. He was a nice dog, and tried so hard to be out and about. The word I will always associate with Zach is "valiant"—that he was. - *Patricia Collier*

### **LEO'S CORNER**

#### ***Thank You Leo Fund Donations...***

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

Dr. Jim and Ginny Hayes  
Dr. Joseph O'Neill

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

Heather Ludicke  
Paul and Chris Umberger

#### ***Letters to Leo...***

Pet Memorial: "Max" Cirincione, beloved Golden companion of Bob and Jan Cirincione, Jaime, Rob and Anne. - *Paul and Chris Umberger*

In memory of Ripley Lyons.  
- *Heather Ludicke*

## New or Used Blanket and Towel Drive

GRREAT is requesting donations of new or used blankets and towels for our friends at Finale Farm, who frequently board our intakes until we can find a foster home. Without the support of Finale Farm, GRREAT would not be able to take in as many dogs as we do. We will be collecting them at both the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic and the Howliday Party. Any size blanket will do, any size towel will do. They only need to be clean and washable...of course!

## Letter from the Managing Editor

Hi Folks!

Thank you all for the terrific response to the Senior Tribute issue of the GRREAT News. I truly appreciate your comments and suggestions. Keep in mind that we can always use your contributions: for feature articles, column ideas, photos and illustrations. Know of a dog friendly event in your area? Let us know so we can share it with the entire GRREAT community. Again, thanks! Happy holidays and keep in touch: [newsletter@grreat.org](mailto:newsletter@grreat.org).

Cheers,  
Beth Lacey Gill :)

# TPLO SURGERY IN LARGE DOGS WITH A TORN CRUCIATE LIGAMENT

By GRREAT Member Will Buklad

Large dogs, particularly those with strong field and/or athletic inclinations, can tear their cruciate ligament, much like high-powered professional athletes sometimes do. Unlike a human, who may experience recovery by immobilizing the knee and taking weight off it vertically, sometimes in conjunction surgery, the shape of a dog's leg and its playful and often obstinate demeanor presents a different set of issues to caregivers.

The cruciate ligament ties together the upper and lower leg in the human and animal knee, providing flexibility in both directions. As the name suggests, it is shaped like a crossed "x." If a dog's cruciate fails, the joint can no longer bear weight and loses all forward and lateral stability. For small and mid-size dogs, a surgical repair of the cruciate is possible. Complete natural healing may occur over time. In a large dog, a repair does not always provide a long-term solution because of the loads involved and the dog's active habits. Your veterinary orthopedic surgeon may instead recommend a tibial plateau leveling osteotomy, known as TPLO.

The characteristic rearward angling of the lower leg that makes retrievers so attractive also means that a torn cruciate is usually impossible to treat without surgery. The load from the upper leg is not in column. Without the support of the cruciate, there is no stability where the upper and lower legs meet in the joint.

The TPLO involves cutting the top of the tibia (the lower leg bone), rotating it, and pinning it, to create a much more stable joint structure. The veterinary orthopedic surgeon will use x-rays to plan an angle of rotation and bone resurfacing to set the stage for a complete recovery.

My adopted foster Sandy went through such a procedure. It was not cheap. But as I told my friends, maybe I really didn't want to take that Club Med vacation in Bora-Bora, anyway... With the promise of a full recovery, though, there really was no other choice for this fairly young and joyfully athletic dog.

**Injury avoidance:** Prevention is the best cure. For those of us taking in fosters, we have our previous experience with the breed to draw from. But each dog is so different from the next, and it is possible to be very surprised. In the case of my own foster, I was not aware that his being able to be outside much more than under his previous owner would rapidly lead into recklessly exuberant behavior. Self-blame is all too easy to arrive at in the clarity of hindsight, but you have to move on. I learned that the breeding for field instincts and show dog looks might result in limbs that are not up to the stresses that the dog imposes on them. As a new foster it is not easy to get the point across to the dog as your relationship with him/her is just starting. It's kind of like dealing with a teenager who is insisting a career in pro football.

So, if your Golden is a bit of a klutz when picking up a bouncing tennis ball but stubborn to complete the task, the safe bet is not to push him into it. I learned the hard way on an icy November morning. It's the twisting and turning motion that usually triggers the ACL tear. Also, if his nails were recently clipped, keep the dog away from play with other dogs on hard surfaces for a few weeks. I would have any future nail cutting done in the summer, as winter can at times be just too slippery. Adding a joint supplement to the Golden Retriever diet is probably a good idea, too.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## TPLO SURGERY Continued...

### **Surgery and post-op:**

You can expect to carry your dog to the vet after an injury of this kind. The surgical team will usually keep your dog for 48 hours for observation. The leg will have been shaved, and the procedure performed with arthroscopic-type tools through a small opening sealed by staple stitches. A stabilizing elastic bandage will be removed after a day or two at home. This also prevents swelling.



After a successful recovery from TPLO surgery, Sandy enjoys the park

When your dog gets home it will be in an Elizabethian collar to protect the stitches. It may be three days or so before the anesthetic wears off and bowel and bladder function returns to normal. The bladder will be back on line first, and fairly suddenly at that, so be prepared to carry your dog outside and be patient. The anesthetic seems to linger in the dog's system, so don't give them the chance to try and wander around the house (or try and climb stairs, as mine did!) while they are feeling woozy, especially when wearing the funny collar!

To raise his morale on a sunny November day, I piled some old pillows in a wheel barrow and rode him around the neighborhood, to the wonderment of his friends and mine. Most dogs realized he was injured and were respectful.

**Recuperation:** By the end of the first week, I was astonished that my dog was smiling again. The orthopedic team stressed that the first thirty days is critical. The surgical team wishes to see a lot of good bone growth and will schedule

x-rays to monitor the progress. He was on a double dose of joint supplement. There is to be no stair climbing for the first thirty days.

**Rehabilitation:** A regimen of moderate exercise and massage was planned. Sandy, who I guess was around four years old when he came my way, determinedly towed me a bit further every day. Characteristically for the breed, Sandy soon took charge of his own rehab and tried some running on his own. (I'm not supposed to tell about Sandy chasing the fox and me chasing Sandy in the January moonlight on a nearby golf course. My heart probably skipped a few beats but it sure was a glorious and memorable evening! Veteran Golden owners know what I'm talking about.) By the time the dreaded thirty day window had passed, and the x-rays looked good, we worked back towards our normal walking routine. During the winter months we had fewer distractions on our walks, but be careful about playful greetings from other dogs who may not know he had a major surgery. Remember that there is a fifty percent

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

## Dog Care Exchange

When you are going out of town, do you have a trustworthy person to care for your dog? If the answer is "no," would be willing to care for another GRREAT member's dog in return? Consider adding your name to the list of other dog lovers interested in exchanging dog care. You'll have the comfort of knowing a friendly, reliable person is looking after your dog while you're away. GRREAT member Sheila Cohen is compiling the list, so please contact her by phone if you are interested: 301.652-0995.

## Happy Holidays from your friends at GRREAT!

To all of our fosters, volunteers, members, adoptive families, supporters, friends and Golden owners: We wish you all a safe and memorable holiday season full of joy. See you next year!



## ADOPTION REPORT

Between August 11 and September 30, 37 GRREAT Golden Retrievers (17 females and 20 males) found their forever homes. Since we featured senior Golden Retrievers in our last issue, we are pleased that one third of the recent adoptions were seniors. Twelve dogs age 7 and over found new homes, including a twelve-year old! Ten dogs under age two were re-homed, as were 15 between ages 2 and 7. May the holiday season be bright for these happy boys and girls!

### Our statistics on this group:

Total - 37  
 Males - 20  
 Females - 17  
 Age under 2 - 10  
 Age 2 to 6 - 15  
 Age 7 and over - 12

Name	ID #	Age	Sex
Bailey	03-202	8 mo	F
Bear	03-131	2	M
Beren	03-126	10	M
Big Red	03-149	11	M
Campbelle	99-219	3	F
CoCo	03-153	7	M
Cody	02-179	10	F
Cookie	02-104	10	F
Duke	03-105	1	M
Dutch	03-167	4	M
Hailey	03-187	6	F
Hannah	02-134	10	F
Hope	03-058	9	F
Hoss	03-170	6	M
Jake	03-117	8 mo	M
Lassie	03-157	12	F
Lucy	03-138	1	F
Maddie	03-179	4	F
Maggie	03-099	6	F
Mars	03-163	1	M
Max	03-203	2	M
Molly	03-195	5	F
Nicky	03-093	1	F
Quincy	03-118	3	M
Rebel	03-168	6	M
Rookie	03-200	3	M
Shadow	03-123	7	M
Shadow	03-194	8	M
Shiloh	03-155	4	F
Sierra	03-174	8	F
Snuggles	03-111	8 mo	M
Sonny	03-128	3	F
Sparkey	03-156	7	F
Sugar	03-148	6	F
Sunny	03-043	1	M
Thunder	03-192	1	M
Tucson	03-140	1	M

## Corey's Story

By Tricia Messenger

Well, it's hard to believe that a year has gone by with Corey (02-128). He has turned out to be a loved member of our family. No "bones" about it though—he's my dog!!

I feel that he is pretty much over all of his insecurities. We go on walks through the neighborhood where dogs run out and charge him—not so much as a growl. He actually wanted to play with our neighbor's dog recently. One neighbor has a little miniature pinscher that jumps all over him—literally! He does nothing. Our old mutt-man Smokey (yup, still going strong at 14½!) lays next to him when they eat their bones.

We've just found out that he loves to run beside you when you ride a bike. So I hook his leash to him and off we go...we still need a little work on the turns though! He's also started having to carry his "hotdog" with him when we go on walks...of course who winds up carrying it home—me!

It just makes me so happy to see him go from a shy insecure unsure guy to what he is! He's gotten so relaxed, he gained 18 pounds even though we still walk at least a mile everyday! We just had him for his yearly checkup and the vet said he's in terrific health.

We just wanted to thank GRREAT for giving us the chance to love him! 🐾

# Brandy's Story

By Gloria M. Garcia

I adopted my first Golden from GRREAT in April. She may be 10, but a man in the Outer Banks where I took her swimming this summer said she was more like 8. He had a 4-month-old, a 4-year-old and an 11-year-old. He also had raised Golden Retrievers for 25 years. So Brandy is now 8 (all girls shave a few off their age).

Brandy is the sweetest animal and has definitely won the hearts of my parents (who dog-sit), my sister and her husband, and especially my nephews, Sebastian (10) and Vegas (7). She is still nervous when we visit new friends, but from day one at either my parents' or my sister's homes, Brandy was at ease, finding her spots to rest until it was time to go home.

Most importantly, she has given my 15-year-old mutt, Max, a spring in his step and good company. He likes having her around and I like watching my two old dogs sleep side by side on their beds as I read or watch television. Unfortunately, they both snore. Brandy has also become very protective of Max, warning other more exuberant dogs, to be careful of Max and his very weak legs.

Everyone rolled their eyes when I adopted another "old" dog—especially such a large one (she likes her food), but once anyone looks into those big brown eyes, all questions of why disappear and understanding sets in. That's just what happened to me. I did not plan on adopting another elderly dog, but her eyes melted my heart and I knew she would be coming home with me the



Brandy and Max at the Palisades 4th of July Parade this summer

first time I saw her at my friend Rene's home (her foster mom).

For all the reasons why one shouldn't take on an older dog, I say, payback is heaven. Every time she looks at me or runs to me as if she has been my dog since puppyhood, or every time I see happiness where there must have been sadness in her history, I think how lucky I am to have found what someone else lost or willingly gave up.

From Max and Gloria, thanks to GRREAT for Brandy. And, thanks to Rene Sollod, my dear friend and her GRREAT foster mom! 🐾

*We love featuring your stories!*

*To be a part of "Happily Ever After," please send an email with your story and photo attached to: [newsletter@grreat.org](mailto:newsletter@grreat.org)*

## ADOPTION DAY DIRECTIONS

**November 1, 2003**

PETCO, Noon – 2 pm  
10708 Lee Highway  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
Ph: 703.352.3300

From I-495, take I-66W towards Manassas/ Front Royal. Take VA-123 South (exit 60) toward Fairfax. Stay straight onto Chain Bridge Rd. Turn right onto Lee Highway. PetCo is 1/2 mile on the right, across from the high school.

**December 6, 2003**

PETCO, Noon – 2 pm  
275 Muddy Branch Rd  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
Ph: 301.975.9888

From the local lanes of I-270, take the Sam Eighley Hwy/I-370 West exit 9B for 0.3 miles. Turn right on Diamondback Drive and go 0.4 miles to its end. Turn right on Muddy Branch Road and go 1.1 miles. PetCo is on the right side of the street in the Festival at Muddy Branch shopping center. The store is toward the right end of the shopping center.

*Directions to January's adoption day will appear in the next issue.*

*GRREAT assumes no responsibility for the above directions. Please call the individual businesses listed to verify the route from your address.*

## BOOK REVIEW

BY BETH LACEY GILL

### *Watchers*

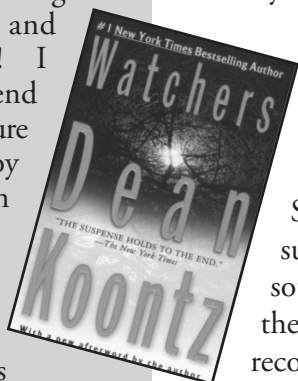
By Dean Koontz

Berkley Pub Group(2003);

ISBN: 0425188809;

Paperback, 512 pages, \$7.99

When reclusive Travis Cornell finds a stray Golden Retriever while hiking in California, he quickly realizes that the dog has astonishing human-like intelligence. Travis' encounter with the Golden, named Einstein, is the beginning of a tightly-woven, though sometimes far-fetched, plot involving genetic alteration in a top-secret government lab. A 500-page chase scene unfolds, with the government and a profit-seeking rogue assassin on the hunt for our heroes. *Watchers* is both frightening and entertaining, though it felt somewhat "B-movie" to me. That may be because I've seen the awful TV-movie version and/or because I'm so fond of Shelley's *Frankenstein*, on which *Watchers* is loosely based. Regardless, *Watchers* ultimately becomes a story of the redemptive power of love and hope. Einstein is completely endearing and he reads and plays Scrabble! I would recommend *Watchers* to mature adults who enjoy the horror/action thriller genre. Oh, and don't worry: our Golden hero, Einstein survives just fine.



## ASK GOLDIE

Featuring your questions answered by Susan McCullough, Author, *Housetraining For Dummies* (Wiley) and *Your New Dog: An Expert Answers Your Every Question* (Capital Books)

Dear Goldie:

*My Golden, Amber, gets very upset during thunderstorms. No amount of comforting or consolation seems to work. She shakes, drools and pants. Fortunately she's not incontinent or destructive, but it's terrible to see her so upset. We haven't resorted to medications, but wonder if we should.*

Signed,

*Amber's Mom in Virginia*

Dear Mom,

Boy, I sympathize with your concern and with Amber's problem. Many dogs go bonkers when a T-storm starts. Fortunately, though, there is plenty of help available for your storm-phobic canine companion.

First, you might want to temper your reactions to Amber's distress. Yes, it's difficult to watch your beloved Golden girl shaking and panting and not rush over to comfort her. But if you do pull her onto your lap (admittedly a difficult task when it comes to our Golden companions), whisper softly to her and/or pet her, you may be reinforcing her fear. In other words, by trying to comfort her you actually may be telling her that she is supposed to react fearfully—which of course is exactly opposite of what you want to achieve.

Some trainers and behaviorists suggest getting a dog used to the sounds of previous storms before the next big boomer occurs. They recommend playing a recording of a storm for the dog to hear. Start off by playing the tape softly and for just a

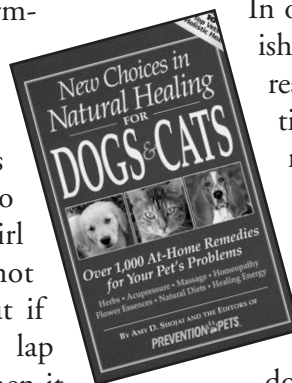
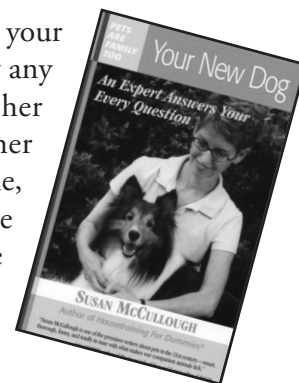
minute or so. If your dog doesn't show any distress, give her a treat or other reward. Next time, play the same recording a little bit louder and for a longer period of time

—and again, reward your dog for staying calm. If she becomes nervous, reduce the volume of the recording. Eventually, you may be able to play the tape for 15 or 20 minutes at the volume of a real storm, and your dog may not react at all. Experts call this process "desensitization"—

In other words, you are diminishing Amber's hypersensitive reaction to T-storms by getting her accustomed to the racket they make.

Some veterinarians and owners have found that certain scents and essences can help allay a dog's thunder phobia. In her book *New Choices in Natural Healing For Dogs and Cats* (Rodale), Amy D. Shojai explains that substances such as aspen, mimulus and Bach Rescue Remedy can help calm a dog's fear. They are available at health food stores. Squirt a dropper of one of these essences into your dog's water once a day.

If these suggestions don't work, anti-anxiety medications might. However, don't try to administer these on your own; in other words, don't give your dog a dose of your own anti-anxiety meds. Instead, consult your veterinarian to see what may be best for your phobic four-legged friend. 🐾





# THE DOG-TOR IS IN

Your questions answered by Dr. Ronald Spikloser

## This month's feature: Heartworm

Heartworm is a disease that affects the heart and the vessels leading to the heart. It is carried by mosquitoes from a dog with the disease to a dog without the disease. The mosquito bites a dog with microfilaria in its bloodstream. The microfilaria then become infective in the mosquito. The mosquito then bites and transmits this infective microfilaria into a healthy dog, where it migrates through the tissues of the body, eventually reaching the heart. The heartworm then grows to up to a foot in length and can be fatal.

The male and female heartworms take several months to show up on tests and even then the microfilaria or baby worms may not be seen under the microscope because they are not in the bloodstream. This is known as an occult heartworm infection. The more worms the body has, the worse the disease and the more active it is in the animal. Early in the disease process, the worms may be in the lungs causing an inflammatory process. Later, when they move into the heart, the heart can enlarge causing heart failure. There is also a condition where the worms clog the vena cava and cause what is called the vena caval syndrome resulting in liver failure. This is an acute emergency that will kill the dog if surgery is not done quickly.

Heartworm has been reported in every state. It is therefore recommended that prevention be practiced in all 50 states and for 12 months a year.

The disease can develop for months

without any signs being seen. The early signs are a cough, which is a common problem with all dogs. Exercise intolerance is another sign but also is common as dogs get older.

Usually the disease is diagnosed with blood tests and x-rays. It is always important that a physical be done and a pertinent history be taken. More advanced testing with angiography and ultrasound can also aid in the diagnosis.

Treatment consists of an injection in the back muscles of the dog with the goal of killing the adult worms. This can cause side effects because as the worms die they can clog up organs of the body, causing permanent damage or death.

After the adult worms are killed, the microfilaria are killed. This is done with the common heartworm preventatives. Side effects can occur with both the adult and microfilaria killingz. It is therefore recommended that dogs be hospitalized so they can be closely monitored. Treatment is dangerous—with potential life-threatening side effects—so prevention is the key. The most common preventatives of the market are Heartgard, Interceptor and Proheart. The Heartgard and Interceptor are pills that are given once per month, while the Proheart is an injection given every six months. Heartworm is not a disease to be taken lightly or ignored. 🐾

*Dr. Ron founded Timonium Animal Hospital. Since selling his practice in 2000, he has been doing relief work and house calls. If you have a question for Dr. Ron, please email it to [newsletter@great.org](mailto:newsletter@great.org) and look for a response in an upcoming issue of the GRREAT News!*

## Winner of the "Writer's Block" Contest!

The winner of last issue's Contest is Julie Palais, who came up with the clever column title of "The Dog-tor is In." Julie will receive a free GRREAT T-shirt, compliments of the GRREAT News.

## Answers from Dr. Ron

In answer to a question about Casey adopted at 9 years of age with **Glaucoma in his right eye**: there are different types of glaucoma that are treated totally different. I will touch on them in another column. I always refer to a veterinary ophthalmologist for this type of problem, as it is hard to tell the different types.

In answer to a question about the **health of former puppy mill mothers**: no research has been done specifically in this area. The best a loving owner can do is feed a well balanced premium diet and have regular check ups and blood tests.

## You Know you have a Golden Retriever when....

(started by "Rescue a Golden of Arizona" and completed by Golden Retriever Lovers all over the World)

...there are more toys scattered on the floor than you ever allowed your kids to have.

...you buy Golden Retriever colored carpet, so the dog hair will blend in and you won't have to vacuum as often.

...it takes four washings with Windex to get the slobber off your car windows.

...you realize you can never go to the bathroom alone again.

...your spell checker no longer catches the word "Fuzzbutt."

...you decorate a holiday tree for the dogs.

...you wake up in the morning with your Golden in bed and your husband on the floor.

...your holiday card features the dogs but no people.

...you watch Animal Planet more than any other channel because the dogs like it.

...you notice every Golden in every commercial.

...you never have cold feet because your Golden blanket is the perfect temperature.

Have some of your own?  
We'd love to hear them!  
Send your ideas to  
[newsletter@grreat.org](mailto:newsletter@grreat.org).

## PICK OF THE LITTER

*Spotlight on a special dog in need of a special someone*

### CARRIE (03-139)

**CARRIE:** Rescued from a shelter, this little 1 year old "lap top" Golden mix weighs about 35 pounds, is house and crate trained and can be left for about 8 hours. She does get along with cats. Initially, she was shy when meeting new people and in new surroundings. To help her have confidence, her new home must have a securely fenced yard and a canine companion that will interact and play with her.

Since coming into GRREAT, Carrie has been learning all about life, which includes learning to play and basic obedience. She has proven to be a bright, quick and enthusiastic learner. Despite this, Carrie is very shy and fearful and finds the world to be a bit frightening. She can be reluctant when it comes to

going for walks and having new experiences. Because Carrie can be easily startled by unfamiliar noises, a quiet home without young children will be best. Her new family MUST be dog savvy and very patient to appropriately help her learn that everyday life is nothing to be afraid of. When Carrie feels secure in her surroundings she is very friendly, eager for attention and love. Even though Carrie has a lot to learn, this lovely little girl will be a wonderful addition to a patient family who is willing to take the time to polish this little gem!

If you think you can provide the love and support Carrie needs, please contact foster mom Kim Wiff at [president@grreat.org](mailto:president@grreat.org). 🐾



CARRIE WOULD  
LOVE TO  
SPEND TIME  
WITH YOU

### Volunteers needed for Annual Scottish Christmas Walk

During the parade on December 6th, GRREAT will need people and their dogs to walk in the parade and represent Golden Retrievers. Keep your eyes open for email updates and information as it gets closer to the event. For more information, contact Kim Wiff at [president@grreat.org](mailto:president@grreat.org).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Doggie Happy Hours**

Every Tuesday and Thursday  
5 pm – 8 pm  
Holiday Inn Select  
Alexandria, VA  
703.549.6080 x801  
www.doggiehappyhour.com

## **Yappy Hour**

Every Wednesday  
6 pm - 8 pm  
St Elmo's Coffee Pub  
Alexandria, VA  
www.hydrantdog.com/yappyhour

## **Pet Bereavement Seminar**

Third Wednesday of every month  
7 pm  
Frederick County Humane Society  
Frederick, MD  
301.694.8300  
www.fchs.org

## **Animal Welfare League's Annual Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction**

November 1, 2003  
6:30 pm – 10:30 pm  
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
Alexandria, VA  
703.838.4774 x321  
A glittery toast to the accomplishments of 2003 will feature a cocktail reception, silent auction, dinner, awards and animal highlights. Their special guest speaker will be adopter Lieutenant General (retired) Claudia Kennedy. For tickets and information, visit [www.alexandrianimals.org](http://www.alexandrianimals.org).

This list is for information purposes only. GRREAT does not sponsor nor endorse these events.

## **1st Annual "Bark for Art" Auction**

November 8, 2003  
Center for Print Paper & Book Arts  
Rockville, MD  
240.773.5960  
All dogs are welcome. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Montgomery County Humane Society. For more information, visit [www.mchumane.org](http://www.mchumane.org).

## **Pet Item Yard Sale**

November 15, 2003  
8:30 am – 1:30 pm  
Charles County Humane Society  
Waldorf, MD  
301.645.8181  
[www.humanesocietycc.org](http://www.humanesocietycc.org)

## **"The Third Way" Seminar**

November 15 – 16, 2003  
The Coventry School for Dogs  
Columbia, MD  
410.381.1800  
Led by Chris Bach, this seminar cover the next generation in reinforcement training. \$150 fee. For more information, visit [www.thecoventryschool.com](http://www.thecoventryschool.com)

## **33rd Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Parade**

December 6th  
10:30 am – 12:30 pm  
Alexandria, VA  
Over 100 Scottish Clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, Scottie dog groups, dignitaries and of course Santa Claus will march down the cobblestone streets of Old Town. For more information, contact Kim Wiff at [president@grreat.org](mailto:president@grreat.org).

# Bone Appetit!

RECIPES FOR YOUR DOG

## Health Muffins

### **Ingredients:**

1½ cups oat flour  
1 cup rolled oats  
1 cup oat bran  
2 tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
1 egg, lightly beaten  
¼ cup honey  
3 Tbl. vegetable oil  
¾ cup milk

### **Optional Ingredients:**

Blended Apples and Bananas  
Shredded Zucchini and Carrots  
Shredded Cheddar and Jack Cheese  
Chopped Nuts and Raisins  
Cooked Chicken

### **Directions:**

Preheat oven to 425°. Line muffin tins with foil/paper muffin forms. Mix dry ingredients. In a separate bowl, mix the egg, honey and oil. Mix the milk with the dry ingredients, blending well. At this point, mix your optional ingredients into the honey mixture, then mix the honey mixture into the flour/milk batter. Put in muffin tins and bake for 15-20 minutes. These muffins freeze well.

*If you have a recipe you'd like to share with the newsletter, please email us at [newsletter@grreat.org](mailto:newsletter@grreat.org) and use "Recipe" as your subject line.*

SOURCE: THE INTERNET

**VOLUNTEER  
OPPORTUNITY****FOSTER HOME**

**ASSIGNOR:** Working under the direction of the Foster Home Coordinator the primary responsibility of the Foster Home Assignor will be to select and secure agreement from the foster homes to foster a dog for GRREAT. Upon agreement with the foster home the Foster Home Assignor will report the information back to the Foster Home Coordinator.

**Skills Required:**

- Basic understanding of computers and some proficiency with email, spreadsheets and maintaining a database.
- Able to perform follow up phone calls to prospective foster homes throughout the GRREAT area of responsibility.

**Considerations:**

- Daily monitoring of email and maintenance of spreadsheet data.
- Periodic reporting of progress and state of database to Foster Home Coordinator.
- Computer spreadsheet of foster families to be provided.

For more information, contact Tom Janczuk at [tjanczuk@earthlink.net](mailto:tjanczuk@earthlink.net).

# Letter from the Foster Home Coordinator

Dear GRREAT Members,

Having just taken over the responsibilities of Foster Home Coordinator for GRREAT, I thought I'd introduce myself and also invite you, if you aren't already a participant, into the fostering program.

Marylou and I have been members of GRREAT since early 2000 when we fostered our first dog, Jake. As a recent early retiree, I was looking for something to be involved in and had not really had a hobby, other than helping to raise four children, during my working years. Marylou works for a vet here in Great Falls, VA, and she suggested I get involved in fostering. Knowing that I had a love for dogs but not sure how a dog would work in a household with our two cats, it seemed like a good way to go. Jake came to us as a stray, recovering from an encounter with a pit bull, being neutered, and having a cyst removed. He was underweight and had a terrible coat. I have vivid memories of chasing him for about twenty minutes that first January day with me after he had successfully slithered under our fence that I thought was so secure. I think that was a bonding experience for both of us and it wasn't too long when we decided to adopt him. He's now my Velcro dog. Six months later we tried our hand at fostering again when Bear came to us. Once more we decided to adopt. Having realized I was a failure at fostering I decided to try a different means of volunteering, so I tried transport. I found it very rewarding, as it allowed me to interact with the dogs, if only for a short time. In early 2002, Mary Ellen Lunde asked for volunteers to help in the process of finding foster homes so I

decided to give it a try and was given the job of Foster Home Assignor. When Mary Ellen left recently she asked if I would take the job of Foster Home Coordinator and after some soul searching I decided to accept. Recently, I tried my hand at fostering once again as earlier this year we lost Bear to cancer. Blondie came to us in September as a return to GRREAT as she was a bit of a wanderer. And once again I've proven that I fail at fostering as we just adopted her.

Even though I am a failure at fostering (because I end up keeping the dog), I do believe it is one of the most important and rewarding roles to be played in GRREAT. So far this year we have taken in over 230 dogs, a pace that is about a month ahead of last year. At times, the number of available fosters has shrunk to less than five. Because we try to match the dogs to the available fosters based on the characteristics of the dog and the preferences of the foster, many times we don't have a match and the dogs must wait until a suitable foster is available. In some cases this has caused the owner to go elsewhere to find a home for their dog. For most of the year we have operated with a moratorium on accepting mixes. If you would even consider getting involved in this aspect of GRREAT, I encourage you to go to the GRREAT website and review the information on fostering. Then contact the foster home assistant (see page 2) for your area to initiate the process of becoming a GRREAT foster family.

Sincerely,  
Tom Janczuk  
Foster Home Coordinator

## TPLO SURGERY Continued from page 9

chance that the other knee might blow out during the first year after the initial repair. I had many patient conversations with Sandy to encourage him to “cool his jets” a bit.

**Six months after:** The recovery is complete as promised. It takes my breath away to see my dog run at full tilt again on a grassy field. He has such a smooth, powerful gait for a large dog running so fast. Sandy is a stubborn dog who, like many Golden Retrievers, doesn't take well to shouted commands, but if you softly and convincingly persuade him, he'll just about do anything except drive your car to the inspection station. If the play gets a bit too rough, or he looks like he's going to pick the hard way up the stream bed, I'll let him know, and at this point he will always

concede the point gracefully. He certainly has learned from his experience, just as I have.

Sandy's surgery was performed by Dr. Tommy Walker of the Dulles Care Group, working out of the Blue Ridge Animal Hospital in Purcellsville, Virginia. The medical team was first-rate in every sense of the word. I am also very thankful for the guidance and support of GRREAT in dealing with this emergency, especially to Mary Ellen Lunde and Julie Palais. What a GRREAT group, indeed! 🐾

*Will is a new member of GRREAT, but has been “uncle” to many a neighbor's Golden over years. Will is a network administrator for the FAA and lives in Arlington.*

## Need information on TPLO surgery?

Check out these websites:

[www.lauriebryce.com/tplo](http://www.lauriebryce.com/tplo)

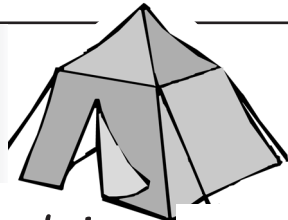
[www.adobe-animal.com/services\\_surgery\\_tplo.html](http://www.adobe-animal.com/services_surgery_tplo.html)

[www.woodhavenlabs.com/tplo-normal.html](http://www.woodhavenlabs.com/tplo-normal.html)

[www.sancarlosvet.com/Other/Prof/TPLO](http://www.sancarlosvet.com/Other/Prof/TPLO)

[www.vetsurgerycentral.com/tplo.htm](http://www.vetsurgerycentral.com/tplo.htm)

## THE PUP TENT



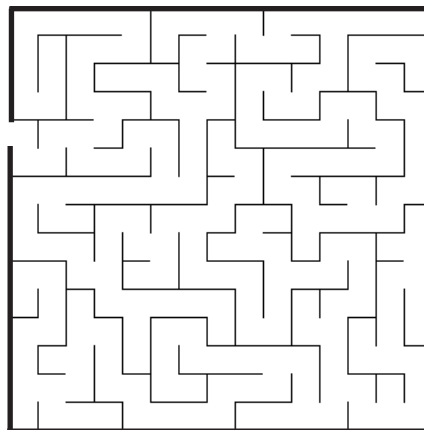
### Kids CAN help!

#### Here are some ideas:

- Help spread the word: encourage people to adopt, not buy
- Hold a bake sale and donate a portion of your profits to pet rescue
- Volunteer with Mom and Dad at a GRREAT event
- Write a play about pet rescue; perform it at a school talent show
- Organize a school-wide towel or toy drive to benefit pet rescue
- Contribute to the GRREAT News



## GOLDEN MAZE With assistance from PuzzleMaker.com



Help Goldie get to her bone by going through the maze!

# VOLUNTEER CORNER

## A BREED APART

Spotlight on a GRREAT Volunteer

*Bob Fritz*

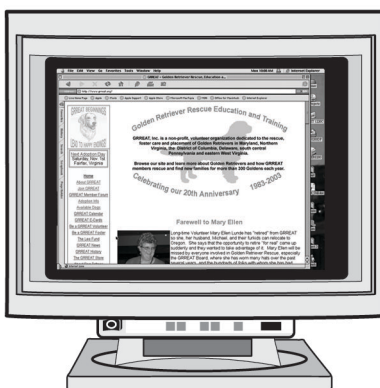
What are you doing at 3 pm on Tuesday? The odds are that you are visiting the GRREAT website, [www.grreat.org](http://www.grreat.org). So says Bob Fritz, GRREAT's webmaster for nearly 10 years. According to the statistics he maintains on usage of the GRREAT website, 3 pm and Tuesday are the times that GRREAT.org gets the most "hits" or Internet contacts.

Bob is one of GRREAT's behind-the-scenes volunteers. "We moved here in 1990 for the opportunity of a military promotion at the Pentagon. We got involved with GRREAT when we adopted Marcus, our first Rescue Golden," he says. "I started doing the web site when my wife 'volunteered' me to create an Internet presence for GRREAT to list available dogs and provide some of the E (education) in GRREAT's name. I didn't know very much about websites and took it on as a challenge. That challenge turned into a hobby and recently into a business."

When Bob's last military assignment took him to Atlanta, he was able to continue as GRREAT's webmaster. Now retired from the Army, Bob develops and manages more than a dozen websites for not-for-profit organizations and small

businesses. "GRREAT is one of the more active websites I manage—keeping up with available dogs and adoptions, adding coming events, responding to e-mails addressed to the webmaster, and creating new pages and member forums—and it's wonderful to see the response I get." For GRREAT, that response means over 21,000 hits per month, incredible visibility for a Rescue group, and a fantastic opportunity to educate and inform visitors about Golden Retrievers.

Bob's service to the organization goes beyond the Internet, according to Kim Wiff, GRREAT President. "He helps rookies like me with computer problems. He's there at Adoption Days taking pictures of available dogs, and he's there at GRREAT events capturing the spirit of the occasion. Bob is often overlooked as someone (like many others of course) who contributes a lot to GRREAT." We thank you, Bob, for the hours you volunteer every week keeping the GRREAT website up to date.



When you are Internet surfing and hear that dog bark as you enter [www.grreat.org](http://www.grreat.org), give a nod to Bob Fritz, the webmaster who put it there. 🐾

### GRREAT is looking for Tattoo Team members!

Tattoo Team members are responsible for driving to and attending certain Tattoo Events, which will most likely be held mid-month on Saturday or Sunday. Team members will assist the NDR tattooist by holding dogs and updating the tattoo books. Each event should last an average of two hours, not including drive time. Please contact Jessie Robinson, [jrgolden4314@hotmail.com](mailto:jrgolden4314@hotmail.com), for more information.

### It's Membership Renewal Time!

If your mailing label for this issue shows "Expires 12/31/03 (M)" in the upper right corner, your GRREAT membership expires with this issue. Membership can be renewed through January 31, 2004, for \$25. After that date, dues increase to \$30. Now is also the time to consider making a tax-deductible donation to GRREAT. Use the handy form on page 19 and mail it and your check to GRREAT 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!

## 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 are gratefully acknowledged in the GRREAT News.  
*Thank you for your generosity.*

### Checks should be made payable to GRREAT.

Please mail forms with your contribution to:  
GRREAT, P.O. Box 3069, Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

## MAIL IN MEMBERSHIP FORM

- New Member       Renewal (\$25 until 1/31/04)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

- Mark here if this is an address or name change

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mark as many as applicable:

- I am enclosing \$30 for my 2004 membership dues.
- I am enclosing a tax-deductible donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- I am interested in becoming a GRREAT Volunteer. (Please fill out and return Volunteer form as well).
- I am interested in donating the following services or supplies to GRREAT:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your support!*

## 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 the form to:

**GRREAT**  
**Attention: Volunteer Coordinator**  
**P.O. Box 3069**  
**Falls Church, VA 22043-0069**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

Are you over age 18?  Yes  No

Work Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

OK to call at work?  Yes  No

County or area you live in \_\_\_\_\_

County or area you work in \_\_\_\_\_

Other areas 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# ANNUAL HOWLIDAY PARTY

Note:  
our last issue was  
wrong: the correct  
date is December  
14th! See you  
there!

This year's Howliday Party will take place at a new location, the Frederick Fairgrounds Building on December 14th, 2003. Pictures can be taken with Santa and, of course, we will have the usual canine costume parade and games. A silent auction will also take place during the party to benefit GRREAT!

**Doggie Gift Exchange:** For EACH of your dogs that participates in the gift exchange, bring a loosely wrapped "gift" under \$5 and 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!

**Pot Luck Dinner:** The GRREAT Board will be providing the turkey, ham, bread, rolls, condiments, chips, tableware, hot and cold beverages—but everything else will be Pot Luck! 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 | cold salad | M- R  | side dish* |
| G - L | dessert    | S - Z | munchies   |

**To RSVP:** After November 5th, please send an email to [greatevents@grreat.org](mailto:greatevents@grreat.org) or call 703.620.6593 and leave a message in Box 5. Let us know how many people and dogs will be attending.

**Directions:** From Washington, DC: 270 North to 70 East toward Baltimore. Right onto South Street. Right on Franklin. Fairgrounds straight ahead.

From Baltimore: 695 South to 70 West. Take Exit 56. Seven blocks. Fairgrounds straight ahead.

**Towel Drive:** If you have any new or used blankets or towels that you are willing to donate for Golden use at Finale Farm, please bring them to this event.

\*If your dish is to be served warm, please bring the appropriate heating device, serving utensils and extension cord.

## DETAILS

DATE: December 14, 2003

TIME: 11 am – 2 pm

PLACE: Frederick Fairgrounds Bldg  
797 E. Patrick Street  
Frederick, MD 21701

COST: \$10 per person  
or \$20 per family

**Don't forget about the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on November 2nd! See page 5 for information.**

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.  
P.O. Box 3069  
Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

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## GRREAT BEGINNINGS



## LEAD TO HAPPY ENDINGS!

Golden Retriever Rescue  
Education and Training, Inc.