



GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc. • November/December 2008 • Vol. 19, No. 5

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Pick Of the Litter

By Emily Bell

Jake is a handsome golden retriever with curly red hair and big brown eyes that will steal your heart. He is about 9 years young with the heart of an angel and the spirit of a puppy. Cuddling with his favorite human, playing tug and getting belly rubs are high up on the list of his favorite things. But most of all, Jake wants a owner who will make him part of the family, take him on walks and family outings and, of course, give him lots of love and affection. He has so much love to give, and just needs someone to share it with.

Jake has exceptionally good manors. He does not jump on house guests and prefers to greet people with an affectionate nuzzle against the leg or a display of his belly, hoping that they will give it a rub. He does not bark, chew anything he is not allowed to or display any destructive behaviors or tendencies. Jake also has good social etiquette. He loves all people, mingles well with all dogs, big and small, and absolutely adores children. He is a little unsure when it comes to cats, and does not quite understand what they are. He would do well with a cat that has had some prior experience with dogs and can teach him what he can and cannot

get away with.

Jake is a free spirit who enjoys exploring, chasing leaves, squirrels or anything else that catches his eye. His forever home will need to have a good stable fence to keep him safe. Jake does suffer from allergies and hypothyroidism, so his new owner will need to be prepared to continue treatment for these conditions. He was given up by his previous family because they were unable to effectively address his allergies. Since he has been in foster care, he has responded very well to a basic treatment regimen of regular baths, frequent brushings, special food and food supplements.

Jake is a affectionate, loving and gentle sweetheart, with many years of love left to give to the right family. If you meet him, he will most likely greet you belly up, with a big golden retriever grin. He will make the perfect companion for someone and I encourage anyone who is looking for a new family member to take the time to meet him and see what a wonderful dog he is!

For information on adopting Jake, please contact Jessie Robinson at adoptions@grreat.org.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

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Phone: 703-620-6593 • Web site: www.grreat.org

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear GRREAT Members:

Fall is here, and based on the temperatures these past few mornings, winter is approaching. Fall is definitely my favorite season – I love taking the boys out on local trails watching them run and crunch through the leaves. I especially enjoy watching Duke chase the leaves as they blow in the wind. He's always so proud when he catches them, but usually a little disappointed with their taste in his mouth. Walking has always been my time to think. Recently my thoughts have been about GRREAT and all of the wonderful people that make helping these dogs find new homes possible.

Each person that gives some time to help us is making a BIG difference, whether it be by transporting a dog from one place to another, being a POC, fostering or helping at an event (my favorite because you meet so many people). We have so many opportunities, in so many different areas; a volunteer can pick and choose and make a difference by doing something they really enjoy.

We recently fostered our first dog – Hopper, the Ungolden, I didn't realize I'd cry when I drove away leaving him at his forever home. Sounds silly, since he is with a family that loves him, but I'll miss his sweet little face and funny ears. This was a completely new venture for us and one that we will continue to do, even though I know I'll have tears each time I kiss a furry face good-bye. At times it was challenging, because Hopper was a puppy, and growling Gris just didn't like him, but the challenges were far outweighed as we saw Hopper grow into a sweet loving dog, and realized that he would make a wonderful addition to a new family.

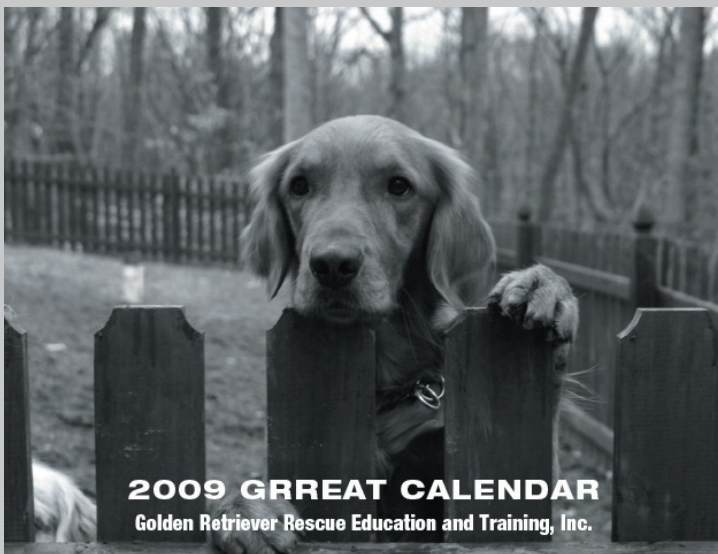


Robin, Duke, Hopper and Grissom at home on the Eastern Shore

With each volunteer opportunity, I've learned more about people, and about the dogs I love so much, volunteering is giving me more than I am giving back. I encourage everyone to look at our organization and see if there is something you might have the time to help with, we'll welcome your ideas.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Dog Walk on November 8 and at the Howliday Party on December 7 – I know Duke is looking forward to the Howliday Party – he made a really good friend last year and will be happy to see him again this year.

—Robin Heinecke, GRREAT President



2009 GRREAT CALENDAR
Golden Retriever Rescue Education and Training, Inc.

GRREAT Calendars Now On Sale

The 2009 GRREAT Calendar is now available. As always, you can buy your GRREAT Calendar through the GRREAT online Store and at GRREAT events such as adoption days, the Howliday Party and education events. (And remember, they also make great gifts – buy several!) Also, this year you can order your calendar through our printer at www.brightdoc.com/grreat. You can also order customer made greeting cards (using pictures of your own Golden), with a portion of the proceeds going to GRREAT.

Thank you to GRREAT member Kenneth B. Chaletzky for his assistance with the design and production of the calendar.

My Thoughts: Holiday Gifts

By Skip Nizer

I have received some very sad news today--- it seems that my nomination for a Nobel prize in writing has been rejected. So I have decided not to write one of my masterpieces this month. Why do I feel that there are some smiles right now?

Since Halloween isn't here yet but Christmas stuff is out I thought that I might share some Christmas gift ideas with you. I have been asked in the past several questions like where do you get your information, you're not trying to make a living out of this are you and are you nuts? My answers are books, no and yes.

First of all one of the best Christmas gifts is a donation to GRREAT. After that I have come up with some others, especially books on dogs. I can't tell you if they all are readily available but they are books that are worth reading and are in my modest library. My library contains about everything except a dictionary. I have two thoughts on that, #1 if I can't spell it then use another word and #2 is a quote from President Andrew Jackson "It's a poor mind that can't come up with at least two ways to spell the same word." Here are a few different suggestions for gifts.

From Baghdad with Love by Jay Kopelman: A puppy's journey from Baghdad to California, who helped bring home and love to some Marines. (True story)

Real Animal Heroes by Paul Drew Stevens: The true courage, devotion and sacrifice of animals

The Dog who Wouldn't Be by Farley Mowat: The true story of Mutt and Mowat on the Canadian prairies during the 1930's. (One of my favorites)

Men - buy a pooper scooper for the wife

To Absent Friends by Jameson Parker: A collection of stories of dogs we miss

Always Faithful: A Memoir of the Marine Dogs of WWII by William Putney

Empty Collars: A Tribute to the Memory of Our Gun Dogs by David A Webb

If you like my stories send GRREAT a dollar with a note to let them know

So That Others May Live by Hank Whittemore & Caroline Hebard: Search and rescue dogs.

If you don't like my stories send GRREAT two dollars and a note

The Dog Who Rescues Cats by Philip Gonzalez: Ginny finds cats that need help.

A Colonel, A Flag, and A Dog by Cindy Stouffer & Shirley Cubbison: Sallie, mascot of the 11th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment (civil war) is the only animal that fought at Gettysburg that was ever honored by having her likeness on a monument at Gettysburg. Note at times when visiting the



11th monument you will find dog treats beside her.

The Compassion Of Animals by Kristin Von Kreisler: The compassion, courage and devotion of animals

Send a Christmas card to me and let me know if you like my articles and maybe share one of your stories

Old Yeller by Fred Gipson: What more do I need to say?

The Hidden Life of Dogs by Elizabeth Thomas: Observations and the family life of two and four footed members

War Dogs: A History of Loyalty and Heroism by Michael Lemish: Military working dogs, their loyalty and heroism

Partners In Independence: A Success Story of Dogs and the Disabled by Ed and Toni Eames

Beautiful Joe by Marshall Saunders: The story of an abused dog and the family that saved him (fiction)

Animals Miracles: Inspirational and Heroic True Stories by Brad and Sherry Steiger

Dogs of War by Marilyn Seguin: Stories of dogs and other animals in the Civil War

Scarlett Saves the Family by Jane Martin: The cat that braved a fire to save her kittens.

Again some of these books maybe hard to find but all have something to offer.

Dogs are like books in a way. You look at them and you see their cover, it maybe golden, black and white or tan. You look at the picture that may be on the front. A small face or slobbering one, or maybe one that shows fear. You open it up. Your hand touches it and you see a reaction. Maybe you buy it and take it home. Do you put on the shelf by just feeding it and putting it in the yard? Or do you open it up and read it by playing with it, teaching it, letting it develop into possibly one of the best non fiction stories that you have ever experienced?

Take care and pet your dog.

Keeping the “Retriever” in Golden Retrievers

By Bob Kurtz, PVGRC Vice President

On October 18 and 19, more than 130 dogs converged at Cheltenham, MD for the 2008 Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club’s Hunt Test, one of the club’s premier annual events. Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Flat-Coated Retrievers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, and even a few Poodles competed for the American Kennel Club (AKC) titles of Junior Hunter, Senior Hunter, and Master Hunter.

The dogs demonstrated their instincts and training by retrieving birds on land and water, from relatively simple individual retrieves on land to complex multiple retrieves in mixed land and water settings. At the Senior and Master level, dogs also completed retrieves guided only by hand and whistle signals from their handler.

The beautiful sunny, cool autumn weather was very comfortable for both the handlers and dogs. Watching the Golden Retrievers do their traditional work in such a beautiful setting was a real treat.



If you are interested in learning about retriever field training and events, or would like to come watch a future field event, please contact me at vice-president@pvgrc.org for more information.

ADOPTION REPORT

Between June 26 and October 10, 62 very luck families found their forever Golden. Of these, 16 were age 2 or under, 37 were ages 3 through 8, and 9 were 9 or older. Twenty-four of the fuzz-butts were female and 38 were male. Congratulations to all and a special thank-you to the 3 families who adopted 12-year-olds!

Name	#	Age	Sex	Name	#	Age	Sex	Name	#	Age	Sex
Annie	07-207	9	F	Duke	08-122	4	M	Murphy	07-214	7	M
Annie	08-097	1	F	Gage	08-114	5	M	Parker	06-149	4	F
Autumn	08-153	3	F	Ginger	08-106	2	F	Pauli	08-113	7	F
Bailey	08-134	5	M	Gracie	08-118	4	F	Red	08-087	1	M
Beckett	08-070	8	M	Gus	08-078	8	M	Reno	08-062	1	M
Ben	08-074	5	M	Hannah	08-151	4	F	Rhett	08-138	6	M
Blake	07-215	1	M	Honey	08-036	7mo	F	Romeo	08-105	3	M
Bogie	08-131	3	M	Hunter	08-089	11	M	Roscoe	08-108	9	M
Boomer	08-119	6	M	Jackson	08-148	8	M	Roxy	08-058	2	F
Bucky	08-050	12	M	Jamba	08-100	6	M	Rusty	06-055	11	M
Buddy	08-064	1	M	Jamie	08-115	12	F	Rusty	08-125	4	F
Buddy/				Jessie	07-221	8	F	Sawyer	08-076	1	M
MacKenzie	08-110	5	M	Josh	08-146	6	M	Shelley	07-125	3	F
Casey	08-111	1	M	Koko	08-056	12	M	Storm	08-166	7	M
Charlie	08-164	2	M	Lester	08-094	2	M	Taffy	08-129	3	F
Cinnamon	08-106	4	F	Lilly	08-127	10	F	Tanner	08-085	10	M
CJ	08-057	4	M	Luna	08-102	3	F	Tim	08-124	4	M
Copper	08-031	6mo	M	Maisy	08-144	9mo	F	Toby	08-046	5	M
Daisy	08-099	11mo	F	Max	08-112	8	M	Toby	08-136	7	M
Daisy Mae	08-080	5	F	Morgan	08-103	3	F	Vodka	08-161	8	F
Duke	08-104	3	M	Murphy	08-013	7mo	M	Willomena	08-145	6	F

DONATIONS

Thank You for Your Donations

Kathleen & Philip Aufiero
Lauren Bartlett
Eileen Bennett
Carol Crombie
Kevin & Diane Duvall
Maria Duvall
Honey Elovitz
Rachel Fetridge
Faye Fields
Guarav Gopalan
Leon Guerrero & Sandra Rutan
Joseph M Harris
Holli Jaffe
Elizabeth Keller
Diane Lanigan
Jane & Mike Lenz
Michelle Livengood
Judi Medwedeff
Omar Miskinyar
Ivy Rivlin
Bruce Stiely
Kimberly Swears
Carole Taylor
Sherry True
Carolyn Winter

In Memory Of...

This donation is in loving memory of our friend and Golden Retriever Hunter Booe, who will be missed but will live in our hearts forever. – Therese O'Brien & Paige

My Dear Little Cinder,
I don't know what happened and I'm terribly sorry. I hope you have plenty of squeaky toys! – Diane Lanigan

Please accept this donation to GRREAT in memory of Mildred Reche-Steiner. – Susan Plummer

In memory of Stormy Hunter. – Wayne & Kathy Hunter

In memory of Sharon Albright's Shadow. – Ilene Caroom

In memory of Evelyn Perrott. – J.R. Summers

In memory of William C Summers. – J.R. Summers

I am making this donation in memory of Milo. Milo was Stephen & Jess Nelson's first "child" and he had to be put to sleep on June 30, 2008 due to unknown health issues. Please put this money to use to save a fellow Golden. We love you Milo and you will always be part of our lives and hearts. – Laura Burris

The enclosed check is in memory of Bear (00-116), the beloved dog of Lynda & Bob Lake. Bear died suddenly just a few days ago at too, too young an age, 8 years I remember (I hope I have it right, but regardless, too soon.) Linda and Bob fostered my recently adopted girl, Penny (04-197) for 3-1/2 months and I got to really like them and see how caring they are toward their four-footed family, adopted as well as fosters. Though I didn't get to meet Bear, I got to know how deeply they both loved the dear guy. No matter at what age they are, it is so hard to lose them, as we all experience, often many times. – Trish Collier

In memory of Red Larson. Hi good people of GRREAT. This may be my last check for I also have a mini-rescue which consists of 2 dogs and 4 cats. Three came from the Burbank shelter, two were found in the streets and one was sitting on my front porch waiting to come in. All are semi-spoiled with six personalities (as you all know.) Good luck with your operation – it's great that some people take pride in helping our four-legged friends (sometimes!) The best to you all. – John Edmondson

In memory of my Golden: Britain, Cedar, Hershey and Chugach. – Carol Basham

This donation is in memory of Toby, Tricia Hill's Golden Retriever who crossed the Rainbow Bridge this month. Although Toby was loved and had a wonderful life, not all Golden's are so lucky. We hope this donation will be used to help Rescued Golden's in Toby's memory. – Wendy Atkinson

In memory of Topper, pet of Zoe Cohen & Wade Robert, in hopes that all dogs can be as loved as he was and have a wonderful home like he did. – Deborah Malone

Please accept this donation in memory of Tucker Rodis-Jones, a 15-1/2 year old Golden who was one of the sweetest, happiest Golden's we ever met. His passing leaves a big empty space in the neighborhood and in many hearts. – Joyce & Scott Parkin

Enclosed please find a donation in memory of our Golden boy Molson, who we lost to cancer in February. We adopted him from GRREAT in 1998. Though we had almost 10 years with him, we wish it could have been longer. Thank you for all you do. – Doreen & Brad Wright

In memory of Amber (00-041). – Sheila & Al Vertino

In memory of Cody (99-190) Huber. – Love, Callie and the Buckners

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

In memory of Finnegan Langlois, who we will remember and miss. – Sharon Carmody

In memory of Hunter, splendid fellow! – John & Jackie Lodmell

(continued on page 8)

Doggone Good Products: Shed Ender

By Emily Bell

I am not one to believe infomercials or buy products I have seen on TV, but I have to tell you, this one works. I saw one in CVS, in their “as seen on TV” section, and for \$9.99 decided to give it a whirl. Having four long haired golden retrievers and two cats, we are usually up to our eyeballs in hair most of the time. And most of our animals do not particularly love to be groomed. The process needs to be not only fast, but effective.

Getting home and realizing that the comb was not very big, I decided to try it on one of the cats. When I was done, I had enough hair to make a kitten! And it all came from his undercoat. Moving on to the dogs, the process did slow down a little bit. But for the amount of hair it was removing, that was fine. By the time I was finished with all of the animals, I had filled a kitchen size trash bag.

This is one “as seen on TV” product I would recommend to any pet owner. It may take a little longer to groom long haired or larger dogs and cats, but it is worth the extra time considering the amount of additional hair you will eliminate from your pet. The price is very reasonable, if you

consider most professional grooming tools cost \$50+ dollars, and I have had mine for over 6 months now and it still works.

You can find them almost anywhere they sell infomercial products or online by searching “shed ender” on Google.



Presidential Pets

There has been a dog in the White House since at least 1920. Can you match the dog with its President?

Charlie (Welsh Terrier)

Liberty (Golden Retriever)

Him and Her (Beagles)

Millie (Springer Spaniel)

FaLa (Scottish Terrier)

Laddie Boy (Airedale)

Sweetlips (Hound)

LeBeau (Greyhound)

Hector & Nellie (Shepherd dogs)

Faithful (Newfoundland)

Mike (Irish Setter)

Pete (Bull Terrier)

King Tut (Police dog)

Buddy (Chocolate Lab)

Checkers (Cocker Spaniel)

Barney (Scottish Terrier)

Lucky (Bouvier des Flandres)

Heidi (Weimaraner)

George Washington

Ronald Reagan

Rutherford Hayes

Harry S Truman

Herbert Hoover

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Ulysses S Grant

Warren Harding

George W Bush

Bill Clinton

Gerald Ford

Richard Nixon

John F Kennedy

Dwight D Eisenhower

Theodore Roosevelt

George Bush

Lyndon B Johnson

John Tyler

(answers on page 22)

DONATIONS

In memory of Marlene Lalasz-Mc-Millen, who fought so valiantly for more than six months against cancer and a companion who was sweet, intuitive, loving, spirited and devoted. We will miss you. – Jonathan Colman

In memory of Ozzie, a true howling beagle with a heart of gold. I miss him very much. – Jane Medico

Please accept this donation in memory of our sweet, dear angel Daisy, who went to the Rainbow Bridge on 6/9/08. She was the epitome of everything good about the breed. We miss her every day. – Greg & Linda Sowers

In memory of Jordan Williams, a 12-year-old Golden Retriever who passed away in August 2008. – Laura Marinari

This donation is in memory of our beloved Ripken (04-133). He came into our hearts as a foster dog and never left. Ripken passed over the Rainbow Bridge on 7-6-08, shortly after turning 11 years old. He had the best weekend of his life that July 4th. He got to run in the woods, swim and chase deer and had a wonderful time. Then he came back to our cabin, lay down in the sun and peacefully passed away with us by his side. I wish we could all go like that. He was very much loved and very much missed. – Rebecca & Art Hotop

In memory of Max. – Heather Brumett

In memory of Mrs. Maryanna Woody. She was a truly Golden person to both her Golden and well as our Golden. – Holly Rich

In memory of April & Bob Fritz's dog Roll. – Robin Graham

Thank you for the wonderful work you do. In honor of my wonderful rescue Golden, Duke, who passed away this week at age 13. I wanted to support your efforts. Your work not only helps these great dogs, it contributes so much to the lives of the people who are owned by them. – Tanya Smith

In loving memory of Norma Jean (08-158). May you run free and be at peace. – Kathy Dai

In memory of Dillon. – Leatrice Vogel

Please accept this donation in memory of Hamlet (00-183). He was such a good boy and brought joy to my life. I am fortunate to have found him at a GRREAT adoption day and am thankful he chose me to be his companion. – Terry Santos

This donation is in memory of our friends Barbara and Russell Stephens and their GRREAT dogs Rocky, Rusty and Rusty. – Julie Palais & Rick Stevens

This donation is in memory of Hamlet Santos. – Wes & Dana Williams

For Colt, a well-loved dog – Diane Lanigan

This gift is in memory of our beloved and very special Golden Retriever "grand-dog" Miles Riddle, who passed away on October 6, 2008. – Anne Earle

In memory of Chelsea, Sherry Roache's best friend, beloved and beautiful Golden. She left her with so many Golden Memories. – Ellen Steiger

In Honor Of...

In honor of all the GRREAT volunteers and our three beautiful Golden, Matea, Skyler and Gunner (07-023). We couldn't live without any of you! – Kelly & John Iffland

The enclosed donation is in honor of Sandy Diamond, who I will greatly miss, not only for all that she does for the rescue, but also because she is such a nice person and genuinely cares about everyone. Best of luck to you, Sandy, in your new journey. I wish you the very best!!! – Jan Brown

In honor of MacKenzie (08-110), our new Golden boy! – Jeff & Lucinda Twining

In honor of Lt. Kristen Johnson's 30th Birthday. – Danielle Whren

In honor of our rescue dog, Rudi (99-175), and to thank GRREAT for all the good deeds. – Conway & Martha Robinson

In honor of the July 3rd birthday of our friend Rocky Gmeiner, a great owner and his Golden, Bailey. – J Craig & Sharon Long

In honor of Carey Shultz. – Charles Outcalt

In honor of Dusty. – Jonathan Gordon

For Boomer (08-119). – Elinor Giardina

For Peaches (05-140) and to thank Jessie Robinson for puppy-sitting my dog. – M.J. Jaffee

In honor of McLean Twining dogs, past and present: Cody, Leah, Chelsea and Tara. – Jeff & Lucinda Twining

In honor of Lois Lerner's birthday on October 12th. – Joan Schaffer & Ed Comer

(continued on page 10)

Help Wanted!

GRREAT needs help with our Fundraising/Publicity Committee. Below are positions we are looking to fill, to help raise funds to be able to help more Golden Retrievers. If you have a few hours a month to spare, please contact Jen Strohm at fundraising@grreat.org.

GRREAT Grants Writers - Works with Fundraising Coordinator to research and write grant applications on behalf of GRREAT. Monitors deadlines and submits information. Follows up on submitted grants and coordinates any additional follow-up paperwork as needed. Experience with grant writing preferred but not required. (Time Commitment: approx. 5-10 hours per grant)

GRREAT Graphic Designers - Supports GRREAT board members and publications coordinator with design assistance as needed. (Time Commitment: approx. 1-2 hours per month)

GRREAT Media Relations Representatives - Sends information about GRREAT adoption days and events to local newspapers for free calendar listings. Reaches out to local editors/producers with story ideas about GRREAT. (Time Commitment: approx. 1-2 hours per month)

GRREAT Honorary Members (Celebrity) Coordinator - Works with the Fundraising Coordinator to research and reach out to notable community members with Golden Retrievers and invites them to be members of GRREAT. Also, coordinates notable community member involvement with GRREAT events together with the GRREAT Events Coordinator. Must be comfortable making phone calls and available to attend local pet-focused events on occasion. (Time Commitment: approx. 1-2 hours per month)

GRREAT Corporate Giving Coordinator - Works with the Fundraising Coordinator to reach out to and coordinate with local and national companies to support financial and in-kind contributions to GRREAT. Must be comfortable making phone calls, writing and organizing meetings. Experience with corporate fundraising helpful but not required. (Time Commitment: approx. 5 hours per month)

GRREAT Individual Giving Coordinator - Works with the Fundraising Coordinator to reach out to and coordinate with individuals to support financial and in-kind contributions to GRREAT. Educates members/volunteers about giving options. Organizes GRREAT presentations with community groups. Experience with individual fundraising helpful but not required. (Time Commitment: approx. 5 hours per month)

GRREAT Combined Federal Campaign/United Way Coordinator - researches and submits information about GRREAT to CFC/United Way and other similar programs. Promotes GRREAT's involvement with these organizations. (Time Commitment: approx 5-10 hours per application)

GRREAT Fundraising Special Projects Coordinators - works with the Fundraising Coordinator to organize special fundraising/publicity projects including online contests/partnerships, annual appeals, happy hours, benefits, dog days at sporting events, etc. (Time Commitment: approx. 1-2 hours per month)

Dear Janet,

We just adopted a dog from GRREAT and would like to know the best way to introduce her to the other friendly dogs in our neighborhood. -- G. M.

Dear G.M.,

Some dogs make friends very quickly while others need more time and space to become comfortable with a new dog. If you do not know where your dog falls on the spectrum, the best approach is to go slowly. If, however, your dog is known to be fearful or aggressive, please seek in-person professional guidance.

Find a quiet street with sidewalks on both sides of the street, or an empty field or parking lot, ideally in a place that both dogs consider neutral territory. Walk your dog on-leash on one sidewalk or side of the field/lot while your neighbor walks parallel to you with her dog on-leash on the other. The dogs may look at each other but don't let them lunge, bark or glare. When both dogs are walking calmly, have one dog continue to walk on the sidewalk while the other walks in the gutter on their side of the street. When both dogs are walking calmly, have the dog that is in the gutter walk in the middle of the street, then in the opposite gutter, then both dogs on the same sidewalk, but still next to each other. If you are in a field/lot, walk gradually closer to each other, but still parallel. Each time, wait until both dogs are calm before bringing them closer together. This method allows both dogs the time and space they need to feel comfortable. When they are able to walk calmly next to each other, stop and let them sniff and interact.

Janet McMillan is the owner of Best Behaved Dogs, providing in-home obedience and behavior modification to dogs and their families. If you have a question for Janet for this column, or would like more information on her services, please contact her at janet@bestbehaveddogs.com or visit her website at www.bestbehaveddogs.com

DONATIONS

In Honor Of...

We are sending this donation in honor of the 60th birthday of Ann Hanson. – Ann & Marty Paul

In honor of Kathi Stanhope. – Diane Berinstein

To Help With Costs...

To defray Toby's (08-046) behavior modification training costs. – Karol & Bob Hickman

To defray Nugget's (08-092) boarding costs. – Lisa Hecker

For Toby's (08-046) medical costs. – Karol & Bob Hickman

To cover medical expenses for Jessie (07-221). – Bill & Wendy Thomas

For the care of Peaches. – Marshall & Edithy Schy

For Brandy (08-139). – Louise Davidson

To defray Reno's (08-062) boarding costs. – Neal & Judy McKinley

To cover medical costs for Molly (08-117). – Linda & Leslie Brandwin

For Zeke (06-186). – Betsy Davis

To cover bathing/grooming for Bailey (08-134). – Tom & Theresa Sicheri

This donation is to cover the cost of GRREAT's booth at the Prince William SPCA Pet-A-Thon. I enjoy getting a double bang for my buck by supporting GRREAT and my local animal welfare organization at the same time. – Dee Brown & Glenn MacDonald

Renew Your Membership for 2009

It is time to renew your GRREAT membership for 2009.

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 Goldens in 2009.

Renewing now ensures that you don't miss an issue of GRREAT News and that you will continue to be part of rescue efforts in our area.

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

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

If you have any questions about your membership status, please send a note to Jill Kurtz, membership coordinator at mail-admin@grreat.org or 703-250-3012.

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

For Rusty's (08-125) training. – Chris Pierce

For Bogie (08-131). – Cindy Jones

For Rusty's (06-055) medical bills. – Kevin Stephens

To cover medical costs for Axel (07-137). – Sara Pasquini

For Other Reasons...

Keep up the GRREAT work! – Anita & Donna Marcinski

Please keep our reimbursement for Obedience training for Billion to help other Goldens. – Robert & Devra Kann

Please keep our reimbursement for Obedience training for Kumo to help other Goldens. – Jaci & Bill Rutiser

For the Forever Friends Fund, in memory of Amber. – Deborah Uslander

For the Forever Friends Fund. – Gail & Greg Turek

For the Forever Friends Fund. – Louise Davidson

Thank you for Duchess (06-062). – John & Margaret Boddie

Please use the enclosed donation wherever needed most. – Ace & Barbara Oestreich

Please use wherever needed. – Karol & Bob Hickman

We've had Mosby for four years now. He has been a great dog! Thank you so much for the work you do. – Bruce & Margaret Duerson

(continued on page 12)

Ry Noir and the Triple Escape Caper

By Bob Kurtz, Microchipping Coordinator

It had been months since I'd had a case. I was down to the bottom of my last box of Old Mother Hubbards, and the bourbon was practically dry. Pretty soon I'd have to start raiding trash cans – I'm not above doing that when I need to, but I don't like it much anymore. After all, I'm not a trash collector, I'm a private detective. The name's Orion, but people call me Ry... Ry Noir, private eye.

Suddenly the GRREAT voicemail hotline rang, and finally I had a case. A mug up in Maryland got picked up while he was out strolling around town. People wanted to know who this guy was, but he clammed up good, so they called the AVID hotline with the microchip number on his collar tag. AVID directed them to GRREAT and GRREAT called me. Too bad I was away from my office, and didn't have my files on me. While I was heading back to get the microchip list, Sandy Diamond and a few GRREAT volunteers figured out who he was by his rabies tag. Seems like I'm not the only snoop working this beat. Soon our friend was headed safely home.

A couple days later the hotline was ringing again, this time not with one case, but with two! Too much work or no work at all, that's the life of a gumshoe like me.

Seems this sap in Alexandria got pinched while he was poking around in somebody's yard. He got collared without a collar, if you get my drift, so it was a little tough to finger him. They took him down to PetCo where they scanned him for a chip, and called the number into AVID. This time I was in my office like I'm supposed to be, so it was duck soup to look him up and figure out where he belonged. Turns out he'd wandered out the back gate, so the plugs that picked him up took him straight back home.

The second call was another dog on the lam. This one sounded a little too familiar to me, so I ran the num-

bers on his collar tag. Sure enough, it was that palooka up in Maryland again. This guy was always figuring out a new way to break out of the big house. I got him hooked up with his owners again, and I haven't heard from him since, so I guess he's chilling in the flophouse since then.

It's good to get some jobs done, and get these dogs back home safe. Plus, with the dough from the jobs, I picked up a couple new boxes of Old Mother Hubbard to keep me in chew for a while.

These microchips work great for getting an egg back home. Sometimes I think it would be even easier if these mugs had a collar tag with their address and phone number, but then I guess I'd never get a case...



Silent Auction Items Needed

The Howliday Party is being held at the Frederick Fairgrounds on December 7th and we are looking for donations for our Silent Auction. Holiday items, unique dog gifts, and nicely displayed baskets are very much appreciated.

Either bring your item to the event, mail the item, or drop off at my house. We have limited help with pick up of items. For those who live in Virginia and are attending the 3K walk on November 8th you can bring your donated items to drop off. We always have some really nice things to offer. I can forward a

letter and donation form to those who request one. It is very helpful to get email addresses of donors. If you do not have email access, please provide me with a mailing address.

Please contact Pam Ambrose, 6873 Woodrise Rd. New Market MD 301-865-9535 (H) Pam.Ambrose@montgomerycountymd.gov or WoodnSchu@verizon.net

Thanks for any help!

DONATIONS

Corporate Giving

Freddie Mac Foundation, in behalf of Richard & Susan Bottomley

Teamworks Dog Training. This letter is to let you know that volunteers Eric & Jayne Seco helped at the 5th Annual Teamworks Dog Training Rescue Benefit Agility Trial on June 20-21, 2008. In exchange for the volunteer's time, Teamworks Dog Training is making a donation to your organization.

Evansville Obedience Club. I am writing on behalf of the Evansville Obedience Club, located in Evansville, Indiana. EOC is a not for profit 501(C)3 organization that has a membership of approximately 60 people. EOC offers obedience and rally training classes to its members who wish to compete in obedience and rally trials, as well as people in the community who simply want to train their dogs to be better pets. Many have ended up successfully competing in obedience and rally trials all over the country. EOC will host a three day obedience/rally/agility trial in Evansville. The club typically purchases breed-related gifts for the trial judges, or it makes monetary donations to rescue groups in their honor. I am the hospitality chairperson for this year's trial and an active rescuer for my breed of choice. On behalf of EOC I have decided to donate to each judge's preferred breed rescue group. Please accept EOC's donation on behalf of AKC approved obedience judge Debra Barrows. The Evansville Obedience Club genuinely thanks your rescue organization for all that is done to help the unwanted, neglected, abused and abandoned dogs, or those who have been surrendered by their owners.

The I Do Foundation. The I Do Foundation is a nonprofit organization that helps couples to bring a charitable focus to their wedding.

GRREAT operates two funds for dogs with special needs. The Leo Fund provides surgical care for dogs in need and the Simile-Finale Fund provides holistic and alternative therapies (e.g., acupuncture, swim therapy, etc.) for special Golden's. To support these funds, make the selection on the online donation page or mention the fund in a letter with your contribution by mail. Thank you!

Leo's Corner

Leo's Pals (up to \$99)

In memory of Jeff's beloved friend.
– Uma Marques

This donation is in honor of a very special Golden Retriever named Leo who died this week. He will be sorely missed.
– Jodi Michael

This donation is in honor of Beth Horsley. – Jenny Horsley

In memory of Chelsea Roache. – Ellen Steiger

Leo's Angels (\$100-\$499)

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

Leo's Heroes (\$500 and over)

Thank you for your wonderful service to Golden's. – Jim & Ginny Hayes

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

In memory of Casey, Squirt and Lola.
– Jeanne O'Donoghue

Capital One Associates, on behalf of Sharon Johnson

Wellpoint, on behalf of Renee Miller

America's Charities, on behalf of Judy & Steve Daner

Friedman Billings and Ramsey Charitable Foundation, on behalf of Matt & Meredith Konrad

The enclosed check is a birthday donation in honor of Carolyn Machowski, who works in the Companion Animals section of The Humane Society of the United States. The Companion Animals staff at HSUS decided a few years ago to begin a new way of celebrating the birthdays of its staff. We are the largest department in the HSUS and we thought we could use these

Simile-Finale Fund

In memory of Kyah, a great neighbor dog. We will miss his happy hellos and sweet spirit. With love, Pam & Becky Fuller

In honor of Marlene Lalasz. – Sue Citro

This donation is made in fond memory of Maddy McGowan, a beloved Golden Girl whose outlook on life was always happy, upbeat and full of love, despite hip problems. Her love of people was almost as great as her love of bagels and rolling in the mud. She will always hold a place in the hearts of the many people who love her. – Christine Alvarez

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

In memory of Chelsea Roache. – Ellen Steiger

opportunities to benefit different charities throughout the year. As their birthday approaches, each staff member designates a charity and the rest of the staff donates to that charity in their honor. Carolyn chose GRREAT as the recipient of her birthday funds in memory of her Golden Retriever, Mariah, whom she adopted from a Baltimore, MD shelter and had for 14 years. We would also like to extend a special "thank you" to all your staff and volunteers for the wonderful work you do for Golden's all year long.

Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. employees would like to donate this money in memory of Truman. He was the company president's dog who came to the office every day. He was a friend to everyone and will be missed.

Keeping Your Golden Healthy

By Dr. Pam Grasso

How do I keep my dog healthy? That is the million dollar question. There is a lot out there that we, as pet caretakers, cannot control. Genetics, the environment, and unexpected trauma are examples of influences beyond our reach. So, what can we do to keep our best friends healthy? Where do we start?

First is food. I don't think I could feel well eating the same processed dry kibble every meal of every day. Food should be wholesome. It should bear some resemblance to real whole foods. The convenience of dry kibble is irrefutable, but how healthy is it? Read the ingredient list. Dogs need meat. The first ingredient should be a meat source. If this is a grain, a by-product, or meat that is not defined, it is time to change foods. There are many wholesome foods on the market, but don't be fooled by advertising.

Variety in the diet is important too. Adding fresh foods, such as vegetables and meats, to your dog's food is good for them. Home-cooked and raw diets are optimal, but the diet must be complete and balanced. Many holistic veterinarians can help you in this process. Dogs can develop sensitivities to certain foods if that is the only source of protein and/or grain for an extended time. I have seen energy levels soar after a food allergy test reveals a better food for that individual pet. I often recommend a vitamin supplement, a source of probiotics, and fish oil also. The quality of all of these products is important. The pet food recall of last year has reminded us that we need to know where the food and supplements are coming from. Make sure you know the source.

Second is vaccination. Vaccination is very important to protect your dog against certain diseases. But, do the vaccines need to be repeated every year? Even the AVMA states that a three year vaccine for the core vaccines is sufficient for most dogs. Many holistic practitioners recommend titering after the initial core puppy vaccines to determine if further vaccines are needed. A vaccine titer is a blood test that measures the antibodies in the bloodstream for that particular vaccine. At a certain level, a protection from that disease is presumed. Injecting a biological substance into the body to produce a response from the immune system is a strong medicine. Many holistic practitioners believe that over-vaccinating may lead to autoimmune diseases, such as hypothyroidism, or an over-stimulated immune system, i.e. allergies.

Third is medicine. Are all of those insecticides every month really needed? In some cases, they are, but if not, try to use natural alternatives for flea control. Or use these products only during the season these pests are present. When your dog cuts his foot, are those antibiotics really necessary? Again, often soaking and a topical Calendula gel will suffice. Often antibiotics can upset your pet's stomach and wipe out the good intestinal flora. Each time we use antibiotics,

we contribute to the chances of bacterial resistance. Use antibiotics only if necessary. Is that pain medicine needed? Does the benefit outweigh the risk of kidney and liver damage or internal bleeding that can be a side effect of many of the anti-inflammatory medications? A holistic veterinarian may be able to offer an alternative such as herbs and/or acupuncture to help with your pet's pain. When your dog is diagnosed with hypothyroidism, wouldn't it be better to try to support and rebuild the thyroid if possible. Many thyroid hormone replacements send a message to the thyroid to shut down completely, so the medicine is needed for life. A holistic vet may recommend a different approach to this common disease.

Lastly, exercise is very important. Your dog needs your interaction, love and discipline. This helps them stay emotionally healthy too. Dogs should be in good physical condition, just like us. An overweight dog does not live as long as a dog at the proper weight. Similar to humans, obesity in dogs is correlated with heart disease, joint problems, and many metabolic diseases. If you cannot tell, ask your veterinarian if your dog's weight is where it should be. If you have an older, arthritic dog, swimming can be a great alternative to move those joints without gravity. Walk your dog. It is good for both of you.

While it is difficult to control the environmental pollutants and the genetics of our pets, we still can take responsibility for their health. By feeding a high quality diet, vaccinating minimally, minimizing use of medicines, and exercising your pet regularly, you can optimize your pet's health.

Pam Grasso, MS, DVM, CVA practices Western and Holistic veterinary medicine, including acupuncture, Traditional Chinese Herbal Medicine and Homeopathy at Asbburn Farm Animal Hospital. For more information, go to www.asbburnfarmvet.com



GRREAT Thanks our Participating Veterinarians

GRREAT would like to thank all the veterinarians that help the Golden's we rescue. All of the dogs that come into GRREAT receive a check-up, and then any further treatment, vaccines, spay or neuter, etc. that is needed. A participating vet has agreed to bill GRREAT directly (so our foster families don't have out-of-pocket expenses for vet care) and to give us a discount. Please consider supporting the following vets, who have worked with GRREAT during the year, with the care of your own Golden and other pets.

Adams Mill Veterinary Hospital

10205 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls, VA
703-757-7570

Airpark Animal Hospital

1000 Littlestown Pike
Westminster, MD
410-848-9188

Animal Allergy & Dermatology

9039 Gaither Rd, Gaithersburg, MD
301-9779169

Animal Care Center

1 Grand Veterinary Pl, Princeton, WV
304-325-7387

Animal Clinic of La Plata

6885 Glen Albin Rd, La Plata, MD
301-932-1881

Animal Clinic of Southgate

312 Hospital Dr #B, Glen Burnie, MD
410-768-3396

Animal Medical Center of Bel Air

142B N Bond St, Bel Air, MD
410-420-6555

**Animal Medical Centers
of Loudoun**

42385 Ryan Rd #112, Ashburn, VA
703-327-8471

**Animal Medical Center
Watkins Park**

60 Watkins Park Dr
Upper Marlboro, MD
301-249-3030

Annandale Animal Hospital

7405 Little River Turnpike
Annandale, VA
703-941-3100

Anne Arundel Animal Hospital

4800 Ritchie Hwy, Baltimore, MD
410-789-0060

Ashburn Farm Animal Hospital

43330 Junction Plaza Blvd #172
Ashburn, VA
703-726-8784

Ballston Animal Hospital

5232 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA
703-528-2776

Blue Cross Animal Hospital

8429 Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA
703-560-1881

Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates

120 E Cornwell Lane, Purcellville, VA
540-338-7387

Calvert Animal Hospital

1923 Skinners Turn, Owings, MD
410-257-6171

Caring Hands Animal Hospital

12733 Braemar Village Plaza
Bristow, VA
703-368-7300

Caring Hands Animal Hospital

5659 Stone Rd, Centreville, VA
703-830-5700

**Caring Hands Animal
Hospital of Arlington**

2955 C South Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA
703-535-3100

Chesapeake Animal Clinic

9825 Old Solomons Island Rd
Owings, MD
301-855-6166

Chesapeake Veterinary

Cardiology Assoc.
12106 Nebel St, Rockville, MD
301-984-5791

Commonwealth Animal Hospital

10860 Main St, Fairfax, VA
703-273-8183

Community Animal Hospital

9679 Ocean Gtwy, Easton, MD
410-822-4475

Countryside Veterinary Clinic

4882 Montgomery Rd
Ellicott City, MD
410-461-2400

Crosspointe Animal Hospital

8975 Village Shops Dr
Fairfax Station, VA
703-690-6600

Dunkirk Animal Hospital

11470 Southern Maryland Blvd
Dunkirk, MD
301-855-8126

Fairfax Animal Hospital

5914 Seminary Rd, Falls Church, VA
703-820-2557

Flower Valley Veterinary Clinic

4201 Norbeck Rd, Rockville, MD
301-929-1600

Greater Annapolis Vet Hospital

1901 Generals Hwy, Annapolis, MD
410-224-3800

Green Valley Animal Hospital

2910 Prices Distillery Rd
Ijamsville, MD
301-831-6930

(continued on pg. 26)

Kuma and Zoe: A Story About Cancer

By Alan P. Alborn

Emiko (my wife) and I were blessed with two wonderful Golden Retrievers: Kuma, a male that we purchased from a breeder in 1996 and Zoe, a GRREAT rescue dog that fostered 2001 and just couldn't part with. The fact that you are reading the GRREAT newsletter tells me that you know all that you need to know about time spent with Golden Retrievers. This story is about some of the tougher times. I'm sharing it so you may consider our experiences should you be confronted with cancer in your dog.

Zoe was first. We noticed a lump on her left elbow. We didn't think much of it because we had learned to ignore "fat bumps" that plague dogs; however, over time we realized this one was different. It was a solid mass that hung loosely from her leg. We took her to Dr. Shane at the Mapledale Animal Hospital for an evaluation. Dr. Shane recommended removal and a biopsy.

The biopsy revealed hemangiosarcoma, a form of cancer. We were referred to Dr. Gustafson, an Oncologist at the Regional Veterinary Referral Center, for an evaluation. That's when we learned this type of cancer is quite common in Golden Retrievers. The cause is unknown and there is no cure. We were also told that it spreads quickly. Dr. Gustafson advised us that we had two options: chemotherapy or let nature take its course. She further advised that without chemo, Zoe would probably live approximately three-four months; with chemo, six to eight months. Dr. Gustafson shared the potential side effects, risks, and impact on Zoe's quality of life should we chose chemotherapy.

Of course, my wife and I were shocked. We only wanted what was best for Zoe. We had just gone through a family experience with cancer and chemo. Chemo was responsible for the death of my sister-in law. It destroyed her immune system allowing major infection to invade her body. The side effects were also dramatic and de-habilitating. With this experience fresh in our minds, we hesitated to immediately agree to chemo for Zoe.

I started searching the internet and contacting people who had lived this experience. Robin Henicke and Sandy Diamond, both GRREAT volunteers, gave me excellent advice. Robin shared that she chose NOT to put her dog through surgery or chemo, but rather allow her to continue to chase tennis balls and swim. She was happy with her course of action. Sandy shared that she decided to treat her dog, Boomer, with chemotherapy. Unfortunately, Boomer passed away due to the effects of the chemo. My internet research indicated that chemo comes with serious impacts to a dog's quality of life and is quite risky. My assessment is that



Zoe and Kuma

chemo for dogs isn't an exact science yet.

My wife and I made the decision to let Zoe live out the rest of her life without chemo and go naturally. Her last months consisted of multiple daily walks, visits to the park, and unlimited attention. Hemangiosarcoma is interesting as it can metastasize (spread) to many different parts of the body. We took Zoe in to see Dr. Shane on 11 July because she had started breathing heavy. X-rays indicated that the disease had spread to Zoe's lungs. The X-rays looked like a snowstorm. Dr. Shane prescribed Prednisone to help Zoe breath a little easier. It did make a noticeable difference. About a week later, Zoe started to decline quickly. She passed away on 18 July, almost seventeen weeks after her diagnosis. We could tell she was getting close and had made arrangements to take her to the vet to help her cross over at 11:30 A.M. We spent the morning in the back yard sitting with her. At 9:45, she got up and went into her favorite hiding place in the bushes by our house. At 10:00, she was gone. It was the perfect ending to her life: at home, with family.

Kuma, the older of our two Golden Retrievers, started to show unusual symptoms the week after Zoe was diagnosed. He had trouble standing and was losing his balance. We took him to see Dr. Learman at Mapleshade Animal Hospital on 26 March. Dr. Learman x-rayed Kuma and found a large lump on his heart. She referred him to Dr. Miller at the Veterinary Internal Medicine Practice in Manassas, VA. Dr. Miller couldn't see Kuma until the next day, so Kuma spent the evening at the Prince William Emergency Veterinary clinic, Manassas, VA.

Kuma received an abdominal and cardiac ultrasound. Dr. Miller discovered growths on both his heart and his spleen. Dr. Miller is not an oncologist; however, she could tell from

(continued on pg. 19)

Scrub-a-Dub-Dub at Bark 'N Bubbles

On July 26th, Bark 'N Bubbles of Herdon, VA hosted a Dog Wash for GRREAT. A big Thank You to Dani and Ursula for making the event a success!





Crystal Healing for Animals

By Sherry B. True

I have worked with the healing properties of crystals over the years with myself and my animals and have found them to be quite effective. Crystals are living pieces of the Earth. They are formed and grow just as plants do or any other living thing on the planet for that matter. Each crystal has a specific energy and healing property to them. I would recommend if you are interested in learning more about crystals and how they can help you or your animal check out the internet or books that are available. I have a few favorite crystal books in my library but you will need to find the ones that you are drawn to purchase.

Did you know that crystals placed in water can actually release their specific property into the water and then by you drinking the water you ingest that property of that crystal? I will use Rose Quartz crystal for an example. Rose quartz is about love, gentleness, forgiveness, compassion, kindness and tolerance. It has the ability to raise one's self-esteem and sense of self-worth. It will help to balance emotions and heal emotional wounds and traumas, even grief, bringing in the energy of peace and calmness. If you have an animal that has old traumas, fear or needs heart healing you can use water that has rose quartz added to it. The water then is given to the animal. You could also place a rose quartz crystal near where they sleep too. So is there an issue you or your animal is experiencing that crystals can help to heal?

I should mention also that you will need to clean and clear your crystals before you begin to work with them. After you choose the crystal you want just realize that many people have probably touched the crystal before you so their energy is all over the crystal. By setting it outside for a full 24 hours your intention is to allow the crystal to clear and cleanse itself. Now it doesn't matter if the sun or the moon is out or not it will still get the effect. By not clearing a crystal you could bring energy in to the home or around your animal that you do not want. Just a note: some crystals will dissolve in water be sure to research whether or not they can go in water or not.

Once you have done this you can then bring your crystals inside and begin to work with them. If you do want to work with crystals make sure your animal is not one who likes to eat things. There could be a potential for choking if you lay crystals near where they sleep or put them directly into water dishes. This may look like a treat to your dog and could cause a problem.

In the past I have taken a glass water jug and put several rose quartz stones in the jug of water and let it sit out in the sun and moon light. After the water has become charged then I put it in the refrigerator for drinking. You can have several different jugs going at one time depending

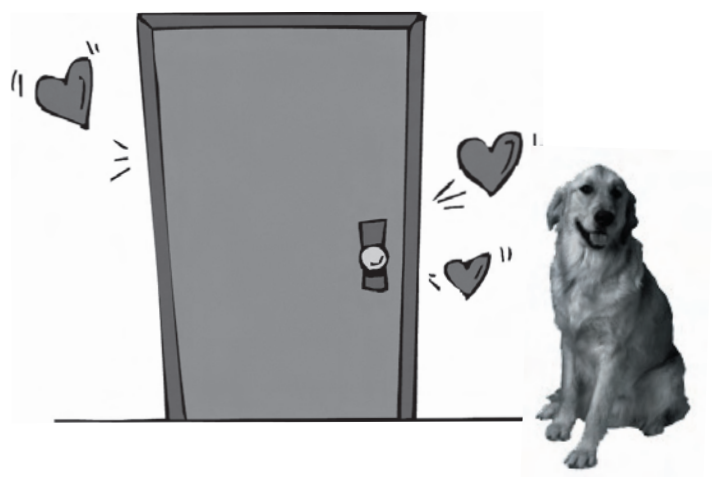
on what you would like to have healed or are working on. Again you have to be sure your crystal will not dissolve in water before putting it in the jug.

Crystals are very powerful and should be respected for the good that they can provide. A very large note here: more is not always better in this case. Too many crystals in one place can actually cause headaches, dizziness or an overall feeling of being overwhelmed. It will not only affect us but it will also affect our animals. They shouldn't all be kept in the same room either. Spread them throughout the house so the energy does not become concentrated all in one area.

As an energy worker I have certain crystals I work with during my healing energy sessions with animals. These crystals are attuned to my energy and assist me in doing my work. I have crystals placed throughout my home to help enhance the energy of the house to help me in my everyday life. I have also included many salt lamps around my home to help ionize the atmosphere. People who enter my home comment on the energy or warm feeling they get as they enter. They feel welcome and completely at ease walking through my door. This is the energy my animals live in.

Sherry B. True is owner and service provider for Spirit Paws, alternative animal wellness services. Her services include animal communication, healthy pet consultations and Healing Touch for Animals®. For more information please visit www.spiritpaws.com.

OPEN YOUR DOOR TO A DOG IN NEED
BECOME A FOSTER HOME@GREAT.ORG



the symptoms that Kuma was probably suffering from hemangiosarcoma and probably had perhaps hours or at the most days left. We made arrangements to have Kuma put down the next day.

This is where I share the “be your dog’s advocate” lesson. The problem that was causing most of Kuma’s symptoms was fluid building around the heart. The doctor at the Prince William Emergency Veterinary clinic noticed this and gave Kuma Furosemide to drain the fluids. Kuma looked great when we picked him up the next day (27 March). We had scheduled to take him in at 3:30 the next afternoon (28 March); however, when he woke up that morning he was back to his old self. I surmised that the Furosemide had relieved the heart symptom causing him the most problems and called Dr. Miller to ask if I could get more. She prescribed 20mg twice a day (a low dose). It is my opinion this gave Kuma four wonderful extra weeks as his old self. On 24 April, he started to decline quickly. We took him in that afternoon for an evaluation by Dr. Shane. She advised that his heart was failing and so we let him go.

So, what are the lessons here?

- Hemangiosarcoma is an incurable cancer of unknown cause that shows up quite a bit in Golden Retrievers. I also learned that cancer takes one in three dogs of all breeds.

- VERY EARLY detection holds some limited promise of relief depending on where it occurs (surgery); however, the disease is often discovered long after it has become too late to take any corrective action.

- I encountered nothing but professional, caring Veterinarians and staff during the course of Kuma and Zoe’s treatment and recommend all of the Doctors who treated Zoe. I am particularly indebted to Drs Shane and Learman and the entire staff of Mapleshade Animal Hospital for the compassion they showed to Kuma, Zoe and my family during these difficult times.

- I came away with the conclusion that the science just isn’t there yet regarding the best course of action for a dog diagnosed with Hemangiosarcoma. The good news is research is ongoing. Considering the experience with my sister-in-law, perhaps pet research isn’t that far behind human research.

- Do your own research. I found more stories about problems with chemo than about successes. Veterinarian web sites extolled the virtues of chemo and the minimal side effects. Personal blogs discussed how chemo diminished the

quality of life for their dogs and (in some cases) killed them. I did discover some wonderful success stories; however, we decided to focus on quality of life instead of quantity.

- Talk to others with similar experiences. Robin Henicke and Sandy Diamond’s experiences were very helpful in helping us chose a course of action.

- Pay attention to what’s going on. Don’t be afraid to draw your own conclusions. Ask questions. Be your dog’s advocate. I am confident that the fact I noticed the effect Furosemide had on Kuma and requested that he be administered more gave him four wonderful extra weeks.

- Ask your vet about treating the symptoms. In Kuma’s case, I believe that we added weeks to his life by relieving the fluid around his heart. In Zoe’s case, we made her final days a bit easier by making it easier to breathe. Treating the symptoms doesn’t cure the disease; however, it may prolong your pet’s life and does make his or her last days a more comfortable. If your Doctor doesn’t bring this up, you should.

- Talk to your vet. We took Zoe to Dr. Shane once a month to get advice. This was very helpful. The last of these visits helped us understand that the disease had spread to Zoe’s lungs which resulted in treatment of the symptoms and gave us an idea of what to expect in her final days.

There are no right or wrong answers regarding courses of treatment for a dog diagnosed with cancer. It’s a very personal decision. Emiko and I are confident that we took the best course of action for Kuma and Zoe; however, we certainly understand that others may choose a different route. I share this story in the hopes there might be some lessons in it for pet owners faced with a diagnosis of Cancer in their pet.

Anyone faced with a similar situation may feel free to contact me to discuss my experiences to help with what is a very personal decision at al@alborn.net

My Thoughts: Memories

By Skip Nizer

Writing an article for GRREAT is a lot of fun and makes me feel good even if Deb and I are the only ones who read it and I am not so sure about Deb.

Lots of people ask me how I get my ideas for the articles and I told both of them the same thing. Something happens and I remember an incident, then I write it down, cross out all the mistakes that I made, then I cross out all the stupid stuff that I said, and then I cross out all the nasty things that the other people have said about me and voila you have a true story without the unnecessary parts.

When I wrote the story about the two dogs called Goodness and Mercy it was because I was at a funeral for a good friend and former side partner of mine. I heard the Pastor say "Surely Goodness and Mercy" and right away I put aside the crossword puzzle and started making notes right there in the church. When I did the story about dogs having memories it was because I was trying to remember something that I can't remember right now, like my anniversary date, which is April 5, March 31, November 30 or December 25. I think it was November because my father-in-law said it would be a cold day in hell before he would let me marry one of his daughters. But December 25 sounds awfully familiar.

An article about dog owners needing three hands was because all of my dogs wanted attention at the same time and I had the darnedest itch on my ---well we won't go there although it still itches every once in a while. The article about working dogs was because of watching Bosco search a building prior to the president's arrival, no jokes about the hazardous jobs that the dogs do.

The Michael Vick incident brought back memories of the two Pit Bulls in the back of an animal shelter and the sound of slow dripping blood onto newspapers as one stood in silent waiting for the next touch of a human hand, be it kind or cruel. What have we done lately to stop this blood sport?

Like now as I sit here I have looked up and there is a photograph of my sister-in-law. I remember how Deb, Kate, my in-laws, my sister-in-law Pam, and one German Shepherd, two Golden Retrievers and one all black half Shepherd and something mix named Bear, all went to North Carolina (including fishing rods, suit cases, kids toys, a small boat motor, gas can, rope, canned goods etc.) in my Suburban. Back then the drive to Hatteras was about 10 hours. We left around 4 a.m. At 9 we stopped for breakfast. That was fine but Pam had brought 18 assorted doughnuts to take. None had been touched yet. After having breakfast we walked

back to the Suburban and remembered the doughnuts. The box was still on the dashboard, but the lid was partly open. The box was empty. Oh my God the dogs ate all the doughnuts. Pam proudly said we know Bear didn't do it, he's well trained. Just then a lady in the car parked next to us said only one dog ate them, he wouldn't let the others near the box. At that point Bear turned his face to the window and it was all white from the powdered sugar. Maybe we all should take a few minutes and write those memories down before they're forgotten.

They say all great (GRREAT) writers write from personal experiences and then there's me. I will always remember what I learned in school, the five Ws. Who, other than me, did the stupid stuff, What stupid stuff did somebody else do, Why did the other stupid person do it, When did they (not me) do the stupid stuff and Where did they do it. Remember we always have a friend who needs advice, because they did it, not us. We always have a funny story because our friends and family members do dumb stuff.

As my granddad used to say "We all have enough friends and family to blame, so leave yourself alone". My grandmother said that he could do anything and at that time he was doing 7 to 10 with good behavior.

Please pet your dog and recall a funny moment. And if anyone remembers when my anniversary is please call me. My cell phone number is 443- something, something, something -7665.

On the Road for GRREAT

If you transport a GRREAT dog as a transport volunteer or a foster home, you can either a) be reimbursed for travel costs (mileage, tolls and parking) or b) deduct these costs as a charitable contribution on your income taxes. The IRS-approved mileage allowance – and the reimbursement rate used by GRREAT – is 14 cents per mile. You can find the GRREAT reimbursement form and instructions on the GRREAT website www.grreat.org/admin.

Also, if you incur travel expenses in order to work at a GRREAT event (e.g., an Adoption Day or other educational or fundraising event) those costs are also deductible as a charitable contribution on your tax return.

2008 Howliday Party

This year's Howliday Party will take place at the Frederick Fairgrounds on Sunday, December 7, 2008. We will have Pictures with Santa and Paw Print Portraits (for a minimal donation).

Date: December 7, 2008

Time: 11 a.m.-2:30p.m.

Place: Frederick Fairground

797 E. Patrick St.

Frederick MD

Building 12

Cost: \$15 Person or \$25 per family

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

Silent Auction: A silent auction will be held during the party to benefit GRREAT! Send donated items to Pam Ambrose at 6873 Woodrise Rd, New Market, MD 21774 or contact Pam at WoodnSchu@verizon.net or Carolyn Beyer at events@grreat.org. Items must be received by November 30, 2008.

Golden Voting Contest: This year we'll have a contest voting for dogs that are the reddest and the blondest. We'll also honor the most senior dog attending.

Doggie Gift Exchange: Each of your dog(s) can "pick a gift", if he/she brings a loosely wrapped doggie prize, under \$5. Gifts are placed on the floor, and each dog bringing a gift will have a chance to retrieve one!

Pot Luck Dinner: The GRREAT Board will provide items such as turkey, ham, bread, rolls, condiments, tableware, and hot and cold beverages.

Families are asked to bring a side dish (casseroles, warm vegetables), munchies (chips, dips, cut vegetables, cheese), salads (pasta, green, vegetable, or fruit) or dessert (cookies, cakes, pastries) to share in proportion to the size of your family, as indicated below. If your last name begins with:

A-F	cold salad	M-R	Side Dish
G-L	dessert	S-Z	Munchies

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

RSVP BY NOVEMBER 30, 2008: Please send an e-mail to events@grreat.org or call (703)620-6593 and leave a message in box 5. We need to know your name, number of people and number of dogs attending.

To Volunteer: Please contact, Lisa Cook, the GRREAT Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@grreat.org.

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

Dear Janet,

We just adopted a dog from GRREAT and are very happy with her behavior with one exception. She begs when we eat and when we're preparing food on the counters. What can we do to get her to stop begging? -- M.M.

Dear M.M.,

Your dog's previous family probably fed her scraps from the table when they were eating and from the counter when they were preparing food. The first step in getting your dog to stop begging is to make sure that you are not feeding her your food at any time. Random reinforcement is the strongest form of reinforcement so if you occasionally break down and give in to her demands she will continue to beg.

Teach your dog how to lie down and stay on command. Once she understands down-stay, have her do a down-stay next to your chair at the table at mealtimes. You have now given your dog a positive behavior that she can do while you eat, so that instead of scolding her for begging you can praise her for behaving nicely.

When you have time to work with your dog, put some food on the counter and pretend to prepare a meal. If after a few seconds your dog stays where she is instead of bounding into the kitchen, go to where she is and give her lots of praise. You want her to understand that not begging will be rewarded. Then go back to the food for a few more seconds, and then go praise your dog. Gradually stretch the time in between praise so that she has to not beg for longer and longer before earning a reward.

If your dog comes over to beg, tell her "no" and "go away." If she goes away praise her verbally but not so enthusiastically that she comes back thinking you want to interact with her! She will probably not understand what you are telling her to do, so will not go away. In that case, take her by the collar and lead her away or if she's noise sensitive clap your hands or stamp your foot. Continue to do this every time she comes over to beg whether you're practicing preparing food or doing so for real. With time and patience your dog will learn not to beg.

Janet McMillan is the owner of Best Behaved Dogs, providing in-home obedience and behavior modification to dogs and their families. If you have a question for Janet for this column, or would like more information on her services, please contact her at janet@bestbehaveddogs.com or visit her website at www.bestbehaveddogs.com

Lower Yourself

By Liz Hauck

Are you seeing a new behavior you're not sure about? After checking out his health, try looking at, listening to or smelling it from your dog's point of view.

When Ozzy stopped drinking water, it took a little while till we found out he had a cool, modern new water dish. I got down on my knees and pretended to drink from it. His face was partly covered by the tall sides of the bowl, which sounded and felt creepy when he was taking up noisy slurps. He didn't care to have the view blocked and the front and sides of his face touched by the bowl.

When Sonny was going nuts in the kennel, lunging at people and showing extreme defensiveness at the barrier, I sat on the floor at his eye/nose/ear level for about 20 minutes trying out all kinds of cues and observing. (If you want to learn more on body language and how dogs evince different behaviors, there are many wonderful sources, thank goodness, and many people writing about it. Visit www.clickertraining.com and www.dogwise.com to check out books and videos by two of my favorite, Turid Rugaas and Patricia McConnell.) Among other things, we realized that from where he sat, trying to watch too much at once, the ceiling fans reflected in the windows were part of the problem for poor visually-sensitive Sonny. It helped a lot to just turn off the light.

Don't discount the effects a physical problem may have on your dog. I've had so many owners assure me "He's fine!" and later learn there was a thyroid problem, a urinary tract issue, a damaged ligament that was virtually invisible but having a huge affect on the dog's reactions. Ever have a bad headache? How happy and sweet are you on those days? I can count on one hand the times I've been bitten in the past 18 years (and all the fingers are still there!) but I've been corrected many times by dogs whose expressions or attitudes I interpreted unconsciously as a human. Corrections might be as simple as the animal moving subtly away from me, to a quick growl and snap of the head (not teeth) in my direction.

About Sonny, and my new favorite thing to try: the only thing that enabled him to stop growling entirely was when I tried dog-laughing. Never forget that dogs don't look or act like us when they are communicating or learning. They may show body and facial gestures that look familiar to us, but those almost never mean what we think. They process information in their own doggy ways, and we tend to rush them while they're still thinking. Yawning and pretending to be bored is polite. Showing teeth

Show Your GRREAT Pride on the Road in MD and VA!

If you live in the state of Maryland, you can purchase a special license plate to show your love of Goldens and your support for Golden Retriever Rescue. The plates are available for \$25. For more information on how to obtain Maryland Golden Retriever Rescue plates, please contact the program coordinator, Teri Stachowiak at hwstack@comcast.net. The Maryland plates are only available to GRREAT members, so be sure your membership is up-to-date before you contact Teri.

We are working with SEVA GRREAT, our partner to the south, to make Golden Retriever Rescue license plates available to residents of the Virginia Commonwealth. Membership in GRREAT or SEVA GRREAT is not a requirement, but we need applications for 350 plates before they will be issued. The cost is \$25, and the plate can be personalized for an additional \$10. As a 501(c)3 organization, we qualify for revenue sharing after 1000 plates are purchased. This means that \$15 of every \$25 paid to the DMV will be shared with us. This is a great way to provide an additional source of funds for GRREAT, and to let other drivers know about Golden Retriever Rescue. If you would like to enroll in the program, please contact Louise Davidson at secretary@grreat.org.

is scary. Trembling all over is friendly. Turning and running the other way is an invitation. Bending forward to say hi is intimidating. Patting on the head is obnoxious. I could go on all day!

My new theory, currently in testing phase, is that laughing may be the great exception to that rule: I have never yet seen a dog I thought was laughing and been proved wrong. I've found over and over that offering a dog-laughing face myself seems to lighten discomfort in many dogs.

Try it sometime with your dog, not necessarily when he's stressed - relaxed facial muscles, lips parted, tongue soft and full against the lower teeth and lip, a slight smile at the corners of the mouth, and a happy, quiet, sighing sort of breathing. Its very much as if you're whispering "ha, ha, ha" with a quiet breath between each ha.

Let me know what you think!

Liz Hauck loves helping dogs and their people live and learn together. She writes and trains in Nashville, Tennessee and you can reach her at www.droptheleash.net.

Gift Wrap for Golden Retrievers

GRREAT Wrapping Brigade Heading To Area Stores

By Jennifer Strohm, GRREAT Fundraising Coordinator

The GRREAT Wrapping Brigade is gearing up for another holiday season of tape, ribbon, paper and lots of Golden cheer. Teams of volunteers and dogs are heading to local area Barnes and Noble and Borders stores to wrap presents in exchange for donations to GRREAT. GRREAT's Gift Wrapping Brigade last year was not only a fun way to let people know about the rescue, but also was GRREAT's most successful fundraiser of the year, raising more than \$17,000 (\$7,000 over our \$10,000 goal!). And we're looking to make 2008 another success!

Everyone who has benefited from GRREAT's important work is encouraged to sign-up to wrap presents and spread the word about the rescue. Many stores also allow your Golden Retrievers to join in the fun. Friends, neighbors, family members—anyone who enjoys your Golden—are also welcome to volunteer to wrap. To register, simply visit www.grreat.org and sign-up for a date and location. All volunteers who did not receive a t-shirt last year will receive one this year.

Tips for GRREAT Gift Wrappers

- Send an e-mail to your friends, family, and coworkers letting them know where and when you will be gift wrapping for GRREAT and encourage them to visit the store.
- Visit www.grreat.org and download a sign to hang in places where pet-lovers congregate- the dog park, veterinarian, pet stores, etc.- and list the location, date and time of where the GRREAT Gift Wrap Brigade will be near them.
- At the store, ask shoppers as they are heading out of the door if they would like their purchases wrapped and let them know about GRREAT.
- Determine what steps you will do with your wrapping partner(s) so you can wrap as many presents as possible.
- And most importantly, have fun spreading holiday cheer with your friends and Golden!

Annual Meeting

The GRREAT Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January, from 12:00 until 2:00 pm. We will be meeting at the Davis Library, part of the Montgomery County Library System, 6400 Democracy Blvd, Bethesda, MD 20817, the same place that the meeting was held last year. We encourage all members to attend. We will be reviewing 2008, as well as voting for our Treasurer and President.

Please check our webpage www.grreat.org for more information.

GRREAT Cleans Up!

GRREAT held its first dog wash fundraiser at 4 Paws Spa and Training Center in Forrest Hill, Md. (<http://4pawsspa.com>) in September. The dog wash featured a day of GRREAT volunteers primping and pampering pups for donations. In addition, GRREAT microchipped many dogs and sold homemade baked goods for people and dogs as well as GRREAT Store merchandise.

Thank you to all of the volunteers and people who brought their dogs to be washed, which made the day an incredible success. The event raised more than \$1,000 for GRREAT. Watch for another 4 Paws fundraiser coming this spring!



Forever Friends Fund

Would you like to pay tribute to your beloved animal companion who has gone on to the Rainbow Bridge? The Forever Friends Fund provides a way for you to do this, while at the same time helping our rescued Golden Retrievers on their way to their forever homes.

The fund was inspired by the sudden loss of Gus 06-212, a young GRREAT dog that had been adopted just a few months before his journey to the Bridge. You can read about Gus, our First Forever Friend, by visiting the GRREAT web site at www.grreat.org and clicking on the Forever Friends Fund link. You will also be able to read about other Forever Friends, and register to have your friend appear on the web site. You may memorialize your dog, cat, or any other critter that has been special to you.



(Picture provided by Gus' foster family Bob and Lynda Lake)

GRREAT's October Photo Month

Patrons of Lisa Solomon Photography in Silver Spring, Md. raised more than \$500 for GRREAT as a result of a special promotion held during the month of October. Anyone mentioning GRREAT received a special professional pet photo session and photo package from the creative pet photographer.

For more information about Lisa Solomon Photography visit www.lisasolomonphotography.com.



courtesy Lisa Solomon



courtesy Lisa Solomon



courtesy Lisa Solomon



courtesy Lisa Solomon

Hayfield Animal Hospital

7724 Telegraph Rd, Alexandria, VA
703-971-2127

Healthy Paws Medical Center

14840 Washington St, Haymarket, VA
703-754-4146

Hillside Veterinary Hospital

191 Augustine Ave, Charles Town, WV
304-728-2203

Hunt Valley Animal Hospital

11206 York Rd, Hunt Valley, MD
410-527-0800

Independent Hill Vet Clinic

13444 Dumfries Rd, Manassas, VA
703-791-2083

Kindness Animal Hospital

2130 University Blvd W, Wheaton, MD
301-949-2511

Kingsbrook Animal Hospital

5322 New Design Rd, Frederick, MD
301-631-6900

Manheim Pike Veterinary Hospital

1669 Manheim Pike, Lancaster, PA
717-569-6424

Maple Springs Veterinary Hospital

14925 Dufief Rd, North Potomac, MD
301-424-0373

Middletown Veterinary Hospital

366 Warwick Rd, Middletown, DE
302-378-2342

Mountainside Vet Hospital

42 Westminster Rd, Reisterstown, MD
410-833-8085

Palmer Animal Hospital

307 Main St, Myersville, MD
301-293-2121

Parkway Veterinary Clinic

5749 Burke Centre Pkwy, Burke, VA
703-323-9020

Pet Dominion

15820 Redland Rd, Rockville, MD
301-258-0333

Pike Creek Animal Hospital

297 Polly Drummond Hill Rd
Newark, DE
302-454-7780

Pikesville Animal Hospital

1496 Reisterstown Rd #113
Pikesville, MD
410-580-9119

Prince George's Animal Hospital

7440 Annapolis Blvd, Hyattsville, MD
301-577-9400

Quince Orchard Veterinary Hospital

11910 Darnestown Rd
Gaithersburg, MD
301-258-0850

Regional Veterinary Referral Center

6651F Backlick Rd, Springfield, VA
703-451-8900

Rock Spring Veterinary Clinic

1905 Rock Spring Rd, Forest Hill, MD
410-838-6960

Rocky Gorge Animal Hospital

7515 Brooklyn Bridge Rd, Laurel, MD
301-776-7744

Savannah Animal Hospital

33818 Wescoats Rd, Lewes, DE
302-645-8757

Shenandoah Veterinary Hospital

1152 Shepherdstown Rd
Martinsburg, WV
304-263-2112

South Arundel Veterinary Hospital

85 Central Ave W, Edgewater, MD
410-956-2932

Sterling Park Animal Hospital

800 W Church Rd, Sterling, VA
703-430-3000

Takoma Park Animal Clinic

7330 Carroll Ave, Takoma Park, MD
301-270-4700

Tyson's Corner Animal Hospital

8496E Tyco Rd, Vienna, VA
703-893-7030

VCA Veterinary Referral Associates

15021 Dufief Mill Rd
North Potomac, MD
301-340-3224

Village Veterinary Clinic

9534 Burke Rd, Burke, VA
571-723-4993

Western Maryland Animal Hospital

11024 Old Mt Savage Rd NW,
LaVale, MD
301-722-5881

West Frederick Veterinary Hospital

6902 Bowers Rd, Frederick, MD
301-473-4478

White Oak Animal Hospital

316 White Oak Rd #105
Fredericksburg, VA
540-374-0462

What's In a Name?

The AKC recently announced their list of the most popular dog names, according to AKC registration statistics from 2007.

“Traditionally names based on a puppy’s physical appearance or personality, such as Spot or Sassy, have been popular with dog owners,” says AKC spokesperson Lisa Peterson. “Today we are seeing human names, such as Jack and Molly, and names that reflect a pet’s stature in the home, such as King and Princess, gain in popularity as more people consider their dog a valued member of the family.

The top male and female names, according to the AKC, are:

Most Popular Male Names

1. Bear
2. Blue
3. Max/Maximus/Maxwell
4. Duke
5. Buddy
6. Jack
7. Prince
8. King
9. Bailey
10. Rocky
11. Harley
12. Jake
13. Shadow
14. Lucky
15. Hunter
16. Dakota
17. Lou
18. Midnight
19. Cooper
20. Buster

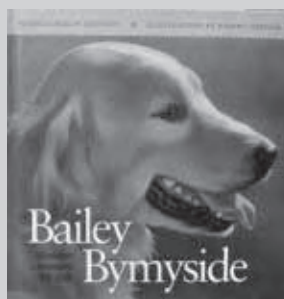
Most Popular Female Names

1. Lady
2. Belle/Bell/Bella
3. Princess
4. Mae/May
5. Rose
6. Daisy
7. Grace/Gracie
8. Baby
9. Molly
10. Maggie
11. Sadie
12. Ann/Annie
13. Star
14. Lily/Lilly
15. Angel
16. Coco/Cocoa
17. Sophie/Sophia
18. Lucy
19. Abby/Abigail
20. Marie



GRREAT Store Featured Items

With the new GRREAT on-line Store, you no longer have to wait for a GRREAT event to go shopping! We have in many items that would make a wonderful holiday gift. We recommend a copy of, “Bailey Bymyside: Golden Lessons for Life,” by Patricia Burlin Kennedy. This hardback book is based the experiences of the author and her Golden Retriever and features beautiful color illustrations of Robert Christie. And, GRREAT now has in a limited number of these books autographed by the author and paw-stamped by Bailey! Also, new to arrive in the store is a dog tapestry garment bag; perfect for all dog lovers on your list! Remember, the place to shop, with no lines, is <http://www.grreat.org/store/index.html>!



Tips for Tough Financial Times

Our current economic climate is making many families look hard at their expenses, and try to find ways to cut back. There are ways to save money on pet expenses, too, but make sure your cutbacks don't become larger expenses down the road.

Two of the most expensive areas in taking care of a Golden are vet care and food, and they are the two areas you should try not to skimp on. Taking your Golden in for annual exams is important and, finding a problem early can often save a lot of money down the road. Similarly, feeding a high quality dog food can help to reduce your vet bills – it is important not to “trade down” as lower quality foods often have many fillers and preservatives.

Areas where you can save are those same discretionary items we can reduce in our own lives – toys and treats. Here are some tips:

- Make your own treats - try www.bullwrinkle.com/Assets/Recipes/Recipes.htm
- Use fruits and vegetables that you give your family, such as carrots, apple slices, etc. for treats
- Shop online and search for online coupons at sites such as www.couponcabin.com or www.dealcatcher.com. You can also sign up at online stores for notices of special sales.
- Buy in bulk – get together with friends and neighbors to buy in larger quantities, which is usually cheaper.
- Make your own toys – a braided fleece tug is cheap, easy to make and dogs love them.
- Share your tips on the GRREAT Forum.

For some families, a large, unexpected vet expense may be unaffordable. Thankfully, there are a number of resources out there that may be able to help. Be prepared to provide proof of income, a written cost estimate of the needed procedures or treatment from your veterinarian as well as the contact information of your vet.

www.carecredit.com

CareCredit is a credit plan that is accepted by many veterinary offices, which allows you to make monthly payments for vet expenses, sometimes with no interest. (Note – requires pre-planning. You need to have the plan in place before you incur your expense, and you need to make sure your vet participates.)

www.uan.org/lifeline

Through Lifeline, the United Animal Nations (UAN) may provide grants to low-income individuals who cannot afford emergency veterinary expenses, and for animals whose caregiver has suffered a personal tragedy such as a house fire, domestic violence or natural disaster.

www.help-a-pet.org

Provides financial assistance to low-income people, senior citizens and physically and mentally challenged individuals.

www.thepetfund.org

The Pet Fund provides assistance to families who cannot afford the cost of treatable medical conditions for their pets.

www.aahahelpingpets.org

The AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association) Helping Pets Fund provides financial assistance for emergency and non-elective veterinary care for pet owners receiving government assistance, or a pet owner who has experienced a temporary financial hardship.

www.angels4animals.org

Angels 4 Animals provides assistance in helping pet owners make care decisions based upon the needs of the animal rather than financial limitations.

www.netpets.org

Net Pets has developed a nationwide network of foster homes that will nurture and care for pets of military personnel while they are deployed.

There are other organizations that also provide funds, but due to high demand are not currently accepting new applications. But, it's a good idea to keep their names for future reference. They are: IMom (www.imom.org), OrthoDogs' Silver Lining (www.odsl.org).



Wounded Warriors BBQ

GRREAT volunteers and their friendly Golden Retrievers were invited to spread cheer during a very special BBQ and Pig Roast for wounded soldiers in October. The event was organized by Lieutenant Commander David Staten and held at Ft. Detrick in Frederick, Md. Attendees enjoyed a Texas style BBQ, a live band, moonbounce, games and of course visits with the dogs that were perfect for the whole family.

The soldiers, who were recovering from injuries at Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital, were given a hero's transport to Frederick, Md. for rest and relaxation led by a motorcycle group called the NAM VETS. Other attendees included Ft. Detrick active duty personnel and their family members. The food and drink was provided by the Maryland Cattlemen's Association and Barley and Hops.



Vet Dog on the job!



GRREAT Events Coordinator Carolyn Beyer and her dog, Paige, share smiles with a youngster.



Faces Of Valor



NAM VETS Motorcade



Major General Weightman speaks with one of the wounded attending the BBQ



Lieutenant Commander David Staten, Master of Ceremonies and “Mr.” Ray Casteline



Congressman Bartlett addresses the Warriors and their families while everyone enjoyed an amazing BBQ.



Notes of appreciation and love from local patrons of Barley and Hops.

Gift Wrap For Golden Retrievers

Your Donation Is Appreciated!

The Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training (GRREAT) Gift Wrapping Brigade is here to wrap your purchases today to raise money for the rescue, training, medical care and placement of unwanted Golden Retrievers in the Washington, D.C. area.

GRREAT is a 501 C (3) nonprofit, 100% volunteer organization.

GRREAT rescues and finds new homes for more than 300 Golden Retrievers every year.

www.grreat.org



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 2009 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.

GRREAT Calendar of Events

November

1 GRREAT Education Table at Home 4 the Holidays
11a.m. – 4 p.m. Reston Town Center, Reston, Virginia

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

22 Watch GRREAT on Petline9 7:30 a.m. CBS, Channel

December

6 GRREAT Adoption Day. 12 noon- 2 p.m. PETCO 4167
Chelshire Station Plaza. Dale City, Virginia

6 March with GRREAT in the 38th Annual Scottish
Christmas Parade, Old Town Alexandria, VA

7 GRREAT Howliday Party. 11am-2:30pm. Frederick
County Fairgrounds, Frederick, MD

20 Pictures with Santa, Baron's K9 Country Store,
525 Pritt Lane, Bel Air, MD

For more information on these events, visit www.grreat.org/calendar.

Presidential Pets Answer Key

Charlie – JFK

Liberty – Ford

Him & Her – Johnson

Millie – Bush

FaLa – FDR

Laddie Boy – Harding

Sweetlips – Washington

LeBeau – Tyler

Hector & Nellie – Hayes

Faithful – Grant

Mike – Truman

Pete – T Roosevelt

King Tut – Hoover

Buddy – Clinton

Checkers – Nixon

Barney – GW Bush

Lucky – Reagan

Heidi - Eisenhower

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GRREAT BEGINNINGS



LEAD TO HAPPY ENDINGS!