



GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc. • July/August 2006 • Vol. 17, No. 4

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Love My Garden, Love My Dog

By Sandy Diamond, Education Coordinator

It's that time of year – lawn envy and the urge to garden is upon us. Along with the lush, green grass and beautiful flowers come those pesky weeds and bugs. You are ready to whip out your dandelion killer and slug bait – but wait! What about the dogs?



When we put pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals on our lawns and gardens, we often forget that our pets walk or roll around in these areas. Then, they come inside and begin cleaning and licking – possibly ingesting these potentially toxic substances. And although many products say they are pet friendly, there are often warning labels about what to do if you ingest the stuff – not something I want to be feeding my dogs!

There are natural and truly pet-friendly ways to keep your garden in good shape, without resorting to chemicals. Many are made from products we have around the house, and you will also save money (more toys for Fido!) Below are some suggestions to help you have a lovely garden, a healthy pet, and a cleaner environment.

FOR WEEDS:

- Pull them (sounds simple, huh?) This is easiest when the soil is damp.
- Lay down newspaper around plants and then cover with mulch – this will prevent weed seeds from sprouting.
- Spray white distilled vinegar on weeds. However, vinegar is non-discriminatory – it will kill any plant you put it on, so be very careful to only spray on the weeds. More than one application may be necessary.

FOR INSECTS:

- A firm spray of water will often wash aphids, spider mites or thrips away.
- Add a teaspoon of dish soap to a gallon of water and use a garden sprayer to treat your plants.
- Deter slugs and snails by sprinkling cayenne pepper along their paths.
- Purchase beneficial insects, mites and/or nematodes to kill unwanted guests naturally.

FOR MILDEW:

- Add 1 tablespoon of baking soda and 1 tablespoon of liquid soap to a gallon jug of water. Shake vigorously to blend, pour in a spray bottle and spray on mildew.

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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

In the month of June, my husband Carl and I celebrated a few milestones in our home. There was a milestone birthday, the 10th anniversary of when we bought our house, and got our first Golden Retriever, Tod. But one anniversary that has meant the most, is the celebration of a year with two of three of our senior Golden Retrievers, Scout and Tucker. "The Big-Boys" as we call the three of them, while very different in personalities and appearance, all have one thing in common, they are each about 14 years old.

When many people think of getting a dog, often what will come to mind is a puppy. How could it not be? One look at an adorable puppy, the smell of puppy-breath, and all thoughts of what may fit into our lifestyle is completely forgotten. Puppies really do have a way of overriding rational thoughts don't they?

Recently it seems that GRREAT is being bombarded by Golden Retrievers over the age of six. Anyone who has an older Golden can attest to what wonderful additions they make to any home. It's unfortunate however, that these senior or older Golden Retrievers are being continually



overlooked by prospective adopters. By adopting an older Golden you can avoid some of the errors in judgment that can be made when adding a younger dog to your home. Just like children, young Golden Retrievers and puppies have an abundance of energy and require more of our time. Golden Retrievers over the age of six have usually settled down, and are therefore much easier to live with and many of them can be left alone for longer hours. They are more relaxed, and most often know the meaning of "no" and don't think the remote control is a chew-toy. Older Golden Retrievers have some life experience. They generally know what is expected of them, and often ask much less of you. They are also ready to settle into a routine and are content to simply be with you and your family. Some people want to train a dog their own way and think they can only do that with a young Golden. But trust me, whoever said you can't teach an old dog new tricks didn't have much experience with older dogs. Older dogs may not learn as quickly as they did when they were young, but most Golden Retrievers, regardless of their age can be taught to do anything that a young dog can.

You only need to be consistent; but this is true regardless of any dog's age.

Yes, it is true that older dogs can have a shorter time left to live and can be prone to injury and disease. However, if you pay attention to your dog's changing needs, you can enjoy many years of healthy living together. I hope that when you are considering a new addition to your home, that you will consider an "older Golden." Having the "older Golden" in our home has proven to be both gratifying and rewarding. We cannot imagine our life without them. While we know our time with the "Big Boys" is limited, it is continually outweighed by all that they have given to us in return. Each day with Scout, Tucker, and Tosh is truly a blessing and a gift.

I will end my message with the words of a GRREAT member, Diane Lanigan. Those of you who know Diane, know that she has selflessly taken senior Golden Retrievers into her home and provided them with the life, love and care they

deserve for the remainder of their lives. Her kindness, compassion, and devotion, is an example for all to emulate. "Folks usually are afraid of adopting a senior dog because they perceive that death is so imminent and the loss would again be unbearable. A small change of focus can make

the world of difference to both you and the pet in need of a loving home for whatever time is left.....and who knows if it will be 5 months or 5 years!!! When you adopt a senior dog, you already know that your time together is limited.....that's one small change in mental focus from "my new puppy will live forever". When you adopt a senior dog it is out of compassion and love...a time to give back to an animal that was abandoned in his final years.....that's another small change of focus from 'we have years and years of ball playing and hiking in front of us.' When you adopt a senior dog you think about your senior years and hope that someone will take care of you in just such a manner. When you lose an adopted senior dog it is a time of joy as well as sorrow: for you know you gave him love and hope and care when his 'real' family threw him aside.....the loss is very, very sad but not devastating...this allows you to move on to the next and the next and the next one."

A number of older Golden Retrievers are awaiting adoption. Please check out the available dogs link on our website at www.GRREAT.org.

The DOG-TOR Is In

Your questions answered by Dr. Ronald Spikloser



Dear Dr. Ron:

I have been hearing more recently about Parvo – can you tell me more about this virus?

Parvo virus as a disease of dogs did not exist until about 1980. All of a sudden there were dogs dying of bloody diarrhea. It is shed from every secretion and excretion of the body of an infected dog in large amounts and is hard to kill. It is in the stool for about 2 weeks after infection, and depending on environmental conditions it can be in the environment for awhile. The scary part is that some animals carry the virus but have no clinical signs, but can still pass it in the stools.

When the virus first appeared it was very active and often fatal since no dogs had been previously exposed to it. There were many deaths. Now, since it is much more common in nature, most dogs have either been exposed to the virus or vaccinated. It is now not common for a dog over one year of age to get the full blown disease due to immunity – mainly puppies are afflicted. However all dogs should continue to be

vaccinated as this is an ugly disease which can be fatal. I usually recommend to my clients, because of parvo and other infectious diseases, not to let their puppy near other dogs until their vaccine series is done at about 16 weeks of age.

All a puppy has to do is lick or clean itself to ingest the virus into the body. Then in about 7 days the virus gets in to many areas and does damage, but mainly into the bone marrow to destroy immunity and into the lining of the intestine to destroy it. Once the intestine can not do its job of absorption of nutrients, diarrhea starts and as the damage goes deeper the bleeding starts. The animal can then die from dehydration due to fluid loss or, as the virus goes thru the body, the animal can die of septicemia. However, for some dogs even with the virus destroying the immune system the animal still can live. While the virus is destroying the immune system the animal is building antibodies which are destroying the virus. So the race is on - can the body build antibodies quick enough and can the animal be hydrated fast enough?

The key is to start vaccinations. Nothing is 100% guaranteed, but vaccines are close. The vaccine should be given between 6-8 weeks, and then every 2-4 weeks until the puppy is about 16 weeks of age. Usually the Parvo virus vaccine is included with the booster shot as part of the DHLPP or other combinations. 🐾

Foster Corner

Straight from the Mouths of Foster Homes – Part 2

By Allison Ward, Foster Home Coordinator

In the last issue I asked a number of members why they decided to become foster homes. In this issue, I asked them what they like most about being a foster home. Hopefully some of these comments will inspire you to try it!

It's a wonderful way to give them a family until they are ready to be adopted. I know I can't save every animal that needs help but I'm thankful for all the animals I've fostered over the years. I can remember every name, every face, and most of all how much they've enriched my life.

– Rachel & Pete Bagnulo

1) Being able to love and cuddle a dog that may not have had a very happy life before. 2) Watching the dog go from a scared outsider to a dog that fits in and is happy and confident, and at home in our house. 3) Finding a good home and feeling optimistic that s/he will get and give happiness for years to come. – Dee Brown & Glen MacDonald

1) Helping a Golden in need. 2) Seeing a needy dog come out of his/her shell and recapture that Golden spirit! 3) Finding that perfect home where the Golden will be treated as a valued family member. – Jan Brown

1) Meeting all the neat new dogs. Each golden has his or her own personality. Each is loveable in his/her own way. 2) Helping bring goldens back to health and happiness. I put a lot of energy into caring for them hoping to get them as healthy as possible so that they feel good and start to act like a real golden, always happy, friendly and ready to play. 3) Keeping a room available in the "Inn." When I adopt, one space (room) is permanently (at least for a few years) gone. When I foster and someone adopts my golden, there is another space for the next dog that needs help. – Linda Hunt

1) It is incredibly rewarding to see a dog go to a forever home and to know I was a part of giving that dog a second chance. 2) The support network at GRREAT is incredible. 3) It is a way to help a charitable organization that involves doing something more than just writing a check. – Terri Jones

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ADOPTION REPORT

Thirty-three goldens found their forever homes between April 13 and June 11, 2006. Of these, 8 were puppies (under age 2), 15 were between the ages of 2 and 6, and 10 were age 7 or more. Congratulations to these wonderful dogs and their wonderful families.

Name	#	Age	Sex
Alfie	06-083	4	M
Andy/Mookie	06-045	3	M
Andy/Tarquin	06-051	2	M
Annie	05-060	10+	F
Bear	05-012	7	M
Bello	06-075	4	M
Casey	06-064	9mo	F
Chance	06-038	10	M
Charley	06-018	1	M
Coach	05-251	1	M
Deja	06-054	7mo	F
Duchess	06-062	11	F
Echo	06-021	6	M

Name	#	Age	Sex
Gidget	06-071	7	F
Goldie	06-080	1	F
Hamlet	06-063	2	M
Jake	06-012	10	M
Jake	06-059	4	M
Jesse	06-060	2	F
Libby	06-042	4	F
Lucy	05-120	5	F
Mac	06-003	5	M
Millie	06-091	1	F
Remington	06-026	2	M
Riley	06-058	8	M
Shadow	06-067	10	M
Sophie	06-048	4	F
Sophie	06-056	11	F
Spanky/Scout	05-220	9	F
Taylor	05-136	1	M
Travis	06-041	2	M
Truman	06-043	7mo	M
Tucker	06-078	6	M

Murphy's first year of life was unfortunate. His original owner removed his collar and let him go. He landed at the door of a family who fed him and nothing else. While following the family he was hit by a car and fractured a rear leg. The "good Samaritan" who hit him took him until she learned about GRREAT. We found him on the GRREAT website, and he fit right into the family. This is Murphy (05-003) in his backyard enjoying ice he worked out of a bucket. We love Murphy!
- Ann Marie, Brian, Emily and Michael Quinn



ADOPTION DAY DIRECTIONS

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.

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

Saturday, August 5, 2006

Noon - 2pm

Petco
6612 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, Virginia
703-660-1300

Take I-95 South toward Baltimore. Take exit #52 onto MD-295 South toward BWI Airport. Take exit #1B onto I-95 South toward Richmond. Take exit #177B-A onto US-1 South toward Fort Belvoir. Go 2.4 miles and turn right on Richmond Highway. Go 0.1 miles and Petco will be on the right.

Saturday, September 9, 2006

Noon - 2pm

Petco
10383 Reisterstown Road
Owings Mills, Maryland
410-581-9888

Take I-95 North toward Baltimore. Take exit #49B onto I-695 North toward I-70/Towson. Go 10 miles and take exit #19 onto I-795 North. Take exit #4/Owings Mills Blvd. North toward Reisterstown Rd. Turn right toward Reisterstown Rd. Go 0.1 miles and turn right on Reisterstown Road (MD-140). Petco will be on the left.

In Memory of Sundance

Dear GRREAT,

I recently sent in a donation in memory of our GRREAT dog Sundance (95-085) who passed away May 18 at the ripe old age of 16-1/2. Sundance will be very familiar to GRREAT members as he appeared four times in the calendar over the last 10 years. He was just in the 2006 calendar in April along with our other two dogs Bailey and Sassy (02-042). He's the one in the back with the white face.

Sundance and his mother Casey (95-084) came to us as foster dogs in the summer of 1995. They lived with us for several months while recovering from heartworm and once they were well we decided to adopt them.

Sundance's mother Casey passed away in 1999 but Sundance lived on for 7 more years. He became a therapy dog and was certified first with Delta Society and later with Therapy Dogs International. He made numerous visits to nursing homes in our area and brought lots of joy to those he visited. Sundance loved everyone and was a wonderful ambassador for GRREAT.

Thank you to all who have written to us to express your condolences. Sundance we miss you but know you are living happily ever after at the Rainbow Bridge.

With love,

Julie Palais and Rick Stevens

P.S. The following poem was written by a former neighbor, Barbara Stephens, upon learning of his passing:

SUNDANCE

A distinguished gentleman
Patriarch of Falls Church Park
Loving, faithful companion to Rick and Julie
Master of Golden Meadows Farm
Big brother to Bailey and Sassy (02-042)
Therapy dog
Lover of Dogma nummies
16-1/2 years young
A GRREAT dog (95-085)
MY FRIEND.....

.....waiting at Rainbow Bridge 18 May 2006 🐾



Rafael (02-263 - Ralphie for short) spent the first 7 years of his life chained to a tree. During those first years his only toys were rocks and sticks. As result, his teeth are worn and his hind quarters underdeveloped. His coat was dry, brittle and shabby from poor nutrition and care. When we brought Ralphie to his forever home we proved doggie toys and he did not know how to play with them. With our coaxing he quickly learned that it was okay to play with toys, and his favorite toy is a soccer ball he won at his first GRREAT Howliday Party. He runs in our yard and his hind quarters have developed more. He loves to ride in the truck, go for walks and be with us in whatever room of this house we are in. Despite his poor treatment in his early years, Ralphie's spirit is strong and he has learned to trust humans.

-John & Linda Bowlin

A Breed Apart: Spotlight on a GRREAT Volunteer Kathy Thomas

By Emily Pasterick, Contributing Writer

Approximately ten years ago, Kathy Thomas was first introduced to GRREAT by a coworker when she had recently lost her beloved Golden Retriever, Cashel. Her involvement at the time was limited to monetary contributions, which still served to fill a void left by Cashel. Four years ago, she decided that she wanted to contribute more than just her yearly dues, and so she began volunteering her time to the monthly Adoption Days. Since then, Kathy has become a mainstay at GRREAT's Adoption Days each month, no matter where they are – and has traveled considerable distances in order to guarantee her volunteerism, performing all the duties associated with Adoption Day assistance, including microchipping. Additionally, Kathy has volunteered her time with home visits, and assists with Golden transports approximately 4 to 7 times per year. What is interesting about Kathy's connection with GRREAT is that she does not own a GRREAT Golden (though has her hands full with "Kinsey," a non-Golden dog), but still devotes her time and energy to supporting a rescue committed to the preservation of the Golden breed. She would love to foster one day (but does not have confidence yet that her home would pass inspection ☺), and until that time, feels satisfied with her involvement as she is able to get her "Golden fix" helping a breed that she describes as "lovely and effervescent." Kathy also believes that part of what you get out of volunteering is what you put into it, and that also serves as an inspiration for her commitment.

Kathy works a full-time job as a management consultant – her job is essentially to solve problems – and so she cannot help but develop some impressively solid ideas for how she would like to see GRREAT's volunteer pool expand. She believes that GRREAT is known primarily by people who



are already members or interested in adopting a Golden Retriever, and so its outreach efforts have the potential to extend beyond to the huge reservoir of people in GRREAT's service area who own Golden Retrievers but are not aware of GRREAT's work. She also has hopes that GRREAT can someday

find creative avenues for tapping into additional sources of funding, soliciting larger donations from members and Golden owners who are well-positioned to make them.

Kathy's role as a volunteer for GRREAT serves as an encouragement to those who would like to donate some time to a Golden rescue, but may assume they might have to own a Golden in order to derive satisfaction from their commitment. On the contrary...through rescue, Kathy has been fulfilled by the time she devotes to helping with such a special breed, and has been able to lend her consulting skills towards establishing strong ideas about the excellent potential of the rescue to identify and leverage outlets for increasing volunteerism and financial support. Kathy's optimism and commitment to assisting with GRREAT's vital rescue events, allow her to make outstanding and effective contributions to GRREAT. GRREAT is so proud to spotlight Kathy Thomas as "A Breed Apart!" 🐾

Thanks to Our Volunteers

The following people volunteered
at the 2006 Bark-B-Que.

<i>Betsy Bake</i>	<i>Sue McCullough</i>
<i>Jan Brown</i>	<i>Sara Howlett</i>
<i>Greg Russell</i>	<i>Sheila and Lew Cohen</i>
<i>Lisa Cook</i>	<i>Al Radmann</i>
<i>Carolyn Beyer</i>	<i>Joe Lamp</i>
<i>Dee Brown</i>	<i>Diane -- on the grill</i>
<i>Jan and Marty White</i>	<i>Jenny O'Brien</i>
<i>Karen, Brandon Shelton and two sons</i>	<i>Jim Nelson</i>
	<i>Sam Connelly</i>

DONATIONS

Thank you for your donations...

Brian and Diane Petrenick

Steve and Kathryn Troch

Brenda Pascal

Diane Lanigan

Temple Bashman

Dave Walman

Elizabeth Crane

James and Carol Peck

Mark Ketterman

In Memory Of...

Enclosed is a donation to GRREAT in memory of Opie (03-111), our GRREAT adoption sweetheart. Opie recently passed away after a brief, vicious illness wore him out and took him away from us too soon.

Opie was originally renamed Snuggles by his foster family for his loving and sweet personality. There wasn't a day that went by that we didn't realize how accurate that characterization was for him. As you can imagine, we miss him terribly and he is equally missed by his soul mate "brother" that we adopted last year, Archie (05-111). They played incessantly and sometimes when things got just a little too rough, Opie would make it perfectly clear to Archie who was in charge.

We will forever be indebted to you and GRREAT for bringing us such joy in Opie. We will always wish we had more time with him, but we will treasure our memories and the love he shared. -Arthur and Joanne Lehrer

Nugget and Samantha, my first two Golden Retrievers - Jeff and Maurine Schuller

Jane Carter - Howard and Catherine Bennett

Jane Carter, R.N. - Lloyd Goodman

My father, who owned and raised many Golden Retrievers during his lifetime. Please use this money to rescue seven Golden Retrievers in the memory of our dogs: "Amelia, Bonnie, Byke, Mandy, Mark, Mike and Sam." - Nancy St. John

"Brandy" who just died, pet of Dorinda and Benton. - Karen Ostensoe

Rusty McDonald (96-179). I will miss seeing Rusty on my walks, as he welcomed all who passed by his front yard with love and a friendly tail wag. His forever family, the McDonald's, gave him a wonderful life. - Sandy Diamond

Jane Carter - Sue Keller

My mother who passed away last year - Karol and Bob Hickman

Phoebe - Robert, Linda, Teddy and Richard

Phoebe - Sam, Brian, and Kristen Katulis

Phoebe - Beri, Michelle, Nati, Gilad and Leetal

Phoebe - Lexie and Nora

Mildred Wilfong - Blaine Turner Advertising

Mildred Wilfong - Mary Jo Smith

Memorial Donation for Mildred Wilfong - Lee Ruger Builds

Murphy Burlbaugh and for the care of older Golden Retrievers. - Mike and Brenda Burlbaugh

Jane Carter - Victor Caroddo

Harry D. Jones Jr. Harry D. was a dear friend, who passed away May

1st of this year, attended by his three daughters, his loving wife and an equally-devoted Golden Retriever. - David and Letha Harris

Tess Towbes-Lewis. - Animal Nannies of Mclean

Casey Shoelson. - Animal Nannies of Mclean

Phoebe Elford - Harriet Loeb and AnneMarie Weikel

Jane Carter - Charles and Ann Henderson

Donna Kelley, our neighbor and friend. Donna and her grandson, David Hunt, adopted our first foster dog, Sahara (00-056). Sahara has been Donna's constant companion for the past six years. - Rory and Carol Nansel, Aspen, Murphy (01-060), Joey (04-118), Domino and Emma

Jane Carter - Joyce and Scott Parkin

Mildred Wilfong - Manchin & Alois, Attorneys & Counselors at Law

Our beloved Sundance (95-085) and to thank Dr. Spencer for making the end so peaceful - Rick Stevens and Julie Palais

My Golden that died in November - John Corr

All the Golden Retrievers in my life - Jasmine, Sophie, Jack, Sammy, Sam, Tangerine. Specifically please accept this donation in memory of Eli, beloved friend to Gail Winston and Gary Donaldson. - Anne Thomas

DONATIONS

My husband Neil Strawser, who died December 31, 2005, and two Golden Retrievers that he adopted through your organization - Rusty and his successor "Rusty II" (we renamed this one, he was Dusty at the time of adoption). The original Rusty was adopted in 1991 or 1992 and died a number of years later. He was replaced by Rusty II who died on April 13 of this year. I believe he was 12 years old. He had been in good health but he went into a decline about two weeks before. His second trip to the vet made it clear that he was in bad shape; he came home with me, lay down for a nap, and died peacefully in his sleep a short time later. So now he is with his best friend. Neil was tremendously fond of dogs and both Rustys brought immense daily pleasure and satisfaction to him. We appreciated all you do to care for these delightful animals, and I hope you will think of Neil and the two Rustys as you carry on your good work. - Cornelia Strawser

Our friend Elmo. Elmo was given up by his owners along with his two siblings to a shelter in the spring of 2004. Fortunately, GRREAT was able to rescue Elmo before it was too late. He then came to Fort Hunt Animal Hospital for treatment and boarding. Elmo was overweight, arthritic, positive for lyme disease, and on top of it all, had been separated from his parents and siblings. The whole staff immediately fell in love with him, especially one person in particular, his doctor. Dr. Embree officially adopted Elmo a few months later. It wasn't long before he became more active, lost weight, and seemed to enjoy life once again. He came to work everyday and obediently stayed

in the doctor's office with his stuffed kitty...most of the time. He never took his eyes off of his mom, except when cookies were present. He had more fashion than most people we know. He had enough sweaters and bandanas for every event you could imagine. He was the best office dog anyone could hope for. Sadly, Elmo was diagnosed with hemangiosarcoma. After 1 1/2 years with his new family, he peacefully passed away at home shortly after Thanksgiving. Elmo made quite an impression on all of us in the short time that we were fortunate enough to have known him. His immediate family, as well as his Fort Hunt family, will always remember him. Thank you, GRREAT, for bringing him into our lives. - The staff at Fort Hunt Animal Hospital

It is with great sadness that we are writing to you about our old girl Sunny. She crossed the rainbow bridge on January 14, 2006. It has taken us this long to be able to write about her. She came to us via GRREAT at age 11 months and was with us for nearly fourteen years. During that time, she helped us foster quite a few GRREAT dogs. She was the perfect hostess and taught them the best of manners including our current GRREAT dog Scamp (02-225). I don't know how to express how much pleasure she gave us with her love of water and the fun she had in it and with it. She loved to swim even in winter and would retrieve her Frisbee and buoy for hours. Her time in the water took her weight off her hips. If we didn't splash water for her, she would play by herself; splashing it with her paws and then biting at the splash. She would chase and bite at a water spray from a hose even when we knew she was hurting. She

suffered from bi-lateral hip dysphasia and toward the end we were her personal doggie elevator that allowed her to be near us every night. Second to her love of people and us was her love of her Frisbee. She had it with her most of the time. In her younger days she would retrieve it to exhaustion (we wouldn't let her do that, but she would have). Sunny came to us through GRREAT, but was not registered with GRREAT. After we lost our German Shepherd, Bridget, we did extensive research and determined that a Golden was the best dog for us. Our veterinarian put us in contact with GRREAT. We contacted them and through some strange set of events we were given the name of a family that needed to give up their 11 month old golden. We went to visit and it was love at first pet. We didn't know how GRREAT worked and thought that this was OK. After we got her home and settled in, we found out how things should have worked with adoptions. We later made a donation to GRREAT in a similar amount to the adoption fee. This strange set of events started us on a long association with GRREAT and GRREAT dogs. - L Clay and Janis Beall, III

Hope, who gave us hope, happiness, laughter, and love. Our hearts are broken with her passing, but she will live in our hearts forever. Thank you GRREAT! - Sherry and Michael Abramson

DONATIONS

In Honor Of...

All the wonderful GRREAT volunteers that we have had the pleasure to work with since we started volunteering with GRREAT about 5 ½ years ago. What an amazing and dedicated group of people! I have a special place in my heart for all of the foster families that open their hearts and their homes to those golden “surprise packages” that cross their thresholds! Thank you! We also want to recognize Allison Ward, Jessie Robinson and Mary Collings for their tireless and caring efforts for these wonderful dogs. And finally, we’d like to say thank you to our good friends Pam and Conrad O’Connell for telling us about GRREAT all those years ago! - Jeff & Lucinda Twining and our golden boys, Riley (01-003), McIver (01-247) and Shamus (a great golden in his own right)

Charlie (06-018) - Patricia Beetham

Buddy (05-113) - James Krist

Kathi Stanhope - Diane Berinstein

Shira’s 50th birthday - Mary Ann Dutton & Jean Veta

Dallas – a GRREAT dog who is 12 ½ yrs old and has been our family member since 1997. Thanks. - Eileen and James Hollaway

Dedicated to Amber - Sheila and Al Vertino

Cassandra St. Clare’s 9th birthday. I’d like to make a donation to

GRREAT for when you need help most. - Joseph and Virginia Fry

Our friend, Shira Modell, is about to celebrate her 50th birthday and she cares a great deal about your organization, through which she has adopted two golden retrievers. We’d like to mark Shira’s milestone by making a donation in her honor. - Michael Ostheimer and Stacy Feuer

To Thank

Al Glaser - Thanks Al, for taking such good care of Max and Murphy - Catherine Bertin

Kim and Carl Wiff for pet sitting Paige - Carolyn Beyer

The foster home for keeping Travis (06-041) a couple more weeks after the adoption because of timing issues - Beth Mendelson

GRREAT. To be used wherever you need it - Conway and Martha Robinson

Mary Collings. I’d like to make a donation to GRREAT to be used wherever the funds are needed most. - John and Sharon Rockefeller

For Special Reasons

Please find enclosed Simon’s Certificate of Completion for his obedience class. Please do not send us a refund of the deposit. We would really like GRREAT to use that money towards vet bills or other expenses incurred by Simon (05-199) during his time with you. Simon is a fantastic addition to our family. We all have a wonderful time together, and it’s hard to remember when we didn’t have him around. Thanks

again for all the good work you do. - Mary Ellen Hilleary

We were very lucky to have found our Golden at the shelter in Frederick. We had passed the home visit by GRREAT and were in the process of selecting a Golden when we took a chance and visited the shelter and found our Maggie. She has brought our family much joy. I can’t imagine our life without her. Unfortunately she is in her senior years and not very active. So we may be looking for a Golden at GRREAT in the near future. Thanks for all you do! - David and Donna Ginsburg

In addition to collecting Andy from King George County, VA, and delivering him to me in Annapolis and taking him to the Southgate Clinic for his first heartworm treatment, Trish Collier also made a donation towards Andy’s expenses. -Irene Engle

I’d like to make a donation to GRREAT for Chance (06-038) for partial reimbursement for medical expenses while in my foster care - Nancy and Judd Howell

In March, Dr. Tom Walker and his wife Jayne hosted a fundraising Casino Party for friends, family and business associates. They had decided on your foundation to be one of the options for donations. Enclosed are the check and cash donations to be used towards your wonderful program. Thank you for all you do! (Donations from: Karen and James Burton, HCH, INC., Schuyler Richardson and Thomas Edmonds, Amy French, George and Maria Laudenschach, Erin O’Leary, Thomas Simmons, Leslie Mangano, Patricia McClintock, Paul Reeves)

DONATIONS

Thomas Schmidt, adopter in late 2002 of Buck(master) (02-278) sent me the enclosed check as a generous expression of appreciation for my having hosted Buck while Tom was undergoing a hip replacement. As I could not possibly accept the check for merely looking after one of my past foster dogs during an emergency, I have endorsed it over to GRREAT, with Mr. Schmidt's approval. He emphatically did not wish me to return it to him. - Irene Engle

I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for training for Cookie. - Debra and William Haegele

Enclosed is a donation to help with medical expenses for Rusty (06-055) - Sandy Diamond

For Peaches' food - Jessie Robinson

Enclosed is a check to help with some of the expenses for Peaches (05-140) - Mary and Ken Collings

To help cover vet bills for Annie (05-060) - Steve and Chris Williams

Leo's Corner

GOLDEN ANGELS (\$500 AND MORE)

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

On May 18, 2006, an era came to an end. The magnificent Sundance (95-085), at age 16 ½ years went to rest at the Rainbow Bridge. Page after page could be written about the accomplishments and wonderful memories of this remarkable pup, but the most important thing I can say is, he was my friend, my dear true friend. The enclosed donation for the Leo Fund is in memory of Sundance. He had

the best forever home any pup could ask for and I know he would want other pups to be helped on their way to...happy endings too. - Barbara and Russell Stephens

LEO'S PALS (UP TO \$99)

In honor of Comet Martinek. - Alison Martinek

Simile-Finale Fund

In memory of Timber Sue Pignotti - Kate Gillespie, Teresa Klint, and Laura Todak

This donation is in loving memory of Buck Watkins who died this past Sunday. Buck was 16 and the best buddy of my daughter, Amber, for his whole life. - Debby Smith

Corporate Giving

United Way of Central Maryland

T. Rowe Price Association, Employee "Dollars for Doers" Program - from Allison Ward

GE Foundation, Employee matching donation - from Larry Gaetano

Tyco Matching Gifts Program - from Ethel and Haddon Carryer

Microsoft Giving Campaign, Employee matching donation - from Bob and Carolyn Reagle (For the Leo Fund)

Aetna Giving Campaign, Employee matching donation - from Lauri and David Silberstein

CSC Employee Campaign - from Kim and Don Dawson

Helping Udders

Bark-B-Que Highlights

The 2006 Bark-B-Que was a huge success with 166, 2-legged and 78, 4-legged friends attending. It was a beautiful day with perfect weather. Of course the highlight is always the dogs and the games provided a good opportunity for them to "show off" their stuff. The competition was tough but they were all winners. A special "shout out" to the unknown man who donated the BIG cookies. Sorry we didn't get your name to thank you properly for the generous donation. Thanks to Grauls Market, Crunchies, A Bone To Pick, Dogma Gourmet Bakery, Allison Ward, Betsy Bake, Jessie Robinson, Stacy Duffy and Lisa Cook who donated cold salads/raffle items. Thanks to all the volunteers listed on Page 7 for making the event such a success.

We apologize for the confusion with the inaccurate RSVP count and not providing sufficient burgers/hot dogs for all. There were 60 RSVP's not counted for at the last check on Friday, June 2, when the food was finalized. We'll do better next year and make sure the RSVP technologies work correctly. Thank you for your generous contributions. We hope to see you at the December 10 Howliday Party in Frederick, MD.

Special Golden Seeking Special Homes

By Sandy Diamond

Many of you might remember a special golden that we featured on our website named Cookie. Cookie was a dog whose behavior was not that of a typical golden, and because of this, was difficult to foster and difficult to place. However, through the dedication of our Foster Home Coordinator and Adoption Coordinator, along with other board members, Cookie's story has a happy ending with a successful placement in her forever home.

In the past, the rescue might have declined to accept dogs like Cookie, and the outcome most likely would not have been positive for her. Due to the generosity of our members, we have the resources, knowledge and commitment from our volunteers to take in dogs that we know up front might be hard to adopt. We call these dogs our Special Needs Golden.

The challenges these dogs face can be either behavioral or medical. But the ultimate need is the same for them all – a loving, committed forever home.

We currently have a number of Special Needs Golden available for adoption. And we are asking our members to consider if they might have a place in their life for one of these dogs, or if they know someone who does. All of these dogs will make a wonderful addition to the right home – each of them has so much love to give.

While GRREAT is committed to each of these dogs, they are taking a large share of valuable resources, and we need to find homes for them. Jake is in boarding, for which we pay daily boarding fees. Boarding is also not the place for a dog to live its life – Jake deserves to have a full time family to love him. The other dogs, Handy, Peaches, Rusty and Rocket, are in foster homes. As you know, foster homes are always in short supply – until these dogs are placed, none of these foster homes are able to take in new dogs. This can mean an incoming dog might be declined or placed in boarding.

Please keep an eye on the Special Golden page (we expect the need for this page will be ongoing). If you think your home might be a fit for one of these dogs, please contact Allison Ward at fosters@grreat.org. If you would like to make a donation in honor of these dogs (to help offset the additional costs of “special” foster dogs), you can use the PayPal link on our website, or mail in your donation to GRREAT, PO Box 3069, Falls Church, VA 22043-0069. Thank you!

Homemade vs. Commercial What Do You Feed Your Pet?

By Jo Bighouse

Q. I have noticed in your articles that you frequently recommend a homemade diet. Isn't there a risk that a homemade diet will be lacking in the vitamins and nutrients pets need? Commercial foods have been developed to meet all of the dietary needs of our pets. When people start making their own pet food couldn't they actually cause harm?

A. It is true that I am an advocate of homemade meals for pets. I started feeding my own dogs a raw diet 7 years ago and fed them a home cooked meal before then. I was concerned in the beginning that I may make a mistake or may not be capable of feeding my dogs correctly. The information coming from the commercial pet food industry made me feel preparing a balanced diet for my pets required extensive knowledge and education in animal nutrition. But then I thought about the meals I was preparing for my human family members. We ate a variety of fresh, whole foods and were all thriving. If I could feed people healthy, nutritious meals – through all life stages – surely I could do the same for my dogs.

The commercial pet food industry is relatively young. Canned horsemeat for dog food was introduced in the United States after World War I. In the 1930s, canned cat food and dry meat-meal dog foods were introduced. The dry kibble so many pet owners now depend on was introduced in the 1950s. Prior to commercial pet food becoming available, pets were fed leftovers from their owner's table and scraps from butchering on farms. During the last 56 years dogs have not gotten healthier on commercial food. In fact, the high carbohydrate rate of commercial dog food may be a contributing factor in obesity, pancreatic insufficiency, diabetes, arthritis, bladder stones, skin problems, and cancer.

Although you may not need a degree in Animal Husbandry, it is important to do your homework before feeding your pets a homemade meal. Books that were helpful for me include, “Natural Nutrition for Dogs and Cats, The Ultimate Diet” by Kymthy R. Schultze; “Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs and Cats” by Richard H. Pitcairn and Susan Hubble Pitcairn; and “Switching to Raw, A Fresh Food Diet for Dogs That Makes Sense” by Susan K. Johnson.

Jo Bighouse is the proprietor of Midas Touch Naturally Healthy Pets, LLC on Shepherds Mill Road in Clarke County. She is a member of the Organic Trade Association, Flower Essence Society, Animal Wellness Association, and Association of Pet Dog Trainers. Contact her through her web site at www.MidasTouchPets.com with questions to be answered in future columns.

GRREAT Dog Care Alternative

The GRREAT Dog Care Alternative (formerly known as the Dog Care Exchange) is a wonderful alternative to boarding your dog in a kennel while you are out of town. In the past two years, we have had only a few out-of-town trips which required us to find alternative care for our dog, Bella. The Dog Care Alternative helped us place her with a GRREAT family. She had wonderful times in that household, and we did not worry about how she was doing in our absence. We also have enjoyed caring for other GRREAT dogs in our home when their owners have had to travel.

If you would like to participate, send us the following information so we can include you on the list. Once we summarize all the information, we will e-mail you the completed list.

Meredith Pearson and Jon Rolf
yateb2@comcast.net or pearson@umd.edu
fax # 410-715-6907

Name
Address
Telephone Number
E-mail Address
Number of dogs you have
Male____/female____
Age(s)
Special Needs
Exercise, dog door access, food issues
Compatibility with:
Children?
Cats?
Others? 🐾

A NOTE FROM BELLA

Hello GRREAT Dogs out there,

I just had to share with you my recent experience at one of those dog hotels. I think they are called fennels, or tennels, or kennels. Yes, kennels. I was at this kennel for the weekend--first time since my adoption two years ago. Nice enough place but it gave me flashbacks to the days of no walks, no run of the house and no people making fools of themselves because I am so cute! And since it was December, my fuzz butt was really cold on the cement floor. I got really upset and had that dog-gone diarrhea for a week. Boy, did I wish they had left me with our GRREAT Dog Care Alternative family again.

But, guess what! My people are starting up the Dog Care Alternative list again. If you send in your name with information about your needs for walks, potty breaks, and companionship, you will be able to put your kennel days behind you. And believe me, that fuzz butt of yours will be grateful forever.

-Bella



Thanks to Our
Volunteers

Adoption Day - May 6, 2006 Petco-Golden Ring, Baltimore, MD

Phil & Janet Hauck	Katie Wirth.
Jim Nelson	Lisa Cook
Jim Eurice	Vicki Eurice
Stephanie Nelson	Ericka Walman
Sam Connelly	David Walman
Lois Briggs	

Adoption Day - June 2, 2006 Just Fur Pets, Springfield VA

Jill Kurtz	Jule Ann Cheslock
Mariet Kurtz	Geri Dolan.
Kathy Thomas	Kate Chutuape
Jeff & Lucinda Twining	John Hunter
Leigh Featherstone	Jim & Stephanie Nelson
Jean Hartman	Marty White

FERTILIZER

- Making a compost pile can produce the best garden fertilizer at no cost. It can be applied to gardens and lawns twice a year and will replace the essential nutrients that growing plants and lawns require.
- To increase soil acidity, add a cup of distilled white vinegar to a gallon of water for watering acid-loving plants like azaleas, rhododendrons or gardenias.

When working in the yard, make sure your dogs are safe. Don't leave them unattended. And make sure to put them inside when mowing the lawn – a mower can make a projectile out of a stick or rock that can injure your dog. If you do use chemicals, store them out of reach of your pet, and make sure to keep them off the lawn or out of the garden for a safe amount of time after application. And finally, don't forget that even if you decide to go "green", your neighbors might not be. Clean your dog's paws thoroughly after a walk.

For more information check out www.care2.com or www.beyondpesticides.com. 🐾

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.



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

Several years ago before we became a 4-dog family, we decided to take our 2 dogs Reno (a Golden) and Keona (a wolfdog) to a lake to swim and we decided to make a day of it. Other than the kiddie pool in our back yard, neither dog had ever been in water and we assumed that being a Golden, Reno would love to swim! We loaded up our SUV with a picnic for us, treats for them, towels, water, bowls, everything necessary to have a fun-filled day for the 4 of us. About 2 miles from home, Keona got carsick and we had to stop to get her and the SUV cleaned up. About another mile down the road toward our big adventure and Keona pooped in the SUV!! So we again stopped to get everything cleaned up and back in the SUV to continue on our journey to our big adventure! Several more miles down the road, Keona got carsick again so we stopped to get everything and her cleaned up. The rest of our trip was uneventful and we finally got to the lake, got the SUV unpacked, blanket spread, water bowls filled, and we were ready to have some fun!

It was a beautiful day and there were a lot of people there with their dogs and kids running around. We decided to start the day by swimming so we walked toward the water and both dogs

were VERY excited! The closer we got to the water, the harder they both pulled on their completely extended flexi-leads. About 15 feet from the water's edge, Reno came to an abrupt halt, paused for a moment, started whining, made a hard 360 degree turn, and started running full speed away from the water. Unfortunately, the lead was now wrapped around my legs and I went crashing to the ground! Reno didn't seem to notice me lying on the ground or that he wasn't going anywhere and the harder he pulled, the tighter the lead got around my legs. Keona reacted to Reno's fear and also became very upset, which only complicated the untangling fiasco, as she not only was pulling really hard on her lead, but she started howling, which drew even more attention our way. When we finally got back to the SUV, they were both jumping at the doors to get in! We couldn't get them to settle down, so we loaded everything back up and headed home. Did I mention all the pointing at us and laughter from the onlookers at the lake??!!! Ken and I both busted out laughing on our way home about all the trouble we went to in anticipation of what we thought would be a fun day with the dogs, the scene we caused, the cuts/bruises on my legs, and how we're never going back to that lake again!!

Mary Collings

To submit your own Faux Paws, email Leigh Rutter, GRREAT Newsletter Editor, at leighmegan@yahoo.com. Photos of your dog(s) are welcome, especially if they are caught in the act!

In our last issue, Stef Nelson wrote about our home visit volunteers. We would like to recognize those volunteers, who so generously give of their time, below:

MD/DE/PA - HOME VISIT VOLUNTEERS

<i>Al Bisasky</i>	<i>Allison Ward</i>	<i>Amy Owen</i>
<i>Andrew Becker</i>	<i>Anne Bolen</i>	<i>April Fritz</i>
<i>Betsy Bake</i>	<i>Rick Gaskins</i>	<i>Carol Peck</i>
<i>Caroline Valenzuela</i>	<i>Cheryl Babik</i>	<i>Christine Grob</i>
<i>Christine Geiler</i>	<i>Christina Marotta</i>	<i>Connie Trivits</i>
<i>Curtis Dalpra</i>	<i>Cyndy Martin</i>	<i>Daria Taylor</i>
<i>Dana Taylor</i>	<i>David & Nancy Ris</i>	<i>Denise & John Gettier</i>
<i>Dennis Rivard</i>	<i>Dick Wilcher</i>	<i>Donna Jobson</i>
<i>Donna Stilwell</i>	<i>Donna Ward</i>	<i>Doris Shina</i>
<i>Doug & Marilyn Reedy</i>	<i>Douglas Durans</i>	<i>Elizabeth Reimer</i>
<i>Ellen Bryant</i>	<i>Emily Pasterick</i>	<i>Fran Wesley</i>
<i>Jackie McNamara</i>	<i>Jan & Louise Green</i>	<i>George & Laura Panagoulis</i>
<i>Jan Brown</i>	<i>Jane Salter</i>	<i>Janet & Marty White</i>
<i>Janet & Phil Hauck</i>	<i>Jerry Cann</i>	<i>Jessie Robinson</i>
<i>Joan Gunby</i>	<i>Jondelle Truitt</i>	<i>Judi Fishman</i>
<i>Karen Sondak</i>	<i>Karol Hickman</i>	<i>Kelly & Peter Schauer</i>
<i>Krista Keysar</i>	<i>LaDonna Puryear</i>	<i>Laurie Silberstein</i>
<i>Linda Igou</i>	<i>Lisa Hecker</i>	<i>Lisa Melvin</i>
<i>Lisa Minter</i>	<i>Liz Clark</i>	<i>Louis Wesley</i>
<i>Louisa Hart</i>	<i>Lynn Shine</i>	<i>Lynne Glennon</i>
<i>Melanie Twigg</i>	<i>ML Gregg</i>	<i>Molly Dicken</i>
<i>Monica Thomas</i>	<i>Nancy Howell</i>	<i>Norm & Gail Bleakley</i>
<i>Pat Savary</i>	<i>Paul & Kim Mayberry</i>	<i>Penny March</i>
<i>Rbett Murphy</i>	<i>Rich Renomeron</i>	<i>Roberta Dorn</i>
<i>Robin Heinecke</i>	<i>Sam Connelly</i>	<i>Sandee O'Neill</i>
<i>Scott & Kelly Daniels</i>	<i>Shannon Metcalf</i>	<i>Sbeila Coben</i>
<i>Sherry Carson</i>	<i>Stephanie & Jim Nelson</i>	<i>Stephanie Nagley</i>
<i>Stephanie Pusinsky</i>	<i>Steven Pennell</i>	<i>Sue & Bill Hutt</i>
<i>Terri Jones</i>	<i>Terry Stewart</i>	<i>Wendy Turner</i>

VA/WVA/DC - HOME VISIT VOLUNTEERS

<i>Alyssa Van Herbulis</i>	<i>Amy Lenz</i>	<i>Bob & Monica Walker</i>
<i>Carolyn Eckhaus</i>	<i>Chris Evert</i>	<i>Deb Haegele</i>
<i>Debra Barrows</i>	<i>Diane Lanigan</i>	<i>Dianne & Bruce Blackwell</i>
<i>Don Owens</i>	<i>Donna McCann</i>	<i>Ehysa Birman</i>
<i>Harry Sethna</i>	<i>Heather Hiserman</i>	<i>Idalia Fernandez</i>
<i>Jan Livingston</i>	<i>Jean Hartman</i>	<i>Jeff & Carolyn Eckhaus</i>
<i>Jeff Schuller</i>	<i>Jennifer Sorrells</i>	<i>Jill Kurtz</i>
<i>John Swanson</i>	<i>Judi Buckalew</i>	<i>Judy McKinley</i>
<i>Julie Ann Cheslock</i>	<i>Julie Wright</i>	<i>Karen Angulo</i>
<i>Kate Chutuape</i>	<i>Kelly Edmonds</i>	<i>Kim Wiff</i>
<i>Krista Maslyn</i>	<i>Laura Caliguiri</i>	<i>Laura Catalano</i>
<i>Lauren Mayer</i>	<i>Leslie Peszczynski</i>	<i>Louise Davidson</i>
<i>Lucinda Twining</i>	<i>Marlies Durso</i>	<i>Marsba Wallen</i>
<i>Mary Ann McFarland</i>	<i>Mary Collings</i>	<i>Nan Schramm</i>
<i>Nancy Haisenleder</i>	<i>Olivia McDonough</i>	<i>Pamela Hodgkinson</i>
<i>Robin Robinson</i>	<i>Sally Au</i>	<i>Sally Petty</i>
<i>Sandy Diamond</i>	<i>Sean Clancy</i>	<i>Sharon McIlrath</i>
<i>Susanne Lazanov</i>	<i>Timothy Hyman</i>	<i>Tom Janczuk</i>
<i>Tracey Moriarty</i>	<i>Valerie Kovacevic</i>	<i>Will Buklad</i>

Thank you so much for all of your help, GRREAT really does appreciate all of your time & efforts!

Why Dogs Don't Live Longer Than Humans?

Submitted by Bob Kurtz, Sr.

Being a veterinarian, I was called to examine a 10-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane, were all very attached to Belker and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family there were no miracles for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home. As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for four-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion.

We sat together for awhile after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I've never heard a more comforting explanation. He said, "People are born so they can learn how to live a good life - like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The four-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

-author unknown 🐾

Pick of the Litter: Handy (05-131)

Spotlight on a special Golden in need of a special someone

By Emily Pasterick, Contributing Writer

Both before and after I met Handy, I was equipped with a significant amount of beautifully-written descriptions by his wonderful foster parents, Harry and Sarah, as well as with professional analysis compiled six months ago by his behavioral evaluator. All were helpful in putting words around a Golden with both beauty and “baggage”; however, I also wanted to read between the lines.

As his write-ups indicate, Handy was found as a stray, and is approximately 3 years old – happy and healthy. He bounded inside from the yard when I first arrived, proving both, and warily wiggled around the kitchen while he tried to figure out who I was, if I was a safe and friendly visitor, and therefore some-

one worth welcoming an extension of affectionate greeting (his “foster sister,” Bronte, had no hesitations in offering a hearty hello!) I decided to bring myself down to Handy’s level, and sat down on the kitchen floor attempting a more non-threatening posture. Handy appreciated this, and promptly sat in front of me for some face-to-face sizing up – to the surprise and delight of foster parent, Sarah. While blissfully showering a stranger with kisses might be beyond what Handy will ever be capable of expressing, allowing a stranger to touch noses not five minutes after arrival was evidence of just how much Handy had learned to absorb

an important concept in the preparation for his forever home since becoming a GRREAT dog: trust.

It is strongly suspected that Handy was abused in his former life, judging by the way he tends to pull back from an unfamiliar, extended hand, and prefers to keep a safe distance from those he does not recognize (which is why his ability to quickly allow an



affectionate exchange with me was so noteworthy.) For whatever reasons, this apprehension has manifested itself more alarmingly in his interactions with other dogs, during which he can demonstrate a fear-driven aggression if not carefully monitored. After some adjustment growing pains, he has learned to co-exist remarkably well with foster sister Bronte (indeed, the two laid comfortably together, with Bronte’s paw absent-mindedly batting Handy’s face.) Additionally, a professional evaluation in December 2005, offered promise for Handy’s ability to integrate himself with a forever home given this healthy adjustment, and Handy’s close bond with Harry and Sarah.

Safety, security, and unconditional love bring out the “real” Handy, which is a gorgeous Golden with a lovely, silky coat, who enjoys performing a “sit-stay-down” for a couple treats, going on long, quiet walks, gnawing on a bone, snoozing on a cool fireplace hearth, and giving his people hugs around the waist! His composed and dignified disposition, coupled with the unfortunate baggage from his previous neglect, indicate that Handy would thrive best with a family that has no other dogs, and only children who would be able to understand and control a potentially precarious situation – a family who enjoys the constant companionship of a loyal Golden, whose home is their sanctuary, just missing the loyal and indescribable joy that only a loving Golden Retriever can offer.

Is Handy waiting for you?

Harry and Sarah have done an extraordinary job in not only providing the first comfortable, loving home Handy has ever known in which to rehabilitate, but also in carefully documenting Handy’s personality, tendencies, and ideal adoptive family qualifications. You can find these write-ups both on GRREAT’s website at http://www.grreat.org/doglist_special.htm, and at Handy’s very own website at <http://home.teleport.com/~goldens>. You can also reach Harry and Sarah at 703-392-7497 or goldens@teleport.com. 🐾

Goldstock Auction Items Needed

GRREAT will again be participating in Goldstock, a retreat held at Camp Weequahic in Pennsylvania. Golden Retriever rescue groups from around the country attend this fun event which is held on Labor Day weekend. Activities for people and their dogs are scheduled, and it is a big fundraising event for GRREAT.

Over the weekend silent and live auctions are conducted. GRREAT is looking for donated items for these auctions, and we need your help. Golden Retriever and dog related items are always popular, but we encourage other non-dog related items as well. Each and every donation will be gratefully acknowledged in the GRREAT news.

Donations can be mailed to:

Sandy Diamond
PO Box 5162
Herndon, VA 20172

If you prefer to arrange pick-up of your donation, or to drop it off at a GRREAT event, please contact the following: Sandy Diamond at publications@grreat.org or 703-919-8513, or Joy Scrimshire at secretary@grreat.org or 301-627-4674. We request that you send your donations by August 15, 2006. Thank you in advance for helping to make GRREAT's participation in Goldstock 2006 a success!

For more information about Goldstock, please visit www.goldstockfund.org/Camp/index.htm.



Continued from Page 4

1) How Grreatful they (the foster dogs) seem to be. They know they are loved and cared for and get attention they deserve. 2) Finding the right family and seeing the "spark" that takes place when it's a "match made in heaven". What a joy it is to find just the right fit. Frankly, that's the only thing that makes it possible to give up our foster dogs, after we learned to love them ourselves.
– Lynda & Bob Lake

1) Helping dogs who, through no fault of their own, are forced to leave their homes and the only life they have ever known. 2) The whole experience of matching the dog with a new home. Making sure (as possible) that the new family is a good fit and feeling that the dog is going to a loving family. 3) It is always fun to have a new dog! We get to experience that without permanently increasing our personal pet population, which is already large. – Sandra Rutan and Leon Guerrero

1) Adopting to families with young children and seeing the joy on their faces when they welcome their new Golden into the home. 2) If I can adopt one of my young foster dogs to a family and this stops them from buying a puppy from a pet store or a backyard breeder that makes it all worthwhile. 3) Fostering a golden that has lived outside in the yard or has been kept in the shed or in a crate for most of its life; and then watch them enjoy life, love, happiness and freedom when it arrives at our home. – Jane Salter

1) Seeing the reaction of the adoptive family when they are told they were chosen to be the dog's new owner. 2) Getting e-mails and photos of our former fosters with their adoptive families. – Trish & Chuck Thomas 🐾

Calendar Contest Results

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos for the 2007 GRREAT calendar. We had terrific response and so many wonderful shots to choose from. The beauty and variety of our goldens never ceases to amaze me – blond, red, long hair, short hair, curly hair, beach shots, snow shots, action shots, cuddly shots – you sent them all. The decisions were difficult, and the winners are listed below. We will feature some of the pictures and stories that didn't make it in upcoming issues of the GRREAT News. Thank you again for your submissions.

Cover	Bailey (03-202)	Schauer
January	Maggie (02-085)	Roleff
February	Kelly (03-127)	Ellacott
March	Brandy (04-161) & Chelsea (05-166)	Bender
April	Luke (06-020)	Adkins
May	JT (01-012)	LaBrecque
June	Jake (03-084)	Schmid
July	Joey (04-118)	Nansel
August	Honey (05-070)	Smith
September	Bailey (05-205)	Seymour
October	Heidi (05-124)	Torraca
November	Holly (98-153)	Ferrone
December	Hannah (02-134)	Davidson

Honorable Mentions

Hap (05-190) Wilmoth; Tucker (04-174) Messing; Shelby (03-209) Collings; Hines (05-054); Norra (05-094) Prendergast; Squirrel (93-032) Stanhope; Cassie (01-173) McCreary

Sunshine's RV Adventures: Alaska

Part II

We are going to get up at 4:00 AM for an early departure so I made sure that I was ready for bed early and going to get plenty of sleep. It is 2:51 PM and we are still at Morgan Hill. My mistress woke at 4:00 AM and announced that it was raining cats and dogs, she was going back to bed and I could do what I wanted. My master already had two cups of coffee and was pacing the floor while I joined my mistress for some continued sleep. For sure we are leaving tomorrow since our reservation is done and we have to be out of the campground. I never did see the cats and dogs, must be some form of entertaining speech.

We went up the California coast to the Redwood National Forest. Now this is a place for dogs. The size and number of trees amazed me. A dog could spend a lifetime here and never hit the same tree twice. We stayed at a resort in the forest, the Redwood Trails Resort. We found that if you can park more than one motor home or two travel trailers people will call it a resort. As I was taking one of my many walks, I noticed piles of stuff that looked like huge black mushrooms. I soon found the source. A herd of Elk was standing in the field just in front of me. Strange, my master has to pick up after me. Who does the Elk poop scooping?

I didn't enjoy the trip from Northern California to the Canadian border since most of the time it rained and I was trapped inside. I hope we don't travel that route again.

Well we made it to Canada and crossed the border with no problems. They wanted to know what breed I am and did I have my shots and papers. I wonder about these Canadians! How can they not know what breed I am. We stayed at the Thousand Trails in Cultus Lake, BC and guess what? As luck would have it, my master had to make repairs to the motor home. When they backed

the motor home into the camping site they noticed there was something hanging down from the back left storage panel. It was the batteries! They opened up the panel and the brackets that hold the four main coach batteries had come un-welded and were about to fall out. It being Sunday my humans knew it would not be done until the next day. Right away the maintenance man came by to have a look. He left and came back with the name and time someone would be out on Monday. The guy showed up, the price was right and he fixed it in no time. Everyone at the park was very friendly and helpful. Of course I was the center of attention during the entire episode. I understand it could have had a serious problem had they not fixed the problem. Oh well, this is RVing.

The adventure continued and we moved up through Canada bound for the AlCan. It's a highway that runs from Dawson Creek to Alaska. Most of the trip was boring but there were some fun spots when my humans would get excited. I had to pretend that I was interested in the sights by jumping up from my nap and giving a bark or two. One of the areas was a place called Hells Gate at the Fraser River Gorge. From the roadbed, carved into the side of the mountain, it was a 1700-foot drop to the river. According to my master, Canadians don't believe in guardrails on their highways and the truck drivers don't believe in speed limits.

We arrived at Dawson Creek and the start of the AlCan. I was very disappointed in the town. I could not find a Canadian dog anywhere. The only dogs were the ones in the campground and they are American. We stayed there a few days and then moved on towards Alaska. Most of the scenery was a dog's heaven, millions of trees and more trees.

**TO BE CONTINUED IN THE SEPTEMBER/
OCTOBER 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. 🐾

Natural Recipes

Fleas and ticks can be a problem during the summer and the popular topical treatments, which contain a broad-spectrum insecticide, can have harmful side effects. You can make your own natural insect repellent with essential oils that is safe for both you and your golden.

Mix 10 drops of each of these essential oils with 16 ounces of purified water into a spray bottle:

- Tea Tree
- Citronella
- Eucalyptus
- Rosemary
- Sage
- Cedarwood
- Orange
- Peppermint

Shake well and spray onto your dog's coat, paying special attention to the stomach and legs.

Hot spots often plague our goldens, especially during swimming season. For natural hot spot relief, try this recipe:

Mix 1 tablespoon of organic Aloe Vera juice with 10 drops of Lavender essential oil and 10 drops of Tea Tree essential oil. Add to 8 ounces of purified water in a spray bottle. Shake well and spray the affected area as often as needed. For best results, shave the area prior to application. Store the solution in the refrigerator.

A common problem for many goldens is dirty, smelly ears. Weekly ear cleaning with a natural solution can help prevent ear infections. This recipe is both mild and effective:

Mix 1 cup organic Aloe Vera juice, 1 cup Witch Hazel, 3 tablespoons organic Apple Cider Vinegar, 2 drops Lavender essential oil and 10 drops Tea Tree essential oil. Shake well. Using a bulb syringe flush the ear canal with the solution. Massage gently for 30 seconds. Allow the dog to shake his head to shake out the debris and excess solution. Wipe the inside of the ear flap gently.

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. 🐾

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.

_____ Become a foster home for GRREAT dogs

_____ Help at Adoption Events, Education Events,
Fundraisers & Micro Chipping Clinics

_____ Help operate a beer stand at RFK Stadium events to
benefit GRREAT

_____ Transport GRREAT dogs (to/from vet,
animal shelter, etc.)

_____ Perform home visits for potential adopters prior to
adoption

_____ Additional Information or Comments:

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

The GRREAT Store Featured Items

We now have golden retriever coasters available for sale at the GRREAT store. There are two styles to choose from. The Thirstystone coasters feature a smiling golden and are cut from the finest, most absorbent solid sandstone found in the southwestern United States. The porous nature of the stone naturally absorbs moisture, and the natural cork backing protects furniture. The ceramic Coaster Companions set is also cork backed and features a mother golden with her puppy.



You can purchase these coasters or any of the other GRREAT items on-line by following the link to the store from the GRREAT web site (www.GRREAT.org) or at the Midas Touch Naturally Healthy Pets store in Berryville, Virginia. Store hours are 10-5 every Saturday. Directions to the store can be found on the GRREAT store web site or call 540-955-9690.

All proceeds from the sale of GRREAT merchandise help fund the rescue. 🐾

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

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Golden Retriever Rescue
Education and Training, Inc.
