



GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc. • January/February 2009 • Vol. 20, No. 1

IN THIS ISSUE:

Letter from the President	3
Honoring a New Year	4
Adoption Report	5
Annual GRREAT Walk	5
Donations	6, 8, 10
GRREAT Adoption Day	7
Update Your Info	
Dear Janet	9
Dean Koontz Books	
Santa Paws	11
Howliday Party	12
Picture It!	13
Shop Online for GRREAT	
Remembering Dillon	
Show Your GRREAT Pride	14
The Naked Lady	15
Our Hannah	16-17
Howlelujah!	18
Donation, Renewal, and Volunteer Forms	19
GRREAT Calendar	20



Meet Jasper

By Emily Bell

Meet Jasper. Jasper is a beautiful, loving boy desperately looking for his forever home.

Jasper is an older boy, approximately 10, who was found wandering the streets, sad and all alone. He was brought to his foster home, in great need of someone to give him tender loving care and nurse him back to health. Despite his initial condition, Jasper's foster family was able to heal his physical and mental wounds. Meeting him now, you would never know what he had been through.

Don't be fooled by his age. Jasper has such an innocence about him and he will easily win you over with his heart and spirit. He has many years of life and love left to give to his forever family. Watching him play sometimes you would never know he is a senior dog. He loves head scratches, belly rubs and playing with his squeaky ball. He enjoys running after his ball, but has not quite grasped the concept of bringing it back.

Jasper is very affectionate and loves to be with people. He can usually be found following his foster mom around the house or curled up at her feet. He knows his manners and does very well being left alone during the day. He does not have any bad habits - no barking, chewing, jumping or begging. Since he was found as a stray, there is no available information on his history. Based on his love for people and good natured personality, it is believed he must have had a home at one time. But due to the limited information and lack of knowledge regarding his experience with other animals, it is thought that Jasper will do best in a home where he is the only pet.

All that is missing in his life is a loving family to share it with. Jasper's story had a sad beginning - now he is just looking for that special someone to give it a happy ending.

For information on adopting Jasper, 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:

Winter is here, we've already had a few snow flurries. It's getting dark so soon that my evening walks with the boys are now afternoon walks. Walking is always my time to think; my thoughts recently have been about all of the folks who give so much to keep GRREAT moving forward.

I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the people who give their valuable time to GRREAT and the dogs we work so hard to help. Many of our volunteers do an incredible amount of work "behind the scenes". I could print an entire newsletter with all the names, but knowing me, I'd forget a name or two and feel terrible. Instead, I'd like to thank you for the jobs you all do. Your generosity of time and spirit keep us running smoothly and allow us to place so many wonderful dogs in their forever homes. The volunteer jobs are in no particular order, as all are crucial to GRREAT's success and existence.

Home Visit Volunteers visit applicants to help ensure that we are finding quality forever homes for our dogs.

Intake Volunteers talk to the give-up owners, with kindness and sympathy no matter what they hear about the dog in question.

Transport Volunteers drive from one end of our territory to the other with dogs that we often know little about, that are sometimes ill and in need of medical care. No matter what, the transport volunteers take them where they need to go, and give them some much needed love along the way!

Foster Homes are the heart and soul of our rescue. These families open their homes and hearts to foster dogs who are always in need of love and attention and very often medical care. Without their support and willingness to always take in just one more Golden, we wouldn't be able to accept all of the dogs that we bring in year after year. It is through their hard work and effort that these wonderful dogs find their forever families.

Points of Contact are the first responders for the foster homes when they have questions, issues, or need help picking that perfect forever home.

Event Volunteers attend monthly Adoption Days, bathe Golden Retrievers at the dog wash events, spend their afternoons and evenings wrapping gifts at bookstores, show up at education events to talk to people about GRREAT and sell our merchandise, and participate in our 3K Walk for the Golden Retrievers.

Fundraising Volunteers assist us by writing grants, setting up eBay accounts, coming up with new ways for us to find money to support the dogs.

We have members who surprise us, presenting us with valuable items to auction or sell, again to raise money to help the dogs.

We have coordinators who organize many of our efforts. They are charged with assigning home visits, reading the applications and ensuring we have correct information, finding foster homes for incoming dogs, providing the POC's with up-to-date information to help their foster families, pulling out a map to find out who lives closest to a give-up so that a dog can be picked up and driven where it needs to go, finding where the grant money is, or what ideas might bring us some extra money!

Our brand new newsletter editor is working diligently to make the newsletter something that is both informative and fun to read.

Our membership coordinators ensure that all of our information is correct and up-to-date in a huge database that is kept current at all times. They are able to send out emails to all of our members or groups broken down by interests, geographic area, or any other demographic.

Microchipping is a very important part of our rescue. These folks receive training to microchip the dogs and travel to events to ensure that all of our dogs are microchipped just in case they get away from their owners.

We have folks who make sure that the lists and information on the dogs currently in foster homes is up-to-date, ensuring that we have all of the correct information whenever it's needed.

We are blessed with a fantastic Merchandise Coordinator, who has found so many wonderful things – my husband doesn't want me to talk to her anymore because I want to buy one of everything.

Finally we have a board of directors consisting of people who work everyday to make GRREAT a rescue that is able to help every Golden in need. They are an amazing group of dedicated people.

As I said in the beginning - the list was randomly put together, but the rescue could not function without all of you! To everyone who has given their time to make GRREAT a successful rescue – THANK YOU – we couldn't do it without ALL OF YOU!

—Robin Heinecke, GRREAT President



Grissom 07-141

Honoring a New Year

By Sherry B. True

As we begin another year we look forward to those times of great beginnings. Last year I had many clients whose pets had transitioned. Some transitions were planned and others were not. We miss each and every one of them for all that they brought to our lives! Many people have described their companions to me as their soul mate, their best friend, their confidant and their hearts love. It is with those thoughts that I would recommend capturing those precious moments this year with your extraordinary pets).

Begin a new tradition this year whether it is with paper, digital camera or a video camera. What better way to honor your animal companions) then by keeping notes or a journal just about them? Just like us, we never know when it is “our time” to go. Buy a journal or pull out that camera that has just been sitting around that you can keep around the house or with you so that you can capture those precious memories. You will be glad you did.

So often I hear the same things over and over again from folks who have lost their pet or who are about to go through the process of euthanasia. They always say they are afraid they are going to forget those little things about their pet. I know it was the one thing I wished I had done with my beloved Alley Ann. Even though I only had her for a year and a half she made quite an impact on my life. Unfortunately I didn't take all the pictures I could have and failed to write about her unique deep little soul. Four years after her passing I still have only a few pictures to look at and remem-

ber who she was. Now will I ever forget her, no, but I wished I had taken the time to write about those special moments we did share. I do have a lock of her fur and as long as she lives in my heart she will never die.

This year at your yearly family functions, birthday parties, vacations or fun events be sure to include a lot of picture taking of those special moments with your animal companions). They truly ARE the hearts and souls of many of our families. These recorded memories will be cherished even after we say goodbye and will always serve as a reminder of who they were and how important they were to our lives.

Make this year a special year by making a commitment to honor all the beings in your life by creating a unique way to always remember them. I have seen some awesome memories created by folks for their pets. One woman I know had a whole slide show of the year's family events, she put them on a CD and added music to the background. Another friend of mine has three scrap books full of nothing but her pets). There are creative and distinctive ways to make this New Year one of the most memorable!

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.

ADOPTION REPORT

This fall, 37 Golden Retrievers were adopted into loving families just in time for the holidays! Of those 18 were female and 19 were male. A big thanks goes to the families who provided forever homes to the seven senior pups, all over the age of 10!

Name	#	Age	Sex	Name	#	Age	Sex	Name	#	Age	Sex
Champ	08-096	3	M	Jack	08-165	6	M	Ginger	08-141	11	F
Simba	08-132	2	M	Scarlett	08-168	6	F	Dakota	08-179	11mo	F
Mindy	08-160	5mo	F	Rudy	08-173	8	M	Encore	08-169	8	F
Wilson	08-181	9mo	M	Maggie	08-133	5	F	Rita	08-180	6	F
Rhett	00-255	10	M	Hannah Belle	08-175	4	F	Oliver	08-116	1	M
Chase	01-204	10	M	Morgan	08-185	2	F	Bailey	08-121	12	M
Rascal	08-182	4	M	Grace	08-142	2	F	Summer	08-152	8	F
Gunnar	07-167	4	M	Raleigh	08-143	2	M	George	08-156	3	M
Stoney	08-083	10	M	Mitchell	08-177	4	M	Nema	08-187	1	F
Summer	08-109	9	F	Jack	08-159	6	M	Chase	08-194	6	M
Molly	08-117	10	F	Sammi	08-095	4	F	Andy	08-195	2	M
Belle	08-135	3	F	Buddy	08-172	10	M				
Mimi	08-140	3	F	Brandy	08-139	1	F				

5th Annual “GRREAT Beginnings” Walk a Success

On November 8th GRREAT held its fifth annual GRREAT 3K Walk. The walk is one of our biggest fundraisers throughout the year and this year we raised over \$13,000 to help our four-legged Golden friends.

The weather was a little touch-and-go the morning of the walk however, by the end, the sun was bright and shining. It was an impressive sight to see a sea of goldens and their humans, outfitted with their 3K walk t-shirts (design services were donated by Communicate By Design, Inc.) as they started off from Weber’s Pet Supermarket, the host of the event. Participants also had the opportunity to get their pooches’ picture taken by Megan Lee from Paws and Claws Photography.

A huge thank you to all the walkers, volunteers and other individuals that made this walk such a success. A special thanks goes to our sponsors. Without their generous contributions we could not have raised the amount we did.

The following were our RESCUE ANGELS: MaryEllen Rubenstein/Coldwell Banker, mer@mer4homes.com; Sherry and Richard Carson, D & J Sales, LLC; Barrel Oak Winery, www.barreloakwinery.com; Rick Stevens & Julie Palais;

Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club, www.pvgrc.org; and Louise Davidson.

The following were our PARTNERS IN RESCUE: Dog Days Playcare, www.dogdaysplaycare.com; South Paws Animal Hospital, www.southpaws.com; Carol and Doug Melamed; Briggie & Bott, Court Reporters/B&B Reporters, 301-808-0731; Sharon S. Coale, MED, MS, CCC-SLP, Speech Pathology Association, 301-469-8151; Norman and Elizabeth Wright; Bob Taylor; Powell Insurance Agency; and ND Associates LLC.

The following were our FRIENDS OF RESCUE: Kim Dawson; Powell and Cheyney; Edward Yawn and Melissa Nielson; Phil and Janet Hauck; Laura Luke; Lynne Glennon; Tom Ludwig; Anita and John Funk; Prince George’s Animal Hospital; Heather and Kip Lady; Mary Ginn; Joseph and Virginia Fry; Linda and Craig Wensley; Michael Miles and Lois Lerner; Stephen and Darlene Hines; Jim Wilmoth; Sport Automotive; Susan and Richard Bottomley; Jeannie Blood; Pam Hodgkinson; Carol Taylor.

It goes without saying that your dedication and commitment to GRREAT is very much appreciated.



DONATIONS

Thank You for Your Donations

- Catherine Campbell
- Melissa Chichester
- Betty Anne and Jerry Christmas
- Kate and Art Chutuape
- Carol Cox
- Kenneth Diamond
- Kathy Dyjack
- Mary Ginn
- Leon Guerrero and Sandra Rutan
- Elaine Hartselle
- Patricia and Larry Holbert
- Linda Igou
- Judy Jackson
- Jody Keating
- Kris and John Markovich
- Courtney Matthews and Andrea Supp
- Neal and Judy McKinley
- Thomas Monarski
- Lee Ann and Earl Moore
- June Morris
- Sue Muldoon
- James Murphy
- Conway and Martha Robinson
- Jim Stillwell and Barbara Brincefield
- Carrie Sullivan
- Patricia and Jack Warden
- Barbara Wilkerson

In Memory Of...

• In memory of Sydney (03-069), who was loved by Matt, Heather and Paige Hiserman. When we dropped Sydney off for the Hisermans to foster 5 ½ years ago, we knew that Sydney had found her forever home. She knew too. She never left. Matt and Heather took such good care of Sydney, in spite of her many medical problems. Please use this donation to help another special needs GRREAT dog. - Carol and Rory Nansel

• This donation is made in memory of Ms. Helen Lamkin, who passed away this month. Her daughter, Martha, is a warm, caring person who I am sure inherited those traits from Ms. Lamkin. It was with “grreat” generosity that Martha asked that this donation, on behalf of her mother, be made to GRREAT to be used in whatever manner is most beneficial. - Stephen and Darlene Hines

• In memory of Quigley, beloved pet and friend. - Pamela Fridley

• I would like to make a donation in memory of Bacardi 3-8-93 to 10-31-08. His Mom Kim Copenhagen would like that a donation be made to GRREAT. Bacardi was a rescued Golden and a lovely boy. - Susan Letschin

• This donation is in memory of Ginger, our special girl who was with us for more than 12 years. We hope this will help your Golden and that they will find special homes. The Stafford Family. - Victoria Boyd

• In loving memory of eight truly golden years with Maggie. She left us so suddenly, and our hearts are hurting. Please accept this donation in acknowledgment of the many ways that Maggie’s irreplaceable spirit and boundless love rescued us and everyone she met. - The Robert Mitchell family

• In memory of Marjorie Swanson. - Nancy and Dave Smith

• For Amber (00-041). - Sheila and Al Vertino

In Honor Of...

• In honor of Mary Ginn’s birthday. - Cathie and Michael Skoog

• In honor of Bailey (07-231) and Zoe on their birthdays. - Mark Ketterman

• In Honor of Glen MacDonald and Dee Brown. - Kathy MacDonald

• In honor of our wonderful Remy’s 1 year dog-a-versary. We’ve been a happier house since the day we adopted him from GRREAT and made our family complete again. - Yair and Liz Levy

To Help With Costs...

• To pay for Rudy 08-173. - Mary Ginn

• This is a donation from the foster home to help cover medical expenses related to cruciate surgery for Molly 08-117. - Linda and Leslie Brandwin

• Donation for Mitchell’s (08-177) vet bills. - Karin and Kurt Godwin

• To defray costs for Saylor and Peaches. - Janice and Dennis Biennas

• For Brady 08-174. – Dave Mellon and Chris Pierce

• For acupuncture treatments bid on and won. – Kathy Dai

(continued on page 8)

GRREAT Adoption Day

Our final adoption day of 2008 was a huge success! Held at the Dale City, VA, PETCO on December 6, 2008, where several Golden Retrievers found forever homes. Our next Adoption Day is on February 7, 2009 - hope to see you there!



DONATIONS

For Other Reasons...

- For the Forever Friends Fund, in memory of Oliver my buddy cat. - Louise Davidson
- For the Forever Friends Fund, in memory of Maverick and Big Mack (02-028). - Tom and Becky Rigsbee
- For Major (08-162). - Dennis and Judy Smith
- 2008 National Specialty raffle proceeds. - Yankee Golden Retriever Club

Corporate Giving

- Giving Express Program from American Express, on behalf of Eileen Bennett
- Wellpoint Associate Giving Campaign, on behalf of Renee Miller
- Petco Foundation
- Paperweight Productions
- America's Charities, on behalf of Judy and Steve Danner
- Helping Udders

Dog Walk Sponsors

- Coldwell Banker - Mary Ellen Rubenstein
- Sherry and Richard Carson
- D & J Sales Co., LLC
- Barrel Oak Winery - Sharon and Brian Roeder
- Rick Stevens and Julie Palais

- PVGRC - c/o Bob Kurtz
- Cooper, Penny, Ruby Dee, Kate, and Oliver, Romeo, Isabel, Ruby - Louise Davidson
- Dog Days Playcare - Joyce Smith
- South Paws Animal Hospital - Thomas Saunders
- Carol and Doug Melamed
- Briggie & Bott, Court Reporters - Lori Bott
- Sharon and Bill Coale
- In Memory of Casey Wright - Norman and Elizabeth Wright
- Chase & Finn - Bob Taylor
- Powell Insurance Agency- Joanne and Robert Patenaude
- ND Associates LLC - David F. Carter
- Kim Dawson
- Powell & Cheyney, LLC - John M. Powell
- Edward Yawn, Melissa Nielson
- Phil and Janet Hauck
- Laura Luke
- Lynne Glennon
- Tom Ludwig
- Anita and John Funk
- Prince George's Animal Hospital
- Heather and Kip Lady

- Mary Ginn
- Casey Fry and Miss Loki - Joseph and Virginia Fry
- Linda and Craig Wensley
- Michael Miles and Lois Lerner
- Stephen and Darlene Hines
- In memory of Jake & Hap - Jim Wilmoth
- Sport Automotive - c/o Laurie Walker
- Bailey & Chelsea - Susan and Richard Bottomley
- Jack & Takota - Jeannie Blood
- Michael, Pam & Summer Higgins - Pamela Hodgkinson
- Carol & Kornbread - Carol Taylor
- Dogtopia of Alexandria - Jeff Lutton

Dog Walk Donations

- Nancy and Wayne Kulig
- Gloria and Mark Williams
- Sharon and Brian Roeder
- Marcia and Greg Pignetti
- Daniel McDonnell
- Kelly and Thomas Hilton
- Ernst Heinecke
- Jill and Bob Kurtz
- Eva Jack

(continued on page 10)

Update Your Contact Info... For Your Dog's Sake

By Bob Kurtz, Microchipping Coordinator

In 2008, GRREAT was able to successfully identify at least five lost dogs by their microchip. This is a great success, and shows that the microchipping effort that GRREAT began in 2004 is really paying off. As of the end of 2008, more than 1000 GRREAT dogs have been microchipped.

So, how does the microchip identification process work? Your lost dog will often end 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. Even a neighbor without a scanner can call AVID using the microchip number printed on the blue AVID collar tag.

AVID finds the registration information for that chip number in their database, which provides them with your dog's name and ID number, as well as GRREAT's 24-hour telephone hotline. The finder calls the GRREAT hotline and leaves a message, which activates our phone volunteer's pager. GRREAT contacts AVID to get your dog's name and ID number, then checks our own database to identify you. GRREAT then contacts you and arranges for you to pick up the dog. If you can't be reached, a GRREAT volunteer will pick up your dog and care for him/her until we can get the dog back home to you.

The whole process can take less than 15 minutes. But there's a catch – GRREAT can only contact you if we have current telephone, email, and address information. I can't emphasize enough how important it is to notify GRREAT's membership coordinator at mail-admin@grreat.org with any changes of address, telephone number, or email address. Even if you move out of the mid-Atlantic area, the GRREAT microchip will still work, and we can still help to recover your dog.

While the microchip is a wonderful and proven 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 – a GRREAT volunteer will pick up your dog and keep it safe until you're available. If you need a new GRREAT tag for any reason, simply contact me at microchips@grreat.org, and I will be happy to send a new one out to you at no charge.



Dear Janet,

What are some easy, fun tricks that I can teach my dog? A.B.

Dear A.B.,

Tricks are a great way to have fun with your dog and to give her a workout at the same time. Depending on dog's athleticism, flexibility and balance, certain tricks will be easier for her than others so please keep your dog in mind when considering my suggestions.

- *Jump through a hula hoop.* Hold the hula hoop upright with the bottom rim touching the ground in a doorway or other narrow space so that your dog can't go around it. Show your dog a treat and throw the treat through the hoop while saying the command that you want him to learn. Encourage him to walk through the hoop and pick the treat up off the floor on the other side. Repeat until he will run through the hoop with confidence. Then hold the hoop one inch off the ground and repeat as above until he is happily running through. Gradually raise the hoop making sure to keep the height safe for your dog. Then fade the treats until he will jump through the hoop on a voice command.

- *Weave through your legs while walking.* Have a number of treats in each hand. Stand with your dog next to you in heel position. Take one step forward with your right leg, leaving your left leg in place. Bend at the waist and put your right arm behind your right knee with your right hand in front of your dog's nose. Use the treats in your right hand to get her attention and say your command. Pull your right arm back through your leg so that your dog follows and ends up on your right side. Give her one treat and step forward with your left leg. Say your command and use the treats in your left hand as above to get her to come back through your legs to your right side and repeat until you run out of treats or space. Once she understands what you want, fade the treats and begin walking faster.

- *Spin in a circle.* Stand with your dog in front of you and a number of treats in your hand. Hold the treats right in front of your dog's nose, say "spin," and while leaving your feet in place, extend your arm away from you in a slow horizontal circle. Your dog should follow the treats and once he's completed a circle, praise him and give him a treat. Repeat a few times. Make sure that you always have your dog do "spin" in the same direction (clockwise or counterclockwise) because once he's mastered "spin" you can teach him "twist" to circle in the opposite direction. If your dog tries to sit down while you're teaching him to spin, make sure that you're holding the treats in line with his spine, not over his head. If you are holding the treats so that your dog needs to look up in order to see them, he will be inclined to sit, especially if you've already taught him that the way to ask for a treat politely is to sit.

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

Dog Walk Donations

- Robert and Faith Moore - Walking in honor of Brandon and Lauren Robinson's golden, Maggie
- Jane and Robert Geibel
- David and Gail Robinson
- Kim and Don Dawson
- William and Annette Huber
- William and Marjorie Davidson
- P. Austin
- Charles and Susan Sanitra
- Harry Seamen and Joanne Bragdon-Handfield
- Edward and Kathleen Davidson
- Maralyn Mehlberg
- Scotta Barsella
- Judi and David Medwedeff
- Sharon Falkenrath
- Amy Goldberg
- Betty and George Wofford
- Barbara O'Brien
- Neal and Judy McKinley
- John Wanweeren

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 Retrievers. 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)

- Pamela O'Connell
- Judy Jackson
- In honor of Bear – a GRREAT dog!
- Melissa Neal

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

• This donation is to thank GRREAT for the money spent on Jackson (08-148) my last foster dog. Once he was healthy again his personality flourished! - Lynne Glennon

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

• In memory of Julian Hoffar, Esq., a wonderful, joyful person and a Golden lover. - Jeannie Blood

• Karen Wahler

• In memory of Molly, Chelsea, Annie. To honor Hannah, Clark. - Tom Ludwig

• In memory of Casey Girl, Squirt and Lola. - Jeanne O'Donoghue

• Susan Benjamin

Simile-Finale Fund

• In memory of Julian Hoffar, Esq., a wonderful, joyful person and a Golden lover. - Jeannie Blood

• Pamela O'Connell

• Judy Jackson

• In honor of Bear – a GRREAT dog!
- Melissa Neal

Leo's Heroes (\$500 and over)

Enclosed please find a donation in memory of my Golden Retriever, Amber, and in recognition of these wonderful animal care professionals that helped me keep her happy and healthy for 13.8 years. Thank you -Dr. Stuart Morse, Dr. Ann Iseler and staff of Occoquan Animal Hospital who cared for her since the day I brought her home as a 6.5 week old puppy. -Dr. Deena Tiches and staff of Bush Veterinary Neurology Services who did the MRI's and sonograms that uncovered her many issues. -Dr. Nancy Gustafson and staff of The Regional Veterinary Referral Center who did her radiation treatments and kept her going. -Dr. Preston Stubbs, my brother, who talked to the professionals, then brought the family touch needed to make sound decisions. Please apply this donation to the LEO FUND that provides surgical care for special needs dogs. My Amber was lucky enough to have a great pet mom that did everything that my time and money could do to make her more comfortable. To those that say money can't buy happiness, I would say that these animal care professionals helped me buy my Amber another 10 months of quality life and I hope that a Golden that doesn't have a pet mom able to pay for expensive surgery, benefits from this second chance.

- Kimberly Stubbs Rogers



GRREAT Receives Limited Edition, Signed #1 Best-Selling Books From Author Dean Koontz

By Jennifer Strohm, GRREAT Fundraising Coordinator



When longtime GRREAT volunteer, Trish Collier, was gift wrapping books as part of GRREAT's first Gift Wrapping Brigade, she noticed a book on the shelf that had a silhouette of a Golden Retriever. Trish had been caring for and re-homing GRREAT's beloved Golden Retrievers for more than a decade. She purchased the book called The Darkest Evening of the Year and liked it so much, she picked up a pen and wrote a review

of the book for the GRREAT News. She also, for the first time, wrote to a nationally renowned author.

"I was so overwhelmed about how Dean Koontz weaved the evils of puppy mills into the plot and gave credit to rescue groups and shelters, I wrote to him to tell him how great it was he was giving publicity to these issues," said Trish. "I never expected I would get a letter back."

Trish has been actively involved in GRREAT since she received her first notice about GRREAT's need for foster homes. She lives in Annapolis with her GRREAT dog, Jenny, and newly adopted Penny, both who turned 13 on January 1.

"Being a foster home is a wonderful, rewarding experience," she says. "People ask 'How can you let the dogs go?' When you pass them on to the right family, it is such a joy to know that the dog is going to be so happy. Then you can take in another dog and help in the chain of things. I often keep in touch with the families and have received Christmas cards with photos and updates. It is such a rewarding experience."

Koontz, who has had 11 best-selling hardcover books and sold millions of books around the world, not only wrote Trish a personal letter about how he was inspired to write the book because of his Golden, Trixie, he also included five limited edition, personally signed copies of the #1 New York Times Best-selling book to help raise funds for GRREAT. Two of the books, which have an estimated value of more than \$1,000 each, are currently available on eBay.

Ever since the personal interaction, Trish has followed the author's passion for rescue work.

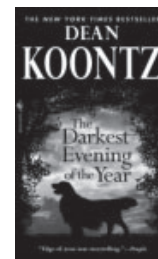
"I admire him so," she said. "He and his wife, Gerda, are major supporters of an organization called Canine Companions for Independence. It is obvious that they are true and

deep dog lovers."

Koontz adopted his beloved dog, Trixie, from the nonprofit organization, which trains dogs to help people with disabilities. Trixie has her own Web site and line of books as well. In September, ten months after Trixie's passing, the Koontz's adopted their new dog, Anna, who they later found out was surprisingly from the same line as Trixie.

For more information about Dean Koontz, please visit www.deankoontz.com.

GRREAT is looking for information regarding celebrities with Golden Retrievers to invite to become more involved in our rescue efforts and events. If you know of a notable person in our area with a Golden, please e-mail the person's name and any other information to Julie Palais at palais-stevens@comcast.net.



Santa Paws

By Emily Bell

A holiday favorite of our goldens!

- 2 ¼ cups whole wheat or white flour
- 1/3 cups pecans
- 1 cup oatmeal
- ½ cup dried fruit*
- ¾ cup milk
- 4 tablespoons margarine
- 1 egg
- *your choice: apricots, bananas, apples, pears

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine dry ingredients and gradually add milk, margarine and egg. Knead until dough formed. Roll dough to 1/4 " thickness. Cut with cookie cutter and place on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 35 minutes at 350 degrees.

You can find this and other recipes for homemade treats in "The Doggy Bone Cookbook". The book comes with a dog bone cookie cutter, but you can use any type of cookie cutter to fit the season. I like to make candy cane and sleigh shaped bones for the winter holidays. They also make great gifts for you fellow dog lovers.

2008 GRREAT Howliday Party

This year's Howliday Party was held on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at the Frederick Fairground. Party goers enjoyed a Silent Auction, Golden Voting, a Doggie Gift Exchange, pot luck dinner and Pictures with Santa. A GRREAT time was had by all!



Picture It!

By Janet Hauck

On a dewy spring morning, as we walked our Golden down a local country road, a small truck moving toward us, slowed and stopped. A petite, middle aged woman in jeans and flannel got out and stood facing us. As we neared, she held up her hand, holding a camera and said, "Oh, may I take your picture for my grandchildren? I've just finished getting some great shots of the horses in pastures but I know they will really love seeing all those precious pups on their walk!"

Just picture it! I had met a kindred spirit who delights in sharing and communicating through photographs.

Have you attended an Adoption Day and noticed the large poster in the PETCO window that greets everyone and announces the presence of GRREAT? That picture is of a rescued, adopted golden,



George, one of our fosters and his new pal Humphrey. It seems to depict the spirit of "pulling together" that we need in rescue. It was taken by George's adopter and given to me to have made into the poster for GRREAT. I have witnessed the reactions to it and know its mission is fulfilled.



For Home Visits, I find the use of thumbnails of many, many GRREAT goldens, evokes a delicious anticipation in applicants. So many varied yet similar sweet faces speak to their hopes and hearts.

In those applicant homes that have lost their dog to age or illness, their sharing of a picture history of their pet, vividly supports their credentials as a potential adopter.

As part of the GRREAT community, capturing your dog and others with happy families and volunteers, will provide a reminder of the blessings of rescue and motivation to continue the effort.

Our traditional holiday picture card, where we pose with our 5 pack, brings "peals of laughter" we are told by friends and family. Even imagining



what actually took place to complete this production, is not for the faint of heart! For the final, barely acceptable photo, there are 50 or so rejected out takes and two pounding headaches that remain hidden from view. It is worth it to share our pack, along with fervent good wishes that we may survive to do it another year.

So often details of dogs' personalities, issues and behaviors are unearthed as the camera does its secret work in the spontaneous, unheralded shots. Shana, in the GRREAT Calendar as Ms. November 2008, was that type. Jake looking for a new occupation in the electrician's truck in 2005 was another. Our Brandy, jumping like an Olympian to try to catch a china cat decorating a tree in Pennsylvania campgrounds, 20 years ago, comes to life in a poster I made for motivational purposes; "GO FOR IT"!



Creative activity resulting in visual representation is one definition of art. Treevor with his head on a thick book as if resting from his reading, is made into a set of poignant cards

with the notation, "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend". Treevor left us far too soon at barely 8 years but his beautiful face lives on in this memento.

Perhaps I obsess, and yes, one can ask, "Who has the time for all of this?" The reward comes when memories fade and are reincarnated in a photo, album or slideshow.

"Pictures speak a thousand words". Just listen.....and look...



Shop Online to Help GRREAT!

If you love to shop, or even if you don't love it so much, and like so many people you're doing a lot of your shopping online, you can easily help GRREAT obtain more funding. Did you know that purchases made at nearly 750 stores, many of which are very well-known, can result in donations automatically being made to GRREAT? All you have to do is register at iGive.com, shop at the participating stores, and a percentage of the purchase price is automatically donated directly to GRREAT, at no extra cost to you!

To register, you'll need to access iGive.com through the GRREAT Shopping Mall on the GRREAT web site. Just click on the iGive.com icon and GRREAT will automatically be designated as the recipient of a portion of your shopping purchases.

After you've registered, you can bookmark the list of iGive.com stores and then you can go directly to the store listing whenever you want to do your online shopping.

Among the more than 700 stores available through iGive.com are: 1-800-Flowers, Amazon, Avon, BestBuy, Brookstone, Chico's, Cooking.com, Drs. Foster & Smith, eBay, Gap, Godiva Chocolatier, Harry & David, Home Depot, Hickory Farms, JC Penney, Macy's, Maidenform, Nordstrom, OfficeMax, Omaha Steaks, Orvis, Patagonia, PC Connection, Perfumania, PetsMart, REI, Spiegel, Sports Authority, Toys R Us, and many, many more.

If we all do our online shopping through iGive, a significant source of funds can be generated for our Golden Retrievers without anyone having to dip into their own personal funds! Now that's getting something for nothing!

Remembering Dillon

Thank you so much for your beautiful notecard and words of sympathy about Dillon. Needless to say, we shall always be so grateful to GRREAT for rescuing him (and to his foster mom, Barbara Boyd, who entrusted him to our care).

Dillon became the center of our lives in no time; we adored him and never stopped thanking our lucky stars that he had come into our lives. It was, it seems, a match made in heaven. We miss him terribly and wish he could have lived a few more years; but he was strong and happy 'til the end, and died at home on his bed, with us by his side, so....

Thank you again for writing. Yes, he will always be with us.

- Amy Donovan and Tom O'Toole



MAIL BOX



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 Golden Retrievers 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 lwstack@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.

The Naked Lady

By Skip Nizer

I opened the front door, walked into the foyer and looked up. There greeting me was a naked lady shaking her behind and making silly noises. I didn't know what to do. In front of me was a dog without hair or at least most of it missing. That was the first time that I saw her and she was greeting me as if she belonged there and was waiting for my return.

As I walked up the steps she started to shake even more and her sounds grew louder. I knew that she wanted me to pet her. I touched her head where there was hair and she shook even more. Then I touched her back. It was hairless and sticky and I cringed when I did it. That's a very strange sensation because dogs are supposed to be hairy and not sticky.

Debbie told me that she had picked her up a short time ago. The dog had been found wondering on the Eastern Shore. Lack of food had taken a toll on her. She had a severe case of mange and her teeth were worn down to the nerves from chewing on rocks trying to get the minerals she needed. The vet estimated that she was 18 months of age and said that she had a bad hip. She was in a sad state of affairs. We just looked at her and said that she was a sad Sadie. And Sad Sadie became her name. But inside she wasn't sad. Every time we called her name, petted her, fed her or just looked at her she wiggled and sort of smiled. Every day I came home she was at the top of the foyer greeting me and wiggling.

The first thing that we had to do was get her over the mange, once that was done she made the trip to Leesburg for hip surgery. Even confined in the crate during her healing time she still managed to wiggle that tail when I came home and went to take her out of the crate.

Several weeks passed. Now she could run, it was a little sideways but she seemed happy. Her coat was flowing, her weight was good and her personality was happy. Sad Sadie had graduated and now was Sadie. Sadie, with all her problems, the amount of time we had her, had wiggled a place in our hearts and home. Knowing the way Deb felt about her and that Mother's Day was coming soon I did the paper work and wrote the check. The naked lady that became Sad Sadie who became Sadie was now Sadie Nizer, sister to Cubby and Shiloh.

She loved tennis balls, she loved to retrieve them but she didn't give them up. I tried food, I tried ignoring her, I tried prying, I tried it all. Once it was in her mouth it wasn't going any place else. After several minutes of pushing her nose at my hand she would place the ball on the ground and keep her nose about two inches over it. I then had to quickly move my foot over the ball and pin it to the ground. Then I could pick it up and throw it. A couple of years passed and I found my daughter's basketball. Sadie also found it. She would put her nose to it and push it and then go into a run. Once the ball got ahead of her she would try to heard it. If it got stuck in a corner she'd stand there and bark at it until we moved it. We had to replace the ball a few times.



Sadie stood by us when we lost Cubby and then Shiloh and helped us welcome my daughter's dog, Toby. She mothered my puppy, Scout. Even when he grew taller and heavier she could sit him down in a second.

A couple of weeks ago on Saturday night I was bring them in for the night. Toby and Scout ran in but Sadie walked inside. She took five steps and then lay on the floor. I offered them their nightly treats. Toby ran for his, Scout just walked slowly past Sadie, looked back at her and quietly took his treat. Sadie just lay there. I looked at her and noticed that her stomach looked bloated. It felt very firm and her gums were very pale. Minutes later we were at the emergency vet. They rushed into the ER to examine her.

What was just minutes seemed like an hour until the doctor came out. Sadie had a cancer and it had eaten through blood vessels and her stomach was full of blood. We could let them operate and this would give us maybe two months or so with her and then it would happen again. There was no cure, only the buying of time.

More time would be good for us but Sadie would have to undergo the surgery, healing, restrictions, discomfort, delaying treatments, etc. When it would happen for the final time we may or may not be there for her. The buying of time would be for us not her.

They brought her into the exam room and left us. The tip of her tail was moving as she looked up at Debbie. We talked to her and petted her. I called for the doctor back inside. I held her head in my hands as the vet placed the needle in her leg. Slowly her head got heavier and then it was over. I gently placed her head on the table. One of the techs handed me a pair of scissors and I cut a lock of hair from the formerly naked lady.

-- Skip

P.S. Thank you for letting me share Debbie's and my time with Sadie. Sadie was a GRREAT dog and a great dog. If GRREAT had not been there, a dog with a lot of love to give and share might have become just a pile of dust on the ground. Instead, a living creature was able to become part of a family, part of each member of that family and is now a cherished memory. Thank you, GRREAT.

Our Hannah

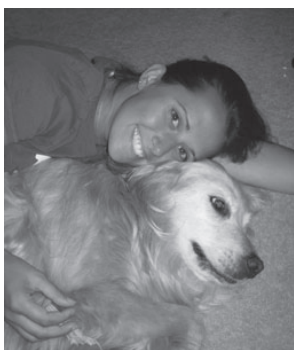
A golden with an unknown purpose, a couple with an unknown need

By Amy and Greg Skinner

It was an uncharacteristically slow weekend. That is how we happened to be at McLean Park, despite being MD residents. Little did we know that upon talking with GRREAT volunteers about our love of dogs and our desire to own one, things would change. We had been waiting to get a house before getting a dog. The volunteer looked at us and said, “Well you know you could foster.” My fiancée looked at me and grinned with boyish excitement. “Well, what do you think?”

It was 6 pm on July 7th when we got the phone call that would change the course of our 2008 summer. I digress and should note that my fiancée is a dog nut, an animal lover, a champion of all things that walk on four legs. In his eyes the bigger, and hairier, the better. I however am petite, a sort of dachshund only kind of gal thanks to being mullered at age 6 by a Saint Bernard. But as I stood there and looked at the man I love, who I’ve known half my life, I thought to myself “OK, let’s do this.” And to think at the time I thought I knew what I was doing and what we were in for...

And then we had Hannah. We rescued her in the night from the shelter, hours before her time was up. She entered our lives dirty, withdrawn, and quite ill, but as the most beautiful and sweet golden I’d ever seen. We had high hopes for her to be adopted as a senior lady. She had the sweetest disposition, only wanting to be near us and petted. She’d be perfect for so many families. I was trying to not fall in love with her myself.



A week later during her follow up visit our vet Dr. Z looked at us with all the compassion in the world and my heart sank. “The worse things happen to the best owners and the sweetest dogs.” With mammary gland cancer and internal cancer, he gave her four to six months.

After her diagnosis Hannah’s care and future was never a concern. We knew instantly we’d keep her, take her into our hearts and do all we could for her. Despite a hectic summer, despite full weekends and nights of wedding planning, once Hannah had come into our lives, our hearts, our home, we knew it was our calling to do right by her when mankind had been so cruel. As we slowly nursed Hannah back to what would be her prime health we learned about her, about dogs, but also



about each other. I’m not sure that even without the fatal diagnosis we would have been able to part with her. She was one of those special dogs that come once in a lifetime. She chose us to be her parents as much as we chose to love her with all we had.

I was the perpetual neat freak, always keeping the house picked up and clean. I did not like dog slobber or dog hair. And magically I came to love Hannah’s smell, I wiped “eye boogies” from her eyes and brushed her daily for hours inside on the carpet. Hair was everywhere and that didn’t matter because Hannah loved nothing more than to sit near you as you brushed or petted her. As for Greg, I saw a loving side of him I’d never seen before. He was no longer the work-a-holic home at 6 and right to work more on the computer. Instead we had walks, dog park dates, doggie dining out and hours of hugs and petting time. We shifted our universe for Hannah and fit her in to all previous vacations and plans. Hannah saw the beach in Delaware and met her “sister dachshunds” as well as Grandma in PA. We began to live just to see her wag her tail and couldn’t wait to get home from work just to see where she’d be in the apartment: in the closet sound a sleep, at the foot of our bed wishing we were petting her to sleep, in her dog bed, or smack up against the door making it impossible to enter.

Having Hannah had us stopping to take some time in our very busy lives to just be. Be with each other as a couple, as a family. Be there to help someone other than ourselves. Hannah had us being more selfless, looking after her and each other. We were learning new things about each other. Greg was seeing a new side of my compassion, I was seeing a new side of my feelings for animals. I was seeing a new side of Greg with dogs that are less athletic and he was seeing a new side of caring for a more high maintenance



girl. Having Hannah became an never ending education full of ups and downs, and worries, and a very rewarding companionship and love.

After having her for a month and a half we all had an established routine. Wake up take her out for a quick 20 minute walk, let her sleep all day, come home take her out for another walk and dog park fun, then a potty break for bed time. We changed schedules to be home for her

and took turns being out of the house. Despite all of these changes and flexibility, our hardest weekend was leaving her to go to Sarasota Florida.

We were like worried parents of a newborn going back out on their first date after a birth. We thought of her often and finally after two days had to call to check in. She was fine of course but we couldn't wait to get back to our girl. We picked her up from her doggie vacation fosters as soon as possible. After her little vacation in Virginia we discovered an appropriate term to describe her constant need for love and attention. Hannah was a love sponge...

We had a wonderful summer but after peaking in August, Hannah's health started to decline on Labor Day. Her spirit was strong but her body was starting to fail her. It was harder to get up each day, stairs were officially out, and food didn't taste as good. But our girl's heart and spirit soared. She smiled when we walked in the door, sat right at our feet for constant attention and always, always wagged her tail. We watched her like a hawk doing all we could to make her comfortable.

The following weekend she joined in my bachelorette fun, beads and all. Later that month, she thoroughly enjoyed a long evening outside full of petting and brushing as we finalized our long awaited wedding plans. Then a week before the big day, as we packed, she knew something major was happening, changing. Little did Greg and I know her plans were changing too. We think she knew all along her purpose was not for us to help her – no, her purpose was to bring us closer and help us understand the true meaning of family and the giving of love.

Upon arrival in PA Hannah never left my side. She followed me out the door pushing through the screen walking back and forth on the side walk as I unpacked all of our wedding supplies. Throughout the week she was in the thick of the celebrations and we made sure to keep her happy and comfortable. She got constant attention from a fiancée, two sisters, six bridesmaids, and a mom. On the big day, while I was putting on my wedding dress she was in the middle of

the room and wouldn't budge. I gave her a huge and kiss good bye and bounded off for the ceremony.

On September 27th I married my sweet heart, my best friend and soul mate. It was the most perfect day in the whole world and it was an experience to last a life time. However, when we arrived home on September 28th looking for our girl, ready to officially be a family, ready to walk together into our future, Hannah wasn't being Hannah.

Hannah knew it was her time. She had held on to give us one amazing wedding day, to thank us for giving her one last amazing summer. She had fulfilled her mission and changed our lives forever. That is how it came to be that after a job well done, a purpose fulfilled, a love taken and given, that our dear Hannah allowed herself to succumb to the failing of her worldly body.

A golden with an unknown purpose, a couple with an unknown need.

PVGRC Activities in 2009

By Bob Kurtz, PVGRC Vice President

As a GRREAT member, you already know about the fun, friendly temperament of our beloved Golden Retrievers. The Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club, GRREAT's sister organization, is focused on Golden Retriever sporting activities. PVGRC can show you new ways to have fun with the breed!

Are you interested in seeing some of the best of the breed in competition? PVGRC's Specialty Show will be on Saturday, April 11 at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, MD.

Have you been training in obedience with your Golden? Do you feel ready to show off your achievements? The Specialty on April 11 also offers a Golden-only obedience competition, including obedience rally.

Other events this spring include PVGRC's all-breed agility competition on April 18 and 19. Agility is a fast-paced obstacle course for dog and handler, where accuracy and speed combine to make a winning team. For the hunting sportsperson, the club will hold a Working Certificate field test on Sunday, April 12.

These are the highlights for this coming spring, but that's not all that PVGRC has to offer! Later in the year will be two more agility trials, two more field events, and a tracking test. In addition, the club runs training events throughout the year – recent training opportunities include an introduction to tracking, a series of classes in show handling, and field training days.

Check out the PVGRC website at <http://www.pvgrc.org> and see what we're all about. You can also send me an e-mail at vice-president@pvgrc.org. I'd love to hear from you.

Howlelujah!

By Liz Hauck

Unlike us noisy primates, dogs use body language to communicate, much more than sound, but they do have many types of vocalization.

There's just plain barking that can indicate everything from 'I'm happy to see you!' to 'I'm lonely!' Hound dog types seem to enjoy recreational barking. Baying comes naturally to dogs like the beagles who vocalize when they are highly excited. Whining indicates a frustrated individual trying to get something to happen. Some dogs, like the northern breeds, make a wooing sound, almost conversationally. Sharp, short barks tend to indicate alarm, an effort to alert the others in the group that something is amiss and possibly scary.

So what does it mean when your dog makes that noise? And should you do anything about it?

"Depends on the dog!" says Laura Totis. Trainer, teacher, search and rescue expert, and owner of LJT Training in Hampstead, Totis has forgotten more about dogs than I'll ever know. We chatted about noisy dogs by phone during her long drive back from NY, where she'd donned another professional hat: applying her search expertise and specially trained animals to help owners track down lost pets.

"The key is learning to understand the whole dog package. We think dogs who are barking are stressed, but sometimes a dog barks because he likes to hear himself bark." A self-reinforcing behavior, just plain fun, like singing fake opera in my car, I suggest. "Well, maybe for you. If I sang anything where my dogs could hear me," says Totis, "they would definitely howl. In pain."

Puppies, she says, have a little distress cry they make when they're lost. "There's a fine line, where they're not so loud they're inviting predators to come and eat them, but loud enough for Mom to hear and come find them." (A great trick I learned from another trainer, to counteract nipping in very young puppies, is to vocalize quietly: "Ow, ow, ow," in a slightly loud whisper, will probably turn the bite into a lick.)

"And then," Totis says ruefully, "there are the horrific sounds dogs make when they're hurt, like when I shut my dog's tail in the door by accident."

Growling confuses many owners. It isn't always a warning that the dog doesn't like something. Learn to understand when a growl is part of play. "It's something my Rottweilers used to get in trouble with as therapy dogs, when they were just being growly talky dogs. The growling dog who's also play bowing and 'smiling' is probably asking you to play, and being all pleased with himself, rather than warning you to go away. "Bear in mind that if your dog is warning with a growl, you need to respect that. Don't try to correct it. Don't take away his growl - it's all he's got except a bite. Back off and get help: a vet check and then, if needed, a session with a trainer to identify and modify the underlying behavior.



And then there's howling. Sometimes when I leave my house, three dogs totaling less than 100 lbs. manage to sound like an entire herd of animals being messily slaughtered. It lasts for precisely two minutes, and then it stops dead. "Howling facilitates social bonds," says Totis. "Maybe a pack member is 'lost' - usually somebody leaving for work in the morning. You really see this in a multi-dog household, when the whole pack howls for several minutes and then shuts up and goes to sleep." Sometimes, she says, howling is a call to the missing group member; and sometimes it's just an enjoyable activity being shared by all.

And sometimes it's both. Totis told me of a lost little dog whose family found themselves gathered around an empty humane trap in a parking lot, placed there based on reported sightings. Totis has seen dogs come nearer when they heard pack-mates vocalizing, so she suggested the family try to get the other four little dogs to make some noise. The family did better than that: the humans broke into a loud rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus, and the four little dogs chimed in, howling with all their might. It was something they often did all together, canines and humans, back home.

We'll look at problem barking specifically next time. Meanwhile, two good resources to learn more about living, training, and listening to your pup are *How to Speak Dog* by Stanley Coren, and *The Other End of the Leash* by Patricia McConnell. Find both at www.dogwise.com, always an engrossing visit.

Laura Totis has worked with dogs and people for almost 30 years and can be reached at (410) 236-2788 or www.ljttraining.com.

Liz Hauck loves to learn with dogs and their people. Visit her web site at www.droptheleash.net.

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

GRREAT Calendar of Events

January

10 GRREAT Annual Business Meeting and Elections, 12 - 1:45 pm, Large Meeting room, Davis Community Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd, Bethesda, MD

23 GRREAT Education Table at World Pet Expo, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD, Friday, January 23, 2009 - 2pm until 8pm, Saturday January 24, 2009 - 10am-7pm, Sunday January 25, 2009 - 10am-5pm

February

7 GRREAT Adoption Day, 12 - 2pm, Petco, 10800 Promenade Lane, Manassas, VA 20109

March

7 GRREAT Adoption Day, 12 -2pm, Petco, 615 Belair Road, Suite P, Bel Air, Maryland 21014

14 Dogwash and Microchipping Clinic, 11am until 3pm, 4 Paws Spa and Training Center, 121A Industry Ln, Forest Hills, MD

May

16 Education Table at McLean Day Festival, 11am until 5pm, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd, McLean VA <http://www.mcleancenter.org/special-events/mcleanday.asp>

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

Don't Let This Issue Be Your Last!

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

Membership dues are \$30 per calendar year. You can renew your membership on line at the GRREAT Member Center, http://www.grreat.org/online/mbr_center.htm or by using the form on page 19. Please be sure to include your current mailing and e-mail addresses.

While you are renewing, please considering making a donation to support our efforts in 2009.

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

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

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