



GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc. • May/June 2005 • Vol. 15, No. 3

Winnie's Story

By Robin Robinson, GRREAT Member and Foster Mom



IN THIS ISSUE:

Letter from the President 3

Adoption Report
Adoption Day Directions 5

Ask Goldie 6

Ben's Luck 'O The Irish
Party 7

Donations 8-10

Boat Safety 101 11

The DOG-TOR Is In 13

Are You Prepared? 15

A Breed Apart 17

Great Get-Away for You
and Your GRREAT Family 18

Donation, Renewal,
and Volunteer Forms 19

Come to the GRREAT
Annual Bark-B-Que 20

Dave and I were newlyweds living in Silver Spring, MD when we brought our first golden retriever, Winnie, home in October 1995. I had begged him for a golden puppy and, having grown up with goldens and loved them too, he had relented. She truly was our first child. We had contacted PVGRC and looked into local breeders, but at the time were discouraged by long waits and high prices. My impatient nature got the best of me—we found a litter in the paper, traveled to Hagerstown, MD and Winnie was ours. We've learned so many lessons since then.

At age six months, Winnie required surgery on her eyes for entropion. She came through that really well. We had always loved the outdoors and with Winnie, we had a great excuse to enjoy local parks and hiking. We got up at 6 a.m. every day to be able to walk Winnie together and run her through the park and fields near our home before leaving for work. She had many doggie playmates in the neighborhood.

It was on a warm fall Saturday morning close to Winnie's first birthday when she had her first epileptic seizure. We had just returned from a romp in the park. I was in the kitchen when I heard her clatter down the steps outside. My

vibrant, sweet golden was on the pavement in a grand mal seizure. I thought she was dying.

We ran her to our vet. Bloodwork and tests turned up little and after a time she was diagnosed with idiopathic epilepsy. We wanted to believe it was something environmental—maybe the plants in our backyard that she liked to chew on—but the vet was doubtful. We dosed her up daily with medications he recommended and hoped for the best.

It didn't take me long to get involved with the Golden Retrievers in Cyberspace web site, a discussion list for canine epilepsy, and GRREAT. I was trying to find out as much as I could so that I could properly care for our Winnie.

I knew in my heart that she was the product of—at best—sloppy breeding practices. I called the lady who sold us Winnie. She didn't seem to believe Winnie's medical issues stemmed from

WINNIE Cont'd on page 14

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.

2005 OFFICERS AND ADVISORY BOARD

PRESIDENT

Kim Wiff* president@grreat.org 703.724.4853

VICE PRESIDENT

Sandy Diamond* vp@grreat.org 703.787.6708

SECRETARY

Vacant

TREASURER

Gail Corby* treasurer@grreat.org 302.378.8855

FOSTER HOME COORDINATOR

Tom Janczuk tjanczuk@earthlink.net 703.421.2144

FOSTER HOME APPROVAL COORDINATORS

Susan McKelvey (DE, MD, DC) smckelvey@expresshost.com 410.745.0134

Kim Wiff (VA, WV, PA) president@grreat.org 703.724.4853

ADOPTION COORDINATOR

Jessie Robinson* adoptions@grreat.org 301.577.8350

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Stephanie Nelson* volunteer@grreat.org 410.381.9456

EDUCATION COORDINATORS

Pat Savary (DE, MD, DC) educationmd@grreat.org

Sandy Diamond (VA, WV, DC) educationva@grreat.org 703.787.6708

FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR

Pam Ambrose fundraising@grreat.org 301.972.0457

PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR

April Fritz* april@fritz.org 301.330.5749

MEMBER AT LARGE

Pam Briggie* atlarge@grreat.org 301.808.0734

MEMBERSHIP & MAIL COORDINATOR

Jill Kurtz mail-admin@grreat.org

MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR

Jo Bighouse midastouchgoldens@msn.com 540.955.2003

MICROCHIP COORDINATOR

Scott Daniels* microchips@grreat.org 302.449.1227

EVENTS COORDINATOR

Allison Ward* events@grreat.org 410.381.0102

WEBMASTER

Bob Fritz webmaster@grreat.org 301.330.5749

NEWSLETTER

Jill Kurtz newsletter@grreat.org

* members of the GRREAT Board of Directors

Letter From The President

by Kim Wiff, GRREAT President

I can't believe that summertime is just around the corner! I know many of you are contemplating what to do on your vacation. However, because we are dog owners, what we will do with our pups is something we have to take into consideration.

There are lots of different types of vacations that we take. Vacations with children, vacations with adults only, and then there are my favorite ones, vacationing with our Golden! These types of vacations can work out even better if you plan the journey with an eye to finding places where your Golden (or Golden wannabes) are truly welcome.

In the past, finding these places has been a challenge to say the least! Fortunately, it's not as much of one as it used to be. The travel and tourist industry used to grudgingly accept the fact that many of us preferred to travel with our pets. Now, there are many hotels, motels and resorts that are actively courting people like you and me. As a result, pet lovers are becoming appealing to an industry that isn't booking as many vacation travelers as it would like to. And that's good news for people looking for the perfect pet-friendly vacation.

Even though more people than ever are traveling with their dogs (and even cats), there are plenty of people who don't like sharing space with our four-legged family members. There are also plenty of vacation destinations that are one pet mess away from changing to a no-pets-allowed policy.

The travel and tourist industry used to grudgingly accept the fact that many of us preferred to travel with our pets.

Now, there are many hotels, motels and resorts that are actively courting people like you and me.

That means you and your dog should be—*must be*—above reproach, to keep a great place open for future pet travelers.

Here are a few things to do on the road:

❖ **Be sure your pet is wearing a collar and an identification tag!!**

On the back of one of your dogs-tags include the number of where you will be going, in case something should happen along the way or during your stay.

❖ **Keep 'em Clean.** Your dog should be well-groomed and clean-smelling. Always dry off wet dogs and wipe off muddy feet—using your towels, not the motel's—before allowing your dog inside. Try to cover furniture, carpets and bedspreads with your old sheets and towels, and if you need to bathe your dog, be sure, again, to use your towels and clean up afterward.

❖ **Keep 'em under control.** Your dog should be obedient, friendly but not annoying, and never aggressive—not to people, not to pets and not to

Last Call: 2006 Calendar Contest

Enter your favorite GRREAT Golden photographs in the GRREAT Calendar Contest! Photos will be selected for the cover and for each month.

- 1) The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2005.
- 2) Digital photos must be taken or scanned at a minimum of 300dpi at 9x12 inches. We will accept photos taken from a 3 megapixel camera or greater.
- 3) Entries must be horizontal.
- 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) Photos cannot be returned.
- 7) Entries must be in color.
- 8) We reserve the right to use any images and/or stories you send us in GRREAT News.

Send your picture(s) along with the GRREAT ID number, age, and a brief description of the dog's past or present life, together with your name, address, and phone number to:

GRREAT Calendar Contest
c/o Platinum Online Svcs
554 N Frederick Ave #351
Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

MESSAGE Cont'd 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 questions above, 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 vp@grreat.org.

MESSAGE Continued from page 3

wildlife. Do not allow your dog to bark uncontrollably. Use your best judgment when to let a dog off the leash in areas where doing so is allowed, and be sure that your dog isn’t annoying other people or pets.

❖ **Pick up after ‘em.** Take your dog to out-of-the-way places on resort property to do his business—the corner of the far parking lot, not the grassy inner courtyard. No leg-lifting allowed near rooms and eating areas. Make it so the pickiest dog hater on Earth wouldn’t notice your dog has been around. Then clean up after her and dispose of the waste safely.

However, there are times when no matter how hard we try, we cannot take our dogs with us, and boarding is the only option. Here are a couple of tips on how to find a boarding kennel.

- ⌘ Ask a fellow dog owner where they board their own pets. Your vet’s office may also have a recommendation.
- ⌘ Once you have chosen a kennel, visit the facility before you make a reservation for a stay. While you are there, be sure to observe the cleanliness of the entire facility. As a visitor, you should be allowed to visit all the areas of the facility. If you are not allowed to physically enter an area, you should at least be allowed to view it through a window.
- ⌘ The facility should not have a heavy disinfectant smell; this may be covering an underlying problem.
- ⌘ Ask questions about the supervision of the animals. How often does someone make a full check of the ken-

nel runs? Is there someone on-site 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays?

- ⌘ Consider the enclosure your dog will be housed in. Your dog should have regular or free access to an outside kennel run.
- ⌘ Members of the kennel staff should be knowledgeable about dogs and truly like working with them.
- ⌘ The kennel should require all incoming animals to have current vaccinations against rabies and other common contagious diseases. Don’t be upset that the vaccination records are required—it’s for your dog’s protection as well as for others’.

⌘ The kennel should have arrangements for veterinary care to be available quickly. It is important that you provide any emergency information regarding your pet to the staff, and be sure your pet is wearing an identification tag!

⌘ Finally, be sure the boarding kennel is licensed.

As you vacation with your dog this summer, I hope that you will keep all these things in mind.

I would also like to ask that you please send us a picture or an update on your GRREAT Golden. One of the perks of my job is hearing from you, and getting your pictures. I don’t hear enough from you!

I have enjoyed getting your e-mails and hearing about how things are going. We would like to include some of your updates in upcoming issues of GRREAT News! 🐾

ADOPTION REPORT



Name	ID	Age	Sex
Benjamin	05-041	2	M
Bo	04-137	1	M
Chance	05-055	7 mo	M
CoCo	05-019	2	M
Ginger	05-017	7	F
Missy	04-157	7	F
Otis	05-046	4	M
Patrick	04-056	1	M
Penny	04-197	9	F
Ryan	05-045	1	M
Shammy	00-199	5	F
Skipper	05-039	11 mo	M
Sonny	04-188	6	M
Sophie	05-022	1	F

Pictured at left: Otis 05-046

In the 30 days since the last adoption report, 14 goldens have found forever homes—that's one every other day! Nine of these dogs were males; five were females. The youngest was seven months old. Six were age two or younger, and five were between two and seven. The oldest of these lucky dogs was nine. Congratulations to all!

ADOPTION DAY DIRECTIONS

June 4, 2005

Noon – 2 p.m.
Weber's Pet Supermarket
10458-G Lee Rd
Chantilly, VA 20151
703-631-2738

From I-495 (Capitol Beltway), take Exit I-66 West. Take exit from Rt. 50 West. Travel approximately 5 miles. Cross Rt. 28. Turn left at light onto Lee Rd. Weber's is in the light industrial plaza on the right.

July 9, 2005

Noon – 2 p.m.
Ana's Ark Doggie Day Care
7300 Westmore Road
Rockville, MD
301-738-6781

From I-495 (Capitol Beltway), take I-270 North. Take Exit 4, Montrose Rd. East. Make an immediate left

onto Tower Oaks Blvd., then turn right onto Wooton Pkwy. Travel approximately two miles (Wooton Pkwy. becomes Norbeck Rd.), then turn left onto Gude Dr. East. Turn left at the fourth road onto Dover Rd. Bear left to stay on Dover Rd. Turn right on Horners Ln., then right on Westmore Rd.

August 6, 2005

Noon – 2 p.m.
Petco
6612 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA
703-660-1300

From I-495 (Capitol Beltway) take Exit 1, Rte. 1 South. Travel approximately 1.5 miles. Petco is on the right.

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 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.



A CHUCKLE FOR THE DAY. . .

“How Many Dogs Does It Take to Change A Light Bulb?”

Golden Retriever: The sun is shining, the day is young, we’ve got our whole lives ahead of us, and you’re inside worrying about a stupid burned out bulb?

Border Collie: Just one. And then I’ll replace any wiring that’s not up to code.

Dachshund: You know I can’t reach that stupid lamp!

Lab: Oh, me, me! Pleeceeeeeeeze let me change the light bulb! Can I? Can I? Huh? Huh? Huh? Can I? Pleeceeeeeeeze, please, please!

German Shepherd: I’ll change it as soon as I’ve led these people from the dark, check to make sure I haven’t missed any, and make just one more perimeter patrol to see that no one has tried to take advantage of the situation.

Jack Russell Terrier: I’ll just pop it in while I’m bouncing off the walls and furniture.

Old English Sheep Dog: Light bulb? I’m sorry, but I don’t see a light bulb!

Chihuahua: Yo quiero Taco Bulb.

Pointer: I see it, there it is, there it is, right there.....

Cat: Dogs do not change light bulbs. People change light bulbs. So, the real question is: How long will it be before I can expect some light, some dinner, and a massage?

Ask Goldie

Your Questions Answered

By Susan McCullough,
Author, *Housetraining For Dummies (Wiley)*; *Your New Dog (Capital Books)* and *Senior Dogs For Dummies (Wiley)*

Dear Goldie:
My Golden hates getting into the car. Every time we head to the vet, she plants her butt on the ground and refuses to get in. When she was a puppy, I could simply pick her up and put her in -- but now, at 70 pounds, I can't lift her. What can I do to get her to go into the car by herself?

Signed,

Reluctant Rider's Driver in DC

Dear Rider:
I have a feeling that the only time your canine companion ever rides in the car when you take her to the vet, which could well explain her balkiness. Think about it: would you want to get in the car if you knew that when you got to your destination, some strange person would start looking into your ears, shining a light into your eyes, lifting your lips to inspect your teeth, stick a needle into your back or —worst of all—put something into your bottom in order to take your temperature?

I didn’t think so.

But take heart. This situation is far from hopeless. You’ve got several options for converting your fearful friend into a canine joy rider. Here’s what to do:

Break the association. Start taking your Golden to places where you know she’ll have fun, not just to the place where she’s going to have to deal with thermometers and needles.

A jaunt to the local dog park, a ride to the pet supply store, a journey to a play date with a doggie friend or a quick trip to the local doggie bakery can all help your dog

stop associating the car with a trip to the vet.

Give an incentive. The first few times you undertake this alternative destination program, your Golden is probably going to balk at getting into the car.

To break such balkiness, give her a reason to change her mind. Some Golden’s will leap into the back seat when their people toss a little treat there first. Others respond to the sight of a tennis ball there.

Examine the situation. Your Golden’s refusal to get into the car may have nothing to do with the veterinarian. I know of one polite pooch who won’t enter an automobile if she has to jump past her owner to do so. After awhile, the owner figured out that if she stands behind the Golden, the dog will enter the car without hesitation. Your Golden may have an equally good reason for her apparent lack of interest in auto travel.

Bring the vet to her. If none of your efforts work, consider utilizing the services of a veterinarian who makes house calls. This option is especially helpful if your Golden has canine siblings who need to visit their doctor at the same time the Golden does.

To find a veterinarian in your area who’s willing to do home visits, check out the website of the American Association of Housecall Veterinarians at www.athomevet.org. There you’ll find a searchable database that enables you to locate a house-call vet who practices near your home. 🐾

WOOF dot com

By Emily Pasterick, contributing writer

For Internet-savvy dog lovers, there is now a way to launch into cyberspace where both “man and his dog” can meet and greet thousands like them. A free, interactive web site called Dogster [www.dogster.com] enables dog owners to post photos and profiles of their dog that will invite “high-fives” and “give paws” from fellow Dogster surfers approving of the looks of both. Other features include an advice column, doggie diaries, Dogs of the Week, as well as an opportunity to pay tribute to furry friends who have crossed over Rainbow Bridge. Unveiled in January 2004, Dogster has amassed a total canine population of 75,309, with an average of 85 joining the fun daily.

I had hoped Dogster was one of many of these kinds of sites, offering options for those who may like the idea. Unfortunately, research revealed no other such dog-tribute sites.

Even if you don't think you want to join Dogster, browse through the site for entertainment value alone. The many different breeds featured are interesting and informative. The site does include classified and advice columns, both of which provide a forum for obtaining and sharing information about canine health and interests, among others.

Who knows—maybe one day the folks behind Dogster.com and Match.com will have a meeting of the minds...

Ben's Luck 'O The Irish Party

By Terri Jones, GRREAT Foster Mom

On March 19, 2005, I hosted a St. Patrick's Day-themed benefit for my foster dog Benjamin (04-173) who was the guest of honor.

Ben is still in the process of recovering from having a femoral head osteotomy (FHO) performed on each of his hips to correct severe hip dysplasia. He is currently undergoing swim therapy to help strengthen his hip muscles.

Friends, family, and co-workers who were not able to attend the benefit were asked to make a donation to GRREAT in Ben's name. A total of \$900 was raised to help pay for the costs of Ben's two hip surgeries, follow-up veterinary care, and swim therapy.

Special thanks to Carolyn and Neal Benz for providing the casino games, Tim and Barbara Burke for providing decorations, Dorothy and Eugene Jones and Jean and Scott Billet for providing food and prizes, and to Melody, Josh, and Ronnie Brandt, Jean and Scott Billet, and Ken Stoney for running the casino games and otherwise helping with the benefit.

Ben is the eighth dog that I have fostered and quite possibly the last for awhile. An informal poll taken at the benefit resulted in overwhelming support for me to adopt Ben and keep him with his golden sibling Marley and lab sibling Makena.

Please accept these wonderful donations for the Leo Fund on behalf of Ben and everyone who participated in the benefit or made a contribution!



Terri and Ben 04-173

BENEFIT PARTICIPANTS

Jean and Scott Billet
Dorothy, Eugene and Sami Jones
Melody, Josh, and Ronnie Brandt
Ralph and Connie Green
Clay and Brenda Black
Donna Franklin
Ken Stoney
Mike and Pat Maring
Gayle and Bruce Fritz
Dorothy Caulk
Lisa Brennan
Jen Connelly
Lorelie Yockman
Lynn
Joan and Frank Wanken
Kimberly Millender
Randy Huggins
Terri Jones

OTHER DONATIONS

Terri Haines
Kathi Dietrich
Hilary Miller
Mrs. Dieter
Joann Adams
Dawn Gardiner
Anita Nickoles
Judy Gist
Tom Rio
Joan Wanken
Lisa Mullins
Tim Burke 🐾

DONATIONS

Thank you for your donations...

Tana Armstrong
Mary Anne and James Beagles
Lee Beaton
Carolyn Cole
Elizabeth Crane
Ernie DuBester and Karen Kremer
Beth Grob
Louise Hansen and Shira Modell
Jim and Ginny Hayes
Robert and Julie Karner
Dottie and Marie Kilcarr
Arthur and Joanne Lebrer
Joseph and Tracey McGovern
Davis McPherson and Lise Wurzbacher
Jason Newman and Angela Allevi
David Novello and Marcia Sprague
Alex and Heather Sherman
Richard and Marion Snyder
Matt and Kristy Streett
John and Victoria West
Caryn and Warren Wick
Jef and Heather Zibell

In Memory Of. . .

Bud, special companion of Barbara and Dick Klix.
- Paul and Chris Umberger

Rae, a truly wonderful Golden Retriever. Rae passed away on January 10th. She was a true golden beauty in every way and beloved by her all her family. Our sincerest condolences to her family -Pam, Bob and Kevin Lunsford -- we know how greatly they miss Rea and treasure the many years of love, devotion and memories that this outstanding Golden has so eagerly given to them. Thank you for all the work you do on behalf of this special breed. - *The Rural Legacy Staff (Pam, Michelle, Joan & Ceil), sent in by Cecilia Bast*

Jenny (02-172). She is missed. - *Stuart Painter*

Jason, Happy and Willie. - *Mary Gillett*

Tess. - *Edward and Susan Lang*

Tiger, our 'Diamond in the Ruff.'
- *Kim and Dan Rolland*

Austin. - *Alison Martinek*

Elizabeth Crane's beloved Hailey. - *Jan and Bill Carlson*

Lucy. - *Susan Swift*

Griffey Beers. - *Patti Caplan*

My 16 year old golden Macy. - *Debra Gunn and Kurt Hofschild*

Goldy Star Lowy - *Susan Canning*

Toby who was adopted from GRREAT April 2003 by Maureen and Tom Lillis -*Carolyn Cranmer*

Duncan Briggie-Bott - *Calvin Steinmetz*

In December 2004, I was fortunate enough to get in touch with Rebecca and Art Hotop and met dear sweet Sammy. I brought my youngest son to meet Sammy and it was love at first sight for both of them. Sammy fit right in immediately! Both cats thought he was a very fine addition to their house and they welcomed him immediately, well, immediately for them—which in cat time is within 24 hours. Sammy loved to go outside and visit with all the neighborhood kids and he liked to be outside and help them chase after their balls. He didn't want to pick them up, just lead the way.

All the kids on Sammy's cul-de-sac enjoyed petting him and playing with him every afternoon. Sammy relished the attention. He was very, very happy. Sammy didn't know it but he had kidney disease brought on as a result of Lyme disease. The vet didn't want to let Sammy know he was sick because he apparently wasn't aware of how ill he really was, so we decided not to tell him. We did everything we could to make him as comfortable as possible for as long as we could.

In January 2005, on Inauguration Day, Sammy went to Heaven. I'm sure he's there with my previous Golden, Rusty. Please use this check to help other foster dogs like Sammy. This organization is wonderful in many, many ways and I am very happy to be a part. Thanks very much for all you do!
- *Linda Prendergast*

DONATIONS

In Honor Of, To Thank, and For Special Reasons. . .

On behalf of Edie Galpin – Spanky’s foster mom (2003). Since fostering Spanky, Edie has been available for us as a friend and as a resource of Goldie info! Thanks Edie – you are great!

- *Sarah and Ron Reynolds, David, Margo and Spanky*

In honor of Carolyn Reid. My daughter Carolyn (15 years old) asked for donations to GRREAT instead of Christmas presents. She would like you to use the donations wherever they are needed most. We adopted Maddie in August 2003 and she is a gem. The checks are from Mark Reid, Joseph and Jeanne Reid, and Nancy Reid.

- *Submitted by Nancy Reid*

To honor my golden Oscar as he has given me unmeasurable love and happiness. - *Allison Ward*

Here’s a little more for Jessie Robinson’s special foster dog, Bailey. Bailey’s happy disposition and cheerful coping with his neurological handicap quite won my heart. - *Trish Collier*

To thank GRREAT for all they do on our seventh anniversary with Molson. - *Doreen and Brad Wright*

To thank Laurie Schwede and Mary Wulfe for taking wonderful care of Zoe, Lucy and Lody!

- *Bill and Denise Snyers*

In honor of my GRREAT golden Anna. In memory of our 1st golden Shelby. To thank GRREAT.

- *Mark and Sharon Baldwin*

Marianne and I are indebted to your organization. Max and Luke (King and Goldy at the time of adoption) bring much more joy and love to our lives than can be imagined. Thank you so, so much.

- *Larry and Marianne Fishman*

In memory of Sandy, 2 years March 20th. To thank Janet and Phil for bringing us Desi.

- *Michael and Elizabeth Damitz*

In honor of Bailey, who has been a blessing in my life. - *Emily Groome*

To help pay for Jake’s (05-064) heartworm treatment. It’s not much, but every little bit helps.

- *Tom and Jean Klinger*

To thank Jill Kurtz and Diane Lanigan for getting me involved. - *Idalia Fernandez*

Enclosed is Amber’s (04-168) training certificate. I’m donating the deposit to GRREAT. Also enclosed is a check in memory of two beloved goldens, GRREAT dog Gizmo and his best friend Wilma. It’s also in gratitude for our two current, wonderful GRREAT dogs, Hooper and Amber.

- *Edythe and Charles Wise*

Special Fundraisers. . .

Here are the donations received from the event in Annapolis on March 19 for “Murphy’s GRREAT Day” held at Paws Pet Boutique. Someone had even donated a coffee can of change, which turned out to have \$35 worth of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. Wow!! Thanks to all for their donations. - *Pat Savary*

GRREAT volunteers staffed an Education/Merchandise table at the April 10 Dog Show in Barstow, MD sponsored by the Chesapeake Kennel Club. The volunteers raised money for the rescue. Thanks to all who helped out at this event. - *Jan Brown*

See also “Luck of the Irish” party, page 7.



These pretty goldens can’t wait for GRREAT special event on June 12. See page 20 for details!

DONATIONS

The Leo Fund. . .

Golden Angels (\$500 or more)

Carl Kerby and Lisa O'Donoghue

Joe O'Neill

Susan Jennings

Bonnie and Vernon Hill

In honor of our GRREAT dog Quentin (03-186) and his foster moms Denise Pelletier and Denise Malczewski. These two wonderful ladies loved Quentin long before our family did! They both fostered him during his two times in GRREAT and through two surgeries. Thanks to the Leo Fund, Quentin had surgery in December 2004 for hip dysplasia and we were able to take him home six weeks later. He just finished 4 weeks of swim therapy and is doing GRREAT!

Golden Heroes (\$100 to \$499)

Deborah and Thomas Rio

Terri Jones

Leo's Pals (up to \$99)

Andrew and Lisa Mullins

Frank and Joan Wanken

Michael Maring

Ronald and Melody Brandt

Donna Franklin

David and Judith Gist

Anita Nickoles

Dawn Gardiner

Joann and Shawn Adams

Hillary Miller

Matthew and Kathi Dietrich

Timothy and Barbara Burke

Barbara Thompson

Michael and Deborah Hasty

Charles and Carol Panagoulis

In memory of Samantha. We lost her in Nov. 2003. She was my best friend for life.

4/2/05 Adoption Day Donation Jar

Volunteers John and Linda Bowlin and Ralphie (GRREAT 02-263) vowed to beat the high standards set by the Swyer Family at the previous Adoption Day. It was a riot watching them work and I think we've created a fun sense of competition between our volunteers. Thanks! - *Jessie Robinson*

The GRREAT Store

by Jo Bighouse, GRREAT Merchandise Coordinator

There is some wonderful apparel available at the GRREAT store. Choose from baseball caps, sweatshirts, t-shirts, and denim shirts. Each features the GRREAT recycle logo in high quality embroidery. Stop by the on-line store by following the link on the GRREAT web site and peruse the many wonderful books, gifts, toys and clothing. Your purchases help support our rescue efforts.



www.grreat.org

Boat Safety 101

Teach your Golden basic boating skills so it can join you on fun outings.

By Kim Campbell Thornton

Reprinted with the permission of the publisher from "Training Secrets for Golden Retrievers," topic volume 11 in the Popular Dogs Series. Copies of this publication are available in your local pet-supply stores or from BowTie Inc., P.O. Box 6050, Mission Viejo, CA 92690; (949) 855-8822; www.populardogs.com.

One of the Golden Retriever's ancestors is the now-extinct Tweed Water Spaniel, and the Golden itself was developed in Scotland at Guisachan, an estate located on the Tweed River. Not surprisingly, the Golden is a water dog through and through, as at home in and on the water as on land.

That water-loving personality, combined with a little training, makes the Golden a perfect companion for boaters, and the breed is a favorite among them for a number of reasons. Golden Retrievers love to be with their people, they're sturdy dogs that aren't easily injured, they tend to be athletic and fast on their feet, and they love the outdoors and the water. A well-mannered Golden in good health can accompany you boating, sailing, and even canoeing and kayaking.

COMING ABOARD

Bob Kurtz's Golden Retrievers, Halley and Orion, were 3 and 7 years old when Kurtz, who lives in Fairfax, Virginia, first introduced them to riding on board the family's 16-foot Boston Whaler, an open-cockpit fishing boat. The Kurtzes use the boat for water sports and day trips, and it was only natural for them to bring their dogs along. The first step was teaching the dogs to board the boat. Halley had an adventurous personality and was easily persuaded to jump aboard, but to this day, the more timid Orion prefers



to be lifted aboard – especially when a high dock or a low tide makes the jump down into the boat a bit larger than he's comfortable with.

It's not unusual for dogs to be a little hesitant about jumping from the dock to the boat. Their depth perception isn't the best. A dog's eyes are usually set at a 20-degree angle, which gives it good peripheral vision, but not so great binocular vision, which provides depth perception. A dog's depth perception is best when it looks straight ahead rather than down.

In most cases, however, it just takes a lot of practice to accustom a dog to jumping onto a boat, says Todd Hurley of Escanaba, Michigan, who takes his 2-year-old Golden, Skipper, on his Formula, a high-performance cruising boat. Skipper started boating with Hurley as a young puppy. That early start helped Skipper adjust easily to the sounds and vibrations that come with being on a boat.

MAKING BOATING FUN

Your Golden's introduction to boating

should start with short trips in perfect weather, Kurtz says. "It should be a fun and relaxing time for all of you, and mixing in a favorite dog activity – such as playing fetch on the beach, swimming or even a favorite snack – makes it so much better," he says. "Once your dog is accustomed to the boat, don't be afraid to just go out and have some fun."

True to her Golden heritage, Halley took to boating immediately. Within the first few hours, she was walking confidently around the boat. As long as it's moving slowly, she's often up and about, or riding on the bow seat with her nose to the wind.

Orion, on the other hand, is not a big fan of boating. He's fine when the boat is drifting or at anchor, Kurtz says, but at more than the slowest speed he curls up in the back of the cockpit and pretends he's not there. The Kurtzes keep him happy by bringing lots of treats along and by taking Orion on the boat only when they expect calm weather.

SAFETY ON DECK

First and foremost, be sure your boat is appropriate for a dog. That means it's large enough for your Golden to move around, with enough gunwale height (high sides) or railings strung with lifelines

BOATING Continued on page 12

BOATING continued from page 11

to keep the dog securely on board. A small, center-console outboard (a small boat with an engine at the stern), such as Kurtz's Boston Whaler, works well, as would most midsize or larger cabin cruisers or sailboats. A canoe, kayak or rowboat may be appropriate for short outings with a well-behaved Golden, but a small day sailor, such as a Sunfish, Laser or JY15, or a personal watercraft, such as a JetSki, is probably a poor choice, Kurtz says.

If you'll be out for a while, protect your dog's skin from the sun, just as you would your own. Apply doggie sunscreen (available at pet-supply stores) to nose and ears, especially if you have a light-colored dog. Human sunscreen is okay, too, as long as it can be safely ingested because most dogs will lick some of it off.

A bimini top – a cotton, vinyl, polyester or acrylic cover for the boat supported by metal tubing – provides protection from sun or rain. "Our Boston Whaler has a bimini top, which provides reasonable shade, but on the very hottest days we leave the dogs home in the air conditioning to avoid heat problems and sunburned noses," Kurtz says.

Eyes are at risk, too. Although he originally purchased them as a fun gimmick, Hurley likes the protective dog goggles that Skipper wears on the boat. "If you think about it, our eyes can burn when we're on the water, and theirs can as well. It just protects their eyes," he says. The best dog goggles come with shatterproof lenses that block 100 percent of UV light, wraparound frames and adjustable elastic straps. Dog goggles are also useful for protecting a dog's eyes from dryness or flying debris on windy days, or when the boat is traveling at high speeds.

Be sure your dog has a safe and comfortable place to retreat while the boat is traveling at high speeds, especially if you're on a small, fast powerboat, because smashing over waves isn't very enjoyable for your dog. "When we run above 20 MPH or when it's exceptionally rough, Halley lies down between the pilot's seat and the center console, where my feet normally go," Kurtz says. "She becomes uncomfortable when we pound over larger waves and sometimes digs her claws or elbows into my feet to remind me to take it a bit easier." Large powerboats are more likely to be

comfortable for dogs in just about all weather conditions that are comfortable for people. Seasickness is rare in dogs, but if your Golden starts looking green, a dose of human anti-seasickness medication, such as Dramamine, usually takes care of the problem. Your veterinarian can advise you on the appropriate amount to give.

The heeling of a sailboat can also be disconcerting to many dogs, no matter how comfortable they are at sea, says Kurtz, who used to sail a 26-foot Seafarer sloop (a single-masted sailboat). Heeling describes how a sailboat gets its propulsion: The wind blows against the side of the sail, causing both a forward and a sideways force. The result is that the boat goes mostly forward, but the force of the wind also tilts the boat over to one side. Sailboats tend to go in a zig-zag path, changing direction every few minutes, and each change in direction reverses the boat's heel, from left to right and back again.

Kurtz's first Golden, Cally, never did adjust to the feel of the sailboat in motion. "I don't think the rocking bothered her, but she found the heeling disconcerting," he says. "After a few times out on the boat, we usually left her home for a daysail or with a neighbor if we were to be gone for the weekend."

In addition to providing a safe place for your dog to ride, you may want to consider ways to help it keep its footing. For Skipper, Hurley plans to try a product that adheres to the bottom of a dog's paws so they don't slide on slick surfaces, such as boat decks. "Dogs typically try to hold on with their claws like a cat, but it doesn't work on a slippery surface," he says.

It's also a good idea to install netting on a boat's lifelines to keep your dog from skidding or jumping off the deck into the water. Lifelines are usually vinyl- or plastic-covered wire rope strung around the sides of a boat's deck, which serve to keep the crew from falling overboard. Netting closes the gap between the lifelines and the deck, and can be attached with nylon clips or lashed with nylon thread.

Some boaters put harnesses on their dogs and attach them with tethers to the jack lines, which are rigged along the decks from the bow (the front of the boat)

BOATING Continued on page 16

The DOG-TOR Is In

Your questions answered by Dr. Ronald Spikloser



Dear Dr. Ron,

The other night I was awakened by the sound of my golden's tags jingling. Buddy is usually such a sound sleeper. After trying to ignore the sound for a while, I decided to see what was going on. I turned on the light to discover that he was scratching his ear with his rear leg. Just when I thought he was done, he starting rolling around on his back. While he looked like he was having a terrific time, I can't help but wonder if all this itchiness should be a concern? I have noticed that his coat is starting to get a bit sparse in the areas he scratches most often. What should I do?

Spring is the beginning of the usual itchy season. Buddy's itchiness could be caused by allergies, infections, hormonal, mites and/or autoimmune issues. I believe the most common cause of scratching is allergies and the most common allergen is fleas.

When a flea bites an allergic animal, the protein allergen that is injected into the animal by the flea saliva triggers itching. If all the fleas are killed after the allergic reaction is started, the itching can continue as the allergic reaction takes on a life of its own. Many animals will need to have the allergy treated, as well as the fleas. In addition, after the animal has been scratching, it may start up a skin infection which will need to be treated with antibiotics.

So a tiny flea can start a chain reaction of events that leads to needing multiple treatments with a flea product, an allergy product and antibiotics. I see many cases of these chain reactions in a single season.

If your animal is treated for fleas and a flea allergy and is still scratching, it could be that your pet needs antibiotics for a skin infection.

Flea control is the key to avoiding itching and scratching. There are many products on the market, such as Advantage, Revolution and Frontline. I personally use Frontline. It kills all the fleas if used correctly and will also kill ticks.

Even animals that rarely go out should be on flea control, as I have

even seen indoor cats with them. Fleas can come through the screen door. I recommend year-round application, as fleas can survive all year with a mild winter or if they have gotten into your house. If the house population of fleas is not large, year long application will take care of the flea problem. Fleas must have a blood meal within a year or they will die.

Although you may not see fleas on Buddy, this still may be the source of his problem. Look for little black dots on your pet. Take the black dot and put it on a white paper



towel and add a drop of water. If it looks like it is red, it is a drop of blood drawn from the flea.

Fleas can also be found more easily with a flea comb. The best place to look for fleas is at the base of the tail or on the belly.

In summary, use flea control and many itchy seasons will be avoided. ☺

WINNIE Continued from page 1

heredity. I will always wonder if any of Winnie's litter-mates also had epilepsy. Did they land in homes like ours, where we never dreamed of doing anything but the best we could for her and were able to pay the vet bills?

The support I got from all the sources I found was amazing, but it was a long, hard road. We had to give her phenobarbital, potassium bromide and in the past two years, neurontin to control her seizures. Her quality of life was a constant concern and we tried our best to balance that with seizure control.

I charted her seizures. There never seemed to be a pattern. She had them about once a month, sometimes going two or three months in between.

The financial and emotional cost of caring for Winnie was frustrating and overwhelming. But, we loved her so much and wanted to do the best we could for her.

She was a vibrant and joyous member of our family, moving with us to Ashburn, VA in 1998 and helping us welcome two small boys. I had sons, but Winnie, she was always my baby girl, golden of my heart, devoted friend and companion. Since she had seizures mainly at night I kept a baby monitor on and would hurry down to the kitchen if I heard her. We would lie together on the floor and I'd sing to her as she would come out of her episodes; silly songs that were probably more for my benefit than hers.

From December 2003 to April 2004 we saw a rapid decline in 8 year old Winnie's quality of life. Her seizures were under control, but she slept a lot and had trouble getting around due to weakness in her hind legs (side effect of all the drugs). Frequent blood work showed diminished kidney function and she fought off recurring bladder infections. With our vet's help, we finally realized there wasn't much more that we could do for Winnie.

I will never forget the morning I called our vet and, crying and pacing around our back deck, asked them to please help us let Winnie go. Recent bloodwork showed that she was in complete kidney failure and they offered to let us come right in. I said no, it isn't urgent, she seems comfortable and I want her to be


home when she goes. We arranged for that to happen the next day.

She passed away on Saturday April 17 resting in one of her favorite spots in our backyard with her head on my knee. How I got through those two days I still do not know. I never stopped crying. As much as I knew in my heart that it was time, it was the hardest thing I have ever had to do. I wanted everyone else to make the decision for me, but it was mine to make.

I couldn't imagine my life without a golden retriever in it, but taking the leap involved in adding a new golden to our family wouldn't be one we took lightly. Dave and I were both worried about genetic problems and health issues with the breed. We knew that no matter where our next golden came from, there would be no guarantees. I think it is a testament to the wonderful dog that Winnie was and all of the gifts she gave us—that we still wanted to be owned by a golden retriever.

Although Dave wanted to wait, I convinced him to let us apply to foster. It took a home visit and a few weeks but we were approved. We would need to work with our boys on not leaving doors and gates open! An e-mail came from Tom Janczuk with fosters available. One was a year old male named Midas (04-108).

A few days later I was sitting in Jo Bighouse's office being introduced to not only Midas but all her beautiful dogs. I took Midas home and within 24 hours Dave and I agreed we would be crazy not to try and adopt him. It had only been three months since Winnie's death but you can't plan everything.

Midas is such a special boy and much adored. He is a "velcro golden" and follows me everywhere. GRREAT has given us the ultimate gift. I think our six year old, Thomas, said it best. We were at the park and a woman was admiring Midas. He told her we had another golden retriever, named Winnie, but she was in heaven now. He said "Do you ever think about what it is like up there?" To her credit she said "Yes, you know, I think about that a lot!" "Well," said Thomas, "Winnie is up there and she saw how sad we were and she sent Midas to us." I will do everything I can to make sure Midas has a healthy life. Because of Winnie's life, I will never take a healthy well-bred dog for granted. 

Are You Prepared?

By Sandy Diamond, GRREAT Education Coordinator

Warm weather is upon us, and with it comes more time outdoors with our dogs. Along with all the fun activities come more opportunities for your dog to get hurt or sick. Are you prepared for an emergency? Do you have a plan in place if your dog gets sick or injured?

The first thing to make sure you have on hand is the phone number of the nearest emergency veterinary clinic. It's also a good idea to know where it is located so you don't have to worry about getting directions in the middle of an emergency. However, emergencies often occur when we are away from home. Having a First Aid Kit that you can take with you on trips can be a life saver.

You can buy a commercially prepared kit, or you can make your own. Below are some basic items to include if you wish to make your own. You should check with your vet about appropriate uses and doses before giving your dog any of the listed medications.

You will need a sturdy, waterproof

container to hold your supplies. A fishing tackle box or tool box will work well. Tape a card to the inside of the box with your vet and emergency vet information, as well as poison control hot lines.

Basic supplies to put in your kit are:

- + Cotton gauze wrap, gauze pads, Ace bandages and first aid tape
- +Muzzle
- +Scissors, tweezers, disposable safety razor, hemostat, bulb syringe or turkey baster, eye dropper
- +Anti-bacterial wipes, hydrogen peroxide, betadine, antibiotic ointment
- +Thermometer
- +Blanket and/or towels, washcloth
- +Benadryl, Pepto Bismol, buffered aspirin, activated charcoal tablets, eye wash
- +Water, Pedialyte
- +First Aid book

More resources that can help you handle emergencies:

**The First Aid Companion for Dogs & Cats* by Amy D. Shojai (2001)

*ASPCA Poison Control Center 1-888-426-4435

*National Animal Poison Control Center 1-800-548-2423

*AAHA Animal Hospital Locator: http://www.healthypet.com/hospital_search.aspx 🐾



Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, May 14

GRREAT Education Table
Bulldog Rescue Doggie Play Day
Oregon Ridge Park
Cockeysville, MD

Sunday, May 15

GRREAT Education Table
SPCA of Anne Arundel County
Walk for Animals
Quiet Waters Park
Annapolis, MD

Sunday, May 22

4th Annual Howard County Pet Expo
Schooly Mill Park
Highland, MD

Saturday, June 4

Noon - 2 p.m.
GRREAT Adoption Day
Chantilly VA
See page 5 for details.

Saturday, June 11

GRREAT Education Table
Frederick County Humane Society
Walk 'N Wag
Baker Park
Frederick, MD

Sunday, June 12

GRREAT Bark-B-Que
Quiet Waters Park
Annapolis, MD
See page 20 for details.

Saturday, July 9

Noon- 2 p.m.
GRREAT Adoption Day
Ana's Ark Doggie Day Care
7300 Westmore Rd.
Rockville, MD
See page 5 for details.

BOATING continued from page 12

toward the stern (back) of the boat. The dog can move freely about the boat, and if it jumps or falls overboard, it'll still be attached to the boat.

DOG OVERBOARD!

The risk of a dog jumping or falling overboard is a significant concern for anyone taking a Golden on the water, Kurtz says. It's not easy to get a large dog back into the boat from the water. Already heavy, water weighs down the dog's coat further. And on all but the smallest boats, there's a bit of a reach down to the waterline, not to mention the work involved in lifting the dog up and over the side or stern.

On the smallest boats, such as canoes or rowboats, there's less of a lift, but more risk of swamping or capsizing (overturning) the boat if you place too much weight on one side. For all these reasons, Halley and Orion always wear their doggie PFDs (personal flotation devices) on board.

How likely is your Golden to go overboard? That depends on how much it likes to swim, whether it's adamant about going after birds, how it feels about the drop off the boat and how well it's trained. "Halley loves to swim, but she has always been somewhat shy about jumping from any height," Kurtz says. "This causes her to pace and whine before she jumps, which gives us ample time to tell her to stay. With her obedience training, that's enough to keep her on the boat. On occasion we'll pass close to a group of ducks or geese, and at those times, Halley needs exceptionally close attention."

Take into consideration your dog's swimming ability, your location, and the water and weather conditions before you let your dog off your boat for a swim. Once in the water, getting your dog back in your boat will also depend on certain elements, such as water conditions. You might find it helpful to have someone in the water to help push your dog out of the water while someone in the boat hoists the dog up into the boat.

GOING POTTY

How do dogs go potty on a boat? It's not as if they can go below to use the head (the toilet compartment on a boat). For brief trips of only a few

hours, it's usually not a problem. "We try to make Skipper go before we leave," Hurley says. Being a well-mannered dog, Skipper refuses to go potty on the boat, although Hurley has tried to make it clear that it's okay for him to go on the swim platform if it's absolutely necessary.

If they're out longer than a few hours, or when canine swimming (and taking in water) is involved, the Kurtzes plan ahead to make landfall for a potty break. "For our type of boating, it isn't usually too difficult," Kurtz says. "We're often pretty close to a beach, park or marina. Interestingly, it appears that dogs don't pee while they're swimming. Halley always needs to get into shallow enough water to stand. If the dogs have a potty accident aboard the Whaler, it's no big deal because the boat is all fiberglass and vinyl cushions. We just bring out the bucket and rinse the area down with water."

If your Golden loves water, boating is a wonderful way to include it in family activities. The most important thing, Kurtz says, is to be attentive to your dog. Most Golden retrievers will love boating with their families, but a few may be uncomfortable or nervous. Introduce them to boating slowly so they can gradually become accustomed to and comfortable with it. After all, he says, you don't want to put them into a situation that's over their heads – so to speak.

"I love to spend time with my dogs, and after working the whole day, all week, I want to involve them in every leisure activity possible," Kurtz says. 🐾

Kim Campbell Thornton is a freelance writer and former editor for Dog Fancy magazine. She lives in Southern California with her three Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Darcy, Bella, and Twyla.



Thanks to Our Volunteers

GRREAT is fortunate to have many volunteers who help at adoption days and other events. Many thanks to all of you for all you do!

April Adoption Day, Herndon, VA

Bob Kurtz, Jeff and Lucinda Twining, Lauri Presnell, Kathy Thomas, Catherine Campbell, John and Linda Bowlin, Connie and John Swanson, Jeannie Blood, Diane Lanigan, Sharon McIlrath, Allison Ward, and Shelley Hunsberger.



Notes from Folks

On November 6, 2004 my family and I adopted “Teddy” at the adoption day at the Bowie PetSmart. As part of the adoption Teddy was to complete obedience training.

Enclosed is a copy of his Certificate of Merit for completing basic obedience training. It took us twice to do it but we did it and he is doing great!!!

I plan to continue his training in the fall. My family and I can’t thank GRREAT enough for allowing us to adopt such a wonderful addition to our family.

- *Crissy Skoglin*

A Breed Apart GRREAT Vice President and Education Coordinator Sandy Diamond

By Emily Pasterick, Contributing Writer

After Sandy Diamond and her husband were approved to adopt a Golden from GRREAT in 2002, it took four months for them to welcome the perfect addition to their family, a few more than Sandy had expected. The delay was not because she did not warm up to any of the available Golden retrievers, but because the foster moms and dads knew Sandy’s “Boomer” was still waiting for her—and they were right.

It was the rigorous evaluation process applied by the foster homes that not only brought Boomer and Sandy together happily under one roof, but also served to build Sandy’s confidence and pride in a system that clearly worked—and one in which she would find herself participating. From adopting one Golden, to fostering many, to educating about and supporting Golden rescue through GRREAT, Sandy’s volunteering makes her “a breed apart.”

One conversation with Sandy is all it takes to recognize her warmth, grace, and unassuming nature. In just the few years she’s been volunteering with GRREAT, she was nominated and promoted in quick succession by her GRREAT peers from Education Coordinator in Virginia, to the dual positions of Vice President and Education Coordinator for GRREAT.

Sandy looks forward to obtaining knowledge about Golden rescue from her peers who can lend the wisdom of more experience, and to promoting the goals



she envisions within her “secondary” responsibility as Education Coordinator.

As Education Coordinator for the entire GRREAT service region (with an individual focus on VA, DC and WV), Sandy works closely with Pat Savary, the Education Coordinator in MD, DE, and PA.

One of Sandy’s goals for this year is to work with Pat on coordinating the review and update of GRREAT’s educational materials, which can be found on the web site at www.grreat.org/education.

By far, the biggest event that Sandy is coordinating is the all-day Foster Home Workshop for current foster homes on Saturday, May 14. Sandy will take advantage of the tremendous amount of knowledge within the GRREAT organization to present such topics as reviewing the updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), handling problem Golden behaviors, applying grooming techniques, sharing best practices, and much more.

BREED APART Continued on page 18

BREED APART Continued from page 17

Essentially, the workshop will serve to provide critical updates and reminders for current, experienced FHs, and fundamental fostering principles and encouragement for new FHs.

Sandy hopes that a successful FH workshop will initiate a spirit of learning and sharing that will extend to the possibility of Golden ownership classes geared towards GRREAT's general public.

Ultimately, Sandy considers herself fortunate to be in dual positions that allow her to take the good feedback received from other volunteers, and use it to further GRREAT's education goals beyond just information tables at rescue events.

The education column she was recently assigned to write as a regular feature in the GRREAT News will keep the GRREAT community updated on the plans that will evolve from this unique combination of responsibilities. Sandy welcomes column ideas from everyone.

Sandy's serves as a terrific inspiration to other volunteers. GRREAT is proud to spotlight Sandy Diamond as "a breed apart!"

Great Get-Away for You and Your GRREAT Family

By Meg Ellacott, contributing writer

Just about two hours from the Washington DC area you'll find a magnificent refuge from the cities' hustle and bustle. It's the Rocky Gap State Park, Lodge and Golf Resort and they are super pet-friendly.

The Lodge & Golf Resort offers VIP Pet rooms. Pets are given a "welcome basket" which includes treats for both the pet and pet owner. The rooms are reasonably priced, attractive, and comfortable and the lodge charges a \$50 onetime cleaning fee or pet fee - a bit high I think - but still worth it to take your 'kids' along with you on vacation. But you'll need to plan ahead...the doggie rooms are the first to sell in-season and go pretty fast.

I visited Rocky Gap State Park about a year ago and found it just delightful. I can't wait to go back for more walks, hiking and swimming with my two adoptees, Jake and Kelly. The park features 243-acre Lake Habeeb which is fed by Rocky Gap Run, which winds its way through an impressive mile-long gorge displaying sheer cliffs, overlooks, and a hemlock forest dense with foliage. Overlooking the lake is Evitts Mountain; all-told the park encompasses over 3,000 acres of public land for guests and their golden retrievers to enjoy. Aside from this beautiful park, there's a Jack Nicklaus golf course, canoeing, caving, cultural and historical tours, fly fishing, lakeside campfires, guided mountain bike tours, and whitewater rafting.

If you're not interested in staying at the lodge, there are 278 campsites



including 30 equipped with electric hook-ups and other modern conveniences. There's also a nature center, boat ramps, boat rentals and camp store with ten mini-cabins. Pets are allowed in two designated camp loops.

To learn more about this great get-away for you and your GRREAT family, visit www.rockygapresort.com or www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/rockygap.html

We'll be doing a series of articles about great 'dog friendly' vacation spots in the coming months. You're invited to write to me about your favorite get-away with your GRREAT dog. My e-mail is meg@ellashow.com. I thank you in advance for sending your ideas.

To Rocky Gap State Park -- From Washington, D.C.: (approximately 150 miles)

Take I-270 north to I-70 west to I-68 west. Take the Rocky Gap State Park exit (Exit 50). The park's headquarters is located on the right. 🐾

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.

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 complete this form to volunteer. 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 (_____) _____

Cell Phone (_____) _____

Fax Number (_____) _____

Work Phone (_____) _____

OK to call at work? Yes No

Are you over age 18? Yes No

Please indicate any area of interest.

The appropriate GRREAT Coordinator will contact you for more information.

- _____ Be a foster home for a GRREAT dog
- _____ Help at adoption days
- _____ Help at microchip clinics
- _____ Help at GRREAT booth at dog shows, fairs, etc.
- _____ Help operate a concession stand at MCI Center/RFK Stadium/other events to benefit GRREAT
- _____ Help at fund raisers
- _____ Transport GRREAT dogs (to/from vet, animal shelter, etc.)
- _____ Perform home visits prior to adoption
- _____ Coordinate an activity or event
- _____ Donate the following services:

Additional information or comments:

This form can be filled out on-line at www.great.org.

Come to the GRREAT Annual Bark-B-Que

By Allison Ward, special events coordinator

Join us on Sunday, June 12 for our annual Bark-B-Que at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis, MD.

Quiet Waters has an off-leash fenced park for the dogs to play, run, and jump, and an off-leash dog beach for the dogs to enjoy swimming. Quiet Waters also has more than six miles of trails winding through hardwood forest and past grassy fields and vistas.

Food and beverages will be provided. Activities for both two- and four-legged guests will be held, including 50/50 raffle, Chinese Auction and much more! What a great way to meet and greet other GRREAT members and their dogs!



For information on the park, call 410-222-1777 or visit them on the web at www.aacounty.org/RecParks/Parks/quiet_waters_park.

Bark-B-Que details

- DATE:** Sunday, June 12, 2005
TIME: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
PLACE: Quiet Waters Park
White Oak Pavilion
600 Quiet Waters Park Road
Annapolis, MD 21403
- COST:** \$5 per Person
\$10 per Family (2 adults + Children)
- RSVP:** rsvp@grreat.org or 703-620-6593 (box 5)
Tell us your name and how many people and dogs will be attending.
- VOLUNTEER:** To volunteer at the event (set-up, clean-up, activities, merchandise, etc.), contact Stephanie Nelson, GRREAT Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@grreat.org.

DIRECTIONS: From US-50 East, take exit 22 (Route 665) or Aris T. Allen Blvd. Stay on Rte 665 until it ends and merges with Forrest Dr. Follow Forrest Drive for 2 miles. Turn right at the Exxon Station onto Hillsmere Drive (you'll see a "Quiet Waters Park—Next Right" sign). The park entrance is 100 yards on the right hand side. At the park entrance, please tell the gatekeeper that you are attending the GRREAT picnic!

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

P.O. Box 3069

Falls Church, VA 22043-0069

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MERRIFIELD, VA
PERMIT NO. 2773

GRREAT BEGINNINGS



LEAD TO HAPPY ENDINGS!

Golden Retriever Rescue
Education and Training, Inc.