



GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc. • November/December 2006 • Vol. 17, No. 6

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Hope & Darwin

By Nan J. Schramm

September 11, 2001 began as a typical one for my husband and myself at our apartment one and a half blocks south of the World Trade Center. We awoke to a beautiful sunny cloudless fall day and walked our two Golden Retrievers Hope and Darwin.

Hope had been through a hair-raising rescue up near Albany, New York as a puppy. She, her littermates and their mother were found starving to death in a backyard-breeding nightmare. All of them were rescued by GRROWLS and "Hope" was christened thusly, as she was not expected to live through the night. Needless to say she defied all odds and when we adopted her as an eight-week-old puppy, she had enough spunk for the whole litter. Our Darwin was found wandering Long Island, New York with no hair. After getting his thyroid in check he blossomed into the most beautiful male I have ever seen.

On September 11th, they were given their breakfast and fresh water and off we both went to work. All the windows, which faced north into the towers in our 17th floor apartment were left open. My husband Eric, who often times worked from home, went to his office in midtown. I walked usually to work to my office near Wall Street, but had an early morning appointment in the Bronx that day. During my client meeting, a secretary

ran in and said one of the trade Towers had been hit by a plane. There was a television in the office so we immediately turned it on. It was a grisly and terrifying site and my immediate thought was I have to get home to the dogs. The people in my meet-



ing urged me to stay, but I felt an urgent need to get home. I tried to get Eric on the phone, but for some reason, which I would not understand until hours later I could not get through. In my heart I knew he was on his way home too, as he would have heard the news at his office.

The subway I rode downtown suddenly stopped at 86th street and the announcement was that there was no more Lexington Avenue train service. I left the train and went upstairs to the street. There were throngs of people milling about on the sidewalks, almost all of them on cell phones. I knew if I needed to walk all the way home, it would take hours so I stopped at a deli for a bottle of water. I asked the man at the cash register that was listening to a radio, if he had heard anything about

Continued on Page 14

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

P.O. Box 3069, Falls Church, VA 22043-0069
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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

I was sitting in front of my computer answering e-mails when I heard the familiar “click” that I’d gotten another e-mail. It had come from our Intake Coordinator, Mary Collings letting everyone know that there was another dog waiting to come into GRREAT.

By the time you read this, GRREAT will have taken in just over 200 Golden Retrievers this year. I thought that perhaps you would like to hear about some of the Golden Retrievers that have come into the rescue in 2006, and the reasons they needed GRREAT.

One Year Old, Remington. Reason for give up: Remington was too much for the owner to handle. The owner was overwhelmed with 3 children and in dealing with Remington’s destruction of the children’s toys, it was too much.

Three Month old Hunter. Reason for give up: Hunter played too rough with the couple’s 3-year-old son. The owner didn’t realize it was “this much work.”

Six Month old Ginger Snap. Reason for give up: She had bilateral hip dysplasia and OCD in her front left leg and her family could not afford the surgeries.

Eleven year old Duchess. Reason for give up: Owner moved into a rented townhouse that did not allow dogs. She did not have any other family members that could take Duchess.

Eight year old Buddy: Owner surrendered to the shelter because they had too many dogs.

Thirteen to fourteen year old intact male, Rocky, picked up as a stray.

Eight year old Chance. Shelter picked Chance up as a stray and contacted owner. Owner didn’t want to reclaim Chance.

You can see that while the reasons varied for being given up, the bottom line was, that they needed a place to go, and fortunately, GRREAT was there for them.

At this time of the year, we begin to look ahead to next year, and make our appeal to you to continue your membership and support of GRREAT. I would like to thank our many volunteers who so generously absorb the cost of things such as long-distance phone calls, food for their foster dogs, and mileage. GRREAT is fortunate that we have volunteers like Bill Price who have traveled literally hundreds of miles to pick up a dog, or help at an event and have never asked for travel reimbursement. Two other volunteers GRREAT is fortunate to have is Bob Fritz, our Webmaster, who generously provides GRREAT with its website, and server at no cost. Our Merchandise Coordinator, Jo Bighouse, like Bob, graciously donates the online store to the rescue as well. The list of volunteers like Bill, Bob, and Jo goes on and on.

THANK YOU everyone for contributing so very generously to GRREAT in 2006! Without the donations of your time, your expenses, and your financial support we cannot continue to help the GRREAT Golden Retrievers receive the best care possible, and get a chance at a better life. At this holiday season, I hope you will consider continuing your support of GRREAT so that we can continue giving the best gift possible in 2007. What could be a better gift than that? Especially at the holiday season! 🦴



Karmen (99-222), on the right, and best friend Abby, enjoy a beautiful autumn day. Karmen started life in a puppy mill, and was adopted by the Garcia family on January 1, 2000. He is now 10 years old.

The GRREAT Store Featured Items

We have some wonderful items in the GRREAT store for your holiday shopping. Our new golden retriever ornament is perfect for your Christmas tree and can continue to adorn your house after the holidays. The golden retriever purse and wallet are perfect gifts for that golden lover on your shopping list. Shop on-line at the GRREAT store by following the link at www.GRREAT.org. You will find the GRREAT calendar, jewelry, leashes, collars, key chains, GRREAT shirts, dog toys and more. And your purchases will support a very worthy golden cause.



The Happy and Handsome Hauck Hooligans pose delightedly after a spa date, feeling mellow and relaxed. Left to right are Bingo, Jake (03-095), Reba and Shana (0-063). They await another GRREAT foster to cuddle, tease and enfold into their pack.



Cricket (05-157) came to her forever home with Betty and Don Wofford at the age of 9 months on December 12, 2005. She is bright, alert and so inquisitive. She goes everywhere with them and enjoys being with her people.

*Join the
GRREAT Clan
at the Scottish
Christmas Walk*

Where: Old Town Alexandria

When: Saturday, December 2, 2006
11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Details will be posted on the GRREAT website as the event approaches

ADOPTION REPORT

During the period of August 19 through October 13, 2006, 29 dogs found their forever homes. The dogs ranged in age from 6 months to 10 years, with 16 males and 13 females. Five of the dogs originally came to GRREAT in 2005. Congratulations to all the dogs and their new families!

Name	#	Age	Sex
Able	06-133	1	M
Air Bud	06-160	1	M
Baxter	05-156	5	M
Benny	06-074	5	M
Buddy	06-107	7	M
Chance	06-132	8	M
Cinnamon	06-136	4	F
Claire	06-165	2	F
Cocoa Bean	06-148	2	F
Copper	06-127	4	M

Name	#	Age	Sex
Elvis	06-095	4	M
Emily	06-128	1	F
Emmitt	05-075	10	M
George	06-140	2	M
Gracie	06-141	8	F
Handy	05-131	3	M
Jack	06-145	1	M
Jasmine	06-153	1	F
Kacey	06-159	4	F
Lucia	06-096	6 mos	F
Lucy	05-093	2	F
Mac	06-101	4	M
Molly	06-144	6	F
Precious	06-120	1	F
Rocket	06-022	1	M
Sadie	06-079	8	F
Scout	06-103	5	M
Shelby	05-005	9	F
Tanner/Bailey	06-157	5	M

Did You Know?

- Some dogs are allergic to plastic dog bowls. Also, as the bowls age they develop nicks and scratches which can harbor harmful bacteria. Ceramic bowls made in other countries may use toxic glazes. Stainless steel bowls are the best choice for your dog – they are easy to maintain, durable, immune to chewing and are available in a wide variety of sizes.

- To help minimize a build-up of ice and snow between your dog's toes, apply a thin layer of aloe, petroleum jelly or PAM cooking spray before you go outside. Also, keep excess fur trimmed from the feet.

- A small amount of canned pumpkin (the real pumpkin, not pumpkin pie mix) can help if your dog has diarrhea or constipation. Add a teaspoon to a tablespoon (depending on your dog's size) to his meal if he is having problems. See your vet if the problems persist.

- The Humane Society of the United States estimates that 6 to 8 million dogs and cats enter shelters each year – about half of these find new homes and the other half are euthanized. Approximately 25% of the dogs found in shelters are purebred.

- Golden Retrievers were the #2 most popular breed in the US, according to the AKC, for 2005. Labrador Retrievers have been in the top spot since 1991. The rest of the top 10 are: Yorkshire Terrier, German Shepherd, Beagle, Dauschund, Boxer, Poodle, Shih Tzu and Miniature Schnauzer.

ADOPTION DAY DIRECTIONS

Saturday, December 2, 2006

Noon - 2pm

Petco
10800 Promenade Lane
Manassas, Virginia
301-805-4447

Take I-95 South toward Washington. Take exit #27 onto I-495 West toward Silver Spring. Take exit #49 onto I-66 West toward Front Royal/Manassas. Take exit #47A/VA-234-BUS onto Sudley Road[VA-234-BUS] toward Manassas. Turn Right onto Streamwalk Lane. Turn Right onto Promenade Lane. Petco will be on the right.

Saturday, January 6, 2007

Noon - 2pm

Petco - Gaithersburg
275 Muddy Branch Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-975-9888

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

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

Xylitol Warning

By Jo Bighouse

In a recent press release, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center provided the following warning for pet owners about the sugar substitute xylitol:

According to Dr. Eric Dunayer, veterinarian and toxicologist for the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, dogs ingesting significant amounts of items sweetened with xylitol could develop a fairly sudden drop in blood sugar, resulting in depression, loss of coordination and seizures. "These signs can develop quite rapidly, at times less than 30 minutes after ingestion of the product. Therefore, it is crucial that pet owners seek veterinary treatment immediately." Dr. Dunayer also stated that there appears to be a strong link between xylitol ingestions and the development of liver failure in dogs.

While it was previously thought that only large concentrations of xylitol could result in problems, this appears to no longer be the case. "We seem to be learning new information with each subsequent case we manage," says Dr. Dunayer. "Our concern used to be mainly with products that contain xylitol as one of the first ingredients. However, we have begun to see problems developing from ingestions of products with lesser amounts of this sweetener." He also says that with smaller concentrations of xylitol, the onset of clinical signs could be delayed as much as 12 hours after ingestion.

Therefore, it is important to keep in mind that even if your pet does not develop signs right away, it does not mean that problems won't develop later on."

Xylitol is a sweetener found in certain sugar-free chewing gums, candies and baked goods. If your pet consumes any amount of xylitol, contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435.

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. 🐾

Volunteers Needed

GRREAT is an all-volunteer organization, and is in constant need of people to help. Several specific positions are:

Assistant Education Coordinator – MD/DE/PA

Assistant Education Coordinator – VA/DC/WV

Merchandise Coordinator

Fundraising Coordinator

To find out more about these positions, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Lisa Cook, at volunteer@grreat.org.

We have an ongoing need for Foster Homes – go to <http://www.grreat.org/foster.htm>

We also need help with home visits, transports, education events, adoption days and writers for our newsletter – go to <http://www.grreat.org/voluntr.htm> 🐾



Daisy (05-189) is an extremely active dog who lives only to retrieve her ball. Her companion, Stanley Day, has only two functions in life – to feed her and throw the ball. Or to get the ball when it goes under the sofa.

A Breed Apart: Spotlight on a GRREAT Volunteer Carolyn Beyer

By Emily Pasterick, Contributing Writer

Just one year ago, Carolyn Beyer was searching the Internet looking for volunteering opportunities, and came across GRREAT's website. She was stunned; she had grown up with Goldens, but had no idea there existed actual rescue organizations that served Golden Retrievers in need. She immediately decided she wanted to channel her time and love for Goldens into volunteering opportunities with GRREAT. She quickly became in charge of an arguably underappreciated but extremely important responsibility – she retrieves, accounts for, and distributes the mail from the GRREAT Post Office Box once a week. She is responsible for classifying the mail into veterinary invoices, GRREAT membership donations, GRREAT event registrations monies, invoices from foster homes, and all the donation categories in between (Leo Fund, In Memory Of, etc.). Carolyn summarizes the mail receipt types, organizes them into itemized elements, and then transmits this information to the entire GRREAT Board, for database update and other applicable uses. Carolyn then sends all the donation checks to Gail Corby (GRREAT Treasurer) for financial application and handling, and Gail uses this database inventory to check against the checks received. Seemingly an easy task, yet one that requires more precision, diligence, trust, and timeliness than it would appear immediately.

Additionally, Carolyn volunteers at many Adoption Days and education events in Virginia, and recently, in response to GRREAT's request, began assisting with the Third Annual "GRREAT Beginnings Lead to Happy Endings" 3K Walk that will take place at Weber's Pet Supermarket in Fairfax at 10am on November 11th. Carolyn has been responsible for coordinating the procurement of the 3K Walk t-shirts, and for distributing flyers to spread the word.

Carolyn's dedication towards this endeavor has gotten the notice of other GRREAT volunteers, who have asked her if she might take this coordination effort over for the Fourth Annual walk.

In between volunteering assignments, Carolyn adopted a very special GRREAT Golden named Paige. Those who know Paige remember how challenging her placement was. She spent more time in foster care than was originally anticipated, and generally seemed to have a difficult time adjusting to a home different from that of her original owner's, which had surrendered her when a young family member developed cancer. Paige needed a uniquely patient and loving new owner who could bring out the happiness that had been stifled by anxious family dynamics. Paige found her forever home with Carolyn, who reports Paige to be a completely different dog from the one that came into GRREAT.



As a county government employee, Carolyn is attuned to the social responsibilities that citizens should acknowledge and fulfill whenever possible, and that, combined with her genuine passion for "furry animals," inspires her volunteerism with GRREAT; she feels a responsibility to "give back to society." In the future she sees herself extending her volunteerism to transporting Goldens, and generally prefers to stay "behind the scenes" of GRREAT's strong volunteer foundation, contributing in the critical ways that don't often receive recognition.

Carolyn's determination and responsibility towards helping the society around her through GRREAT's rescue needs and events, allow her to make outstanding and effective contributions to GRREAT. GRREAT is proud to spotlight Carolyn Beyer as "a breed apart!" 🐾

DONATIONS

Thank you for your donations

Lee Beaton
Sharon and Bill Coale
Elizabeth Crane
Louise Davidson
Tracy Dreiband
Judith Eyler
Mary and Richard Gillett
Lynne Glennon
Jonathan Gordon
Bruce and Sue Gross
Eileen and James Hollaway
Kelly Iffland
Mark Ketterman
Glen Leghorn
Jan Livingston
Tom Ludwig
Allison Reed
Conway and Martha Robinson
Vicki and Gordon Sumner
Melodie Syah
Anne Volpe
Dorothea and Edward Wells
Lang & Julia Wethington
Janis and Kevin Woolsey
Albert Young

In Memory Of...

William Delmo Barry, Sr. - Dennis and Melinda Garvin
Godzilla, a truly great Golden, and Sandy, the matriarch of the pack. - John and Sara Liddi
Mrs. Donald Austin. - Alison Martinek
Hope, the beloved dog of Eric Damphousse and Nan Schramm. - Diane Lanigan
Autumn. - Elizabeth Johnson
Mary Dellinger. - Jane Rowe
Sam, Al's best bud. - Al and Jean Huey

On behalf of the Controller of Maryland's Wags to Wishes Outreach Committee, we are enclosing a donation in memory of Tucker Frankhouser, a beloved Golden who lost his life to cancer last year. We are an outreach committee dedicated to the care and adoption of unwanted, sick or abused animals and also the education and awareness of animal rights. We are happy to help support the work you are doing to benefit the many homeless and abused animals in our state with the enclosed donation. - Controller of Maryland, Wags to Wishes

Steve Bergstom's Honey. - Rick Stevens and Julie Palais

Farleigh Curtis - a princess to the end who had a Rolls Royce life with a great family. - Joan Runnion

Apsen Buklad. - Eileen Feldman

Mary Louise Gabriel (Gabrielle). Mary Louise was my cousin and I know cared greatly about the rescue mission for golden retrievers and in fact was one of the founding members of the predecessor organization. We wish GRREAT continued success in your future endeavors. - William Marsden

In Honor Of...

My husband who has asthma & is allergic to dogs; and we have 2 GRREAT dogs. - Sherry Carson

Amber. - Sheila and Al Vertino

Thompson Family for giving our new Golden puppy, Dobson, a great name, and a great start!
- J. Michael Catro

Peaches!!! - Melissa Massaro

To thank Jane Salter for all her dedication and for connecting us with our sweetheart, Luke (Luca). - Michael and Renee Curreri

To thank Chris and Larry Ronald for fostering Gracie with such loving care. - Nancy and Dave Smith

Peaches and for other needs. - Catherine Campbell

Linda Kurtz and her dedication to GRREAT. - Gail Corby

For Special Reasons

To thank the GRREAT Board of Directors, Jessica Robinson, Allison Ward, and Sandy Diamond for their patience and perseverance in trying to find me a forever home. - Handy 05-131 (on behalf of Harry Sethna and Sarah Navia)

Here are two more checks from sewing on Girl Scout patches. - Kathi Stanhope

Dear Fellow Animal Lover: It is my practice to tithe 10% of every dollar that comes my way to sources of spiritual food and/or those who help animals and the environment. Therefore, please accept this gift as acknowledgement (for me) that God is my source of all that is good. Thank you for your efforts in helping to rescue and save the lives of precious Goldies! - Constance Nash

We adopted Mosby in September 2004. What a wonderful dog! Thanks for all that you do for these special dogs. - Bruce and Margaret Duerson

I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for the general fund. - Eileen and James Hollaway

DONATIONS

Contribution where ever you need it. -
Dottie and Marie Kilcarr

Please accept the enclosed check as a
gift from Dr. Salah H. Hosny who has
owned and loved two golden retrievers
and greatly admires the work that you
do. - Dr. Salah H. Hosny

Simile-Finale Fund

In memory of our Golden angel
Winnie, who would have been 10 on
9/14/06. We miss you, sweet girl,
- Dave, Robin, Thomas and Daniel
Robinson

Corporate Giving

Aetna Foundation – on behalf of Lauri
and David Silberstein

Becton Dickinson & Company -
Matching Donation Program on behalf
of Richard Jefferson.

Sandy Spring Bank - “Dollars for
Doers” program on behalf of Sandy
Diamond

On behalf of Commerce Bank and
Herndon, Virginia store manager Harry
Hager, I am pleased to present the
enclosed contribution to GRREAT
in the name of Connie Swanson.
Commerce has selected Connie as a
“Hometown Hero” in Virginia. At the
July 22nd ribbon cutting ceremony of
our new Herndon store, we will publicly
recognize Connie for her outstanding
contribution to education in northern
Virginia, and will honor her by con-
tributing to the charity of her choice:
Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and
Training, Inc. Commerce Bank is deeply
committed to enriching the prosperity
and vitality of the communities where
our customers and employees live and
work. Each year, in addition to our sig-

nificant corporate financial support,
hundreds of dedicated Commerce
employees contribute thousands of
volunteer hours to programs and
organizations that focus on educa-
tion, healthcare, arts and culture, and
community development. In addi-
tion, we support many animal welfare
organizations, and we are very proud
of the “dog friendly” environment of
our stores, where we are always eager
to welcome new and returning canine
friends! We were especially pleased
when Connie informed us that she
had chosen GRREAT to receive a
contribution in her name, and hope
that our presentation at the ribbon
cutting ceremony may help increase
public awareness of your organiza-
tion. We extend to you our best
wishes for continued success in your
efforts to rescue, train, and find lov-
ing homes for Golden Retrievers!

Leo's Corner

GOLDEN ANGELS (\$500 AND MORE)

I can hardly write this letter without
tears. We lost our dear wonderful Boo
on July 22. She was 14 ½ and pure joy
all the twelve years we had her. Kodi
misses her mentor and leader tremen-
dously (even though Boo was slowing
down.) Kodi is doing well otherwise
and we all grieve together. Please use
the enclosed donation to the LEO
FUND in memory of Boo. - Jim and
Ginny Hayes

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

GOLDEN HEROES (\$100-\$499)

Rex Dexter

Renew Your Membership Now for 2007

It is time to renew your
GRREAT membership for
2007.

We rely on membership dues,
donations, and fundraising to
operate. Your \$30 member-
ship dues keeps this newsletter
coming to your mailbox every
two months and will help us
save more Golden in 2007.

To renew, please visit our
online membership center
at [http://www.grreat.org/
online/mbr_center.htm](http://www.grreat.org/online/mbr_center.htm)

Or, simply clip and complete
the membership renewal form
on page 19 of this newslet-
ter. Be sure to include your
current mailing and e-mail
addresses. Mail the form along
with a check for \$30 (payable
to GRREAT) to: GRREAT,
PO Box 3069, Falls Church
VA 22043.

If you have any questions
about your membership sta-
tus, please send a note to Jill
Kurtz, membership coordina-
tor at memberships@grreat.org
or at the mailing address
above.

We hope that you will con-
tinue to be a part of our
GRREAT family!

Pick of the Litter: Jazz (03-081)

Spotlight on a special Golden in need of a special someone

By Emily Pasterick, Contributing Writer

Three years ago, GRREAT took in a now 7-ish-year-old Golden Retriever named Jazz who was graciously fostered by Stacy Duffy. With as much care as all GRREAT foster families take, Stacy placed Jazz with a wonderful “forever” family; three years later, Jazz returned to GRREAT with unexplained lameness which was not able to be definitively diagnosed. Additionally, Jazz suffered from occasional seizures, and considering the lameness, had likely been over-medicated. Although both of these conditions could be easily treated and managed, it appeared the adoptive owner was no longer interested in caring for Jazz. That, more than Jazz’s medical status, reunited him with Stacy for fostering.

Almost as soon as Jazz was carried across the threshold of Stacy’s home, he started walking. After examination by the vet, it was determined that Jazz had been placed on inappropriate levels of Phenobarbital and potassium bromide, two medications that are used to manage Jazz’s epileptic condition – this likely contributed to his inability to walk properly when he first arrived at Stacy’s. Otherwise, it was never really determined why Jazz had that difficulty, and it has not emerged since. Stacy spent considerable time experimenting with the proper dosages of each

medication, even weaning him off of them at one point, until she struck the right balance. Now, Jazz rarely has seizures, and when they do occur he recovers within minutes. Being informed, more than simply medicating, is the best way to manage a seizure condition in a dog. Recommended reading is the award-winning website <http://www.canine-epilepsy-guardian-angels.com/FAQ.htm>, which demystifies and explains canine epilepsy, a condition that is not nearly as scary as it may sound to some.

Of course what people notice about Jazz first is not a medical diagnosis, but his wonderfully expressive face. He has that lovely, soft, soothing white that appears on the face of an aging Golden, and he moves more slowly so that you have time to look into his spirit in a way you can’t do with the younger pups – it’s captivating in itself. Add to that Jazz’s deep grin [his foster mom declares that Jazz’s mouth corners pull back more than most, allowing for big smiles]

and sleepy eyes that twitch with his cheeks whenever he is happy – and that is often. Beyond his pleasing face is a solid body with the sort of hearty thickness that comes with a degree of hypothyroidism, and a coat unlike any I have seen before in the Golden retrievers I’ve personally come across – it’s the color of golden fudge ripple. Streaks of vanilla swirled within golden chocolate.

Jazz was a delight my entire visit. He took some time to get to know me from afar and around (when Stacy’s other exuberant pack members gave him some clearance ☺), then started pouncing on his coveted bones. He allowed me to take them and nuzzle his face, at which point I heard him

making the funniest snoring noises – his way of expressing his joy. I knew I had been accepted when he squeezed between and made his way through my legs for no apparent reason; I was welcome.

Jazz is extremely sweet, always flashing that dazzling smile, and is very playful and happy to be with people. He loves ‘dem bones, and carrying various items around like every Golden does. Jazz is looking for a forever home, in the truest sense of “forever,” that can give him the love and play he deserves but has only experienced so far in transient phases.

Herbie Hancock, a legendary jazz musician, once said of the beauty of jazz that “pieces don’t have to have the same tempo from beginning to end.” GRREAT’s Pick of the Litter - with his uneven tempo “heard” through the unsteady cadence of a medical condition, the animated rhythms of a wizened, communicative face, and the tenuous relocations of life looking for permanence - resonates with soul.

For more information about Jazz, please visit his profile on the GRREAT website at <http://www.grreat.org/doglist.htm>).

If you are interested in finding out more about Jazz, please contact Stacy Duffy at stacyduffy@comcast.net. 🐾



Many Thanks

I'd like to thank everyone and the just over 50 dogs who attended GRREAT's Dog-A-Poolooza Swimfest! I'd also like to thank our volunteers who helped make the day a success: Diane Lanigan, Lauri Presnell, Joy Scrimshire, & Carl Wiff. A special thank-you to Jo Bighouse of Midas Touch Naturally Healthy Pets for the door-prizes. Also we very much appreciate the donation of the pool from Roger Collins, proprietor of the Northern Virginia Animal Swim Center. For more information on the Swim Center, and the benefits your dog can get from swimming, go to <http://www.nvasc.com/> or call Roger at 540-687-6816. Kim Wiff

Thank you to our Adoption Day volunteers:

September 9, 2006 Owings Mills, MD

Andrew Becker
Kathy Thomas
Eugene Weinstein
Wayne Hunter
Terri Jones
Marilyn Flavin

October 7, 2006 Burke, VA

Kathy Thomas
Jeff Twining
Lucinda Twining
Idalia Fernandez
Duncan
Jenn Neely
Dave Neely
Ken Porter
Al Rudmann
Pete Peterson
Andrea Peterson
Jean Hartman

Thank you to the following people who volunteered at the GRREAT Education Booth at the Virginia Scottish Games:

Carolyn Beyer
Al Rudmann
Andrea Peterson
Pete Peterson
Marion Lynders
Ken Diamond
Jennifer Owen

Thank you to Colleen Pelar, CPDT and All About Dogs, Inc. for hosting a seminar on Canine Body Language on October 14th. All About Dogs offers training classes, doggie day care and informational seminars. You can find out more information or contact them at www.allaboutdogsinc.com.

Thank you to the following volunteers who helped at Barcstoberfest on October 21, 2006:

Daniel Broh-Kahn
Kevin Broh-Kahn
Rebekah Broh-Kahn
Lane Weinzwieg
Gene Weinzwieg
Greg Sowers
Louis Sowers
Al Rudmann

Thank you to the following volunteers who helped at the PVGRC Specialty Match lunch on August 20, 2006:

Julie Palais
Bob Kurtz
Jill Kurtz
Carl Wiff
Kim Wiff

GRREAT Wish List

Your donations are what allow us to continue to rescue and re-home golden retrievers. In addition to cash donations, we need help in other ways:

- Foster a dog
 - Transport a dog
 - Donate an exercise pen or baby gates
 - Donate grooming supplies
 - Drive a dog to and from vet appointments
 - Donate a gas card, phone card or long distance calling card
 - Donate copier paper, envelopes and/or stamps
 - Offer the use of your computer/copier to print forms
 - Have a yard sale and donate the proceeds to GRREAT
 - Write an article for the GRREAT News
 - Pay a house cleaning service to do spring cleaning for a foster home
 - Offer to temporary-foster while a regular foster home is on vacation
 - Donate your professional services if you are an accountant, dog trainer, groomer, etc.
 - Become a home visit volunteer
 - Sign up for iGive.com (a portion of online purchases is donated to GRREAT)
-more ways to help next issue.....
-

Book Review

By Jennifer Owen and Olivia

It all started with an article in the Washington Post's Sunday Source section entitled: "How to Maximize Fido's Training." The article mentions, among other things, a book by Gerilyn J. Bielakiewicz called *The Only Dog Training Book You'll Ever Need*. I have a precocious dog, so I was skeptical, but knew I needed to do something. I decided that \$7.95 for a new copy from my local Barnes & Noble was definitely more in my price range than some of the other training services touted by the article. Thus inspired, I bought the book that very day. I expected a thick and weighty book, since it is to be the "only" dog training book you'll ever need, I was surprised to find a handy little paperback featuring a scowling bull-dog on the cover. The table of contents is very detailed, making it easy to find the areas specific to various owners' needs. However, I encourage you to read from the beginning, rather than skipping around. The first four chapters, approximately 50 pages, are devoted to the basics and really have more to say about what you, the owner, are supposed to be doing in this partnership. The language is uncomplicated and the chapters are punctuated with cute drawings and instructional photographs. Ms. Bielakiewicz has a light and humorous writing style that prompts laughing out loud while reading. I think most dog owners will easily recognize these situations, themselves and their dogs in the pages. As you



progress, the author includes "Quick Fix" tips throughout the chapters. These helpful nuggets of information amount to creative ideas for how to execute the training focus of that chapter or dispel common myths that have developed from often well-meaning misinformation. One of the most important things I learned was the key role exercise plays in effective training. The author observes that exercise requirements differ by breed and age. She notes: "exercise is a crucial element in any training program and without enough of it, no real learning will occur." The author is very careful to encourage dog-owners without sounding judgmental and the book is very readable. However, the highest praise I can offer is that it works! I can already see a marked change for the better in my dog, Olivia. Admittedly, we have suffered a few setbacks, but I am encouraged to continue by our successes. I can honestly recommend this book for the new owners with puppies as well as owners with older dogs, like me, who are seeking remedial training. Olivia gives this book two paws enthusiastically up! 🐾

2007 Election

Nominations are being sought for the GRREAT Board of Directors for 2007. The following positions are filled annually by vote of the membership:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

You may nominate yourself or another GRREAT member in good standing. If you are nominating someone other than yourself, please contact the individual to get his or her consent before submitting the nomination. You may make nominations for one or more of these positions, but you cannot nominate the same person for more than one role.

All nominations must be received by November 30. No nominations will be taken from the floor during the annual meeting.

Please return your nomination(s) to mail-admin@grreat.org.

In early January, a list of nominees will be e-mailed to all members along with details about the voting process.

Thank you.

Jill and Bob Kurtz, election moderators

Does your Golden (or Other Pet) Need Pet Insurance?

By Mary Collings

As GRREAT's Intake Coordinator, one of the reasons I hear from people giving up their Golden is that the owner cannot afford unexpected medical expenses, such as costly surgeries due to illness or injury.

Part of being a responsible pet owner means ensuring that you are financially able to take care of your pet for his/her lifetime. It's something that we all want to do and intend to do, but sometimes things happen in our lives that prevent us from being able to afford the care that our 4-legged family member needs. According to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association's 2005-2006 National Pet Owners Survey, dog owners spend approximately \$574 on surgical vet visits and \$211 on routine vet care every year. If you (and your dog) are lucky, that's all you'll spend. If you're not so lucky, you could spend thousands more.

The pet insurance company that my husband and I chose for our four dogs implements a \$50 deductible per incident/illness and my reading has shown that all of the pet insurance companies do have a deductible. As with most of the pet insurance companies, the policy holder pays for services in full at the time of the vet visit, and then sends the receipt to the insurance company, along with a claim form. Assuming a claim has been submitted for a covered incident/illness, within a few weeks a reimbursement check arrives, along with an explanation of benefits.

Generally, the cost of a policy premium is based on the age of the dog, the plan selected, and the state you live in. The

older the pet at the time of enrollment, the more the policy will cost you. Pre-existing conditions are excluded from coverage. With many of the companies, you have several choices of plans, such as coverage for yearly check-ups and vaccinations, choice of a "superior" or "standard" plan, prescription coverage, cancer coverage addendums, and more.



When we got our first Golden Retriever, Reno, we signed him up and it turned out to be one of the smartest decisions we've ever made, as he's had quite a few serious and costly health problems over the years. Additionally, we have two GRREAT Golden Retrievers and a mix, all of whom are covered by pet insurance. While we have rarely used the insurance on two of our dogs, the other two have spent significant time at the vet. Considering the number of claims

we've submitted and been reimbursed for versus the premiums we pay per year for all four dogs, we have MORE than gotten our money's worth from having pet insurance. As you can see from Reno's picture, he's one happy and healthy boy and thanks to pet insurance, we've never had to worry about all his medical expenses.

There are a number of pet insurance companies out there, if you're interested. A few of them are Veterinary Pet Insurance, <http://www.petinsurance.com>; Pet Care, <http://www.petcareinsurance.com>; Embrace Pet Insurance, <http://www.embracepetinsurance.com>. You can do a search online or you can talk to your vet and get his/her recommendation. 🐾



Holly (04-085) came to GRREAT in May of 2004 following her life as a puppy mill mom. The mill owner sold her for \$50 to an unsuspecting family seeking a pet. Holly spent most of her time hiding underneath their outside deck, refusing to come out. Adopted into the home of Holly and Dennis Blackledge in September of 2004, she joined new friends Jazzy and Dickens. Today she loves going for walks, romping in the yard or dog park and going anywhere in the car.

the plane crash down town. He looked at me and the words he uttered I will never forget as long as I live. He said, "Lady, the towers have collapsed". I guess my reaction was rather hysterical because I remember him yelling at me "yes, but you're alive". I stumbled onto the sidewalk thinking I had to find Eric. Neither of us had a cell phone and my only hope of finding him was at his office at 34th street. Every payphone in the city had a line around the block and by now people were walking up the center of the streets. I remember being utterly focused at the task at hand, getting through the crowds to Eric not stopping to speak with anyone, head down, one foot in front of the other. I stopped for a brief moment at Times Square and the ticker tape repeated what the man at the deli had said. "World trade Center collapses." I wouldn't put the pieces of the second plane together or see the devastating images for hours. You don't know it when you are in shock; it hits you later when you say to yourself "oh, I am in a state of shock". My state of shock and that of my husband's looking back on it lasted for months.

I arrived at Eric's high-rise office tower at 34th street and went into the lobby. I never thought what I was going to do if he wasn't there. After wandering many floors with empty cubicles, I heard his voice on the phone speaking French, I knew to his mother. Never has that language sounded so like music to my ears.

We spent the next few hours calling our families and letting people know that we were okay. From what little news we could piece together Manhattan Island was in "lock down" and everything below 14th street was off limits. Eric, as I knew he would, had rushed home after the first plane hit only to be stopped by FBI and told to leave the area. He witnessed the horror of people jumping and ran as one of the towers came down.

The hours ticked by like seconds for us that day. All we could think of was Hope and Darwin with all the windows open and how we could get to them. At this point we were still unsure if the building was even standing. My Mother told me she was sure she had seen it on CNN and that it looked unscathed. In my mind I knew that 50,000 people worked daily in the Trade Center and that the casualties and loss to put it in the eloquent words of then Mayor Giuliani could be greater than any of us could bear.

We ended up getting on a Subway downtown about 7:00 to some friends who lived well East of the destruction. They fed us dinner and then we decided to see how far we could get on foot into what had not yet been coined "ground zero". There were very few civilians out and a police officer said to us, stick together as a group, you don't know what is out here. I suppose he meant marauding looters. The closer we got to the destruction, the thicker the ash became in the air and under foot. It got so that if a National Guard truck passed we needed to pull our shirts up over our faces to breathe. We got into Battery Park City in the pitch black and were able to see our building across the West Side Highway. I simply couldn't look. The building two doors to North of ours was badly on fire and I knew that in addition to the ash and debris that must have come in the open windows, the dogs now had thick smoke to breathe. That is if they were still alive.

We crossed the highway and systematically tried to get to the building up the various abandoned streets. National Guardsmen who were frankly doing their job by turning us away thwarted all efforts. There was nothing left to do, and the sights we took in resembled that of a horror movie in which we were all "extras". We went home in the smoky darkness and were given a comfortable bed

and clean tee shirts to sleep in. I am not a religious person but I said a prayer for my babies. I prayed that they would not suffer and if they had to die, or had died, that it would be painless and quick, much like being put to sleep.

Eric and I got some sleep. I think sleep came as a result of our emotional states because I did not expect to get a wink. We were up at first light. We put back on our ash covered work clothes and set out. We went to my office on foot to get medical supplies and flashlights. Darwin had had surgery on his front leg the week before and I knew he would need to have it wrapped and be prepared to walk down 17 flights and several miles to our friends house in a substance that might be very toxic. In my heart I knew it would be nothing short of a miracle for us to get to them. I frankly had no expectation of getting in to the building, or even being allowed close to it.

We left my office and started towards our home. There was one lone civilian that we saw with a big professional camera. I remember looking down at one point and seeing a dead monarch butterfly and thinking I hope this not an omen of things to come. I had never seen a butterfly in Manhattan.

In the daylight absolutely everything was covered in white soot and ash. Looking back on it, the entire landscape was colorless. Everything was in shades of grey. It was almost Pompeian. We got as far as Trinity Church and our building came into sight and from what we could see, it looked okay! It was about this time we were asked to turn back by National Guardsman. I figured we would never get as close as we had and I was expecting this.

Every time we were told to turn back, we would scoot up another street so that we wouldn't be seen. Before long we were within one block of our home. At this point I was in complete hysterics. I was overcome with so much emotion and

Continued on Page 18

Caring for Your Senior Golden

By Sandy Diamond, Education Coordinator

As our golden friends age, just like people, their bodies and behaviors change. In general, large dogs age faster than smaller dogs. New calculators take into weight as well as age when estimate the age of a dog in human years. A chart designed by William Fortney, DVM, of Kansas State University estimates that a 10-year-old dog weighing 51 to 120 pounds is about age 80 in people-years.

With better care and feeding, and more advanced veterinary technologies, our dogs can live longer, healthier lives than just ten years ago. But keeping a watchful eye on your dog's health and addressing any problems early are essential. Understanding what changes are just normal courses of aging versus what changes are treatable afflictions common in older dogs is important.

Most veterinarians consider dogs over age 7 or 8 to be seniors and recommend annual "senior blood work." Regular check-ups can help to identify and diagnose problems early. Common changes in older dogs include:

Decreased activity: A slowing metabolism, arthritis and/or muscular aches and pains can cause your golden's energy level to decrease. Shorter, more frequent walks and supplements such as glucosamine, massage or acupuncture can help.

Changes in nutritional needs: With decreased activity a golden requires fewer calories. Older dogs tend to gain weight, which can aggravate other problems such as arthritis or heart disease. Additional supplements may be recommended by your vet.

Coat, skin and nail changes: You may notice your golden's face beginning to turn white as young as age 5. Other changes can include a thinning coat, thickened skin and brittle nails. Lumps and bumps can also begin to appear. Fatty tumors are common, but all should be checked out due to an increased risk of cancer as dog's age.

Hearing, vision and tooth loss: Decreased hearing is common (although somehow they can always hear the treat jar no matter how deaf they become.) Eye lenses become cloudy with age which does not typically cause significant vision loss, but cataracts may cause blindness. Dental calculus and mineral loss can cause teeth to fall out.

Diseases of internal organs: More serious problems can occur with a dog's internal organs. Weight loss, vomiting, diarrhea, increased urination or thirst and decreased appetite can be signs of liver or kidney problems, thyroid or diabetes problems or gastrointestinal issues.



Just like people, as dogs age their personalities can also change. Dogs can develop dementia or can just become grouchy if they don't feel well. Losing hearing or vision can cause a dog to become less confident or startle more easily. Pain caused by arthritis can make a dog irritable if they

are touched in a sore spot. Monitoring your dog's health and reporting changes to your vet can help to keep your dog feeling good well into their most senior years. 🦴

Letters to GRREAT

Dear Nancy and Judd:

It's with a very sad heart that I'm writing to tell you that Chance died this morning.

Over the last week, he suddenly began to have massive seizures that were followed by durations of total incapacitation.

During multiple trips to the vet in the last several days, he went through several diagnostic procedures and medications in attempts to rule out various causes. At first, we discovered that his thyroid function had become very low, and after the first seizure, he went on thyroid medication. He recovered for 2 days, and then had another major seizure. He never really bounced back from it. We put him on anti-seizure meds. This morning, he was lethargic, unresponsive, and could not stand, or even pick his head up. He wouldn't eat or drink, and showed no response when I did the familiar "want to go outside, Chance?" You both know how much he loved being outside....wild horses could not keep him still if he heard the word "outside."

It was very clear that he was really struggling. He'd pick his head up just a bit to please me, but his eyes had become sunken and he could barely keep them open. My pet sitter came over to help me carry him down the stairs of my townhouse and get him into the car to take him back to the vet (this was our 3rd emergency visit in a week).

My vet did further tests, and found that he no longer had sensation in his rear legs. Apparently, he has had a brain tumor for some unknown period of time, and it finally grew, or pushed through, to the point that it was interfering with any neurological signals from his rear legs. After a long conversation about possible alternatives, it became clear that the options would give him only a few days, and his quality of life would be very low.

Without the ability to walk, he could not be the dog he was. I simply could not put that sweet and beautiful boy through anymore suffering. He really did try to pick up his head and respond to my touch to please me...that's all he ever wanted to do was to please people. But the look on his face told all of us that we just couldn't put him through anymore. He was tired, he was in pain, and he just couldn't be the dog he was.

He passed very peacefully today at the vet, with Debbie (my pet sitter), and myself on the floor with him, holding him, petting him and telling him what a sweet boy he was. We both cried a lot - she loved him almost as much as I did.

I am just heartbroken to have lost him so soon. He was my dream dog...the most perfect dog anyone could ever have wanted. So gentle, so sweet, so happy, and so eager to please. He never barked, never chewed anything, never had

an accident, never got on the furniture, loved everyone... who would believe that such a dog even existed? I certainly never dreamed such a dog existed, and was prepared to accept much less....but Chance was a one in a billion dog.

He wanted to be everyone's friend. Everyone here in my neighborhood knew him, and he always got attention wherever he went. The kids all loved him, and he was so sweet and gentle with them. I am so lucky to have had him in my life. Even though I had him only six months, he'll be in my heart forever.

I wanted you to know how grateful I am to you both for taking such wonderful care of him, loving him, and entrusting him to me. He was everything I ever wanted in a dog. I knew that adopting an older dog would mean that I would have to say goodbye sooner rather than later...I'd just hoped for later than this. But not for one minute would I take back the decision to adopt him. I'm grateful for every single moment I had with him.

It is very quiet in this house right now. Chance was here to comfort me when I had to put my 16-year old cat to sleep in July. He knew he was sad and put his head in my lap when I cried. Today I have no Chance to take away the sadness and the feeling of loss. I loved that old boy with all my heart. Perhaps, in time, I will adopt another GRREAT dog, but I'll never have another dog like Chance.

If it weren't for the two of you, Chance would never have come into my life. For your trust in me to take him, I will always be grateful.

Lisa Zolly



Can Dogs Really Sniff Out Cancer?

By Meg Ellacott, Contributing Writer

I've always found the topic of dogs trained to sniff out cancer fascinating. So I decided to do a bit more research and report my findings back to GRREAT members.

My writing this article was precipitated by one I recently read in PEOPLE Magazine. It told of Wrigley, a golden retriever, who kept sniffing at his owners right ear in a persistent "Hey, what's in there?" kind of way. Having just seen a segment on 60 Minutes about dogs being able to detect cancer in humans, the owner, Warner became concerned and went to the doctor for tests. Sure enough, an MRI showed a relatively large tumor near his inner ear. The growth was removed during a 4-hour surgery and was benign. But his doctors told him that in another year it could have caused a stroke or even death. Warner's doctor said "Call it luck or call it science, we just don't understand it yet." Wrigley did bring Warner to treatment and that was certainly fortuitous... adds Warner "I'm blessed to have her as part of my life..." -- we all feel this way about our GRREAT dogs and so I decided to look into the subject further.

The whole point of dogs being able to sniff out certain types of cancer is that the "outcome of the studies is "proof of principle" which opens up intriguing paths into detecting early-stage cancer through smell, rather than through chemical tests, scans or invasive diagnostics." The principle aim is to use dogs to help doctors and researchers find specific markers for cancer. The most common cancers tested and most identifiable (by dog sniffing) so far, are bladder, lung, breast and skin cancers.

The inspiration for the experiment dates back 15 years, when a pair of British dermatologists wrote a letter to The Lancet in April 1989 to describe a bizarre case in which a worried dog saved her owner's life. The animal persistently sniffed, and eventually tried to bite, a lesion on the woman's leg. Thus prompted, she went to the doctor, who found that it was skin cancer in its earliest stages. She was successfully treated. More innovative technological work into cancer-sniffing has been unfolding especially within the last 3-5 years.

The following illustrates how dogs are trained and results of testing for lung/breast and bladder cancer. As amazing as it sounds, it makes perfect sense to me and I, for one, find these results intriguing and oh so promising:

Lung and Breast Cancer: Previous studies had shown that dogs seem to be able to sniff out melanomas and bladder cancer. Cancer patients have been shown to have traces of chemicals – like alkenes and benzene derivatives – in their breath, and other studies have shown dogs can detect chemicals in concentrations as small as a few parts per trillion.

So researchers at the Pine Street Foundation in San Anselmo, California, US, selected three Labrador retrievers and two Portuguese water dogs with no previous training, and over several weeks trained them using breath samples that had been exhaled into tubes by cancer patients.

To test how well the dogs had learned, they used a new batch of samples and had the dogs attempt to distinguish among 55 lung cancer patients, 31 breast cancer patients and 83 healthy controls. The patients had all had their cancers confirmed by biopsy. The tests were double-blind, so neither the dog handlers nor the experimenters knew which tubes were which.

The dogs correctly detected 99% of the lung cancer samples, and made a mistake with only 1% of the healthy controls. With breast cancer, they correctly detected 88% of the positive samples, and made a mistake on only 2% of the controls.

Bladder Cancer: Dogs have been trained to detect bladder cancer by sniffing urine, using their acute sense of smell to identify a tiny but characteristic odor released by tumors, say U.K. researchers.

Dr Carolyn Willis of Amersham General Hospital in Buckinghamshire and team report their findings in this week's British Medical Journal.

"Dogs can be trained to detect some odor characteristics for bladder cancer," said Willis.

The theory behind such "cancer sniffing" is that tumors release volatile organic compounds as they grow. Even though the amounts are only tiny, they have a specific signature that can be detected if the olfactory power is strong enough to sense and discriminate.

Willis and her colleagues took six dogs of varying ages and breeds and trained them over six months to discriminate among dozens of samples of urine from patients with bladder cancer, from people with other urological diseases, and from healthy individuals.

The dogs were then put through their paces in a carefully-devised test. They had to detect a urine sample from a bladder-cancer patient among six "control" samples, nine times over. When the dog identified urine from a cancer patient they would lie down next to the sample.

The performances ranged from one out of nine successful identifications by a six-year-old male mongrel to five out of nine by two working-strain cocker spaniels, a male aged 18 months and a female aged two years. Overall, the average success rate of the dogs was 41%, which Willis said was significant because it would have been 14% by chance alone.

During the training phase of the study, the dogs consistently identified a urine sample from a healthy control patient as cancerous. Further tests confirmed the volunteer did in fact have the disease. *From BiologyNews.net

Believe it or not: scientific studies have documented the abilities of our dogs to identify chemicals that are diluted as low as parts per trillion. We've always known that dogs are our best friend, and now as it turns out...will they be our saviors too? 🐾

Continued from Page 14

in complete disbelief that we were almost to the building. Looking back on that journey, I realize we rode in a pocket of luck the whole way. There was a police station right next door to our building and we had terrible fears about what might have happened to the burly men we saw outside every morning who were so affectionate with Hope and Darwin. As we approached the station we could see at the end of our block, "the pile". All that was left of the towers sat in a smoking ten-story heap and our block was littered with burned out wrecked cars. Eric thought my hysterics might be our ticket in, so I asked the men (they were all National Guardsmen) if our police station had suffered any losses. The gruff response was "enough". I begged them to let us go in for ten minutes to get our dogs. The answer was no. And then a miracle of miracles. One of them said "we don't see you, and if anything happens to you in there, we REALLY didn't see you". As we approached the building, it was completely unrecognizable. The awnings, which had been recently installed over the entrance, had blown off the building and were lodged in the parking garage across the street.

We entered a pitch-black smoky ash covered lobby. Had we not had the flashlights we would never have found the fire stair. Bizarrely, the front fire stair was locked and we had no idea where the second one was, but we found it and entered. We had a very slow go of it making our ascent. It was 17 flights and we kept hyperventilating. Looking back, I know the reason was fear and emotion. We took many breaks and found some windows that could be opened so that we could breath. As we approached our apartment door Eric told me to stay back. He did not want me to see the dogs if they had expired up against the door. For some reason he knocked on the door. It seemed like an eternity but

after several seconds Darwin let out a huge WOOF. In we went, and there they were behaving as if we were late coming home from work. Our apartment was covered with charred papers and ash, but the dogs still had water in their bowl. Neither of those dogs had relieved themselves in the apartment and they had been alone for twenty-four hours. We held them and cried. They were just as we left them very happy and frisky. At one point they were rolling around playing in the ash on the floor. I knew we would have to travel lightly and that this may be the last time we ever got into the building as it could collapse. I took Darwin's thyroid medicine some of their favorite toys and a few important papers and a box of dog biscuits. Oh, and Hope's baby pictures.

How did we get so lucky? Those animals were the only things in that apartment that mattered and they came out of what had to have been a horrible ordeal unscathed. We would learn many weeks later that many other tenants tried to get to their animals and were turned away and that an 8-week-old puppy was left for 4 days and almost died. The dogs were taken on a rush hour subway and a commuter train that next day up to my Mother's house in Massachusetts. We ended up living in the New York Hilton for 3 and half months trying to decide what to do while visiting them every weekend. Not having them for those months was agony, but there was nothing else we could have done. We knew they were safe, if a little confused.

We made the move to Northern Virginia knowing that it would be a beautiful life for Hope and Darwin. Eric was able to keep his job and his commute is now about 5 seconds to his office, the front room of an 18th century farmhouse. We promised the dogs we would never go to work and leave them again, and we haven't. After we got here I realized that I needed to somehow give back to the breed that has always blessed my life. I joined

GRREAT and ended up getting in touch with Diane Lanigan at the organization who suggested I get involved with home visits. I have loved every minute of my involvement and it was a wonderful way for me to get active again after saying goodbye to my job in New York. I think our grieving process will never be fully over, but everyday has been a good one since we moved here last December. After having suffered so terribly, the people of Virginia have been so kind and accepting of us.

I have found that talking about our ordeal and hearing about that of other's has been very helpful. Feel free to email me at NSCH281302@aol.com 🐾

Doggie Definitions

SOFAS: Are to dogs like napkins are to people. After eating it is polite to run up and down the front of the sofa and wipe your whiskers clean.

BATH: This is a process by which the humans drench the floor, walls and themselves. You can help by shaking vigorously and frequently.

BUMP: The best way to get your human's attention when they are drinking a fresh cup of coffee or tea.

GOOSE BUMP: A maneuver to use as a last resort when the Regular Bump doesn't get the attention you require..... especially effective when combined with The Sniff. See last issue.

LOVE: Is a feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction. The best way you can show your love is to wag your tail. If you're lucky, a human will love you in return. If not, you can always sniff their crotches. 🐾

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 2007 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.

2006 Annual Howliday Party

This year's Howliday Party will take place at the Frederick Fairgrounds on Sunday, December 10, 2006. Pictures can be taken with Santa (for a minimal donation). A silent auction will also take place during the party to benefit GRREAT! Send donated items to Pam Ambrose at 6873 Woodrise Rd, New Market, MD 21774 or contact Pam at Goldenschu@aol.com or Kim Wiff at president@grreat.org. Items must be received by December 1, 2006.

DOGGIE GIFT EXCHANGE: To participate in the Doggie Gift Exchange, bring a loosely wrapped doggie prize, under \$5, for EACH dog participating in the exchange. Gifts are placed on the floor, and each dog bringing a gift will have a chance to retrieve one!

POT LUCK DINNER: The GRREAT Board will provide items such as turkey, ham, bread, rolls, condiments, tableware, and hot and cold beverages.

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

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

*Please bring non-flaming heating devices, extension cords and serving utensils your item may require.

TO RSVP BY NOVEMBER 30: Please send an e-mail to events@grreat.org or call (703) 620-6593 and leave a message in box 5. We need to know your name, number of people, and number of dogs attending.

TO VOLUNTEER: We need volunteers at the event for set-up, cleanup, merchandise, dog holders, etc. Please contact, Lisa Cook, the GRREAT Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@grreat.org.

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

PARTY DETAILS:

DATE: December 10;
TIME: 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.;
PLACE: Frederick Fairground
797 E. Patrick Street
Building 12 – 4 – H
COST: \$15 per person or
\$25 per family

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

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

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

GRREAT BEGINNINGS



LEAD TO HAPPY ENDINGS!

**Golden Retriever Rescue
Education and Training, Inc.**
