



GRREAT NEWS

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Sunshine's RV Adventure

By GRREAT Dog Sunshine Moses; Edited by Karen and Terry Moses

Part I

My name is Sunshine Moses (98-011) and I'm a "full time RV'er" temporarily living in sunny Southern California. For those of you that don't know what a full time RV'er is, it's someone that lives full time in a recreation vehicle (RV) and travels from campground to campground trying to see everything there is to see.

My adventures started when some very nice people took me in and gave me a home. I stayed with GRREAT for a short while and then one day a Goldie came to visit, his name was Kelsey. He was a wonderful Goldie owned by the Moses family and we fast became friends. He told them he wanted to take me home and of course you know how we Golden almost always get our way. I knew they were OK people since they already knew how to take care of a Golden. It was wonderful, no more wandering the street, looking for handouts, and living wherever I could to stay out of the heat and cold. That was the start of my wonderful adventures.

There was always plenty to eat for the first few days, and then they took me to visit the vet. She's a very nice person and would get on the floor to talk to me. It was during this first visit with her that they decided I needed to lose about 30 pounds. I mean, after all just because my eyes were almost closed from the fat and I couldn't make it up the stairs!



Sunshine (98-011) hit the road with her forever family in 2004.

Oh well, I still had a nice warm bed and plenty of room in the house and yard to run.

Kelsey and I would go camping with the humans in a small camper and, when at home, would play for hours. He was getting old and I think he must have had hip problems because he would run and fall down. He would get up and lean on me until he got his hips straight and then we would run some more. The day came when Kelsey went for a ride with my human but didn't come home. I thought at first that they had gone to the groomer but then I heard someone talking about the Rainbow Bridge and how wonderful he was and how he was going to be missed. My humans cried for a few days and then turned all of their attention to me and told me that everything was going to be all right.

SUNSHINE Cont'd on page 18

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

P.O. Box 3069, Falls Church, VA 22043-0069
Phone: 703-620-6593 • Web site: 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 and West Virginia.

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NEWSLETTER		
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* members of the GRREAT Board of Directors

LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

We Can't Be GRREAT Without You

We're off to another busy year in rescue. Already we've has taken in many dogs whose very lives depend on GRREAT's ability to offer much-needed care and an opportunity to start a new life.

The good news is that GRREAT continues to be a strong organization that can make a difference in the lives of so many Golden Retrievers. As those of you who were able to attend our annual meeting saw first hand, we continue to be fortunate to have wonderful volunteers and donors who provide us with the resources we need for the work we do. We continue to have an extensive roster of members who also contribute to every success story.

The annual meeting marked my last official event as an officer of GRREAT; I am leaving the Board of Directors after two years as vice president. As I look back over our accomplishments of the past two years, I'm very proud to be part of GRREAT. Most importantly, during this time we were there to help 530 unwanted or abandoned dogs.

We also made important progress in keeping GRREAT operating as a healthy and responsible organization. We've developed and refined our Standard Operating Procedures to help our foster homes and volunteers understand how to accomplish their important work. Our new microchip identification program has had a successful introduction and is now expanding to include every new GRREAT dog. We've improved documentation and

control of our finances, coordinated our many state and local government obligations, and secured the insurance coverage that we require to continue to operate. GRREAT today is a stronger, more professional organization than ever before.

As 2005 gets under way, we'll continue to work to further improve the organization. Foster Home Coordinator Edie Galpin has launched the IMPACT team concept to provide personalized one-on-one support for foster homes. Sandy Diamond, GRREAT's new Vice President, will be coordinating an updated foster home education program to help these critical volunteers be successful.

GRREAT's 2005 Board of Directors is dedicated to continuing our mission. But they can't do it alone. They need the help and support of every member. Yes, that's you! They need members who can volunteer their time, members who can make donations, and members who can respond to special appeals. GRREAT just can't be great without you.

Please take a look at the forms at the end of this newsletter. They offer many ways for you to stay involved. You can make a donation. If the mailing label on this newsletter says "RENEW" in red letters, you should clip the renewal form and mail in your annual membership dues.

You can fill out a volunteer form, and maybe consider serving in a role you have not tried before. **We continue to be desperately in need of additional foster homes.** We also have a continuing need for people to

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 5, 2005

Adoption Day
PETCO, 12 – 2 p.m.
Laurel, MD

April 2, 2005

Adoption Day
PETCO, 12 – 2 p.m.
Herndon, VA

May 7, 2005

Adoption Day
PETCO, 12 – 2 p.m.
Bel Air, MD

June 12, 2005

Bark-B-Q
Quiet Waters Park
Annapolis, MD

For directions to Adoption Days, see page 11.



On sale now: GRREAT bumper stickers! Show your support with these awesome 6 x 4-inch oval stickers that look just like the popular Euro-stickers. Stickers are \$3 each and will be on sale at Adoption Days and all GRREAT events. For more information, contact Jessie Robinson via email at adoptions@grreat.org.

CONTINUED on page 4

DOG CARE EXCHANGE

Do you answer "yes" to any of the following questions?

- Does the look your dog gives you when you drop him off for boarding make you cry?
- Have you stopped taking vacations because you can't bear to board your dog?
- Do you feel like you have to take out a second mortgage to afford boarding?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, then consider the Dog Care Exchange. This is a network of GRREAT members who are interested in exchanging dog-sitting time with each other so they don't have to board their dogs. If you are interested in joining or would like information, e-mail Sandy Diamond at sandy_diamond@earthlink.net.

VP'S LETTER Continued from page 3

serve in coordinating roles for various aspects of our rescue work. In this issue you'll see an appeal for help with this newsletter. There are many more jobs that are ready for a volunteer with time and energy. If that's you, please contact any board member or Volunteer Coordinator Stephanie Nelson, and we'll put you to work!

GRREAT can be the successful organization that it is only because of the support of our members and volunteers. With your help, we can make 2005 another successful year of finding "forever homes" for many Golden Retrievers in need.

Sincerely,
Bob Kurtz
Vice President, 2003-2004

STAY IN TOUCH WITH GRREAT THROUGH E-MAIL!

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 mail@grreat.org. Also, if you do not currently receive e-mail updates from GRREAT and would like to, please send your e-mail address to Jill.

PVGRC ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The PVGRC Banquet recognizes the year 2004 achievements of PVGRC Goldens and their people. This year's banquet will take place on Saturday, March 12, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, College Park (10000 Baltimore Boulevard, College Park, MD 20740). Tickets are \$30 and can be made until March 5, 2005. This year's banquet is set to be a night to remember, as all club members will Rock Around the Clock down memory lane, as we pay tribute to those Golden Seventies. Trophies, awards and rosettes earned in 2004 will be presented. Contact Banquet Chair Sandy Selander at onlineGR@erols.com.

Golden Opportunity!

Newsletter Editor Needed!

The GRREAT News is looking for talented individuals to assist with all aspects of the newsletter! No experience is necessary—all that is required is a sense of humor and a willingness to help out.

The Newsletter is also in need of someone with experience in Adobe InDesign or other page layout program to produce the newsletter. This individual should be able to dedicate 10-15 hours per month and be willing to design the newsletter, make the necessary changes, and send it to press.

If you are interested, please send an e-mail to president@grreat.org.

ADOPTION REPORT

Name	ID	Age	Sex	Luke	04-165	6 mo	M
Bailey	04-149	9 mo	M	Maggie	03-211	9	F
Baxter	04-055	2	M	Maggie	04-170	11 mo	F
Brady	04-132	2	M	Magnum	03-173	12	M
Brandy	04-179	1	F	Max	02-019	3	M
Brinkley	04-151	2	M	McGreggor	04-068	1	M
Champ	04-169	5	M	Midas	04-139	7 mo	M
Chase	04-159	9	M	Mike	04-142	3	M
Daisy	04-161	1	F	Milly	04-004	3	F
Daisy/Brandy	04-161	1	F	Misty	04-178	3	F
Dakota	95-134	10	M	Misty/Tequila	04-018	8 mo	F
Digger	04-125	11 mo	M	Mitch	03-279	9	M
Doc	04-154	3	M	Passion/Patty	04-160	1	F
Doyle	04-002	1	M	Petry	04-099	7	M
Gracie	04-096	11 mo	F	Quincey	03-238	8	M
Honey	04-124	6 mo	M	Rocky	04-064	1	M
Hunter	03-190	6	M	Rodger	04-163	4	M
Indy	04-073	1	M	Rusty	04-164	1	M
Jack	04-102	4	M	Sasha	04-172	7 mo	F
Jack	04-150	3	M	Sebastian	04-080	1	M
Jack	04-185	1	M	Shadow	04-121	8	M
Jessie	04-155	1	F	Shelby	04-117	10	F
Jimmy	04-098	8	M	Skippy	04-145	4	M
Joey	04-118	1	M	Sydney	03-069	5	F
Keiro	04-166	3	M	TC	04-084	11	M
Klingon	04-174	2	M	Teddy	04-152	3	M
Libby	04-058	7	F	Zach	04-133	8	M
Lucy	04-147	3	F	Zoe	04-148	5	F

It was a happy new year for 55 dogs in the Rescue. Of these 38 were male and 17 were female. There were 22 youngsters under the age of 2, 20 dogs between 2 and 6, and 13 seniors age 7 and up. Kind families even opened their hearts and homes to one 12 year old and one 11 year old.

Congratulations and welcome home to all these dogs and their new families.

**TOTAL DOGS
ADOPTED
IN 2004:
239**

ADOPTION DAY DIRECTIONS

March 5, 2005

PETCO, Noon – 2 p.m.
915 Washington Blvd., #83
Laurel, Maryland 20707
Ph: 301.490.7452

From I-95, take the exit for Route 198 East towards Laurel. Get onto Route 1 South. PetCo is 1/8 of a mile on the right.

April 2, 2005

PETCO, Noon – 2 p.m.
2441-F Centreville Rd.
Herndon, VA 20171
Ph: 703.713.1552

From the Dulles Toll Road, take the Herndon exit. Turn left off the exit.

At the next light, make a left into the Clocktower Shopping Center. PetCo is in the back corner next to Shoppers Food Warehouse.

May 7, 2005

PETCO, Noon – 2 p.m.
615 Belair Rd, Suite P
Bel Air, MD 21014
Ph: 410-420-6754

From I-95, take exit 77A for Route 24 North. Turn left onto Route 1. Tollgate Plaza is on your left. PetCo is near the TGIFridays Restaurant.

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

Headed to an Adoption Day? Show Support Along the Way!

Maryland drivers can now show support for GRREAT just by hitting the open road! For more information on how to obtain Maryland GRREAT license plates, please contact the program coordinator, Teri Stachowiak, at lwstack@adelphia.net.



RENEWED YOUR 2005 MEMBERSHIP YET?

Be sure not to miss out on a thing—renew your GRREAT membership for 2005. To check your membership status, look at the mailing label on the back of this newsletter. If it says “Renew Now” in large red letters, then we have not yet received your membership dues for 2005.

We rely on membership dues, donations, and fundraising to operate. Your \$30 membership dues keeps this newsletter coming to your mailbox every two months and will help us save more Goldens in 2005.

Please continue to support GRREAT by being a member. Clip and complete the membership renewal form on page 19 of this newsletter. Be sure to include your current mailing and e-mail addresses. Mail the form along with a check for \$30 payable to GRREAT to: GRREAT, PO Box 3069, Falls Church VA 22043.

If you have already renewed your membership, please send a note to Jill Kurtz at memberships@grreat.org or at the mailing address above. Please indicate when and how you renewed.

We hope that you will continue to be a part of our GRREAT family!

BOOK REVIEW: A SKEPTIC LOOKS AT THE PET PSYCHIC

What the Animals Tell Me

By Sonya Fitzpatrick, *the Pet Psychic*

\$21.95, 250 pp, 2003, *the Berkeley Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Putnam*

By GRREAT Member Skye Anderson

OK, I'll admit it — I am a skeptic. It's my job to question — I'm a scientist!

We don't have a TV at home so when I'm traveling on business, I spend my evenings with the Animal Channel. I quickly overdosed on the *Pet Psychic*, Sonya Fitzpatrick. She was too good to be true (and “talked” so fast with the animals)!

How does her magic work? Or is it all just a slick set-up?

I finally weaned myself off Sonya when I felt I was wasting my time waiting for the few dog segments, but I spoke to an actual participant (a rescued-dog owner) who had been on the show and she was very pleased with Sonya's remarkable ability. I had to find out more, so when I came across this book at my local bookstore, I grabbed it (surreptitiously, of course).

Sonya begins her book by reminiscing about her bucolic English countryside childhood in the 40's and her innate ability (which she assumed everyone had) to communicate with and heal animals in her village — from horses and dogs to her three pet geese. When the geese became dinner, Sonya felt the human race had betrayed animals and, consequently, allowed her gift to slip into dormancy until an angel appeared to her in 1994, followed by St. Frances, the patron saint of animals.

Since then she has transitioned from model to telepathic TV sensation!

Her book is riveting and chock full of her respect for animals in general — how much our pets give us in the form of unconditional love and how we are responsible for their care and feeding, training, health, fitness and play, socialization, general well-being, protection, and quality of life. Quite a responsibility that many pet owners never fully grasp.

The book is a well-organized collection of spell-binding anecdotes — from the raccoons in the attic, to the hungry pig who wandered to the breakfast buffet at a country club, to the border collie whose hair was falling out because he so lovingly identified with his human who was fretting about his balding pate.

Sonya explains a new situation to a pet so he can understand and accept it instead of acting out in retaliation: a new pup in the home, moving to a new house, being kenneled during the family's two-week vacation.

But more than that, Sonya listens to what the animals tell her and relays that to the humans. Like the cat who ended up living in the closet when the boyfriend moved in, while the dog started messing in the house when he'd been housetrained for years. When Sonya told Susan she'd have to choose between the boyfriend and her pets, she froze with conflict and indecision. Fortunately, the boyfriend shortly broke up with her and moved out. Lesson here: let your pets select your spouse!

You would like to be able to put this book down and take Rover for a walk as you near the end of a chapter, but Sonya so skillfully leads you into the next chapter that it's next to impossible. She tells us of the gossip she learns about people from their pets (whose wife is having a daytime affair, for one).

More than one chapter explores behavior problems (centering around the fact that our pets, and two-year olds, thrive on routine) such as how to introduce a new pet to the harem-at-home. She relates stories of psychically healing tumors with beams of gold and blue light through her two guardians, to communicating with

Continued on Page 7

BOOK REVIEW Cont'd from page 6

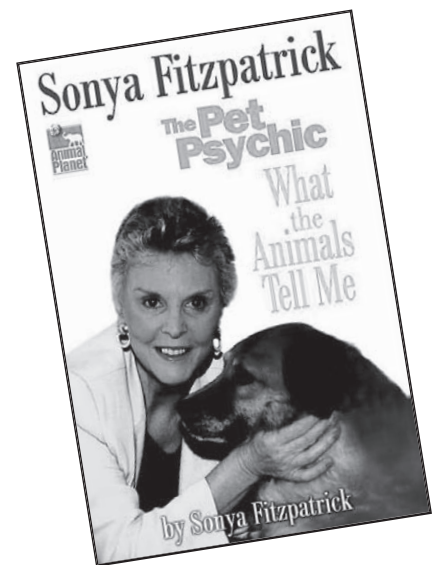
wild and feral animals. She addresses fleas, pet food, lost pets, the human-animal bond, and even gives a step-by-step procedure to teach you to communicate with your pet, a true spiritual entity.

Sonya's deep respect and love for all animals shines through every page as she discusses declawing, tail-docking, ear-cropping, and the plight of the Central Park horses.

What the *Animals Tell Me* has almost convinced this skeptic. I now place Sonya on par with Linda Telling-Jones (after attending Telling-

ton Touch workshops and reading the books). I now am 99% sure that both Sonya and Linda have remarkable gifts and skills but I'm not nearly as sure that they can be taught.

This book is a spiritual read. You will finally close the book with a deeper understanding and respect for animals. And I know you will view Sonya Fitzpatrick as a fuller, more three-dimensional person than TV can depict her. You will watch her show with a more profound view of how she listens to animals. It's a damn good read! 🐾



Thank You for your Donations...

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Pam and Jerry Ambrose
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DONATIONS

In Memory Of...

Beautiful Charlie, 6-year-old Golden Retriever of Dr. Bruce Rashbaum and Mr. Chuck Dalby. In memory of Mary Sherman's beloved senior Golden Retriever of 14 years! - *Elise Roper*

Bubba. - *Susan Seward*

My beautiful beloved Sunny (92-098), who died in my arms on November 9, 2004. One of these donations is from the wonderful pet sitter who, with her husband and two children, became Sunny's other family and loved her as did I. The other, from me, is in thanks to GRREAT for sending her to me for seven plus good years which ended abruptly in five days of her collapse and helplessness due to, as we learned eventually, a malignant osteosarcoma which had metastasized and caused a tibia fracture. She will be the last of the Golden I'll be privileged to foster or own, each a different personality, different appearance, but all wonderful companions who also made friends throughout the neighborhood: Pumpkin, Shannon, Hal, Honey, and Zach, plus the many foster dogs I had for a while till they went to other loving homes. I don't want to put strings on this donation, but I would like the Leo Fund to get part of it. It's a special part of a very special organization. - *Patricia Collier*

Stetson, Babe, Mohawk and Mags—we'll never stop missing you. - *Patrick and Patricia McAllister*

My brother Adam who loved all of my Golden babies. - *Michele Petrillo*

BJ and Adam, you are greatly missed.
- *Beverly Mustaine*

Dakota, GRREAT foster that we adopted.
- *Sandy and Jeff Melago*

Nicholas and Geebers. - *Jane Kunze*

Jasper. And in honor of Patti Hawkins and Family.
- *Bill and Denise Swyers*

Betsy Girl and Oliver Twist, our first two Golden.
- *Debra and William Haegele*

Sammy. - *Al and Jean Huey*

Dusty (1981-1993) and Murphy (1995-2002)
- *John and Pat Gird*

Max Maslyn, for Krista and Robert Maslyn.
- *Cicely Bowmar Woodrow*

Rascal (99-166). - *Tam and Eugene Steffen*

Teddy, my beautiful friend adopted from GRREAT 1993. - *Cynthia Martin*

Sherry Yetter, a member of Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club who passed away last month. It is the desire of Sherry's husband that we make a memorial donation in her name to GRREAT.
- *Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club*

Ryder, a wonderful Golden owned by Jeff and Ann Strathern who recently passed away.
- *Kingsbrook Animal Hospital*

Farah, our Golden girl who we miss every day.
- *Michael, Susan and Brianna Sanders*

Rudy (96-135), our sweet gentle boy. We miss you.
- *Barbara Hals*

Nugget. We miss your silly face and your Retriever wiggle. - *Robin and Donald Greenfield*

Goldy, who died on December 25th. She was the beloved pet of the Lowy Family. I was Goldy's dog walker for almost seven years and she was a magnificent Golden. Not so much in her size but in her spirit. There was nothing else that Goldy would like to do than chase tennis balls, and we had a great time together every time I walked her. I boarded her with my two Golden's many times and they played together. The Lowy family gave her the love and care she needed. Their children adored Goldy and let her play in all the games when there was a ball involved. I will miss her very much. Thank you.
- *Al and Sylvia Glaser*

Our sweet Golden Shadow.
- *Neil and Jayme Melofchik*

Belle, a wonderful dog who will be greatly missed by all. - *Scott and Michelle Stenzel*

Diego. - *Stephanie Nagley*

Popeye, our first goldie.
- *Thomas and Donna Frankbouser*

Jenny, who mothered all puppies and kittens
who needed it. - *Suzanne Miller*

Our Golden, America, who died January 12,
2005. - *Everett Chasen and Barbara Jacksier*

Our GRREAT dogs Topaz and Katie.
- *Chuck and Carolyn Ellington*

Moe, who left us in October. - *Sara Bogle*

My Buddy. I miss you! Love, Mom. - *Ricki Ernest*

JR, a rescue headed to GRREAT that made it no further
than my home. Rescued at 14 years and died two weeks
shy of 16 years. - *Marta Spry*

Kim and Carl Wiff's Golden Ben (01-141).
- *Dawn Christenson*

Herbert Evan Duquet. - *Diane Calabrese*

Barney, Copper and Traveler. - *Charles and Gillian Heagy*

Helen Garland, Duke (99-133), Marmalade, Samson.
- *Judith Grant*

Wesley. - *Liz and Charlie Clark*

Dear GRREAT,

In June of 2003, my husband and I adopted ten-year-old GRREAT "golden oldie" Murphy who was being fostered by Jan Brown. He had been abandoned by his "parents" on Christmas Eve, 2002 at a shelter in Virginia. Jan selflessly fostered him for six months before my husband and I heard about him and went to meet him. It only took five minutes for us to fall in love with this handsome, stoic, regal gentle canine.

I own a retail store in downtown Annapolis, MD and had wanted to "hire" a store-dog to keep me company during the day as well as be the official greeter. Boy did Murphy fit in immediately. It was like he was born to be a store dog. He'd lay patiently by the open door, paws draped over the threshold, waiting for customers. He'd stand patiently for children to pet his soft coat and would high five, shake, speak, sit, lay and come on command. His most favorite time of the day was announcing the arrival of the Fed Ex man Jim, who always had a different cookie to hand out. Imagine my surprise one day when Murphy actually climbed on to the Fed Ex truck because Jim was taking too long!!! Needless to say, he soon developed quite an extensive fan base. Countless people took his picture, stopped to give him a pet, hand him a cookie or just give him a hug. I put his pictures in my advertisements and people would come in just to see him.

I keep a large bucket of dog treats outside on the stoop at the store for the neighborhood dogs to enjoy a cookie on their walks each day. Many people initially tried to give me money for the treats and the idea took hold to put a donation jar next to the treat bucket so people could drop their loose change when they took a cookie, with the proceeds to benefit GRREAT. We called it Murphy's Big Jar and boy, did they drop their loose change...

I also have a website associated with the store and it includes a Golden Retriever Rescue information page. It is possible to donate to GRREAT with an order and it has been absolutely astounding that people from all over the country have been moved enough by Murphy's story to give money to the cause.

I am very proud and heartened to enclose these checks totally \$1,000 that we've raised at the store through Murphy's collection jar and online donations from March through December of this past year. It has been an utterly astounding experience watching and hearing people react to Murphy. Sadly, he passed away this past October very suddenly. While my heart is still aching, I have been completely overwhelmed by the kindness and empathy complete strangers have shown me. There is still not a day that goes by that someone doesn't come into the store asking about Murphy. We only had him a short year and four months, but his impact in my life and on countless others will last a lifetime. He had qualities that I aspire to have. To think that someone gave him up voluntarily is unbelievable and it is so very comforting to know that there are rescue organizations out there to make sure other abandoned animals get a second chance at a good life.

We continue to collect money at the store and online in Murphy's honor. In light of that, I am hoping that this money can be used for the older rescued Golden Retrievers who may need some extra care and attention. I have learned that no amount of time is too short to make an impact, so while an older Golden may not have as much time left on earth, the possibility that he/she may change a life is still there.

Thank you and all the volunteers for everything that you do. - *Mike and Brenda Burlbaugh*

DONATIONS, CONTINUED

In memory of Alex and Rilla—two wonderful Golden Retrievers who forever left their pawprints on my heart. - *Christine Shelley*

Allie—our first Golden. - *Hud and Martie Heaton*

Pom, Red Dog, Honey Bear and Simon—each one unique, each one still loved and missed.
- *John and Denise Gettier*

Sara. - *Lisa Kershner*

Brandy '87-'98 and in honor of Scout who has been successfully battling lymphoma for two years. - *Dr. Susan Brennan*

In Memory of Humphrey (03-215)...



For more about Humphrey, see page 18.

Enclosed are checks from friends and family who responded to my request for contributions to GRREAT in lieu of holiday gifts and cards in memory of Humphrey. Thank you and your staff again for everything you do!! I know you were very helpful to both me and Eileen Bennett (Humphrey's forever home mom) in our time of need.

- *Nancy and Judd Howell*

Roberta Barrett
Rae Ellen Fields and Judy Blind
Elisabeth Gicquel
Katherine Howell
Christine Larragoite
David and Marilynn Leland
Paul and Marcia Kirby

In Memory of Fletch (02-163)...

Herb and Linda Daniels
Irene Daniels
Chris Temple
Matthew and Patricia West

In Honor of...

Amber. - *Sheila and Al Vertino*

Devlin CGC and Duffy, two nice guys!
- *Cheryl Brooks*

Kelley and John Myerberg's Golden Sadie.
- *Jim and Ellen Myerberg*

Hunter (96-065). - *Gary Greenwood*

My love of Golden Retrievers and my Joshua who brings great delight to my life. - *Jerry Cann*

Isabel and Bradley. - *Roland and Jennifer Cochran*

Blazer (00-272) and Abby, his best friend.
- *Steve and Betsy Surprenant*

Chloe. - *Richard Paisley*

Bromley (now 3) and Holly (8 mos.) To thank GRREAT for everything. - *Courtney and Nick Breul*

Jan Skadberg. - *Amy and Don Owen*

Our Golden Retrievers past, present and future.
- *Alan and Michele Smith*

Casey and Brighton, Golden entertainers extraordinaire, and Casey's cancer-free year.
- *Joe Gruessing and Michelle Sam*

Our wonderful neighbor Nancy Bender and her rescued Retriever Chance. - *Chrystie Adams*

Foster parents Janet and Phil Hauck.
- *Nancy and Richard Hughes*

Sandy (99-187), my GRREAT sweetie.
- *Gerald and Ziva Schuchman*

Jake 'the Snake' LaMotta, beloved angel dog
(96-007) - *Linda Stacy-Nichols*

Our wonderful Valentine. In memory of our beautiful Bear. - *Rick and Nancy Gasko*

Our beautiful GRREAT girl Robin (02-160) and to thank the foster homes for the important work they do. - *Patrice and John Scanlon*

Barnum and Bailey – our goofy Golden.
- *Sharon and Bill Coale*

For all the wonderful changes in so many lives and in honor of Bailey/Sam, adopted December 2003.
- *Linda and Terry Sweeney*

My super great dog Copper, a.k.a. Pongo (00-278).
- *Andrew and Barbara Becker*

Casey (00-112), our Golden who we adopted from you, is 14 in January and is doing well. Although he is now blind in one eye, it doesn't seem to slow him down too much. He still loves to ride in the car and go where we go. I have bought him some snow boots but haven't had to use them yet. He is on Rimadyl for his back legs. That seems to help him. Veterinarian at Hanau where we live said that he will be on them now for the rest of his life. It is a small price to pay for the love that he gives us.
- *CMSGT Wilbert and Margaret Lawson*

My wonderful Golden past and present (Megan, Tyler, Huck, Dexter and Kobi) and the 25 years together for Pam Briggie and Lori Bott who both do such GRREAT work. - *Sue and David Barefoot*

Sunny, adopted 9-20-03.
- *Michael and Rebecca Holmes*

My GRREAT pack: Mickey, Jewel and Max.
- *Betsy Davis*

Tyler, our ever spunky Golden whose unconditional love is everlasting. - *Catherine and John Macco*

Jenny and Nikko. - *John and Lynda Claspy*
Toby, Maggie and Sammie. In memory of Sadie, Katie and all the other Golden babies who came before. - *Laura and Jim Horn*

My Rufus and Kelsey who bring me so much joy.
- *Barbara Dunnington*



In honor of Bailey (03-201) who has now been with us over one year! Her 2nd Christmas! - *Michael and Julie Vanasse*

For Pete...



For more about Pete, see page 17.

Janice and Dennis Biennas
Patricia Collier
Becky Copeland
Thomas Franklin
Joseph and Virginia Fry
Nancy Harwell
Nancy and Ray Jones
Jennifer Lynch
Lee and Sylvia Mabie
Joyce and Ralph Page
Bonnie Tester
Kathy Thomas
Linda and Craig Wensley
Gwen Wood
Carol and David Yates

DONATIONS, CONTINUED

For Chloe...

Paula Abernethy
Betsy and Bill Bake
Thomas Franklin
Debra Gunn
Katherine Holmes
Nancy and Richard Hughes
Jennifer Lynch
Joyce and Ralph Page
Regina and Neil O'Keefe
Nancy Reid
Shirley Perkins Memorial Fund for Animals
Jonathan Tarlin
Gordon and Daria Taylor
Julie Von Vorys
Lane and Gene Weinzweig
R. David Wolf
Carol and David Yates

In memory of Benji. - *Idalia Fernandez*
To help dogs like Chloe with special needs. I am making the donation as a way of thanking you for Jake, the senior Golden I adopted from you one year ago. Jake participated in the parade of rescue held this summer at the Golden Retriever Club of America's Eastern Regional held in Pennsylvania and I was proud to let people know he was a GRREAT rescue. He also passed his AKC Canine Good Citizen test with flying colors and has been visiting a local hospital and assisted living facility with me, bringing lots of joy and happiness to the patients and residents. Thanks for all that you do.
- *Jim Wilmoth*

In honor of our awesome Golden Harley and Layla.
- *Elysa and Igor Birman*

Although we don't live in VA anymore, we very much want to be part of GRREAT. Please use the donated money to help Chloe or another pup that needs our help! We miss you and all the wonderful work that we were involved with.
- *Ginny and Ed Miller*

For our dear friend Diane Lanigan.
- *Eric Dampbousse*

In memory of Sunny (92-098), proceeds from a garage sale. - *Patricia Collier*

Our 1½ year old Golden had to have the surgery also – our hearts go out to saving all Golden's.
Hope this helps.

- *Steve and Kathy and Annabelle Troch*

To thank Kim Wiff and GRREAT for finding Brinkley (04-151) for us. He is a joy!
- *Richard and Anna Dodson*

In honor of Taylor, our sweet gentle greyhound soul. Without her acceptance, two GRREAT Golden's would not have found their forever homes. Until we meet again my baby girl.
- *Walter Grabowski and Robin Hoesch*

In memory of Brodie (04-112). Thanks to GRREAT to helping to make his last two months the best of his short life. - *Shelley and Bill Hunsberger*

Zack's Fund for Mobility Challenged Golden's....

In memory of Rudy and Brandy.
- *Ray and Kathy Schmid*

To Thank...

All GRREAT members and volunteers.
- *Jennifer and Oliver Bentson*

Dave Wolf. - *June Neiman*

Pam Briggie and Lori Bott for their coordination of the MCI center volunteer effort and all their other work for GRREAT - *Sharon McIlrath*

All the GRREAT volunteers for their love and caring for all Golden's. We love Clare!
- *Ernest and Iscella Wittich*

GRREAT for the happiness you bring to so many dogs and families. - *Ellen Ziegler Ward*

GRREAT. We adopted Odi in November 200 and believe he is the best dog in the world. Thanks so much to GRREAT for allowing us to have him.
- *Roger Einerson and Kathleen Coleman*

GRREAT for Bob. - *Faith Townsend*

GRREAT, for the foster siblings you sent to our pack during 2004. We brought in the New Year with RANGER, "The Big Guy". He was a hunk-a, hunk-a, Golden love and came close to becoming a permanent member of the pack. Then came SHAYNA, a dignified and laid back gal. She taught me that being a Golden is more than romping about in the park and coming home with muddy paws. She was the calm before the storm. Soon after, we were caught up in Hurricane INDY ... a turbocharged, three-legged, alpha-male pup who made up for his missing limb with the sheer force of his personality. Just before Thanksgiving "The KLINGON" entered our lives ... so named because he was happiest when he was within slobbering distance of mom and dad. His youthful exuberance was contagious. He made me feel young again. As the year comes to a close, I say to my foster sibling Class of '04: Thanks for the memories. You were my playmates, my co-conspirators, my comrades-in fun. My job is done. I have taught you well. Go forth into the world of your forever homes and ... knock 'em dead. - *Bronte (02-198 and GRREAT Calendar Girl—Miss November 2004), Harry Sethna and Sarah Navia*

GRREAT. This year we celebrated our fifth anniversary with our GRREAT dog, Jack. We will always be grateful to Mary Ellen for assigning him to us for foster care. He came into our lives when we really needed him, having recently lost our beloved 10-year old Golden, Amber, to cancer. And he needed us too. He was lucky to find a home with the means and the patience to deal with both some serious health issues, as well as a potentially serious behavior issue. In return, he has given us boundless joy through his total devotion and sweet, irresistible nature. It's been a perfect match, and not a day goes by that we don't remark on how lucky we are to have Jack in our lives. In appreciation for the wonderful work done by GRREAT and for bringing us immeasurable happiness through Jack, we are sending this donation to help other Golden find happy endings. - *Dawn and Ed Lowe*

GRREAT for your love of and sacrifices on behalf of the kind, loyal, effervescent Golden and especially for our Samson (99-061). - *Diana and Doug Hellinger*

Volunteer Mary Collins. - *Charles Nordstrom*

GRREAT for Keo. He is such a pleasure. Also thank you for the wonderful Santa dog party. - *Carla Dable*

All the GRREAT volunteers for all of the great work that you do for Golden. - *Linda and John Bowlin*

For Special Reasons...

This represents the day I spent in US District Court. I wish I could do more to help actively. GRREAT does a wonderful job. I feel fortunate to be even a small part of such a fantastic organization. - *Penny March*

A Christmas donation in honor of the Kurtz family! - *Tom and Theresa Sicheri*

To honor and remember John Keppler, father to Dan. To honor and remember Winifred Teale mother to Georgie Bahler. - *Georgie and Joe Bahler*

Christmas gift for Rick and Judy Radt. - *Ruth Pauls*

I'm donating some extra Christmas stamps that I had—use them for GRREAT's postage needs. - *Kathy and Wayne Hunter*

We are pleased to be able to forward a \$1000 donation to GRREAT, which represents one third of the profits from the "Pet Dog Extravaganza" which was held at Love On A Leash; LLC., Dog Training and Agility Center in Harrisonburg, VA on December 4, 2004. Sheli Ringlemon Rhodes, owner of Love On A Leash, was looking for a way to enhance a CGC/TDI testing day at her facility by doing something nice for three of the dog related causes that her training members are actively involved with: The Mosby Foundation, Canine Companions for Independence and GRREAT. Dr. Stacy Reeder, Gay Roderick, and Carol Nansel worked with Sheli to come up with dog related exhibits and fundraising events for that day which included: microchipping, pet dog show, agility run-throughs, nail trimming, silent auction, raffles, yard sale, food sales, vendors, educational booths and CGC/TDI testing. The day was fun for all and financially - a huge success - with each cause receiving a \$1000 donation! Please use GRREAT's donation wherever it is most needed at this time. Thank you! - *Carol and Rory Nansel*

DONATIONS, CONTINUED

We adopted Shadow from GRREAT via Art and Rebecca Hotop two years ago. GRREAT had funded two hip surgeries for him. He is a fantastic member of our family and has brought much joy to our lives. Keep up the wonderful work! - *The Alexander Foundation, Edythe and Stephen Alexander*

From my hockey friends who miss us at stand 417 in the MCI center this season.
- *Sue and David Barefoot*

We are proud to be associated with GRREAT and have benefited in so many ways from our involvement in such a wonderful organization. We enjoy getting to know new furry faces through fostering, meeting new people through home visits and adoption days ...not to mention the houseful of GRREAT companions we share our life with-Graham, Lucy, Lindy and Daisy. The donation is a gift we give ourselves each holiday season; it makes us feel good. Thanks for all you do for Golden in need.
- *Ralph and Jondelle Truitt*

Once again this year the owners of the Rendon Group, John Rendon and Sandy Libby, have invited a committee of employees to select the organizations which would receive charitable donations for the year. The committee has selected GRREAT because of your work in the Washington, DC Community. We are pleased to offer you this donation and wish you success with your work.
- *The Rendon Group*

In appreciation for the selfless and tireless efforts of all board members. - *Bridget and Eric Cooper*

eBay proceeds. - *Stef and Jim Nelson*

Please accept this donation in thanks for the joy and laughter that Chester (99-195 'Chesapeake') has brought to us. He was a give-up by a family who generously realized that they could not give him the attention he needed. He has been with us for five years and is healthy and content. Best wishes for your continued success in rescuing these dear creatures who have more to give than we can ever return. - *Elizabeth Ross and Bennett Frankel*

Simile Finale Fund...

In memory of Sierra's Autumn Sunrise (94-188). Just wanted to let you know that we lost our Sierra this past October. She struggled with so many medical problems all her life but never lost her gentle, loving personality. We dealt with seizures since she was 2½ and she normally had one every 14-18 days and never went longer than 30 days. She suffered bloat twice, pneumonia twice, digestive problems, and for the last 1½ years she suffered from mega-esophagus. It really is a miracle she was with me for 10 years.

She didn't get to do all the fun things the other dogs did but waited patiently at home and greeted us so enthusiastically when we returned. She was so sweet and loving and didn't deserve all the suffering she had to endure. At least now we know she's at the Bridge waiting for us with no more pain. Please use this donation for both the Leo Fund and the Similie-Finale Fund. Thanks for the chance to know and love Sierra and for all the GRREAT things you do for other Golden.
- *Bev, Glenn and Kathleen Porter*

Corporate Donations...

Network for Good:

Jeffrey Davis
Sam Cox
Edward Levy
Alan Lepeau
Anonymous
Alexander Vallianos "In memory of my beloved Golden, Kelly."
Jeffrey Ackerson
Debra Eskin "Pat Purfield Happy Holidays"
Tina Bruland "Ilene Glassman"
Jodi Blaylock "Meg and Carey Manugo"
Kate and Art Chutuape
Pam Hodgkinson and Summer
Lisa Aisner
Julia Snowden
In memory of Murphy Burlbaugh
In memory of Molly

Justgive.org
Eileen Bennett

iGive.org

Animal Safe, Inc
Aon Foundation, matching gift for donation made by
Dan Gardecki

Something Special, Ltd., representing sales of GRREAT
merchandise and candy at the consignment shop of
June and Richard Downing

Leo's Corner...

Leo's Pals (up to \$99)

Peggy and Carl Allen
Wendy Beyer
Rick and Peggy Cassara
Ruth Dominick
Sue Eberle
Mary Gillett
Al and Sylvia Glaser
Mary Anne Hovatter
Dan Keppler
Patricia and James Kermes
Mark Ketterman
Jo and Yvonne Kinkaid
Tom and Mary Ann Kuehne
Lynda and Bob Lake
Diane Lanigan
Barbara Prince
Linda Scher
Louis and Teri Stachowiak
Leslie Thornton
George Toll
Linda Young

In memory of Snickers.
- *Marie Donnelly and Debbie Haller*

In memory of Spenser.
- *Douglass Gray and Patricia France*

In memory of Rudy and Brandy.
- *Ray and Kathy Schmid*

In memory of Sierra's Autumn Sunrise (94-188). -
Beverly Porter

In memory of John Wilson's Rusty.
- *Rick Stevens and Julie Palais*

In memory of Courtney Price, our sorely missed com-
panion. - *Bill Price*

In honor of Honey Bee and Annie Igou.
- *Linda and Ron Igou*

To thank GRREAT for all the work that you do.
- *Lila Barth*

In memory of "Jingles" who opened our hearts to
become a foster family. - *Bud and Diane Streett*

In memory of my best friend and the love of my
life Kasie. - *Jane Medico*

In honor of our Chester Pillsbury Bentrup.
- *Nancy and John Bentrup*

In honor of Gussie, our sweet 10 year old and in
memory of Maxie our GRREAT boy gone to the
Rainbow Bridge. - *Richard and Jule Ann Cheslock*

In memory of Rusty, our first GRREAT dog.
- *Tim White, Anna Alt-White*

For Leo, Chloe, Benjamin, and all the other
Goldens in need. And in honor of Terri Jones,
a wonderful Aunt to our two four legged
daughters. - *Scott and Jeanie Billet*

For Benjamin's (04-173) upcoming hip surgery.
- *Terri Jones*

Golden Heroes (\$100-499)

Jeanne O'Donoghue and Carl Kerby
Joe O'Neill
Brenda Pascal
John Powell
Rosalind and Stuart Walman

I would like for this donation to be used specifi-
cally to help pay the medical costs for Marty. -
Jeanne O'Donoghue

On behalf of Chloe and Bailey.
- *Sandy and Ken Diamond*

To thank GRREAT for giving all Goldens a chance
for a happy life. - *Nancy Hamilton*

In memory of my husband Bob and all of our 4
legged friends who are with him.
- *Marjorie Johnson*

DONATIONS, CONTINUED

In honor of our deceased Goldens—Jammar and Sunnie. This donation is the proceeds from a garage sale and sale of homemade chocolate chip cookies.

– *Kathy and Wayne Hunter*

In memory of Joshua, Alexander and Tasha.

– *Neal and Judy McKinley*

In honor of all our family Goldens: Sally Jo Marble (Maryland); Katie Marble (New Jersey); and Zach Swalley (Arkansas). – *Scott and Cindy Marble*

In honor of Amigo and Nala, our GRREAT pups and the light of our lives. – *Steve Soderberg and Mary Ann McFarland*

Golden Angels (\$500 and up)

Amy Goldberg

Cynthia Hampton

For use for Bailey (Jessie's foster) or another dog in need. In honor of our two GRREAT boys—Riley (01-003) and McIver (01-247) and in memory of our beautiful Golden girl, Shiloh.

– *Jeff and Lucinda Twining*



This year I am making a memorial donation for my dog, Max. Although he was not a GRREAT rescue, he was the brother to two rescued Golden Retrievers. And, he was a wonderful addition to our family. I read the update on Chloe and hope that this will insure that she and others like her will get the treatment that they need to be happy, healthy dogs. Thank you for the all of the work that you and your organization do for homeless Golden Retrievers that need our help.

In memory of our dog Max, who lost a battle with cancer this year. Although we did not know his age, he was a member of our family for 10

years. When I saw him at the county shelter, they told me that he was 5-7 years old and scheduled for euthanasia the next day. He had come in as a stray and had gone unclaimed for the 10 business days that they were required to hold him. In the shelter run, he was a depressed and lackluster dog that had lost hope. I had gone there looking to save someone and found Max. His little life was worth only the \$10 adoption fee for a neutered male. When we got him home he blossomed into an energetic and humorous companion for our family. And, he became the younger “brother” for our 8-year old, Golden Retriever (also a rescue). Max became a fine looking dog and many people would stop us to ask what breed he was. This happened so often that it became a joke and we would tell them that he was a “Great Speckled Labrador”. We think that he was a Black Lab/German Shorthaired Pointer mix but only he knew for sure. His favorite pastime was sleeping on our bed or the sofa (no matter how many deluxe dog beds we bought for him!). Even though we still have 2 other dogs and 7 cats in our family, we miss Max everyday.

– *Kathleen and Kerry Skeen*

Thank You to the Following Amazing Volunteers: Tanasue Armstrong, Betsy Bake, Jess Blouch, Pam and Lori Bott/Briggle, Barbara Boyd, Jacque Coley, Gail Corby, Scott Daniels, Betsy Davis and Max, Sandy Diamond, April & Bob Fritz, Edie Galphin, Samantha Gardecki, Sandy and Lindsey Gill, Janet and Phil Hauck, Jeane Hostetler, John Hunter and Marie Bertin, Tom Janczuk, Nancy Huth Jones and family, Bob Kurtz, Alex Labreque, Marion Lynders, Kelly Bean Marshall, Tim Marshall, Dan Mensing, Bob and Pat Miles, Jillian Moyers, Jim and Stephanie Nelson, Jennie O'Brien, David Ris, Jessie Robinson and Dan, Pat Savary, George Siegle, Bill Swyers, Kathy Thomas, Gail Uslanov, Allison Ward, Marty and Janet White, Kim and Carl Wiff, and Linda Young.

For Pete's Sake

*By Foster Home and Intake Coordinator Edie Galpin;
Edited by GRREAT Member Emily Pasterick*

For most residents of Boston, MA, December 2004 was undoubtedly the time to trade cold beers for hot chocolates, baseball caps for wool ones, and “Green Monsters” for red, white, and blue helmets—to catch a quick nap in between celebrating a World Series win by their beloved Red Sox, and raising their rah-rahs for their Super Bowl-winning Patriots.

All residents, except for one.

For Pete, a 6-year old GRREAT guy, December 2004 was the time to come home.

Pete's life began sometime in 1999, but his GRREAT story began in July 2001 at the approximate age of 18 months, when he was brought to a Baltimore City shelter as an intact stray and named “Prancer.” After serving his required time, GRREAT picked him up, vetted him in Laurel, MD, and placed him in foster care, where he was reported to be very pleasant, cuddly, and of course, active—cranky only when others attempted to take luscious treats away from him (but who isn't cranky when that happens?). “Prancer” became “Pete” just two months later, in September 2001, when he was adopted by a couple with two children, then ages 11 and 8. Pete even got to move with his family to Boston, MA, in 2003, in time to watch his hometown Red Sox win all their baseball games—life was grand!

That is, until December 2004, when Pete's family life was overcome with changes significant enough to compel them to surrender their ownership responsibilities. Unfortunately, Pete's former family did not update their contact information with GRREAT, as required, after their move to Boston—a grave error which not only complicated his life, but nearly ended it.

Instead of contacting GRREAT, the family took him to the nearest animal shelter—as quoted from the give-up father: “...I did what I considered was best for Pete...”

The shelter performed a standard character evaluation of Pete to determine his adoptability rating. Unfortunately, despite Pete's “clean record” of no biting, and notes from the shelter workers that described Pete as a “sweet, fun dog,” the growls heard when the shelter workers tested his capacity for allowing the removal of pigs ears/rawhides were alarming enough to make him flunk the evaluation. And anyone who understands shelter protocol recognizes that a failed evaluation typically means a shorter tenure...Pete's life was doomed.

Until Pete went belly-up for a rub and showed everyone his GRREAT tattoo!

The sight of Pete's tattoo suddenly moved everything in fast-forward: the shelter immediately contacted NDR (National Dog Registry), who referred them to GRREAT; GRREAT's emergency pager buzzed on December 30, 2004, at 3:24 pm, when GRREAT's Intake Coordinator received a message from the Animal Rescue League (ARL) of Boston asking if GRREAT wanted their boy back.

Of course! GRREAT always stands by ‘our’ Golden kids. ARL kindly agreed to hold Pete, while incurring a very

reasonable daily boarding charge, until GRREAT could figure out how to bring Pete home. GRREAT's trusty transport volunteers were asked if they could help—those in a position to do so generously offered to drive various legs of Pete's trip home. Within hours, Pete's southern journey was secured from a starting point as far away as New Jersey to just about any destination within GRREAT's service area—but that still meant he would have had to walk to New Jersey from Massachusetts. The need remained for transportation from Boston to NJ.

Desperate, the GRREAT Board decided to appeal to all GRREAT members for East Coast transport assistance, and so an email message was broadcast on January 4, 2005.

Within a few hours after the “Send” button was pressed, GRREAT was overwhelmed with a heartwarming number of offers from its wonderful members and volunteers, which brought tears to more than one eye. Through this outpouring of interest in assisting, GRREAT received a variety of transportation and/or monetary offers: Pete's air fare; Pete's travel expenses; even time off work to either fly to Boston and bring Pete home, or drive there and give him a ride home.

Pete's GRREAT chauffeurs by the names of Doug and Marilyn Reedy stepped up and committed to drive to Boston to bring Pete all the way home. The Reedy's left the morning of Friday, January 7th, arrived in Boston that evening, stayed overnight in a hotel, picked Pete up at ARL the morning of Saturday, January 8th, and drove back to their home in western MD—a round trip of approximately 800 miles within 48 hours.

Picking up from there were the Connells, another GRREAT family, who kindly welcomed Pete into foster care upon his return home. So far, Pete has been acclimating wonderfully to his foster family.

Pete's East Coast journey brought the benevolence of GRREAT to a new level, as its volunteers and members took a seemingly tough challenge and turned it into an opportunity to exemplify GRREAT's hearty determination and genuine spirit of teamwork. Once again, GRREAT demonstrated that it is truly blessed with wonderful members and volunteers, who time and again come through for the beloved Golden GRREAT has pledged to rescue.

A very warm THANK YOU (and a sloppy kiss from Pete) are extended to the kind souls mentioned on page 11 who offered financial and transportation support for Pete's trip, and who contributed their donations to cover the reasonable travel expenses incurred—without you, GRREAT could not continue its good work! 🐾

We would still go camping but it wasn't the same without Kelsey. The humans bought me a larger travel trailer to cheer me up and to give me more room. I started to sneak into one of the beds at night and they didn't say anything so it must have been OK. They would laugh and call me a scamp. What ever that is.

During those first few years my man would take me to visit many homes, where the people wanted to adopt a Golden like me. I would see how much petting and love they would give to me and my master would then decide if another Golden would get a new home. I sure loved the attention!

One day a kind of cute little girl named Gracie (a Golden) came to visit me. My people were baby-sitting her for a week. We had so much fun running and playing in the yard. My mistress said we wrestled one day for about forty-five minutes, just like kids. After Gracie there was Pixie, she just snubbed me. She was given a good bath and within a few days of a home visit the people adopted her. Lindy came next, I sure felt sorry for her. Her people weren't very nice and she needed all the love we could give her. She tolerated my little tricks to get her to play. During this time my master left and was gone for a long time. I heard he was sick and it would take a lot of time for him to get better before he could take care of us. While he was away my mistress had too much to do and had to call GRREAT and have Lindy sent to a new home. However, because Lindy was so much better she was adopted right away.

I couldn't understand what was happening during those months when my human was home. For the first months he spent most of the time in bed but then he started spending more and more time at the computer. They started talking about a motor home and going full time. I didn't understand the term's "motor home" and "full time" but wrote it off to humans being strange.

My humans sold my travel trailer and bought this monster that is 39 feet long and travels on six huge wheels. We sold the house, the furniture, boat and my lady's truck and off we went.

Look for Part II in the next edition of the GRREAT News. About the authors: All are full time RVers temporarily living near Santa Barbara, CA and heading for Alaska next year. 🐾

In Memory of Humphrey (03-215)

Humphrey came into my life as my first foster golden in the late fall of 2003. He was an 8 year old giant bear of a boy, and by far one of the most beautiful goldens I have ever seen. I only had him a short while before he met his forever home mom, Eileen Bennett. Although she had been raised with goldens, Humphrey was Eileen's first dog, and her first initiation into the GRREAT community.

For a few short months, life was grand. Eileen worked at home and was able to spend lots of time with her new baby. She walked him many times a day, reintroduced him to the love of ball playing and water, and trimmed him down to a healthier weight. He became an instant neighborhood and family hit, with people popping by the house just to visit him.

Tragically, on a routine vet exam, it was determined that Humphrey had a particularly aggressive form of cancer and was diagnosed as terminally ill. Despite all of Eileen's, GRREAT's, and the vet's efforts, he passed away within only a few short months of his rescue in early 2004. Although I write this with tears in my eyes, I am forever grateful to have had Humphrey in my life, even for a short time, and am particularly grateful for the new friendship I have developed with Eileen during and since his passing. There was never a better GRREAT mom.

Eileen is now the proud owner of Bailey, a young healthy beautiful golden. I wish them both the best and hope that the recent fundraising efforts in Humphrey's memory will help the GRREAT cause.

As the holidays approach, we are reminded of what is most important in our lives: you. For the holidays this year, I would like to do something a little different. As you all know, I have been very involved in Golden Retriever Rescue, Education, and Training (GRREAT) since moving to Annapolis. GRREAT has been a volunteer effort, both extremely rewarding and heartbreaking. Although GRREAT successfully rescues over 300 beautiful abused or neglected animals each year, many more need help.

I know you have all sent wonderful cards and gifts in the past, which have always been treasured and appreciated. This year however, I would like to ask you to consider sending a donation to the GRREAT organization in lieu of traditional presents or cards. All funds collected on his behalf can then be tallied and will receive a matching contribution from our family as our gift to GRREAT.

On behalf of Humphrey and Allie (our current hospice rescue golden), and GRREAT, we thank you for your consideration of this request and wish you all a very happy holiday. Your contribution to this GRREAT cause would be the best gift you can possibly send.

With love and affection, Nancy Howell

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

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 2005 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 Microchip 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)

_____ Perform home checks prior to adoptions

_____ Provide storage space for food, supplies, crates

_____ Stamp and address newsletters and flyers

_____ Donate the following services:

_____ Other:

YOU OUGHT TO BE IN "POOCH"ERS

Are you a camera-happy golden lover? Think your dog is the most photogenic around? Enter your favorite Golden photographs in the GRREAT Calendar Contest! We are now accepting entries for the 2006 Calendar, which is sold through GRREAT and given to veterinarians and shelters within our coverage area. We encourage everyone to send their best shots of their four-legged companions. Photos will be selected for the cover and for each month. A committee of GRREAT members will judge submissions using the following criteria:

- 1) **overall composition (balance, centering, color and contrast between dog and its surroundings)**
- 2) **quality of background**
- 3) **sharpness & clarity**
- 4) **general appearance (muddy, wet, or snow-covered dogs are encouraged to enter; no glowing eyes)**
- 5) **seasonal appropriateness (costumes are discouraged)**
- 6) **variety (we want to see them all!)**

2005 GRREAT Calendar Contest Rules

- 1) The deadline for submissions is May 31st, 2005, and judging will occur in early June.
- 2) We regret that we cannot accept digital photos, unless they are taken or scanned at very

high resolution (a minimum of 300dpi at 9x12 inches). We will accept photos taken from a 3 megapixel camera or greater.

- 3) All entries must be horizontal, due to the design of the calendar. Vertical pictures will not be considered.
- 4) Only GRREAT Rescue dogs are eligible. Dogs featured in the 2005 calendar (other than honorable mentions) are not eligible this year, but other GRREAT dogs in the family are.
- 5) Other pets are welcome, but please leave the humans behind the camera.
- 6) Sorry, photos cannot be returned.
- 7) Only color images are eligible. We cannot accept black and white or Polaroid images.
- 8) We reserve the right to use any images and/or stories you send us in future issues of the GRREAT News.

Send the photo(s) of your GRREAT dog, along with his GRREAT ID number, age, and a brief description of the dog's past or present life, together with the name, address, and phone number of the person submitting the entry to: GRREAT CALENDAR CONTEST, C/O PLATINUM ONLINE SERVICES, 554 N. FREDERICK AVE. #351, GAITHERSBURG, MD 20877.

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.
