



# GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc. • March/April 2008 • Vol. 19, No. 2

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Letter from the President  
Annual Business Meeting 3

A World Without Dogs? 4

Adoption Report  
Adoption Day Directions 5

Donations 6, 8, 10

Product Review: Frosty Paws  
Reasons for Owner Give-ups 7

Microchip Success 9

Bringing Home Houdini 11

GRREAT Giftwrap Brigade  
Dear Janet 12-13

PVGRC Trying Out Tracking 15

Better Behavior Now  
Dog Mug In GRREAT Store 16

The Benefits of Energy Work  
Virginia License Plate Orders 17

Why We Love Our Golden  
Fostering for GRREAT 18

Donation, Renewal, and  
Volunteer Forms 19

GRREAT Calendar 20



## Dock Diving at Puppy Palooza May 17-18

GRREAT will have an education table at the 2008 Puppy Palooza DockDogs Diving Competition on May 17 and 18. Chesapeake DockDogs is hosting the event, which will be held at Lily Pons Water Gardens in Adamstown, MD. Many GRREAT members may be wondering how their dog can participate in dock diving. Here is some information about the sport:

At all DockDog events there is a 40 foot dock with a 40 foot pool. The dock is 24 inches above the water; this is the standard distance that remains constant for judging purposes.

To begin, the first thing you need when attempting your first few jumps off the dock is a floatable toy. Any toy that floats is acceptable by DockDog rules. The best toy to use is one your dog is wild for, that way when you throw it in the pool he actually wants to jump in to get it! Making sure your dog has some "toy drive" and enjoys the water are two key components with DockDogs; put those two together and you've got a great dock diving combination.

Handlers may use any technique to get their dog into the water, we do not allow pushing, pulling or throwing of the dogs into the pool. This will result in a no score. You may,

however, lay down on the dock, splash the water and make as many encouraging sounds/motions as you like! You may use any throwing technique as well. Some people prefer the chase method, placing the dog in a sit at the end of the dock, then diving into the pool while the toy is in mid air. Other people prefer a "fly ball" method of throwing the toy, taking the dog back on the dock, revving them up and releasing the dog.

The trick is to try out various methods and see which works best for you and your dog. The only rule about this is that in competition you only get 90 seconds from when your dog sets foot on the dock until the dog is in motion into the pool. If it takes you longer to get the dog in at this point there will be a no score.

Distance is measured from the base of the dog's tail. At club events dogs are judged manually by two certified judges, National events are judged electronically by a computer that freezes frame by frame. Both methods are very accurate.

Once your dog has figured out the name of the game you can take the time to perfect your own skills such as throwing...any handler will tell you "it's all in the throw"!

Most of all, Have Fun!

*(continued on page 11)*

# GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

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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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\* members of the GRREAT Board of Directors

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Have you ever heard the myth that our Golden Retrievers just sleep when we are gone? Well, I have to let you in on a secret – it is really just a myth! Awhile back I had a foster dog named Apollo – every day when I came home from work, my furniture was rearranged. It was like a cyclone

went through my house each day – one day the futon was pulled completely off my futon-sofa. More recently, I had to go out and had workmen in the house, so I put my dogs in my bedroom. When I came home, my 10-year-old, Scooter, was standing on my dresser (he was stuck!) How or why he came to be there, I have no idea. I also don't know how long he was up there.

As much as my Golden Retrievers are disappointed not to have had much snow to play in this past winter, I am happy to have spring just around the corner. And with it come many fun outdoor activities for our dogs and GRREAT. Make sure to keep checking our calendar. In addition to our summer Bark-B-Que, we are planning a Canine Cruise, another GRREAT Tail Gate with the Washington Glory women's softball team, a dog body language seminar for our foster homes, some training activities for our members and participation in many outdoor festivals. So come out and participate, volunteer or just watch – it is all a lot of fun!

We have taken in more than 50 Golden Retrievers so far this year. As always, we need foster homes. We have a new Foster Home Coordinator, Erin Ledbetter – lets help her get a 'grreat' start to her new role by having more foster homes than dogs! And we are always in need of volunteers for other areas. We have a lot of opportunities and positions to fill – some that take a bigger commitment and others that can be just a few hours a month – whatever you have to give. Please contact Lisa Cook at [volunteer@grreat.org](mailto:volunteer@grreat.org), or me at [president@grreat.org](mailto:president@grreat.org), and we can talk to you about ways to help. Also – if you haven't already, please don't forget to renew your membership!

—Sandy Diamond, GRREAT President

## GRREAT Annual Business Meeting Highlights

On Saturday, January 19, 2008, GRREAT held its Annual Business Meeting in Bethesda, MD. In 2007 we took in 240 dogs, and 216 found their forever homes by the end of the year. 109 families took in at least one foster dog during the year, and 60 homes fostered more than one dog. As in prior years, "no time" was the top reason for giving up a dog, and over 60% of the dogs we took in were age 4 or under. The average cost to rescue a dog in 2007 was \$815, which is why your donations are so important to helping us re-home our wonderful Golden Retrievers.

### 2007 GRREAT BY THE NUMBERS

#### 240 - Dogs accepted into the rescue

- 105 - females
- 135 - males
- 16 - multiples; 5 pairs & 2 triples
- 36 - strays; 27 intact
- 86 - from shelters or other rescues
- 147 - Owner give-up

#### 12 - Dogs returned to rescue

- 5 - from prior years
- 7 - from current year

#### 216 - Dogs were adopted

92 Percent of dogs were microchipped this year

#### Foster Home Statistics

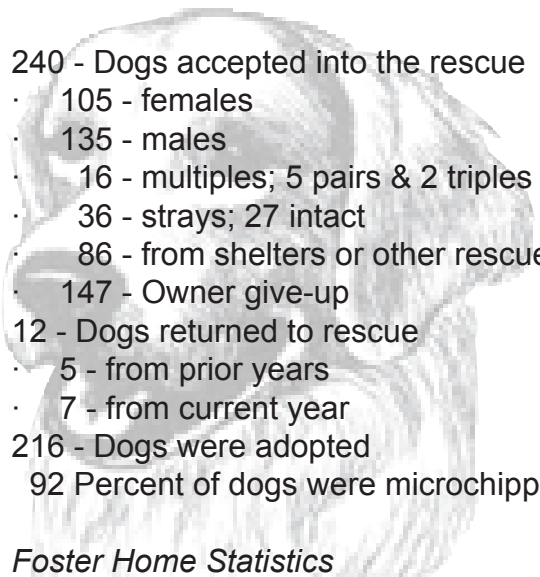
109 - Foster homes were active in 2007

60 - Foster home fostered more than one dog

44 - Foster home applications

43 - New foster homes

6 - Temporary & emergency only foster homes



*Rusty (originally Major) was adopted from GRREAT in September of 1996. His foster mom was Diane Lanigan. Sadly, today, it was time to let go. Rusty crossed the Rainbow Bridge at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 7, with the help of our kindly vet, Dr Julie Snyder, and her compassionate staff. Kimi, Copper, Jack, and I were there with him.*

*Rusty never found buried treasure, saved a child from drowning, got help for Little Timmy down in that well, or led the lost explorers to safety from the jungle. But he did far more than that. He loved children, was gentle with the elderly and the sick, and always knew who "needed" a dog. Even people who didn't like dogs came to love Rusty. He saw the good in everyone and greeted all his friends—even ones he had never met—with a smile and a wagging tail. That search for the good in others was what stunked him out of drug dog school and how he ended up in Golden Retriever rescue. Their loss was everyone else's gain. Even when he was old and failing, having him in my life was an honor and a blessing. Thanks for 10-1/2 GRREAT years with a boy who was more beautiful inside than out, if that's possible.*

*To honor his memory, remember the words of Garrison Keillor: "Love the unlovely, because they need it most of all." Be kind to those you meet in remembrance of Rusty, who was everything a good dog should be. We have asked our friends to contribute to the Simile-Finale fund in his memory.*

—Leslie Hoy

## MY THOUGHTS: A World Without Dogs?

By Skip Nizer

Have you ever thought what the world would be without dogs?

I know that I could do without snakes, spider mites, in-laws and other vermin but could I survive without dogs?

Dogs play an important part in our society. There are dogs that turn lights on and off, open doors and pick up dropped items for the physically handicapped. There are dogs that become the light for those who live in the dark.

There are dogs that visit the elderly and sick just to let them know that they are not forgotten and that someone/something still cares about them. May be they bring back a memory of a four legged friend from the past, of a better and happier time or that feeling of being wanted and loved.

Dogs search the woods, fields, avalanches, buildings etc. for the missing and injured. It was a Golden service dog that helped people get through the smoke and to safety from one of the Twin Towers on 9-11 and a Golden member of the police department that stood his post when the tower collapsed. I'm sorry that I can't remember their names. There was Villa, a Newfoundland that jumped a 5 foot fence in the blizzard of '83 to save an 11 year-old girl buried in a snowdrift and B.J., a Golden, that woke up his master in time to see that his pregnant wife, who was in a low blood sugar coma, got emergency help thus saving her and their unborn son.

There are dogs that are trained to detect the odor of dead bodies (both on land and on water as the gases escape). Watching a dog leaning over the bow of a boat to sniff the air just above the water level is a strange sight.

Sometimes I get to work with Bosco, a beautiful black shepherd and his handler Mac. Bosco searches for explosives. For him it's a game, for us a necessary evil.

How many service members owe their life to a dog that refused to step forward because he smelled a tripwire on a booby trap or the scent of those who were waiting to ambush a patrol like Bo (wounded on two separate occasions)? Did you know that dogs



Dear GRREAT,

We adopted Sonny (04-188) in March of 2005. He has been a wonderful addition to our family and we love him dearly.

Sonny is the typical golden...he loves to be the center of attention! When we adopted him, Sonny weighed 60 pounds. He is now a healthy 80 pounds and he doesn't realize that he has a body beyond his head! He would have been the perfect lap dog if only he were that small. Sonny enjoys going with us on our yearly trek to the beach in North Carolina. Sonny usually hangs with me when I'm not at work. Otherwise he enjoys looking out the window at the neighborhood activity from the comfort of my son's bed. But when my husband is home from work, or our sons are home from college, you can find Sonny in the "man den" dozing on the sofa while the guys watch sports I have attached a picture of Sonny in another of his favorite spots...the car!!

Sincerely,  
Colleen Loyer

carried messages from scouts back to the rear lines and returned to their handlers during WWII? That because of a wagging tail a dog named Sam saved a lot of GIs?

Merchants in ancient times tied their money pouches around the neck of Rottweillers when they walked the streets and highways.

Romance - people have met walking their dogs or just stopping to pet someone's dog.

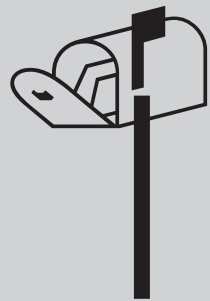
Pluto, Goofy and Marmaduke have made us laugh, Rin Tin Tin, Bullet and King gave us thrills and Old Yeller made us cry.

Every day, somewhere a dog is doing something. It maybe chasing its tail

and we laugh, fetching a tennis ball so we can throw it again and again, going on point in the field and we tell our hunting buddy look how straight that tail is and how steady Scout is. A child's face is licked and someone yells WE FOUND THE CHILD! A wrinkled hand slowly strokes a bowed head and you hear "I remember my dog." Slowly the words come out-- I think it's time and a great adventure ends. A child says Mommy, Daddy I like this one and a GREAT adventure begins.

This may sound funny to you, I know that I can live without people but I don't think that I could live without a wagging tail that is attached to a dog.

# MAIL BOX



# ADOPTION REPORT

Between December 15, 2007 and March 5, 2008, 52 lucky Golden Retrievers found their forever homes. There were 31 males and 21 females, with 16 dogs age 1 or less, 15 dogs ages 2-4, 6 dogs ages 5-7 and 15 dogs age 8 or older. Congratulations to both the pups and their new families!

Name	#	Age	Sex	Name	#	Age	Sex	Name	#	Age	Sex
Abby	07-235	3	F	Harmony	07-204	5mo	F	Penny	07-192	2	F
Annie	07-222	6	F	Harry	08-026	1	M	Raja	08-012	3	F
Bailey	07-227	3	M	Jake	07-201	1	M	Red	07-200	10	M
Bailey	07-231	1	F	Jake	08-004	5	M	Reese	06-047	8	M
Berkeley	07-199	8	M	Jersey	07-139	1	F	Rosie	07-234	2	F
Bojangles	07-211	3	M	Jester	07-233	3	M	Sadie	07-208	1	F
Buster	08-005	3	M	Joe Joe	07-220	1	M	Sampson	08-009	10mo	M
Chase	07-219	6	M	Josh	07-181	10	M	Sandy	07-133	8	M
Coby	07-228	1	M	Joy	08-008	9mo	F	Sierra	07-224	2	F
Daisy	07-218	12	F	Kayleigh	08-024	9	F	Sissy	07-106	12	F
Diego	07-223	2	M	Koda	08-002	2	F	Storm	07-095	3	M
Easy	07-237	1	M	Lady Clare	07-217	7	F	Teddy	07-206	3	M
Elvis	07-203	6mo	M	Major	07-190	1	M	Tobey	06-192	8	M
Gabe	07-110	9	M	Max	07-232	5	M	Toby	05-197	9	M
Ginger	07-158	8	F	Molly	07-172	10	F	Tony	07-236	3	M
Goldie	07-115	6	F	Morgan	07-212	8	F	Wendy	07-168	2	F
Grover	07-226	10mo	M	Nick	07-239	11mo	M	Yogi	07-182	9	M
Guffin	08-022	11mo	M								

## ADOPTION DAY DIRECTIONS

**Saturday, May 3, 2008**

**12 noon - 2 p.m.**

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.

**Saturday, June 7, 2008**

**12 noon-2 p.m.**

PETCO

4167 Cheshire Station Plaza

Dale City, Virginia

Take 95-S towards Richmond. Merge onto Prince William Parkway, VA-3000 West (exit 158B) towards Manassas. Merge onto Caton Hill Road. Turn left of Minnieville Road. Turn left into Cheshire Station Plaza

**Saturday, July 12, 2008**

**12 noon - 2 p.m.**

PETCO

12960 Middlebrook Road

Germantown, Maryland

Take 495 towards Bethesda. Exit onto 270-N towards Rockville/Frederick. Take exit 15B, Germantown Road (MD-118 South) towards Germantown. Turn right on Middlebrook Road.

*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

Nancy Alexander  
Beth & Chris Bogusky  
Ana Bourque  
John & Linda Bowlin  
Jola Breegle  
Lee & Daniel Broh-Kahn  
Kate & Art Chutuape  
Lynn & Margo Cook  
Dennis & Laura Cooper  
Toni Delacorte  
Ruth & Walter Dominick  
Oscar & Caroline Estrada  
Janis Foshay  
Heather Gaetano  
Dennis & Melinda Garvin  
John & Denise Gettier  
Steve Gluckman  
Edward & Susan Glynn  
Jay & Tonia Goodwin  
Steven Gray & William Thomas  
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Bill & Geri Guwang  
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Robin & Steve Heinecke  
Sue & Charles Henkin  
Nancy & Richard Hughes  
Joan & Tim Kirchner  
Tom & Jean Klinger  
Matt & Meredith Konrad  
Susan Lach  
Joe & Joann Lamp  
Diane Lanigan  
Jim LeBlanc  
Helen Malone & Jane Martin  
Courtney Matthews & Andrea Supp  
Russell McGurk & Claudia Nierenberg  
Judi Medwedeff  
Sally & Kirt Meyer  
Donna Mooney  
Lonnie Moore  
Bill & Carol Owens  
Ed & Sharon Pasterick  
Karen Renaud  
Holly Rich  
Sandra Rutan  
Joe & Anne Sloan  
Hugh Spitzer & Dinah Stevens  
Leslie & Dale Stancil  
Brian Starrett & Susan Tanner  
Elizabeth St. John  
Claude & Judy Stout  
George Toll  
Jeff Vito  
Ellen Ziegler Ward

Bruce Wiggett & Jeane Hostetler  
Robin & Claude Wright

## In Memory Of...

In memory of Sammie Girl, our 1st Golden who showed us there's nothing like having a Golden to love. – James & Sharon Qualls

In memory of two wonderful Golden who lived well into their teens. One is Dog, who was the faithful companion of Ray Wills and his extended family. The other is Morgan, the beloved pet of Laurie Selwyn-Sommer and her family. Both dogs were truly golden-hearted and had great lives thanks to dedicated owners. – Barbara Dunnington

In memory of Alex and Rilla, two very sweet Golden angels. – Christine & David Shelley

In memory of Firpo and Samson. – Tracy Blount & Cheryl Udy

In memory of Kaemis Lanigan. – Sharon McIlrath

In memory of Cookie Thomas. – Lisa & John Thomas

In memory of Jenny (1986-1998) and Brady 98-206 (1993-2003). – Patrick Neiler

In memory of our precious Emmitt 05-075, who crossed the Bridge on 1/8/07. His soulful spirit will live in our hearts forever. – Bud & Diane Streett and all his furry friends at Streett's of Gold

In memory of our Golden – Duchess, Splash, Chester & Driver. – Al & Teresa Blumberg

In memory of our cats, Figaro and Leon, Buddy's (03-115) best friends. – Steve & Robin Matthews

In memory of Kaemis (01-166). She was part of Diane Lanigan's original pack, and Diane took such good care of her. She came in as a stinky girl with allergies and skin problems, and Diane helped her to feel (and smell) much better. – Sandy Diamond

In memory of Heidi. – Arthur & Joanne Fournier

In memory of Jim Shillinger. – Dr. Chester Anderson

In memory of General, Joy Scrimshire's "good old soul." He was such a sweet and gentle dog and will be missed. – Sandy Diamond

This donation is made in Daniel Schwartz's memory. – George & Jennifer Malas

In memory of Mary Gerstner, faithful owner of Penny (04-197.) – Jan & Bill Carlson

In memory of Nana, our 15-year-old Newfoundland who had a Golden heart. – Olivia & Tom McDonough

In memory of Popeye & Tucker, and to thank Dee Brown, a GRREAT foster mom. – Thomas & Donna Frankhouser

In memory of Naila, who was adopted from your organization by Valerie Hu and David Smith. – Dorothy Hu & Jan Randolph

Dedicated to Amber. – Sheila & Al Vertino

Please remember Missy Girl, who passed away on February 16, 2008 and was so loved by Mark Treadway and Bob Kenney. Missy was a GRREAT girl from about three years ago. – Catherine Morris, David Mesnick & Michael Mesnick

This donation is in memory of Honey (03-030), much loved best friend of Karol, Bob and Kassie Hickman. Honey was just as sweet as her name implies. She will be missed by all who knew her. – Lucinda & Jeff Twining

In memory of Sam (07-156) – what a special boy, and so lucky to have his mum! – Cathie Daniel

In memory of Corkie, beloved Golden of Marilyn Cassizzi. – Alethea Patten & Scarlett

*(continued on page 8)*

# Product Review



## Purina Frosty Paws

By Emily A. Bell

It's 8 p.m. Daphney, our 3-year-old Golden Retriever has been pacing back and forth in front of the freezer since about 7:45 p.m.. I walk over, open the freezer and the rest of our crazy Golden pack comes stampeding into the kitchen like a herd of wild wildebeests. You see, 8 p.m. in our house has become commonly known as Frosty Paws time.

As Golden owners, we all know our pups can be a little obsessive-compulsive at times. Okay, more like a lot obsessive-compulsive.

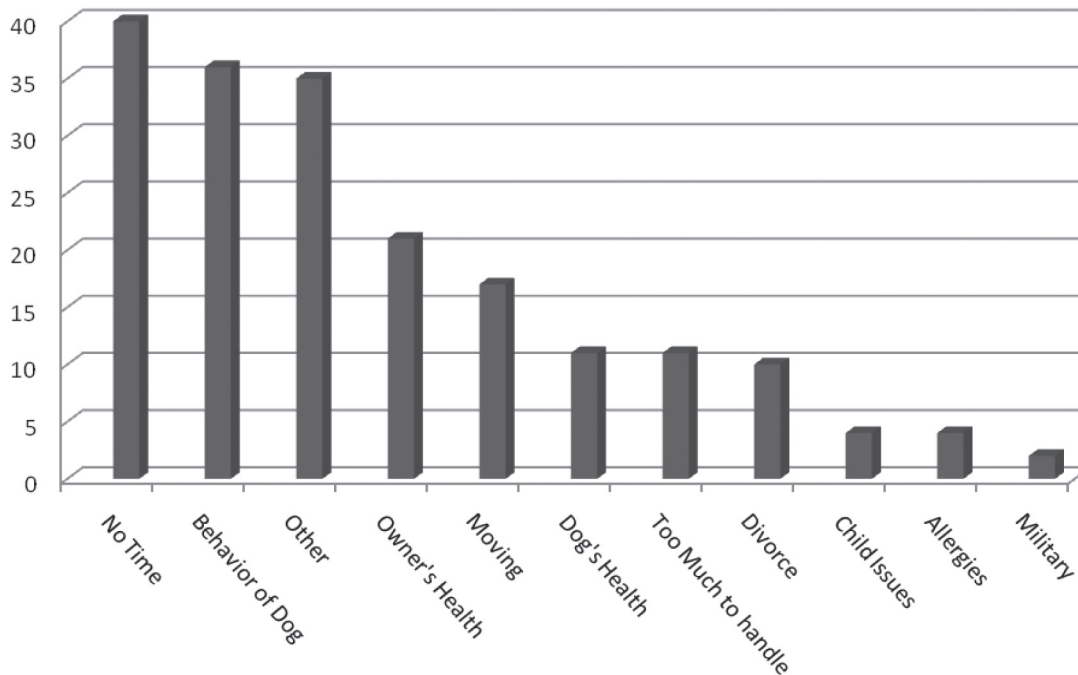
A Golden can spend days digging that tunnel

to China in the yard or barking and scratching at the spot on the floor where a treat went under the sofa. But all I know is ever since we found Frosty Paws, the freezer is the new, undeniable object of our dog's affection.

As a family, you can finally enjoy dessert time without looking down and seeing your furry friend's sad eyes staring pitifully up at you like they are going to burst into tears any minute. Frosty Paws are made by Purina and are a healthy alternative to sharing our frozen treats. They are packed full of protein, vitamins and minerals and contain no artificial colors, flavors or added sugar. They come in two flavors, original and peanut butter (our pups do not seem to have a preference), and can be found at most major grocery stores.

Our pack rating for Frosty Paws? 5 dog treats – A perfect score 🍪🍪🍪🍪🍪

## GRREAT 2007 Reasons for Owner Give-ups



Other = 2 Abandoned, 3 Financial Reasons, 4 Spouse Deployed, 2 Landlord Objected, 1 New Puppy, 1 Won't Breed Anymore, 1 Owner Died, 1 Owner Went to Prison, 5 Other Dogs Picking on the Dog, 4 Puppy Mill Rescue, 8 Rescued from Neglect, 1 Sheds too Much, 2 Too Many Kids

# DONATIONS

## In Honor Of...

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In honor of our Maggie (03-211) and in memory of Abbey, Sassey and Sully – no longer with us physically, but always in our hearts! – Dennis & Judy Smith

In honor of Rose and Winston, two wonderful Goldens! – Elaine Feidelman

In honor of our smiling GRREAT girl, Clare! – Ernest & Iscella Wittich

In honor of Murphy. – Brian & Anne Marie Quinn

In honor of Happy (formerly Liberty), our love. Also in memory of Hope, our first GRREAT love. – Sherry & Michael Abramson

In honor of my four-legged friend Cody. – Brenda Pascal

For Sadie. – Patricia Morris

For Mom, Dad and Molly. – Erin Tripplaar

In honor of our new Golden-mix, Jester 07-233, now known as Elvis. Also in memory of our dear Goldens, Gus and Max. – Richard and Jule Ann Cheslock

To honor all of my transporters! Without you my job would be so much more difficult. – Vicki & James Eurice

For Lucy. – Jim Williams

In honor of Archie. – Arthur & Joanne Lehrer

For Harper's (05-149) friends. – Robin & Claude Wright

Please accept our donation in honor of Beau (02-082) and Mason (05-036), our GRREAT Goldens. – Milan & Jean Shepherd

In honor of Bear. – Melissa Neal

For Boomer/Owen. – Pam & Rick Swartz

Donation for Quentin and Samantha, our two GRREAT dogs. – Bonnie & Vernon Hill

In honor of Shane (05-112), now known as Buddy. – Kim & Dale Johnson

In honor of Dusty. – Jonathan Gordon

For Mitzi and Sassy. – Barbara & Robert Dickman

## Thank You...

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To thank GRREAT volunteers for the services and good works they do. – Patrice & John Scanlon

Thanks for all you do! From Simon (05-199). – David & Donna Ginsburg

This donation is made in the name of Ed Brenner. Thank you for your hard work, guidance and good humor this year. We will miss you. – Michael Hall

To thank GRREAT for linking us with Bobo. He is a fine dog and GRREAT too! – Lila Barth

I am enclosing a copy of Amber's (04-168) training certificate; please keep the deposit as a donation. Also, in response to a January 20, 2008 letter from Sandy Diamond, I have enclosed a donation in gratitude for the three marvelous Goldens we've adopted through GRREAT: Amber's predecessor, Gysmo, who went to the Rainbow Bridge at age 12, Hooper and Amber. – Edythe & Charles Wise

Thank you for sending Kaleb to us! – Marie & Charlie Liebrau

To thank Sandy Diamond and the "gang." – Jack & Wendy McDonald

Even though we have chosen to get a puppy rather than a rescue Golden, we just wanted to say thank you for all you do and thank you for all you did to get our application approved. – Greg & Kimberly Brumbach

Thank you for my wonderful Cassie and thank you to her wonderful Foster Mom, Pat Balducci. I adopted Cassie 10 years ago and she is still going strong. – Anne Volpe

Thank you for Sadie (05-162). – Judith & Stephen Urbanczyk

Thank you for bringing Abby Girl to us. We love her so much, and profound thanks to Kim Wiff who saw her through two surgeries and nursed her back to health. We are forever GRREAT-ful! – Eric Damphousse & Nan Schramm

## For Medical Care...

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I'd like to make a donation for medical expenses for Annie. – Tim White & Anna Alt-White

For Tobey's vet care. – Jan Livingston & Al Curtis

Enclosed is a donation to help with the cost of Saylor's medical care. – Neil & Linda Jester

For Grover's (07-226) vet bills. – Sandy Diamond

For Saylor. – Jeanne O'Donoghue

For Peaches (05-140). – Jessie Robinson

Please use this donation towards the cost of care for Peaches. – Marshall Schy

For Bailey (04-092). – Jessie Robinson

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

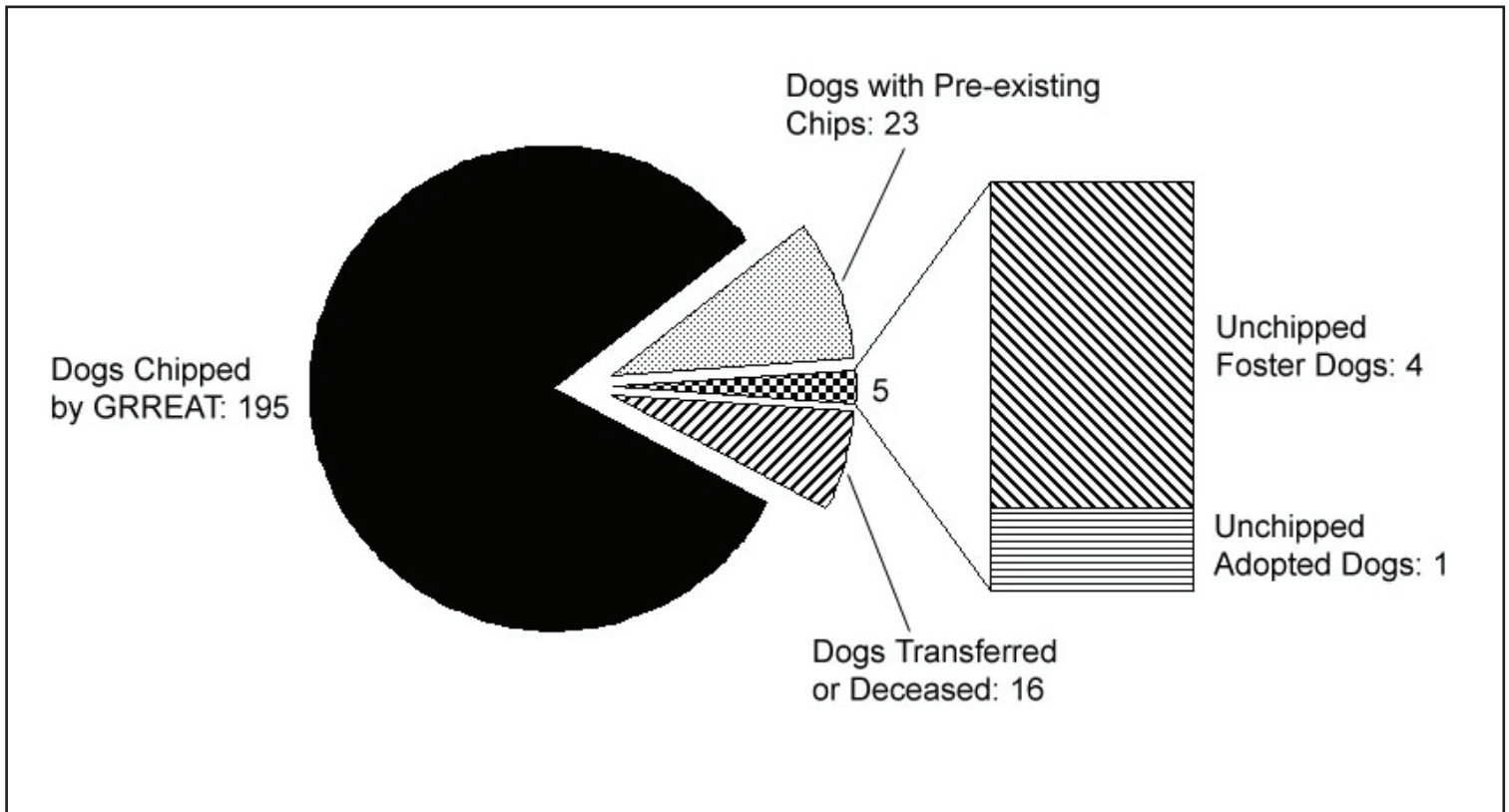
## For Other Reasons...

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Please find a donation in support of your activities with Golden Retrievers. We adopted Shadow from GRREAT via Art and Rebecca Hotop in December 2002. He is the best Christmas present ever! GRREAT had funded two hip surgeries for him. He is a fantastic member of our family and has brought much joy to our lives. Keep up the wonderful work! – Edythe & Stephen Alexander

Please accept this donation as a Christmas gift for Nick and Janet Kaplan. – Michael Kaplan

*(continued on page 10)*



## Microchip Successes in 2007

By Bob Kurtz, Microchipping Coordinator

In 2004, GRREAT began microchipping all of our dogs to ensure that they could be easily identified if they became lost. Since then, we've microchipped more than 700 dogs!

In 2007, GRREAT brought in 239 dogs. Of them, 16 dogs have been transferred to other rescues or are deceased. Of the remaining 239 dogs, 234 have been identified with microchips (as of February 15). That's 98% of GRREAT's 2007 dogs.

The AVID microchip that GRREAT uses is now a proven performer. During 2007, two GRREAT dogs were identified and returned to their owners because of their microchips.

So, how does the microchip identification process work? A lost dog often ends up in a shelter or veterinarian's office. The shelter or vet scans the dog with an inexpensive handheld scanner, which displays the type of chip and the chip number. The finder then contacts AVID using a toll-free number.

AVID finds the registration information for that chip number in their database, which provides them with the dog's name and ID number, as well as GRREAT's telephone number. AVID calls the 24-hour GRREAT hotline and leaves a message, which activates our phone volunteer's pager. GRREAT contacts AVID to get the dog's name and ID number, then checks our own database to identify the adopting family.

The whole process can take less than an hour! If the adopter isn't immediately available, a GRREAT volunteer will pick up the dog and care for him/her until we can get the dog back home.

I can't emphasize enough how important it is to notify

GRREAT's membership coordinator at [mail-admin@great.org](mailto:mail-admin@great.org) with any changes of address, telephone number, or email address. We can identify your dog, but we have to be able to contact you too!

While the microchip is a terrific tool, the easiest and most important identifier for your dog is an old-fashioned collar tag. Of course you should have your own personalized tag, but a GRREAT tag makes a good backup in case you can't be reached immediately. If you need a new GRREAT tag for any reason, simply contact me at [microchips@great.org](mailto:microchips@great.org), and I will be happy to send a new one out to you at no charge.

*CHIP reminder: Don't forget to notify GRREAT's membership coordinator with any change of home address, telephone number or e-mail address*

# DONATIONS

I wish we could adopt them all, but 4 GRREAT dogs is my limit! – Rebecca & Art Hotop

Please accept this donation on behalf of Mrs. Kathy Benzinger, who kindly requested donations to GRREAT in lieu of birthday presents. – Kathleen Nikolaidis

For Imo Paki (owner Nancy Jenkins.) – David Dillard

Happy Valentine's Day to my husband Andrew, who loves all dogs, especially Golden. – JoAnn Ireland

All is well with Midas (Sparky.) – Michelle & Winston Beauchamp

Donation to GRREAT Rescue. – Marilyn Cloyd

Here is a check I've collected for you from sewing on Girl Scout patches. – Hillary & Kathy Stanhope

From Molly. – Matilda Noviello & Jenny Thorsen

I will have been with my forever family for three years in March and couldn't be happier. Sadly, my mentor, Boo, passed away over a year and a half ago. She taught me so much about getting along with other dogs. I now have a 9-year-old Golden sister, Sassy, who I love dearly. She is pack leader in a very non-aggressive way and gets along with everyone. We live in a new neighborhood now with many new human and canine friends. Love, Kodi (05-018). – Jim & Ginny Hayes

From Mitzi (04-178) and Sassy (05-058). – Robert Rogers & Ruth Meier

## Corporate Giving

Animal Clinical Investigations: This donation is provided in the name of Mackensie Hackler, who was owned by Jennifer Hackler. Mackenise was a dog who passed away due to lymphoma.

Mackensie's family elected to participate in the Medical Memorial Donation Program.

American's Charities – on behalf of Steve & Judy Daner

Microsoft Giving Campaign – on behalf of Bob and Carolyn Reagle

Aviation Consulting Services – on behalf of Bruce & Linda Wakefield.

## In Memory of Marge Muldoon

We are making the enclosed donation in memory of our dear friend, Marge Muldoon. Marge was a dog walker and animal lover. We and her four-legged friends will all miss her very much. Thank you for the wonderful work you are doing for the dogs. – Jackie Halpin

In memory of Marge Muldoon. – Richard & Carmella Ott

In memory of Marge Muldoon. – Mary Jo Swain

Please accept this donation in memory of Marge Muldoon, the ultimate dog walker. – Douglas and Barbara Margarucci

In memory of Marge Muldoon. – Ronald & Michelina Croft

I wish to make a donation in the name of Marge Muldoon who loved Golden Retrievers and all dogs. – Valerie Sandler

In memory of Marge Muldoon. – Deborah & Stephen Keefer

## In Memory of Pamela Briggie

In memory of Pam Briggie, the human embodiment of the Golden personality. – Sharon McIlrath

A gift to GRREAT in memory of Pam Briggie. – Pete & Andrea Peterson

Please accept this donation in Memorial of Pam Briggie and for the support your organizations gives to dogs like Janet. Pam's commitment to GRREAT convinced me to take Janet into my home where she has happily lived for two years. Thanks to your organization. – Rick Manville

In memory of Pam Briggie. – Sue & David Barefoot

Enclosed is a donation in memory of Pam Briggie. We regret this great loss, but know Pam's wishes will be carried out by your organization. – Joe & Effie Legg

In memory of Pam Briggie. She showed so much bravery through her illness and is such an inspiration. Also, in honor of Lori Bott, who helped Pam to fight for so long and now misses her so much (as we all do.) – Sandy Diamond

## Leo's Corner

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

I have a shop on Etsy.com and have certain listings that are for charity. Any time I sell one of those items, I donate it to a selected place at the end of the month. – Melissa Chichester

In honor of Jessie Robinson, who poured her heart and soul into making the Wrapping Brigade a success!! – Laurie Collins

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

In memory of Samson who crossed the bridge October 26, 2007. – Tim & Linda Daniel

In loving memory of our GRREAT friend, Chester, who went to the bridge on 8/2/07 at nearly 17 years old. – John & Nancy Bentrup

*GOLDEN HEROES* (over \$500)

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

GRREAT would like to thank an anonymous Rescue Angel (\$500 or more) donor towards the GRREAT 3K Walk. This was missed in the last issue.

# Bringing Houdini Home

By Joy Scrimshire, Education Coordinator

My Houdini, aka Copper, is a twelve-year old copper colored (as her name suggests) Golden escape artist. Copper has managed to escape from her collar, prong collars and a harness (two of those in the same day I might add). Plus she darts through any crack of a door left open and has managed to pry open a sliding glass door to make good her escape. An even worse problem is that once she escapes, she does not come back – EVER. She just runs until she gets tired and then waits wherever she may be for me to come get her in the car – which is difficult to do when I don't know which direction she took when she ran off into the sunset.

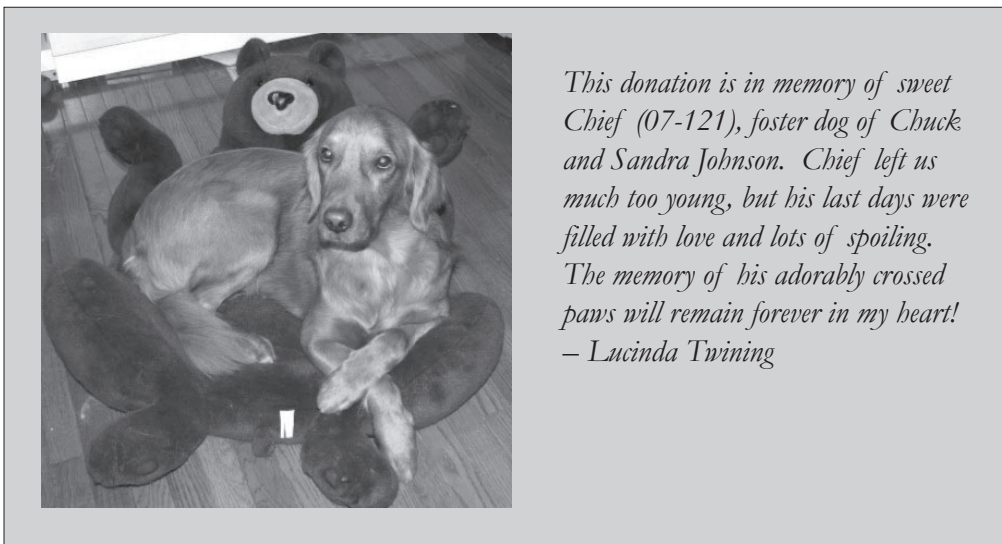
We just moved to Potomac Falls, VA, from Maryland in mid November and knowing her propensity for running off, I immediately registered her name, address, microchip and all of my phone numbers with Loudoun County. A humorous part of this story is the day I went to the Loudoun County office to register her. As I was driving around looking for the office, my cell phone rings and it's my neighbor telling me that Copper is running loose on the street where I live. She had managed to pry open the sliding glass doors enough to slip out. I have my cell phone number engraved on a name tag on her collar so the neighbor was able to contact me so quickly. Not to be dissuaded in my mission, after I went home, retrieved her and locked and barred the sliding glass door this time, I was back on my way to the Loudoun County office where I finally accomplished registering her with the County.

Approximately two weeks later, around 6:30 in the morning, I was walking both of my dogs out by the woods behind our home. There were several deer out in the woods that morning and of course both dogs spied them at once and wanted to run off into the woods. Well, Houdini slipped out of her collar, took off running and disappeared into the woods totally oblivious to my calling her back. My other dog Riley and I went into the woods calling and looking for her. A friend then came over and both of us were climbing around in the woods calling Copper. There was absolutely no sign of her. After a couple hours, we decided to be realistic about our chances of finding her in the woods which comprise part of Algonkian Park. It was like looking for a needle in a haystack. So I got dressed and went in to work intending to make posters offering a reward for Copper's return and to call one of our members, Sam Connelly, who has a pet tracking service. When I got to my desk, my phone was ringing – the lady on the other end of the phone says "This is Loudoun County Animal Control – we have your dog".

As it turns out, Copper was found wan-



dering around on the road in front of the elementary school where a teacher at the school was kind enough to snag her and take her to the principal's office (certainly where she belonged) and called Animal Control. Of course, the moral of this long convoluted story is that it's not enough to use only one manner of identifying our pets. Copper's collar tag with her name and my cell phone number rescued her the first time. The second time, I got her back much quicker because her microchip was registered with the County so they could call me right away. Otherwise AVID would have called GRREAT who would have checked the records to find out whose dog she was and then called me. I guess it does pay to do what you're supposed to do when you're supposed to do it – I'll try to remember this lesson.



*This donation is in memory of sweet Chief (07-121), foster dog of Chuck and Sandra Johnson. Chief left us much too young, but his last days were filled with love and lots of spoiling. The memory of his adorably crossed paws will remain forever in my heart!*  
– Lucinda Twining

*Dock Diving (continued from page 1)*

## Checklist for Dock Diving Events:

- Dog crate
- Water bowls and water for both dogs and humans
- Fold up chair
- Shade tent if you're at an outside venue (both for rain and sun)
- Floatable toys (bring a few different ones, you may want to switch things up)
- Towels/Chamois
- Sense of humor!

For more information, check out [www.chesapeake dock dogs.com](http://www.chesapeake dock dogs.com) and [www.dockdogs.com](http://www.dockdogs.com).

# GRREAT Wraps Up 2007 With Largest Fundraiser of the Year

What do you get when you mix more than 170 volunteers volunteering to wrap presents for donations at 26 Borders and Barnes and Noble stores in Maryland and Virginia? GRREAT's first ever Wrapping Brigade!

For the 2007 Holiday Season, GRREAT volunteers greeted, wrapped and trimmed packages from Thanksgiving to Christmas at more than 125 events over 32 days.

Our goal for the 2007 Wrapping Brigade was \$10,000. Drum roll please... we made over \$17,500!! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

The "Gift Wrap for Golden Retrievers" Wrapping Brigade also provided wonderful community outreach, spreading the word about the need for Golden Retriever Rescue and handing out lots of literature. For the stores that allowed it, we also brought our Golden Retrievers to be spokes-dogs for this wonderful breed.

Thanks go to every volunteer, especially those who filled in at the last minute, adjusted their schedules, worked extra, and worked as team leads. Special thanks go out to John and Diane Hein who made and painted more than 15 Golden Retriever cut-outs that we were able to use at our tables. Also special thanks to Laurie Collins and Sam Connelly who, together with their certified therapy dogs, Tori, Salsa and Hank, clocked more than 50 hours at several stores that would only allow certified dogs. And last but not least, special thanks to Jen Strohm, designer of our T-shirts and advertisements, and to Janet Hauck for a second poster design. All of you made this fundraiser such a huge success.

We earned praise from almost every store because we reliably came out and worked what we signed up to do. Our volunteers were consistently cheerful, helpful, and professional, and it is directly because of this that we have been asked back for 2008.

Together we accomplished something amazing and we learned a lot through the process. We now know which stores are better locations than others which will help our scheduling for 2008. Also, now that we have experience with the logistics, we'll be better prepared to get our supplies where they need to go, have more team leads, and have everything running more smoothly.

It's no surprise that the stores that allowed us to bring our dogs did better than those that did not. Several stores only allowed certified or "working" dogs so if you have the time this year, please check out the following sites and consider taking your dog through the certification process; it's lots of fun and is also a wonderful service to those who need the special joy that only a warm, furry dog can bring:

Therapy Dogs International: [www.tdi-dog.org](http://www.tdi-dog.org)

Delta Society: [www.deltasociety.org](http://www.deltasociety.org)

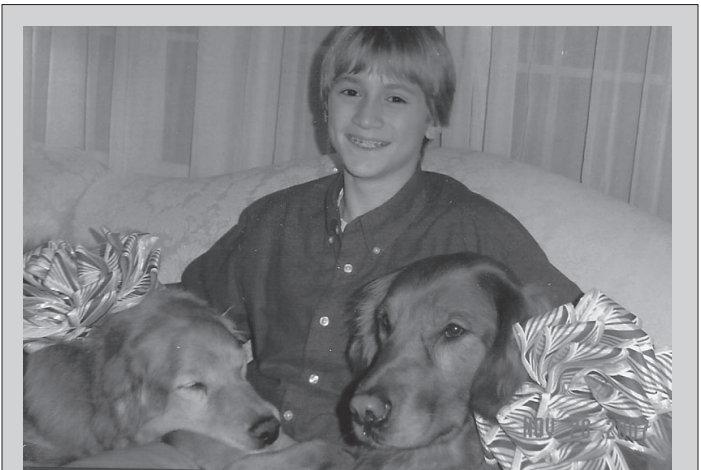
Pets on Wheels: in various counties

People Animals Love (PAL): [www.peopleanimalslove.org](http://www.peopleanimalslove.org),



Each organization has different rules and regulations so please check to make sure what is required of you and that you'll receive a certification and/or ID card at the end.

There are so many volunteers who made this a success, including many friends and family that came along whose names we don't know. We thank all of you!! Your generosity of time and spirit allowed GRREAT to help nearly 250 Golden Retrievers in 2007, many of them with medical conditions that your hard work and determination helped to treat.



*Please find enclosed a check for your organization. I am also sending you a picture from the holidays of our three sons – two hairy and one, not so much. Harry (Harrison) joined our family in 2000 coming from you. Jake found his way here with GRREAT's help in 2005. Both Goldies bring so much joy and love into my family's lives daily. Please keep up the good work that you do and know that you have changed my family forever. I somehow think God will think well of all of you who have tended to and cared so much about his furry angels here on earth. – Catherine Morris*

## Thank You GRREAT Wrapping Brigade!

Susan Abbott, Debbie Aitken, Nancy Alexander, Peggy Alexander, Jeffrey Balenson, Susan Bandel, Susie Barefoot, Felicia Barlow, Jo Anne and George Barnosky, Susan Batla, Lee Beaton, Carolyn Beyer, Jeannie Blood, Barbara Boyd, Linda Brandwin, Jillian Britz, Dee Brown, Carla Brown, Debbie Buchanan, Kate Burgy, Catherine Campbell, Jan Carlson and her daughter, Sharon Chup, Sheila Cohen, Mary Collings, Trish Collier, Laurie Collins, Sam Connelly, Lisa Cook and her two daughters Sara and Marisa, Deborah Cooper family, Eric Cooper, Gail Corby, Linda and Melina Cordero, Elizabeth Crane, Kathy Dai, Louise Davidson and friends, Betsy Davis, Sandy and Ken Diamond, Peggy Dobbins, Geri Dolan, Gwyn Donohue, Jeannine Dorothy, Kathleen Doyle, Stacy Duffy and friends, Kathryn Eszeki, Vicki and Jim Eurice, Dena Evans, Chris Evert, Sara Franklin, Charlotte Flounders, Robin Forester, Edie Galpin and family, Judy Gartlan and family, Nancy Gasko, Denise Gettier, Jay Goodwin, Andrea Goplerud, Lona Gordon, Belinda Gosnell, Laurie Gregg, Deb Haegle, Liz Haransky, Jean Hartman, Janet and Phil Hauck, Lisa Hecker, Tonia Heffner, Diane and John Hein, Robin, Steve and Marc Heinecke, Bob and Karol Hickman, Stephanie Higgins, Darlene Hines, Nancy and Judd Howell, Sarah Howlett, Cindy Hsu, Sharon Johnson and family, Chuck and Sandra Johnson, Fran Karsner, Jessie Kates and family, Bonnie Kauffman, Valerie Kovacevic and family, Jill and Bob Kurtz, Linda Kurtz and Alyssa, Diane Lanigan and Lori, Joe Lenczycki, Carol Lindsay, Stephanie Locket, Laura Luke, Glen MacDonald, Denise Malczewski, Shane Martin, Kim and Paul Mayberry, Meghan McCaffery and family, Sharon McIlrath, Sharon Meirose, Deborah Mercado and family, Eileen Montevioni, Carol Moran, Cheryl Morway, Charlene Murphy, Jen Murray, Carol and Rory Nansel, Marie Newman, Andrine and Heather Nichols, Melanie Operchuck and family, Kay Ovington, Jennifer Owen, Nicolette Parisi, Kate Patton, Dan Pickard, Eileen Powers, Ann Marie Quinn and Melissa, Elizabeth Reimer, Melissa Reinard, Karen Renaud, Patricia Ridgley, Nancy and David Ris, Jessie Robinson, Robin Robinson, Al Rudmann, Linda Scher, Carey Schultz, Joy Scrimshire, Alice Seegers, Faye Seehafer, Marion Shields, Amy Slavin, Kristine Smith, Catherine Solibakke, Theresa Stachowiak, Kathi Stanhope, Leslie Stanley, Linda Stetler, Donna and Bob Stilwell, Jennifer Strohm and family, Susan Swift, Kathy Thomas, Donna-Bea Tillman, Erma Tillman, Erin and Brian Trompeter, Jondelle and Ralph Truitt, Lucinda and Jeff Twining, Larry Utley, Ann Wakefield, Jan and Marty White and friends, Lucy Wichlacz, Barbara Wilson, Katie Wirth, Janice Woolsey, Carol Yates, Lisa Zolly

## Dear Janet



Dear Janet,

**I adopted a Golden Retriever and he's a wonderful companion. I'd love to play fetch with him but he won't retrieve. How can I teach him to fetch?**

**J.P.**

Dear J.P.,

Your dog's behavior is not uncommon, even from a breed with "retriever" in the name! First, find a toy that your dog will willingly put in his mouth. It does not have to be a traditional fetch toy. Often a stuffed animal with a squeaker inside works best. Put the toy up on a shelf or in a closet where your dog can not get it.

You are now going to set up a situation in which fetching will be quick, easy and intensely rewarding for your dog. Before going on a walk, put a treat in your pocket. After your walk leave your dog's leash on and make a big production of taking the toy off the shelf and playing with it for a minute. Your dog will come over to see what you're doing. Without holding the end of the leash, show him the toy and toss it just a few feet.

When your dog runs after the toy and picks it up, say "good boy!" and then "come!" If he comes to you praise him and give him the treat. If he does not come to you pick up the leash and use it to help him to come back, then praise him and give him the treat. When he drops the toy in order to eat the treat, pick the toy up and wait for him to look at you to see what's next. Casually put the toy away and go on to other activities. Restricting his access to the toy will make him want it enough to run after it when you throw it.

Whenever possible throw the toy one short throw, reward with the treat, then move on. Once your dog understands how to retrieve once, gradually throw the toy farther. Then do two short throws instead of one long one, then two longer throws, then three short throws etc. When your dog comes back to you reliably, have him retrieve off-leash in the house. As time goes on fade the treat reward until you are just using praise and both of you are having fun playing together.

*Janet McMillan is a dog trainer and owner of Best Behaved Dogs. If you have a question for the newsletter, or you would like more information on her services, please contact her at [janet@bestbehaveddogs.com](mailto:janet@bestbehaveddogs.com) or go to [www.bestbehaveddogs.com](http://www.bestbehaveddogs.com).*

# 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.great.org/voluntr.htm](http://www.great.org/voluntr.htm) to get involved.

GRREAT BEGINNINGS



LEAD TO HAPPY ENDINGS!

# Trying Out Tracking

By Bob Kurtz, PVGRC Vice President

It didn't seem possible. Sometimes confidently, sometimes in fits and starts, the Golden Retriever and his handler worked their way across the empty field. They were following the invisible track of a person who had walked through the field more than three hours earlier as part of the Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club's annual Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) test last November. The excitement built as they completed the test, finding a glove at the end of a half-mile-long track that included a half-dozen turns.

I thought it was a remarkable achievement, and it made me wonder just what Golden Retrievers are capable of. Tracking seemed almost magical – it required complete trust and confidence in the dog to do something that a human can't do. I had to try for myself!

Fortunately, PVGRC is a very active club with many members who contribute their own time to help others participate in dog sports. I joined an eight-week tracking class taught over the winter months, along with 15 other dog owners interested in learning about the sport. Five club members with tracking experience served as our instructors.

One of the first things I learned was that nobody understands how a dog is able to track, and that tracking,



unlike obedience or agility, can't be taught. However, it's a natural behavior that can be channeled and reinforced. I spent many Saturdays learning how my Golden Halley responds to scents, how she is influenced by wind and weather, and how to help her successfully follow tracks.

We still have a lot of practice sessions ahead of us before we're ready to compete in a tracking test, but we're making progress and we've been having a lot of fun together!

If you have an interest in tracking, or in agility, obedience, fieldwork, or any other retriever sport, come out to a PVGRC event this year and watch some Goldens at work. Chat with some of the people competing or volunteering at the event; they're generally more than happy to explain how things work. If it looks like something you and your Golden would like to participate in, chances are that PVGRC has a class or a practice group that would love to welcome a new member!



Dear GRREAT:

I read the GRREAT newsletter article "A Holistic Approach to Cancer" by Pam Grasso, DVM. She wrote, "The options for treatments are often limited, and the treatments can take a toll on the body, as well as the cancer." "...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." I would like to share our experience with our Golden Retriever's chemotherapy treatment, which was very positive.

Following surgery for his cancer 14 months ago, our Golden Retriever had four chemotherapy (carboplatin) treatments three weeks apart at SouthPaws Veterinary Referral Center oncology department in Fairfax, VA. For each treatment, we dropped Cameron off at the Center for the day where he underwent a physical exam, had blood work taken, and had his intravenous chemotherapy treatment. After each treatment, Cameron was given 10 days of antibiotics to combat any adverse effects of immuno-suppression, and a complete blood count (CBC) was taken after several days to ensure there were no low white blood cell or platelet counts.

Cameron had no side effects whatsoever, and he was truly a happy boy with no "downtime" because he didn't feel well. Our own experience with chemotherapy is strongly supported in the veterinary literature on canine cancer - there are rarely problems with carboplatin chemotherapy in Golden Retrievers, not even loss of fur. Besides having chemotherapy, Cameron was also put on an inexpensive human arthritis drug to suppress tumor growth, which has the beneficial side effect of improving his mobility. Our Golden Retriever sees his SouthPaws oncology team every three months for a physical exam, radiographs or ultrasound and aspiration of any suspicious areas, a CBC/chemistry profile, and urinalysis. His latest appointment was February 29, and there is still no evidence of cancer metastasis. Cameron has a wonderful quality of life and is having lots of fun at 14 years of age, including participating in the GRREAT 3K walk last fall.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Kulig

# Better Behavior Now – Lessons Learned

By Liz Hauck

Here are some of the most important lessons I've learned from good trainers and great dogs over the years. These are key ingredients to help make your dog a successful learner.

**Be quiet.** We talk too much, period. Dogs don't really talk much unless they have problems. They're doers, not talkers! If you're quiet you'll be able to watch and learn better.

**Hands off.** We grab and yank too much too. Dogs keep their 'hands' to themselves. It's really hard to concentrate when your boss is pulling you by the neck or pushing your behind.

**Let your dog set the pace.** Your dog is always willing to learn and work if his other needs are met (sleep, hunger, safety). It's up to you to know when and how to get and keep his interest. Dedicate uninterrupted time and space whenever possible for you and your dog to train. If he wanders off, it's because he doesn't get it or can't do it. Your choices are to interest him anew or try again after a break.

**Give it time.** Give him at least 10 seconds, maybe as much as 30 seconds if he's really engaged and just needs to think through a problem. Watch and enjoy as he works it out. Give him time to figure out the solution himself. It is unbelievably rewarding to watch the light come on when your dog solves the puzzle.

**Learn to read your dog.** Dogs don't look like us when they're learning. When your dog is working hard he may

show signs of stress: yawn, scratch, shake off (like he's wet), stand sideways or facing away from you, look into the distance, lick his lips, etc. He may also offer to do things he already knows how to do, like sit-down-paw; or he may vocalize or sneeze, for example. Watch him and learn how he behaves when he's thinking and working. You'll need to be able to read him when he's processing information.

**Move around a little.** Take a step or two in any direction to freshen up and start over. Dogs shake themselves off when things get intense. It's a nice signal to your dog that we can lighten up here when you take a couple steps just to keep it moving along.

**Relax.** It's easy to tense up and your dog can easily discern when you are getting tense. Take a deep breath, literally, to straighten out your back and drop your shoulders, and relax all over. It will translate directly to your dog (another way to 'shake it off'). Be natural. Don't stare at or away from your dog. Look at your dog softly and casually. Don't lean over him.

**Don't be greedy.** Stop while you're ahead. Don't make your dog do it so many times he starts to hate it. Leave him wanting more! Two or three repetitions in one mini-session is great! Do that two or three times a day and – ta da! You're really working with your dog. And by the way – he thinks you're just amazing too.

Visit Liz on the web at [www.droptheleash.net](http://www.droptheleash.net).

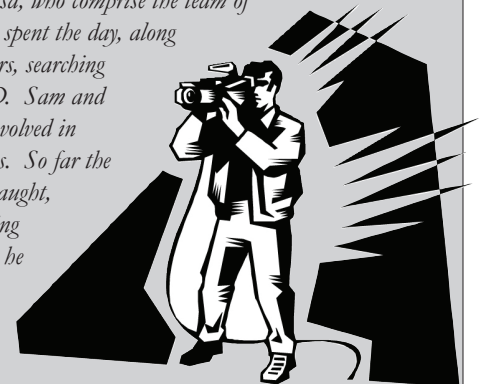
## Dog Mug Now Available In the GRREAT Store

Enjoy your morning coffee or tea with GRREAT's Dog Blessed Mug. The Halo, Bone, Paw Print and Heart are raised on this beautiful 14oz. mug. \$8 for one and \$15 for a pair. Visit [www.grreat.org](http://www.grreat.org) to order.



## GRREAT IN THE NEWS

GRREAT member and volunteer Sam Connelly was on Fox 5 on March 1st, as she helped to search for a Scottish Deerhound that has been missing since before Thanksgiving. Sam and her Goldens Brando and Salsa, who comprise the team of Pure Gold Pet Trackers, spent the day, along with many other volunteers, searching for the dog in Bowie, MD. Sam and her Goldens have been involved in many missing pet searches. So far the deerhound has not been caught, but there have been ongoing sightings, so there is hope he will be reunited with his owner soon.



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# The Benefits of Energy Work for Animals

By Sherry B. True

There are many benefits of energy work for our animal companions that people should be aware of. Most people are familiar with the term Reiki. Reiki is a Japanese technique for stress reduction and relaxation that also promotes healing. It is administered by “laying on hands” and is based on the idea that an unseen “life force energy” flows through us and is what causes us to be alive. If one’s “life force energy” is low, then we are more likely to get sick or feel stress, and if it is high, we are more capable of being happy and healthy. These principles apply to both us and our animal companions.

Healing Touch for Animals is a wonderful modality I have added to my practice. After almost two years of classes, I became a certified Healing Touch for Animals Practitioner. In working with traditional veterinary care and HTA techniques, many animals have recovered faster from ailments, injuries, behavioral issues and have improved their overall well being. All energy work is based in science. There is an actual physiological response to the energy work.

All animals and people benefit from having energetic work done on them. I know the last foster I had in my care benefited greatly from HTA. She was a puppy mill dog from Lancaster, PA. She spent 7 years in a crate pumping puppies out. She was so traumatized she shook at the drop of a piece of paper. She didn’t know what the inside of a house was so she always hid in the nearest corner of a room. It was through providing her with a loving home, a good diet, massage and

energy work that she became about 80% dog in 9 months. She even became adoptable! She was appreciative after every session.

When looking for alternative ways to deal with behavior issues or health issues with our animal companions consider energy work as a compliment to current treatments. I often suggest to my clients that they experience an energy session for themselves to see what it is their animal will feel. Generally once they go the first time they go back again.

We are surrounded by energy every day, some good and some not so good. We then bring that energy home to our pets and because they are energy sponges they soak up it up from us. I can say that 80% of the animals I see also share the same disease or neurosis as their owner. Be aware of the energy you bring into your home. I know if I come home in a chaotic state it is not too long after that that my dogs begin to react to that energy and get all hyped out. On the other hand when I meditate I put on soothing music and relax. Within 5 minutes of the music starting my dogs are conked out at my feet, calm and relaxed.

If you are interested in more information about Healing Touch for Animals, please visit the links page on my website or visit the HTA site at [www.healingtouchforanimals.com](http://www.healingtouchforanimals.com).

*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).*

## GRREAT Virginia License Plates

GRREAT and our partner to the south, SEVA GRREAT, are working toward a Golden Retriever Rescue license plate for Virginia drivers. We are looking to register 350 prepaid applications, which will benefit the rescues. The plate costs \$25 annually. Personalization is an additional \$10 annually. This “revenue sharing” program 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 supporting GRREAT by signing up for a license plate, please contact Liz Haransky at [goldenhappytails@yahoo.com](mailto:goldenhappytails@yahoo.com).

# The Many Reasons We Love Our Golden

By Emily Bell

What's not to love about a Golden Retriever? Whether you have one Golden or a pack, you cannot deny there is no greater feeling in the world than coming home to a Golden. When you walk through the door, you are guaranteed to be greeted with a smiling face, shining eyes and a wagging body (a Golden NEVER wags just its tail!).

Having a Golden will ensure every homecoming feels like a party in your honor. You can't help but appreciate the toilet paper they have used as streamers and the papers they have shredded to use as confetti in an effort to decorate for you while you were out.

They appreciate the finer things in life – No chew toy can compare to the great taste of wood furniture and drywall. A dog bed on the floor? Yeah right! Watching TV curled up on the sofa or sprawled out across the entire horizontal plane of the bed is the only way to go.

No home improvement project is too much for a Golden - Golden love to help you redecorate. If you need the wall paper removed, carpet pulled up or someone to lend a hand in convincing your spouse you need new furniture, there is no better assistant than a Golden. And their talents stretch beyond the interior of the house. They are naturals at landscaping and excel at yard work, i.e. digging holes for planting flowers, removing weeds and sometimes your flowers.

They tend to be overachievers – and, of course, rolling in



the mud to help dry out the soil if it gets too wet.

If you own a Golden, you are one of the pack. And your Golden will do everything within its power to make sure you look the part. You will never be without an extra layer of fur to protect you from the elements. And whatever your Golden has found to play in, i.e. mud, dirt, water, etc., you can feel confident that you will be wearing it next – especially if you have just changed your clothes.

And the biggest reasons of all – unconditional love and unlimited hugs and kisses.

## Fostering for GRREAT

By new foster mom, Robyn Elam

I wanted another dog. My husband said, "We already have two." I replied, "But I'm ready for an addition to our pack." He said, "They're expensive." True. We have spent \$1,500 on our Cocker Spaniel this year for back problems and gingivitis issues. Okay, so what if there was a way to bring another dog into our home without any of the expenses except for food? After much searching on the Internet and investigation into organizations, GRREAT was my answer.

I applied and GRREAT vetted our home and us as a foster family. One month later a beautiful Goldie named Rosie, desperately needing a foster home, was brought to us with tail wagging and ready to play ball! Two-and-a-half weeks later GRREAT was able to place Rosie in her "forever" home. Having already fallen in love with Rosie, the new owner asked me how I could take care of a dog as a foster parent and not adopt this wonderful animal? I replied: 1) I am able to love and take care of more dogs without the added expenses, 2) I am able to help more dogs find permanent homes, and 3) matching owners and dogs is something you can't explain; you just have to experience it.

I just heard from Rosie's new owner. They are all adjusting well and are one big happy family. And I'm still sailing on Cloud 9!

### GRREAT 2007: Health Issues on Intake

- 22 - Tick Borne Diseases
- 18 - Hip & Joint Problems
- 18 - Ear & Skin Allergies/Infections
- 15 - Worms
- 12 - Weight Problems
- 11 - Heartworm Positive
- 6 - Cancer
- 6 - Seizure Disorder
- 6 - Kennel Cough
- 6 - Eye Problems
- 6 - Wounded; 2 hit by car, 1 shot
- 4 - Dental Problems
- 4 - Laryngeal/Soft Palate
- 3 - Thyroid Problem
- 3 - Diabetes/Cushings
- 1 - Heart Problem
- 1 - Deaf
- 1 - Crypto
- 1 - Tri-pod
- 1 - Gave Birth; 5 puppies
- 1 - Degenerative Myelopathy
- 1 - Neuro-muscular Problems

## 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).

# GRREAT Calendar of Events



## April

**12 GRREAT Merchandise Table at PVGRC Specialty Show and Obedience Trial** 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD

**12 GRREAT Education Table at Anne Arundel County Adopt-A-Thon.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Anne Arundel County Animal Control Facility, Millersville, MD

**19 GRREAT Education Table at Lucas 2nd Annual Paw Wow.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Dolphin Beach, Montclair, VA

**26 GRREAT Education Table at City of Gaithersburg Bark in the Park.** 12-3 p.m. Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm, Gaithersburg, MD

**27 GRREAT Education Table at SPCA of Anne Arundel County Walk for the Animals.** 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Quiet Waters Park Annapolis, MD

## May

**3 GRREAT Booth at Reston 8th Annual Pet Fiesta.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Reston Town Center Reston, VA

**3 GRREAT Education Table at Fort Meade Pet Expo.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fort Meade Pavilion Fort Meade, MD

**17 & 18 GRREAT Education Table at 2008 Puppy Palooza – Dock Dogs Diving Competition.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Lily Pons Water Gardens, Adamstown, MD

**17 GRREAT Booth at McLean Day Festival.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Lewinsville Park, McLean, VA

## May (continued)

**24 Watch GRREAT on Petline9** 7:30 a.m. CBS, Channel 9

**24 Behavior Assessment Training for Foster Homes.** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, Alexandria, VA. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED – contact [president@great.org](mailto:president@great.org)

## June

**8 GRREAT Education Table at Howard County Pet Expo.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Schooley Mill Park, Highland, MD

**21 Visit the GRREAT space at the Gaithersburg Flea Market.** 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact [fundraising@great.org](mailto:fundraising@great.org) to donate new or gently used items.

**29 GRREAT Bark-B-Que.** Quiet Waters Park. Annapolis, MD

## July

**26 GRREAT Fundraiser Dog Wash and Photo Session at Bark 'N Bubbles** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Herndon, VA. Contact [fundraising@great.org](mailto:fundraising@great.org) to volunteer.

## September

**13 GRREAT Fundraiser Dog Wash and Bake Sale at 4 Paws Spa and Training Center.** 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Forest Hill, MD Contact [fundraising@great.org](mailto:fundraising@great.org) to contribute a baked good or to volunteer.

## November

**8 GRREAT Beginnings 3K Walk Fundraiser.** Weber's Pet Supermarket, Fairfax, VA

*For more information on these events, visit [www.great.org/calendar](http://www.great.org/calendar)*

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

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LEAD TO HAPPY ENDINGS!

Golden Retriever Rescue  
Education and Training, Inc.