



GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc. • January/February 2007 • Vol. 18, No. 1

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Golden Resolutions

Area dogs were polled for their New Year's Resolutions. We have some ambitious self-improvements out there:

I resolve to stop chasing the cat.
– Sheba (06-182)

I resolve to stop farting while walking up the steps. - Reese Rutter (06-047)

I resolve to belch somewhere other than my master's face.
- Brandy "The Mayor" Nelson (03-161)

I resolve to share my woobies and play nice with my brothers and sister. – Rocky Collings (05-200)

I resolve to lose weight by taking my humans on more walks and begging less for treats. – Chase

I resolve to diversify by playing with toys other than my tennis ball. – Rhett

I resolve to barf on the kitchen linoleum floor, rather than on the Persian carpets. – Big Red

I resolve to make my toys last more than one day (or one hour). – Buddy Zimmerman (06-208)

I resolve to stop humping Daddy's leg. – Reno Collings

I resolve to allow other humans and dogs to walk past my house without going into a wild barking frenzy.
– Josh

I resolve to not bolt out of the door and make my Mom chase me when

she is running late for work.
– Olivia Owen

I resolve to not pretend I can't hear except when the treat bag comes out.
– Bailey



Buddy Zimmerman (06-208) celebrates his first Christmas with Nathan and Eric.

I resolve to retire from my job as the fun police, and allow the other dogs to play without trying to break it up.
– Scooter

I resolve to stop trying to scare away the pizza delivery person. - Clay Rutter (03-113)

I resolve to clean my face before wiping it along the couch after a meal.
– Goldie

I resolve to stop waking everybody up at 2:30 am to play. – Rudy Wiff (02-163)

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

P.O. Box 3069, Falls Church, VA 22043-0069
Phone: 703-620-6593 • Web site: www.grreat.org

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

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Letter From The President

By Kim Wiff, GRREAT President


Dear Friends:

Three years ago, when I wrote my first message for the GRREAT News, I wrote about senior Golden Retrievers. It was at a time that we were facing the loss of one of our Golden named Cougar. As I write my last message to you, my husband and I have recently lost another one of our senior Golden, named Tucker. I feel as if my messages to you have come “full circle.”

With Tucker’s passing, and my stepping down as president, I cannot help but be a bit reminiscent, and a bit sentimental. Even though we adopted our first GRREAT dog Wendy, in 1999, I have spent the last 3 years living my passion by being involved daily with rescue. It is something that so many never have the opportunity to experience. I feel very fortunate to have been a part of the group of people who make up GRREAT.

I am happy to say that I am leaving the board of directors with the peace of mind in knowing that GRREAT is in good hands. I am confident that GRREAT will continue with the same integrity and compassion for helping our wonderful and beloved Golden Retrievers that was envisioned when GRREAT was started over 20 years ago.

I have found that in rescue that there are many facets, pieces and emotions that go along with it. Rescue has broken my heart, changed my life, and touched my soul. It has helped me to learn a lot about myself. I would like to thank-you for the many memories that I will take with me as I step down. I have met many amazing people who have inspired me to want to do better and be a better person. I have made what I hope will be lifelong friends. I would like to thank “them” for the lunches at “Robert Evans,” the phone calls, the cards, your e-mails of support and advice, and your just being there. This along with your friendship and example have helped and meant more than you’ll ever know. You have truly made a difference for me.

As my husband Carl and I start our “new life” in 2007, I hope to continue to be involved in GRREAT, but in a much smaller role; however with a much larger household than when we began. Now that I think about it, it is kind of a funny thing...We started out with just one Golden Retriever, and wanted to rescue just one Golden—And we ended up with more Golden Retrievers than I’ll admit to and a Wheaten-Terrier mix named Charlie – So I can’t help but ask myself, “just how did that happen?!” While I may not really know the answer to that question, I know I would do it all over again. 

Don’t Let this Be Your Last Issue of GRREAT News!

If your mailing label says “RENEW NOW” in red ink, then this could be your last issue of GRREAT News. Please renew today so that you won’t miss an issue or any of the other benefits of being a GRREAT member.

You can renew your membership online at the GRREAT Member Center, http://www.grreat.org/online/mbr_center.htm or by using the form on page 19.

Please be sure to include your current mailing and e-mail addresses. And, while you are renewing, please consider making a donation to support our efforts in 2007.

If your label says “Renew Now” and you have already renewed your membership, please contact membership coordinator Jill Kurtz at mail-admin@grreat.org or 703-250-3012 and let her know when and how you renewed.

You are an important part of the GRREAT family. Thank you for all that you do.

Writers Wanted!

The GRREAT newsletter is in need of writers! No experience is required – just a desire to give back to the rescue. We need people to write book and product reviews, training-related articles, short stories or even draw cartoons or illustrations. Please contact Sandy Diamond at publications@grreat.org and put GRREAT Newsletter in the subject line if you are interested in helping or if you have questions.

Bylaw Changes

The GRREAT Board of Directors is proposing several changes to the GRREAT By-laws. These proposed changes will be voted on at our annual meeting on January 27, 2007 (see the GRREAT Calendar for details.)

Bylaw Change #1

Article IV

Section 2. Officers. The Society's officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the Society and its meetings and the Board and its meetings. The Officers shall be elected for a one-year term at the Society's first regular meeting of each year as provided in Article III, and shall serve until their successors are elected.

Change to read:

Section 2. Officers. The Society's officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the Society and its meetings and the Board and its meetings. The Officers shall be elected for a two-year term, such terms to be staggered to provide continuity. The President and Treasurer shall be elected in odd-numbered years and the Vice-President and Secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years. Such elections will occur at the Society's first regular meeting of each year as provided in Article III, and shall serve until their successors are elected.

Bylaw change #2

ARTICLE V - The Society Year, Nominations, Voting, Elections

Section 2. Nominations. A member may not be a candidate in a Society election who has not been nominated. During the month of October, the membership shall nominate candidates for each office, either in writing or in the form of a motion at a regular meeting. All nominations must be made or received by December 31 preceding the election. If the person nominated declines the nomination, that person's name shall be withdrawn. No person may be a candidate for more than one position.

Change to read:

Section 2. Nominations. A member may not be a candidate in a Society election who has not been nominated. During the month of October, the membership shall nominate candidates for each office, either in writing or in the form of a motion at a regular meeting. All nominations must be made or received by November 30 preceding the election. This deadline may be extended by majority vote of the Board of Directors in cases of extenuating circumstances. If the person nominated declines the nomination, that person's name shall be withdrawn. No person may be a candidate for more than one position.

Bylaw change #3

ARTICLE V

Section 3. Voting. Voting at a regular meeting shall be limited to those members as prescribed in Article II Section 1b, who are present at the meeting. The Board of Directors may decide to submit other specific questions for decision of the members by written ballot cast by mail.

Change to read:

Section 3. Voting. Voting at a regular meeting shall be limited to those members as prescribed in Article II Section 1b, who are present at the meeting, or who have submitted a written ballot by mail prior to a deadline to be set by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may decide to submit other specific questions for decision of the members by written ballot cast by mail.

Vote #4

The GRREAT Board of Directors shall be instructed to make technical and confirming changes to the bylaws, in order to standardize and conform the language to encompass these changes.

(Note: This just means that we will go through the language of the bylaws and make the appropriate word changes in other sections - such as change all instances of one-year term to two-year term, et cetera.) ☺

ADOPTION REPORT

From the period of October 14, 2006 through December 7, 2006, 33 goldens found their forever home. There were six dogs under the age of one adopted in this period! The ages ranged from 5 months to 12 years, and males outnumbered females by more than two to one. Congratulations to all the goldens who found their new forever homes!

Name	#	Age	Sex	Name	#	Age	Sex
Allie/Callie	06-161	6	F	Lacy	06-158	6	F
Apollo	06-146	1	M	Meg	06-122	9	F
Boomer	06-188	2	M	Murphy	06-184	1	M
Buddy	06-177	8	M	Noah/Marley	06-210	1	M
Buddy	06-193	1	M	Owen	06-189	3	M
Casey	01-188	12	M	Prince	06-167	1	M
Cassie	06-183	3	F	Princess	06-173	5	F
Clark	06-130	6mo	M	Reggie	06-015	12	M
Coop	06-151	1	M	Riley/Harrison	06-202	6	M
Dale	06-164	5	M	Riley	06-213	6mo	M
Drako	06-147	3	M	Ruby	06-106	7mo	M
Elizabeth Anne	05-244	8	F	Sunshine	06-180	6mo	F
Ginger	05-123	8	F	Tanner	02-156	5	M
Hailey	06-178	1	F	Teddy	05-115	10	M
Jackson	06-179	5mo	M	Tug	06-175	2	M
Kaleb	06-137	4	M	Yanky	05-257	11	M
				Zoe	06-200	11mo	F

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@great.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>

ADOPTION DAY DIRECTIONS

Saturday, January 6, 2007

Noon - 2pm

Petco
12960 Middlebrook Rd
Germantown, Maryland
301-515-8153

Take I-495 to I-270 Spur North toward Frederick. Take exit #6 onto I-270 Local North toward W Montgomery Avenue. Take the I-270 North Left exit toward Frederick. Take exit #13B/Middlebrook Road West onto Middlebrook Road. Make a U-turn at Century Blvd. onto Middlebrook Road. Petco will be on the right.

Saturday, February 3, 2006

Noon - 2pm

Petco
2441-F Centreville Road
Herndon, Virginia
703-713-1552

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

Saturday, March 3, 2007

Noon - 2pm

Petco
615 Belair Road, Suite P
Bel Air, Maryland
410-420-6754

Take I-95 North toward Baltimore. Take exit #77B/MD-24 onto Emmorton Road [MD-24] toward Bel Air. Turn Left on Baltimore Pike [US-1-BUS]. Turn Left into the shopping center.

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

Living With Kids and Dogs

by Colleen Pelar, CPDT


Dear Colleen,

My two-year-old likes to give our dog treats, but I worry the dog will nip his fingers. Sometimes my son seems nervous too, and he pulls his hand back instead of giving the treat. Then the dog gets grabby. How can my son give the dog a treat while keeping all of his fingers?

Carla in Pittsburgh

Manual dexterity is a challenge for most preschoolers; they have trouble holding a dog treat and then releasing it. There are many ways to make treat delivery a bit easier and less scary for young kids.

- Drop the treats on the floor.
- Give your son a bowl to hold while the dog eats a treat out of it.
- Put the treat on the back of his hand. Young kids often have trouble holding their hand open. Their fingers curl up and form a bowl. It may be better to teach your son to put out his fist and for you to place a treat on top of his hand.
- Have him sit on the counter (with you right there, of course) and toss treats to the dog. This works well for bouncy dogs that might bump or frighten your child

Colleen Pelar, CPDT, is the author of Living with Kids and Dogs . . . Without Losing Your Mind. For additional information about safe interactions between kids and dogs, please visit www.LIVINGwithKIDSandDOGS.com. 



Charlie Brown Johnston (02-258) has a jubilant and exuberant personality. He has become the personal trainer for his adoptive-mom Molly, insisting on at least a mile walk daily.



Bailey Reimer (03-243), right, enjoys the snow with his friend Birdie. Bailey loved to chase balls, chew on sticks and give himself back scratches in the grass. Bailey lost his fight with hemangiosarcoma in April.

A Breed Apart: Spotlight on a GRREAT Volunteer Scott Daniels

By Emily Pasterick, Contributing Writer

Scott and his wife, Kelly, purchased their first Golden Retriever in 1994 from a reputable breeder, and as many people who fall head over heels for their Golden pups do, they became very interested in learning about the Golden Retriever breed. Their curiosity brought them to GRREAT's website, and the revelation that breed-specific rescues are out there and constantly in need of volunteers. They began their involvement with GRREAT by helping to transport GRREAT Goldens as needed, which quickly led to further participation.

Scott leveraged his experience working with non-profit organizations by contributing ideas and time to facilitating fund-raising activities for GRREAT. In the meantime, the Daniels' welcomed another Golden into their lives, and began fostering for

GRREAT. Scott and Kelly are admitted "foster failures," as, after 18-20 fosters (they have ended up adopting their fosters 95% of the time) frequently foster the older, special-needs Goldens – the ones that are more difficult to adopt out. When asked what draws him to fostering our Golden elders, Scott believes that older dogs do not demand the same level of attention that younger, high-energy dogs do, which allows him to accommodate more fosters; Scott and Kelly even made some changes in their residence to encourage a senior-friendly existence. Four years into his volunteerism with GRREAT, Scott became a member of the GRREAT Board of Directors, a position he values as it has allowed him a forum to contribute a leadership presence and communicate ideas and opinions in a proactive way. Today, there are always between 4 and 7 Goldens in the Daniels pack (a combination of adopted and foster), and Scott continues to serve as a transport volunteer, foster, and microchip expert at GRREAT Adoption Days.

Outside of his GRREAT life, Scott works full-time for the Sodexo Company as the National Director of Dining & Culinary. Additionally, Scott is the president of the American Culinary Federation – First State Chef's Association, a non-profit organization of culinary profes-

sionals who work to promote the education of and assistance with hunger relief issues. Their initiatives are implemented through volunteer efforts within nearby poverty-stricken communities, such as providing meals for families and donating non-perishable food items during the holiday seasons. Scott has even been able to connect human-to-Golden by bringing along one of his own during his meal deliveries, and the families just love that part of the visit!

Scott, a husband, father, career professional, and dog-lover, would seem to have no time at all to volunteer so extensively



to one non-profit organization, let alone two – when I asked him how he manages to make time in his busy life for these endeavors, his inspiration is based on the principle that “as a society, we have it better than most – if everyone got out

of their comfort level and did just a little more to help, the changes would be exponential.” This seems a nice integration of perspectives formed through seeing firsthand how tragically the deprivation of humans and canines can influence the societal landscape.

Though the GRREAT Board does not have any tenure restrictions, after eight influential years as a Board member, Scott is stepping down in 2007 to allow for new leaders, and fresh perspectives. Scott intends to remain very involved with GRREAT in all aspects (including sharing his opinions, he promises, though without the “podium” the GRREAT Board provided him!). With any well-established organization, good intentions can be compromised with bureaucratic pitfalls; as an idealist, Scott would like to see GRREAT continue to put 100% focus on the well-being of the Goldens rescued, and is looking forward to seeing how GRREAT's foundation advances with the innovative visions of new Board members and volunteers.

For Scott's tireless commitment, influence, and idealism, for contributions past, present and future, GRREAT is proud to spotlight Scott Daniels as “a breed apart!” 🐾

DONATIONS

Thank you for your donations

Kathleen and Patrick Ansaldi
Claire Belisle
Bryan and Lisa Coster
Michael and Christie Couture
Elizabeth Crane
Mike Dawson
Al and Sylvia Glaser
Allison and Steve Hodges
Kelly and John Iffland
Bill Kiefaber
Joseph Lenczycki
Glen MacDonald and Dee Brown
Courtney Matthews and Andrea Supp
Sally and Kurt Meyer
Jim and Laurie Mielke
Stephanie Nagley
Regina and Neil O'Keefe
Harvey and Lenora Pascal
Royce and Elinore Peabody
Jonathan Peake
Sasiprapa Pinchaipat
Beverly Porter
Karen Renaud
Gerry Schatte
Cathie and Mike Skoog
Daniel and Nancy Smith
Jeffrey and Beth Synder
Jonathan Tarlin and Vanessa Mitchell
Francis and Lori Walker
Laura and John Whitbeck
Patti and Brent Wildasin
Doreen and Brad Wright
Donald and Barbara Yetkew
Camille and Gary Zornjak

In Honor Of...

The Parkers, who received our golden "Madison". - Thomas and Alice Pennington

Kim and Carl Wiff. I truly appreciate your generosity in dog sitting for Paige. - Carolyn Beyer

"Blazer" (00-272) our 95-lb baby and his best friend "Abby" a flat-coat retriever, and in memory of Toby, Morgan, and Jost, some terrific dogs! - Steve and Betsy Surprenant

Amber. - Sheila and Al Vertino

Happy Holidays in honor of Alan Glaser. - Cathy Pollock

Sandy Diamond and Julie Palais for Rusty (06-055). - Barbara and Russell Stephens

Daisy-the best golden friend one could ever have. - Christen Geiler
The GRREAT dogs who passed through our foster home in 2006, and their wonderful adoptive families: Deb Semple and Rocky/Windsor (05-215), Rick & Binny Hardie and Chance (06-084), Ron & Leigh Rutter and Reese (06-047), Geoff & Heather Hopkins and Cassie (06-183). - Carol and Rory Nansel

Our four golden boys: McIver, Brody, Seamus, Riley and In honor of Shiloh. - Jeff and Lucinda Twining

Bailey, GRREAT 99-135, and Chai my kids and my best friend. - Toni Stiefel

Jewels (adopted by Rene Sollod.) - Anne Wilson

For Special Reasons

For Peaches. I read her story and I cried for 20 minutes. It's all I can give and I hope it helps her enjoy the time she has left. - Sarah Maynard

Here are 3 more checks from parents in my Girl Scout troop. - Hilary Stanhope and Kathi Rechsteiner

This is a contribution for Buddy who was transported the day before Thanksgiving. - Noah Paci

Enclosed are two checks, endorsed to GRREAT by my daughter, Rebecca Gale. To earn required community service hours through her job as a religious school assistant, Becca may not make any money doing it. Therefore, she has chosen to donate her earnings to GRREAT in order for her work hours to count as community service. We have a GRREAT dog, Marley (04-105), who is a sweetheart and a wonderful addition to our family. Becca wants to support GRREAT's work so that other Golden Retrievers will find their forever homes, and other lucky families their "forever dogs." Thank you for the GRREAT work you do! - Rebecca Gale

This is on behalf of Linda Hunt who is retiring from Montgomery County Public Schools on December 1, 2006. - Jeannie Franklin

I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for wherever needed. Keep up the good work!! - Darlene Cheever

Thanksgiving is a special time for our family. It was 7 years ago, on the eve of Thanksgiving, that I picked up Chester (Chesapeake 99) from Jan Brown. He came with some baggage that was not the kind you carry. We have loved him totally since that night and he has brought us much laughter and happiness. He is such a clown and enjoys entertaining us with his tricks with stuffed toys. So on this Thanksgiving, we give thanks for him and the GREAT organization that saved him just for us. - Elizabeth Ross and Bennett Frankel

Instead of gifts for his birthday, Ryan Snyder made the following request: "Please do not bring me gifts. Instead, please bring a small donation for Fostered Golden Retrievers in my dog's name. His name is Kody. We got him in February of 2006. He had friends there who still might not have homes. They are probably sad and want someone to love. Our donation can help take care of them until they find their forever home." - Ryan Snyder

My husband and I adopted Millie (06-091), now Abby on June 4th, 2006. We are so blessed that we were approved by Jane Salter for adoption. After a few days it was absolutely clear that Abby needed a lot of affection and socialization. Therefore, I enrolled her in obedience class. Abby is a wonderful girl. She has provided us with a lot of love and companionship. Now, Abby loves being around other dogs and has jumped out of her shell. She loves being on our boat and has learned to swim. We are proud owners of a golden retriever provided through GRREAT. I could not ask for more from a golden. I have enclosed copies of Abby's training through Fairfax County Park Authority. Please do not send a check for the return of our obedience training deposit. We are donating

DONATIONS

this to GRREAT. We love Abby, and thank everyone at GRREAT for helping us find each other. - Beverly and Steve Kreisberg

In Memory Of...

Rheba (02-083). - Robert and Bernadette McDonald

My beloved Tipper – I will so miss her squinty eyes and silly grin. They never live long enough! - Diane Lanigan

John C. “Jack” Gregory. - Nancy and William Mac Caleese

Tucker. - Lauren Fyfe

Tucker. - Ann Keitz

Tucker. - Maribeth Keitz

Mickey Davis, a GRREAT rescue adopted by his Forever Companion in 1994. Mickey wore his Superman cape in thunderstorms and danced for his supper everyday of his long and full life. Mickey crossed the Rainbow Bridge on October 14 with cookie biscuit crumbs on his whiskers. A generous and wise soul, he was Betsy’s loving pal for 12 years. Hasta luego, you wonderful boy. - Joan Sills

Murphy & Luke - two of the greatest Goldens ever. - Dean and Alice Kahl

Karmen Garcia, a beautiful GRREAT golden. - Nicolette Parisi and Richard Wakeling

Our great (but not GRREAT) golden, Summer, who, three years after he was given six weeks to live, finally succumbed to cancer at the age of almost 14 when it reached his brain. He had also been suffering from Cushing’s Disease for years. He was gallant to the very end and, as the technicians at our veterinarian’s, who saw him often, commented several months ago, always the perfect gentleman. He is, needless to say, dreadfully missed, not only by my husband and me, not only by a host of his human friends, but by his four-legged friends, including Sam, a big black horse of a foundling cross bred

whom Summer patiently raised from a pup, allowing all sorts of indignities in the process, and Isis, a very small black cat who enjoyed helping with the grooming. This might involve raking his tail with her claws or jumping on him as he lay on the floor and teasing mouthfuls of his fur with her teeth, beginning at the rear and working up to his head. He took all of this quietly - children will be children and cats will be cats. Rolling in the mounds of undercoat that came out in the early summer was another of Isis’ delights, though I’m afraid that he looked better wearing his fur than she did. I only heard him bark once. I forget what the occasion was- it was long ago - but it was a polite bark, such as one might expect from a perfect gentleman. - Mary and Richard Gillett

Betsy Davis’ GRREAT dog, Mickey. We’ll see him at the rainbow bridge! - Marion Shields

Charlie Singer, an amazing golden who gave as much as he received. He will be missed by many. - Glenn Sandler and Randy Sargent

Dreyfuss. - Jennifer and Leslie Sabo

Dr. Robert S. Turner Jr. He was devoted to his Golden Retriever, Zoe, and would, no doubt, be pleased to assist others in finding the joy that he experienced with her. - Frederick Community College and Nursing class of 2007.

Sweet Sophie. - Carolyn Cole

Our wonderful Tippi, who just crossed the Rainbow Bridge at age 14. - Rhett and Carolyn Murphy

SR Belquest Rough & Ready (Rex) CD, JH, WCX. - Martha Cole Glenn

Jane H. Carter. - Michael and Mary Stauffer

Jessica & Nina. - David Walman

Bailey Drees, a sweet, sweet golden and friend. - Pam Fulmer and Molly

Betsy Davis’s dog Max. We know he’s running on all four at the rainbow bridge. - Marion Shields

Jake-former foster and adoptee. - Anita and Frank Abbruscato

UCDX Jack is a TAZ TOO, CDX, TD, RA. - Debra and Bill Barrows

Charms Fire-N-Ice (Katie). - Judith Bell

Ginger (01-279) who crossed over the Rainbow Bridge on September 5, 2006. We only had her for 4 ½ years but she was such a loving old girl. We all really miss her! - David and Linda Engelman

Corporate Giving

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund. - Peter and Barbara Manchester

Enclosed is a check from the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Cares Foundation. Our foundation is a chapter of the NRT Foundation, a national 501(c)(3) organization set up to benefit the communities served by the NRT real estate companies. The Advisory Committee meets quarterly to distribute funds to service organizations recommended by sales agents and employees of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Mid-Atlantic, and your organization was recommended by one of our sales associates, Mary Ellen Rubenstein. Funds were collected by our sales agents and employees during the third quarter of 2006 directly and through various fund raising events.

T. Rowe Price Association Foundation. – on behalf of Allison Ward

Simile-Finale Fund

To Casey- A Great Golden! Merry Christmas. Love, Bear. - Linda Marie Chapla

In honor of Sunny, my first foster dog. - Jennifer Murray

DONATIONS

Leo's Corner

GOLDEN ANGELS (\$500 AND MORE)

Microsoft Giving Campaign.
– on behalf of Bob and Carolyn Reagle

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

Dear GRREAT – I wanted to tell you about the two weeks I recently spent with Indy (04-073), while my folks were out of town. We had fostered Indy many moons ago, and it was great to see him again. I tell you I was spoiled rotten. I tagged along with Indy when he went to doggie day care, and Indy introduced me to all his buddies. We went on walks with his folks, played with each others toys, slept on his humungous bed, and generally had a wonderful time. Indy's mom and dad, Jennifer Harper and Chris Brown, refused to take any payment for keeping me. They said having my charming personality around was reward enough. (How terribly perceptive of them! I knew all along that we had found Indy a wonderful forever home.) And so, I have decided to make a contribution to the Leo Fund instead; to thank Indy and his folks, and to do my share to support an extraordinary organization that gives a second chance to share pups like Indy and me. Thanks, GRREAT. Bronte (02-198), Miss November 2006. - Harry Sethna and Sarah Navia

GOLDEN HEROES (\$100 - \$499)

In memory of my sweet boys, Mickey (1993) and Max (2003), who are now together

in health and with their golden spirits restored. Thank you for allowing me to have my life enriched so immeasurably by them. On October 14th I had to put my first GRREAT dog to sleep - Mickey (aka BD) with whom I spent 12 years and eleven months. He was 14 ½ or 15 when he went to the Rainbow Bridge. Please tell Al in Southern Maryland (father of Sammy) that BD was a great dog, just like he told me. Today I had to put Max to sleep. Mast cell cancer finally was taking him and my last act of loyalty to him was to send him to the Rainbow Bridge. Jewel (GRREAT 1998) and I miss our boys a lot. It is hard to go from 3 fuzzy bears to one in three weeks. - Betsy Davis

In honor of Sunny, my first foster dog. - Jennifer Murray

Jeanne O'Donoghue

I want to help dogs that need special surgery. - Kathy Heck

LEO'S PALS (\$99 AND UNDER)

In memory of Dr. Robert Turna Jr. He will be sorely missed by his golden, Zoe. - Judith Eyler

Bill Kiefaber

In honor of Betsy Davis' 60th birthday. - Xavier and Liliana Castellanos

In honor of Betsy Davis' 60th birthday. - Pamela Archer

In honor of Betsy Davis' 60th birthday. - Brian Guse

In honor of the retirement of Linda S. Hunt. - David and Betsy Alexander

Glen MacDonald and Dee Brown

Annual Meeting

You are invited to attend the GRREAT Annual Meeting

When: Saturday, January 27, 2007
9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Where: Owen Brown Community Center
6800 Cradlerock Way
Columbia, MD

All members are encouraged to attend. We will discuss what the rescue did in 2006 and vote on new board members for 2007. Additional information including nominees, voting procedures and directions are available at www.GRREAT.org.

GRREAT Wish List

(continued from last issue)

Although we always need cash donations to continue our efforts to rescue and rehome goldens, other ways you can help are:

- Foster a golden (PLEASE!)
- Volunteer to help at adoption days and/or education events
- Donate a gift certificate to a pet store
- Volunteer to organize a fundraiser
- Donate grooming for a foster dog at a local groomer
- Lend your artistic talents to the rescue for t-shirt designs, articles for the newsletter and fundraisers
- Donate a raffle item for fundraising
- Hold a car wash and donate the proceeds to GRREAT
- Help solicit donations for fundraisers and/or silent auctions
- Add GRREAT as a beneficiary in your will or estate planning documents
- Offer to write letters for grants and/or to drug companies for help with medications

Coping with the Loss of a Pet

Reprinted and submitted to GRREAT News by M. Ellacott, Contributing Writer

This past summer, our beloved dog Edna died. Edna was an 11-1/2 year old boxer who joined our family when she was six. Her life was difficult in her last few months. She suffered from nerve damage and arthritis. Her back feed dragged as she walked.

Though I knew that Edna's death spared her from further suffering, I was shocked at how sad I felt-especially since (I confess) I had been looking forward to a release from the responsibility of owning a dog. A caring friend told me about the Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement (APLB) an organization founded by psychologist Wallace Sife, PhD, after his cherished dachshund died. "The death of a pet reminds us of other losses," Dr. Sife said, "and of our own mortality. Homes feel silent and empty. It seems as if some part of ourselves has gone." How true that was for me.

Dr. Sife explained that pet owners go through the same bereavement stages as people who have lost friends or family members. They experience shock and disbelief, then anger, denial, guilt, depression and resolution. Among his coping strategies...

Remember that you are not alone. The APLB runs four free, regularly scheduled, on-line chat rooms for people who have lost pets and special "anticipatory bereavement" sessions for people who are about to lose a pet. These sessions are facilitated by Dr. Sife and the counselors he has specifically trained. For more information, click on "Pet Loss" or "Anticipatory Bereavement" at www.aplb.org/frame.html.

Dr. Sife notes that people who are mourning are better off when they express their grief than if they suppress it. If you have children living at home, share your feelings with them. Ask questions to understand how they feel. Guide children through the loss rather than shielding them from it or trivializing their grief.

Create a memorial. Some people fill a scrapbook with photos, pictures, written memories, an ID tag. Others plant a tree, shrub or flower bed in a spot that the pet favored. Dr. Sife wrote his book – *The Loss of a Pet: A Guide to Coping with the Grieving Process When a Pet Dies* – as a memorial to his dog. In a way, this column is a memorial to Edna.

* Reprinted with permission from *Bottom Line Secrets* a monthly general information newsletter, www.BottomLineSecrets.com

My Best Friends

By Meg Ellacott, GRREAT Contributing Writer

"My life is richer for the presence of my dogs," writes actor John O'Hurley in his book *It's Okay to Miss the Bed on the First Jump-And Other Life Lessons I Learned from Dogs*. "They have taught me to believe in the constant goodness that seems to emanate so easily from their gentle and loving nature." Other lessons learned from his pooches:

1. Every 15 Minutes is a New Day. Dogs live in 15-minute increments: every 15 minutes is a brand-new day. If you don't believe me, try to reprimand a dog for a puddle she left 20 minutes ago. She will look guilt-free.
2. Never miss a Nap. We have a tradition, the Sunday Afternoon Nap. We all curl up in a cluster – the dogs, my wife and I - and doze. I have come to enjoy this time together as a quiet punctuation point to a busy week.
3. When Someone Stops Petting You, Move on. I was not born with this quality. I've spent many years of my life unable to let go. Relationships, career disappointments, even personal mistakes. Often at the expense of my dignity.
4. Every Day is a Stretch. At the age of 15, Scoshi has passed the century mark (in dog years). Yet every day he takes his sprightly walk at a brisk clip, with a little limp, only a few steps behind Betty. My dog has taught me that strength and speed may slowly disappear, but flexibility is enduring. That message has been lying at my feet all my life. I was simply too stiff to bend down and see it.*



I bought this book for all my dog-lovin' friends as Christmas Gifts. Check it out – it's a good reminder of all the ways dogs help, heal and love us while teaching us life lessons.

* PEOPLE Magazine c. 2006 All rights reserved Time Inc.

Pick of the Litter: Buddy (06-152)

Spotlight on a special Golden in need of a special someone

By Emily Pasterick, GRREAT Contributing Writer

Buddy came to GRREAT in August a broken spirit. Found as a stray at 8 years old, he was placed in the foster care of Jan Brown, with whom he remains to this day, slowly rehabilitating the Golden inside that has been buried beneath an unknown history of neglect, at best, and abuse at worst. When Buddy first joined Jan's home and pack, he immediately isolated himself in one room and did not move. When he was finally persuaded to eat something, he frequently glanced around to make sure he was safe, that nobody was going to interrupt his meal. Slowly, Buddy began to ease himself into the dynamics of Jan's home, and settle himself among the sweet older Golden girls in Jan's pack – however, it is clear that he prefers to be on the outside looking in...a “velcro dog” he is not. He is, however, a gorgeous, healthy boy who desperately needs the right family to show him just how wonderful life can be. He has forgotten – or maybe he's never known it to begin with.

That said, Buddy has come a long way with Jan in learning that there are good people out there who won't hurt him, and who accept him for who he is. Buddy greeted me at the door with the Golden Girls, then quickly settled himself on a dog bed in the kitchen. While Jan and I talked, he let me stroke him gently, even allowing me to nuzzle my face close to his without shrinking away. After a little while, he walked into the family room and lay down on a dog bed there – my feeling was that he needed some space, to observe, to feel out what my presence meant, maybe to protect himself. A treat perked him up, and when I went closer for some more petting, he extended a paw. He even flashed a smile during our photo session, and I think I even caught it ;) Maybe it was the Christmas collar that put him in the spirit.



According to Jan, Buddy is very resistant to venturing outside the front door. While he will go outside in the backyard, and is completely housebroken, he clearly does not enjoy leaving the house, even for walks. One can only surmise that Buddy's exits from a home have never led to happy journeys. He's a homebody who loves to lounge on a comfortable dog bed and roll around on the grass. He is easily tempted with food and treats, and is generally content to independently coexist with his humans if his personal space is respected. Buddy's forever home would need to be patient, calm, peaceful, and loving, of course, but also interested in making a difference in the life of a beautiful Golden who never really had a first chance at happiness. Buddy's family will regard the energy they put into

bringing back Buddy's spirit as minimal compared to the rewards they will find by experiencing Buddy's evolution.


A feeling of sadness and longing

That is not akin to pain,

And resembles sorrow only

As the mist resembles the rain.

– Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

For more information about Buddy, please visit his profile on the GRREAT website at <http://www.great.org/doglist.htm>). You may also contact Buddy's foster mother, Jan Brown, at k9wonders@hotmail.com. 

3K Walk Raises \$8,800 for GRREAT

GRREAT's third annual 3K walk was a huge success, with about 100 people and their dogs coming out to help raise more than \$8,800 for rescue.

The weather was perfect-sunny enough for two-legged walkers and cool enough for four-legged walkers. Everyone enjoyed the walk through the City of Fairfax.

This year's commemorative t-shirts were custom-designed by Communicate By Design, Inc (www.communicatebydesign.com). Designer Bethany Mackay donated her creative services and the shirts were the best looking yet!

The event's success was due in a large part to generous sponsors. Please support these businesses and thank them for their support of GRREAT.

RESCUE ANGELS (\$500): Hunter 02-204; Mary Ellen Rubenstein/Coldwell Banker, Reston VA, www.mer4homes.com; Sandy Spring Bank, www.sandyspringbank.com; Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club, www.pvgrc.org; Regal Pet Foods, www.regalpetfoods.com; Breeder's Choice Pet Foods, www.breederschoice.com; Weber's Pet Supermarket, Fairfax, VA, 703-385-3766

RESCUE PARTNERS (\$300): Sharon S. Coale, MED, MS, CCC-SLP, Speech Pathology Associates, 301-469-8151; Briggie & Bott, Court Reporters/B&B Reporters, 301-808-0730; Professional Mailing and Distribution

Services, www.pmds.com; Julie Palais & Rick Stevens; Dog Days Playcare, Chantilly, VA, www.dogdaysplaycare.com; Steve & Darlene Hines



FRIEND OF RESCUE (\$100): Melissa Nielson and Edward Yawn; Anita, John, and Morgan Funk; Jim Wilmouth; Mary Ginn; Rose, Cooper, & Hannah Davidson; Norm & Liz Wright; Powell & Cheyney, LLC, Attorneys at Law, Vienna, VA, 703-442-0923; Scooter and Big Red; "Jack" 03-280 and "Takota"; William Buklad; Sue Erbele; Rocky B. Kwiatkowski & Family; Creative Floors; Linda & Craig Wensley; Casey Fry

It's not too late to support this effort by purchasing an event t-shirt. Limited quantities of shirts in sizes S, M, XL and XXL are available for \$8 (includes shipping). To purchase a shirt, e-mail event organizer Linda Kurtz at walk@grreat.org. She'll provide you with exact sizes available as well as payment instructions. 🐾

PVGRC Annual Awards Banquet and Silent Auction For GRREAT

Members of GRREAT are encouraged to attend.

When: Saturday, March 10, 2007 at 6:00 pm

Where: Golden Bull Restaurant, Gaithersburg, MD

Additional information (including the cost and deadline for reservations) will be provided on the PVGRC website in January – www.PVGRC.org.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS ARE NEEDED

We need items for the Silent Auction at the PVGRC Annual Awards Banquet. We are looking for any items that would appeal to a wide range of people – Golden Retriever and dog-related items are the most popular. Donations will be acknowledged in the GRREAT News. We will also be glad to display your card or flyers at the auction. All merchandise donations, or the description of a service being offered can be mailed directly to our Silent Auction Coordinator, Pam Ambrose, at goldenshu@aol.com or Pam.Ambrose@montgomerycountymd.gov. Thank You!

In Memory of Rheba – Our Little Redhead

August 16, 2006, was a day of great sadness for us as we said a final “good-bye, we love you” to our wonderful furry friend.

Rheba (02-083) came to us in the spring of 2002 from a special foster family – Kim and Paul Mayberry. She was special to them also, as she was their first foster dog. Rheba had been found a month earlier wandering in western Maryland, lost, skinny, tag-less and injured. A number of her teeth had been worn down to a stub, possibly from chewing at a chain our vet surmised. We can only imagine what her first five years of life must have been like. We never saw a mean or aggressive bone in her body, so it is almost incomprehensible why anyone would abandon her. Perhaps she strayed from a loving family during a camping trip and became lost – we will never know. In any case, she stuck with us like glue and was always loving and gentle – never wanting to be lost again, we are sure of that. As each grandchild came into our life, she accepted his or her attention and ear-pulling or nose pushing with the utmost patience. Everyone in our neighborhood loved Rheba, especially two little girls across the street who, up to the time they met Rheba, had been very wary of dogs. Rheba changed all that by showing the girls how truly wonderful a dog can be. Time will tell, but one of the girls started talking about wanting to become a veterinarian when she grows up.

One of Rheba’s joys was a pontoon boat ride with us on Lake Anna. Sometimes she would just stand in the front and sniff the wind, but mostly she would curl up on the towel on her seat and enjoy life and being with her people.

Myasthenia gravis, mega-esophagus and inhalation pneumonia were simply too much for her. She started throwing up all her food on a Sunday. Our vet checked her the next day and thought that the mega-esophagus

might be treatable but her symptoms grew worse. On Tuesday, the vet took x-rays to see if there was something blocking her throat and did blood work to help identify the problem. A bit after midnight on Tuesday we let her out to throw up and she didn’t want to come back inside, even when offered a piece of steak. Bob said that she just lay there and looked at him – the same look he saw from a previous Golden who died



of lymph cancer. That convinced us it was time to put her to sleep. She may have suffered a lot in her prior years but we were determined not to have her suffer through lots of medical treatments that might only prolong the inevitable. So, for a few hours before the vet opened, Bob and Rheba sat on their couch, where they

had spent many hours reading together, and he tried to give her some comfort. The vet reviewed the x-rays, her symptoms and all the information we could give, and agreed we were making the right decision.

Responsible pet ownership means many things, one of which is knowing when to say goodbye and help the pet when it needs it the most. Not a day goes by when we don’t think of Rheba and her gentle companionship – she is dearly missed. Some dogs will never be duplicated, and Rheba was one of those for us. When we heal a bit more we will again adopt from GRREAT – maybe a pair of Golden Retrievers in need. Who knows, we may again have a little redhead.

Bob summed up Rheba’s 4-1/2 years with us by saying “she gave us so much and asked for little.” Rheba dog – you will always have a place in our hearts.

- Bob and Bunny McDonald 🐾

Attacked by the Creature

By Al Bisasky

It was a typical evening at our house. I was sitting on the family room couch reading. My youngest son, Kevin, was sitting in the lounge chair adjacent to the couch watching The Animal Planet channel on the satellite. Ellen, my wife, was sitting at the kitchen table adjoining the family room reading a mystery novel. Andrew, our Golden Retriever was in one of his favorite spots under the kitchen table, sound asleep. I knew this because he was snoring.

I am usually quite attuned to my surroundings and have a “sixth sense” when something isn’t quite right. I can sense the presence of a spider crawling under a piece of furniture from across the room. I am deathly afraid of spiders, especially those big hairy, nasty wolf spiders that look for a comfy home to wait out the winter months. Oh, and I’m even more afraid of snakes.

But this time, my guard was down. I guess that I was too wrapped up in my book to feel the presence of The Creature that was stalking me. The Creature was so cunning that I didn’t even hear it skulking down the step from the kitchen into the family room. It crawled on its belly behind the love seat. Then, using an end table to camouflage its movements, it slinked around the opposite side of the coffee table where my vulnerable, shoeless feet were resting.

Suddenly, without warning, I saw the mouth of The Creature looming over my right foot, mouth agape and showing its long, menacing white fangs and blood red tongue moving in and out. With eyes rolled back like a Great White Shark and its huge black olfactory sensor protruding atop its menacing mouth, I could only sit and stare. I was frozen with fear. Then, faster than the jaws of an alligator, the mouth clamped down on the very end of my foot. I could only think of life with a toeless right foot. With the strength of velociraptor, The Creature jerked its huge blocky head back and tore the sock right off of my foot in one blood curdling motion.

Then, in a flash, The Creature was gone; running like the wind into the kitchen and right up to Ellen. Knowing that I would be too late to save her, The

Creature laid its sock filled, drooling mouth on her thigh. I sat there aghast as Ellen stroked the head of The Creature and softly said, “Oh, did you bring your Mama dirty laundry? Let me get you a cookie for being such a good boy.” I turned to Kevin, who had sat there calmly during the whole incident, my eyes wide in wonder as to why he didn’t react.

“Wa-what wa-was that?” I managed to squeak out in a shaky voice.

“You’ve just been the victim of one of Andrew’s drive by sockings”

I looked toward the kitchen and there, under the table, The Creature lay flat on his belly, front paws next to his head, licking his chops and looking around everywhere but in my direction with those big, innocent brown eyes and acting like nothing happened.

Rod Serling would probably end this strange tale by saying: “Line from a play, Hamlet to Horatio: there are more things in heaven and on earth than even you can imagine. File it under “G” for Golden Retriever... in The Twilight Zone. 🐾

THANK YOU

To....Weber’s Pet Supermarket

For the donation of dog food

14508-G Lee Highway

Chantilly,VA

703-631-2738

To....Cloud Star

For the donation of dog biscuits

www.cloudstar.com



Sunny and Scamp (02-225) check out the neighborhood from the vantage point of their deck. Sunny crossed the rainbow bridge in January of 2006 at the age of 14-1/2 and Scamp is 4 years old. Sunny loved the water and if her family, the Beall's didn't splash for her, she would play by herself, splashing it with her paws and then biting at the splash. She is deeply missed by Scamp and the Beall family.



Brady (03-078) hit a home run when he got adopted by the Hummel family in spring of 2003. Brady means "spirited one" and he certainly lives up to that name. He and his brother Toby, a fellow golden, love to play ball, swim and go for r-i-d-e-s! Brady came into the Hummel family after a really rocky start but he is now a care-free love bug who has scored a forever home.



Honey Bee (00-042) spends her winters in Florida with her family the Igou's. She loves swimming in the gulf and riding the waves in sunny Sanibel Island.



One of Brady Combetty's (04-132) joys is playing in the snow and there was plenty of it in one of the snowfalls of winter 2006. He also enjoys trips to Annapolis including gelato and nice long walks around the city, visiting his grandmas and watching baseball.



Sammy (01-086) came to the Sicheri family in 2001 as a foster who never left. He is lovingly called "moose" due to his size. Sammy loves nothing more than to chase the snow blower and catch snow. He may have been a polar bear in a former life!

A Holistic Approach to Arthritis

Dear Dr. Grasso:

My golden suffers from arthritis. How can I make him more comfortable without using a lot of drugs?

Arthritis is a common disease in all animals. In Golden Retrievers, we often think of the arthritis associated with hip dysplasia, but arthritis can be found in any joint of the body. Common areas of arthritis are the hips, elbows, stifles (knees), carpi (wrists), and the backbone.

Typical clinical signs of arthritis are as follows: reluctance to get up or lie down, an increase in stretching when first getting up, shifting of weight from one leg to another, and, of course, lameness. Your dog may be hesitant to jump into the car, get up onto the couch, or go up or down the stairs (although this is not always a sign of pain). Often the lameness is worse when they first get up after sleeping or resting for a while. After moving around, they tend to “warm out of” the lameness.

While arthritis is most commonly associated with geriatrics, this is not just a disease of the older dog. Although a young dog may not show any outward signs, they may still have arthritis as a result of genetic predisposition, an injury, poor conformation, or dysplasia. When these ailments are present, the body makes attempts to reconstruct or strengthen a weak joint by forming more bone around the joint. Once arthritis has progressed significantly, a limp may always be present, because the range of motion of the joint has been decreased.

In younger animals, where dysplasia is suspected, it can be beneficial to know prior to the development of arthritis. More severe cases can be diagnosed upon physical examination, but some cases require an x-ray. For instance, while the dog may still have complete range of motion in his legs, an x-ray may reveal dysplasia. By diagnosing arthritis early, further joint damage can be prolonged or prevented. The first line of defense is joint supplementation. The initial supplements that I recommend are omega fatty acids (fish oil) and glucosamine and chondroitin. These can provide the “building blocks” for cartilage and reduce inflammation to keep arthritis at bay.

There are many supplements available, but not all are alike in price and quality. Since supplements are not regulated, you must use supplements from a reputable source. Also, supplements that make great claims with a “secret ingredient” should be regarded with caution. A veterinarian’s advice on product source is always a good idea. The biggest mistake made by care takers is adding good supplements to a poor diet. It is crucial to provide a dog food that has high quality ingredients and proper nutrition. Wholesome foods provide essential nutrients that not only maintain joints, but are vital to overall health.

For more advanced stages of arthritis, the main focus is, of course, pain control. Many veterinarians prescribe steroids or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (or “NSAIDs”). While these may provide adequate pain control, they should be used with caution. These drugs can have serious side effects including: skin irritation, erratic behavior, gastrointestinal upset and/or bleeding, and liver and/or kidney damage. Regular blood work should always be done if your dog is on these medications. Recognizing a problem caused by these medications, though, does not guarantee that they can be reversed once the medication is stopped.

Luckily, there are many natural and safe alternatives to steroids and NSAIDs for pain control. Acupuncture can relieve pain and improve your pet’s general well being. Often, after starting acupuncture, I have had owners report that their dog will “pick up a toy she hasn’t touched for a long time”, “jump on the couch which she hasn’t attempted to do for awhile”, or “just seems happier”. From a Western point of view, acupuncture has been shown to release longer acting endorphins (the natural pain relievers of the body). With acupuncture alone, many of my patients are able to greatly lessen their need for steroids or NSAIDs and most often are able to completely stop taking them.

Acupuncture combined with Chinese herbs is also a natural and safe alternative. From a Chinese perspective, arthritis is a form of stagnation in the body. Through acupuncture and herbal therapy, this stagnation in the energy channels can be released. The treatment and choice of herbs are individualized to your pet, taking into account the specific needs of your dog. A veterinarian trained in Chinese medicine will prescribe herbs based on the physical exam, location of the stagnation, and other ailments your pet may have in addition to arthritis. We treat the entire body, not just the arthritis.

By choosing a holistic treatment approach to arthritis, you can safely provide pain control for arthritis. Not only that, through proper nutrition, adequate supplementation, acupuncture, and herbs, you are actually enhancing your pet’s overall health, longevity, and quality of life.

Dr. Pam Grasso, MS, DVM, CVA, practices at Ashburn Farm Animal Hospital (www.ashburnfarmvet.com), in Ashburn, VA. She practices both traditional veterinary medicine as well as holistic medicine including acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine, and is currently studying Homeopathy. 🐾

The DOG-TOR Is In

Your questions answered by Dr. Ronald Spikloser



Dear Dr. Ron:

My golden was recently diagnosed with a lipoma. What does this mean?

Lipomas are fatty tumors that are common in dogs. Most lipomas are benign, but some can be malignant or cancerous. Most lipomas occur on the trunk of large dogs and can be massive in size and not cause any problems. Others can be smaller but mechanically interfere with movement and therefore be a problem even if it is benign.

Always take your pet to a veterinarian to discuss any lump on the dog. What appears to be a small inconsequential lump could be the beginning of an invasive killer. The area of the lump is very important. Lumps on the rectum, in the mouth and in the female breast are great areas of concern. Female dogs spayed before their first heat are usually not susceptible to breast cancer, but other cancers can occur in this area. Most benign tumors grow slowly and have done nothing for years. They are easily movable and are well circumscribed and not painful. Some lumps on the skin which may seem like small lumps could turn out to be a mast cell tumor. Mast cell tumors are most common in boxers but golden retrievers are also a major breed that tends to get them. They can appear as single or multiple lumps over many areas of the body and can be mistaken for lipomas. This could be a deadly mistake. Mast cell tumors can grow rapidly or slowly and can

change size very quickly as they release histamine from the mast cells that make them up. When they release the histamine they can cause an inflammatory allergic reaction which can mimic rapid growth. Diagnosis can be made with a needle aspiration as the cells stain distinctly but a biopsy is needed to grade the tumor. Mast cell tumors account for one in five skin tumors in dogs. If a mast cell tumor is diagnosed it is nothing to play with as they are highly invasive and go deep into the tissues. They are treated with surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. A veterinary oncologist is the best person to deal with a mast cell tumor.

Other tumors that can occur on the skin are squamous cell carcinomas and fibro sarcomas, which are cancers, and benign tumors such as histiocytomas and the previously mentioned lipomas. The age of the dog is important, as older dogs are more prone to skin cancers as the immune system begins to wear out and the environment and sun do their additional damage. Squamous cell carcinomas are related to UV light from the sun. Many older dogs get papilomas which are benign wart like lesions on the skin. These are cauliflower like lesions and are usually around the mouth, feet, eyelids and head. The good news about tumors on the skin is that they are visible and can be picked up early. That is also the bad news as people will usually panic and assume the worst even if it is a benign lesion. So the best thing to do is take your pet to the vet and have him record the lump on the record and remove it if necessary. Remember this is not exact and the only definite way to diagnose whether a lump is a cancer or not is with a minimum of a needle aspiration and even more definite with a biopsy. Some tumors are sneaky and will change their character over time and need to be closely monitored. You are your dog's most important advocate 🐾

2006 GRREAT Howliday Party

This year's Howliday Party was a joyous success. GRREAT donations were about \$4,000, collected from the Silent Auction with Pam Ambrose, the Special Silent Auction with Joe Lamp, Merchandise sales with Sandy Diamond, Santa photos with R.C. and Lilly Smith, the 50/50 Raffle, Paw Printing with Jessie Robinson and door donations. It was heart warming to see all the happy Golden's with their families and it was a wonderful way to start the Holiday season. A hardy THANKS to all the volunteers who helped make the day go so smoothly: Andrew Lebreccque, Mark Lebreccque, Stan Day, Tim Daniels, Linda Daniels, Carolyn Beyer, Liz Haransky, Marisa Cook & friend, Jack Cook, Judy Niebauer, Denise Malczewski, Sid Morris, Joe Lamp, Pam Ambrose, R.C. and Lilly Smith, Brenda and Bill McGrath (Santa), Chris and Larry Ronald (our music providers), Dan, and Jan White.

A very special thank-you to Andrew and Mark who tirelessly set-up, moved and dismantled furniture all day long. Andrew also helped with almost every activity. Denise, Queen of the kitchen and Stan, extraordinary carver, provided outstanding, never-ending help as well.

Thank you all!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year

Betsy Bake, GRREAT Event
Coordinator

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
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____ Additional Information or Comments:

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

Finding a Good Dog Trainer

By Sandy Diamond, Education Coordinator

You've adopted your new Golden from GRREAT and now it's time to begin training. For most of us, this is something we haven't done before, and finding the right trainer can be a difficult decision. Below are some tips on what to look for, and what to look out for.

1. Ask your vet, friends and neighbors who have had dog training, the local animal shelter or breed club for recommendation, as a place to start. There are also articles in local newspapers and magazines that list some of the favorite trainers in the area.
2. Look for a trainer that uses **ONLY** positive reinforcement methods, rather than harsh treatment or punishment for bad behavior. There are more positive methods than using a choke, prong or pinch collar. Beware of trainers who will not use food as a reward – this is an acceptable method of positive reinforcement. That said, each dog is different and they don't all respond to the same training methods – a good dog trainer understands this and can modify their methods or techniques to fit individual dogs.
3. Ask to observe a training class before signing up. Does the trainer have good communication skills? Is he/she confident, natural and in control? Do you think you will enjoy working with the person and be able to learn from them? A sense of humor and a good personality go a long way!

4. Ask the trainer about their credentials. The only national dog training certification is the CPDT (Certified Pet Dog Trainer.) Whether or not the trainer is certified, look for extensive experience with all types of dog breeds.
5. Beware of trainers that offer guarantees. Animal behavior can be very complex and a good trainer will not guarantee they can solve your training problems.
6. How does the trainer react to your questions? A qualified, confident trainer will be more than happy to answer them, and provide you with as much information as you need to make an informed decision.

You will also need to decide if you want to attend a group class or individual lessons. Some dogs may be too distracted by other dogs to learn. In a group class you will usually follow a schedule set by the trainer at the beginning of the sessions. An individual course will allow your dog to learn at his or her own pace. And remember – you are being trained as well as your dog. Turning your dog over to someone to train without you (except in extreme circumstances) leaves your dog holding all the cards, and knowledge! A good dog trainer looks to improve your relationship with your dog. 🐾

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