

Happy Holidays



# GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc. • November/December 2007 • Vol. 18, No. 6

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## A Tail of Two Annies

By Shelley Hunsberger and Deb Haegele

Shelley Hunsberger:

Annie's life got better the day that my husband, Bill, picked her up from a family in Maryland who wanted to get rid of her "as soon as possible" This was the second time she had been returned to GRREAT and perhaps her last chance at finding a safe, loving home. She would be lucky number seven on our list of foster dogs and she would prove to be a challenge. Bill fell for her immediately and looked forward to her rehabilitation.

From her past history, she had severe behavior problems, including growling, biting, general disobedience, plus she chewed herself incessantly and had bitten off most of the hair on her tail. From our initial assessment, we did agree that she had a mind of her own and some issues, but we were optimistic about reforming her, with the help of our other Golden, Shiloh.

In checking through her jumbled records, we found the name of a Maryland doctor who treated her for allergies. We contacted him and he

recommended a treatment, given by injection, every 21 days. That really seemed to help, but there were still periodic episodes of biting and chewing, especially when Annie was bored or stressed.

Annie liked to do what she wanted to do, when she wanted to do it. She would growl, and on two instances bite, if made to do something, like getting off a couch or bed. By reacting positively to these episodes she did improve. The biting stopped, and the occasional

growl was met with an opportunity to play or an alternative activity.

After our many months with Annie, we realized she was a special canine and it would take an understanding family, with no small children, to accept her

and continue to assist her improving disposition. We were ready to adopt her ourselves if necessary.

Then one day, I got a request from GRREAT to do a home visit in the Centreville area. I agreed and took Annie along. The family turned out



Continued on page 14

# 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](http://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 Sandy Diamond, GRREAT President

My latest foster dog keeps me smiling! His name right now is Buddy. First it was Sandy, but he didn't respond to it. Someone renamed him Buddy. He seems to respond to this, but he also answers to Red, Scooter, Peanut, Charlie, Henry, Petey, Cookie, Baby, Puppy, etc. Or, he'll answer to none. Oh, well..... I just keep trying until I get his attention.

Buddy LOVES the tennis ball, in true Golden fashion. Did I mention Buddy LOVES the tennis ball? I get a nudge in the middle of the night, with a dirty, slimy tennis ball dropped right next to my head, and an eager dog breathing heavily into my face, "its 1:00 a.m., mom! It's time to play! C'mon mom – lets play!" When playing fetch, Buddy does not want to stop. Ever. Did I tell you how much Buddy LOVES his tennis balls? However, if I pick up all the tennis balls so he (or maybe I mean I?) can take a break, any other toy will do.

Buddy also likes to drink from the toilet. Apparently the water in the toilet isn't soiled with other dog's slobber. And when I need to use it, I get the stare – why are you sitting on my water bowl?

Back to the tennis balls.....Why is it Golden's can be surrounded by tennis balls, and they only want the one(s) underneath the furniture? And tell me how the

balls always end up under the furniture? It almost feels like all the floors are sloped in a way, no matter where you position the heaviest piece of furniture that the ball will roll under it. Maybe all the dog hair underneath attracts the tennis ball? And, if they are going to drop a ball in your lap, why is it always the one they have been chewing on (after they have gotten you to retrieve it from under the sofa, covered in dog hair), so it is soggy and covered in goo? Finally, why is it they can't remember simple commands like "stop rolling in the dog poop" or "stop barking – the UPS guy isn't committing a home invasion," but they remember EXACTLY where you put the ball (on top of the refrigerator) and will keep reminding you?

Observing the antics of your latest foster dog is one of the joys of being a foster home. The other (which I admit does have some sadness, too) is giving your foster dog over to a new family to love and cherish for the rest of the Golden's life. GRREAT is always in need of foster homes – someone else opening their home and heart is how you were able to adopt your dog from us. Please consider becoming a foster home. The dogs would be most grateful!

P.S. Have I told you how much Buddy LOVES his tennis ball? ☺

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## Mail Bag

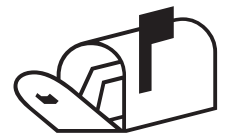
Dear GRREAT,

On April 20, 1996 we adopted 1-year-old Frisky (96-046.) He adapted immediately to our home and his 13-year-old adopted sister, and did not want any of us out of his sight. We named him Jacob and he grew up to be a beautiful red boy who attracted everyone's attention. He had more friends than we did. Jacob's sister lived to age 17 and Jacob was an "only child" for 6 years when we started fostering for our local Golden rescue. In December we adopted 6-year-old Annie, who became a great friend for Jacob – she knew he was the boss and happily followed his lead.

We were shocked and saddened to learn recently that Jacob had an illness from which he would not recover. We know he is no longer in pain, and is with our other two Golden's, playing happily in Heaven.

Thank you for giving us 13 good years with Jacob and continue your good work.

Sincerely,  
Pete and Elsie Mitchell



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# Keeping Our Mature Golden Retrievers Young at Heart and Mind

By Joy Scrimshire, GRREAT Education Coordinator

The affection we have for our Golden Retrievers becomes more intense as we watch them age right before our eyes. So we need to take special precautions to optimize their health and well being as they enter and go through their senior years. The aging changes we see in our Golden Retrievers are difficulties we humans suffer from too. A senior or geriatric dog is by definition one that is in the last 25% of its expected life cycle. Senior status starts at seven years of age and geriatric at around 10 years depending on the dog's size. Mental stimulation greatly improves both the longevity and the quality of all senior dogs. Just like our muscles and joints, the brain needs exercise. The "use it or lose it" principle is equally important in preventing senility in geriatric dogs as it is in aged people.

Signs of old age can be manifested in many ways. Do you think that your old golden has gotten smaller? You are right. As our Golden Retrievers age, there is a definite decrease in lean body mass. In general the older pet will have less muscle tissue than it did as a young pup due partly from less usage of its muscles. Also bone density decreases due to multiple factors, one being the lack of exercise. Other signs of aging may be such things as staring into space, barking for no reason, stiffness especially when getting up, and decreases in hearing or sight abilities. Whatever changes you notice, don't just chalk up changes in your older golden to "getting older". Check it out with your veterinarian. Often there are treatments that can alleviate pain, correct the problem or at least slow down the progression of the problem. Ideally, caring for the geriatric dog should focus on preventative measures. Whenever possible, it is always better to prevent a problem from occurring than to wait for it to develop.

Your older dog is more easily stressed so attempt to reduce stress by making any necessary changes in routine gradual and decreasing the exposure of your dog to stressors. Provide soft bedding; groom your Golden regularly; give him regular veterinary care, proper dental care and provide a good quality dog food making sure that your pup does not gain or lose too much weight. Routine exercise is very important for an older pup. Avoid excessive exercise but exercise based upon your dog's capability and needs is very beneficial.

As for humans, mental exercise is a must for our older pups. Exercise, playtime, training, riding in the car and other activities your dog enjoys are continued opportunities for your dog to learn. One of the best activities for mentally stimulating senior and geriatric dogs is interacting with younger dogs as long as the senior dog enjoys the relationship. Some older dogs don't want a young dog pestering them – you be the judge of whether or not your dog is having a good time or is being stressed. Helping your Golden utilize their available senses of sight, smell and hearing, are examples of mind stimulating exercise. Such fun activities as a walk in a new area, favorite chew toys, toys your dog manipulates to get food, and new toys can stimulate her mentally without a lot of physical activity. Teach your dog new commands or even tricks that don't require much body movement. The effort to understand your request, and then complying with it, will exercise his mind. Adapt to the changing needs of your Golden. If your boy doesn't do steps well, use a ramp; if she can't see well, improve the lighting and use scent cues. Take favorite toys to hidden locations in the house so that he can scent his way to his most treasured plaything.

Most important is to cherish our Golden Retrievers' senior years. They always pass too quickly. Make every day count – enjoy your friend's company in every way possible. 🐾

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## Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 9, 2007

11:00 – 2:30

GRREAT Howliday Party  
Frederick County Fairgrounds  
Frederick, MD

January 25, 26 and 27, 2008

GRREAT Education and Merchandise Table at:  
World of Pets Expo  
Timonium Fairgrounds  
Timonium, MD

GRREAT Annual Meeting

Please check on [www.grreat.org](http://www.grreat.org)

Date and location to be announced soon

# Adoption Report

For the period of August 31 through November 7, 2007, 59 Golden Retrievers found their forever home. There were 2 Charlie's, 2 Dukes, and a Duchess. Eighteen dogs were age 1 or under, 15 were age 2 to 4, 24 were age 5 to 9, and two were age 10. Congratulations to all the dogs and their new families!

Name	#	Age	Sex	Name	#	Age	Sex	Name	#	Age	Sex
Abby	07-057	7mo	F	Duchess	07-161	2	F	Meg	07-099	6	F
Anna	07-166	9	F	Duke	07-144	6	M	Mercedes	07-153	2	F
Annie	07-136	3	F	Duke	07-171	3	M	Nell	07-056	6mo	F
Apollo	07-109	5	M	Finn	07-138	6mo	M	Patrick	07-145	6	M
Bee	07-117	5	F	Golden	07-149	5	M	Patton	07-151	10	M
Bella	07-183	1	F	Haley	07-157	7	F	Peaches	07-193	3	F
Ben	07-124	8	M	Harley	07-165	1	M	Peanut	07-152	7	M
Benny	07-194	1	M	Heidi	06-207	1	F	Puck	07-170	7	F
Blazer	07-189	3	M	Henry	07-164	6	M	Red	07-045	2	M
Boru	07-163	1	M	Honey	07-162	1	F	Remy	07-178	2	M
Bradley	07-069	9mo	M	Honolulu	07-101	1	F	Sadie	07-078	3	F
Brandi	07-184	7	F	Jake	07-174	10	M	Sam	07-156	9	M
Charlie	07-064	7	M	Jeff	07-132	6	M	Samson	07-140	1	M
Charlie	07-159	5	F	Joe	07-142	4	M	Starbucks	07-148	5	F
Chasqui	07-175	3	M	Joey	07-147	1	M	Storm	07-195	6	F
Chief	07-121	1	M	John	07-180	6	M	Sunny	07-146	3	F
Chloe	07-155	7	F	Kellie Grace	07-050	1	F	Sweet Pea	07-119	9	F
Colby	07-020	1	M	Maggie	07-177	6	F	Tommy	07-122	5	M
Dalton	07-150	2	M	Mason	07-107	3	M	Willy	07-135	3	M
Darcy	07-027	10mo	F	Max	07-084	7mo	M				

## Adoption Day Directions

### Saturday, December 1, 2007

Noon - 2pm

Petco

6612 Richmond Highway  
Alexandria, Virginia  
703-660-1300

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

### Saturday, January 5, 2008

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 2, 2008

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.

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

# DONATIONS

## Thank you for your donations

Raymond Altman  
Carol Basham  
Linda & Leslie Brandwin  
Kristen Cady  
Linda Carroll  
Elizabeth Crane  
Louise Davidson  
Kenneth Diamond  
Kimberly Drab  
Kevin & Diane Duvall  
Judith Eyler  
Faye Fields  
Bob & April Fritz  
Sara Gann  
Jonathan Gordon  
Lona Gordon  
Gretchen Greaves  
William & Annette Huber  
Susan Jennings  
Diane Lanigan  
Erin Lassen  
Courtney Matthews & Andrea Supp  
Neal & Judy McKinley  
Mikel Miller  
Nicolette Parisi & Richard Wakeling  
Shawn Rion  
Rick & Bernadette Rolfe  
Conway & Martha Robinson  
Sandra Rutan  
Jennifer Ann Sermas  
Alice Skaff  
Cathie & Michael Skoog  
Vicki & Gordon Sumner  
Robert Taylor

## In Honor of Herb Beckinheimer's Birthday

Jack & Janet Billig  
E. Douglas Carton  
G. Cefaul & Bro.  
Dr. Howard & Ruth Fader  
Leonard Grossman  
Judy & Melvin Kolpinick  
Robert & Maddie Levine  
Saul Offit  
Pacy & Bonnie Oletsky  
Arnold Plant  
Charles Rosolio

## Corporate Giving

Capital One Financial PAC Match Program on behalf of Sharon Johnson

Whole Foods – Annapolis Store

## In Memory Of...

Diego Fowlkes who is owned by Patricia Fowlkes. Diego is a cat who was euthanized at Friendship Hospital for Animals in August 2007 due to neurological disease. Following his passing, Diego's owners elected to participate in the Medical Memorial Donation Program conducted by Animal Clinical Investigation. Through participation in this program, the donation in Diego's name is provided. – Animal Clinic Investigation

“Beau” beloved pet of Bettyann Schubert Dukell. – Greta Schubert

Sasha Brumbach. – Chris & Gale Hollstein

Mildred Rou Bishop. – Elaine Laube

Ebbe, a greyhound that died on September 28, 2007. She was the beloved pet of Audrey and Karl Gruel and was a special dog to me, her pet sitter. Ebbe gave love to all who knew her. – Al & Sylvia Glaser

Sundance Gallatin River Howell. She was as wild and beautiful as her Montana river namesake. She will be forever missed. – Judd & Nancy Howell

Sundance Howell. – Martha Carson

Darby Bergmann. We hope this might help another Golden have as good a life as she did. – Kim Fernandez

Sundance. – from The Cowgirls

Thomas Hyman, who loved all critters. – Sally & Richard Steelman

Jacob (96-046). – Elsie Clark

Allison Ward's heart dog, Oscar (03-225). Our sympathy and support go out to her. – Phil & Janet Hauck

Casey, our beautiful girl, who went to Heaven on August 10, 2007 as a result of cancer. God needed a Golden by his side so he borrowed Casey from us. She is always on our minds and in our hearts. We will be with her again. – Joseph & Virginia Fry

Corey, Pete and Andrea Peterson's wonderful Golden. He will be missed. – Sandy Diamond

In appreciation for all the joy that Sundance Howell brought into my life. – Laurie Burr

Oscar (03-225), heart dog of Allison Ward. – Sandy Diamond

I lost my beloved 13 year old golden retriever, Houston, in early July. In the midst of my grieving I learned of Razzle, a 2 year old golden, who was being fostered by a lovely couple, Scott and Becky Robinson. I drove up to meet Razzle on Friday, and yesterday he came to live with me and be my new best buddy. This contribution is in memory of Houston, and in honor of Scott, Becky and their wonderful golden, Molson. – Judith Temperley

Oscar (03-225), Allison Ward's special guy. Much missed, but now a very special Angel dog. – Jan Brown

Nikki (99-027). The greatest of the great. She crossed the rainbow bridge on 5 Jan 07. – Jim & Ginny Schultz

In thanks for our new GRREAT Golden Juliet and in memory of our beloved Zack. – Donna & David Tillman

My beloved Tuck – the dog of my heart, still deeply missed. – Suzanne Miller

George Sachlis. – John & Maura Reintjes

For Saylor, in memory of Bo (93-091.) Bo was our beautiful and beloved girl. Though her legs slowly and sadly failed her, Bo's spirit never wavered. And when she left us at age 15, Bo took a piece of our hearts with her. – Linda Scher

Shadow, beloved Golden of John & Marie Powell. – Ray & Julia Bredder

Ben Dukell, Honorary Golden Retriever and foster brother to more than 70 GRREAT dogs. He was loved by so many potential adopters at open houses that we had a permanent name sign: Ben, Not a golden, Not for adoption. Ben crossed the rainbow bridge in October at the age of 16 and a half years. Please help other dogs find a home that loves them as much as we loved Ben. – Betty Anne Dukell

Ben Dukell, beloved pet of Betty Anne Dukell. – Carol Jones

# DONATIONS

George Sachlis. – Jane & Reed Taylor

George Sachlis. – Fred & Laura Landon

Belle – the first! – Julia & Dick Kwiatkowski

Gus – a GRREAT Dog. – Mary Anne & James Beagles

## In Honor Of...

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Dee Brown one of the volunteers who took care of Sparky before he was placed into my home. I left July 6, 2007 for a trip out west and returned July 20, and they cared for him while I was away. I just could not leave him with anyone and I knew Sparky would remember them for the love and kindness they gave him before I adopted. Thank God for good people like them. – Kristine Guess

Amber (00-041). – Sheila & Al Vertino

Tori Roisman's 16th birthday. She has a great deal of compassion for all animals, but especially dogs. – Olivia & Tom McDonough

Kathi Stanhope. – Diane Berinstein

The Wedding Anniversary of Diane and John Hein. – Bertha Hein

My sister (a Golden caretaker) Nancy Ansheles's 46th Birthday! – Joan Ansheles

Gunnar (07-167). – Richard Todd Marshall

Clark and Hannah, my 2 wonderful Golden, and Kali, a beautiful Ragdoll cat. – Lynne Glennon

Betsy Davis. – Briane Guse

## For Medical Reasons

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To be used for Annie (07-111.) – Gay Schonbrun

This is a donation to help defray the medical expenses occurred by bringing Jake (07-174) into GRREAT. Jake is a special among all the GRREAT specials, a love of a boy I will have a hard passing on to his permanent family. I feel privileged to have him, my "handsome loveboy!" – Trish Collier

For Parker (06-149) and Apollo (07-109). – Sandy Diamond

For Ginger (07-160) and Maggie (07-037). – Lynette & Robert Kaufmann

Enclosed please find a donation to help with the cost of Saylor's medical care. We have been blessed with three Golden Boys over the last 17 ½ years. – Neil & Linda Jester

Please put these funds for Peaches. I wish it could be more! I write this check with tears down my face. Thank you for your work. – Larry Maples

For Peaches and Bailey. – Tracey Viasso

For Jannus (07-015), The Golden Wanna Be. – Eileen Bennett

For Saylor. – Betsy Davis

For Peanut. – Sandy Diamond

## Simile-Finale Fund

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Diane & John Hein

In memory of Rosie Brant, who passed away in July, 2007. She was the ideal Golden – social, sound and gentle. – Cheryl Burke Schwartz

## For Other Reasons

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Because I love my GRREAT dogs! – Barbara Timberlake

Thank you for all your dedication and hard work. My wife Davi and I are the proud parents of Jetty Canyon (formerly known as George) and Ella Sadie. We have two wonderful dogs thanks to our friends at GRREAT. Keep up the good work. - Joshua and Davi Scheinker

Please use this donation however it is needed the most. – Mark Ketterman

We have a 13 ½ non-rescue Golden Retriever, "Cameron." He had a wonderful time marching in the Scottish Walk in Alexandria to support GRREAT two years ago! – Nancy & Wayne Kulig

Donation for the Dogs wash. - Shireen Balkissoon

I'd like to make a donation to help Golden and to thank you for Sadie. We enjoyed her love for 12 years. She was 4 when we adopted her. – Jane Smith

To thank the Hines' for Sandi. – Laura & Jeffrey Shanks

## Leo's Corner

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### LEO'S PALS (UP TO \$99)

Dedicated in memory of Tucker. – Elke Jack

For Saylor. In memory of Nick, one of the GREATEST adopted Golden of all time! – Kristen Cady.

Our friends lost their beloved Golden Retriever, Darby, recently. This donation is given in her memory in the hope that other families may know the joy that they experiences having Darby in their lives. -Michelle Cann

In memory of Bobby, a shining star among dogs. His gentle spirit and good nature will be remembered by all who knew him. – Barbara & Michael Abrams

### Golden Angels (\$100-\$499)

Diane & John Hein

In memory of Mollie, Chelsea, Annie – Tom Ludwig

Dedicated to the memory of Rebel, who brought 13 years of joy to the Henderson family. – The Staff of Henderson Legal Services

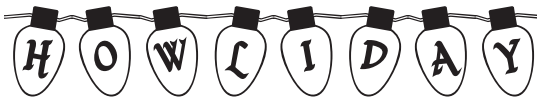
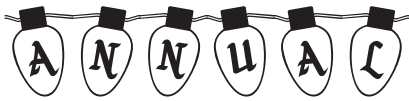
### GOLDEN HEROES (\$500 AND ABOVE)

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

In honor of Samson and his new family, Jean, Madison and Elise Shambarger. – Jeff & Lucinda Twining

This donation is to cover Samson's amputation surgery. This little guy had a birth defect that resulted in the need to amputate his partial right front leg, but his precious "puppitude" continued to shine through the whole ordeal. Although he has now moved on to his wonderful new forever home, this little bundle of Golden joy will be forever in our hearts!! - Jeff & Lucinda Twining

Jim & Ginny Hayes



This year's Howliday Party will take place at the Frederick Fairgrounds on Sunday, December 9, 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 Sandy Diamond president@grreat.org . Items must be received by December 1, 2006. If you are bringing items to the party, please notify Pam.

**DOGGIE GIFT EXCHANGE:** Each of your dog(s) can "pick a gift", if he/she brings a loosely wrapped doggie prize, under \$5. 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, 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:



G – L cold salad\*

M – R side dish\*

A – F dessert\*

S – Z munchies



**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.

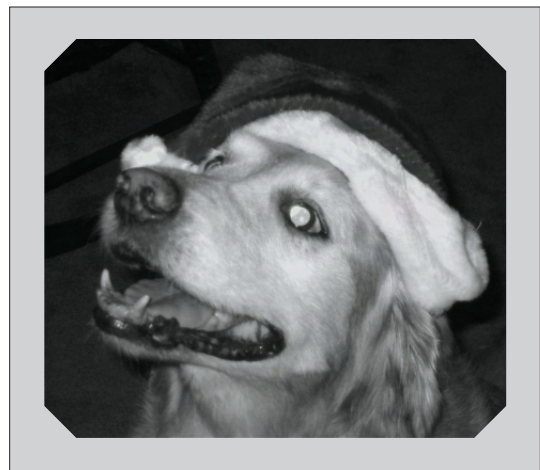
**TO VOLUNTEER:** We need volunteers at the event for set-up, cleanup, merchandise, dog holders, etc. Please contact, Lisa Cook, the GRREAT Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@grreat.org.

**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 9; 2007  
**TIME:** 11:00 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.



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

# Adopting the Perfect Dog

By Robin Heinecke, GRREAT Vice President

I have been a volunteer for GRREAT for a while. I have done home visits and read applications; I know that many families start the process with a specific dog in mind. They have looked at our web page and know which dog they have to have before the ink is dry on their application. Well I was no different. I looked at the web site and read about the dogs. This spring when we decided it was time to adopt, I knew the process like the back of my hand. I also knew exactly which dog I wanted.

I had been keeping a very close eye on the website as I filled out the application, and I knew the dog that was going to become part of our family. There were many great dogs on the web page, but only one that would be the perfect fit; he was the right age to be a great companion for Duke, our three year old, thus giving Splash our 12 year old a break. On top of that, he looked beautiful, the gorgeous square head, all of it making him the perfect dog for our house.

I sent my application in, had my home visit, and within minutes of being approved for adoption was on the phone with the family that had MY perfect dog. We have a great house for dogs, we live in a rural neighborhood on a dirt road with two acres, for them to run, and play ball. What we don't have is a fence. The foster family that had my perfect dog felt he needed a fenced yard. Oh my gosh, now what?

"Now what" turned into a set of circumstances that I could not have imagined, but will always be grateful they transpired. Grissom had been adopted but given back, and the people who had fostered him, (and were now fostering my perfect dog) didn't feel right about adding another to their brood. We were asked, would we take this dog? My heart took over, deep inside I knew that I love dogs and whatever Grissom was, his personality and his face, I would take him. I had no idea at that moment, that Grissom would be the perfect dog. He has been with us for four months now, and I love him to pieces. His beautiful face has grown on me in ways I'd never imagined. His energy is boundless, and watching him play with Duke every night makes me happy.

So, to everyone who thinks, there is only one perfect dog, that may be the case, but you may not know who that dog is until they come into your home and your life. 🐾

# Thanks to Our Volunteers

Goldstock – August 31-Sept 3

*Lisa Cook*  
*Marisa Cook*  
*Elizabeth Crane*  
*Dee Brown*  
*Glenn McDonald*  
*Terry Blatt*  
*Janet & Phil Hauck*  
*Sandy Diamond*

Pooch Pool Party  
September 9, 2007

*Joy Scrimshire*  
*George Toll*  
*Laurie Collins*  
*Sandy Diamond*  
*Pam Ambrose*

GRREAT Dog Wash  
September 15, 2007

*Robin Robinson*  
*Jeannie Blood*  
*Liz Haransky*  
*Marisa Cook*  
*Kayla Whisman*  
*Lisa Cook*  
*Janet & Marty White*  
*Jessie Robinson*  
*Kathy Thomas*  
*Diane Lanigan*  
*Susan Swift*  
*Joy Scrimshire*  
*Jen & John Strohm*  
*Carolyn Spradling*  
*Joyce Parkin*  
*Mary English*  
*Sandy Diamond*  
*Carolyn Beyer*  
*Mary Ginn*

Education Table at PetSmart  
September 22, 2007

*Liz Haransky*  
  
GRREAT Dog Swim  
September 22, 2007  
*Pete Peterson*  
*Bev Grimes*  
*Mary Ginn*  
*Joy Scrimshire*  
*Jessie Robinson*  
*Sandy Diamond*

Whole Foods Market Chip 'N  
Dip – Sept. 29, 2007

*Jessie Robinson*  
*Elizabeth Reimer*  
*Diane & John Hein*  
*Kathy Thomas*  
*Trish Collier*

*Leigh Krulisch*  
*Denise Gettier*  
*George Toll*  
*Denise Malczewski*  
*Sandy Diamond*

Pets On Wheels Dog-A-Thon  
Sept. 29, 2007

*Joy Scrimshire*  
*Lisa Cook*

Fredericksburg Dog Festival  
October 7, 2007

*Susanne Lazanov*  
*Louise Davidson*  
*George Toll*

Alexandria Heritage Scottish  
Festival – October 7, 2007

*Lona Gordon*  
*Dee Brown*  
*Glenn McDonald*  
*Sandy Diamond*

Anne Arundel Scottish Games  
October 13 2007

*Joy Scrimshire*  
*Al Rudmann*

Animal Center of Loudoun  
County – October 13, 2007

*Rebecca Wilkins*  
*Sandy Diamond*

Baron's K-9 Country Store Fall  
Nicki Parisi

*Janet & Phil Hauck*

Prince William Fall Festival  
October 20, 2007

*Dee Brown*  
*Glenn McDonald*  
*Lona Gordon*  
*Carolyn Beyer*  
*Carla Brown*

Stroll & Roll  
October 20, 2007

*Joy Scrimshire*  
*Jan White*  
*Carolyn Spradling*

Quiet Waters Park Barkin' Bash  
October 27, 2007

*Jan Brown*  
*Greg Russell*  
*Diane Hein*  
*George Toll*  
*Al Rudmann*  
*Sandy Diamond*

# GRREAT

## GRREAT Dog Wash at Bark 'N Bubbles Dog Wash

GRREAT had a successful day at our fundraising Dog Wash. Bark 'N Bubbles Dog Wash, a self-serve dog wash facility in Herndon, VA hosted the event. Our tired volunteers washed 49 dogs and provided nail and paw trimming, Blueberry Facials, ear cleaning, brushing and drying. Thank you to Dani Weng and Ursula of Bark 'N Bubbles for such a wonderful event!



Nail clipper extraordinaire Marty White clips Bud's nails while dad, Steve Fisher, supervises.



Kathy Thomas & Jen Strohm was a Golden at the GRREAT Dog Wash

## Goldstock

A beautiful Labor Day weekend set the stage for a fun and successful time for GRREAT at Goldstock. The weather was perfect for joining other Golden rescues from around the country, as well as Golden lovers, to raise funds and enjoy time with our dogs. Come out and join us next year for good times, good company, good food and GRREAT dogs!



Marisa Cook at the GRREAT Booth at Goldstock 2007

# Fundraisers

## GRREAT Dog Swim

Thank you to Roger Collins for hosting the second GRREAT Dog Swim at his Animal Swim Center of Virginia in Middleburg, VA. About 25 dogs and their people attended and had a swimmingly good time. Roger provided help for many dogs, teaching them to get in and out of the pool. Others just jumped right in - enjoying diving, swimming and playing fetch.



“Throw the Ball!”



A herd of Golden Retrievers retrieving bumpers in the pool.

## Whole Foods Chip ‘n Dip

The pavilion at the Harbor Center in Annapolis was the setting for the Whole Foods Chip ‘n Dip, an annual fundraising event. GRREAT was selected as one of the beneficiaries this year. Microchips (the Chip), dog washes (the Dip), and a Giving Grill helped to raise funds for GRREAT. Thank you to Reichert Animal Hospital, Crofton Veterinary Center and Mobile Pet Vet for handling microchip duty. Thank you to Muddy Paws for providing the dog washes. And a BIG THANK YOU to Diana Love and Whole Foods Market in Annapolis for hosting the event and inviting GRREAT!



John Hein and Kathy Thomas help at the Whole Foods Giving Grill.



Comet takes a rest after working hard at collecting donations for GRREAT.

# Who Are You Really Living With?

By Sherry B. True

We often look into the faces of angels everyday and don't recognize them. If we lift the veil we can see the love of God in the eyes that stare back at us lovingly each day. So who are these angels?


They are our animal companions, the spiritual beings we often share our lives with. As angels our animals teach us to live in the moment. Our animal companions love us with all their body and soul; even when humans have been cruel to them they often are still loyal and loving. They forgive us even when we cannot forgive ourselves. They teach us about balance by showing us how to relax, to play, and how to enjoy simple interactions with another living being. They live for today and don't worry about tomorrow, and they seldom, if ever, bother about the past. They trust us completely and love us the same way.

To me, animals are much more than just beings we share our lives with. They are often grand angelic teachers wrapped up in fur coats. They are there for our ups and downs. They try to comfort us when we are hurting. They reflect back to us the love we search for from the minute we set foot on the planet. They each have a specific job they come here to do. Some are with us for a long time and there are others who are only with us briefly yet change our lives forever.

We often look at them as our children, our relationship or our teacher. More importantly for many of us they are here to help save our lives. How often have we heard about that special pet that was scheduled to be euthanized only to be adopted, then turning around and saving the family from certain death when their house caught on fire. Or the family pet that sits with a lost child in the woods to keep in warm until the child is found. There are many more examples.

More and more animals are being acknowledged for bridging that space between us and God. They help us to see the oneness of the universe if we choose. Even the wild animals that are around us have messages from the divine source if we choose to listen and see. They too are angels that are put in our path for a reason.

So you see, you do not just live with an animal, we have the ability to watch angels at work everyday! You are not their owner for in the spiritual realm of things no being can be owned for it is its own spirit. Look again in the face of your animal and what do you see and feel? What messages are these animal angels communicating to you? Are you ready to listen to the angel you share your home and heart with? They bring us the love of the infinite divine everyday if we as humans would only open our hearts!

*Sherry B. True is an animal communicator in the Baltimore, MD area. Please visit her website for more information on her services at [www.spiritpaws.com](http://www.spiritpaws.com).* 

# Renew Your Membership Now for 2008

It is time to renew your GRREAT membership for 2008.

We rely on membership dues, donations, and fundraising to operate. Your \$30 membership dues keeps this newsletter coming to your mailbox every two months and will help us save more Golden's in 2008.

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 xx of this newsletter. 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 status, please send a note to Jill Kurtz, membership coordinator at [memberships@grreat.org](mailto:memberships@grreat.org) or at the mailing address above.

We hope that you will continue to be a part of our GRREAT family!

**Volunteers should be members, and members should be volunteers!**

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## Thanks to Our Adoption Day Volunteers

August	September	October
Petco Herndon, VA	Petco Bel Air, MD	Petco Alexandria, VA
Lucinda Twining	Jim Eurice	Pete Peterson
Jeff Twining	Vickie Eurice	Sue Eberle
Marion Shields	Lynne Glennon	Carolyn Beyer
Kathy Thomas	Janet Hauck	Sue Sands
Mary English	Sharon Chup	Megan Canigan
Megan Rossman	Al Rudmann	Scott Bolduc
Al Rudmann	Phil Hauck	Christine Evert
Pete Peterson	Jessie Robinson	Margaret Benner
Beverly Grimes	Lisa Cook	Lisa Cook
Sharon McIlrath		Jessie Robinson
Jill Kurtz		
Jessie Robinson		

# PVGRC Looks Forward to 2008

By Bob Kurtz, PVGRC President

As autumn turns into winter, most of Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club's 2007 events are behind us. It's been a busy few months for many of our members' dogs, with the Working Certificate and Working Certificate Excellent field event in September, the weekend-long hunt test in October, and our annual tracking test in November.



PVGRC is now looking ahead to 2008! In January and February, the club will be hosting membership meetings with presentations of interest to Golden Retriever owners – check the PVGRC website at <http://www.pvgrc.org> for updates on the topics.

New for 2008 will be three separate agility trials, with two all-breed events in April and June, and a Golden-only event in August. Agility is an exciting event where the handler must navigate the dog around an obstacle course using only voice and hand signals. Obstacles may include jumps, tunnels, a teeter-totter, and other elements depending on the skill level of the dog and handler.

Because time is as important as accuracy, agility is a fast-paced event that's a ton of fun to watch! Of course, the Golden Retriever is an athletic, intelligent, and highly trainable breed, so it's no surprise that so many are successful in agility competition.

As we head into 2008, keep an eye on the PVGRC home page and calendar at <http://www.pvgrc.org> for more information about upcoming events. Meanwhile, all of us at PVGRC wish you a happy holiday season with your Golden! 🐾

## Dear Janet

Dear Janet,

**We are having some difficulty houstraining our newly-adopted adult golden. Do you have any suggestions? T.R.**

Dear T.R.,

Houstraining an adult dog can be frustrating for you and stressful for your dog because you are trying to change a long-standing habit. To make the process as quick and easy as possible, set your dog's life up in such a way that she simply can't have any accidents. Figure out her natural elimination schedule by keeping a chart noting the times that she eats, drinks, urinates and defecates. Once you have learned when she naturally needs to go, set an alarm clock or timer to remind you to take her out at those times. If she potties when you take her out, praise her effusively, and if she's food-motivated give her a treat as well.

When she is in the house with you and you can supervise her, keep her on a leash tethered to you so that she can not sneak off to eliminate. If she is able to eliminate in the house without you being there to tell her "no," she has no way of understanding that what she's doing is wrong. As soon as she starts to eliminate in the house say "no" firmly and use the leash to quickly direct her outside. If she finishes pottying outside, praise her effusively, and give her a treat. If she does not finish pottying outside, bring her back in and supervise her extremely closely. At the first sign that she is preparing to eliminate in the house, take her back outside again. Repeat this process as many times as necessary until you are able to reward her for pottying outside, which will help her to understand that she's behaved correctly.

When you can not supervise her, even for an instant, you need to have a safe area for her to stay where she will not want to potty. This can be a crate, small bathroom or kitchen. If you need to be out of sight for a moment, such as to go to the restroom or answer the door, put her in her area. If you leave her out and she has an accident without you being there to stop and redirect her behavior, she will not understand that what she's doing is wrong.

*Janet McMillan is the owner of Best Behaved Dogs, training dogs in the Northern Virginia area. For more information on her please visit [www.bestbehaveddogs.com](http://www.bestbehaveddogs.com). If you have a question you would like answered in an upcoming issue of the GRREAT news, please e-mail her at [janet@bestbehaveddogs.com](mailto:janet@bestbehaveddogs.com). 🐾*

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## Continued from Page 1

to be the Haegeles, Bill and Deb with two rescued Golden Retrievers, Oliver and Pete. Oliver had an inoperable tumor in his nasal sinuses and they were anticipating his loss in the immediate future. As I recall, Annie made herself right at home and proceeded to curl up on their family room couch. She was a bit aloof, but seemed unbothered by the gentle presence of Oliver and more playful nature of Pete. While conducting the home interview, we talked about what they were looking for in a new canine companion and I filled them in on Annie's background.

We kept in touch and before I knew it, they were considering adopting a GRREAT Golden, and it was Annie! The visits continued, the dogs romped and played together, and soon the adoption papers were finalized and signed. Annie had found the perfect home and family.

Deb Haegele:

My husband and I were facing the final stage of our Oliver's life; he had been diagnosed with cancer over a year ago and his fight was almost at an end. His companion Pete, also adopted from GRREAT, had never lived as an only dog and Bill and I knew that we had to consider his emotional well-being and adopt another GRREAT Golden as soon as possible. Our focus was to integrate a new dog into the household while Oliver was still with us, but the dog we adopted would need to be very gentle with Oliver and respectful of his status in the pack.

We first met Annie when Shelley brought her as part of the GRREAT home visit and it was love at first sight; Bill and I knew that behind the chewed up, somewhat anxious exterior was a dog looking for a loving home. Right from the start we saw Annie's gentle nature with Oliver and her playful side with Pete; she fit right in to our family. After careful consideration of Annie's needs and consultation with our dog trainer, Janet McMillan, the paperwork was underway to adopt Annie.

Shelley provided us with all the information about Annie's past, her fear aggression issues because of that past and the months of rehabilitation they had lovingly provided to Annie. She let us know what techniques worked with Annie and which did not, what triggered

the aggression behaviors and how best to work with Annie. Annie's life was saved by their love and dedication to her rehabilitation; the change they accomplished in eight months was amazing.

Once Annie came to live with us there was definite regression in her rehabilitation but that was expected, after all we were the fifth household that Annie had moved to in the three years of her life. Bill and I went through all the issues that Bill and Shelley had faced with Annie and we dealt with them much the same way, one at a time and with a great deal of love and patience. Like her foster parents, Bill and I realized that Annie was indeed unique in many ways, extremely strong willed with a mind of her own and a very stubborn nature.

We called in our trainer Janet who not only worked with Annie's behavioral issues but also taught Bill and I what we needed to know handling a dog with the level of fear aggression that was still a part of Annie. Pete was an invaluable help in teaching Annie to trust us and to become a part of the family; he taught her how to have fun wrestling, chasing and sharing snuggles and Annie soaked it all up. Over time Annie has come to trust us and once that trust was established her sense of fun came out fully; she is absolutely a clown and a joy to be around.

In being honest, it wasn't easy to keep Annie moving in the right direction but you would look into her eyes and know it was worth all the work and worry. Annie typifies the saying "...it takes a village..." with the continuing support of Shelley and Bill Hunsberger, Janet McMillan of Best Behaved Dogs, Sarah Parkinson and Rosemary Emmel of Villaridge Pet Sitters, family and friends, Annie has found her "forever" home.

If you want to take a look at our Annie, just purchase the 2008 GRREAT calendar and take a look at "Miss January."

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## Thank You!

*A special thank-you to Jan Brown, for making and donating embroidered GRREAT bandanas, and for donating the proceeds from the sale of Chainsaw Canines.*

*Thank you to Jean and Madison Shambarger, for making the current bandanas we use for adoption days.*

# 2008 Board Nominations

Nominations are being sought for the GRREAT Board of Directors for 2008. The following positions are filled every other year by vote of the membership:

Vice President  
Secretary

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  
GRREAT

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## Volunteers Needed

GRREAT is always in need of volunteers. We have updated our Volunteer page on the website with descriptions of various positions we need filled. For more information or to apply, please go to [www.grreat.org/voluntr.htm](http://www.grreat.org/voluntr.htm). We are currently looking for:

Foster Home Coordinator	Foster Home Finder
Education Assistants	Foster Homes
Fundraising Team Members	Home Visit Volunteers
Merchandise Coordinator	Writers for Newsletter

## Thank You!

Thank you to the following people for their donations to GRREAT for the Goldstock Silent and Live Auctions:

Judi Fishman  
Georgie Bahler  
Susan Brown  
Dee Brown and Glenn McDonald  
Susie Barefoot  
Baron's K9 Country Store (Lisa Cook & Stacey Duffy)  
Sam Connelly  
Kristen Erickson  
Janet Hauck  
Elizabeth Crane  
Becky Brown  
Laura Schmitz  
Deb Nizer  
Barb Oestreich  
Carolyn & Rhett Murphy  
Susan Swift  
Diana Trout  
Sandy Diamond

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Thank you to the following people who have donated items to be used by our foster homes:

Pam Fulmer  
Marge Gow  
Linda Bouma  
Betty Anne and Gary Mauger  
Joe Fry  
Nancy Scesney

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Thank you to the following businesses who have donated items to GRREAT:

Weber's Pet Supermarket – dog food  
Canine Fitness Center – swim therapy

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# Better Behavior Now – On Your Mark!

By Liz Hauck

I've learned from experience that using a "reward marker" is the quickest way to teach a dog what you want. A reward marker tells the dog, "WOW! You just won a prize!" Anything the dog can perceive can be a marker, from a click to a flash of light. I like the letter X! because it's precise, consistent and unique. You can use YES! or GOOD! or whatever works for you. Shorter and sharper (not loud) is better because the moment he hears it is the moment he will learn to try to repeat.

How it works: you make the sound, then give a reward to the dog. He learns to love hearing that sound and to try whatever he can to make you make it. You use that motivation to get him to repeat behaviors that you like. Everybody wins and your dog is very motivated to learn and work.

About rewards: rewards may be food (usually easiest in the early stage of training or with new distractions), or may be toys, games, petting, attention, or the chance to do something your dog values like get his leash on, go out the door, hop in the car. Your toolkit of rewards will be very personal.


First, teach him what X! means. This can be just one session. Have a good quantity of tiny, super tasty treats. Just say it and hand him the treat. X! and treat. He doesn't have to do anything for it. He's learning that it means something great is coming. Repeat it ten or twenty times. Now he should be looking pretty interested when he hears it.

Next, ask him to do something he already knows how to do so you can teach him that he can make that X! happen. Your job is to learn to time that marker so that the moment he does the good thing, he hears that sound. Sit is usually a good place to start: when his tush touches the floor, you say X! and then treat. You don't have to shove the treat into his mouth the moment you say X! You could be five feet away and say it – he's learned that it's a promise you will keep.

Practice that behavior in different places around the house and outside. Gradually introduce distractions.

Take away the X! and food as soon as you feel he really knows what he's supposed to do. If he doesn't do what he's supposed to, it's because HE CAN'T: he doesn't get it or there is a distraction. Use the marker and reward generously any time it gets hard or you're teaching something new. And reward him unpredictably for doing stuff – it'll keep him really interested.

Now pick a new behavior to teach. Keep it simple. How about attention? Use X! to tell your dog that you love it when he turns his head towards you when you say his name. Then use it to tell him you love it when he comes toward you. Use attractive sounds ("kissy" noises) and clapping or patting your legs to help attract him closer. Practice calling him and getting him to come to you in every room of the house, and outside in the yard. When he's great at it, start practicing on your walks or the park. Remember not to ask him to do it so often that he hates it – a training session can be wonderfully effective at just two or three minutes.

*Liz Hauck loves teaching people to help their dogs. You can reach her at 410-800-7069 or [www.droptheleash.net](http://www.droptheleash.net). *

## Virginia License Plates

GRREAT and our partner to the south, SEVA GRREAT, are gauging interest in a Golden Retriever Rescue license plate for Virginia drivers. The basic program requires 350 prepaid applications. As 501(c)3 organizations, our rescues qualify for Revenue Sharing. With our combined memberships, we should be able to meet this criteria. Plates authorized for revenue sharing cost \$25 annually. Personalization is an additional \$10 annually. Revenue sharing provides \$15 of every \$25 paid to the DMV to be shared with the qualified organization after the sale of the first 1000 plates. If you are interested in this program, please contact Liz Haransky at [atlarge3@grreat.org](mailto:atlarge3@grreat.org).

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# What is Homeopathy?

By Pam Grasso, DVM

Homeopathy is a system of medicine that was developed by a German doctor named Samuel Hahnemann over 200 years ago. This approach is based on the Law of Similars or “like cures like”. Homeopathic medicines or remedies are derived from plant, mineral, and animal sources. These substances that cause symptoms in a patient in large amounts are repeatedly diluted until barely a trace of the original material remains. The energetic “footprint” of the remedy is powerful enough to stimulate the body to heal itself. Hahnemann discovered that the more dilute the remedy is, the greater the healing power.

Classic homeopathy as taught by Hahnemann uses only one remedy at a time and usually only a single dose is given (depending on the potency used and the level of health of the patient). Ideally, no other medicines should be used with homeopathy. Many combination remedies can be found on the market. They often recommend repeated dosing. These are not considered classic homeopathy and should be avoided.

Like most holistic healing modalities, homeopathy focuses on the whole individual, not just the ear infection, or the skin condition, or the heart disease. Homeopathy considers all of the past and present conditions of the individual as the same disease. In addition to findings from a physical exam, the homeopathic practitioner will ask about your pet’s history, past and present environment, emotional health, likes and dislikes, fears, vaccine history, medical treatment, and diet. Homeopathy patients ideally should be free of toxins and stresses in their environment. Most homeopaths will recommend minimal vaccinations and medications, and a healthy, natural diet. Homeopathy is based on the symptoms of each individual patient. Therefore, a remedy to treat an ear infection in one patient is not necessarily the same for that condition in another patient. The remedies may be very different for the aggressive nervous patient with a red, waxy ear versus the friendly, gregarious patient with an itchy, smelly ear.

Western medicine is based on suppressing symptoms, and thereby getting the quick fix. This is evidenced by the fact that once these medicines are discontinued, the symptoms of the disease return, often worse than before, so a stronger medicine is now needed. Homeopathy believes that by suppressing symptoms, the disease moves deeper into the body. For example, after years of suppressing or palliating a chronic ear infection, a dog may develop a cough or arthritis. This is the same disease to the homeopath. Often the veterinary homeopath is presented with a patient with deep-seated illness, once all of the suppressive treatments of Western medicine


have been exhausted. In these cases it is very important to consult with a veterinary homeopath. These patients often do have the strength to regain their health, but this may be a long process that requires a trained professional.

Homeopathy is an energy-based medicine, and given as a single dose, there are no long-term side effects or adverse reactions. For acute situations, such as trauma, bruising, bites, and bee stings, homeopathy shines. Often one dose of a particular remedy, when chosen correctly for the patient’s condition, will restore health and healing.

In chronic conditions, such as arthritis, food sensitivities, and allergies, many different remedies may be tried to achieve a cure. Homeopathy is not a quick fix. Remedies are not meant to hide or suppress symptoms like many of the conventional medicines do. Homeopathy seeks a more profound cure within the body, addressing the cause. The process of finding a remedy to produce a cure takes trial and error and requires a lot of patience on the part of the caregiver. Many chronic diseases have been going on for years, with years of suppressive treatments. These will not be cured overnight. Homeopathy is a powerful medicine, but works in a mild way to produce a cure. Homeopathy gently nudges the body to work harder to get well.

Many of the patients presented to the holistic vet are in a very advanced state of disease. But, homeopathy is an ideal modality for treating young animals, prior to years of suppression and advanced disease and pathology. Unfortunately, we now see evidence of chronic disease showing up in our youngest patients. Allergies, seen as sensitivities to foods and itchy skin, are seen early on. This chronic disease is inherited disease. Each generation inherits the chronic disease of the generation before. In our animal patients, these generations can build up very quickly. The young animal exhibiting these early symptoms are ideal patients for homeopathy. Homeopathy can treat this chronic disease and restore optimal health. If we can be proactive, by treating these animals naturally and feeding a wholesome diet, hopefully they can lead a life with optimal energy and health.

To learn more about homeopathy and to find a veterinary homeopath, contact [www.theAVH.com](http://www.theAVH.com).

*Pam Grasso, MS, DVM, CVA, offers Western veterinary medicine as well as acupuncture, herbal medicine and homeopathy at Ashburn Farm Veterinary Hospital in Ashburn, VA. [www.ashburnfarmvet.com](http://www.ashburnfarmvet.com) (703-726-8784) *

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# Fozzy Bear

By Jan White

The call came on March 28, 2001 asking if I'd visit a stray at our local animal shelter. I picked up my Mom and we were on our way. As we walked through the maze of kennels, the noise level was incredible - each dog pleading, "Pick me! Pick me!" All except one pitiful looking Golden with ribs showing, terribly matted fur and dirty beyond words. He sat calmly near the door of the run.

I spoke to him as I attached a leash to his collar and he remained seated while his tail furiously

dusted the floor. We started to lead him outside when my Mom stopped short, got a puzzled look on her face and started laughing. He'd seen the stuffed elephant key ring hanging over the side of her and decided to "hold" it in his mouth. Obviously, he was perfectly happy sitting where he was, hence my mother's abrupt stop. No growling, no hackles raised - just those soulful eyes, the unstoppable wagging tail... and a clamped jaw. It took awhile but we finally opened his mouth and extracted the elephant. The key ring was in perfect condition albeit a little damp from dog slobber.

My husband Marty and I became this special dog's foster parents and named him Fozzy Bear.

It wasn't long before Fozzy was diagnosed with advanced lymphoma and our vet estimated he only had 2 to 6 months to live. She explained treatment options and, based on a research

study's results, we chose to fight Fozzy's cancer with an all protein diet and minimal medication. We were devastated by the diagnosis but determined to ensure Fozzy lived every remaining day to the fullest.

Fozzy's most favorite thing in the world was to be with people so we frequently took him with us whenever we went out. We were at my Mom's house one day when some folks stopped by. Fozzy trotted over, sat down and looked up at the woman's face, his tail moving like hummingbird wings.

She bent over to pet him and told him how handsome he was. As before, no one noticed his sly movement until she tried to stand upright and discovered Fozzy was "holding" a button near the top of her dress. After much laughter and several offers of assistance from the men who witnessed the event, Fozzy's mouth was pried open and the button was successfully rescued. It was wet with dog schmoo but no worse for the wear.

Throughout his time with us Fozzy's distinct ways seemed to touch everyone he met. Our vet called

periodically to ask how he was and we'd relay his most recent antics. She was amazed by his spirit.

I slept fitfully on the floor next to Fozzy his last 2 nights because he was no longer was comfortable on our bed. He crossed the Rainbow Bridge peacefully 3 weeks short of 3 years. Fozzy came into our lives, gently took "hold" of our hearts but - this time - he never let go. 🦴



## 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 2008 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

\_\_\_\_\_ 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](http://www.grreat.org).



# Help Needed for the 2007 GRREAT Holiday Wrapping Brigade!



GRREAT has teamed up with our local Borders and Barnes & Nobles stores for a fabulous fundraiser! We'll be wrapping gifts for donations at about 20 stores in VA and MD at various dates and times from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

Last year we tried it at one store for just two days. We had a great time and made almost \$1000 for our Leo Fund which helped us get orthopedic surgeries for several of our Rescued dogs.

This year, our goal for the 2007 Holiday Wrapping Brigade is \$10,000!! We can do it! We have more than 70 wrapping opportunities this season and we need volunteers for all of them. Sign up early to get the best choice of dates, times and locations. GRREAT is looking for at least 100 volunteers, including 15-20 Team Leads. We need several well-behaved and well-groomed spokes-dogs

for the stores that will allow us to bring our Golden Retrievers. We also need certified therapy and service dogs for those stores that will only allow service dogs.



The first 100 people to sign up will receive a GRREAT Wrapping Brigade T-shirt! Spread the word and feel free to invite your friends, neighbors, relatives and co-workers to help. This is an awesome opportunity for all of us to come together and raise money for GRREAT. Give your time this Holiday Season and help make our Rescued Dog's dreams come true.

Please visit [www.GRREAT.org/WrappingBrigade](http://www.GRREAT.org/WrappingBrigade) for more details, to check out our schedule, and to sign up for your preferred dates and times. Check back often to see how we're doing on our \$10,000 goal, we'll update the site each week! **SIGN UP TODAY!**

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

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**GRREAT BEGINNINGS**



**LEAD TO HAPPY ENDINGS!**

Golden Retriever Rescue  
Education and Training, Inc.