



GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc. • March/April 2006 • Vol. 17, No. 2

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Golden Retrievers; the Gold Standard of Therapy Dogs

By Bill Price

A wide variety of opportunities exist for those who would like to share their Golden Retrievers as therapy dogs. "Therapy dogs" are certified to visit residents in nursing homes, patients in hospitals, people in shelters after a disaster, first responders (firemen, policemen, and emergency medical technicians), or others for whom a pet may bring benefits. Such benefits have been shown to include easing tensions, lowering blood pressure and increasing positive attitude. I have found Golden Retrievers to generally be excellent therapy dogs.

All of the certifying bodies of therapy dogs that I am familiar with require a defined level of performance by the pet and its handler as demonstrated in a test. They also provide liability insurance for the handler in case of mishaps while performing pet therapy work in accordance with the policies of that group. All certifiers require an annual health certificate for the pet. Beyond those com-

monalities, things are fairly non-standard among groups.

I got started in Pet Therapy with our late Golden "Courtney" (God bless her dogly soul). Fairfax Pets on Wheels, an all-volunteer organization that visits 12 nursing homes in



Fairfax County, Virginia, certified us. Fairfax Pets on Wheels does self certifying (testing), and secondary liability insurance cover-

age is provided by Fairfax County. There are no dues or test fees. The requirements for the test include presenting a clean dog that has never bitten anyone (under any circumstances), who is stable, not aggressive around strangers or other dogs of known non-aggressive temperament, and is controllable. My current Golden Retrievers, Casey and Cody, are Fairfax Pets on Wheels dogs and regularly visit nursing homes. I have found this work profoundly rewarding as well as an excellent develop-

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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

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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<i>MICROCHIP COORDINATOR</i>		
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<i>WEBMASTER</i>		
Bob Fritz webmaster@grreat.org	301.330.5749
<i>NEWSLETTER</i>		
Leigh Rutter leighmegan@yahoo.com	410.638.7552

* members of the GRREAT Board of Directors

Letter From The President

By Kim Wiff, GRREAT President

Dear Friends:

The popularity of Golden Retrievers, as you know, has been on the rise for the past several years! Golden Retrievers can now be spotted in almost every town, from your average suburban community to rural areas across the country.

The popularity of Golden Retrievers can be attributed to many factors. Goldens appear in commercials, and movies such as Homeward Bound and Air Bud, as well as television shows. The internet has played a role, too. Golden Retriever enthusiasts and owners have created web sites about their Goldens that are easily viewed by anyone looking at the internet. Of course, the greatest reason for the popularity of Goldens is the simple truth that Goldens are wonderful dogs. They're beautiful, fun, friendly and most are wonderful with children and all make great companions.

Unfortunately, this popularity is taking its toll on the Golden Retriever breed, and consequently on rescue organizations such as GRREAT. To put it simply, there are many disreputable Golden Retriever breeders out there producing too many Goldens, that are being purchased by people who didn't research the breed or breeders before buying a Golden. As a result, rescues like GRREAT are finding that there is no shortage of Golden Retrievers being given up by their owners, turned over to shelters, or simply abandoned.

With 2006 just getting underway, I would like to urge you to become more involved in GRREAT. There are a variety of ways you can become involved and help make a difference. I've written this message to illustrate just a very few of the ways in which you can help:

TRANSPORTERS: Because GRREAT operates in 5 states, Goldens coming into GRREAT always need to get from


one place to the other, and this is where transporters come in. Transporters may take a Golden from a shelter to a foster home, to boarding, or from a foster home to an adoption day.

FOSTER HOMES: This is always our greatest need -- a place for the Goldens coming into GRREAT to be evaluated and to be safe until they go to their forever homes. Providing a foster home for a rescued Golden isn't just giving a Golden food and shelter until it is adopted. There's more to it than that, being a foster home provider can be rewarding, demanding, and sometimes heartbreaking. As a foster home, you are part of helping some of the Goldens coming into the rescue recover from illness or injury, and teaching them the basics before they're adopted.

EDUCATION EVENTS: Consider attending or volunteering to help at one of our community events. At these events we educate the public about GRREAT and responsible pet ownership, and make the local community aware of GRREAT.

DONATIONS: GRREAT always needs your donations to help pay for the veterinary care and other expenses to continue operations. At this most basic level, your donations are always needed.

These are just a very few ways that you can help to make a difference for the Golden Retrievers in our area. I look forward to another year of our wonderful and productive work of rescue. Together we are making a difference for the Golden Retrievers in our area, and together we are helping GRREAT to continue this vital and important work.

Volunteering for GRREAT, for me, is both rewarding and energizing in so many ways. It is also a wonderful way to make a positive difference. So, what are you waiting for?! 

Sign up at www.grreat.org, click on Be a Volunteer, then GRREAT Volunteer Form.

PVGRC Calendar

Here are some of the events being held by the Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club. The club is a long time sponsor of GRREAT and holds many events throughout the year for obedience, agility and working competitions. If you would like more information, check their website at www.pvgrc.org.

MARCH

Mar 11 (Sat) - Annual Awards Banquet and General Membership Meeting, Holiday Inn, College Park, MD

Mar 18 (Sat) - Field Training

APRIL

Apr 8 (Sat) - Field Training

Apr 15 (Sat) - PVGRC Sweepstakes, Specialty Show, Obedience & Rally Trial, Howard Co, MD

Apr 15 (Sat) - General Membership Meeting, Howard Co, MD, after the Specialty

Apr 16 (Sun) - WC/WCX Test with PeeWee Hunter Stakes, Monrovia, MD

MAY

May 13 (Sat) - Veterans' Day, Monrovia, MD

May 13 (Sat) - General Membership Meeting (in conjunction with Veterans' Day)

May 20 (Sat) - Super Singles, Cheltenham (needs confirmed)

May 27 (Sat) - Field Training

JUNE

Jun 18 (Sun) - K9 Olympics, Monrovia, MD

Jun 18 (Sun) - General Membership Meeting (after K9 Olympics)

Jun 24 & 25 - (Sat & Sun) - PVGRC Agility Trials, Westminster, MD

Pick of the Litter: Buster (05-175)

Spotlight on a special Golden in need of a special someone

By Emily Pasterick, Contributing Writer

In just about a month's time, one unfortunate Golden mix male named Buster struck fortune and, you could say, some degree of "fame," as he left behind a decade of being tied up outside 24 hours a day to walk with dignity as the only not-yet-adopted Golden in an esteemed GRREAT-sponsored parade of 30 proud rescue Golden Retrievers from around the country. Foster

mom Gail Corby volunteered to chair this Parade of Rescued Golden Retrievers for the Golden Retriever Club of America's National Specialty in September 2005, and it was here that Buster symbolically marked his journey towards abandoning the life that stifled his spirit for 10 years to find the character, and the family, that would carry him through his wonderful twilight years. Buster knew the best was yet to come.

Buster greeted me with wide, sparkling brown eyes, and wiggled around me to find an open hand that could pet him. He never barked, never crowded or overwhelmed me or Gail, simply made his presence known with a happy energy, and came willingly to an extended hand for affection. I extended a fistful of treats, and he deliberately nuzzled, then nibbled, at my fingers until I released them – I think we became fast friends then, as he followed me to the front door and upstairs to the computer room where he chose to lie between me and Gail, rather than under her table where he usually preferred – the perfect host, Buster must have thought easy access to two potential treat-givers was better than one! I kept looking for signs of a dog that had been so badly treated, a dog that hadn't been able to feel the comforts of a couch or warm rug, a dog that hadn't

been allowed to interact sufficiently with the world around him – but it was clear that Buster was just so grateful to be rescued and delighted to take advantage of his new lease on life, that he forgot to be bitter. If I observed anything indicative of a deprived past, it was a casual habit of limiting eye contact to a few shy, careful and priceless moments. Otherwise, his paws

danced and his tail thumped with the vigor and health of the most joyful Golden. This is all remarkable, given that he spent the majority of his 10 years tied up outside when a member of his family developed allergies. Not only was Buster never properly socialized or integrated into a loving family, he also was never taken to the vet.

Just a few months later, there is nary a hint of the Buster of bygone. He has been given a clean bill of health; he has excellent house manners, and can safely be given the run

of the house all day while his humans are at work. He does well around other dogs once he gets to know them in a gentle environment, though he prefers people,

especially children. He loves car rides and long walks, where he gets a chance to demonstrate his superb leash manners. As a proud walker in an event that commemorated the second phase of his life, a transition "march" to a life better-lived, Buster is hoping to find the forever home that will stroll along with him through the ultimate phase where

he can make up for lost time and show his new world how to make the most of every day of a new life.

If you are interested in finding out more about Buster, please contact Gail Corby at gaildc@aol.com 🐾



ADOPTION REPORT

Between December 14 and February 10, 45 dogs found their forever homes. The 2005 total was 228 dogs adopted through GRREAT. Of these Happy Holidays dogs, 18 were females and 27 were males. There were 10 pups (under age 2), 26 between ages 2 and 6, and 9 seniors (age 7 or older). Congratulations to all of these dogs and their new owners!

Name	#	Age	Sex
Abby	05-154	3	F
Abby	05-221	5	F
Amber	05-222	10	F
Andy	05-176	2	M
Bailey	05-205	6	F
Bailey	06-009	1	M
Brinkley	05-239	9 mo	M

Name	#	Age	Sex	Name	#	Age	Sex
Buddy	05-258	4	M	Miki/Bailey	05-238	2	M
Buddy/Rusty	05-201	2	M	Montana	05-242	5	M
Buster	05-208	5	M	Murphy	05-126	6	M
Butter	05-114	4	M	Paige	05-098	3	F
Caper	05-047	2	M	Penny	05-223	2	F
Casey	05-184	5	M	Quentin	05-170	3	M
Cassie	05-185	7 mo	F	Rascal	05-234	11 mo	M
Cody	05-181	5	M	Red	05-249	6	M
Cricket	05-157	9 mo	F	Remy	05-202	9	M
Don/Charlie	05-210	9	M	Rocky	05-215	1	M
Drake	05-177	3	M	Rosie	05-237	2	F
Fancy	05-195	7	F	Ruby	05-213	3	F
Gumbo	05-224	5	M	Sally	05-163	5	F
Jasmine	06-008	3	F	Sasha	05-216	1	F
Jenny	05-247	10	F	Solomon	05-133	2	M
Jimmy	04-162	11	M	Sydney	05-186	2	M
Kody	05-248	6 mo	M	Teddy	05-219	8	M
Lucy	05-093	1	F	Tucker	05-203	7	M
Maggie Mae	03-235	7	F	Zoe	05-243	11 mo	F

ADOPTION DAY DIRECTIONS

Saturday, March 4, 2006

Noon - 2 pm

Petco

275 Muddy Branch Road

Gaithersburg, MD

301-975-9888

Take I-495 [Capitol Beltway] to I-270 Spur North toward Frederick/Rockville. Take exit #5, I-270 Local Lanes North toward Falls Road. Take exit #9A-B/I-370 onto Sam Eig Highway. Turn right on Diamondback Drive. Turn right on Muddy Branch Road. Continue on Muddy Branch Road for approximately 1.1 miles; Petco is on the right.

Saturday, April 1, 2006

Noon - 2pm

Petco

2441-F Centreville Road

Herndon, VA

703-713-1552

Take I-495 W towards Virginia. Take exit #45A/VA-267 Toll West toward Dulles Airport. Continue on 267 for about 10.7 miles. Take exit #10/VA-657 toward Chantilly. Go approximately 0.3 miles and turn left on Centreville Road. Drive approximately 0.6 miles and turn left at McNair Farms and then right into the shopping center.

Saturday, May 6, 2006

Noon - 2pm

Petco

8640 Pulaski Highway

Rosedale (Baltimore), MD

410-686-4037

Take I-95 North toward Baltimore. Go approximately 34 miles and take exit #61/US-40 East. Go about 3.3 miles and arrive at Petco.

GRREAT assumes no responsibility for the above directions.

Please call the individual businesses listed to verify the route from your address.

Resources & Referrals from USA TODAY and Washingtonian Magazine

By Meg Ellacot, Contributing Writer

Thanks to USA Today and the Washingtonian Magazine for providing the following information for this month's article on Fun Things to Do With Your Dog. It's February so Jake, Kelly and I haven't done much to write about since it's the dead of winter! So, Think Spring...and when you're ready for that getaway, bring the dog(s) with you. Hotels are going all out lately offering room service, vet-created menus and pet concierges. Here are some special spots on the East Coast offering "creature comforts" for pet and owner:

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL, NY, www.ritzcarlton.com
The VIP (Very Important Pooch) program provides 22 karat gold plated IDs, aromatherapy, coat spritzes and hand-painted dinnerware.

THE INN BY THE SEA, Cape Elizabeth, ME
www.innbythesea.com
Check out the Bow Wow burgers and homemade biscuits; expansive lawns slope down to the beach, everyone's idea of doggie heaven.

THE WOOF COTTAGES, Nantucket, MA
www.harborviewcottages.com/rooms/withpets.php
Explore Nantucket's stunning beaches and pristine conservation lands with your golden buddies.

THE PAW HOUSE INN, Killington, VT
www.pawhouseinn.com
The Innkeepers of the Paw House balance the historic Vermont country inn experience with dog-themed rooms – watch for the doggie living rooms, doggie daycare, swim areas and a variety of dog classes.

NINE ZERO, Boston, MA www.ninezero.com
This luxury boutique hotel wins highest marks for service. They know both you and your dog by name and there are specially designed bowls and beds along with info on pet sitting, dog walks and massage services – and yes, the rooms come complete with Frette linens and down comforters.

DAUFUSKIE ISLAND CLUB, Hilton Head, SC
www.daufuskieresort.com
Plenty of room for dogs to romp while you get golf cart transportation – your goldens will get good care with gourmet treats, bowls and designer pet beds.

If you missed it, the February Washingtonian Magazine devoted their primary article "Love Your Pet with the Ultimate Guide to Caring for your Dog or Cat." 24 pages of everything you've ever wanted to know about your pets;

from top vets, pet sitters and kennels to doggie day care, dog parks, shelters, rescue groups and more. Check out www.washingtonion.com and search on the February issue to read more.

I've always wanted to try bringing Kelly (one of my adoptees, the gentler, calmer one) to a hospital or nursing home. Now, I may just try it after reading the following:

"Doing Good With Your Pet from the Feb Issue: Dogs are welcome in many hospitals and nursing homes, where their visits are a pleasant distraction for those who are lonely or in pain. Pets and owners must be trained first and then can visit patients at places like Inova Fairfax and Mount Vernon hospitals. For more information, visit deltasociety.org and tdi-dog.org or call Leslie Horton, director of Assisted-Animal Therapy at Inova Fairfax, at 703 776-3536." Consider getting your dog involved in this wonderful program. (See also our cover page article in this issue)

Check out the following websites for fun things to do with your GRREAT dog this spring:

Bark in the Park, www.baysox.com

Bark Ball, www.barkball.com

Doggie Dip Day, www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter

Blessing of the Animals, www.cathedral.org

Canine Games, www.alexandriaanimals.org

Howl-o-ween, www.akaspot.com

Doggie Happy Hour, www.doggiehappyhour.com
(I wrote an article on this last Fall - loads of fun.) 🐾

Thanks to Our Volunteers

The following people volunteered their time at the GRREAT Adoption Day in Beltsville on January 7.

Janet & Phil Hauck	Juan & Marcella Marsans
Dan Mensing	& their two GRREAT
Kathleen Thomas	Goldens
Wayne Hunter	Lisa Hecker
Stephanie Nelson	Penny March
Marty & Janet White	Joy Scrimshire
Megan Canigiani	

A Breed Apart: Spotlight on a GRREAT Volunteer

GRREAT Foster and Intake Volunteer, Jane Salter

By Emily Pasterick, GRREAT Contributing Writer

In 2001, GRREAT was fortunate to welcome a volunteer prepared with “international” experience in animal rescue. Jane Salter, a native of England, always had been involved with animal ownership and rescue as a child, and then married a man who also shared her love of supporting and educating people on humane treatment of animals. Together they helped provide care and love to abused German Shepherds in England. There, her husband worked for the RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), then for the RSPCA in Melbourne, Australia. After he moved to the USA, he worked for the World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA) in Boston, MA, before moving to Maryland in 1997 to work for the Humane Society International in Washington, D.C. Though this profile is about Jane, the work experience and dedication of her husband seem significant in that Jane, with her husband and 2 boys, has surrounded herself with a familial commitment to support the rescue of animals and to educate the people they come into contact with about how such efforts connect us all to one another.

Jane has become acutely aware of this philosophy through her extraordinary volunteerism with GRREAT as a foster home, home visit volunteer and intake assistant (among participation in other GRREAT volunteer events). She and her husband have passed along their animal care commitment to their sons and even their sons’ friends, as Jane and her fosters are regular visitors to her sons’ school, where the kids get a chance to see for themselves the



evolution of a Golden foster from scared, sick, and/or unsocialized, to healthy and thriving. Jane appreciates this opportunity to have children learn early on how valuable a small contribution to a rescue can make in the life of a dog, and beyond. Since 2001, Jane has fostered approximately 34 Golden Retrievers, and recalls that early in her fostering she was concerned about how she would know if she really found the right home for a foster. Several notable experiences in identifying the perfect adoptive home for her fosters could only be described as “serendipity.” In one instance, a family interested in her foster, Emma, came to visit, and turned out to be a perfect match. Their license plate? “EMA.” Another foster had come from a give-up family that also had a bird; the perfect family interested in adopting him? Had a bird. And in yet a third example cited, Jane recalls adopting a Golden to an oral surgeon, and not long after, speaking with a 12-year-old girl needing oral surgery whose surgeon happened to be none other than the new owner of her prior foster. When Jane told the little girl about her surgeon’s newly-adopted Golden, the girl asked him about

his new dog, and thereafter felt much more at ease about her surgery because Jane’s former foster helped them to break the ice with one another. Collectively, these encounters, of many, assure Jane that the right family will find the right dog – that things just have a way of working out the way they should.

Jane’s role as a volunteer for GRREAT clearly has implications for the education of, and relationship with, the world at large. She is proud of her opportunity to help unite people, even in small ways, through the Golden Retrievers she rescues. Through rescue, she has also established strong ideas about the treatment of Golden Retrievers, as she is very passionate about using homeopathic medication rather than conventional treatment methods for her dogs for ailments such as kennel cough, mange, and hot spots. Ideally, she would like to see fewer dogs over-vaccinated or given multiple shots in one day (which she believes severely compromises their sometimes weakened immune systems). Her compassion, innovation, and commitment to both rescuing Golden Retrievers and using her experiences to educate others about the power of animal rescue, allow Jane to make outstanding and effective contributions to GRREAT. GRREAT is so proud to spotlight Jane Salter as “a breed apart!” 🐾

DONATIONS

Thank you for your donations...

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Sue & David Barefoot
Eileen Bennett
Dawn & Marshall Bowen
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Lee & Daniel Brob-Kahn & Kevin
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Corporate Giving

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ExxonMobil Foundation, matching a donation from *Neal and Judy McKinley*

Employee Charity Organization of Northrup Grumman on behalf of employee *Sheri Ulrich*

Microsoft Corporation, matching a donation from *Bob and Carolyn Reagle*

Food Lion

Petsmart

iGive.com

Byrne Cohen & Hyatt Real Estate Advisors donates 10% of profits to our client's charities. Your organization was designated for a contribution by our clients, *Michelle and Bill Isenbart*, who recently bought and sold homes with our team. We wanted you to share in the celebration!

Nicci Hyatt and Sally Byrne

Simile-Finale Fund

Shelley Clanton

Please share this equally among your general fund, the Leo Fund, and the Simile-Finale Fund. Our youngest Golden Koda Bear was diagnosed with a fast growing cancer late this year. The prognosis was not good but we were informed that with chemotherapy he would be with us for 1 to 1½ years. We have just been advised (Christmas Week) that the chemo isn't working and our beloved six year old will be passing in the next few months. Though he was not a rescued dog, we'd just like you to know how much he's meant to us and how difficult this has become. As with all GRREAT members, he's one of our children and will be leaving an unfillable void in our hearts and lives. Thank you for all your hard work on behalf of our four legged friends. *Joanne and Robert Patenaude*

Gifts on Behalf Of...

Doreen and Steve Larson. From *Joanne and David Bauer*

Ken Jennings. From *Joanne Jennings*

Eric MacDonald. From *Eric Games*

John C. Lewett. From *Carolee Stearns*

Nancy Howell. From *Elisabeth Gicquel*

Nancy Howell. From *Ronald and Nancy Jarashov*

Mary and Ken Collings. From *Charles Nordstrom*

Thanks to Our Volunteers

The following people staffed the GRREAT Education Table at the World of Pets Expo in Timonium, MD on January 28 & 29:

Vicki & Jim Eurice
Fran Wesley
Jessie Robinson
Allison Ward

DONATIONS

In Memory Of...

- Carol Gaskins. Tristan, Cesear, and Toby
- A dear friend, Mr. Francis Young, who passed away Christmas day. Dale Pearson
- Mary J. Dellinger, mother of Karen and Eric Rowe. Mary Linda (Lynn) Shumate
- Mary Dellinger, mother of Karen and Eric Rowe. Lee and Betty Hoke Brantley
- H. Joe Bitto of York, PA who is now in heaven watching over his family and grand-dog 3-Putt. Cathi Pettersen
- Our dear friend Marilu Semans. Thank you for all you do. Jane Wilson
- Bailey. Linda and Robert Young
- Jenny and Brandy and Freckles. Patrick Neiler
- Gus Beagles, a GRREAT dog who passed away this time last year. Mary Anne and James Beagles
- Our Golden girls Topaz and Katie. Chuck and Carolyn Ellington
- Our beloved Fiona, who lived almost 11 years and passed away last May. Dottie and Marie Kilcarr
- Zeb and Gus. Gary and Irene Masters
- Alex, Geoffrey, Star and Buddy, my Golden's waiting at the Rainbow Bridge. Melanie Smith
- Our sweet golden boy Teak, lost to cancer in July 05. Gary Kanner
- Ben and Bailey. Carole and Richard Jefferson
- Tess—she was not a golden, but she had a Golden's heart. Danny Roach
- Roscoe Caporale. Holly and Vincent Caporale
- Molly. Cheryl and Brad Sidwell
- Nicholas and Geebers. Jane Kunze
- Clifford 02-064, who will forever live in our hearts as one of our first foster dogs. Bud and Diane Streett
- Skilfor She's a Keeper. Lynne Young
- Travis and Red. Beth and Chris Bogusky
- Marley (1990-2005). Terri Jones
- Tosca. Lawrence Barth
- Ilyse and Valerie Stempler's dear recently departed Golden, Monte Stempler. With sincere condolences Rick and Christine Yurko and family
- Our little good boys, Popeye and Tucker. Thomas and Donna Frankhouser
- Barney, Copper, and Traveler. Charles and Gillian Heagy
- Cody Abernathy. Don and Betty Abernathy
- My dearest girl, Christie, age 13, so sweet and so missed. Priscilla Borden
- George—my best friend and most favorite golden. Joy Scrimshire
- Sidney, beloved pet of Michael and Jane Landis, and friend of Ginny who joined the family from GRREAT. Patricia Beaston
- Brandy, our first Golden and the smartest dog we've ever known. A few years ago, when Brandy departed this earth, a piece of our hearts went with her. We'll always love and cherish our "Girlie Girl." Emily and John Bender
- Ben White 10/24/1994-12/25/2005, GRREAT 99-149. Christine and Kenneth White
- Our golden Tyler, who went to the golden bridge June 6, 2005. Catherine and John Macco
- Our sweet boy, Rudy (96-135 aka Kramer) who we still miss everyday. Barbara Hals and Sharon Dyke
- My beautiful and kind Honey. Barbara Dunnington
- Treevor—Phil and Janet's Golden Boy. Karen and Dave Mergerian
- Boomer, beloved pet of Sandy and Ken Diamond, and a good will ambassador for GRREAT. Susan Hamilton
- Our golden's Misty, Baillie, Autie and Maggie, our GRREAT pups. They are in our hearts, always. Ginny and Ed Miller
- My brother John Zulli's golden, Bonzo, who died last month, at the age of 16. He was an incredible dog, who saw my brother thru bachelorhood, marriage, and the birth of his two young children. I thank you for all the good work you do—keep going strong!! Pamela Zulli
- Majestic Captain Morgan Walsh. He will be missed by every person and creature with whom he came in contact. Leslie Patient
- My Kelsey Boy. Two years now at the bridge, he lost his valiant effort to fight his cancer the day before Mothers Day 2004. He was not a "GRREAT" dog, but opened his big heart and home to help me foster Sara, Penny, Amber and Austin. You may use our donation to help other golden's with cancer, or where ever it is needed most. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see the day when, thru hard work and dedication of our volunteers and donors, organizations such as ours are no longer needed. Keep the faith, the power of prayer is a miraculous thing! Kathleen Doyle
- The Aukerman's Deacon. Dinah Stevens
- Nina Walman. I will miss you always. David Walman
- In memory of Rissa Groover, loved by Lisa Groover. Cathy Hanratty
- In memory of Ben, our precious golden. Janice and Dennis Biennas

DONATIONS

In Memory Of...

- Goldie was our 1st foster and after we got her into “adopting” condition we couldn’t bear to part with her. She came to us with no fur from the middle of her back to the tip of her tail—she had fleas, her ears were infected and her eyes were almost swollen shut. Her poor teeth were almost ground down to nothing in front from chewing herself. The kids in the neighborhood wouldn’t even play with her! We treated the fleas, skin problems, ears eyes and got her on thyroid medicine and after 6 months she was a different dog! She was a sweet girl who never gave us a bit of problem—she just needed a little T.L.C. She passed away in October and we still look for her at night to go to bed. We miss her terribly but we know she is keeping all our other friends company. Sandy and Jeff Melago
- Handsome Henley Haisenleder (97-103). We miss having him “talk” with us in the morning and squeak to us on our return home at night. A big, soft, puppy-hearted boy—he has left a forever hole in our hearts. Nancy Haisenleder
- Kiowa’s Son of A Preacherman CD JH CGC TDI. Sharon and Nick DeCesare
- Our Golden, Penny, who we lost to cancer last July. February 12th would have been her 12th birthday. We all miss you, PennyPie. But Mommy misses you desperately. The only thing that helps to close the hole in my heart is to help other beautiful goldens who need love and a home just like you did 11 years ago. Cameron and Tom Phillips
- Abby, who would have been 11 years old next month. Abby was a rescue Golden from the Neuse River Golden Rescue in Raleigh. She was my “baby dog” and brought such joy and love into my life. Carla Brown

In Honor Of...

- Jan Brown, for her devoted efforts regarding an abandoned Katrina golden. Katie (whose real name was later found to be Misty) was one of very few goldens we saw at the Best Friends disaster sanctuary in Tylertown, MS. Jan truly went above and beyond in caring for Katie there, arranging her transport to Maryland from an Arizona sanctuary to which Best Friends had relocated her, and then personally returning her to her family which, in late November, was found to be living temporarily in Texarkana, Arkansas. As any foster family knows, turning over a fostered golden to a new forever home is a bittersweet experience. Jan has been through this many times, but I can’t help but feel that the circumstances surrounding Katie/Misty’s ordeal resulted in a bond that made this turnover both more difficult and more gratifying than usual. Jan’s actions were truly exemplary. Greg Russell
- Amber. Sheila and Al Vertino
- Teri Stachowiak, a true lover of golden retrievers. Sandra Troccoli

- Dr. Bruce Rashbaum’s birthday with an appreciation of his love for and many years of his life with Golden Retrievers. Tina and Brad Conway
- All the time and talent dedicated to the GRREAT fostering program by the entire Skinner family (Kerry, Denise, Hannah and Ethan, oh and we can’t forget Riley and MacKenzie, the four legged support that also welcomes “newbies” into their home quarters). Daniel and Dianne Cochran
- The birthday (50th) of Steven Hays. Anthony and Deborah Lewis
- Trish Collier, my sister. David and Cynthia Collier
- Tom Ludwig’s birthday. Marva Jones
- The energetic and love-filled life of Margaret (Maggie) Webb Van Valkenburg. Virginia Valkenburg
- For Isabel and Sara and their GRREAT dog Bradley. Roland and Jennifer Cochran
- Al Glasser. Barry and Yolanda Weller
- Our neighbor Nancy Bender and her rescue dog Chance. Chrystie Adams
- My beloved Golden, Dakota! Renee Gallagher
- Shadow Warfield. Jackie Warfield
- Sierra. Patricia and James Kermes
- Comet and Brinkley, our 2 adoptees. Bill and Geri Guwang
- We adopted Freddie (05-076), a golden mix, in May. For the first month or so we didn’t think we had a dog. Freddie would keep out of sight when he was in the house. He was not very social. He wouldn’t even eat if we were in the kitchen. If we walked in while he was eating he would run away and finish his meal later. Over time he has become interactive with us. Now he follows us through the house and he sits in the family room while we watch TV and he even eats with us now! He also loves to be brushed! Freddie loves to ride in the car and go for long walks. This summer he discovered the pool. When he went outside he would head straight for the pool gate. He’s not much for playing with tennis balls, he would rather just run and run in the backyard—and boy can he run! Thank you GRREAT for all you do. Janis and Kevin Woolsey
- Ruth Meier and Robert Rodgers and in honor of Sadie. Karen and Joseph Dean
- Elle and Teddy Daniels 04-053. Chris Temple
- Buddy 05-113. James Krist
- Our GRREAT girl Bascia. Steve and Kathryn Troch
- Our GRREAT golden Daisy. Jeffrey and Carolyn Eckhaus
- Rose and Winston. Elaine Feidelman
- Chase and Bella. Debbie and David Wirsing
- Our smiling girl Clare. Ernest and Iscella Wittich

DONATIONS

For Special Reasons

- Proceeds from sales at Nationals, Goldstock and the GRREAT Howliday Party. Sam Connelly
- In honor of our golden, Belgium and In memory of his mother, America. Everett Chasen and Barbara Jacksier
- For Lynn Cooper. Gail Cooper
- In response to a request from Nancy Howell. Roberta Barrett
- For “Foster” my nephew, I will miss our special rent a pooch days. I Love You. Alicia Glassman
- In honor of Gus our Dear Golden Oldie and good friend and in memory of Max our sweet big boy who left us several years ago at this time. Please use however you need to help our “sweeties”. Richard and Jule Ann Cheslock
- For the Clay Fund and In memory of our dear Sprint, #01-230. Tim and Linda Daniel
- In honor of Schubert—11 years old on Dec 15th, and to thank Kaire Abernethy for all her work for the GRREAT silent auction. Pam and Jerry Ambrose
- As the foster for Janet, I would like to make this contribution toward medical and other costs for Janet and other GRREAT Dogs. Rick Manville
- For Alan Glaser. Cathy Pollock
- To GRREAT for Ceilidh (orig spelling “kaylee”)..In memory of Ceilidh (GRREAT), Bear, and Roary (YGRR); to thank you folks and son and daughter (Don and Amy) for allowing Ceilidh to adopt us! Janet and CJ Owen
- In honor of our GRREAT Brady who, with his antics, never fails to keep us smiling, in spite of where life leads us. His tireless wagging of tail and gifting of toys-in-mouth continues to show us what is important in life. Please also accept this donation in memory of our mom, Mary Lou Robertson, who passed away in June 2005. Throughout my (Judy’s) childhood, she and my (late) dad enabled me to know and appreciate what great joy and companionship our dog pals can bring to us—they helped to instill in me my lifelong love for our furry friends. Please use these funds wherever they may be most needed—in particular, to help rescue a dog who might otherwise be turned away. Joe and Judy Niebauer
- Please use this contribution to care for the animals. I wish it were more, but although it is my great satisfaction to donate over 10% of my profits to humane causes, the business is just getting started. Thank you for what you do. Suzanne C.
- In honor of Josh- now known as Zack and your organization for saving him. I wanted to take this opportunity to say many thanks to all of the people from GRREAT that were involved with my puppy Zack (formerly known as Josh). Your organization went out of your way to res-

cue him from a shelter in Virginia and then proceeded to support him financially for medical care needed because of Parvo and its consequences. I also give great thanks to his foster mom Joy Schrimshire who nursed him through 2 life and death situations. Zack (Josh) is now (due to all of your efforts) a happy healthy puppy who can focus on being a pup, lots of love and attention from his mom (Karen Renaud) and soon to be obedience classes. He is an absolute joy and has brought so much love and happiness into my heart. I love this puppy dearly and cannot thank all of those involved for your unconditional support in all aspects. He is a gem and treasure to have in my life thanks to your efforts. I have highly recommended your organization to others looking for fantastic dogs. Many many thanks again! Karen Renaud

- For Cookie’s expenses. Cameron Randall Phillips
- For Nancy and Judd Howell. Rae Ellen Fields
- For the medical care needs of Buster (05-208). He was only in our home for a few weeks, but he left a big paw print on our hearts. We hope he finds a forever home to enjoy his fun loving spirit as soon as possible. Raquel and Alex Kondracki
- Dedicated to Amber. Linda and Robert Young
- For Kody’s (05-248) medical expenses. Joy Scrimshire
- Merry Christmas! Love, Bailey Pence. Laura Pence
- Buddy 05-113. James Krist
- For a calendar I picked up at Pet Expo in Timonium. Jo-Ann and Ahsan Khan
- From the foster home for Remington (05-026), given to off set any vet costs. Barbara Simmons
- Kodi is fine. She was diagnosed as autoimmune hypothyroidism not long after we got her and is on treatment. She and Boo (our other dear Golden dog, age 14) contracted severe diarrhea and Kodi vomited constantly over a 24 hr period. She was treated 2 weekends ago in Centreville Emergency Center with IVs. Both she and Boo are now doing well on ID diet. We love Kodi dearly and thank you again for getting her to us. Enclosed is our first donation for this year. We hope you are doing well and have a GRREAT year. Jim and Ginny Hayes

Thanks to Our Volunteers

The following people volunteered their time at the GRREAT Adoption Day in Herndon on February 4.

Jeff & Lucinda Twining	Marion Walsh
Jan & Marty White	Carolyn Beyer
Kathleen Thomas	Cheryl Ferrone
Louise Davidson &	Lauren Kivlighan
Hannah	Idalia Fernandez
Meg Ellacott & Kelly	Bob Kurtz

DONATIONS

Leo's Corner

From the Leo Fund donation jars at Pet Expo and the February 2006 Adoption Day. Thanks to volunteers Vicki and Jim Eurice, Jessie Robinson, Allison Ward, Meg Ellacott, and Louse Davidson.

GOLDEN ANGELS (\$500 AND MORE)

Joanne and Robert Patenaude (see message under "Simile-Finale Fund")

Joe and Pat Johnson. In memory of Bart, our foster dog who died this summer.

Joe O'Neill and Walt Atha. For Chassidy and Polar Bear

GOLDEN HEROES (\$100 - \$499)

John and Denise Gettier. In memory of Pom, Red Dog, Honey Bear and Simon.

Rebecca Turner. Merry Christmas Hud, Martie, Kate, Bear and Prizm.

Jeanne O'Donoghue.

Wayman and Holly Ng. In memory of our beloved Emma, We miss you dearly. You are forever in our hearts.

Theresa and Joseph Wolfrom. In celebration of our one year anniversary of adopting Keiro (04-166). He has been a joyful addition to our family.

Alan and Emiko Alborn. To GRREAT for medical expenses for Goldens.

Thank You

To thank Lisa, for being my foster mommy. Love, Dexter. Brian Starrett and Susan Tanner

To thank GRREAT for Keo, who is now a golden oldie, and for the GRREAT job you are doing. Carla Dahle

Comet says thanks for the new home. Dorothy and Ernest Helmick

To thank GRREAT for "Princess" Nina. Rosalind and Stuart Walman

To thank Stacy Duff and GRREAT for Bo (02-219). He's been a GRREAT addition to our family. Maryjo and Michael Sullivan

Here's a Valentine to GRREAT. Rick and Nancy Gasko
Thanks for your good work. Jo and Yvonne Kinkaid

To thank GRREAT for Amber 05-139. She is a sweet girl and we are so glad we found her! Tom and Jean Klingner

As an expression of our gratitude for our beautiful GRREAT golden, Bells. Jon Rolf and Meredith Pearson

Brenda Pascal. For my past and present Golden friends—Rusty, Sam and Cody.

Elaine Berry and Louise Shulack. In memory of Bernice Caskey, mother of Dennis and Melinda Garvin, who are foster parents of GRREAT dogs and cared for our Hunter through his surgery and recovery.

LEO'S PALS (UP TO \$99)

John Powell

Louis and Teri Stachowiak

Walter Grabowski and Robin Hoesch

Mary Anne Hovatter. Happy Holidays to everyone at GRREAT. Keep up the good work.

Katie Price. Donated in honor of Joy Scrimshire and her work with GRREAT. Merry Christmas!

William and Mary Kiefaber

Barbara Prince. In honor of Teddy.

Jo and Yvonne Kinkaid

Kathy and Wayne Hunter. In memory of Casey, our foster dog.

Shelley Clanton

Rick Stevens and Julie Palais. I wish I could do more but with 3 dogs one of whom is 16+ (Sundance 95-085) we are not in a position to foster just now.

To thank foster parents, Martin Wulfe and Laurie Schwede for giving us our wonderful boy Rocky (05-156). Julia and Dick Kwiatkowski

To thank Kim and Carl Wiff for their dedicated service to GRREAT and to so many homeless Goldens. Carol and Rory Nansel

Thank You, GRREAT!

In support of your activities with Golden Retrievers. We adopted our Shadow from GRREAT via Rebecca and Art Hotop two years ago. GRREAT had funded two hip surgeries for him. He is a fantastic member of our family and has brought much joy to our lives.

-Edythe and Stephen Alexander on behalf of The Alexander Foundation

Feeding Your GRREAT Dog

By Sandy Diamond, Education Coordinator

When potential new adopters contact GRREAT and go through a home visit, one of the areas we are frequently asked to address is dog food. One of the requirements to adopt a Golden through GRREAT is to agree to feed the dog a premium dog food. But what does this mean?

Golden Retrievers, as with many other pure-bred dogs, can be prone to allergies and cancer. There are often many causes of these conditions, some of which are beyond our control with our current dogs (poor breeding, for example). But we do have the ability to reduce some of the risks by limiting our dog's exposure to allergens and carcinogens. One of the ways to do this is through our dog's diet.

There are as many opinions on how and what to feed your dog as there are dog foods. Not every diet or food works for every dog or family. However, doing the appropriate research to find the best food or diet, may help to reduce ear infections, skin problems, obesity and many other ailments. Whether you choose to feed your dog a commercial dry or wet food, a home-cooked diet or a raw diet (or some combination of the above), feeding the highest quality ingredients is crucial to good health.

Commercial Pet Foods: Did you know that two of the top three ingredients in pet foods are almost always some form of grain product, according to the Animal Protection Institute (www.api4animals.org)? The third is most often a meat "by-product meal." None of these are good for your dog. There are good foods out there; however, you won't find them in your local grocery store. Ingredients to look for are whole beef, chicken, turkey, lamb, etc. and meals made from those whole meats (both of these should be in the top three ingredients.) Also look for whole grains and vegetables. Foods containing meat or poultry by-products, fat or protein only identified as "meat", artificial colors, fla-

vors or preservatives and added sweeteners should be avoided. The Whole Dog Journal has annual articles that rate the top foods and can give you more information on what to look for and what to avoid (www.whole-dog-journal.com). Although a premium dog food may cost more for a bag than the supermarket brands, your dog usually requires less and in the end it is a much better bargain. And less filler in the food means less waste on the other end!

Home Made Diets – Cooked and Raw: Many dog owners have chosen to make their pet's food, so they have control over what their animals actually eat. These diets can be either cooked or raw, and there are also "pre-mix" products available to supplement your own food. Although it takes a bit more time to prepare than scooping food out of a bag, the health benefits can be well worth it. You do need to make sure your dog is receiving the appropriate vitamins and minerals along with the right amount of protein, fat and fruits/vegetables. There is disagreement on whether grains should be used or not, but if you do use them, then whole grains are recommended. There are many sources of information on recipes and how to feed home cooked or raw diets, both in books and on the internet. A search using "home-made food for dogs" turns up a long list of both raw and cooked recipes. Good books to get you started include Dr. Pitcairn's *New Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs and Cats* and *The Barf Diet* by Ian Billinghurst.

The information provided above is a very basic overview, and is designed to get you thinking about what you are feeding your Golden. There is no one right answer for everyone – it depends on your dog, his health, your lifestyle, and many other factors. Do your research, and feel free to talk to any member of GRREAT's board for more information. 🦴

Book Review: "Mostly Bob"

By Kim Wiff

I received a complimentary copy of the book "Mostly Bob" by Tom Corwin a few weeks ago. When I received it, I briefly looked at it, and put it aside. The small red book with a single sentence on each single sided page, with a silhouette of a Golden at the bottom didn't do much to catch my attention or interest at first. But something made me pick it up again and look through it.

Tom Corwin's "Mostly Bob" is a moving story about his Golden Retriever named Bob, who passed away unexpectedly. The author decided to write a letter as a tribute to Bob's life. This letter is a surprisingly lovely story of how Bob, who belonged to Tom's neighbor and was once an unfriendly, neglected, abused, and untrusting Golden named Red, changed and became Tom's best friend and constant companion. I ended up reading the entire book before putting it down, and I even called a couple of people to tell them about it. It is a moving story that brought back joyful and painful memories of rescue, and was a reminder of the love I have for my own Golden's past and present. I recommend this book as a gift for someone, or for you to have and enjoy.



Hardcover: 144 pages
Publisher: New World Library
(February 9, 2006)

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ment ground for us to learn to do more things. I have volunteered with Fairfax Pets on Wheels for a number of jobs through the years and am now on the Board in charge of orientation and temperament testing.

There are many local Pets on Wheels groups around Virginia and in other states that have their own requirements and rules; the only one I am familiar with is Fairfax County's. You can get more information about them by calling (703) 324-5406 or by visiting their web site at www.fpow.org.

The next more demanding level of therapy dog work is hospital visiting. I am aware of three main certifying groups in this area; Therapy Dog International (tdi-dog.org or (973) 252-9800), Delta Society (deltasociety.org or (425) 226-7357), and PAL (petsanimalslove.com or (202) 966-2171.). As both of my dogs are Therapy Dog International (TDI) certified

TDI requires that all candidate dogs pass the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen test as a pre-requisite to taking their test. As a practical matter both tests are usually administered simultaneously. The fee for testing a dog is currently \$35. Your dog has to have mastered basic obedience and be able to accept common medical appliances, clumsy handling (petting) and various distractions. Detailed information about the test can be found at TDI's web site. You have to pay a renewal fee and submit a new physical examination form for your dog annually. Once you pass the TDI test you do not have to retake it.

After you pass TDI's test you are sent a photo ID of your dog, an "I am a Therapy Dog" tag, and insurance information. You are then ready to go find someplace to visit (the national groups don't offer a lot of help in that area). I eventually got in contact with some folks who do therapy dog work at Fairfax Hospital so that is where Casey, Cody and I go. TDI will also cover you if you do work in schools with your dog. I am constantly amazed by the fact that my dogs are frequently the first trained, "safe", dogs that many children have been around.

The Delta Society's test is more rigorous than TDI's. The test begins the minute you and your dog arrive at the testing venue. Their web site has details. Delta requires retesting of all its teams at 2-year intervals and is more expensive than TDI. The Delta folks in suburban Maryland are very approachable and helpful. They offer classes in getting ready to take the Delta test.

I do not know a great deal about PAL except that they schedule the Fairfax Hospital work that I do. I gather that their test is somewhat similar to Fairfax Pets on Wheels. They are also a Washington, DC local group.

When your Golden is lying in a hospital bed next to a child connected to so many wires and tubes they can hardly move, all of the expense and trouble getting there become insignificant. You know why you came this way.

This leads me into the most rigorous and demanding work that a pet therapy team can engage in: disaster response work. Casey and I became a Hope AACR certified team so I will begin there.

Hope AACR (the AACR stands for animal assisted crisis response) aspires to be a national organization that responds to crises with therapy dogs.

It is somewhat more established on the West Coast where it began than it is on the East Coast (the only other place where members exist in any numbers – about 18 or so). In order to petition Hope AACR for membership you and your dog have to be certified and active in therapy work with some other organization. You then have to attend a screening session. For most people out of town travel is required to get to the screening location. If you pass screening, you may then attend a 3-day workshop (typically offered once a year on each coast) the cost of which varies from \$200 up. By the time you pay for travel, hotels, meals, and various items deemed mandatory by Hope you will have spent well over \$500 to become a provisional member. Within the following year you must attend several first aid courses, general emergency management courses, Hope training courses and join and become active in a non-Hope emergency response organization in order to maintain your membership. Their website is www.hopecrisisresponse.org. On their web site they list their "call outs" so you can get an idea of how active they are. If you wish to get in on the ground floor of an organization that may grow into a national response organization, Hope may be for you.

TDI has a requirement/testing level for therapy dogs that respond in emergency situations. I do not know how much further they have gone in that direction. As there are levels of certification in the Delta Society, it would not surprise me to learn that they too are testing in that area. You should check their web site if you have interests in this area.

Most of us have Golden retrievers that are suitable for sharing. There are menus of opportunities ranging from casual involvement to those that require major commitments. The choice is yours. 🐾

The Blessings of Foster Homes and Foster Dogs

By Allison Ward, Foster Home Coordinator

2005 was a "GRREAT" year for GRREAT. I am constantly amazed by the Foster Homes' generosity and willingness to help Golden Retrievers. Here are a few statistics for last year:

- 262 Golden Retrievers came through our "doors" in 2005.
- These Golden Retrievers were taken care of by 115 different foster homes.
- 47 of these foster homes took in multiple dogs.
- At least 45 of these dogs went to temporary foster homes before being placed in a permanent foster home.
- Approximately 20 families served as vacation foster homes

These statistics are just for the dogs that came in between January and December of 2005, and do not count the 2004 dogs still in foster homes at the start of the year, long term fosters or dogs returned by previous adopters.

We have many families that function as Temporary Foster Homes. These homes are a stop for a dog on their way to a foster home. I often call them "halfway" houses for dogs. Foster families will drop everything in a moments notice (literally leaving the house as soon as receiving the call) and open their home to a dog. Many times these are shelter dogs with little or no known background.

Many of our families take in foster dogs year round, and they often have a foster when its time to go on vacation. This is where our Vacation Fosters come in. In 2005 GRREAT had approximately 20 homes that cared for foster dogs while the foster home families went on vacation. Most often this occurred during the holidays or in the height of the summer. I can't thank the families offer-

ing vacation coverage enough. The holidays are often a time when our houses are full of visiting guests and it is wonderful they are willing to add four-legged guests to the holiday fray.

It takes a special type of person to be a foster parent. I am truly thankful and amazed by their willingness to help and respond when the number of dogs awaiting intake is high. As of February 22nd we have brought in 35 dogs since the beginning of the year, and we have a total of 77 dogs currently in foster care. Some of these dogs will remain in GRREAT's care, but the majority of these dogs are currently available for adoption or soon will be. It is likely we will take in at least 300 dogs in 2006. Most weeks GRREAT takes in 4 to 5 dogs. However, during the summer and holiday seasons we see many more than that. Dogs often stay in foster care an average of 3-5 weeks and with the number of dogs waiting to come in (sometimes as many as 25 at a given time), there is often no "room at the Inn". I hope more GRREAT members, previous adopters and volunteers will consider becoming a foster home.

Every dog has his own personality and can be a cat chaser, escape artist, counter surfer or chewer of everything including your child's teddy bear or a family heirloom. They can be constantly pestering your golden to play, be obsessed with tennis balls, be scared of their shadow or be one of those super Velcro Golden Retrievers that must wake up if you change your position on the couch or (heaven forbid) try to go to the bathroom by yourself. Don't get me wrong; most of these traits become very endearing. Every foster dog holds a special place in our hearts, especially the ones that blossom into a different dog in a loving environment. Some of the Golden Retrievers that come into GRREAT are not as described in the "give-up and intake"


Annual Business Meeting Highlights

On January 28, the GRREAT Board of Directors and many GRREAT members gathered for the annual business meeting. Each board member and coordinator gave a report of their progress in 2005. Here are some of the important pieces of information shared:

Of the 262 new dogs taken into the rescue in 2005, just over half were owner give-ups. The number of dogs received from shelters increased to 45% (from 35% last year.) We had 17 dogs that came in as multiples (two or more dogs given up from the same family.)

Male dogs still represent the majority of new intakes at 64%. A positive sign is that more dogs have been spayed or neutered before we receive them than in past years. Our mix of dogs age 4 or under continues to be high at 58%, and we also saw more dogs over age 7 this year.

Veterinary expenses are our greatest expense, at \$171,000 in 2005. Some of our vet expenses include 12 dogs that needed orthopedic surgery, 4 that had Parvo virus, 3 with intestinal blockages, 6 that were positive for heartworm, and over 35 with tick-borne diseases.

For more details on our 2005 statistics, please see the GRREAT website (www.grreat.org). 

Some Interesting Facts For 2005

262	Dogs accepted into the rescue (a 33% increase over '04)
12	Dogs returned from prior years
224	Total dogs adopted
115	Number of Foster Homes
47	Homes fostering more than 1 dog
12	Most dogs fostered by one family
87	Percentage of dogs that were microchipped
3	Amputee dogs accepted into the rescue
576	Adoption applications received
20,000	GRREAT website hits per month

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information; additional positive and negative traits are often discovered in foster care. Many of the incoming dogs have health issues that run the gamut from testing positive for Lyme, heartworm and other parasites, ear infections or allergies, to needing surgery. Our foster families become adept at helping dogs that have behavior problems and are poorly socialized, untrained or experience separation or thunderstorm anxiety to become loving and faithful members of their future forever homes.

While fostering cannot really be called “easy”, it is very rewarding and it has made a positive impact on my life and that of my adopted GRREAT Golden who is an awesome foster “brother”. I want to invite you to consider becoming a foster home. Dogs are placed in foster care based on the needs of both the dog and foster home (i.e. cats, fence, other dogs, medical issues, etc.), and it is always the foster family’s choice on whether a dog will fit into their home. To learn more about fostering please check out our website at: <http://www.grreat.org/foster.htm>

Thank you again to all who fostered in 2005. I hope the list below is all-inclusive, and I apologize if I am missing anyone.

Abbruscato, Anita & Frank
Alexander, Nancy
Ambrose, Jan & Tim
Armstrong, Tana
Au, Sally & Ben
Aukerman, Kay & Gary
Babcock, Scott & Lynne
Babik, Cheryl
Berhalter, Melanie
Bighouse, Jo
Bishops, Carolyn & Wally
Bolen, Anne & George
Bott/Briggle, Lori & Pam
Bradford, Hazel
Brenner, Debbie & Ed
Brent, Debbie
Briggs, Lois & Rick
Britz, Jillian & Erin
Brown, Jan
Brown/McDonald, Dee & Glenn
Buckalen, Judy

Buklad, Bill
Buttafuso, Kim
Carryer, Ethel & Haddon
Cassidy, Sharon & Sean
Coben, Sheila
Coley, Jacque
Collier, Trish
Collings, Mary
Connelly, Sam
Cook, Lisa
Corby, Gail
Crane, Elizabeth
Daniels, Kelly & Scott
Davis, Betty
Day, Stanley
Diamond, Sandy & Ken
Dorman, Kelly
Duffy, Stacy
Dukell, Betty Ann
Edmonson, Jacquelyn
Elizabeth Crane
Engle, Irene
Galpin, Edie
Gartlan, Judy
Garvin, Dennis & Melinda
Gepp, Carl & Sara
Gettier, Denise & John
Ginn, Mary
Glennon, Lynne
Green, Jan & Louise
Harrell, Ken & Lynda
Hart, Louisa
Hartman, Jean & Doug
Hauck, Janet & Phil
Hautzenroder, Rosalind
Hazard/Knight, Jim & Sally
Hecker, Lisa
Hein, John & Diane
Hellinger, Diana & Doug
Hickman, Karol & Bob
Hiserman, Heather & Matt
Hosteller/Wiggett, Jeane & Bruce
Hotop, Rebecca & Art
Howard, Mike & Mary Ellen
Howell, Nancy
Hunsberger, Shelley & Bill
Hunt, Linda
Hunter, Wayne & Kathy
Hutt, Sue & Bill
Johnson, Anneliese
Jones, Terri
Kahn, JoAnn
Karsner, Fran & Phil
Kaufmann, Lynette & Robert
Klinger, Jean & Tom
Koedam, Liz & Paul
Koval, Judy
Krebs, Amy
Kurtz, Bob & Jill
Lake, Bob & Lynda
Lanigan, Diane
Lenz, Amy & Brent
Litton, Pam

MacDonald, Jennifer & Eric
Manville, Rick
Maslyn, Krista
Mathews, Steve & Robin
McDonough, Olivia
McFarland, MaryAnn & Steve S
McGuirl, James & Marlene
McIlrath, Sharon
McKelvey, Susan
Medico, Jane
Melvin, Lisa
Merman, Lisa
Minder, Colleen
Moore, Megan
Morris, Sid
Nansel, Carol & Rory
Nelson, Jim & Stef
O’Connell, Pam
Pasterick, Emily
Pendell, Becki & Paul
Perdomo, Angel & Andrea
Peterson, Jim & Amy
Reedy, Marilyn & Doug
Reimer, Elizabeth
Ris, Nancy & David
Robinson, Jessie
Rose/Goldsmith, Sue & David
Rubenstein, Mary Ellen
Rutan & Guerrero, Sandra & Leon
Salter, Jane
Sandefor, Corinne
Schaefer, Connie
Schauer, Peter & Kelly
Schwede/Wulfe, Laurie & Marty
Scrimshire, Joy
Sethna, Harry & Sarah
Shapiro, Allen
Siebs, Janette & Dave
Skadberg, Jan
Skinner, Denise
Smith, Vicki & Bill
Sollod, Rene
Sondak, Karen & Joel
Streett, Bud & Diane
Swanson, John & Connie
Snyers, Bill & Denise
Taber, Barb & Don
Taylor, Cyndi
Thomas, Trish & Chuck
Truitt, Jondelle & Ralph
Ward, Allison
Weber, Ruth
Wesly, Lou
White, Jan & Marty
Wiff, Kim
Williams, Steve & Chris
Wilmoth, Jim
Wingrove/Wright, Amy & Matt
Wirth, Katie
Zibell, Heather & Jef
Zierhoffer, Gary & Carol 🐾

Aromatherapy for Animals

By Jo Bighouse

Aromatherapy is an ancient form of healthcare that uses essential oils from aromatic plants to improve health and general well being. Both animals and people can benefit from this holistic therapy. Certain aromas can influence mood and emotions while others can help improve mental clarity and alertness.

Essential oils should not be confused with synthetic perfumes. The highest quality essential oils are extracted from plants through steam distillation. There are no synthetic or chemical additives. The end result is a small amount of essential oil and a large amount of hydrosol or flower water. Each plant is from a specific fragrance family and has a key physical benefit.

Cats and small dogs or animals that suffer from seizures can be sensitive to the high concentration of the essential oils. Flower water is a better choice for these pets since you can achieve the same benefit without the risk of over-stimulating their senses. The flower water can be sprayed onto your pet using a mister or used as a rinse after bath time. Essential oils can be placed in a diffuser to gently exude the oil throughout a room, can be added to a pot of boiling water or vaporizer, can be applied directly to your pet after diluting with a carrier oil such as almond or jojoba oil, or can be directly inhaled by placing a few drops on a wet cotton ball.

I have had wonderful success with lavender for nervous or stressed animals. A few drops placed on the tips of your golden's ears can have a calming influence. It is ideal for trips to the vet or groomer, and for our foster dogs as they adjust to their new surroundings. Lavender is one of the few essential oils that do not have to be diluted with carrier oil before application.

In addition to the therapeutic use of essential oils and flower waters, there are other useful applications. Cedar, rosemary, mint, and lemongrass repel fleas. Rose and lavender are helpful during tick season. Lavender and lemon are antibacterial, anti-fungal, antiviral, and antibiotic so they are a good choice for cleaning food preparation surfaces. To kill germs in your bathroom, use tea tree and eucalyptus oil.

To achieve the full spectrum of benefits, only pure, high quality essential oils should be used and many are costly. According to Patricia Kaminski of Terra Flora Essential Oils it is only during a certain time in a plant's life cycle that it reaches a peak in its secretion of oil. Often a large amount of plant material must be collected to yield a small amount of essential oil. Some of the most expensive, such as rose oil, can require 2,000 pounds of rose petals to make less than one pound of pure oil. Plant oils are highly volatile and must be expertly distilled in order to capture their highest qualities. Steam distillation is the superior way for extracting most plant oils, and it is also the most expensive.

Although quality essential oils can be costly, they are highly concentrated so only 4-10 drops can be used to achieve results. And with proper care essential oils can last many years. In fact, excavations of ancient Egyptian tombs have uncovered aromatic blends that were still potent.

GRREAT member Jo Bighouse is the proprietor of Midas Touch Naturally Healthy Pets, LLC.. She is a member of the Organic Trade Association, Flower Essence Society, Animal Wellness Association, and Association of Pet Dog Trainers. 🐾

Notes to GRREAT

This is my beloved Cally. She crossed the rainbow bridge on July 24.

- Judy Daner



Writers Wanted

If you like to write or have an interesting idea for an article, the GRREAT newsletter is always looking for new contributors. Short stories, poems, book reviews, product or service reviews, recipes, questions and training tips are all needed. Contact Sandy Diamond at publications@grreat.org for submissions or if you have questions. 🐾

Sunshine's RV Adventures: Alaska

My name is Sunshine Moses (GRREAT 98-011) and I'm back with new and wonderful adventures. As you may remember from my previous adventure, I'm a full time RV'er. For those of you that don't remember what that means or have forgotten, a "full time RV'er" is, someone that lives full time in a recreation vehicle (RV) and travels from campground to campground trying to see everything there is to see.

The end of the last adventure had me living in a campground in warm and sunny Southern California, Santa Barbara to be exact. Well, Santa Barbara was not sunny and it was not warm when the winter season arrived. In fact it was cold and wet and if not for the animals, boring. According to my humans it was the worst winter California has had in the last 14 years. My master and lady would come in from work soaked to the skin. I have been forced to wear a large yellow rain slicker to try and stay dry. My humans thought the rain slicker was cute but I was embarrassed. All the other dogs laughed at me and called me spoiled. I would have gladly accepted the Virginia snow. Well almost!

My humans claimed they needed a vacation (I thought we were on permanent vacation) and decided to go to Monterey for a long weekend. I got to stay in a pet friendly hotel and was treated like a royal Golden. The place was on the beach and my master would let me loose to run in the sand, hard work if you've never tried it. I got to live in the lap of luxury on a special bed while they went walking and doing what humans do on vacation. Oh well, the four days

were up and back to the ranch and the rain.

It finally came time to leave the Ranch and I was ready. We spent seven months at the Ranch and if it hadn't been for the animals I would have gone crazy. Like I said in my first adventures, there were deer, ground squirrels, a mountain lion, some bobcats, and of course the horses. I discovered the over sized Golden, Rooster was not a dog but a Palomino horse. Ah, what the heck, Rooster liked to rub noses like a Golden.

We departed The Ranch on April 11, 05 bound for this place called Alaska. My human says the fishing (whatever that is) is great and we are going to have fun, fun, fun.



Of course like any other trip we start on, we have to have our bad times first and this was a good one. I have to relate what my humans were talking about since I don't understand any of it but my mistress was really upset. We arrived at the Freightliner dealer only to find the drive shaft de-coupler would not de-couple the drive shaft on our tow vehicle, or something like that. The people at the Freightliner completed the factory recall, changed the oil and most importantly, fixed the de-coupler. Of course, I was trapped in the motor home all the time while they got to go walking and seeing the sights. This is the life of a dog.

We spent the first night at a National Guard base named Camp Roberts. The grass was really high and most times I couldn't see where I was going. My mistress said I looked like Snoopy doing his famous crawl through the woods looking like the mighty hunter.

We arrived at a place named Morgan Hill and have had a terrific visit with someone named Joe and Li. My Master claims Joe is his best friend (I thought I was) and how they had been in a war together. They were really great and I enjoyed the stay there.

They put their cats outside so I could be inside; this tells you, "Goldens Rule."

We took a long weekend and went to San Francisco for a sight seeing trip. We arrived at the Marine Memorial Club hotel at 1200 noon just in time for check-in. However, the lady at the hotel gave my humans an incorrect check-in time and we had to wait in the park until 3:00 PM. We finally got to the room and I got some rest. Some trip! The humans went to see things and I was stuck on the 5th floor of the hotel. I discovered on this trip that I'm not a city dog. We had to walk

three blocks so I could take care of business and you know how many times a day a dog has to take care of business. I did meet some city dogs but just could not get used the concrete, didn't appreciate the traffic, noise, and the three block walks to use the potty. Back home to grass and get ready to travel.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE MAY/JUNE ISSUE OF GRREAT NEWS

By Sunshine Moses

Edited by Karen and Terry Moses

All are full time RV'ers temporarily living near

Santa Barbara, CA

and heading for Virginia next year.



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.

Calling All Canine Models

Is your Golden a ham in front of the camera? Is he the most photogenic dog around? Then why not enter the GRREAT Calendar Contest?

Entries are now being accepted for the 2007 GRREAT Calendar. The calendar is sold through GRREAT and given to shelters and veterinarians within our coverage area. We encourage everyone to send in the best pictures of their Golden canine companions. Thirteen photos will be selected, one for the cover and one for each month of the year. A committee of GRREAT members will judge submissions using the following criteria:

- Overall composition (balance, centering, color and contrast between the dog and its surroundings)
- Quality of background
- Sharpness and clarity
- General appearance (muddy, wet or snow-covered dogs are encouraged to enter; no glowing eyes)
- Seasonal shots (no costumes, please)
- Variety (we want to see them all!)

2007 CALENDAR CONTEST RULES

1. The deadline for submission is May 31st, 2006, and judging will occur in early June.

2. Only GRREAT dogs are eligible. Dogs featured in the 2006 calendar (other than honorable mentions) are not eligible this year, but other GRREAT dogs in the family are.

3. All entries must be horizontal due to the design of the calendar. Vertical pictures will not be considered.

4. Color film photos or digital photos taken at a high resolution (300 dpi at 9x12 or 3 mega pixel camera or higher) may be submitted. No black and white or Polaroid pictures will be accepted. Please do not send CD's or DVD's.

5. Other pets may be in the pictures, but no humans, please.

6. We reserve the right to use any images and/or stories you send us in future issues of the GRREAT newsletter. Sorry, but photos cannot be returned.

Send the photo(s) of your GRREAT dog along with his GRREAT ID number, age and a brief description of his past or present life, along with the name, address and phone number of the person submitting the entry to: Sandy Diamond, GRREAT Calendar Contest, PO Box 5162, Herndon, VA 20172.

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

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Golden Retriever Rescue
Education and Training, Inc.
