



# GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc. • November/December 2005 • Vol. 16, No. 6

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## A Visit to Tylertown to Help the Katrina Animals

By Greg Russell and Jan Brown

In late September, we spent about a week in Tylertown, MS, at the St. Francis Animal Sanctuary--a sister sanctuary of the Best Friends (BF) organization in Utah. BF used this sanctuary as a staging area for animals they rescued from New Orleans. Volunteers from all over the country and all walks of life, including vets and vet techs, came to help the BF staff assigned to the site. There were perhaps 35 people there, and between 300 and 400 animals.

Our typical day was spent feeding and watering the animals, building new kennels, washing crates and, of course, poop scooping. When the rescue trucks arrived between 7 pm and midnight or so, we'd help unload the 30-40 new animals and get them settled in a kennel for the night. Any suffering from obvious acute problems were seen immediately by a vet regardless of the time of night. Others were vet-checked in the morning, vaccinated, microchipped, and assigned an ID number. Although many of these animals were emaciated,



others were in good shape due to the food and water that rescue groups had been placing in New Orleans. Many suffered from either internal or external chemical burns from the polluted water in the city, and most had heartworms, making recuperation more difficult. Virtually no male dogs were neutered.

The common breeds were pit bulls, black labs and rottweillers; hardly a golden to be seen. We did find one senior golden who, along with about 120 other dogs, was later transferred



to a sanctuary in Arizona. She was extremely thin and frail, and must have been a real fighter to have survived, as it seemed that very few older dogs did. Despite her condition, she was very patient (typical golden!) when we bathed her and tried to comb out the hardened muck that covered her

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# GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

P.O. Box 3069, Falls Church, VA 22043-0069  
Phone: 703-620-6593 • Web site: [www.grreat.org](http://www.grreat.org)

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

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<b>NEWSLETTER</b> Leigh Rutter	..... leighmegan@yahoo.com .....	443.691.3314

\* members of the GRREAT Board of Directors

# Letter From The President

By Kim Wiff, GRREAT President

Dear Friends:

I recently attended the Golden Retriever National in Gettysburg. Beautiful and impeccably groomed Golden Retrievers from all over the country competed in events from conformation to team obedience. The highlight of the week for me was the Parade of Rescued Golden Retrievers. The parade featured 30 rescued Golden Retrievers from all over the country. As Bob Fritz announced the Golden's names, they came into the ring, and GRREAT member Susan McCullough presented them with a rosette. As they walked around the show-ring, their story of rescue was told. The parade was truly a tribute to rescue, and what we do each year. At the start of the parade, Bob said something that was so poignant and really hit home to me and others who attended just what it means to have a rescued Golden as part of our lives. Bob said, "The Golden Retrievers in this parade will never win best in show. But what they have won is a place in our hearts." This is so very true!

Considering Golden Retrievers nationwide, I think that if the numbers were ever added up, we would find that, unfortunately, there are thousands of Golden Retrievers that find themselves without a home of their own every year. What is even more difficult to think about is that there are countless Golden Retrievers euthanized because there was no one to take them, nor a place for them to go. If you are like me, this is very difficult to accept or even think about. But sadly, we just cannot save them all. I'm sure some of you are familiar with the story of the starfish that goes something like this:

There was a young man walking down a deserted beach just before dawn. In the distance he saw a frail old man. As he approached the old man, he saw him picking up stranded starfish and throwing them back into the sea. The young man gazed in wonder as the old man again and again threw the small starfish from the sand to the water. He asked, "Old man, why do you spend so much energy doing what seems to be a waste of time?" The old man explained that the stranded starfish would die if left in the morning sun. "But there must be thousands of beaches and millions of starfish!", exclaimed the young man. "How can you make any difference?" The old man looked down at the small starfish in his hand and as he threw it to the safety of the sea, he said, "I made a difference to this one."

I see examples of the Starfish story in everyone involved with GRREAT. I saw it as you without hesitation unselfishly answered our plea for much needed donations to enable GRREAT to continue. I see it in the daily business of GRREAT, and in my own home. Each GRREAT Golden in my home, yours, and many others, is a tribute to the dedication of someone that did make a difference. These dogs are living proof of our commitment to GRREAT and the Golden Retrievers that we rescue each year. No, we are not saving them all nationwide. And no, they will never win "best in show." But the Golden Retrievers in our area have something much better because YOU are making a difference for each of them!!

From my home to yours, I hope you have a safe, wonderful, and happy holiday season!

## GRREAT Store News



Why is this puppy smiling?

Because he has seen the wonderful dog toys at the GRREAT store!

Visit the on-line store by following the link from the GRREAT web site at [www.grreat.org](http://www.grreat.org) and start shopping for your favorite golden or your favorite golden lover.

Choose from shirts, hats, toys, pet blinkers, books, and the GRREAT 2006 calendar.

Your patronage is greatly appreciated!

### Happy Birthday Tom Janczuk

Your work has changed my father's life. He now has three rescued golden retrievers and one waiting at the bridge. Without his fur buddies I do believe he would not know what to do. He has greatly enjoyed (no pun intended) his work at GRREAT.

I enclosed a gift on honor of his birthday (8/30). Please use it to help with any surgeries for the rescued pups. Thank you for all you do.

--Benjamin and Kim Dunn (designated for Leo Fund)

Additional gifts from Sarah Janczuk and Stephanie and John Brennan.

## Thanks to Our Volunteers

### Adoption Day Sept 10 at Annapolis Petco

*Janet & Phil Hauck*  
*Denise Gettier*  
*Sujan Patel*  
*Kathleen Thomas*  
*Anne Reynolds*  
*Rose & Taylor Bayat*  
*Betsy Davis & Max*  
*Joy Scrimshire*  
*Roberta Dorn*  
*Sherry Carrson*  
*Selena Coon*  
*Vicki Smith*  
*Penny March*  
*Karen Gaulin*  
*Barbara Barshinger*  
*Rita Hope Counts*

### Adoption Day October 1 at Burke Petco

*Bruce Hostetter*  
*Christine Austen*  
*Dee Brown*  
*Glen MacDonald*  
*Idalia Fernandez &*  
*Katie (her Golden)*  
*Janet Hauck*  
*Janette Siebs*  
*Jeane Wiggert*  
*Jeff Twining*  
*Jule Ann Cheslock*  
*Kathleen Thomas*  
*Lucinda Twining*  
*Marlies Durso*  
*Meg Ellacott*  
*Scott Babcock*

### The GRCA 2005 National Specialty - Sept 23 to Oct 1, 2005 in Gettysburg, PA

*Kim Wiff, Sandy Diamond &*  
*Gail Corby*  
*Sara & Carl Gepp*  
*Vicki & James Eurice*  
*Joy Scrimshire*  
*Sabrena Meyerhoff*  
*Donna Ward*

## Rest Your Paws at Restful Paws

*By Daria Taylor, Home Visit Volunteer*

On our way to New Hampshire this summer, we stopped at a place we can't stop talking about - a bed & breakfast called Restful Paws near Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

Restful Paws exceeded our expectations. Our hosts, the Korny family, were very gracious and made us feel at home in their immaculate retreat. They do everything to ensure the comfort of their human and canine guests. People cookies and doggie treat bags with munchies, designer poop bags and stuffed toys were waiting in our room. There was a dog bed at the foot of our bed, along with a nice paw print blanket to put on the bed if our dogs wanted to sleep with us. There was an "accident" kit in the closet, and the bathroom boasted natural products for dealing with ticks and an elevated food and water dish with ice cold water! That was just our accommodations. We all loved the "gathering room" with a television, small refrigerator, couches for humans and a nice pillow for dogs. There were plenty of toys for Watson and Chloe to enjoy, along with natural dog treats galore to keep their taste buds happy. We also got a tour

of the dog lounge downstairs called Wooffurs, a special place for pups to relax and play!

We walked a trail behind the house after we got settled and our dogs flew down the path! After a restful evening, we enjoyed a breakfast basket of freshly baked pastries, fresh fruit and juice delivered to us at the gazebo. Watson and Chloe also received personalized biscuits for a morning treat! Did I mention the bone-shaped pool? It was being covered during our stay, but they hope to have it open for the fall. This way, dogs can swim year round.

I am not sure how many GRREAT families head up to New England, but if you are anywhere near Sturbridge, Massachusetts, you have to treat yourself and your furry family members to a stay at Restful Paws. You will not be disappointed! Be sure to check out their website at [www.restfulpaws.com](http://www.restfulpaws.com) for the latest and greatest information about this wonderful resort for pets and their owners. As their motto states, this is the perfect "place where pets bring their owners to relax."



**The Taylor  
Family in  
front of the**

# ADOPTION REPORT

Forty two Forever Homes opened their doors and hearts to lucky dogs between August 18 and October 20, 2005. Among these new adoptees were 15 females and 27 males. The dogs ranged in age from 2 months to 10 years old at the time of adoption, including 9 under the age of 2 years, 24 between 2 and 6 years, and 9 age 7 and over.

Name	ID	Age	Sex
Allie	05-025	6 mo	F
Amber	05-139	1	F
Autumn	05-180	1	F
Bailey	05-089	4	M
Barney	05-155	3	M
Boomer	05-119	7	M

Name	ID	Age	Sex	Name	ID	Age	Sex
Buddy	05-040	6	M	Otis	05-107	1	M
Buddy	05-101	6	M	Peanut	05-159	10 mo	F
Daisy	05-189	2	F	Raffy	05-135	10 mo	M
Dandelion Wine	05-088	8	F	Red	05-148	9	M
Dexter	05-151	6 mo	M	Reilly	05-187	4	F
Dillon	05-174	5	M	Roxanne	05-142	4	F
Dixie	05-118	8	F	Rusty	05-138	8	M
Gracie	05-125	7	F	Sadie	05-162	2	F
Handsome	05-146	2	M	Sage	05-097	9	M
Hap	05-190	10	M	Samson	05-121	5	M
Harper	05-149	2	M	Sandy	05-158	5	F
Jake	05-021	2	M	Shadow	05-161	5	M
Kelsey	05-178	5	F	Smokey	05-130	2	M
Lance	05-129	2	M	Smokie	05-109	2	M
Madeline	05-172	7	F	Spidey	05-167	2	M
Maxwell	05-147	10 mo	M	Sunny	05-053	2	M
Milo	04-163	3	M	Teddy	05-100	10 mo	M
Molly	05-095	3	F	Tyner	05-164	2	M

## ADOPTION DAY DIRECTIONS

### December 3, 2005

Noon – 2 p.m.

Petco

10800 Promenade Lane

Manassas, Virginia

703-257-6373

From I-495 West [Capitol Beltway], travel approximately 16.9 miles and take exit 49 onto I-66 West toward Front Royal/Manassas. Travel approximately 17.8 miles, take exit 47A/VA-234-Bus onto Sudley Rd [VA-234-BUS] toward Manassas.

Travel approximately 0.7 miles, turn right on Streamwalk Ln.

Travel approximately 0.1 miles, turn right on Promenade Ln.

Travel approximately 0.1 miles, Petco is on the right.

### January 7, 2006

Noon – 2 p.m.

Petco

10464 Baltimore Avenue

Beltsville, Maryland

301-937-1222

Take I-495 East (Capitol Beltway) to exit 25B-A and turn right onto ramp towards Route 1 College Park/Laurel. Stay on ramp and bear right onto Route 1 North. Follow Route 1 North for approximately 1.25 miles, Petco is on the left.

### February 4, 2006

Noon – 2 p.m.

Petco

10708 Lee Highway

Fairfax, VA 22030

703-352-3300

Take I-495 West [Capitol Beltway] to I-66 [Custis Memorial Pky] Manassas/Front Royal. At exit 60, turn right onto ramp towards VA-123 Fairfax/Vienna. Take ramp left onto SR-123 [Chain Bridge Rd] towards VA-123 Fairfax. Turn right onto US-29. Continue on US-29 for approximately 0.4 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.*

## A Special Donation

In honor of two very special people who went beyond the call of duty to help care for my dogs so a friend and I could go to Tylertown, MS to help with the Katrina animal rescue. First, Diane Rice, who lives about 90 minutes from my home, stayed at my home while I was gone, leaving her own five dogs in the care of her husband Mike ... so I thank Mike too for handling all the doggy chores on their end so Diane could stay at my house! Diane spoiled the four golden retrievers at my home to the point that when I returned, I wasn't sure they were as happy to see me as I thought they should have been.

Second, my neighbor Anita Guit, a golden retriever herself, was nothing short of wonderful to come over to let my dogs out on days when Diane was at work. I understand her daughter Hailey also came over to visit my furfaces, which I know they loved. I could not have gone away without their help! Neither would accept payment for their kind actions, so I am sending this check in honor of them both.

GRREAT is a very special rescue for all that it does to help golden retrievers in need and I know you will put this donation to good use.

--Jan Brown

## Katrina Animals, continued from page 1

Before returning, we visited the Lamar-Dixon animal rescue center in Gonzalez, LA and the one at LSU in Baton Rouge. Each had several hundred animals, but we saw no golden retrievers. We left GRREAT contact information with officials at each site in case they need our assistance later. Any dogs that GRREAT might take from these groups would have to be maintained in foster status for from 6 weeks to 3 months (depending upon the group we take them from) to allow time for the original owners to find and reclaim them.

Although we saw very few golden retrievers, the Petfinders website, where all Katrina rescues are to be listed, shows many of them (mostly mixes). It's good to know that GRREAT had the foresight to identify members willing to help with transport and fostering, should we be called on. These animals desperately need whatever help we can offer.

More pictures of the Tylertown rescue site can be viewed at: <http://public.fotki.com/pawsperson/tylertown>. The password is k🐾.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESSIE ROBINSON

Please accept the enclosed donation to the Simile-Finale Fund. On July 10, 2005, a surprise birthday brunch was held for Jessie Robinson, GRREAT's esteemed Adoption Coordinator. Those assembled and invited, participated in the purchase of a lovely donated, framed Katie Ropar golden retriever print called "Couch Potatoes". The enclosed proceeds symbolize our pride and pleasure in knowing and working with Jessie. Her valued efforts and talent in administering the placement of our rescued golden retrievers in their forever homes is a blessing to GRREAT.

-- Lisa Cook, Roberta Dorn, Janet and Phil Hauck, Stephanie and Jim Nelson, Elizabeth Reimer, Lucinda and Jeff Twining, Allison Ward, and Jan and Marty White

## Goldstock 2005

By Stephanie Nelson, Volunteer Coordinator

This was my first year attending Goldstock - it was all I expected and then some! Kim Wiff, Sandy Diamond and I attended to represent GRREAT. In between seeing some of the fun events and eating good food, we sold GRREAT merchandise and coordinated the items that were donated for the silent auction. Goldstock gave GRREAT the opportunity to generate much needed funds.



If you don't know what Goldstock is, it's a very nice camping weekend in the Pocono Mountains with other Golden Retriever Rescues from around the country and the best part is you can bring your own dogs too! (See ours above.) In a nutshell, it is a huge fundraiser held to help Golden Retriever Rescues. This event gives each rescue an opportunity to raise money to help support their own organizations, and also to purchase other golden retriever related items to help benefit the other rescues and the National Golden Retriever Rescue.

In our last newsletter we missed a few people who donated some items for the silent auction and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support. We'd like to thank Sid Morris, Sam Connelly, Elizabeth Crane, Diane Trout and Dawn Christiansen for the items they donated to help make the auction a success. 🐾

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# A Breed Apart:

## Spotlight on a GRREAT Volunteer

### GRREAT Transport Coordinator, Vicki Eurice

By Emily Pasterick, Contributing Writer

At a time when the nation's gas prices have been turning wallets inside-out and keeping cars in their driveways, Vicki Eurice just has that much more to worry about when chauffeuring her Golden rescues to happier places. As Transport Coordinator for GRREAT, Vicki is responsible for organizing the transport of Golden retrievers from give-up homes or shelters, to foster homes or boarding facilities, throughout the entire GRREAT service area (which, for those who were not sure, covers Maryland, Virginia, D.C., and parts of West Virginia, Delaware, and Pennsylvania), no matter how many miles, rest stops, and volunteers it takes. It is Vicki's precision in managing the often-intricate coordination required to transport safely and expeditiously our GRREAT Golden retrievers in need of a new life, and her ability to do so consistently and often under tight timeframes, that has earned her the respect of her fellow volunteers and the distinction of being a GRREAT "Breed Apart!"

Vicki's volunteering began in 1997 when she adopted her GRREAT Golden retriever, Penny, and started donating her time to GRREAT by supporting educational events. In December 2002 she retired from her full-time job in the computer field, and in August 2003, she offered to fill a void in GRREAT's support structure by serving as Transport Coordinator. Since then, Vicki has not only adopted another GRREAT Golden retriever named Max



through the FTA program in 2004, she also has managed to retain and/or amass a pool of about 200 transport volunteers. Given that approximately 60% of the Golden retrievers taken into GRREAT require transport, all 200 are essential. She is frequently surprised by the way transport challenges have a way of working themselves out—just when she is at her point of desperation in trying to find an available volunteer for an urgent transport assignment that just reached her inbox 2 hours before the deadline for pick-up, GRREAT's volunteers step up. In fact, this past summer, Vicki coordinated the transport of a Golden retriever that started in West Virginia, and ended in Maryland—a trip that took 5 shifts in 5 different cars. She encourages others who are not sure about how to schedule time in their busy lives for volunteering to, "find what you love to do and have it fit in." GRREAT never balks at a declined volunteering request, and in Vicki's case, she never asks her transport team volunteers to drive more than 1-1/2 or 2 hours for their assignment.

The role of Transport Coordinator is one that Vicki enjoys because it

enables her to consolidate the things she loves into a valuable, generous offering—talking with and meeting new people, driving, reading maps and strategizing routes, communicating through email, and, of course, delighting in each and every Golden retriever that makes a journey in her vehicle. She "completely bonds" with the Golden retrievers she is transporting, so much so that she will often follow up with the foster homes to see whatever became of her passengers—and for Vicki, a self-proclaimed "foster failure," this short-lived joyride is the perfect outlet for embracing the spirit of GRREAT's Golden retrievers without adopting each and every one! This compassion and commitment to ensuring that the precious Golden retrievers coming into GRREAT safely reach their starting point to a better life, allow Vicki to make outstanding and effective contributions to GRREAT. GRREAT is proud to spotlight Vicki Eurice as "A Breed Apart!" 🐾

#### *Donations In Memory of Joseph Procaccani*

Please accept these donations in memory of Joseph Procaccani, the father of Joanne Patenaude.

Mark Ketterman  
Lindquist Insurance Assoc.  
The Office Staff at Powell  
Insurance Agency  
c/o Mary Creed  
Walker-Poole Insurance Inc.

# DONATIONS

## Thank you to all our generous supporters great and small.

The response has been both heartwarming and overwhelming. We are GRREATful to everyone who has come to our aid so that we can continue our work rescuing our beloved golden retrievers. These are some of the comments that came in with donations after our email plea for urgent financial support.

- To Kim and all the wonderful volunteers with GRREAT – May this donation continue the mission of saving beloved goldens.
- To be used where the need is the greatest. Thank you all for all you do!!!
- For surgeries, supplies, vaccinations or wherever it is needed.
- For the goldens whose spirit enhances our existence.
- Use where it's needed the most.
- For the care and medical needs of the beautiful goldens that are rescued.
- Hopefully this will help the effort!
- In response to your e-mail, here is a small donation to help with your expenses. I wish I could afford to send more.
- In response to your recent e-mail request for financial support. We are very sorry to hear that you will be declining golden mixes and forgoing some medical procedures. We hope that the response to your plea will enable you to resume these valuable services. Thank you very much for all you do for golden retrievers.
- We hope you can continue your great work!
- Sorry we can't help you more. We love our Max. We've had him a year and love him very much.
- Good luck!
- I am so sorry to hear about your financial difficulty—hope this check helps. I appreciate all you do.
- In answer to GRREAT's plea for donations, here is my check. Hope it helps!
- I hope this helps just a little. I'll try to send some every month from now on. Please reconsider not taking those with serious illnesses. We are the only chance they have!
- I wish it could be more. I do hope you get a good response to your e-mail.
- Since I have been unable to contribute to GRREAT from MCI work, I am donating extra.
- I am sending this as the beginning of help, will send at least a small amount each month the rest of this year (and into 2006 if I can) and I am asking all my family members to make my Christmas this year in form of contributions to GRREAT. This organization is very dear to my heart and I know and value your all-volunteer work, as I have been a member for more than 15 years. Do not send me thank you letters, save postage! I know all help is appreciated.

## Thank you for your donations...

Anita and Frank Abbruscato  
Phil and Jeanne Agee  
Nancy Alexander  
Anonymous  
Ronald and Joan Apatoff  
Linda Armstrong  
Beverly Bailey  
Wendy Beyer  
Linda and John Bowlin  
Kathy and Jim Brooks  
Lee and Mary Ann Bryant  
Laura Caliguiri  
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Noelle Weeks and Chris Pinney  
Lane and Gene Weinzweig  
Linda and Craig Wensley  
Steve and Chris Williams  
Chuck and June Wilmot  
Jim Wilmoth  
Doreen and Brad Wright  
Norman and Elizabeth Wright  
J Brooks and Sherry Yetter



# DONATIONS

## In Memory Of...

Edward Wilson Freedenburg, father of Ed Freedenburg --*Bernard and Bonnie Lee Burton*

Our granddaughter Madeline Hunter, age 21 months, who died August 26 of respiratory failure following an attack of croup. Thanks to the GRREAT family for your prayers and support during this difficult time. --*Kathy and Wayne Hunter*

All the victims, both human and animal, of Hurricane Katrina. --*Rick Stevens and Julie Palais*

Archie and Crosby Tinelli. Mr. and Mrs. Tinelli recently euthanized Archie and Crosby, their two 15 year old golden retrievers. They have been clients of mine since 1995. Thank you for finding so many goldens wonderful and loving homes. --*Dr. Laura J. Martin, DVM*

Doofy (04-005). Our little Doof died quite suddenly in June. May she be forever smiling.--*Diane Lanigan*

Our beautiful Cody (01-071) who passed away in September. He was a truly GRREAT boy and will be missed. --*Joan and Tim Kirchner*

Sidney Morris' Grace, a beloved companion. --*Nicolette Parisi*

Our beloved, sweet Golden, Sparky, who came to us from GRREAT in 1995. He succumbed to a brain tumor at the end of August at the age of 11. He was forever young, always joyful, always loved and loving. Thank you for giving us the honor of having him as a member of the family. --*Robert and Barbara Osgood*

George (05-069). --*Lynda and Bob Lake*

Mack Vartanian, a GRREAT dog and a special friend. --*Caryl Wheeler & John Dale*

Brandy, Tucker, and Jesse, in loving memory of our wonderful GRREAT goldens. --*Kathleen and Scott Brown*

Our dear Samantha and Sunshine. Thank you for all the work you do for the goldens. --*Drew and Julie Cockley*

Nikki, my first golden. --*Lee Ann and Earl Moore*

Tasha. --*Kathy Heck and Angie Adams*

Toby, Morgan and Jost. This is our annual donation a bit early. Hope it helps. From our GRREAT dog Blazer 00-272. --*Steve and Betsy Surprenant*

TC, a 12 plus year old golden we fostered and then adopted from GRREAT in 2004. He died after being with us just over one year, but that one year was terrific. Give us an old golden any time. --*Nancy and Ray Jones*

Julie (03-146) passed away 5/05. --*Norm and Gail Bleakley*

Callie (mine), Casey and Uri. --*Robin Forster and Jennifer Utz*

Belle "forever in our hearts." --*Dick and Julia Kwiatkowski*

Shady (Shana), born 1/28/91. We believe we adopted her from GRREAT in Spring 04. She had health problems but lived a full life until February 05. --*Becky Copeland*

Britches Lancaster. --*Ruth Mulkerin*

Our dog Sage who we adopted from GRREAT in 1996. --*Joseph Lunn*

Our loving Amber 1994-2004. She is sorely missed. --*Roland and Ele Behnke*

Madeline Hunter. God bless the Hunter family! --*Jef and Heather Zibell*

Harleigh, Jacque Coley's beloved golden who died of cancer. --*Herbert and Stephanie Coley*

Cody Bauer. He was a beautiful golden retriever and the beloved pet of Joanne, David, Reid and Ian Bauer for 13 years. --*Doreen and Steve Larson*

## Corporate Giving

DFI International. Donation made at the recommendation of staff member *Harry Sethna*

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund. Grant recommended by *Jennifer and Robert Cruise*



**Our best buddy Morgan. We miss you.** --*Stephanie and Jim Nelson*

# DONATIONS

In memory of Chauncey, who we adopted from GRREAT in 1994. He would have been 16 years old this December!

When we started looking for a Golden to adopt, our research brought us to GRREAT. We filed an application and me and my children drove from Burke, VA to Gaithersburg, MD for a GRREAT adoption day.

My children wanted each and every dog they met there, but I wasn't sure there was the right one for us there that day. We were about to leave, when the foster parents



of Chauncey came in with him. As soon as I saw him, and visited with him and his foster family, I had no doubt he was the dog for us! We indicated we wanted him and the GRREAT folks had to arbitrate over him since another family wanted him too. They decided on us, I completed all the paperwork and left there with 3 very happy children. The arrangement was to have his foster family bring him to our home later that day, giving them a chance to inspect Chauncey's future forever-home. The funny thing was that Chauncey and his foster parents lived in Burke, VA too! So, we drove more than half way around the Beltway to find the dog that lived only a mile away!

Chauncey was such a loving member of our family. Until he got feeble the last year or so, he always greeted us at the door with "something" in his mouth, whether it be a toy of his, a shoe, anything - the true retriever he was, he always had to have something for us. He was a great playmate for my children growing up and a great jogging/walking partner for me. He seemed to exist just to please us and be with us. I wish his last few months could have been better for him. It is a hard and painful decision of what to do about an ailing pet, one part of you is selfish and wants to keep him there with you, but the other part can see how unhappy he is and how much pain he is in. Until you live through this experience yourself, there is no way to describe the tribulations to anyone else. We know Chauncey is in a happy dog heaven, he deserves the best. He was, hands down, the best dog ever!

Thanks so much GRREAT for the work you do and I know you've made many, many happy "Chauncey" families possible. -- *The Baskin Family*

In memory of Carol Gaskins was a dear friend, wife, mother, teacher, counselor and animal lover who passed away in May of 2005. Carol was an especially loving "Mommy" to three Golden Retrievers. Two of them were rescued through GRREAT. We would like to tell you about one of her babies.

Tristan was rescued from a residence where he was tied out in the back yard. He led a miserable life. He had sores and many patches where no hair grew. He constantly scratched and no relief was forthcoming from his "family". Luckily Tristan was rescued by GRREAT. Carol and her husband Rick heard about Tristan from a friend at GRREAT. Carol immediately went about the task of investigating Tristan's skin and hair trouble. She set about finding him nutritious food and provided him with a wonderful family life with plenty of TLC. After numerous veterinary visits and much trial and error, it was found that Tristan had extreme food allergies. This did not hinder Carol. After a full day of work, and sometimes teaching in the evening, Carol would go home and prepare 3 separate dinners, one for her and Rick, one for the other 2 Golden Retrievers who shared the home and one for Tristan. She lovingly cooked and prepared a special diet for Tristan. Tristan started to show remarkable improvement. His sores healed and he stopped scratching. Tristan's loving personality came to the surface. He is a happy, healthy, well-adjusted mischievous little boy.

This is just one story of many that we could relate to you about the loving nature of Carol Gaskins. She will forever be in our memory as a caring wife, mother, dear friend and counselor.

--*Lorraine Hoffman*

# DONATIONS

## In Honor Of...

Sandy Diamond. --*Gail Larson*

Mary C, Intake Coordinator who is watching over stray dogs in Anne Arundel County, among others.

--*Bettina Fletcher*

Our daughter Melissa Neal and her rescue golden "Benjamin" (05-041) now named "Bear." Thank you for all the wonderful work and blessing you are performing for goldens." --*John Neal*

Sadie (05-162) --*Judith and Stephen Urbanczyk*

Our boys Jake and Tref. --*Jude and Gary Biedenkapp*

Our GRREAT dog Petrie. --*Martha and David Clarke*

Tia Maria--the sweetest and most laid back dog in the world. --*John and Sara Liddi*

Morgan (98-133). --*Anita and John Funk*

TC, our older GRREAT foster dog who we adopted. --*Noni Jones (age 10) and Sam Jones (age 11)*

Molly, Brandy and Quinn. --*Barbara Timberlake*

Sadie, my wonderful GRREAT Golden that I have had for more than 2 years now. I cannot imagine life without her and I thank GRREAT every day for helping me find her. --*Diane Darvey*

In honor of: my father George Luecker; my brother Aubin Luecker, his wife Susan and their daughter Meredith; my brother Gary Luecker, his wife Angel, and their sons Alec and Justin; and my brother Andrew Luecker and his fiancée Sonja Polster.

--*Bill and Wendy Thomas*

Georgia. --*Patricia Kennedy*

We adopted "Slipper" (a.k.a. "Peanut, etc.) two weeks ago. We love her and want to send our appreciation to GRREAT and to the Whites for taking her into their home for 6 weeks. --*Elizabeth St John*

Bailey. --*Linda and Robert Young*

Cody 95-131, foster home for three precious, home visit volunteer. Thanks for all you do. --*Lynn Shine*

Simba (99-130). In 1999, we met the Nelsons at an adoption day and our lives changed forever. They were fostering a wonderful boy named Simba. As soon as we met him we fell in love with him and he allowed us to adopt him. In the years since that day, he has brought our family so much joy. Because of GRREAT, we have learned the joy of fostering also. Please use this donation to help other goldens find their forever homes.

--*Jack and Lisa Cook*

## For Special Reasons

Sent at the request of Valerie Holman to help other GRREAT dogs like our adopted Cindy which we got from GRREAT. --*Virginia Laureate Gamma Chapter of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority*

For Pat Savary's participation in our event. --*Anne Arundel Scottish Festival, Inc.*

In honor of TJ (05-141) to be used toward his vet bills. --*Marian Walsh*

Donation to GRREAT stemming from the painting of Sunny and Fletch that I did for Scott and Kelly Daniels. --*Larry Shackelford*

For the vet care of senior citizens like Sunny (03-063). She was my foster before she went into permanent foster. I am so glad she is still alive because she was older and had some problems. The family that has her is really doing a good job. Also in memory of Chloe (03-113) who died after two years in my foster care. She was a delight. --*Mary Ginn*

For all the wonderful fosters. --*Marion Shields*

To thank Jesse for giving me 'golden' smiles. --*Susanne Lazanov*

Money donated at the Education Event at Baron's K9 Country Store in Bel Air, MD.

From Dakota 96-143, Daisy 04-066, Digger 04-125 and in memory of Max 93-094. Thank you for taking care of us until you found us our mom. --*Lisa Hecker*

In celebration of our children's 15th wedding anniversary: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miles. Keep up the good work. --*Mark and Patricia Hattan*

# DONATIONS

In honor of Riley, McIver, and Shamus and in memory of Shiloh.  
--Jeff and Lucinda Twining

To assist with vet expenses for "Butter" --Scott and Lynne Babcock

Please accept these gifts for the general fund, the Leo Fund and the Simile-Finale Fund in honor of my wonderful brother, George T. Webb, and his wonderful golden, Bucky. Happy Birthday! I love you!  
--Becky Hofstetter

To thank Al in Southern MD for fostering BD in 1994. Mickey is a GRREAT dog, just like you said.  
--Betsy Davis

In memory of our great goldens Summy, Madeline and Cassidy. And in thanks for our current GRREAT golden Bascia.  
--Steve and Kathryn Troch

In memory of our Wesley, our first adoptee, who died in 2002 and in honor of Hercules, our current GRREAT adoptee, who brings us so much pleasure and challenge.  
--Liz and Charlie Clark

From "Summer."  
--Mary and Richard Gillett

In honor of Tucker and in memory of Molly.  
--Peter and Barbara Manchester

Please take care of the Golden who was cut. ID 05-125 --Jason Rice

Here are two more checks from Julie Dobson and Manizhe Payton for sewing on scout patches. As you can see Julie has been particularly generous with her donation for 20 patches sewn on her daughter's vest. I enjoy sewing on

the patches knowing that it's helping GRREAT.  
--Kathi Rechsteiner

In Memory of Treevor for the Simile-Finale Fund. The enclosed donation was sent to us by Nancy and Rick Hughes in memory of Treevor, 99-009, who went to the Bridge on September 15th after a valiant struggle with Lymphosarcoma. The Hughes are owned by three GRREAT goldens, Shadow 03-175, Tasha 04-027 and most recently Toby 04-144. Nancy and Rick indicated that since Treevor benefited so much from swim therapy in his last six weeks, that the donation go to the Simile-Finale Fund so other goldens can benefit in the same way. "That Treevor", always thinking of other fosters as he did in life!  
--Janet Hauck

Additional donations from Mike, Betsy, and Desie Damitz (via Royce Peabody), Amy Goldberg, Patricia McDonnell, Barbara O'Brien, Nicolette Parisi.

Note from Janet Hauck: When my mom heard about the loss of our Treevor, 99-009 to lymphoma on September 15, 2005 and more recently, the funds that were needed for our foster Cricket 05-157, she generously donated to GRREAT to help out. We are most grateful for our friends and family who have been so filled with the spirit of giving by these goldens.

Please accept this in response to your urgent plea for support. Chassidy, Polar Bear, Koko, and Faith (all GRREAT goldens) brought us immeasurable joy

through their lives. This donation is in their memory and in thanks for the happiness that Betty (a geriatric GRREAT foster dog) continues to give us. Thanks for all you do.  
--Joe O'Neill and Walt Atha

To Help with Vet Bills and in honor of Radar - Kenneth and Mary Collings, Emily Pasterick, Gay Schonbrunn

## In Memory of Neil O'Keefe

Please accept the enclosed donation in memory of my cousin, Neil O'Keefe. Neil was very dedicated to his Golden Retriever, Bailey. We're very happy to help with your good work in his behalf. --Joy and Marvin Smith

Additional donations from Billy and Gayle Enfinger, Christine O'Malley Fisher and Sam Fisher, Ronald and Diane Hooper, Margery and John Walker

## Leo's Corner

### Golden Angels (\$500 or more)

Dr. James W. and Virginia L. Hayes -In honor of Kodi (adopted in March 05) and Boo (our princess) and in memory of Lacey. Thanks for your wonderful work.

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

Lynne Glennon - In honor of Hannah and Clark 04-061 and in memory of Molly, Chelsea and Annie.

Carl Kerby and Jeanne O'Donoghue

Luonna Lancaster - In honor of my beloved golden, Britches, who passed on earlier this year.

Dr. Joseph O'Neill - In remembrance of Chassidy.

Norman and Elizabeth Wright

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

Margo Marmon - In memory of Duncan

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## Picks of the Litter:

### Sonny (05-143) and Jake (05-144)

Spotlight on two special Golden Retrievers in need of a special someone

By Emily Pasterick, Contributing Writer

About two months ago, GRREAT was lucky enough to take in two of the sweetest and most loyal Golden Retrievers one could hope to find—not just to others, but to one another as well. Sonny (pictured below), the “elder” 12-year-old big brother/father figure, and Jake (pictured at right), the 7-year-old affection-greedy, overgrown teenager, came from a family that fell on hard times—their eviction and homelessness left Sonny and Jake with grim options. Thankfully, GRREAT fosters Ethel and Haddon Carryer took them into their foster care, and after a couple months learning the ropes in a safe, stable foster home, they are now looking for their forever home. It is understandably daunting to consider adopting ONE Golden Retriever, much less two, but Sonny and Jake wouldn’t like it any other way, and this is why: Sonny is the only best friend



and mentor Jake has ever known since he was 8 weeks old; Jake is the only little brother and constant companion Sonny has known for the past 7 years. Ultimately, they are defined as a pair to the extent that Sonny is not Sonny without Jake, and vice versa.

Twelve-year-old Sonny is a sweet, laid-back “Golden oldie” with a reddish coat offset by a soft, snow-white face, and wise eyes. He likes to spend his days lolling around the house or the backyard, shuffling over to the nearest person for a little affection, and lounging with his longtime buddy, Jake. Because of his age, he is not as agile, and takes Rimadyl every day to help keep his joints moving smoothly, but all this means is that he prefers shorter, slower walks around the neighborhood, and handles the stairs gingerly. Never does his age prevent him from joining in the action! Seven-year-old Jake is a gorgeous blonde-haired, brown-eyed darling who is loyal to his elder Sonny,

and though he seems to like nudging Sonny for some playtime, he also responds to Sonny’s cues for the preferred activity of the moment, whether that’s napping, or roaming, or finding a nearby hand for some belly rubs. Jake also loves his eats; he will sniff out the most inconspicuous



of hidden yummys on the counter, and used to finish what Sonny did not at dinnertime, until his foster parents caught on and put him on a diet. Jake was a delight for me to observe—he took his treats very gently from my hand (as did Sonny), rolled over, paws up, demanding a rub, showed off his agility with a little toy-tossing performance, then, tucked out, “held hands” with Sonny for a quick nap. These two guys are sure to enchant the lucky family who adopts them with their cozy, easy-going, affectionate personalities! Sonny and Jake hope the forever home that wants to adopt them can provide lots of affection and attention, unconditional love, and an appreciation for the power of inseparable best friends.

*“Friendship is one mind in two bodies.”  
- Mencius*

If you are interested in finding out more about Sonny and Jake, please contact Ethel and Haddon Carryer at [ethel@carryer.org](mailto:ethel@carryer.org). 🐾

# The DOG-TOR Is In

by Dr. Ronald Spikloser



Seizure is such a frightening word. A pet having a seizure is a difficult thing to watch, even if it is not your pet.

Seizures can occur at any age, in any breed, at any time. Seizures can range from the twitching of a limb to the “bicycling” attack that most people think of. A dog in a major seizure is in *status epilepticus* and can die due to asphyxiation. During a major seizure a dog does not take full breaths, only short, choppy breaths, and therefore has the potential to suffocate. Seizures, convulsions and epilepsies are the same medically.

There are two types of epilepsy: primary and secondary. Primary epilepsy is also referred to as idiopathic, meaning that a reason for the seizures cannot be found. Secondary means it is related to another disease, such as kidney or liver.

When seizures occur in younger dogs they are most commonly primary or idiopathic epilepsy. Usually blood tests are done and come back normal in all aspects. Radiographs of the head can be done and, again, are usually normal. Small breeds like Chihuahuas are prone to hydrocephalus, or “water on the brain,” which

can lead to seizures. Hydrocephalus will sometimes go away with age but, at the other extreme, may kill the dog. Larger dogs like Golden Retrievers are more prone to have seizures of unknown causes.

As dogs of all sizes age, seizures get more prevalent as other diseases develop. Blood tests are more often positive. Many times, if the primary disease is treated, the seizures will stop. In liver disease, the ammonia levels in the blood rise, causing seizures. In kidney disease, the phosphorous levels and other electrolytes rise, causing convulsions. In heart disease, due to lack of oxygen to the brain, the dog will pass out then reawaken. This is many times called a seizure, although it isn't really.

The cure for secondary epilepsy is to take care of the primary disease. Medications can control seizures but not really cure them, and phenobarbital is the drug of choice. After an initial period of time on the medicine, a blood level is drawn to make sure

the drug dosage is in the therapeutic range. Phenobarbital can be used for years, but organ function tests should be done every six months to check for side effects, such as liver enzyme elevations. Because all drugs have potential side effects, an isolated or one-time seizure is usually not treated. When convulsions can no longer be controlled with phenobarbital, potassium bromide can be used to control the seizures, either alone or in combination with phenobarbital. Again, blood levels need to be checked for this drug also.

If a dog's seizures cannot be controlled with medicine, a specialist should be consulted. In many areas of the country, there are veterinary neurologists who are specialists for dogs with seizures and other nervous system problems. More advanced testing can be done such as brain scans. Although seizures are a frightening event, with proper medication and testing, dogs can live a fairly normal life. 🐾

## 2005 GRREAT Calendars are on sale!

**You can now purchase the 2005 GRREAT wall calendar, which features 12 full-color photos of our spectacular rescued golden retrievers! Calendars will be available at [www.grreat.org](http://www.grreat.org) (click on the GRREAT Store link on the left hand side), at Goldstock and at GRREAT functions, including adoption days.**

**The cost of the calendar is just \$10. Special thanks to everyone who submitted photos and to April Fritz and Beth Lacey Gill for coordinating the project.**



It's a GRIBBLE Year '05!  
Golden Retriever Rescue Education and Training, Inc.

# Estate Planning for Pets? Yes!

By Sandy Diamond

My friend has a magnet on her refrigerator that says "When I die the dog gets everything." Unfortunately, the law considers your pets as property, and you can't really leave your estate to them.

Every year GRREAT receives several dogs whose owners have passed away or become incapacitated and can no longer care for their dog. Have you thought about where your pets would go if something happens to you?

Before doing anything, decide whether you actually need a formal plan. Things to think about include:

- Do you have a family member you would trust to care for your pets in the event of your death or disability?
- Are you elderly, do you suffer from a chronic illness or do you live alone?

•Do you have young pets, multiple pets and/or special needs pets?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may have a need to make provisions in your will or living trust (maybe this is the nudge you need to get your will drafted?). Providing for your pet can be included in your overall estate plan.

You will first need to decide who will be your pet's caretaker. It may be a close friend or perhaps an organization set up specifically for this purpose. Debbie Cochran, an estate planning attorney at Cochran & Owen in Virginia, recommends setting up a trust, with the caretaker and the trustee being different people. You would leave funds to provide for the pet, and the trustee would distribute the funds periodically to the caretaker while making sure appropriate care is being given. When your pet goes to the Rainbow Bridge, any funds remaining can be distributed to other beneficiaries (or better yet, donated to a rescue organization

like GRREAT!) Each state has its own laws regarding these types of trusts, so you should consult an attorney with experience in this area.

If you elect to make these provisions in your estate plan, make sure to keep up-to-date information on your pets. Also keep detailed instructions on the care of your pet, as well as all veterinary records. Since most of us will outlive our pets and we may have different pets by the time we die, consult with your attorney on how to keep your will or trust updated. Additional information is available at [www.estateplanningforpets.org](http://www.estateplanningforpets.org)

*(Please remember that if you have adopted a dog from GRREAT, your contract states the dog must be returned to the rescue if you can no longer care for it.)*

## Mark Your Calendar

### **Saturday, November 12**

2nd Annual GRREAT Beginnings Walk  
11021 Lee Hwy  
Fairfax, VA  
*See page 18 for details*

### **Saturday, November 19th, 10am-4pm**

Home 4 the Holidays  
Reston Towne Center, Virginia  
[www.GoodDogz.org](http://www.GoodDogz.org)  
*GRREAT will have an education table*

### **Saturday, December 3**

GRREAT Adoption Day  
Petco  
10800 Promenade Lane

Manassas, Virginia

### **Saturday, December 3, 10:30am**

35th Annual Scottish Walk Weekend  
Parade  
Alexandria, VA  
*Check our website for further details*

### **Sunday, December 11**

Howliday Party  
Frederick County Fairgrounds  
Frederick, MD  
*See page 20 for details*

### **Saturday, January 7, 12-2pm**

GRREAT Adoption Day  
Petco - Beltsville Maryland

10464 Baltimore Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705

### **January 28, 2006, 9:30am- 12:30pm**

GRREAT Annual Business Meeting  
(tentative)  
Owen Brown Community Center  
6800 Cradlerock Way  
Columbia, MD 21045

### **Saturday, February 4, 2006, 12- 2pm**

GRREAT Adoption Day  
Petco - Fairfax Virginia  
10708 Lee Highway  
Fairfax, VA 22030

# Ask Goldie

## Your Questions Answered

Featuring your questions answered by Susan McCullough, Author, *Housetraining For Dummies* (Wiley); *Your New Dog* (Capital Books) and *Senior Dogs For Dummies* (Wiley)

**Dear Goldie:**

**I am so embarrassed: my rescue Golden is a racist! Whenever we see a non-Caucasian person, my dog becomes very apprehensive: he cowers and tries to duck behind me. Last night this happened when my neighbor, who is Asian, wanted to say hello; a week ago, my daughter's African-American friend tried to pet the dog and he ran into the bedroom! What can I do to help my dog?**

**Signed,**

**Parent of Prejudiced Pooch in Virginia**

Dear Parent,

Like all too many humans, dogs sometimes don't handle new encounters very well. This inability to cope with the unexpected may be particularly equivalent among rescued Golden retrievers who weren't introduced to a wide variety of experiences during puppyhood. Experts would say that such dogs – and your dog may be one of them – were not properly socialized.

Socialization is a process in which first a breeder and then the owner take the time to systematically and carefully introduce a puppy to the people, animals, sights and sounds that the puppy will encounter as a member of a human household. One of our best known animal behaviorists, Dr. Ian Dunbar, recommends that owners introduce their puppies to 100 differ-

ent people by the time those puppies reach 12 weeks of age. Many trainers agree with this idea, but also point out that it's important for all of those introductions – whether they are to people, places, animals or objects – to be positive. The idea is to teach the puppy to enjoy new encounters, or at least handle such encounters with equanimity.

Unfortunately, though, a lot of Golden retrievers and other dogs are not adequately socialized as puppies. Either they've had bad experiences when encountering the new and novel, or they didn't have any such encounters at all. Many of these puppies grow up to fear everything and everybody. Others, like your new Golden, may simply be afraid of certain types of people, much to your embarrassment.

But just because your Golden may not have been socialized sufficiently during puppyhood doesn't mean that he can't be socialized now. The trick is to make such experiences positive for him. To do this, you'll need the cooperation of your friends and neighbors of color. For example, ask your Asian neighbor to give your dog a treat the next time you encounter the neighbor during an evening walk. (Of course, make sure your dog is on a leash.) If your dog is still afraid to approach your neighbor, ask the neighbor to drop the treat on the ground and back a few feet away so that the dog feels free to go get the treat. Once the dog takes the treat from the ground, have your neighbor drop the treat on the ground again and come a little closer to the treat each time he does. Eventually, with time and patience on everyone's part, the dog will eat the treat right out of your neighbor's hand. You can – and should – try the same routine with your daughter's friend and with other acquaintances whose ethnicities differ from yours. Eventually, your dog may well decide that he can score tasty treats from

## Happy Birthday Tom Ludwig

We are enclosing a donation in honor of Mr. Tom Ludwig's 90th birthday. He is a devoted friend to GRREAT dogs. He is a passionate golden lover and we are delighted that he is our neighbor. His daughter, Lynn Glennon, is very active in your organization.

--Sandy and Ed Evans and Ruth Ekrhardt

Additional gifts from:

Michael and Regina Crabb, Amy DeNike, Anita Evans, Phil and Janet Hauck, Chad and Anjanette Henry, Barbara L. Kesler, Melvin and Leslie Lewis, Stephen J. and Cecilia G. Ludwig, Daniel and Linda Mattio, Janet Mardfin, Gregory Pessagno, Phyllis Shipp, David and Mary Unglesbee, Jack and Joan Woodward. And a thank you donation to GRREAT from the birthday man himself: Tom Ludwig.

## Thanks to Our Volunteers

Thank you to the volunteers who made a valiant effort to assist at the Scottish Festival on the 8th of October, but because of the the monsoons were rained out.

Lee Krulisch  
Greg Sowers Family  
Bob and Lynda Lake  
Nancy Heisel  
Trish Collier  
Sherry McCarter

And a special thanks to Jeane and Bruce Wiggert who trooped all the way over to the fairgrounds in the rain anyway.



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# Alleviating Allergies by Altering Diet

By Jo Bighouse

My foster golden, Jake, is giving me first hand experience dealing with allergies in dogs. Jake has motivated me to read every book I can find on natural remedies for allergies. A few of the books I have read and recommend are “Homeopathic Care for Cats and Dogs” by Don Hamilton, “Dr. Pitcairn’s Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs and Cats,” “The Encyclopedia of Natural Pet Care” by CJ Puotinen, “Natural Dog Care” by Celeste Yarnall, and “Holistic Guide for a Healthy Dog” by Wendy Volhard and Kerry Brown. There is a common theme in each of them – if your dog is suffering from allergies, look at his nutrition and vaccine schedule as the probable culprits.

My submersion into natural care for my own animals began many years ago but, until I met Jake, what I learned about allergies was only in theory. Jake began showing symptoms of seasonal allergies at age two. The symptoms became progressively worse and by the time his family reluctantly gave him up to GRREAT at age eight, he was receiving Cephalexin, Prednisone, and Benadryl daily with Allergen shots every 3-5 days. Even with this onslaught of drugs he scratched at himself so badly that he had to wear an Elizabethan collar on a regular basis.

After Jake came into GRREAT he was weaned off of his medication. When he arrived at my house he was placed on a detoxification diet for the first few days and then began eating the same raw diet as my own goldens. Although he seemed more comfortable and no longer needed to wear the Elizabethan collar, he began to look worse. His hair fell out at an alarming rate and he now has a very unpleasant odor. (Actually I call it stinky and each time I tell Jake he is such a stinky boy he will smile and wag his tail. Which invariably earns him a kiss on his smelly little head.) My layman’s interpretation of his hair loss is that we are seeing the severity of his condition for the first time. And perhaps the odor is a sign that his body is detoxifying. The drugs he had been receiving were suppressing his symptoms, not curing his condition. And they were probably wreaking havoc on his immune system.



In his book, “Pet Allergies: Remedies for an Epidemic,” Alfred Plechner, D.V.M. says, “Because many commercial foods are woefully deficient in key nutrients, the long-term effect of feeding such foods makes the dog hypersensitive to its environment. ...It’s a dinosaur effect. Animals are being programmed for disaster, for extinction. Many of them are biochemical cripples with defective adrenal glands unable to manufacture adequate cortisol, a hormone vital for health and resistance to disease.” As I read this I was reminded of the veterinarian who shared with me a saying they had in vet school, “If a golden retriever does not have allergies, he must not be a

purebred.” That is a sad commentary on the state of our dogs.

The plan for Jake is to continue his raw diet and supplements. A typical meal is pulped vegetables, organ meat or soft-boiled egg with the shell, and ground beef or ground turkey for breakfast. Dinner consists of chicken backs, a chicken leg quarter,

or a turkey wing. Every Sunday he fasts to allow his digestive system to rest. And about twice a month he is treated to entire Cornish hen. His water is filtered through my in-house purification system and his bowls are stainless steel, not plastic. When it is time for his next vaccine boosters he will have blood titers instead, to measure his immunity level. Based on the experience with my own goldens, I expect the titers will reveal he will not need any more vaccines in his lifetime (except for rabies which is required by law).

Jake’s recovery will not be quick but I am confident that he will improve. He will stay with me as long as needed to heal and become the healthy, happy dog he deserves to be. And when the time comes for him to go to his forever home, I hope there will be a family ready and willing to continue his healthy lifestyle. 🐾

*Jo Bighouse is a GRREAT member and proprietor of Midas Touch Naturally Healthy Pets, LLC in Berryville, Virginia.*

## Walk for Rescue

Please come with your dog and walk with us on Saturday, Nov. 12 to be part of GRREAT's 3K "GRREAT Beginnings Lead to Happy Endings" walk. Walkers of all shapes are invited to come to raise money for rescue and to have plenty of fun along the way.

The walk Begins at 10 a.m. at Weber's Pet Supermarket, 11021 Lee Hwy, Fairfax VA 22030 (rear parking lot).

People treats and doggy treats will be provided along the way and at the conclusion of the walk. There will also be door prizes and plenty of fun! All registered participants will receive a GRREAT Beginnings T-shirt.

Registration will be available on site. The cost is \$15 per human walker. More details are on the web at [www.grreat.org](http://www.grreat.org)

Questions? E-mail walk coordinator Linda Kurtz at [walk@grreat.org](mailto:walk@grreat.org).

The walk would not have been possible without the generous support of several sponsors.

### Event Sponsor

*Weber's Pet Supermarket*

### Rescue Angels

*Professional Mailing and Distribution Service*

*Minerva Info Systems*

*"Hunter" (02-204)*

*Platinum Online Services, LLC*

### Rescue Partners

*Regal Pet Foods*

*Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage*

*Blue Ribbon Acres*

*Sharon S. Coale, MED, MS, CCC-*

*SLP, Speech Pathology Associates*

*Briggle & Bott, Court Reporters*

### Friends of Rescue

*"Jameson" Ward*

*Mary Ginn*

*Jerry Cann*

*Melissa Nielson and Edward Yann*

*Anita, John, and Morgan Funk*

*Ashburn Jazzercise*

*Phil and Janet Hauck*

*All Friends Pet Care*

*Capitol Chocolate Fountains*

*"Jack" 03-280 and "Takota"*

*Boomer, Scooter, & Big Red*

*Trevor 99-009, Our Heart of Rescue*

## Have You Renewed Your Membership for 2006?

Be sure not to miss out on a thing—renew your GRREAT membership for 2006. 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 2006.

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 Golden's in 2006.

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.

This year you can also renew your membership using your Mastercard, Visa, American Express, or Discover Card through GRREAT's secure website at [www.grreat.org](http://www.grreat.org). Just click on "Renew Membership" in the left column and follow the easy instructions on the screens.

If you have already renewed your membership but your mailing label says "Renew Now," please send a note to Jill Kurtz, membership coordinator at [memberships@grreat.org](mailto: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! 🐾

## New Ways to Donate to GRREAT

Do you have appreciated stock that you would like to donate to GRREAT? You are entitled to an income tax charitable deduction for the full fair market value of appreciated securities if they have been held for at least one year, and you pay no capital gains on the transfer. If you would like more information, please contact Sandy Diamond at [vp@grreat.org](mailto:vp@grreat.org).

We are also now accepting donations via credit card through PayPal. You can access our Donation Center at <http://www.grreat.org/donate/index.html>. You are also able to direct your donations to one of our special funds or provide dedication or memorial information through this site.

Finally, consider leaving a bequest to GRREAT in your will. 🐾

## 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 *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

## 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 2006 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please complete this form to volunteer. Return 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 ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

OK to call at work?  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:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This form can be filled out on-line at [www.grreat.org](http://www.grreat.org).

# 2005 Annual Howliday Party

This year's Howliday Party will take place at the Frederick Fairgrounds on Sunday, December 11, 2005. Pictures can be taken with Santa (for a minimal donation). A silent auction will also take place during the party to benefit GRREAT! Send donated items to Pam Ambrose at 6873 Woodrise Rd, New Market, MD 21774 or contact Pam at Goldenschu@aol.com or Kim Wiff at president@grreat.org. Items must be received by December 1, 2005.

**Doggie Gift Exchange:** Please bring a loosely wrapped "gift" appropriate for a dog and under \$5 for EACH of your dogs that participates in the exchange. Gifts will be placed in a pile, and each dog bringing a gift will have a chance to retrieve a gift!

**Pot Luck Dinner:** The GRREAT Board will provide the turkey, ham, bread, rolls, condiments, tableware, and hot and cold beverages—but everything else will be Pot Luck!

Families are asked to bring a side dish (casseroles, warm vegetables), munchies (chips/pretzels, dips, cut veggies, cheese), salad (pasta, green, veggie, or fruit), or dessert (you know what they are!) to share in proportion to the size of your family (no need to feed 30!), as indicated below. If your last name begins with:

A – F cold salad      M – R side dish\*  
G – L dessert      S – Z munchies

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

**To RSVP:** Please send an e-mail to [RSVP@grreat.org](mailto:RSVP@grreat.org) or call (703) 620-6593 and leave a message in box 5. We need to know your name, number of people, and number of dogs attending.

**To Volunteer:** We need volunteers at the event for set-up, cleanup, merchandise, dog holders, etc. Please contact Stephanie Nelson, GRREAT Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteer@grreat.org](mailto:volunteer@grreat.org).



**Directions:** From Washington, DC: 270 North to 70 East towards Baltimore. Right onto South Street. Right onto Franklin. Fairgrounds are straight ahead. From Baltimore: 695 South to 70 West. Take exit 56. Go 7 blocks. Fairgrounds are straight ahead. Fairground management prefers we enter/exit from GATE 1 off East Patrick Street.

## Party Details:

**WHEN:** December 11, 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Frederick Fairground  
797 E. Patrick Street  
Building 12 – 4 – H

**COST:** \$15 per person or  
\$25 per family

*Note: Entry fees defray the expense of renting the facility.*

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE 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.