



# GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc. • January/February 2008 • Vol. 19, No. 1

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## Ry Noir, Private Eye

Missing Dog Case Solved Thanks To GRREAT Microchipping

By Bob Kurtz, Microchipping Coordinator

It was a dark night in a town that knows how to keep its secrets. I was planning a quiet time with a buddy of mine. My buddy doesn't talk much, but he's 180 proof and he's good company. That's when the phone rang. The dame on the phone had a note of urgency in her voice that grated on my nerves like a 5-year-old with a new violin. But I'm not a music critic, I'm a private detective, and that call meant I had a job. After all, bourbon and Old Mother Hubbard bones don't come for free.

The name's Orion, but people call me Ry... Ry Noir, private eye.

The caller told me that the flatfoots had picked up a dog, and now he was cooling his heels in the Prince William County Animal Shelter. The shelter had scanned him for a microchip and called the AVID microchip hotline. AVID called GRREAT, and GRREAT called me. Trouble was, nobody knew who this Joe was or where he came from, and the mug wasn't talking. Lucky for me, I've got the database of all the chips GRREAT has implanted. Too bad this boy's chip number wasn't in it.

Who was this guy? Where did he come from? How did he arrange his night out on the town? The questions poured down like a cold rain on the dark streets of the city. There were no easy answers. But then, you don't hire a private eye to answer the easy ones.

I knew I'd have to solve this mystery the old-fashioned way and talk to some informants. First I called AVID to confirm the chip number, and see if they had any more dope on the boy. AVID told me he was 8 years old, and that Delaware Valley Golden Retriever Rescue had chipped him years ago and the chip was re-registered to GRREAT. That solved part of the mystery – the chipping happened before GRREAT used chips or started to keep database records of them. But it still didn't tell me who this mug was, or why an old guy like him



Ry Noir, Private Eye

was out gallivanting on a Saturday night.

The case was growing cold, and I was tempted to just leave it at that. But I'd spent some time on the streets myself a couple years ago, and I remembered what it was like – I had to help this guy if I could. But how? The answer hit me like a slug from a .45 -- how many 8-year-old male GRREAT dogs could there be in Prince William County? A check of the database found less than a dozen. I picked up the phone and started calling.

My first call was a dry hole. The lady thanked me for my concern, but told me her boy was curled up on the couch next to her. I picked up the phone and dialed again. I introduced myself to the dame on the phone, who interrupted me with "Omigosh, do you have my dog???"

"No ma'am, but I know where he is, and he's safe. You can pick him up from the tank first thing tomorrow."

Case closed; another wandering Joe returned safely home. This time, it was thanks to a microchip that we didn't even know we had. Then it was back to that quiet night with my buddy.

# 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

## Remember GRREAT In Resolutions for the New Year

Wow – I can't believe it is 2008! I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful holiday season with your fuzz-butts. As we enter the New Year, I hope you will remember GRREAT when making your New Year's Resolutions. Here are a few to consider:

- Resolve to renew your GRREAT membership.
- Resolve to sign up as a volunteer if you haven't already (and if you have, resolve to volunteer more!)
- Resolve to become a Foster Home.
- Resolve to donate.
- Resolve to pass the word along about GRREAT.

You are the reason we are able to continue to rescue and re-home our beloved Golden Retrievers, and your ongoing help is needed. If you adopted a dog in 2007, you were given a membership for the remainder of the year. Please stay involved and renew for 2008. For those of you that volunteered during the year, THANK YOU! I'm sure most of our members do not realize how many volunteers it actually takes to run the rescue – here are some of the jobs that don't get much publicity:

- Intake Assistants – collects information from give-up owners
- Transport volunteers – helps to get our new dogs from the give-up owners or shelters to the foster homes or vets. Many transports are hundreds of miles and hours on the road.
- Membership and Database Coordinator – keeps track of memberships, volunteers, foster homes and adopted dogs. Sends e-mails to members and volunteers.



- Dog List compilers – we have several internal reports on dogs in the rescue, as well as available dog lists that go to our approved adopters.
- POC's – support personnel for foster homes.
- Vet Coordinator – makes sure our GRREAT-approved vet list is up to date and helps to sign new vets to our program.
- Addressing & Mailing newsletters
- GRREAT Events Coordinator – many hours are spent coordinating the Bark-B-Que and Howliday party
- Application Coordinators
- Home Visit Volunteers
- Mail Coordinator – picks up, sorts and re-directs GRREAT mail; prepares report of donations, memberships and bills for GRREAT board

Again, I'd like to thank everyone who helped during the year. And for those of you who haven't had an opportunity, please check out the Volunteer page on our website and sign up.

Happy New Year!

—Sandy Diamond, GRREAT President

## MAILBOX

Dear GRREAT,

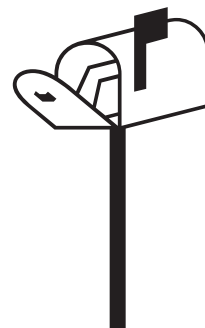
Hello, my name is Meg. I was adopted on October 21, 2007. I am so happy at my new home. They take me to the store and let me pick out my own toys. They keep telling me how blessed they are that I came to live with them.

I celebrated my first Thanksgiving in my new home. Everyone in the family just loves me. I have three girls that are my mom and dad's granddaughters – they love to play with me and we play ball and run around in the yard.

I was shown the boundaries of my yard one time and I do not leave the yard, even if my dad goes next door and says it is okay to come over. I only stay in my yard.

I want to thank all the people who took good care of me until my mom and dad found me. I hope all the other boys and girls find a home as good as I have.

-Meg (adopted by Jack & Darleen Strayer)



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# How Agility Saved My Life

By Freddie Sweeney (as told to Isaac Sweeney)



I'm small for a golden; I'm probably the product of inbreeding. I was born in a puppy mill. Even there, my bouncing personality couldn't be denied. The puppy mill owners insisted that other Golden Retrievers be like me, which is why I became a puppy mill stud dog. They put me in a small concrete pad until they needed me.

I lived like this for three years.

One day, people came and shut the puppy mill down. I had mixed emotions about this. I didn't like staying on that hard, cold floor all the time - the grass is more my style. On the other hand, people kind of scared me. I hadn't been around too many people in my first few years.

GRREAT took care of me for a while. Then I went to a home. The lady there was really nice and she taught me one of my favorite things - agility. She also found a good name for me. GRREAT called me Freddie, which is still my name. But on paper, the lady called me Mercury's Bouncin' Bohemian. I must admit, I am rather bouncy. The man there seemed nice as well, but I still got uncomfortable around him. I don't think he was a bad man at all; I just

hadn't been around men that much and most of them are big with deep voices and scruffy faces.

The lady did what any responsible person would do; she told GRREAT about me and the man, and she found a new place for me to live. She was very careful when looking for a place, which is good. I really didn't like some people. But there was this one man I liked. The lady called him Isaac. I would see him at agility class and I would gently jump on him so he could pet me. He was around another woman all the time. He called her Melanie. She was nice too.

I'm not really sure how it happened, but I ended up living with Isaac and Melanie, along with another dog named Duncan. Duncan is a nice dog. I'm not very authoritative, so I tend to get along with most dogs. Isaac tells me that I'm a lot like him - maybe that's why I like him so much. We like to play outside, play with other dogs, and generally act goofy for no apparent reason. I love the grass. Sometimes, when I get to feeling really good, I run outside and roll around in whatever grass I can find. Isaac doesn't do this with me for some reason. I think he should try it.

Isaac and I also like to relax. Sometimes we do this thing where Isaac holds a pole and a line is in the water. He calls it "fishing." I like fishing. I sit right next to Isaac so my fur touches him. He usually puts his arm around me and rubs my chest. I've fallen asleep against him like that.

When we're not playing with dogs or relaxing, we play agility. I still see that first lady sometimes, which makes me really excited. Agility, in general, makes me pretty excited, especially if I haven't done it in a while. I'm not sure what it is. I like the tunnels and the contacts, and I even like the jumps. Again, there's the grass. And it sure is fun to run around in front of everybody and then to hear them clap and say my name.

But I think, most of all, I like agility because I get to spend time with Isaac and with other people. When Isaac and I go out on the course, we have a good time. We run fast and try to do most of the obstacles in the right order. Sometimes we get confused, but we usually get confused together, which makes it okay. When we come out of the course, I get lots of attention by a lot of different people. People don't bother me anymore. I like just about everything. I've heard Isaac say agility saved my life and brought out the best in me. I don't know what he means. I just know that agility is loads of fun and, at the end of a course I get to bounce as much as possible. And Isaac laughs, which make me feel good.

# ADOPTION REPORT

For the period of November 12 through December 12, 2007, 22 Golden Retrievers found their forever home. Of these, 8 were female and 14 were male. Five dogs were age 8 or older, 4 were between the ages of 4 and 7, and 13 were age 3 or younger. Congratulations to all of the dogs and their new families!

Name	#	Age	Sex
Annie	07-111	3	F
Boo	07-197	3	F
Buddie	07-210	4	M
Buddy	05-241	7	M
Buddy	07-169	3	M
Cargo	07-118	8	M
Casey	07-205	1	M
Champ	07-141	6	M
Comet	07-105	7	M
Dollar	07-191	2	M
Emma	07-016	8	F

Name	#	Age	Sex
Henry	07-179	1	M
Ivy	07-202	2	F
Kornbread	07-188	11	M
Little Bear	07-187	10mo.	M
Maggie	07-196	2	F
Murdock	07-176	3	M
Ollie	06-052	10	M
Portia	07-198	9	F
Richie	07-185	3	M
Ruby	07-113	3	F
Yoshe	07-186	2	F

## Thanks For Lending A Paw

### PWSCPA Dog-A-Thon and Fall Festival Volunteers

Dee Brown  
Glenn McDonald  
Lona Gordon  
Carla Brown  
Carolyn Beyer

### Home 4 The Holidays Volunteers

Pete Peterson  
Judy Daner  
Steve Daner  
Sharon McIlrath



# ADOPTION DAY DIRECTIONS

## Saturday, March 1, 2008

Noon - 2pm

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

Take I-95 North towards Baltimore to Route 24-N, Exit 77B towards Bel Air. Turn left on US-1, Baltimore Pike. Store on the left in shopping center at corner of Belair Road & Baltimore Pike.

## Saturday, April 5, 2008

Noon - 2pm

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

Take 495 towards Richmond/Alexandria. Exit at Richmond Hwy/US-1 South, exit 177A/B. Take Route 1 South 2.7 miles to store on right.

## Saturday, May 3, 2008

Noon - 2pm

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

Take Route 50 towards Annapolis. Take the Arlis T. Allen Blvd/MD-655 exit, Exit 22 towards Riva Road. Keep right to take MD-655 South/Arlis T Allen Blvd exit towards Riva Road. Take Riva Road North, then turn right on Forest Drive.

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

# DONATIONS

## Thank you for your donations

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Anita & Frank Abbruscato  
Paula Abernethy  
Pam & Jerry Ambrose  
Betsy & Bill Bake  
Connie Barnes  
Jean & Robert Barton  
Jo Ann & Evelyn Beall  
Wilma Beardsley  
Lee Beaton  
Claire Belisle  
Jude & Gary Biedenkapp  
Sharon Bottcher & Joan Peddicord  
Susan & Richard Bottomley  
Jola Breegle  
Cheryl Brooks  
Jan Brown  
Jerry Cann  
Holly Caporale  
Ethel & Haddon Carryer  
Kate & Art Chutuape  
Sharon & Bill Coale  
Richard Cohen  
Elizabeth Crane  
Michael & Renee Curreri  
Louise Davidson  
Daniel & Aldona Debold  
Kathleen Devlin & Bill Dobson  
Kathleen Doyle  
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Kathy Dyjack  
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Jeanne O'Donoghue  
Barbara & Ace Oesterich  
Regina & Neil O'Keefe  
Joyce & Ralph Page  
Joyce & Scott Parkin  
Harvey & Lenora Pascal  
Royce Peabody  
Jennifer Perry  
Chris Pierce  
Mary Portelly  
John Powell  
Elizabeth & Steve Reimer  
Sandra Rutan  
Laura Schmitz  
Alice & Jim Seegers  
Louis & Teri Stachowiak  
Jim Stillwell & Barbara Brincefield  
Christopher & Lori Summers  
Jonathan Tarlin & Vanessa Mitchell  
Joan Taylor  
Elizabeth Tilleros & Moshe Levy  
Steve & Kathryn Troch  
Jeff & Lucinda Twining  
Paul & Chris Umberger  
Betty Van Dyke  
Daniel Volchok & Kathleen Keller  
David Walman  
Marian Walsh  
Tamara Wamsley  
Patricia & Jack Warden  
Laura & John Whitbeck  
Christine & Kenneth White  
Patti & Brent Wildasin  
Jim Wilmoth

Katie Wirth  
Janet & Kevin Woolsey  
Doreen & Brad Wright  
Linda & Robert Young

## In Honor Of...

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Comet (05-049). – Dorothy & Ernest Helmick

In honor of Jack (07-174). – Trish Collier

To thank our many volunteers who foster our special Golden Retrievers, without whom there would be no GRREAT organization. – Lane & Gene Weinzwieg

We are touched by Saylor's story and hope for continued recovery. Bless you all for helping these wonderful Golden Retrievers. – Leslie & Gary Russell

In celebration of Mary Ginn's birthday and in honor of her championing Golden Retrievers. – Lauren Fyfe

In honor of all the GRREAT volunteers, especially Trish Collier. – Nancy & Dave Smith

In honor of our GRREAT dogs, Rusty (01-133) and Corky (02-008), our "boys." – Sherry & Richard Carson

To help with the costs for Saylor. – Neil & Linda Jester

In honor of Amber. – Al & Sheila Vertino

In appreciation for Erin & Jeremy Ledbetter for providing loving temporary foster care for Gabe (07-110). With gratitude, - Nancy Forest

This donation is dedicated to all our pets – those that still bless our lives here on earth, and those who have passed on to dog, cat and fish heaven. We love you all. – Kim & Dan Rolland

In honor of my friend and co-worker, Sandy Diamond. – Leslie Martin

In honor of Zoe, on her 5th birthday. – Mark Ketterman

*(continued on page 8)*



*Susan Bandel and Max (06-099) "paws" to celebrate after the GRREAT 3K Walk.*

## 3K Walk Raises More Than \$7,000 for GRREAT

On November 10 GRREAT held its fourth annual 3K walk. Despite the cold and damp weather over 100 people showed up to help raise money for GRREAT. This year GRREAT raised over \$7,000.

After registration and all dogs were outfitted with their Coldwell Banker bandanas, donated by Mary Ellen Rubenstein and Coldwell Bank, the walk began. Walkers wended their way through the City of Fairfax back to Weber's Pet Supermarket where refreshments awaited for both dog and owner. Krazy K9 Bakery & Boutique ([www.krazyk9bakery.com](http://www.krazyk9bakery.com)) provided a scrumptious peanut butter bone cake that was devoured by the dogs.

This year's 3K walk t-shirt was designed by Communicate By Design, Inc ([www.communicatebydesign.com](http://www.communicatebydesign.com)). Designer Bethany Mackay has donated her services for the past two years to design a fabulous t-shirt.

GRREAT would not be able to raise the amount of money we did to help our furry four legged friends without the generous support of our sponsors. These sponsors have helped support GRREAT so please join me in thanking them by supporting their business:

RESCUE ANGELS (\$500): Mary Ellen Rubenstein/Coldwell Banker, Reston VA, [www.mer4homes.com](http://www.mer4homes.com); Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club, [www.pvgrc.org](http://www.pvgrc.org); BrightKey, [www.brightkey.net](http://www.brightkey.net); Weber's Pet Supermarket, Fairfax VA, 703-385-3766

PARTNER OF RESCUE (\$300): DARCARS of Chrysler of Fairfax, [www.chrysler.darcars.com](http://www.chrysler.darcars.com); Dog Days Playcare, Chantilly VA, [www.dogdaysplaycare.com](http://www.dogdaysplaycare.com); Briggie & Bott, Court Reporters/B&B Reporters, 301-808-0730; Carol and Doug Melamed; Norman and Elizabeth Wright; Sharon S. Coale, MED, MS, CCC-SLP, Speech Pathology Associate, 301-469-8151; Breeder's Choice Pet Food, [www.breederschoice.com](http://www.breederschoice.com); Regal Pet Foods, [www.regalpetfoods.com](http://www.regalpetfoods.com); Big Red, Scooter and Peanut

FRIEND OF RESCUE (\$100): Steve & Darlene Hines; Gay of GRREAT; Kate & Art Chutuape; Melissa Neilson & Edward Yawn; Ginger-Sadie-Halie Briggs; John, Anita & Morgan Funk; SBG; Sport Chevy-Honda; Hauck's Rowdies; Heather & Kip Lady; Mary Ginn; In honor of Hap and Jake; Linda & Craig Wensley; Katie Bond Dawson; Jack (03-280) & Takota

# DONATIONS

In honor of Al Glaser. For our best pal, Al, who by the way has a GRREAT throwing arm. Love, Max & Murphy. – Catherine Bertin

In honor of Keo, and to thank GRREAT for the wonderful job the organization is doing. – Carla McQuay

In honor of the Heaton family. – Patrick & Rebecca Turner

For Jannus, the Golden wanna-be. – Eileen Bennett

For the Rick Hardie Family, in honor of all they do for Golden Retrievers. – Elizabeth Olson

In honor of Dusty. – Jonathan Gordon

For Bob and Patricia Miles. – Mark & Patricia Hattan

In honor of Copper (Pongo 00-278), a POW volunteer for 3 years. – Andrew & Barbara Becker

In honor of Rocky (07-154). – William Buklad

In honor of Emily (05-099), who makes me smile and laugh every day. Thank you, GRREAT! – Susan Swift

For Peaches. – Katherine Johnson

In honor of Holly Rich and James Meekling. – Michael Busch

This donation is given in recognition of your organization's great efforts to provide a safe haven for Golden Retrievers in our area. Enclosed you will find our check. These funds shall be used to provide medical care for the wonderful dogs in the care of GRREAT. Thank you for your continued work on behalf of this wonderful breed. – Kathleen & Kerry Skeen

## In Memory Of...

In memory of Tristan, our first Golden love, whom we lost to cancer in May 2007. He inspired our involvement in GRREAT. We miss him dearly. – Jan & Bill Carlson

This donation is in memory of two very special members of the family who crossed the Rainbow Bridge last year, as a mat-

ter of fact, one year ago this month. It has taken me this long to write this letter. Dallas (AKA Berry 97-162) passed away after a short battle with cancer. He developed Amelanotic Melanoma. The doctors thought that they had removed all of the growth in the first surgery that was done in April of 2006, but in September another growth appeared. We were then referred to Animal Eye Care in Baltimore and again they thought the cancer had been removed and the margins were clean. The end of September told a different story. The cancer was back with a vengeance. On November 9th he lost the fight, but he went pain free and at home surrounded by family, human, canine and feline, thanks to the good staff at Hickory Veterinary Hospital in Forest Hill, MD. Then, on November 24th, the day after Thanksgiving, we had to send Nicodemus NRK to join Dallas and the other pets that are on the other side of the Bridge. Nicki, a small black cat was raised by Dallas and Gunner, our other Golden who crossed over. Nicki was special because he was a little fighter. I found Nicki in the middle of the road when he was 6 to 7 weeks old. After a rough start the veterinarian said his kidneys were too small and he might live to be 2 years old. Nicki beat the odds; he lived to be 6 years old when his small kidneys failed him. (Oh! Did I fail to mention what the letters after his name meant? Nearly Road Kill.) – Eileen & James Holloway

In loving memory of Teri Poetker's BISS CH Bargellos Golly G's Louise, who provided so much joy to all who knew and loved her. – Tery's parents and siblings

In memory of Sophie. – Carolyn Cole

In memory of Sam. – Al & Jean Huey

In memory of Sundance Howell, who passed away this summer. Sundance was a beautiful and much beloved Golden who I know is dearly missed. – Lisa Zolly

Please accept this check in memory of Charlie, Bill and Lee Anne Newton's beloved dog. Although Charlie wasn't a Golden, he played with my rescued Golden, Molson. – Ruth Gulliver

In memory of the love and joy Tucker brought us all, this donation is dedicated to Jane Wallace, honoring her love and passion for all animals. – Ian & Karen Wallace

In memory of Carter, GRREAT Golden, neighborhood celebrity and beloved family companion. Your ever-wagging tail, constant smile and zest for life will be deeply missed and always remembered. – Kevin & Gina Lockland

In memory of Mary Gerstner. – Susan Little

In memory of Forest Roos, our beloved rescue Golden, who died this year on July 23rd. – Patricia Roos

In memory of Callie and Mack. – Robin Forster & Jennifer Utz

In memory of Nicholas & Geebers. – Jane Kunze

In memory of Shadow, who died in May from pancreatic cancer. He was the funniest dog that we have ever had and we miss him a lot (so does Stormy, our other Golden.) Thank you for all of the wonderful work you do to save Golden. – Wayne & Kathy Hunter

In memory of Halley B. – Susan Abbott

In memory of a precious Golden Retriever dog named Sandy who passed away this summer. Sandy was the faithful dog of my friend, Shirley Berends. – Jane Armstrong

In memory of Beau and Rusty. – Walter Baecht

In memory of Amber, Libby and Dearman. – Jim Eddinger & Shiela Loftus

In memory of Tuli. – Joanne Heininger

In memory of Brandy and Rudy. – Ray & Kathy Schmid

In loving memory of Jessica and Nina. Love, Emma, Sadie & Lake. – David Walman

In loving memory of Colm, friend of Ann Donahue and Ed Cherian. – Phil & Connie Landis

Dedicated to Reba, my Golden who passed. – Laurie Walker

*(continued on page 10)*

# GRREAT Needs YOU!

Whether you can donate 1 hour, day, week or more to help save Golden Retrievers, we can use your help. Speak with a GRREAT representative or visit [www.grreat.org/voluntr.htm](http://www.grreat.org/voluntr.htm) to get involved.

GRREAT BEGINNINGS



LEAD TO HAPPY ENDINGS!

# DONATIONS

In memory of Lindy (03-011), who crossed the Rainbow Bridge quite suddenly in May. She was a wonderful, affectionate, kind-hearted lady who, through her warm, smiling eyes, told us every single day how grateful she was to have been rescued by GRREAT and given a second chance. We loved her dearly and miss her even more. – Ralph & Jondelle Truitt

In memory of Rowdy (Simba 95-069). – Penny March

In memory of our first GRREAT dog, Samsom (99-061), who died of a sudden but rapidly invasive cancer in March 2007. His loyalty and affection, good nature and dignity made every day seem like Christmas for us. We are blessed with two other GRREAT Golden retrievers, 1-year-old+ naughty/playful/gorgeous Lucy and 3-year-old Tasmanian devil Max. We had the privilege of fostering regal Annie (07-111) between July 4 and December 9 of this year. She is now in her wonderful forever home with Anna and Tim White. Our love of Golden retrievers and respect for GRREAT continue to grow. We admire the dedication of GRREAT's volunteers and know that their hard work and time make it possible to rescue hundreds of precious Golden retrievers every year. We are so grateful to them because our GRREAT Golden retrievers have and continue to enrich our lives with their sweet dispositions and joyful playfulness. – Diane & Doug Hellingner

In memory of Dylan. – Douglass Gray & Patricia France

Please accept this donation in the name of my brother's family, Joe, Val and Timmy McHugh, who lost their faithful, beautiful Golden retriever this year. She was 11 years old. Thank you for all you do to ensure that each precious Golden retriever that comes into your charge is given the best chance to join a family and become a loved member of that family. They are truly special creatures. – Mike & Kathleen McHugh

In memory of Duffy Lander, a Golden retriever who was recently lost by our friends, the Landers. Duffy was a very old and faithful friend to this family and a very sweet dog. – Ron and Jan McKenzie

In memory of our beloved Golden retriever, Muffin. Muffin made it to 14, and we even celebrated her 100th doggie-year birthday.

She passed away a few months ago and we miss her very much. We hope you use this donation to help other dogs find good homes. Thanks for all you do. – Cathy Berman

In loving memory of Sydney, my loyal, wise, loving Golden retriever soul mate for 13 years. April 4, 1994 – May 12, 2007. – Gwyn Donohue

I am making this donation in memory of our beloved 9-1/2 year old Golden retriever Shelby who died on June 26th of liver cancer. Our home is just not the same without her. – Susan Orthman

In memory of my dear Bailey (99-135). He was my best friend, my heart and my soul. Chai and I miss him so much. We were lucky to have him in our lives. – Toni Stiefel

For Kathleen Dorsch, in memory of Buzz and Woody. – Jennifer Pace

To Denise and Mario – In memory of Danny Boy. Happy Holidays! – Larisa Harrison

In memory of Mary Gerstner. – Norman & Susan Paul

In memory of Skillfour's Ruff N Ready. – Lynne Young

In memory of Bear (01-088) and Cody (02-206). – Jo & Yvonne Kincaid

In memory of General. – Joy Scrimshire

In memory of my pack of Golden retrievers at the Rainbow Bridge: Shaun, Shadow, Roxy, Rasberri, Sherman, Callie and Sammie. – Linda & Al Hunt

In memory of Barney, Copper and Traveler. – Charles & Gillian Heagy

I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for Sandy, Mickey and Max who are waiting at the Rainbow Bridge. In honor of Muskie and Cali, Karen Kerrigan's beloved Golden retriever and black Lab. – Betsy Davis

In memory of Mikki, Brandy, Rusty and Cory. – Maureen Kelley

In memory of Zack and Reilly, our Golden retrievers. – Caryn & Warren Wick

In memory of Wesley and Hercules. – Liz & Charlie Clark

We lost our beloved GRREAT dog Jack this year, and miss him terribly. In lieu of giving each other Christmas gifts, we are sending this donation to GRREAT in your wonderful efforts to care for needy Golden retrievers. Thanks for all the great things you do. – Dawn & Ed Lowe

Our good friend, Bonnie Smith, who recently passed away has two Golden retrievers who were her "children." We would like to make a donation in her name to support your efforts in helping needy pets. – Joseph & Claudia Gondolf

In memory of Teddy. – Cynthia Martin

In memory of Mary Gerstner. – Carl Patterson

Dedicated to Amber. – Sheila & Al Vertino

Please find our check representing a charitable donation in memory of Mr. Bill Summers, who passed away recently. He was the husband of our associate, Pam Perrott. It is our privilege to give this donation in his memory. – Your friends at Shand Morahan

In memory of Zeb and Gus. – Gary & Irene Masters

*(continued on page 12)*

*Dear GRREAT,*

*Please accept this donation in memory of Shadow (03-123), also known as Chicken Stuffer for stuffing the whole frozen chicken into the sofa and Paper Shredder. We miss his antics and ability to keep the back yard clear of all small 4 and 2 footed intruders including rabbits, squirrels, cats and birds. He passed over the Rainbow Bridge in July. He is gone but will not soon be forgotten.*

*– Wayne & Kathy Hunter*



# GRREAT Fosters: Forever In Our Hearts



*Bronte and Ranger... best friends forever.*

Dear GRREAT,

One of the great joys of fostering is that your relationship with each Golden is unique. This makes the fostering experience more precious. Each foster brings a one-of-a-kind blueprint of personality, temperament, talent, likes and dislikes. Part of the joy is discovering and nurturing these special features, finding a forever environment where that unique personality can thrive, and appreciating how lucky you are to have your life enhanced by him or her.

Ranger (03-261), who died of cancer on August 30, 2007, just shy of his 12th birthday, came into our lives when he was reluctantly given up by his original family due to a major illness in the household. He was a happy, energetic, well-adjusted and playful 8-year-old. Weighing in at 120 pounds, he did a fair impersonation of a St. Bernard and immediately earned the moniker “The Big Guy.” He instantly befriended Bronte, our shy and submission GRREAT Golden, who connected more easily and more intensely with him than with any of our fosters before or since. Bronte enjoyed being in Ranger’s company, whether it be going for a walk, chasing a ball, taking a ride to the dog park, sharing the couch, playing in the snow, tearing around the garden, or just scratching, petting, preening, napping, playing or sniffing.

Ranger found a wonderful forever home with the Menners – Suzanne, Will, Michelle and Scott – who had recently lost their Golden girl Basil. She too was a GRREAT Golden, whom they had adopted in 1994. Basil was a tough act to follow, but it did not take Ranger long to look the Menners in the eye with unabashed love and win them over. We are grateful that over the years the Menners sent us updates and photos of Ranger, and we looked forward to their Christmas cards which always featured the Big Guy. We also had an opportunity to visit Ranger last year and he was as energetic as ever. He bounded out to meet Bronte and they sniffed each other and romped around, picking up where they had left off two years prior. His graying muzzle gave him the aura of a senior statesman, but the twinkle in his eye told you that he was still a pup at heart.

Ranger was a remarkable dog indeed. His rugged good looks earned him a spot in the GRREAT calendar in February of 2005. He lifted the hearts and spirits of whoever he met. Warm, gentle, loving and playful, he was the personification of his breed.

Here’s to you, Big Guy. We will miss you.

Sarah Navia, Harry Sethna and Bronte (02-198)

## Shelby

*By Sara Schryer*

The second I walked into the door to the place where you can adopt a dog and saw Shelby’s eyes, I knew that she was the one. I sat with her the whole time I was there. I didn’t know if we could get her because she was really sick. I knew if we did, she wouldn’t live long. But I didn’t care. I wanted her so much. We ended up getting her!

Every day I would sit with her for awhile before school. I didn’t care if I had dog hair on me, I just loved being with her. In 3rd grade she was all I would talk about. She loved being around people so much. She was the Best Dog anybody could ask for. Before she died I sat with her, petting her for an hour.

I knew something was up. I then went on vacation with my grandparents and she died. She was with us for 3 years. God put her in our family for a reason – to bring us closer.

I love you, Shelby.

Dear GRREAT,

I am writing to thank you for letting my family and I foster the dog Casey. Do you know when he is coming to our house? How old is he? What kind of food does he eat? I am looking forward to meeting him!

Sincerely,  
Hannah Stellings



# DONATIONS

In memory of Cadence and Cayenne, two extraordinary dogs, and in honor of their mom, Carole, who is struggling with the loss of her two companions. – Barb Hals

Please accept our contribution in memory of Mary Gerstner. – David Callahan and Shelley McVicker

## Leo's Corner

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*LEO'S PALS* (under \$100)

I'd like to dedicate this for Ken Korshin's birthday. – Julie Scott

Carol & David Yates

In honor of Joseph Fry on Christmas. – Martha Callaway

In honor of Eric & Chris Boeham for Christmas. – JT and Pat Catlett

This is a Christmas gift for Marion and Jeffrey Shields, and Oscar and Yola. – Michael & Gail Solomon

Bill Kiefaber

*GOLDEN HEROES* (\$100-\$150)

Patra & Thomas Maloy

In memory of Bear (00-143) and Copper (02-135), two GRREAT Goldens that gave us much joy and love. We miss our gentle giants. – Tom & Marylou Janczuk

In memory of Bear (00-143) and Copper (02-135) Janczuk, two very special dogs of my dad's. – Kimberly Dunn

In memory of our loving companion Payton 1988-2005. – Jan & Tim Ambrose

Scott Jennings

This donation is made in honor of Sierra (03-174). – Patricia & James Kermes

In memory of Betsy Girl and Oliver Twist, our first Goldens. – Deb & Bill Haegele

In memory of my loving husband, Bob, and all our "Golden" friends who are now with him. – Marjorie Johnson

*GOLDEN ANGELS* (over \$500)

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

Kevin & Diane Duvall

## Simile-Finale Fund

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In memory of Amber. – Kim Chase

In celebration of Shawn adopting Koda. – Kim Duck

This donation is in memory of Dusty, our perfect rescue boy. Dusty was found wandering the streets of San Diego in 1995. We weighed 53 lbs, had horrible looking sores and no coat on his tail. In no time he developed a beautiful coat, gained 25 lbs and never had another sore. He never destroyed anything, never had an "accident" and never got sick. He was perfect. God allowed us to have him for 9 years. Just like he had always been, he left this world without making a fuss. We still miss him terribly. – Chuck & Sandra Johnson

## For Other Reasons

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For the GRREAT Walk. – Nancy & Ray Jones

Donation for the Dog Walk. – Claude & Michelle Scott

For medical costs for Elvis (07-203). – Bob & Karen Holmcrans

Donation to GRREAT for puppy-sitting Kornbread over Thanksgiving. – Carol Taylor

To go towards the Howliday Party. – Terry & Karen Moses

Keep up the GRREAT work! – Mary Anne Hovatter

This donation is a gift to Frank and Janie Donaldson. – Joan & Don Hillier

Please use this donation to help with the cost of the wonderful work you do with the world's best dogs – Golden Retrievers. Please use this money in whatever way you feel will most benefit the dogs you are caring for. – Marshall & Edith Schy

For Special Needs Goldens. – Sue Jeng

Merry Christmas! – Jessica Howell

I am making this donation as a Christmas gift for Heather Lady, who adopted a beautiful dog, Maisy, from you several months ago. – Jennifer Kiefer

We'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for assisting wherever needed. – Donna & Thomas McConn

We'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for medical bills. – Alan & Emiko Alborn

To thank GRREAT for Grady (Teddy 06-007). – Joe Lenczycki

Thank you for all the wonderful work you do. Please give Saylor a big kiss from us! – Joanne & Eric Scott

We have been lucky to adopt three wonderful dogs from GRREAT – thank you for all the work you do. – Connie & Ben Etheridge

This donation is a Christmas gift for David & James Patton. – Scott Patton

Please dedicate this gift to Jessie Robinson. Merry Christmas, Jessie! – Carla Alberts

Enclosed is a check from my brother, Charles Nordstrom. This is what I asked for for Christmas. – Mary Collings

Happy Holidays – keep up the great work! – Stephen & Katharine Ziegler

We would like to say Merry Christmas to our Papa by making this donation to GRREAT. For Steve Daner, To: Papa, Merry Christmas! We love you, Cate & Ally Daner. Happy Holidays to everyone at GRREAT and all the GRREAT pups! – Judy Daner

Enclosed are a few checks I have collected for sewing on scout patches. – Kathi Stanhope

For Zeke's vet bill. – Betsy Davis

We'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for all your good work. – Richard & Anna Dodson

*(continued on page 14)*

# My Dogs Live Here

My dogs live here, they're here to stay.  
you don't like pets, be on your way.  
they share my home, my food, my space  
this is their home, this is their place.

You will find dog hair on the floor,  
they will alert you're at the door.  
they may request a little pat,  
a simple 'no' will settle that.

It gripes me when I hear you say  
'just how is it you live this way?'  
they smell, they shed, they're in the way..  
WHO ASKED YOU? is all I can say..

They love me more than anyone,  
my voice is like the rising sun,  
they merely have to hear me say  
'C'mon , time to go and play'  
then tails wag and faces grin,  
they bounce and hop and make a din.  
They never say 'no time for you',  
they're always there, to GO and DO.

and if I'm sad? They're by my side  
and if I'm mad? they circle wide  
and if I laugh, they laugh with me  
they understand, they always see.

so once again, I say to you  
come visit me, but know this too..

My dogs live here, they're here to stay.  
you don't like pets, be on your way.  
they share my home, my food, my space  
this is their home, this is their place..

----- Author unknown

## Dear Janet

Dear Janet,



**How can I teach my Golden not to bolt out the front door? G.O.**

Dear G.O.,

Many dogs do not understand how to tell when we want them to go out the door and when we do not, so they often make the wrong choice. Then they become confused and anxious when we express our disapproval. Also, bolting out the door is fun because there are lots of great activities waiting outside, such as chasing squirrels and saying hi to passersby, etc.

The first step in teaching your dog not to bolt out the door is to teach her that she may go out the door only if she is directly invited to do so. You can teach her this concept by putting her leash on her and telling her to sit-stay inside the foyer with the door closed. Make sure she's far enough back from the door that you can open it without bumping her. Walk over to the door, open it and step over the threshold. If she gets up at any time, tell her "no" and put her back.

Once you have successfully crossed the threshold, return to her, praise her and give her a treat if desired. Do this exercise several times a day until she can perform a solid sit-stay with the door open. When her sit-stay is consistently solid, once you get outside tell her "come" and praise her for coming. She has just learned how to tell when she is specifically invited to go out the door, and not to move until she has been invited. Now, every time you want her to go out, tell her to sit-stay, go out the door first and then tell her to come. Do not ever let her run out the door ahead of you. Next, practice a set-up exercise to teach her not to dash out the door. When your dog is not looking, put a few yummy treats in your pocket or near the door. Then go to the door and open it as if you need to look outside to see if the mail has come or to check the weather. Make sure that you stay inside the house. As you are opening the door use your peripheral vision to watch your dog very closely. If she shows no indication of wanting to dart out the door, shut the door, praise her profusely, and give her one of the treats.

You are now teaching your dog that making the right choice can be fun! On the other hand, at the first sign that your dog is heading for the door with the intention of darting out, say "no" sternly and shut the door before she is able to run outside. Do this exercise repeatedly until when you open the door, even if only a crack, your dog does not try to dart out. Then praise and reward her. Practice this exercise every day until you can open the door fairly wide without your dog trying to run out. Be very careful, however, to always watch her and be in a position that you can close the door before she can exit successfully.

# DONATIONS

## In Memory of Pamela Briggie

*On November 11, 2007, GRREAT lost a wonderful friend and volunteer, Pam Briggie, to breast cancer. Pam and her partner, Lori Bott, were members of GRREAT for many years and volunteered countless hours to help the Golden. Pam and Lori raised thousands of dollars for GRREAT by working a concession stand at the MCI Center. She was a foster home, and was a board member up until a week of her passing. She will be deeply missed by us all.*

In memory of Pam Briggie, my soul mate. She has crossed the Rainbow Bridge to be with Chincoteague, Duncan and her heart dog, Bourbon. Rhett, Chase and I miss her terribly but we will meet again. – Lori Bott

In memory of Pam Briggie, who gave so much special care and love to Golden. - David Kasdan & Randy Salzman

In memory of Pamela Briggie.  
– Diane & Allen Fritz

In memory of Pam Briggie, a wonderful human being and tireless GRREAT volunteer, and in recognition of both Pam and her partner Lori Bott, for helping to raise thousands of dollars for GRREAT at the MCI/Verizon Center. – Julie Palais & Rick Stevens

Please accept the enclosed donation in memory of Pam Briggie.  
– Steven Migdal

In honor of Pam Briggie.  
– Mary Ginn

In memory of Pam Briggie.  
– Buck, Migdal & Meyers,  
Chartered, Attorneys at Law

In memory of Pam Briggie. –  
Calvin Steinmetz & Brian Boyle

In memory of Pam Briggie.  
– Sue Wright

Please accept this donation in memory of Pam Briggie, a most generous and selfless volunteer for

GRREAT. It was a pleasure to have known and worked with her. – Margaret Carpenter

In memory of Pamela Briggie. – Roland & Patricia Ferguson

In memory of Pam Briggie and all her efforts for GRREAT. – Phil & Janet Hauck

This gift is given to Golden Retriever Rescue in memory of Pamela Briggie. Her work with these wonderful dogs was a blessing and a true vocation. – Sharon Cheng

In honor of Pam Briggie. – Travis Anderson

Memorial for Pamela Briggie. – Gertrude Hanson

In memory of Pam Briggie. – Jeffrey Klein

I'd like to make a donation in memory of Pam Briggie. She was always very nice when I volunteered at the MCI Center with her.  
– Pamela Hodgkinson

## Corporate Giving

Wellpoint Associate Giving Campaign – on behalf of Renee Miller

CSC Employee Campaign – on behalf of Kim & Don Dawson

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund – on behalf of Peter & Barbara Manchester

Microsoft Giving Campaign – on behalf of Bob and Carolyn Reagle

America's Charities Distribution Account – on behalf of Judy & Steve Daner

Charitable Gift Fund – on behalf of Mary Ginn

Capital One – on behalf of Sharon Johnson

Chesapeake Community Advisors – matching donation on behalf of Connie & Ben Etheridge

Eastern Performance Cycles

Please find the enclosed donation to GRREAT. We greatly appreciate your newsletter and your wonderful calendar. Being "in the business" we all realize the great challenges that are before us daily and how there is never enough money to cover all the needs you have. We just want to thank you for what you do and hope this helps.  
– SPCA of Fredericksburg

## One By One

One by One, they pass by my cage,  
Too old, too worn, too broken, no way.  
Way past his time, he can't run and play.  
Then they shake their heads slowly and go on their way.  
A little old man, arthritic and sore,  
It seems I am not wanted anymore.  
I once had a home; I once had a bed,  
A place that was warm, and where I was fed.  
Now my muzzle is grey, and my eyes slowly fail.  
Who wants a dog so old and so frail?  
My family decided I didn't belong,  
I got in their way, my attitude was wrong.  
Whatever excuse they made in their head,  
Can't justify how they left me for dead.  
Now I sit in this cage, where day after day,  
The younger dogs get adopted away.  
When I had almost come to the end of my rope,  
You saw my face, and I finally had hope.  
You saw thru the grey, and the legs bent with age,  
And felt I still had life beyond this cage.  
You took me home, gave me food and a bed,  
And shared your own pillow with my poor tired head.  
We snuggle and play, and you talk to me low,  
You love me so dearly, you want me to know.  
I may have lived most of my life with another,  
But you outshine them with a love so much stronger.  
And I promise to return all the love I can give,  
To you, my dear person, as long as I live.  
I may be with you for a week, or for years,  
We will share many smiles, you will no doubt shed tears.  
And when the time comes that God deems I must  
leave,  
I know you will cry and your heart, it will grieve.  
And when I arrive at the Bridge, all brand new,  
My thoughts and my heart will still be with you.  
And I will brag to all who will hear,  
Of the person who made my last days so dear.

--Author Unknown

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# Thinking of Spring

By Bob Kurtz, PVGRC Vice President

Winter has been a quiet time for Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club events, but as we now (hopefully) look toward spring, I'm getting excited about some upcoming events.

On March 8, PVGRC will hold its annual Awards Banquet to honor the many club members who have achieved new titles for their dogs in 2007. As part of this event, we'll have GRREAT on hand to provide the silent auction. This fun fundraiser is an opportunity for dog lovers to bid on many fine dog-related, and even a few non-dog-related, items while raising money for GRREAT. Bid early and often!

April will be a busy month, with PVGRC's annual Specialty Show and Obedience Trial. This show has it all – some of the region's finest Golden Retrievers in ring competition, along with both traditional obedience and rally obedience competition. If you're interested in obedience events or conformation, come out to see us at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, MD. Watch the PVGRC web site, <http://www.pvgrc.org>, for dates and details.

Also in April is PVGRC's spring Working Certificate and Working Certificate Excellent (WC/WCX) test. In this event, dogs and their handlers demonstrate the breed's abilities as both a waterfowl and upland game hunting companion. This is a great opportunity to see Golden Retrievers doing the work they were bred to accomplish. Again, watch the PVGRC website for more information.

If you'd like to learn more about these events, or about other PVGRC activities, please feel free to contact me at [vice-president@pvgrc.org](mailto:vice-president@pvgrc.org). I hope to see you at a future event!



## Auction Items Needed for PVGRC Silent Auction

By Pam Ambrose

Silent auction items are needed for the March PVGRC Banquet.

The event will be held in Gaithersburg, MD again this year, on Saturday, March 9, 2008. I am looking for donations of large baskets containing dog or field/hunting/fishing items. Baskets should be worth about \$100.00. Get together with a few people and donate these types of items to be coordinated into a large basket. If you are creative, a basket already arranged is most helpful. Also, some sporting goods stores will donate baskets such as these if anyone has this type of connection. Otherwise, unique golden retriever items are usually very hot items. Please have your donation sent to me by March 1, 2008 to:

Pam Ambrose

6873 Woodrise Rd.

New Market, MD 21774

If you would like to arrange for delivery or pick-up, please email me at [woodnschu@verizon.net](mailto:woodnschu@verizon.net) or call 301-865-9535.

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# Better Behavior Now – Attention Please!

By Liz Hauck

I hear three complaints over and over from dog owners: she jumps, he pulls on the leash, and she won't pay attention to me. Guess which one is the biggest problem? Before you can do anything with him, you need to get your dog's attention.

For our purposes, in order to communicate with your dog, you need to get him to turn his face towards you. Then you can give him more information: come here, stay, sit. It is incredibly easy to get most dogs to turn their faces toward you in most circumstances. Not always – never force it. But practice this daily and you'll enjoy the results!

Be aware of what you're competing with, and it will be easier to do. What's in front of your dog is usually what fills his awareness. His head is at least a couple of feet closer to the ground, so his perspective is very different from yours. And his nose is almost always his primary source of information. If something is moving, she's even more attracted by it. Ears tend to come last, especially when it comes to sounds the dog hears all the time.

Remember: your dog's nose is as much as 50 times more powerful than yours. Your ears and eyes together probably don't equal the stimulation his nose provides. There is a universe of information and feeling he's experiencing that we can barely imagine, all coming just from his nose. So you're competing for his attention with things we may never really understand.

We humans talk constantly and our environment is filled with noises. The dog has learned that most noises we make are not important or even interesting. Kind of like living next to an airport: after a few days, your brain says "never mind!" unless it hears a new sound.

If your dog is facing away from you, you are not a big part of his awareness. The best tool I can give you for working with your dog is – get ready – the kissy noise! Or any sharp, quick sound. It doesn't have to be loud. Any unusual sound you make will almost certainly draw your dog's attention towards you, even with distractions.

Sound and motion are naturally attractive to dogs. Get your dog to turn his head towards you by making a kissing or "tsking" noise. Think chipmunks, squirrels, little critters.

This is a nice simple method to get your dog to move towards you happily. Make your attractive noise. He will turn his head towards you. Now use motion to attract him to move towards you. Clap your hands, pat your legs, wiggle your fingers, do a little dance. Praise him and make him excited to come towards you. When he reaches you, gently take his collar and feed him a nice little treat. Tell him how wonderful he is and let him go off again.

This is a wonderful way to begin changing your difficult walks, too. Use your attractive noise to get your dog to turn towards you. Pat your leg as you move away from the distraction. You should be pleasantly surprised at your dog's willingness to follow your lead.

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 [goldenhappytails@yahoo.com](mailto:goldenhappytails@yahoo.com).

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# A Holistic Approach to Cancer

By Pam Grasso, DVM

Nobody wants to hear that anyone they love has cancer. When your beloved pet gets this diagnosis, it can be devastating. The conventional veterinarian often gives this news accompanied with a prognosis of how many weeks or months you have left together. The options for treatment are often limited, and the treatments are not always easy for the patient. Chemotherapy and/or radiation treatments can take a toll on the body, as well as the cancer. Often this is the only option a veterinary oncologist will give the caretaker.

Many people are financially unable to pursue chemotherapy, especially for a big dog. Others choose to avoid chemotherapy due to the side effects. The basis for chemotherapy is often to suppress the immune system; thus, leaving the patient open to infections. Radiation requires anesthesia with each visit, which can be difficult for a pet already dealing with cancer, especially our older friends. The burns from radiation may also be severe.

The basis of holistic medicine is looking at the entire patient and treating the individual. While Western medicine might treat the cancer, holistic medicine treats that individual patient. A holistic practitioner might treat two dogs with the same diagnoses in two very different ways. In an ideal world, we all want to “cure” cancer. This is rarely what we achieve (but sometimes!). The goal of holistic treatment is to try to keep the cancer from progressing and spreading; and, most importantly, to maintain a good quality of life for the patient. Most herbal treatments and acupuncture aim to support the immune system and any affected organs. These treatments can also help with energy, appetite, and the general wellbeing of the patient. In some cases, homeopathy might be considered. I have seen countless pets live well beyond their predicted prognosis and feel great in the process!

As the caregiver, a good, positive outlook is important. Some advice I have given to my clients that has been received with much gratitude is “treat Buddy, like Buddy, not like Buddy with cancer.” Of course, we want to spoil them and give them all the affection and attention in the world, and we can. But, just like us, most pets still want to be treated “normally”. They can sense our stress and sad emotions. Try to be as positive as possible. They need your care.

Nutrition is very important with cancer patients, especially protein. Most holistic veterinarians will agree that a wholesome diet is an integral part of treating the cancer patient. Whether you choose to feed raw food, a home-cooked diet,



or a packaged, convenience food, a natural diet that has a high quality protein is essential. The diet should take into account each pet as an individual. Food sensitivities must be considered and each new food and supplement added gradually.

Often, after hearing the diagnosis of cancer, the caretaker may go out on his or her own and search the internet for an alternative treatment. You will find thousands of options, testimonials, and even friends who had dogs with a “similar” condition that did well on certain medications or supplements. Some of this information is legitimate. Some is not. Remember that supplements are not regulated and testimonials are not claims. Just because something “sounds good” when you read about it, doesn’t necessarily mean it is. You must consider and know your sources for information and advice.

Consulting with a holistic veterinarian is essential for selecting the best approach to treat your pet with cancer. Visit [www.AHVMA.org](http://www.AHVMA.org) to find a holistic veterinarian in your area.

*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)*

# DONATIONS

Dear GRREAT,

I met GRREAT in the spring of 1995. I had lost Flag, my 15-year-old Golden Retriever the previous October. His breeder, Sandy Kelley (Seneca Kennels) did not have a dog available and was not expecting to have one in the foreseeable future. Then, in May of 1996, Mrs. Kelley called me. GRREAT had one of her retrievers. I contacted Rowdy's (Simba 95-069) foster mom, Diane Lanigan. She could not understand why I had to have that one particular dog, but she let me adopt him. Rowdy had his Uncle Flag's (Seneca's Happy Admiral) sweet disposition and enthusiasm.

Rowdy was a constant joy. He never met anyone he didn't like. He found joy everywhere in everything. He loved car rides even if they ended at the vet's or the kennel. He loved the vet and the people who ran his kennel. He loved visitors. He even loved the endless parade of elderly canine companions who became a part of his life. When he arrived, he joined Kelly, an elderly female beagle and Farley, an ancient flat coat. Because I have never been able to turn away an animal because of age, when they crossed the rainbow bridge, their successors were equally elderly – Tawny, a 13-year-old Golden (adopted from GRREAT) and Pippin, a 13-year-old Australian Shepherd whose owner, my friend, died unexpectedly. Rowdy welcomed all eagerly.

Finally, when Rowdy was about six, the last of my elder pets crossed that bridge and it was time to get him a playmate. I adopted Holly (Reba 00-254) and they became inseparable.

She bloomed. His joy in life was contagious. She followed his lead in everything, rarely letting him out of sight.

The only trick she ever learned from him was his ability to steal food. If the phone rang during dinner, whoever answered it had to take his/her plate along. Rolls and cookies disappeared with amazing regularity. He was a master thief. When we did home visits, he would occasionally counter surf. He could not resist checking out any flat surface for food. Other than that, his manners were perfect.

This past July he would have been 13. I never dreamed during that last year that he would not be with me to celebrate that birthday. He was completely healthy until a few weeks before his death. I still cannot believe Rowdy is gone.

Holly has taken the loss even harder than I have. Rowdy was more than her companion; he was her joy in life. Although on her own she has always been timid and shy, afraid of storms, young children, most men, loud noises and sudden movements, with Rowdy she was playful, almost aggressively so, and outgoing.

To help her adjust, we adopted my brother-in-law's chocolate Lab. She needed a home and Holly needed a friend. They get along and occasionally play together, but it isn't even close to the same. There is still a hole in Holly's world, and I can only hope that some day it will be less painful. Meanwhile, we both miss our GRREAT Rowdy. The enclosed donation is in memory of a wonderful Golden Retriever.

-Penny March



Scenes from the GRREAT 3K Walk... (top left) Carl Wiff hands out treats to hungry Golden Retrievers at a pit stop on the walk route. (Right) John Strobm, Buddy, Buddy and Tarky near the finish line.



## 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).



## 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 Retrievers 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 19 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 [mail-admin@grreat.org](mailto:mail-admin@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!**

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.  
P.O. BOX 3069  
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22043-0069

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