



GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc. • May/June 2006 • Vol. 17, No. 3

IN THIS ISSUE:

Letter from the President	3
Ask Goldie	4
Adoption Report	5
Adoption Day Directions	5
Natural Solutions	6
A Breed Apart	7
Donations	8-10
Thank You to the Home Visit Volunteer Team	11
Annual Bark-B-Que Details	12
Calendar Contest Information	12
The Truth About (Rescued) Cats & Dogs	13
Faux Paws	14
INOVA Fairfax Hospital's Assisted Care Program & Delta Society's Pet Partners	15
Pick of the Litter	16
Foster Corner	17
GRREAT Survey	18
Letters to GRREAT	18
My Dog Kelly	18
Donation, Renewal, and Volunteer Forms	19
GRREAT Store Featured Items	20

Jane and Champ

By Jane Carter

My dear friend introduced me to GRREAT in the fall of 2004. Of course I'd known for a long time that she had her red golden, Missy, who was a sweet, loving companion. Joyce encouraged me to consider adopting a golden for myself, and while I was weak from chemotherapy and had little motivation to return to the world of the living as I had a terrible prognosis, something in me knew I had to do it. We went to an adoption day in early November, and Champ and I found each other across a crowded room. I got down on the floor with him, he placed his beloved platypus on my lap (still in his mouth, of course) and just stared at me with those beautiful golden eyes. There was no question. I was a goner.

We went through the rest of the adoption process in seemingly no time at all, and before I knew it, I was the proud parent of a 5 year old male golden. He seemed to know intuitively that he had special duties he was expected to do, and he did them. We did the obedience training in December, and I was so pleased that someone had cared enough about him to do basic obedience training in the past, making this just a refresher course, an opportunity to learn to bond with a new person.

Champ became my rehabilitation program. I had very little physical stamina and was painfully short of breath with minimal exertion. So we walked, short distances at first, often with me leaning on him to catch my breath. Within weeks of these at least twice daily walks, I felt stronger and, amazingly, became more interested in the physical world around me and began to even



hope that I might not be facing death as soon as I thought earlier. Spring came and I actually felt strong. I could walk in the woods up and down the hills and our walks became the best time of our day.

I went back to work in February 2005, much to my amazement. I felt so good that in July I

decided it was time to retire, to spend more time with my grandchildren, and to smell the roses. Champ and I had more new experiences....real swimming (in the Big River, not just the little creeks in the nearby woods), long car trips, lots of trips to the dog park, lots of lying on the grass considering the sky and the future. It was as close to heaven as I'd ever been!

But it was not meant to last. The cancer appeared in my brain in July, and since that time life has been a blur of radiation therapy, more chemotherapy,

Continued on Page 14

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

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

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Letter From The President

By Kim Wiff, GRREAT President

Dear Friends:

As you know, GRREAT Golden come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. While genetics does play an important role in every Golden's makeup, it isn't the sole determining factor for their temperament and character. Even when "starting from scratch" with a young puppy, what the owner puts in greatly affects what comes out in terms of their behavior and habits.

Our first GRREAT Golden, Wendy, is an example of this. When my husband and I adopted Wendy in 1999, she was just over a year old. She was given up because she was too energetic and rambunctious. Her family kept her crated most of the time. Wendy's original family had started from scratch when they got her as a puppy. So why wasn't she the perfect dog for them? Wendy wasn't perfect because they didn't make the commitment to her and provide the basic things she needed such as obedience training and exercise. Through no fault of her own, Wendy was a wild teenager with hardly any manners and some fears. She chewed whatever she could find, jumped on and licked everyone and everything incessantly, ran everywhere she went, counter-surfed, and harassed and chased the cat. Wendy was so unlike our first Golden, Tod, at that age, who we had started from scratch with, and who we thought

of as perfect. But we realized that Wendy's needs were different from Tod's. And, we were committed to Wendy and wanted her to be part of our home and lives. It took time, patience and effort, and today at eight years old, while some may view her as "not perfect," to us Wendy is.

I have often heard families say they found and adopted the perfect Golden from GRREAT! I love hearing that! It's always such a good feeling to be told that from the moment the dog came into their new home the adjustment was flawless. However, like it was for us with Wendy, there are times when that does not happen. While every effort is made by our foster homes to let the adoptive family know of possible issues and concerns, there are Golden's whose issues will take weeks or even months to resolve, and some may never be. Sometimes all that is needed is time; time to get to know the new dog, time to adjust to a new routine and time figure out what works best for everyone, including the dog, in the home.

While there are many who apply to adopt from GRREAT who do have a realistic view of what it will take to achieve perfection for their new addition, others do not. Unfortunately, this may lead to the dog unfairly taking the blame for problems and frustrations that occur. I strongly believe it is up to US as adopters to pro-

vide our new companion with every opportunity to blossom and adjust to us, our home and lives. As difficult as it may be, this means not comparing the new dog with another pet, with our neighbor's Golden, or with our vision of how we think the newly adopted dog should act and behave.

I would like to ask that we all take a moment to remember that rescue is not the place to get a ready-made, fully-trained, full-bred Golden Retriever. It is also not a dumping ground for rejected and misfit Golden's either. I feel rescue lies somewhere in the middle of the two. Rescue IS a place to find the newest addition to our homes...but ONLY if you have the time, heart, and patience to make a commitment in making a difference for a Golden. I hope you will remember that sometimes the perfect dog can be found and is ready to join your home with very little effort. And at other times it requires your looking past that shy or goofy, wild, untrained Golden, with the long legs and little ears, and envisioning the perfect dog they can become with your devotion, love and effort. Those of you who have done this know that there is no greater reward than having a well adjusted, loving, devoted companion – which sees YOU as the perfect owner! 🐾

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 love fostering Golden Retrievers for GRREAT, but I'm starting to feel that I don't want to foster any male dogs. A lot of them decide to use the inside of my house for target practice – in other words, they lift their legs and pee – as soon as they come in the door. Why do they do that? And is there anything I can do about it?

**Signed,
Sexist Foster Mom in Virginia**

Dear Mom:

Under the circumstances, no one could blame you for engaging in a little sex discrimination. Opening your home to a needy Golden only to have that Golden pee on it is, to put it mildly, upsetting. And while males dogs are by far the biggest offenders when it comes to this behavior, females occasionally engage in leg-lifting, too.

If leg-lifting were strictly a housetraining problem, solving it would be relatively easy. But that's not the case. The Golden who lifts his leg to anoint a surface probably doesn't have bathroom issues. Instead, he probably has turf issues. Many male dogs lift their legs and anoint a surface to indicate to other dogs that the area that they've anointed belongs to them (and only them, baby). It's instinctive behavior that's hardwired into the male canine psyche – and, as such, can be difficult to resolve. However, difficult does not mean impossible. Here's what you can do.

Give him the snip. Intact male dogs are much more likely to engage in leg lifting than neutered ones. Therefore, neutering your male fosters, as per GRREAT policy, will greatly reduce the likelihood that they will engage in such behavior.

Give him a new leash on life. For at least the first few days that you foster a male dog, keep him on leash and

with you whenever he's not in his crate. A leashed dog is much less likely to indulge in marking than one who's got the freedom to wander throughout the house. And if your foster defies the odds and starts to do the wrong thing, implementing the next step is a lot easier if he's already on leash.

Catch him in the act. Watch your male foster carefully. If you see him start to sniff an area intensely or move a hind leg off the floor, startle him by yelling, "Max (or whatever the dog's name is), NO!" Clapping your hands is another good distraction. Either way, get him outside to a designated bathroom spot pronto. After he anoints that area, praise him for going where he's supposed to go. In fact, make sure you praise him – perhaps even give him a small tasty treat -- whenever he pees in the right place.

Create a blockade. Many dogs engage in marksmanship on only one area. If that's the case with a dog you're fostering, block off that area so that the dog cannot possibly anoint it.

Clean up completely. If, despite your best efforts, your fostered Golden anoints an unauthorized area, make sure you clean up the wet spot thoroughly. Use an enzymatic cleaner such as Nature's Miracle or Petastic, both of which are designed specifically to not only remove stains but also odors. Removing the odor is crucial, because if your Golden gets a whiff of any previous anointing of a forbidden area, he won't care that the area is forbidden. The odor is an irresistible come-hither that will prompt him to repeat his crime.

Know when to get help. Sometimes, even the measures outlined above don't break a Golden boy of a bad marking habit. If, after a month or so, your fostered Golden is still engaging in pee-pee target practice, see your veterinarian. He may be able to help you solve the problem.

****GRREAT would like to extend a best wishes and a big thank you to Susan. Due to time commitments for her next book (Beagles for Dummies), this will be Susan's last Ask Goldie column. 🐾*

ADOPTION REPORT

Between February 23 and April 12, 42 dogs found their forever homes. Of these dogs, 26 were male and 18 were female. Of these, 13 were puppies (under age 2) 16 were between the ages of 2 and 6, and 13 were seniors (age 7 and above). Two families opened their hearts and homes to 12 year olds! Congratulations to all!

Name	#	Age	Sex
Aspen	05-194	8	M
Aspen	06-032	9mo	M
Bailey	05-226	10mo	F
Bailey	05-238	2	M
Brandi	06-001	1	F
Brecon	06-023	6	F
Buddy	06-014	8	M
Buddy	99-214	8	M
Champ	04-169	6	M

Name	#	Age	Sex	Name	#	Age	Sex
Cobi	06-028	4	M	Max	05-182	12	M
Daisy	05-227	10mo	F	Mia	06-037	3	F
Denver	05-262	11	M	Neena	06-010	6mo	F
Emma	06-034	1	F	Princess/Missy	06-035	10	F
Frisco	05-252	7	M	Randy	06-033	3	M
Gillie	06-017	7	F	Riley	05-229	1	M
Haley B	06-025	5	F	Sidney	05-240	2	M
Hayley	06-011	1	F	Smitty	06-005	6	M
Holly	05-256	8mo	F	Sonny	05-143	12	M
Jackson	06-019	1	M	Spike	06-013	2	M
Jaigo	06-024	6	F	Teddy	06-007	10mo	M
Jake	05-144	9	M	Tess	05-218	7mo	F
Jake	05-245	7	M	Toby	05-197	7	M
Jenni	06-004	8	F	Trigger	05-250	1	M
Karen	05-236	6	F	Zeus	05-214	4	M
KC	05-260	5	M				
Lenny	05-259	4	M				
Luke	06-020	3	M				

ADOPTION DAY DIRECTIONS

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.

Saturday, June 3, 2006

Noon - 2pm

Just Fur Pets
6230 Rolling Road
Springfield, VA
703-455-3333

Take I-495 (Capitol Beltway) to VA-620 W / Braddock Road West exit- Exit 54A. Turn Left onto VA-638 South/Rolling Road. Make a U-Turn at Traford Lane onto VA-638 North/ Rolling Road.

Saturday, July 8, 2006

Noon - 2pm

Petco
2319-D Forest Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-224-8323

Take I-495 (Capitol Beltway) to VA-620 W / Braddock Road West exit- Exit 54A. Turn Left onto VA-638 South/Rolling Road. Make a U-Turn at Traford Lane onto VA-638 North/ Rolling Road.

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.

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

Natural Solutions

By Jo Bighouse

Many household cleaners contain potentially hazardous chemicals and allergens that can be problematic for you and your pets. There are natural cleaning products that you can make at home for a safer environment. Try some of these recipes from Clean, Naturally by Sandy Maine for effective and aromatic cleaning:

EUCALYPTUS, LAVENDER, AND TEA TREE SPRAY FOR GENERAL CLEANING

This spray cleaner will disinfect surfaces, wipe out mold, and discourage its return. Eucalyptus, lavender, and tea tree are all known for their antimicrobial properties.

Ingredients

1 teaspoon sodium lauryl sulfoacetate
1 teaspoon borax
2 tablespoons white vinegar
2 cups hot water
¼ teaspoon eucalyptus essential oil
¼ teaspoon lavender essential oil
3 drops tea tree essential oil

Mix all ingredients together and stir until dry ingredients dissolve. Pour into spray bottle. To use, spray as needed on any surface except glass. Scrub and rinse with a clean, damp cloth.

LEMON-MINT WINDOW WASH

If you live where flies cause problems in the summer, this recipe can help. The lemon juice and peppermint oil in the formula will discourage the flies from congregating on your window.

Ingredients

Juice from one fresh lemon
2 cups water or club soda
½ teaspoon peppermint essential oil
1 teaspoon cornstarch

Mix all of these ingredients and pour into a plastic spray bottle. Shake well before each use. For the shiniest win-

dows, use sheets of black and white newspaper for cleaning.

LAVENDER-GINGER SUDS UPHOLSTERY CLEANER AND RUG SHAMPOO

This is a high-suds cleaner. It's actually the suds plus scrubbing that lift the dirt and smells. The lavender and ginger essential oils help if animal smells are a problem. Test the fabric for color fastness first. Do not soak the fabric, only the suds are needed for cleaning.

Ingredients

4 cups water
1 cup white vinegar
3 tablespoons sodium lauryl sulfate
2 teaspoons baking soda
1/8 teaspoon lavender essential oil
1/8 teaspoon ginger essential oil

CARNAUBA AND LAVENDER FURNITURE WAX

This paste wax cleans, conditions, and polishes wood surfaces while providing a protective coat of wax. Fine carnauba wax is derived from the leaves of the palm tree *Copernicia cerifera*. This formula is lightly scented with lavender essential oil, which enhances its cleaning power. Use a circular motion to rub it onto wooden floors and antique furniture, buff with sheep's wool and a soft cotton cloth.

Ingredients

¼ cup carnauba wax
2 tablespoons beeswax
1 ¼ cup olive oil
1 teaspoon lavender essential oil

Melt waxes over low heat in small saucepan. Stir in olive oil, then lavender oil. Pour mixture into a container of tin, plastic, or glass and allow to harden.

EUCALYPTUS-MINT ALL-PURPOSE DISINFECTING SOFT SOAP FOR KITCHEN AND BATH

This soap can be used for washing dishes, floors, appliances, sinks, and hands. It is mild to the skin but effective enough to get cleaning jobs done. The eucalyptus and mint provide disinfecting quality as well as a fresh scent. Any areas washed with this soap will be undesirable to crawling insects and flies.

Ingredients

5 cups grated castile soap
½ cup baking soda
1 teaspoon borax
6 cups hot peppermint tea
1 teaspoon eucalyptus essential oil

Put grated soap into a 3-quart stainless steel saucepan and add hot mint tea. Simmer for 15 minutes on low heat. Add baking soda, borax and eucalyptus oil. Store in a labeled plastic jug or squirt bottle. Shake before using.

If you would like to use a natural cleaner but do not want to make your own there are some good products on the market such as Dr. Bronner's Sal Suds and Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps. Sal Suds is an all-purpose cleaner that I use for everything from washing dishes to washing floors. Magic Soaps are pure castile soap made with organic oils that can be used for general cleaning, laundry, bathing, and as a pet shampoo.

In the next GRREAT Newsletter I will share some recipes for homemade insect repellents, hot spot relief, and a pet ear cleaner.

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. 🐾

A Breed Apart: Spotlight on a GRREAT Volunteer Merchandise Coordinator, Jo Bighouse

By Emily Pasterick, Contributing Writer

The year 1998 marked the end of a life, and a rebirth of another.

For Jo Bighouse, this meant saying goodbye to a beloved friend, and channeling that farewell to revisit a long-held passion in a different light.

Jo's life has never been want for constant animal companionship, from rescued stray animals in her childhood, to her current brood of seven (7!) Golden Retrievers. In between, Jo participated in the conformation showing of Golden Retrievers in the 1970's, and was actively involved in the research and education of proper breeding practices. This interest found an educational outlet as Jo offered her assistance in identifying reputable Golden Retriever breeders through paid classified ads in Dog Fancy magazine. In the 1990's, Jo continued to maximize the potential of the Golden Retriever by donating Golden puppies to Paws With A Cause to become service assistant dogs for the disabled. Then, a pivotal event in 1998, at once devastating and enlightening, brought Jo and GRREAT together:

While playing her favorite tennis ball game, Missy, Jo's 5-year-old Golden, started limping. A trip to the animal hospital revealed the worst: bone cancer in one of her back legs, with a life expectancy of just 3-4 more months. This devastating diagnosis propelled Jo into a tireless pursuit of information about treatment alternatives that could possibly extend Missy's life. She bought books and consulted with holistic veterinarians, herbalists, acupuncturists, and chiropractors, through which she learned about holistic nutrition, massage, and the natural healing powers of flower essences and essential oils. She also conducted searches online, and came across a certain website – www.grreat.org – which

introduced her to GRREAT's world of Golden rescue. Missy lived just another 10 months (about 6 more than predicted), but through her brave and inspired life, Missy had prepared Jo to share her tremendous amount of knowledge. Word had spread about her passion and diligence in amassing information to help Missy; after Missy's death, Jo began receiving phone calls and emails from people looking for advice for their own dog or cat suffering from cancer.

Missy's legacy lives on...

Midas Touch Naturally Healthy Pets, LLC began in 1999 in memory of Missy, existing as both a physical and online store, both of which offer GRREAT a forum to sell its own products at no cost to GRREAT. Jo's merchandise leverages her interest in holistic remedies [check out www.midastouchpets.com, or link to it from



www.grreat.org] to promote animal wellness. In addition to serving as GRREAT's Merchandise Coordinator, Jo has also fostered puppy litters, organized puppy socialization appointments ("puppy play dates" for which GRREAT volunteers were overwhelmingly responsive!), set up GRREAT education tables at pet exposition events, and served as a GRREAT Board member for a period of time. She still provides free consultations and answers questions through her natural pet article in the Clarke Times Courier. Several years ago, Jo also was able to host education seminars featuring presentations by holistic veterinarians (such as Dr. Christina Chambreau and Dr. Carol Lundquist). Jo hopes that GRREAT will continue to find ways to tap into volunteer resources and to promote its very valuable rescue services and education initiatives to a greater population, perhaps using in-house marketing and "PR" skills to accomplish this.

Jo has a gentle and amiable way about her, one that, at first, might seem to belie her extraordinary passion and energy for accumulating and sharing her knowledge of Golden Retriever breed integrity and wellness. Ultimately, it is this combination of benevolence, resourcefulness, and extensive and accomplished history as a "local leader" in the field of Golden Retriever wellbeing with an emphasis on holistic applications, which allow Jo to make outstanding and effective contributions to GRREAT. GRREAT is so proud to spotlight Jo Bighouse as "a breed apart!" 🐾

DONATIONS

Thank you for your donations...

*Christine Alvarez
Kate and Art Chutuape
John and Pat Gird
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Hud and Martie Heaton
Joanne Heininger
Sue and Charles Henkin
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Dawson

Lockheed Martin 2006 Charities of
Choice Campaign

T. Rowe Price Associates Foundation
- Allison Ward

Simile-Finale Fund

In memory on Rodan Wasmucky.
Katherine Johnson

In loving memory of Rodan Wasmucky.
Janet Kocen

In loving memory of Rusty Husted.
A big dog with a huge heart!! Melissa
Trafton

In Memory Of...

Soveig, Kari, Brad and Apollo. Jane
Brooks

Kiowa's Son of a Preacherman,
CD, JH, WCX, TD, CGC (Teddy)
and in honor of Sharon and Nick
DeCesare. Martha Cole Glenn

Sara (Beth) was the perfect Golden
Lady, and even though we were
privileged to have her with us only
since July 2005 (she died March
8 of congestive heart failure), she
endeared herself to us immedi-
ately. It is impossible to tell you
how very much we loved her. We
want to thank Becki Pendell, Sara's
Foster Mom, for the love and
dedication. She loved Sara and
followed up with us often. We
adopt older Goldens, knowing
funerals come more frequently but
the rewards more than compensate
for the periodic heartbreak. Older
Goldens are fabulously sweet and
loving, and it is a blessing to be
able to share our home with them.
Thomas and Lily Grace Hudson

Janet Mencher. Jane Kunze

Our Golden Callie. From Jane
Martin, Helen Malone, Mia, Hattie
and Holly 05-256.

Traveler, who's loving and joyful
journey through our lives was far
too brief. Sharon McIlrath

Skipper- much loved Golden of
Sue, John, & Chris. We all miss you.
Love Margaret & Kathy & Niki

Farah-Our Golden Girl we miss so
much. Susan and Michael Sanders.

To celebrate the life of Hannah,
(02-134), who passed away March
10, 2006. HANNAH was our first
GRREAT foster. She personi-
fied the breed. She had a shy but
playful disposition and a sweet,
gentle, and loving personality. Her
soulful brown eyes, set in a snowy
white face, never betrayed her
pain. When HANNAH arrived at
GRREAT, at age 10 to 12, frail and
seriously ill, the veterinarians said
she had "a few weeks" to live and
that we should take her home and
make her final days comfortable.
Against all odds, and thanks to the
loving care she received from her
adoptive mom, Louise Davidson,
she enriched the lives and capti-
vated the hearts of all who met
her over the next 3 ½ years!
HANNAH was a terrific ambas-
sador for GRREAT. We last saw
her at the February adoption day.
Oscar Wilde once observed that
memory was the diary that we all
carried about with us. Thanks to
this precious diary, HANNAH will
always be in our hearts. "God gave
us memory so that we might have
roses in December." Harry Sethna
and Sarah Navia

Bailey "Mr. Big" Osborne, who
was taken from his family way too
soon. We'll miss his spirit. Dave
and Bethany Weinstein

Beloved mother. Love, Barbara,
Fred, Michelle, Ben and Jonah
Williams

DONATIONS

In Honor Of...

Dusty. Jonathan Gordon

Quentin (03-186) and Samantha (05-196) and In memory of our goldens Sweet Pea, Sadie, Sheela (97-058) and Jamie (01-104). Bonnie and Vernon Hill

Buddy 05-113. James Krist

Joy Scrimshire, without whom we would not have found our treasured Kody. Thank you for taking such good care of him when he needed it the most. Beth Snyder

Emily's (05-099) 7th birthday on 2-17-06. Susan Swift

Amber. Sheila and Al Vertino

To Thank

This donation to your golden retriever rescue organization is in appreciation for all the work Robin Dempsey did to help us find our lost golden, Riley. She was wonderful! Now we have our pup back home and couldn't be happier. Keep up the good work! Jonathan and Joanna Baker

This donation is made with a full heart to Jane Salter for all the kind work she is doing. Thanks to Jane, our current GRREAT golden, Buhd (formerly known as Buster Brown!), has filled our hearts where there were empty spaces from goldens who had gone before. We think of, and thank Jane every day for the transformational Foster Parent love and caring she gave Buhd so he could be our Forever Golden now. Thank you from Jane, Steve, Buhd, Emma, Lydia, Hima, and Sheba. Stephen and Darlene Hines

For Special Reasons

This is the donation I talked with Emily Pasterick. Even if Bucky doesn't go to you I want to at least express my thanks in this small way. Kelsy Austin

For your help with Bucky, who is staying with his family after all. Frederick Beckner

I want to reimburse GRREAT for the evaluation that was done by AAD, for Angel (06-031). Mary Collings

We'd like to make donation to GRREAT for older Goldens who need medical treatment. Joseph and Virginia Fry

For Chance's surgery (06-038). Steven Kane

Please use as you see fit. Thank you for all you do. Mark Ketterman

On behalf of Kathi Stanhope, with thanks for helping our Girl Scout, Kellie. Daniel and Susan Pereless

Any dog in foster care for a long time, whose foster families need a break to help with care--such as Annie or Buster! On 2/12 I donated in honor of my golden who died last year- it would have been her 12th birthday. It seemed hopeless--like that hole would never be filled. Late that very same night I saw a dog on the website and now just several weeks later she is ours! She is a gift! She's not a replacement--she is her own wonderful personality. We still miss Penny every day, but we are madly in love with Hayley!

This donation is to thank God for bringing Hayley to us; to thank GRREAT for all you do; and to thank Glen, Dee, Kyra, Essence and KC for all the love they gave her in foster care! We are monumentally appreciative! Cameron and Tom Phillips

Peaches' food. Jessie Robinson

I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for our 8th anniversary with Molson. Thanks for all you do. Doreen and Brad Wright

Leo's Corner

GOLDEN ANGELS (\$500 AND MORE)

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

Harry Sethna and Sarah Navia. Here's a small contribution for the Leo Fund, in the spirit of the season, and as a tribute to the 2005 graduates of Miss Bronte's Finishing School for Foster Goldens. The Class of '05 was led by DAISY, (05-010), an intelligent and athletic little pup with a bubbly, vivacious, and fun-loving personality. Daisy's forever family includes two human siblings that simply adore her, and one of her chores is to safely escort them to the school bus every morning. COMET, (05-049), soon followed by Daisy. He was an outdoorsman, never happier than when allowed to run in a field or dog park. Fortunately, Comet's new back yard comprises about

DONATIONS

News from Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club

Leo's Corner

20 acres of woods and farmland in Pennsylvania, where he enjoys exploring the woods and watching the wildlife from the back porch. Then came NORRA, (05-094). At age 7, she was a senior Golden in chronological years, but in reality was the eternal puppy - quickly bored and requiring constant attention. Blonde, petit and a terrific kisser, she made friends quickly. And finally there was young HANDY, (05-131), a 2 year old, who would have you believe he was a rebellious, restless, and anti-social, hoodlum always ready to pick a fight. Nothing could be further from the truth. Unlike the typical Golden, Handy was wary of lavishing his affections on strangers because of abuse in his past. Once he got to know you, he was sweet, gentle and affectionate. There you have it, ladies and gentlemen, the Class of '05. You can meet Daisy, Comet, Norra, and Handy on their web site: <http://home.teleport.com/~goldens>. Here's wishing all at GRREAT a golden New Year. Miss Bronte, CGC, 02-198 GRREAT Calendar Girl - Miss November 2006.



GOLDEN HEROES (\$100 - \$499)

Janet Kocen. In loving memory of Rodan Wasmucky.

LEO'S PALS (UP TO \$99)

Sharon and Bill Coale. Please use any extra money toward the LEO FUND or wherever you need it most! Thanks so much for all you do!

Jeff and Cherrie Grundel. Unfortunately my husband Jeff and I find ourselves writing to you because of the devastating loss that our dear friends Tom and Cathy Anton experienced on February 13, 2006. Obie left behind his loving Golden companion Sadie and his incredibly loving humans, Tom and Cathy. Jeff and I would like to make a donation to the LEO FUND in loving memory of Obie Anton.

L. Sidney Morris. In memory of Amazing Grace (96-125) my sweet old "Gracie Girl" who was my first alpha bitch that taught me new lessons in life and the golden love of rescue.

Patricia Osment
Robert and Manizhe Payton
Daniel and Susan Pereless
Leslie Thornton

My name is Elizabeth Vanasse. This is a picture of me, my brother, my sister and our adopted dog Bailey. For my 8th birthday I decided to collect money for GRREAT instead of getting presents. My friends all love animals too, and I collected \$250. Please use this money to help other dogs like Bailey who need families. Bailey is my best friend and I love her a lot. Love, Elizabeth

By *Martha Cole Glenn*

Following quickly on the heels of a very successful March Awards Banquet and Silent Auction to benefit GRREAT, PVGRC is emerging from the "winter doldrums" and beginning our performance events.

On April 15 the club held its annual Specialty Show, Obedience and Rally Obedience Trial at Howard County Fairgrounds. The next day a field event (Working Certificate and Working Certificate Excellent tests as well as Puppy Stakes) was held at the home of Sue and Rodger Armstrong in Monrovia.

Field events and agility trials are now in the forefront as we move through the spring, summer and fall months. Field training days are scheduled for May 27, August 5, October 7 and December 2. These events are headed up by George Fiebelkorn and the only requirement for attendance is that your dog be able to retrieve a bumper. Members and non-members are welcome. There is a small fee. Please go to our website (www.pvgrc.org) for details and to sign up. If you want to learn what field competition is all about and have a Golden that likes to retrieve, you might want to join the club and sign up for the Field Classes offered beginning in late June. And, on June 3-4 the club has asked professional trainer Pat Nolan to conduct a Field Training Seminar. Open to both members and non-members, this weekend seminar will demonstrate "what it is all about"!

If you are interested in Agility – either to compete or watch, you may be interested in the two club-sponsored Agility Trials (June 24-25 and August 12-13).

Once again, more information can always be found on our website, or you can contact me at (703) 532-9447 or mc1glenn@aol.com for details.

Come Join Us!

A Special Thanks to Our Home Visit Volunteering Team

By Stephanie Nelson, Volunteer Coordinator

This “Thank You” is long overdue and since GRREAT is an all volunteer/non profit organization there isn’t a way we can pay you monetarily for all the time and efforts. We wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that all of your hard work is truly appreciated and you have helped greatly in the process to find our Golden Buddies their new “forever homes”, along with educating people about GRREAT and Golden Retrievers.

GRREAT’s Home Visit Volunteer Team selflessly gives up countless hours of their time to make GRREAT’s application process one of the best in the animal rescue community. The team is broken down into 4 processes, the Adoption Application Coordinators, Home Visit Coordinators, Home Visit Volunteers and the Adoption Coordinator.

About a year and a half ago the Application Coordination (AppC) position was split up into two geographical areas, MD/DE/PA and VA/WVA/DE. This is where the application process starts. In brief the adoption applications are mailed to these coordinators. They review the applications and forward them to the next team who are the Home Visit Coordinators. The Home Visit Coordinators (HVC) further reviews the application and then finds the Home Visit Volunteers (HVV) to perform the Home Visit for the potential adopters. Once the Home Visit is completed the HVV sends their report back to the HVC and the AppC. The AppC then reviews the home visit reports and forwards the adoption application and the home visit report to Jessie Robinson, the Adoption Coordinator. The Adoption Coordinator reviews both the adoption application and the home visit report and then she notifies the applicant on the status of their application.

This is a very involved process and it takes many volunteers as you can see

to get this very important job done. I’d like to start off by giving a huge “Thank You” to Lisa Hecker, who is the Adoption Application Coordinator for MD/DE/PA. Lisa took on the position in the spring of 2004. Lisa has spent countless hours processing these applications while working her full time job, taking care of her daughter Mollie and her own golden retrievers in addition to fostering several goldens last year. You might ask yourself where in the world does Lisa have time to do all of this, the answer is I don’t know.....but we are very thankful for all that Lisa does for GRREAT! Thank You Lisa!

Then GRREAT has a very special couple, Peter & Kelly Schauer, who are the Adoption Application Coordinators for VA/WVA/DE. Peter and Kelly have also spent countless hours processing these applications and they took on this job around the same time as Lisa did in the spring of 2004. Peter and Kelly did this while they were pregnant and continued doing so after their baby boy was born. Peter & Kelly took a break for a few months and Lisa filled in and did all of the applications. Peter and Kelly have also fostered dogs for GRREAT and helped out in many other ways as well. Again, you may ask yourself when did they have time to do this and again the answer is I don’t know.....but we are very appreciative of all of their time and efforts they have given to GRREAT! “Thank You” Peter & Kelly for all that you do for GRREAT!

Now onto the next set of volunteers who coordinate the home visits. Just like the AppC team, the Home Visit Coordinators are split up into two areas. GRREAT’s Home Visit Coordinator for VA/WVA/DC is Diane Lanigan. Diane has been doing this job for many years. You may have seen the article about her last summer in the “A Breed Apart” column in the newsletter. Diane has been involved in GRREAT for over 13 years

and has volunteered in many different ways. “Diane has a special talent for fostering – and even adopting – our senior and medical issue dogs that otherwise may never have had a home.” Thank you Diane for all that you do for our golden buddies and our senior goldens, most especially!

Our newest volunteer to the Home Visit Team is Roberta Dorn. Roberta is the Home Visit Coordinator for MD/DE/PA. Roberta starting performing this role back in January 2005. Roberta jumped right in and took over for the previous Home Visit Volunteer. Although Roberta is the newest volunteer on this team, she has been involved in GRREAT for quite a few years volunteering her time at events and fostering for GRREAT. Roberta has volunteered at many adoption day events and her specialty is writing up the dogs on the sign board for the potential adopters to see. GRREAT really appreciates all that Roberta does for our rescue, Thank you Roberta!

Then we have our Home Visit Volunteers. GRREAT has been lucky and fortunate that we have as many volunteers as we have to do home visits for potential applicants. Besides the report that the HVV’s submit after their visit to the applicant’s home, they also educate applicants on the care of a golden, quality dog food and how the adoption process works. The list of HVV’s will appear in the next issue of *GRREAT News* and GRREAT wants to send a huge “Thank You” to all of our Home Visit Volunteers! GRREAT is always looking for new Home Visit Volunteers in different geographical areas in the states that GRREAT serves.

Continued on Page 17

Come to the GRREAT Annual Bark-B-Que

Join us on Sunday, June 4 for our annual Bark-B-Que at Quiet Water Park in Annapolis, MD.

Quiet Waters offers an off-leash, fenced park for the dogs to play and an off-leash dog beach for swimming. Quiet Waters also has more than 6 miles of trails for spectacular walking/hiking.

Food and beverages will be provided. Activities for both two- and four-legged guests will be available. This is a wonderful way to start the 2006 Summer season with friends from GRREAT, with food, games, merchandise, prizes and lots of fun for all.

In addition to the 50/50 drawing, we will hold a raffle for gift baskets and other donated items. If you can donate items for the raffle, please contact Betsy Bake, Event Coordinator, eabbake@aol.com or 410-531-5651.

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

VOLUNTEER: To volunteer (set-up, clean-up, game coordinator, merchandise, Check in) contact Stephanie Nelson, GRREAT Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@grreat.org.

Directions: From US-50 East, take exit 22 (Rt 665) or Aris T. Allen Blvd. Stay on Rt 665 until it ends and merges with Forest Dr. Follow Forest Drive for 2 miles. Turn right at the Exxon Station onto Hillsmere Dr (you'll see a "Quiet Waters Park—Next Right" sign). The park entrance is 100 yards on the right hand side. Parking is included, just tell the gatekeeper you're with GRREAT.

BARK-B-QUE DETAILS

DATE: Sunday, June 4
TIME: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (park open until dusk)
PLACE: Quiet Waters Park
Red Maple Pavilion
600 Quiet Waters Park Road
Annapolis, MD 21403
COST: \$10 per Person
\$20 per Family (2 adults + children)
RSVP: events@grreat.org or 703-620-6593
(box 5) Include your name, # of people and # of dogs attending

Calling All Canine Models

Is your Golden a ham in front of the camera? Is he/she 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 (however, no costumes, please)
- Variety (we want to see them all!)

2007 GRREAT 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 (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/her GRREAT ID number, age and a brief description of his/her 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

The Truth About (Rescued) Cats & Dogs

By Rachel Bagnulo

The few of you who know me, know me as the “cat lady.” I volunteer/foster for GRREAT but also spend a lot of my time volunteering/fostering with a cat rescue, Cat’s Cradle. I have seven cats of my own (inside only cats) and please sit down before I tell you....I’m a “cat person.”

I adopted Casey from GRREAT in 2003 – a ten year old who was in early kidney failure. She was with us almost two years and we battled the kidney failure with meds, diet, acupuncture and a lot of love. We lost the fight in November of this past year. She died at home, with the help of a vet that came to the house. I have never felt grief like I did when I lost Casey. When she died, I felt I had failed her. I felt so guilty for being a “cat person.” The death of Casey left us with such a void – no more toenails clicking across the floor – no more barking during the Dominos commercial. Something was missing. We needed another Golden.

I decided since I foster cats successfully and GRREAT needs foster homes maybe I should foster GRREAT goldens. I got approved and then received a very thick “Welcome to Fostering” packet. My “welcome to fostering packet” with Cat’s Cradle was a carrier full of kittens!

Jenni was my first foster and we adopted her –we were a foster failure! She was great with the cats and she helped complete our family. Jedi is my second GRREAT foster and he just arrived yesterday. He’s also doing great with the cats and Jenni.

Fostering dogs is different than fostering cats. First off, I isolate

my foster kittens in a guest room or in our finished basement. I set them up with their food, water, toys, litter pan, etc and they are perfectly content for me to go in several times a day and pet them, play with them, etc. The foster dogs feel the need to go wherever you go. It’s like having obscene phone callers behind you at all times with all the heavy breathing and panting.

Foster kittens and foster dogs share the fact that more water goes on the floor than in their mouths. The dogs

are just sloppy. The kittens think the water bowl is a toy. Either way, we go through copious amounts of paper towels.

The dogs are quite happy to “help” when one of the cats vomits. That retching sound is equivalent to rattling the treat bag - they will go running toward the sound of the incoming hairball. I rarely beat the dog; usually there is no sign of any cat vomit by the time I reach the spot with towels and Lysol in hand. Dogs will eat anything. I have a baby gate with a hole cut out for the cats blocking the laundry room so that the dogs cannot take “treats” out of the litter pans. Cats, on the other hand, are very picky about what they will eat. A well-meaning GRREAT volunteer suggested that I crush up my cat’s medicine and put it into her food. This would work with a dog, but not with a cat. Cats sniff their food before they eat it. They know when their food has been tampered with. So all you dog people enjoy wrapping the pill in cheese and feeding it to your eager Golden. Think of me when I’m losing both blood and the battle with my 6 lb cat that needs a pill.

Both the dogs and the cats shed – a lot. Most of our cats are orange and we joked that we have Golden so the fur blends in. Frankly, I’m surprised we haven’t coughed up any hairballs.

And lastly, and most importantly, both cats and dogs offer so much love. Regardless if I’m working with a foster cat or dog I know they are getting a second chance at life. I’ve had approximately 60 foster cats/kittens over the years and only two foster

dogs, so far. However, I will remember each ones face and name and what a difference they made in my life. It’s taken me a long time to realize that while I’m more cat savvy, there is no need to feel guilty about that. We can all love cats and dogs equally. Both have so much to offer and I challenge the “dog people” out there to take some time to get to know a cat. You won’t regret meeting the “other” species. I know I haven’t. 🐾



Continued from Page 1

an experimental vaccine, and assorted other drugs, all to no avail. I am in hospice care now and feel like it's the best place we can be. Champ continues to be my Velcro dog, but he does enjoy all the people who come to walk him, to visit and love on him. He gets anxious when something happens that's new or different (such as when I had to turn on the oxygen tank), but takes it all in stride and never fails to let me know he's close by.

There is a happy ending to this story, believe it or not. Remember Joyce and Missy? It seems the Universe has opened its arms to embrace us all at this time. Missy died of cancer several weeks ago leaving a huge hole in that family's heart. Joyce, whom I see often as a friend, has had the opportunity to lavish love on Champ (which he happily accepts and returns to her and her family). We have even arranged "play dates" with Champ going to her house for an afternoon to visit with the whole family. By all reports, he makes himself right at home and spreads himself around among all four family members.

I knew Champ belonged with the Parkin family, and it didn't take much to convince the Kurtz family of the wisdom of this special adoption. I feel so much at peace with knowing he will be with me until I die, and then will go to his other home where he can grieve with others who have loved me.

Opening your heart to love of any sort can enrich your life, but opening it to the unconditional love of a noble, loyal, devoted dog brings joy beyond expression. Loving Champ has truly been one of the pearls of having cancer. I am so grateful to have known and loved this beautiful beast.

Sadly, Jane lost her fight with cancer on March 30, 2006. Champ is now with his new forever home, the Parkins. 🐾

Faux Paws

Has your dog ever embarrassed you? Done something outlandish? Made you roll with laughter? Here are some of those moments from GRREAT members.

One of my pups' adventures took place while I was folding the laundry and got sidetracked by a phone call. When I returned from the phone call, Oscar and Brady had knocked over the hamper and pulled out all the dirty clothes. Oscar was sitting in the hamper and Brady was lounging amidst the clothes. It was such a funny sight, I couldn't be mad at them. It seems they really just wanted to help! - *Allison Ward*



Oscar (left) and Brady (right) with the laundry.

Reno is 4 years old and has unfortunately, spent a lot of time at the vet's for various health problems. As a result, going to the vet is nerve-racking experience for both of us! While sitting in the waiting room, he whines, he does what I call a "bucking bronco routine", he yelps, and he practically pulls my arm out of it's socket. Gentle leader, harness, hidden treats in my pocket, nothing works to calm him down. I often find myself playing the "sympathy card" when people look at us and I'm certain they're thinking "that woman has no control over that dog at all" by explaining that he's had a lot of health problems, he's spent a lot of time at vet and he knows nothing good can come of being here. Their sneers quickly turn to sympathy and words like "awww,

that poor guy". One time when we were in the waiting room at Christmas time, I was admiring all the cards the animal hospital had received from clients that were strung around the waiting room on garland that also had small biscuits and ornaments attractively intertwined with the cards. Before I knew what was happening, Reno had jumped up and grabbed one of the biscuits and pulled the entire garland down, the ornaments and cards went everywhere, and the waiting room turned into a frenzy with all the dogs jumping and grabbing at the cards, biscuits, and garland.

Another time at the vet while I was paying the bill and had my back to Reno (mistake!!), he was trying to pull a toy off one of the shelves behind us that's filled with over-the-counter meds, shampoos, brushes, and toys. Unfortunately, the toy was stuck and with one hard pull, the whole shelf came crashing down! Thankfully, he wasn't hurt and neither was I! Then there was the time he jumped up and put his front paws on the counter while I was paying the bill, because they always give him a biscuit. His paws started to slide across the counter and his paws completely cleared the counter off and pens, brochures, papers, a plant, and Reno went crashing to the ground! He did manage to get the biscuit! When they know we're coming in for an appointment, not only do they clear a path for Reno, they also get plenty of towels and a mop. Reno nervously pees and leaves a trail to the examining room, he pees when we're in the examining room, he pees on the scale, he pees on the vet, he pees on me, he pees everywhere. By the time we get home from a vet appointment, we're both exhausted!! - *Mary Collings*

Have an embarrassing or funny dog moment? Submit it in to be featured in a future issue of GRREAT News. Photos are encouraged! Send items to leighmegan@yahoo.com.

INOVA Fairfax Hospital's Animal Assisted Care Program & Delta Society's© Pet Partners *Integrity. Compassion. Healing.*

By Meg Ellacott, Contributing Writer

In the last issue of GRREAT News Bill Price wrote a super article on Golden Retrievers: The Gold Standard of Therapy Dogs. The information that follows pertains to a specific program for Animal Assisted Care. On March 18, Kelly, my 6-year old golden went in for the evaluation process to become part of the Animal Assisted Care Program at Fairfax Hospital. The test, unbeknownst to me, was tough and rigorous. Over the course of the day, 16 dogs were tested in all different situations to see how they reacted to 'stressful' situations that could happen within the confines of their hospital visits. And Kelly passed the test! Only 3 dogs out of 16 were accepted into the program. While I (wildly) love my Kelly-girl, I honestly didn't think she'd pass. But her love of people and sweet disposition shined through. As you can tell...I'm extremely proud and can't wait to get started in the program. We will have to complete one more workshop and fill out lots of forms. But the work will be well-worth the time and efforts spent in the rewards it gives back. Here's more information on the program:

You've heard of programs where pet owners take their dogs to visits patients or the elderly in hospitals. Well, Pet Partners takes this type of program to the next level. The Delta Society promotes animals helping people improve their health, independence and quality of life. Animal Assisted Care (AAC), a Delta Society partner, began at Fairfax Hospital in March 2001. It is the only one of its kind in the country and we have it right here in Northern Virginia. Its goal: "To utilize the human/animal bond in goal-directed interventions as an integral part of the treatment process."

Leslie Horton, Program Director at INOVA Fairfax Hospital, has her hands full...full of joy, an inspired vision and the rewarding knowledge that she and her team have seen over 1,550 adult and children patients and has conducted over 5,200 visits. AAC at Fairfax has helped patients of all ages recover from cancer, strokes, head trauma and many other injuries and illnesses. Imagine a patient trying to recover from a devastating stroke and the first time in a month she lifts her arm...is to pet your dog; or how rewarding the request when someone asks your pet to visit them to spread joy, warmth and to assist them in their recovery. That's the amazing power of an animal's ability to heal and bond with humans.

In March, I attended the orientation program for AAC with 20 other interested pet owners/potential handlers. My objective: To write this article for GRREAT and potentially enroll Kelly (my 6-year old GRREAT adoptee) in the program. This is not an easy program and requires real dedication from both you and your dog; there's an orientation, evaluation, filling out the myriad of forms and finally the hopeful acceptance by the Delta Society's and the Animal Assisted Care Program. Working animals and their handlers must be screened, trained and meet specific criteria. Once accepted, a credentialed therapist sets the therapeutic goals, guides the interaction between patient and animal, measures progress toward meeting therapy goals and evaluates the process. It is hoped that you and your dog (or cat) will volunteer several hours per month or even...per week. While not always easy to be accepted into the program, the joy and sense of accomplishment are rewarding and well worth the effort. What better way to give back than to give to those in need?

Miles, Leslie Horton's Labrador retriever is a working dog and the 'leader' of the AAC program at Inova Fairfax Hospital. He's quite the star too – The program, the team and their pets have been written up in US News & World Report and the Washington Times, among other publications. There's so much more to write about but I'm about out of time and space here. Bottom line: "Animal Assisted Therapy is not only about the emotional boost an animal can give to patients and the elderly...it's also about the unconditional support shown by the pet that inspires physical benefits too," says Horton. "We have patients who have trouble walking down one hallway, but when we put them next to a dog, they do two hallways or four." More exercise leads to more strength, shorter hospital stays, and faster recoveries. And not just at Inova Fairfax. Recently, researchers at University of California-Los Angeles Medical Center reported that heart-failure patients had better heart function after a bedside visit from a dog. Pet owners are also more likely to survive a heart attack than non-pet owners, regardless of the severity of disease. And caring for animals reduces antisocial behavior in troubled teens and children.

And so, we're going to go for it – By April, Kelly and I should be full-fledged volunteers at the Fairfax Hospital, an honor and privilege to be sure.

For more information visit www.NCTDinc.org or www.deltasociety.org or call Leslie Horton at the Hospital 703 776 3536. 🐾

Pick of the Litter: Brittany (06-006)

Spotlight on a special Golden in need of a special someone

By Emily Pasterick, Contributing Writer

In January 2006, GRREAT took in an 8-year-old Golden Retriever named Brittany from a family to whom Brittany took a low priority to the other dogs and humans in the house. Relegated to the laundry room for most of her life, Brittany's spirit had seemed destined to remain caught in the vibe of constant "rinse cycles" until GRREAT stepped in to change her destiny.



At first, Brittany seemed like your typical happy-go-lucky, energetic, fluffy Golden, delighted to be frolicking outside the din of a washing machine. But then foster Terri noticed some limping in her hind right leg, especially when going down the stairs. A visit to orthopedic specialist Dr. Walker confirmed the presence of bone fragments, most likely the result of an old injury that was never treated, that had expanded and interfered with the functionality of the other leg ligaments. Surgery would be needed.

On February 22nd, Brittany underwent Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy (T.P.L.O.), and was ordered to "STRICT CONFINEMENT" for at least 30 days. Though Brittany tried her best, her energy got the better of her, and a couple too many attempts to hop on and off a bed resulted in a small crack in her lower leg and strained tendons in her knee. After three additional weeks of truly strict confinement, another set of x-rays showed progress. This time, Dr. Tom Walker believes she is healing nicely, and for her part, Brittany is obeying her post-surgical instructions more astutely.

As if to demonstrate the point, Brittany was dutifully hanging out in her crate when I came to visit her on Easter Sunday, but as soon as she saw me and the crate door was opened, she hustled me onto the couch for some shameless, unbridled requests for affection, which I could hardly ignore, considering she was alternating between flopping

around belly-up on the couch, and sitting up on her haunches with her front paws hugging my arm. She was absolutely charming, with a wide open, friendly, trusting, happy face offset by beautiful auburn eyes. She acted like my visit was the best thing to happen to her in her whole life, and Terri confirmed for me that Brittany seemed to be more excited about meeting new people than anything else. She continued to grab for my affection, literally, for the precious time she was allowed out of her crate; wouldn't sit still very long for me to take her picture; and seemed uninhibited by her surgery leg (the only indication to the contrary was that she would lie very still if you gently stroked that leg, so sensitivity was key). Clearly, Brittany is anxious to make up for lost time, and seems joyful at every moment of her new life.

With all that Brittany has to offer a forever family, she needs a reasonably active and affectionate lifestyle, a family that will integrate her into their daily routines as much as possible; given that for too long, Brittany's family closed her off behind a door, her new family will need to keep the doors open. Brittany's family can also have other dogs and/or kids that are not too young or careless to understand how important it will be to handle her hind right leg delicately. And in return, Brittany would prove to be the most loyal, cheerful, and enthusiastic companion a family could ever have.

If you are interested in finding out more Brittany, please contact Jessie Robinson, Adoption Coordinator, at adoptions@grreat.org. 🐾

PVGRC Silent Auction Thank You

A big Thank You to all who help make the silent auction at PVGRC's Annual Awards Banquet a tremendous success. First of all, THANK YOU to PVGRC for hosting the auction – over \$2,000 was raised at the event.

The following people donated items for the auction (and there were also many items donated anonymously):

Susan Swift	Leigh Rutter	Kelly Armstrong
Belinda Gosnell	Alice Hathaway	Marge Paulding
Jody Culver	Mary Owens	Martha Cole Glenn
Mel Miller	Melissa Neal	Julie Palais
Amy Sommer	Kelly Gifford	Jo Bighouse
Sandy Diamond	Charlene & John Snyder	
Donna & Bernie Thompson		
Paula & Darnell Abernethy		

Thank you to Pam Ambrose (from GRREAT) and Laurie Collings (from PVGRC) for coordinating the event. And, thanks to Lori Bott, Pam Briggie, Becky Brown, Sandy Diamond, Julie Palais and Kim Wiff for volunteering. 🐾

Last but not the least by any means, this position is where the adoption applications eventually wind up for their final review and that would be to Jessie Robinson, GRREAT's Adoption Coordinator. Jessie has been the Adoption Coordinator and on the GRREAT Board of Directors for GRREAT for almost 6 years. Jessie has spent an insurmountable amount of time on the adoption applications and the adoption process itself for GRREAT's foster dogs. Along with spending many hours per week on the applications, Jessie has also found the time to foster for GRREAT as well. Jessie has done an amazing job and really appreciates all the help the adoption application team gives to GRREAT. Thank you Jessie for all you do for GRREAT!

Thanks to Our Volunteers

PETCO-GAITHERSBURG MARYLAND

MARCH 4, 2006

Monica Thomas
Marion Shields
Gordy Taylor
Kathleen Betsy Davis & Max
Marian Walsh
Pete & Andrea Peterson
Dave & Sandy Gill
Penny March
Marie Liebetrau
Daria Taylor

PETCO-HERNDON VIRGINIA

APRIL 1, 2006

Jeff Twining & Lucinda Twining
Sharon McIlrath
Carla Brown
Kathy Thomas
Marion Shields
Lisa Hecker
Fran & Stephanie Karsner
Carolyn Beyer & Paige
Marian Walsh
Cheryl Ferrone
Jackie Kinder
Georgie Bahler
Julie Palais
Stephanie Twining

Foster Corner - Straight from the Mouth's of Foster Homes

By Allison Ward, GRREAT Foster Home Coordinator

I recently asked several foster homes to answer a few questions about fostering. The foster homes that were interviewed range from veteran homes with over ten years of fostering to foster homes that have just started in the last year. This month's question:

WHY DID YOU BECOME A FOSTER HOME?

After we lost our GRREAT golden in November there was a huge void in the house. We really missed having a dog around. We knew GRREAT needed foster homes and we thought it would be a great way to help the organization and also bring another golden in the house.
- Rachel & Pete Bagnulo

I think mainly the joy of making sure a dog is not euthanized for lack of a home, watching them develop often from scared or untrained in indoor living manners to well mannered confident dogs, and then finding them an excellent home and bringing happiness to their new found family who have often lost their own golden. We have the time (now that I've retired especially), the resources, and the home/land to be able to do this. - Dee Brown & Glen MacDonald


In August 1996, there was a very stinky and very overweight 6-year-old Golden girl (Cindy) in need at my local shelter. The person in my area who at that time normally evaluated and would take them out of that shelter couldn't get there and was concerned she would be PTS as she'd been there 10 days (Cindy was an owner give up and many of these are PTS quickly at this shelter because of the lack of space). I was available and said I would pick

her up and house her for a few days until a foster home was available. I fell instantly in love with this very overweight girl (by 30+ pounds!) with the worst smelling ears imaginable (I really thought I'd have to fumigate my van and the vet talked about her smelly ears for years!). I spent hours cutting off mats, but oh what a patient and sweet girl! It was difficult to determine her tail bone from a huge mat and I knew her skin was sore, yet she never complained. She put up with constant bathing because of her skin and allergy problems, exposing the most beautiful red hair, what a gorgeous girl!! Cindy made me fall in love with the Golden breed. Previously I had fostered mixed breeds for my local SPCA. After my Golden girl, I foster mostly Golden.
- Jan Brown

To help alleviate the shortage of foster homes so that incoming dogs would not have to be turned away. It's bad enough that a golden could be in a bad home situation, let alone not be given the opportunity for a better life because there's "no room at the Inn."
- Linda Hunt

We were in awe of the devotion the volunteers in the dog rescue organizations displayed. We wanted to help the dogs and the organizations and felt that fostering was something we could manage. - Sandra Ratan & Leon Guerrero

Because we lost one of our Golden's suddenly, we decided to adopt a rescue. After doing some research on the internet, we found GRREAT. We applied to both and adopted a dog for us, and my daughter adopted one too. After that, we became interested in fostering. - Trish & Chuck Thomas

We wanted to be able to help dogs in need and be a part of finding them new homes and giving them hope for the future. - Amy Wingrove & Matt Wright 



Letters to GRREAT



I would like to take the opportunity to give an “Atta Girl” to a tireless supporter of our beloved “Goldies” and GRREAT. Michelle Kownacki, owner of Paws Pet Boutique in Annapolis, Maryland has for the past five years sponsored a benefit for GRREAT. I feel fortunate to represent GRREAT at the event, usually held the weekend of St. Patrick’s Day. I am even more fortunate to know someone like Michelle. The event raises a considerable amount of money for GRREAT and is an excellent opportunity for us to speak to the public about golden rescue.

Michelle does all the planning for the event which includes raffles, refreshments and the most entertaining “Historical Dog Walk” through the cobblestone streets of Annapolis. Michelle’s store is at 64 State Circle which is directly across from the State Capital building, so the exposure for GRREAT is tremendous.

A very hearty thank you to Michelle for all her work on behalf GRREAT. - *Pat Savary*

Like a long lost brother, Hogan (formerly Bailey) was quickly welcomed into his new home by his older brother, Ben. The boys spend each day playing keep away from one another, wrestling in the backyard, and on occasion can be found napping side by side on the sofa.



Separately they are both wonderful dogs, but together they are so much fun. Hogan has brought so much joy to our lives and to Ben’s. We all thank GRREAT everyday that Hogan is a part of our family!
- *Jenn Neely*

Your Recommendations are Needed!

We are updating our list of dog trainers, boarding facilities, etc., and want your input! Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions:

Where is your favorite place to take your golden for:

- 1) Obedience/Training
- 2) Skills training (e.g. agility, field training, etc.)
- 3) Grooming
- 4) Boarding
- 5) Day Care
- 6) Dog Park

Please e-mail your answers to publications@grreat.org with “GRREAT Survey” in the subject line. Please include the name, address and phone number of the establishment, and the name of an owner/contact if appropriate, as well as the approximate price range. Also include your name and phone number. If you have had a very negative experience, we would like to hear about this as well. The top choices will be highlighted in upcoming issues of GRREAT News, and we will make the results available to our members. 🐾

My Dog Kelly

By *Kevin Karsner*

My stepping stone is one that I don’t like to talk about because whenever I think about it, it rips and tears at my heart. My stepping stone is about an animal. My dog, Kelly, was the best and only dog I had. I loved her and I still do, and will never forget her. She died during the summer of 2005, right after her birthday. She was 16, very old for a Golden Retriever, and we had to put her down because she was sick and in pain. Even though it is hard, I will tell you the story of that sad day.

When I came home from school, I thought it was an ordinary day, but when I got off the bus, I noticed that my Dad and my sister’s boyfriend were at my house. When I came to the door, my Dad came out and told me that Kelly was put to sleep. I didn’t believe him so I walked inside and saw her lying on the ground with my family around her. I just sat there, staring at her, not believing she was dead. After what seemed to be hours, we put her in the car and started to drive to the crematorium.

When we drove to the crematorium no one talked at all, everyone just sat there. When we got there, my Mom went in and came out with a guy that was rolling a table. My Dad put her on the table and we said our last goodbyes before she was rolled away. Then, we went inside and looked for an urn to put Kelly’s ashes in. While we were looking, the guy that was rolling our table gave us a lock of Kelly’s fur. The urn we got Kelly was a cherry picture frame with her ashes inside of it.

When we drove home, no one talked, and when we got home, my family and I talked about her. When I had to go to bed, I couldn’t go to sleep. I couldn’t stop thinking about her. It felt like a piece of my heart was missing, as if it was ripped out and stomped into the ground. I didn’t think I could go to school because I was so sad.

As of right now, that place in my heart is still missing, and it forever will be, that is how important she was. Some people might say that she was just a dog, but she wasn’t! She was a part of my life. From the earliest part of my life, I can remember she was there, and she was a great dog. She was the best dog I ever had and I will never forget her. 🐾

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

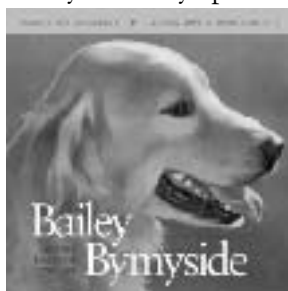
_____ Donate the following services:

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

The GRREAT Store Featured Items

GRREAT has some nice merchandise available both at the on-line store and at the Midas Touch Naturally Healthy Pets storefront in Berryville, Virginia. The clothing line has been expanded to include long sleeve t-shirts and indigo blue has been added as a color choice.

One of the items available is a wonderful book written by Patricia Burlin Kennedy and illustrated by Robert Christie – *Bailey Bymyside, Golden Lessons for Life*. Bailey is a very special Golden Retriever. She is a dog with a heart of gold who constantly watches over her household, quietly monitoring comings and goings while keeping a vigil at the bottom of the stairs each night, until every one of her charges is safely at home and tucked into bed. Bailey also teaches her people the virtues of patience and dedication. With quiet wisdom, she turns her attention to whoever will benefit the most from her compassionate brown eyes and wagging tail. In her own unassuming way, Bailey gives of her time and energy to lift the burdens of those around her. Bailey's most important lesson of all, however, is that simple mercies are reward enough – to both giver and recipient.



Another special book is *Jasper's Day* written by Marjorie Blain Parker and illustrated by Janet Wilson. "I'm still not ready. This day has been too short. I hide my face in Jasper's fur and fight back tears. I don't want to say good-bye." Today, Riley's family is celebrating Jasper's Day. Everything they do will be in honor of Jasper – sort of like a birthday. But it isn't Jasper's birthday. The old golden retriever's cancer has gotten really bad. Riley knows they can't let him suffer any longer, but letting go will be the hardest thing he's ever had to do. Marjorie Blaine Parker's tender story is filled with smiles, tears, and the joy of special memories. Janet Wilson's gentle pastels capture the dept of love shared by a boy and his dog. Together, they speak of acceptance, remembrance and the importance of cherishing life's every moment.



To purchase these books and peruse the other GRREAT merchandise available, stop by the store any Saturday between 10:00 and 5:00 or shop on-line by following the link on the GRREAT web site (www.grreat.org). All proceeds from GRREAT merchandise sales supports our golden rescue efforts. 🐾

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
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