



GRREAT NEWS

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Letter from the President Thank You!	3
One Just Isn't Enough Dear Janet	4
Celebrating Grady	5
In Memory of Winston PetsMart Grant	6
A Tribute to Jake Now That's Service	7
Renew GRREAT News	8
The Short Strange Story of Buster	9
Wrapping Brigade	10
Microchipping at Work A Golden Wanna-Be	11
Meet Rad Welactin GRREAT Pride	12
How Lucky Can You Get Silent Auction Coordinator	13
Have Fun with Your Golden Adoption Report	14
Donations	15-22
Donation, Renewal, and Volunteer Forms	23
GRREAT Calendar	24



How Lucky Can You Get?

By Janet Hauck

The new little consignment shop at the top of the hill that opened in January of 2007 intrigued me, but not enough for me to stop on the way in or out of the valley. The owner, Joe, was like an elementary school teacher, constantly changing window dressing and putting cleverly arranged specialty bargains out as bait. The day I finally pulled into the tiny parking spot was the beginning of a wonderful, mutually rewarding relationship. This period of my life included a relentless paring down of items accumulated in twenty years, now renamed "clutter". Much like the rescue, *Uncle Joe's* would provide a foster home for many of those previous treasures and hopefully, send them on to their forever homes.

I knew he had done some dog sitting for friends and that he often helped senior citizens with errands and chores that had become too difficult. His sense of humor was just my style and he was more than just passingly friendly to my dogs when we loaded or

unloaded items from the car.

Our dearly beloved dog/house sitter of two years had been called away by the winds of life to a nursing position and marriage in Colorado. So, when Joe kindly brought me one of my checks from the sale of my clutter and knocked on the door, the proverbial "light bulb" shone brightly over my head! I would ask him to wade into the foyer and see what he did with five Golden Retrievers in a state of glee, vying for who would get his priceless attention.

Well, boy-howdy, Uncle Joe passed with flying colors. He managed to stay vertical, calmly and quietly provided soft pets to all and with only two hands! Such a burst of hope rose in my heart! Could this be the new caretaker of our furkids? Could we be that lucky? Of course I broached the subject and fumbled for words to express the beginnings of a plan. That was two years ago and what a journey it has been!

(continued on page 13)

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

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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:

I've always thought that I was pretty dog savvy. My parents had a dog before I was born, there were always dogs growing up, my husband and I got a dog the day we came back from our honeymoon. Let's face it, I'm a dog person. What I've learned since joining GRREAT, however, is you can have dogs, love them with all your heart, but still have a LOT to learn.

I've read books that tell you what you should do for your dogs, we've taken our guys to the vet for well dog check-ups when they were scheduled, we've played with our dogs and loved them . . . but still, a LOT to learn. We fed our first dog Purina and upgraded to Iams and Eukanuba, as we got smarter we settled on Innova and Evo, and the boys are thriving! GRREAT has taught me to read the ingredients on the dog food bag (the GRREAT webpage provides a guide to grading dog food), to research what is healthy to feed our dogs — we've come a long way! Since adopting "growling" Gris, I've learned that allowing him to think, to have a purpose, improves his behavior. Grissom participates in agility, and others in the class have never understood why we call him "growling" Gris. When he is in the class, or practicing at home, his focus and obedience come into play and his behavior is wonderful.

There are so many things to learn about dogs and for me, Golden Retrievers. They are a wonderful breed of dogs, they need attention, they need exercise, they are happiest when you give them a job or a focus, they need obedience, or otherwise you will be trained by them. And mostly... they need their people and a chance to share their love.

The most important lesson I've learned while being a part of GRREAT is you don't have to buy a puppy to have the perfect dog. So many people say, "When you adopt, you are adopting someone else's problem." That may be



Robin's Rescue, Chas

true, but when you adopt and work with your dog and let him know that he is loved and cared for, when you earn his trust, my experience is you also have the beginning of a wonderful dog who will love you back.

The rescue has so many sources of information about our rescue and about Golden Retrievers. Our webpage is there to keep folks up-to-date on the dogs, and what's going on in the rescue; the newsletter adds to the stream of information, as does our new Facebook page (there's a link on the GRREAT web page). I've attended events that afford me the opportunity to meet our members and I've also learned so very much talking to them.

We are hoping to make more education opportunities available to the GRREAT community soon. If you'd like to help with this endeavor, please let me know.

Continue to share your knowledge of Golden Retrievers, and our rescue, whenever you can. And thanks for being a part of GRREAT.

—Robin Heinecke, GRREAT President

Thank You!

The Board Members of GRREAT would like to say thank you in a big way to Jill Kurtz for all of the valuable time and help she has provided GRREAT. Jill has been our Membership Coordinator from 2001 until turning the task over just recently, as well as serving on the Board from 2001 until 2004. Her commitment to the dogs is incredible and we hope that Jill will continue to have time to help the Golden Retrievers in need that come into our rescue.

We would also like to thank Bob Kurtz for creating a database of our entire membership, knowing the enor-

mous amount of time and effort that went into that and the combination of time put in by Bob and Jill updating and maintaining all of that information. Bob continues as our Microchip Coordinator—and we look forward to seeing both Bob and Jill at future events.

The Board is also immensely grateful to Jen Strohm, whose ideas and enthusiasm provided so much to our fundraising efforts and the organization. Jen's knowledge has given us a solid foundation for future fundraising ideas. We miss Jen's willingness to pitch in to help us accomplish any task at hand and hope that as time allows, she will continue to provide us with new and refreshing fundraising ideas.

One Just Isn't Enough

By Felicia Barlow

Reading about the heartache and loss many have recently had from losing their beloved Golden Retrievers inspired me to write my own piece, as I have become that person who just has to have another...and another...and another.



A year and a half ago, I adopted my “big boned bad girl”, Duchess, from GRREAT. She is my fourth Golden.

My first boy, Willie, opened my heart to all the wonderful reasons we love these special dogs. I, too, was devastated when he passed over at the age of twelve. My heart was literally left with a big hole to fill. And only a Golden could do the job.

Within months my dearest friend, who happens to rescue dogs in Florida, helped lead Winston my way. Winnie showed me that an “unadoptable” dog is perhaps the greatest teacher of all. He had bad hip replacements and I was told needed special attention. The only special attention he required was aid with steps. Otherwise, Winnie showed me what it is to live life to the fullest. He also guided me to seeing that adopting older dogs truly is a gift—for both dog and human. I only had Winston for a few years, but what joyful years they were! He was a prince.

Then came Buddy. The polar opposite of Winston. He came to me from a woman who needed to give him up. I later found out why! He was the worst dog I'd ever owned—stubborn, got into everything, chewed things up, wouldn't listen, snarled (ugly face as I call it)—you name the bad habit, Buddy had it! Thankfully, I got a temporary 12-14 hour/day job and had to leave Buddy with my mother. He was awful for her too...until training classes and fulltime love. What an unbelievable shift! He is now “the good one” and, as you may have guessed, found his forever home with my mother. What I learned from Buddy is pets REALLY do choose their owners.

That left me with a lonely space to fill, and along came Duchess. Doing a bit of volunteer work for GRREAT, I was asked to become a foster home with the opportunity to adopt a dog if there was a fit. I feared I'd lose my heart, only to be broken when adopters arrived. But I took a leap of faith. Naturally, I fell in love with my first girl and she is my forever dog now. Yet Duchess has shown me that fear and risk are all what makes life wonderful. She has found a great buddy in Buddy...and I have found it great working with GRREAT.

Dear Janet,

I know that brushing my Golden's teeth is an important part of keeping her healthy, but she won't let me. What can I do to get her used to having her teeth brushed? C.D.

Dear C.D.,

With a little time, patience and effort on your part, you can help your dog to become comfortable with you brushing her teeth. Your first goal is to get her used to having you touch her lips, teeth and gums. When you are petting her, occasionally run your hand lightly over her lips. If she doesn't try to move her head away, praise her and go back to petting her elsewhere. If she moves her head away, say a gentle “ab-ab” and stop petting her for a few minutes, then try again. When your dog is used to you touching her lips lightly, progress to touching more firmly. Then start lifting her lips very briefly. Once again, praise her for staying still and tell her “ab-ab” for moving. Next, lift her lip and quickly touch a tooth, praising for staying still or saying “ab-ab” for moving. Gradually work up to running your finger from tooth to tooth. With all of the above, it is very important that you do not progress to the next step until your dog is fully comfortable with the current step. Your objective is to have the situation to change so gradually that she does not realize what's happening. When your dog will calmly let you run your finger over an entire quadrant, you are ready to move on.

The next step is to get your dog used to having the toothbrush touch her. Buy a pet toothbrush that fits over your finger like a thimble. At a time when your dog is calm and happy, show her the toothbrush and let her sniff it or lick it. Nobody likes being touched with a mysterious object so let her take her time examining this new item. If she tries to chew on it, tell her “no” and take it away. Then, over a number of days, repeat the steps that you took to accustom your dog to having you touch her teeth, except do all of them with the toothbrush on your finger. When you can run the toothbrush over an entire quadrant, you're ready to brush for real.

Put some dog toothpaste on the brush (some human toothpastes are poisonous for dogs). Lift her lip and act as if you're just going to run the toothbrush over her teeth. Once the toothbrush touches her tooth, quickly brush only that tooth then take the brush out of your dog's mouth and give her lots of praise. Brush one more tooth, then stop for the day. You want her first toothbrushing experience to be positive, so don't try to brush all of her teeth in one session. The following day, try brushing two teeth consecutively without stopping to praise in between. Over time, gradually increase the number of teeth that you brush in a row. If you can work up to brushing all of her teeth without stopping, great. If not, there's nothing wrong with brushing one segment (a quadrant, the upper jaw, left side, etc.) taking a break for praise, then progressing to the next segment.

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

Celebrating Grady August 2, 1997 – January 2, 2009

By Robert Moore

Turning right on red onto a four-lane highway, I looked left to see an auto well back in the passing lane as I entered the curb lane. The observed vehicle suddenly morphed into TWO angry police cruisers, sirens a'blazing.

As one of the county's finest and BIGGEST approached, Grady, standing in the back seat of his tiny Honda Civic, eagerly thrust his head out the opened window, intercepting the advancing officer. Then a deep male voice began baby talking to the beat of Grady's tail, which was happily drumming on the back seat, rear window, and opposite door of his tiny Honda Civic.

By the time the officer reached me, he was all smiles as he urged me to enjoy my day. That done, he turned back to again engulf Grady's head in his enormous hands for final cooing.

That encounter was July, 2007; Grady was an old hand at taking care of me.

Our Golden boy passed away, peacefully, in his living room, surrounded by his family and his doctor on Friday afternoon, January 2, 2009.

Grady (97-101), "one of five surviving siblings" found with their mother in Prince Georges County, swaggered into our life a 13½ pound, eight-week old, on Sunday, September 28, 1997. He was big! Oh, he had to be big to accommodate the confidant, oversized personality he carried around every day of his life.

Grady was skillfully mentored by Golden brother, Jud, who taught him everything except how to swim; Grady was born knowing how to swim. The best part of our Outer Banks vacations featured Grady exuberantly retrieving from the ocean whatever I could throw, and from as far out as I could throw it. Oh, he was big! He had to be big to crash through the best the Atlantic tossed his way, his focus unwaveringly riveted on the prey. I never lost the thrill of watching the wake fly as his massive shoulders smashed through the surf.

Following his hip X-ray at seven months, Grady's doctor, describing how the head of the femur fit snugly into the socket, why he did not foresee hip dysplasia problems, how this and that, couldn't help periodically blurting out as he pointed at the film, "THIS IS A BIG DOG!" That was January 7, 1998; Grady was 5 months old, carrying 66 pounds around on paws that would make a lion proud. Grady was big! Oh, he had to be big to absorb the love of all those whose lives he touched.

On the Ides of March, 2002, 4 ½ year old Grady tore his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL). His right rear leg was immobilized and when he went out, we tied a sock and plastic bag over the end of his cast to keep moisture from wicking up. Though Grady never blamed us, I always felt responsible;



his weight had crept up over 100 as I wasn't sufficiently disciplined to moderate the treats he so enjoyed. Thereafter, we assisted him in maintaining a svelte 85 pounds.

Grady charmed our lives for 11 years and 5 months. He journeyed with us everywhere: to South Carolina reunions and North Carolina beaches; to five-star Boston hotels and Savannah B&B's; to the grocery, the dry cleaners, to get my hair cut and to stroll in Georgetown. On February 24, 2007 Grady helped us adopt his seven-week Golden brother, Eli.

An October 3, 2008 X-ray revealed the soreness in Grady's right front leg was osteosarcoma, an ominous diagnosis. For two weeks, increasing dosages of pain medications kept him active. Then he began going off alone as the pain worsened and after three weeks, it had become unbearable.

Following extensive research, we opted for surgery to remove the offending leg. Three days later, Grady was bopping about, enthusiastically greeting friends and neighbors, chewing sticks with brother Eli and engrossed in happy, tail-thumping dreams again! We knew this was no cure, we simply wanted him to have some pain-free time, and for six glorious weeks it worked. We even went to the beach for a week.

Just after Christmas Grady's discomfort returned, and even his indomitable appetite deserted him on New Year's Eve.

At 4:30 PM Friday, January 2, 2009, his doc, Dan Berbert, gently put our precious Grady out of pain, and into sleep forever, in Grady's own living room surrounded by his family.

Wherever we walk, we've walked there with Grady. Wherever we go, Grady's been there with us. Eli, barely two when he lost his brother, was clearly not prepared. Nor were we.

We are uniquely blessed for the time we had with our unforgettable boy. Grady is always with us on our walks, and wherever we go. He is an integral piece of who he helped us become during those cherished 11 years and 5 months.

In Memory of Winston

A GRREAT big thanks to the Skeen family for their generous donation in honor of their beloved Golden, Winston.

We recently lost our much loved Golden, Winston Skeen, to untreatable cancer at 11 1/2 years old.

Winston and his brother were turned into another rescue group at six months old because they had grown too large to fit into their owner's car -- they had a Porsche. The dogs were crate-abused because the people commuted and worked long hours. Even when they were home, the dogs were only let out to go outside because they chased the cat. Due to this, the dogs experienced severe anxiety when crated and separation anxiety for most of their lives.

With our guidance, Winston became a big, happy boy who refused to grow up and remained a puppy his entire life. He lived most happily with several cats and two other dogs. On vacations with us to the ocean and bays along the east coast, he became a strong and most agile swimmer. He had his very own pond, creek and swimming pool at home. He was truly never happier than when wet!



One of Winston's greatest achievements was as an honorary GRREAT ambassador. Anyone that we met got to listen to why he was given up, the benefits of breed rescue and about the wonderful organization, GRREAT, that helps to rescue and find new homes for hundreds of Golden Retrievers each year.

We are certainly missing the joy that he brought to our family and will love him forever.

-- Kathleen Skeen

PETsMART Charities Recognizes GRREAT With \$10,000 Grant

By Jen Strohm, Fundraising Coordinator

PETsMART Charities has recognized GRREAT with a \$10,000 grant to support GRREAT's important work in providing standard vaccinations and testing for GRREAT's Golden Retrievers in 2009.

PETsMART Charities' mission is to improve the quality of life for all companion animals through programs that save the lives of homeless pets and promote healthy relationships between people and pets.

A majority of dogs given up to GRREAT do not have current vaccinations. Prior to adoption, GRREAT ensures all dogs receive any needed healthcare, including basic vaccinations and testing, to ensure all adopted dogs are on the path for a healthy lifetime. These standard vaccinations include helping to prevent common canine diseases including Rabies, Canine Distemper, and Bordetella. Other standard tests that are conducted help detect Heartworm, Lyme and Ehrlichia. In 2007, GRREAT spent more than \$32,000 (including negotiated discounts from our participating vets) on standard

vaccinations and testing for about 235 dogs. GRREAT is extremely grateful to PETsMART Charities for helping to offset this significant expense in 2009.

Given the significant competition for funds by organizations nationwide, this grant is a testament to GRREAT and our 100 percent volunteer network and donors. A special thank you to former GRREAT Treasurer Kathy Thomas and former GRREAT President Sandy Diamond for their help writing the grant application. In addition, thank you to Secretary Louise Davidson and the rest of the GRREAT Board for reviewing and editing the application.

For more information about GRREAT's grants, or to volunteer to help write a grant, contact the GRREAT Fundraising Coordinator at fundraising@grreat.org.

My Tribute, Salute and Goodbye to Jake

By Meg Ellacott



As I sit here with my Golden Retriever, Kelly, by my side I feel the need to say goodbye to Jake in writing. As many of you have experienced, the loss of your beloved Golden can be so traumatizing, it can put a halt to life as you once knew it. Jake was the most affectionate of the Golden I've had in my lifemy protector, my leader. I was forced to put him to sleep a little more than a month ago from a rare illness called mega-esophagus.

We don't know how Jake got it, but most likely it came from very low thyroid levels. Once he had it, there was no surgery or meds that could cure it. The bouts of throwing up while trying to process food, and anything chewable, became worse and worse until I knew he had no quality of life left. He'd lost 15 pounds during 3 months, was hand-fed, I worried about him 24/7, and when I wasn't worried, I was cleaning up after one of his many and long hard bouts. It was time. I knew it, and yet it was the hardest thing I've ever done. He was almost ten and was taken from me a few years too soon. I'm telling readers the terrible details because, if anything came out of this, it's to tell other large breed dog owners to get your dog's thyroid levels checked as they age. Side affects from low or high thyroid—just like in humans—can be fatal.

And so I say goodbye to the most loving and sweet companion I've ever had. Adopted from GRREAT in 2000, Jake was one year old when he came home to be my forever dog. When he walked into the adoption day at PetSmart, every one turned around astonished at how handsome he was. Long, lean and bred for sport, he had the most gorgeous, reddish coat. There were five people on the list who wanted him that day and he was awarded to me. He was very high-strung back in the day, so wouldn't have been good with kids. He was terrified to leave his foster parents. It took me 15 minutes to gently coax him into my car when I picked him up on that beautiful spring day. From there, we spent many a day at the doggie parks so I could help Jake return to the normal behavior of a Golden Retriever: proud, sweet and outgoing...not fearful and timid the way he came to me.

Three years after I got Jake, Kelly came up for adoption at GRREAT and she came to live with Jake and me. She too is a wonderfully sweet Golden with arthritis setting in as she ages. But, honestly, I don't think I would have made it without Kelly by my side during the last few months of Jake's life. Although depressed initially, she seems to be getting better and we're forcing ourselves to be strong for each other in

our loss. Jake, we miss you every day; we miss your energy, your leadership, your strength and your heart. You are in our hearts and prayers forever. Kelly and I salute the love and joy you brought to our lives in every way. *To My Budds, Love Kelly and Mom*

Now That's Service!

In January 2008, The National Naval Medical Center's Physical Therapy Department welcomed a new volunteer. She's a big-hearted lady who made a career change from helping the blind, to helping wounded soldiers. She's been an enormous addition. Her name is Laura Lee.

Laura Lee is a 3-year old Golden Retriever. Three days a week, she gets bathed and her teeth brushed so she's clean and hygienic for the physical therapy, occupational therapy and chiropractic units that await her.

Dr. Dan Handel, of the Pain and Palliative Care Service at NIH, said the medical benefits from therapy dogs are varied, from curing nausea and anxiety to helping patients become more engaged with doctors.

This special dog has an instinct for which patients are in the most pain or which ones might appreciate companionship. Most importantly, she provides a basic but crucial emotional lift for wounded soldiers and other patients in various rehab units.

Laura Lee usually just roams around from person to person, spreading her affection. As one Marine stated, "Laura Lee rocks!"



Here's Reese (08-206)

by Martha VanLandingham



Reese is the latest addition to GRREAT's Special Needs group, although it's difficult for me to really consider him that way. Reese came to GRREAT as a stray at the end of 2008. At the time, he had an abscess on his left eye and was wearing only a chain collar.

He was taken to the animal shelter, frightened and in pain from the condition of his eye.

GRREAT took Reese and just before Thanksgiving, I picked up a very frightened, uncertain dog. I took him to Vet Vision, an eye specialist vet, to have the extent of the damage assessed. The doctor determined that he had no vision in his left eye, which we all knew, but that he was also blind in his right eye. That was a blow to us all. We had tests done in the hopes that the condition could be reversed, but alas, it was not to be. Reese was and is blind. He can possibly see light and dark, but cannot make out any forms. He and I received a crash course in how to cope with blindness. The vet said that dogs can cope very well being blind, but I thought she was saying that to make me feel better.

The first month was, in retrospect, rather difficult for both of us. I sprayed a scent at dog level on all the things he might run into, like door jams, cabinets, coffee tables, etc. to help him learn where things were. My own two dogs, another Golden and a Lab, are accustomed to having new dogs in the house, but they were not accustomed to being run into, stepped on and generally disrespected. This new dog didn't get the signals sent by Lucy and Ginger and they didn't know why he was so "dumb." But we all persevered and went on walks together. Gradually, he learned the layout of the house, and now Ginger gives him a little growl when he's about to step on her. He doesn't run into things much any more unless I forget and move something.

Now, two months later, the casual observer would not realize that Reese is blind. We go to a field so that he can run and get more exercise. He has a Golden friend with whom he loves to play. He perks up every time Cody is near and they chase each other, Cody using sight and Reese following Cody's barking. They seem to have their own method of playing. Reese walks easily on leash but also enjoys being off leash under my watchful eye. He has learned new words such as "whoa, this way, stay close, here," which provide him with mental stimulation. I clean and put drops in his eyes a

few times a day. It can't be nice for him, but he is fairly good about it and loves the treat afterwards.

Reese is a love bug and always wants to be right with you. He has medium to low energy, is about eleven years old and has no other health issues. Of course, as with all "seasoned" Golden Retrievers, he has perfect manners and doesn't get on the furniture or bed. He loves to get in my van to go for walks and gets along well with other dogs. Steps are a bit difficult for him, but he gets up and down about once a day. A single level home would be best for him. He needs a fenced in yard so he won't get lost. Will you share your home and heart with Reese? He will adjust to your home after a little while and be your constant and loving companion. He deserves no less!



Don't Let This Be Your Last Issue of GRREAT News!

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.

You can renew your membership on line at the GRREAT Membership Center, www.grreat.org/membership/mbr_center.htm or by using the form on page 23 and mailing in your check. Be sure to include an e-mail address if you have one.

While you are renewing, please consider making a donation to support our efforts in 2009 and volunteering in one or more area of need.

If your label says "Renew Now" and you have already renewed your membership, please contact membership coordinator Jeremy Ledbetter at mail-admin@grreat.org or 410-231-2097 and let him know when and how you renewed.

You are an important part of the GRREAT family. We hope that you will continue to be part of all that we do in 2009.

The Short Strange Story of Buster

By Skip Nizer

Buster is a childhood memory. Like most of my gang, I didn't know what Buster was. I probably hadn't seen more than two purebred dogs by that stage of my life, so it was hard for me to tell.

Buster had very strong legs, the rear being higher than the front. If he wanted to visit you, it was just an easy bound over a fence. His coat was thick and there was feathering on the lower part of his legs; his tail matched his legs with slight feathering. My cousin Bud and I got into a fist fight over what color he was. I said red, he said light brown, and Ronnie added "liver." This started the shoving, which went to pushing, which automatically had to turn into throwing one of us down...then fists. A few punches later, older cousin Cindy pushed us apart and proclaimed his color to be a light brown with dark brown tones bordering on "liver."

Buster's ears hung down until something got him upset, then they sat straight up. He had one brown eye (I believe it was the left one) and the other "was not." Being "was not" saved me another busted lip. Cousin Bud was taller than I and had a longer reach.

Buster's face wasn't short and it wasn't long either, and he had a very wide forehead.

Buster's caretaker was Mr. Charlie. Mr. Charlie was allegedly retired. He didn't say a lot and talked softly. I don't know when Buster came into Mr. Charlie's life. All I know is that one day Buster just showed, saw Mr. Charlie sitting on his back steps and stayed. Neither one said anything. Mr. Charlie got up and walked into the kitchen with Buster close behind. Mr. Charlie looked at his wife and said, "Mom, we got a dog."

Mr. Charlie didn't do much because he had breathing problems; he had gotten some type of gas poisoning in World War I. Buster didn't seem to mind. He was happy sitting on the back steps or getting in the car and going to visit Bucky, Mr. Charlie's son, at his waterfront. Buster loved the water, but was scared of any monsoon with more than three rain drops!

Mr. Charlie never raised his voice to Buster, and sometimes he just pointed or nudged his head and Buster seemed to understand. Buster's collar was hand made of leather with Mr. Charlie's dog tags. Mr. Charlie said that if his dog tags were good enough for Uncle Sam, then they were good enough for Baltimore County. Buster never raised his voice either. None of us had ever heard Buster make any noise—no growls, barks, wimpers or anything.

There was an open lot just behind Mr. Charlie's where we would often play. One day, there was about ten of us there, boys and girls. Sometimes we had to play with girls to even the teams. Buster and Mr. Charlie were there at their usual

spot on the back steps. A man that none of us had ever seen before stopped to watch us play. The man had half a smile on his face until Buster jumped from the top step, shot past us and stood between us and the man. Buster's ears went straight up, head slightly down and his eyes were fixed on the man. Anything close to a smile left the man's face. With Buster staying about 5 feet from him, the man backed up the street, turned and left. Buster then returned to the steps. Mr. Charlie couldn't talk loud, so he waved for us to come to him. In a quiet, stern voice, he said, "If any of you ever see that man again, go to the closest house and keep away from him." I got a lesson in trusting your dog.

As time passed, Mr. Charlie's breathing problems worsened. Buster never left his side. One afternoon, my aunt—who lived next door to Mr. Charlie—phoned our house and asked her brother to check on Mr. Charlie because she heard a dog howling from inside the house. They found Mom holding Mr. Charlie's hand. He had died. She said that at the moment his hand had gone limp, Buster howled. Buster hung around for a few days then wandered off, perhaps in search of someone that needed her special touch.

Yes I said "she." Buster was a girl. It seems a long time prior, Mr. Charlie wanted a dog and said that if he ever got one, he would name him Buster. Mr. Charlie got his dog and was true to his word. And now you know the strange story of Buster.

Friends --

I would like to thank all of you who sent cards, notes and made phone calls about last month's article "The Naked Lady." Thank all of you for sharing some of your sad memories with me. It meant a lot.



About two years after Deb and I started helping GRREAT, we noticed that we had two designated sets of friends. They were friends of ours and our dog friends. Dog friends are very special because they are not only our friends but people who share the same feelings for our dogs. They know the silly things that dogs do, our silly reaction to them and the saying of good bye.

Thank you all.

-- Skip

GRREAT Wraps Up 2008 with a Holiday-Fun Fundraiser

For the 2008 Holiday Season, GRREAT volunteers again greeted, wrapped and trimmed packages from Thanksgiving to Christmas at 15 Borders and Barnes and Nobles stores, at more than 70 separate events. Our goal for the 2008 Wrapping Brigade was \$10,000. Drum roll please... we made more than \$14,000!! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

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

This year we had four Regional Leads; Carolyn Beyer, Louise Davidson, Robin Heinecke and Jessie Robinson. We also had several volunteers step up to be team leads of the individual stores, including Janet and Phil Hauck who led 15 volunteers and 6 spokes-dogs at the Bel Air store and, with just 4 events, managed to bring in close to \$2000! We hear that Phil got really good at ringing those sleigh bells!

One of our volunteers and her certified therapy dog, Laurie Collins and Tori, got to meet Michael Phelps at the Baltimore Barnes and Noble store during one of our events, and he donated two signed copies of his book, *No Limits: The Will To Succeed*. Together with a paw-signed 8x10 picture of Tori in her swim goggles and cap, these items will be placed in two of our future auctions—look for them this year!

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

Therapy Dogs International: www.tdi-dog.org

Delta Society: www.deltasociety.org

Pets on Wheels: www.petsonwheels.org

People Animals Love (PAL): www.peopleanimalslove.org

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

There are so many volunteers who made this a success. We thank all of you!! Your generosity of time and spirit allowed GRREAT to help nearly 230 Golden Retrievers in 2008, many of them with medical conditions that your hard work and determination helped to treat.



GIFT WRAPPING BY

GRREAT GOLDEN

RETRIEVER RESCUE

PLEASE STOP BY !!!



Thank You GRREAT Wrapping Brigade!

Cheryl Andrzejewski, JoAnne and George Barnosky, Lee Beaton and Larry Utley, Carolyn Beyer, Angela Blecher, Jeannie Blood, Norma Booth, Debbie Bowen, Linda Brandwin, Jola Breegle, Lois Briggs, Dee Brown and Glen MacDonald, Carla Brown, Kate Burgy, Terri Campbell and Walter Bird, Janet Caple, Jan Carlson, Nancy Carter, Sharon Chup, Bert Coble, Mary Collings, Trish Collier, Laurie Collins, Sam Connelly, Linda, Greg and Molina Cordero, Kathy Dai, Louise Davidson, Betsy Davis, Gwyn Donohue, Kristen Crabtree, Jeannine Dorothy, Vicki and Jim Eurice, Dena and Shane Evans, Chris and Ray Evert, John and Terry Fasss, Charlotte Flounders, Robin Forster, Debbie Frey, Julie Gale, Bonnie Gallahan, John Gano, Judy and Craig Gartlan, Nancy Gasko, Kris Gilson and daughter, Christine Goodloe, Mary Ginn, Lona Gordon and Andrea Cerino, Debra Haegle, Liz Haransky, Janet and Phil Hauck, Tonia Heffner and daughter, Diane and John Hein, Robin Heinecke, Darlene Hines, Rebecca Hotop, Linda Hunt, Carol Johnson and John McGowan, Cindy Jones, Amy Jones, Fran Karsner, Bonnie Kauffman, Nancy Kayatta, Diana Kilcullen, Jennifer King, Leigh, Kitcher, Valerie Kovacevic, Katie Kreibel, Laura and Adele Kroart, Julia Kwiatkowski, Shawne Lampert, Jane Landis and Bonnie, Diane Lanigan, Stephani Locket and Kay Ovington, Laura Luke and Steve Fisher, Denise Malczewski, Megan McCaffrey, Sherry McCarters, Sharon McClrath, Judy and Linda McKinley, Sharon Meirose and Mom, Debi and Mike Mercado, Colleen Minder and LouAnn, Eileen and Mark Montevioni, Carol Moran, Tracy Mulroy, Charlene Murphy, Jennifer Murray and Mom, Michael Oliver, Joanne and Bob Patenaude, Sharon Peble, Becki Pendell, Dan Pickard, Elizabeth Reimer, Karen Renaud, Carol Reynolds, Stell Rineer, Jessie Robinson, Jessica Robe, Hannah Salvatore, Linda Scher, Sallie Schissler, Carey Schultz and Elizabeth, Renu Sharma, Marion Shields, Lynn Shine, Kathy Schroeder, Jessica Skopac, Carol Spangler, Theresa Stachoniak, Leslie Stanley, Susan Stillman, Donna Stillwell, Jen Strohm, John Swanson, Susan Swift, Donna-Bea Tillman, Lucinda and Jeff Twining, Debbie Uslaner, Martha VanLandingham, Kristen Veldhuis, Martha Vicedomini, Monica Walker, Donna Ward, Barbara Wilson, Katie Wirth, Betty and Don Wofford, Terri Wolfrom, Janis Woolsey, Lisa Zolly

Microchip Returns a Dog After Nine Months

By Bob Kurtz, Microchipping Coordinator

GRREAT switched from identifying dogs with tattoos to using microchips in 2004. Today more than 1,000 GRREAT dogs are identified with microchips. Why is this so important for our dogs?

An identifying microchip is a lost dog's last chance to be reunited with its family. Even if a dog loses its tags or slips its collar, the microchip can still save the day. The first step most animal shelters and veterinarian's offices take with stray dogs is to scan for a microchip.

This past fall, an interesting story appeared in the *Tampa Tribune*. The article tells the story of Pepper, a Golden Retriever from Atlanta, Georgia. Pepper's family was away on vacation in December 2007, and their dog sitter lost Pepper when the dog was startled by some firecrackers and ran off. The family searched for Pepper for weeks, but no sign of him was ever found.

Late in September 2008, Pepper's family got an unexpected phone call. Pepper had been found – 500 miles away in St. Petersburg, Florida! Pepper was found, wet and hungry, in front of a St. Petersburg travel agency. The business owner took him home and fed him, then took him to the vet for a checkup. The vet scanned Pepper for a chip, and found the contact information for his Georgia family. A few days later, Pepper was happily back home in Atlanta.

Success stories like this are why GRREAT began using microchips in 2004. While we don't have any stories of our own that quite match Pepper's adventure, we did have at least six lost dogs identified by microchips in 2008.

If a GRREAT dog is found and scanned, the national registry will contact GRREAT on our 24-hour hot line. GRREAT volunteers will then contact the owner. For this reason, if you have adopted a GRREAT dog, please update GRREAT if you move or change your telephone number or e-mail address.

A Golden Wanna-Be

Even though Janus is a Yellow Lab (a Golden Wanna-Be) with many medical issues, GRREAT never turned their back on him. Rather, he was embraced with loving arms.

Janus was adopted by me in April 2008 after spending almost 15 months with Chris and Larry Ronald, his wonderful foster parents. It is due to their devotion and attention to his many medical needs that he is alive today. I am blessed to have found him in their loving care.

Many others were generous with their support and care, including the doctors and staff of Airpark Veterinary Hospital; Dana Lyons, his faithful walkers; and many more who contributed financially to his needs. I am grateful to all!

Janus had surgery at the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Hospital in June to remove his cataracts and restore his vision. His vision is now perfect, his diabetes is under control and he happily dispenses his trademark wet kisses to one and all.

Janus and I look forward to a very happy and healthy 2009 and wish the same for all in his extended family.

--Marge McMonagle



MAIL BOX



Please make sure that your furry companions have a way of getting back home if they are lost. If your recently adopted GRREAT dog is not microchipped, remember that the adoption is not final until that step is complete. We also offer microchipping for non-GRREAT dogs and GRREAT dogs adopted prior to 2004 for a nominal fee. For details, please contact me at microchips@grreat.org.

Meet Radagast

By Elizabeth Simpson

Meet Radagast—or as his foster family likes to call him, “the Energizer Bunny.” He is a beautiful, 11-year old Golden who could probably give any puppy a run for his money. His favorite toy is his ball and, if you let him, he will play with it until he drops. He also enjoys walks, playing tug, treats and bones, and most important of all, plenty of love.

Radagast gets along well with other dogs, but would also be fine in a home where he is the only dog. Because he is such a high energy dog, he would prefer a forever family that will have time to play with him, take him on plenty of walks, and involve him in family activities whenever possible. His previous family had kids that grew up with him, so he will do great in a home either with or without children. Despite his age, he has no known health problems and would fit in wonderfully with a young, active family. He is well trained, well mannered and obeys all of his commands.



The only thing missing in his life is a family to love him. He spent 11 years with his previous family and is desperately searching for a new family to spend the rest of his days with. The undeniable love and yearning for human affection shine right through in the eyes of Radagast. He has plenty of life and spirit left in him, and he will bring a new family joy and love for many years to come.

Recommending Welactin

By Elizabeth Simpson

Our four year old Golden Retriever, Daphney, has suffered from severe allergies since she was about a year old. As a result of her allergies, she has to battle with excessively watery eyes, reoccurring ear infections and severe dry skin. We were able to keep most of her symptoms at bay with medication, but she was still developing hot spots.

During a visit with our vet to treat a large hot spot that Daphney had developed on her face, he recommended we try a product called Welactin, which is an Omega-3 supplement for dogs that you add to their food. We decided anything was worth a try and bought some that day. The first time we tried it, we were amazed to see how quickly Daphney scarfed down her dinner. And after the first week, we noticed she was not scratching nearly as much. I also took notice to the way the other dogs would run over and lick her bowl after she was done eating, so we started using it on their food as well. We no longer have any trouble getting our dogs to eat at regular meal times.

We have been using Welactin for more than a year now and have not had any problems with hot spots since we started. All of our dogs have shiny, healthy coats and great skin. I highly recommend this product to anyone who has trouble with hot spots, dry skin, or even a finicky eater. It has been a miracle product for us.

Show Your GRREAT Pride on the Road in Maryland and Virginia

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 lmstack@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 Steve Bergstrom at vp@grreat.org.

(continued from page 1)



In order to guide Joe I had to be organized myself:

- o Create pictures and bios on each dog — include handicaps, medications, idiosyncrasies and preferences/favorite things.

- o Invite Joe for lunch and time to interact with the dogs and familiarize him with the house. Pay him!

- o Create a diagram for feeding placement of bowls and demonstrate this routine.

- o Provide cautions about who is collared to the Invisible Fence and how it works. Demonstrate.

- o Discuss safety issues for stairs, doors, playtimes, toys and treats.

- o Explain and show collars and leashes (matching); who uses what and why (pinch collar, gentle leader, regular collar).

- o Share our home and habits where it impacts the dogs (furniture rules, water bowls, toilet seats down etc.).

This is a lot of info and his interaction with pups is crucial. Don't overwhelm (as if 5 Golden isn't overwhelming enough!) Plan another meeting prior to an actual dog visit.

Next date:

- o Educate safe playtimes and demonstrate.

- o Show grooming/ brushing tools as a bonding tactic during visits. Our dogs love to be brushed.

- o Show how, when, and where for poop details.

- o Clarify furniture rules.

- o Review routines for treats (sit/stay), take gently and feeding meals same - sit/stay.

- o Phone numbers for neighbors, family, emergency vet/regular vet.

- o Discuss disciplinary measures—time out. Clarify any behavioral issues.

- o Explain seizures or other issues that sitter could encounter.

- o Get out and demonstrate appropriate cleaning solutions/tools for any vomiting etc.

- o Review appliances and their use (TV, dishwasher, washer/dryer etc.).

- o Ask for questions and review whatever is necessary.

Now it is time to schedule an actual visit. I always leave a note when we leave that includes recent info, what treats to give, and suggestions for activity. I ask Joe to use my sheet to report how things went. He does! This has been helpful for

both of us where behavior was a concern, or a limp he noticed, or a funny incident. They have helped us work through pack issues and structure.

Joe brought his pictures and bios and notes in the beginning. It takes a special person to gracefully accept this training. We felt very lucky.

In the 2 years since he waded into the foyer, our relationship has morphed into a warm and interdependent friendship. Joe has become our handyman, helping us with mulching and painting. He organized my pantry during a 3-day stay with the dogs. At Christmas, he brought us his own homemade cookies and a lovely centerpiece. Each dog got a goodie bag of treats. Joe visited Phil in the hospital with a card and balloons. He calls us to see how we are doing and lest I forget, our Golden think he is “the” living Santa PAWS, in the dearest sense of the word. We can go away for days at a time with peace of mind. Joe will gladly do two visits a day when we are gone for a 10- or 11-hour period.

Joe walks our dogs in two separate sets and is very good at choosing who goes with whom. He has gotten two other Golden sitting gigs through us. We have, however, demanded first dibs! We believe that partly because of Joe's deeper commitment to dogs, he has adopted a darling Lhasa Apso, Boomer, from the shelter. He works hard to use good structure with Boomer and we enjoy his stories of success and failure...we know whereof he speaks. ;)

So, the moral of the story is: When opportunity knocks, open the door and let him in to wade through your pups, make a plan and maybe you'll find out “How Lucky You Can Get”!

Silent Auction Coordinator

We are looking for a new Silent Auction Coordinator. GRREAT has three auctions throughout the year - the Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club (PVGRC) Banquet held in March, Goldstock held over Labor Day weekend (attendance is not required for this event), and the Howliday Party held in December. The coordinator is responsible for advertising, and for soliciting and gathering the items to be auctioned off. At the event, the coordinator is responsible for organizing the items for auction, monitoring the bidding, and at the end of the event, collecting the amount bid for each item. Once the event is over, the coordinator should send thank you letters and donation acknowledgment receipts. The current Silent Auction Coordinator will provide guidance and support until the incoming person becomes comfortable with the position. The commitment to the position is minimal for about a month and half before the events. If you are interested please email president@grreat.org.

PVGRC Offers Ways to Have Fun with Your Golden

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, 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 working 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. Pre-registration is required for competition.

Other events this spring include PVGRC's Working Certificate test on Sunday, April 12, where dogs demonstrate the field retrieving abilities, and an agility competition on April 18 and 19 where dogs and handlers compete for speed and accuracy on a fast-paced obstacle course.

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 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.

ADOPTION REPORT

This year is off to a great start with 18 lucky families adopting Golden Retrievers so far. As always, we're thrilled to see so many of our seniors finding forever homes! Be sure to check out our upcoming adoption days to find your next furry friend.

Name	#	Age	Sex
Bentley	08-170	2	M
Sadie	08-183	7	F
Bubba	08-215	6	M
Sadie Mae	08-216	6	F
Bailey	08-226	6	F
Max	08-051	12	M
Max	08-112	8	M
Buddy	08-137	8	M
Milo	08-171	4	M
Willy	08-188	6	M
Bailey	08-192	9	F
Lila	08-193	9	F
Brady	08-196	1	M
Zorro	08-213	4	M
Lexi	08-221	2	F
Max	08-227	6	M
Sara	07-238	9	F
Kona	08-189	2	F

GRREAT Adoption Days

Saturday, March 7, 2009
 Noon until 2 p.m.
 Petco - Bel Air
 615 Belair Road, Suite P
 Bel Air, Maryland 21014

Saturday, April 4, 2009
 Noon until 2 p.m.
 Petco - Alexandria
 6612 Richmond Highway
 Alexandria, Virginia 22306

Saturday, May 2, 2009
 Noon until 2 p.m.
 Petco - Annapolis
 2319-D Forest Drive
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Saturday, June 6, 2009
 Noon until 2 p.m.
 Petco - Herndon
 2441-F Centreville Road
 Herndon, Virginia 20171

Saturday, July 11, 2009
 Noon until 2 p.m.
 Petco - Germantown
 12960 Middlebrook Road #520A
 Germantown, Maryland 20874

Saturday, August 1, 2009
 Noon until 2 p.m.
 Weber's - Chantilly
 14508G Lee Road
 Chantilly, Virginia 20151

DONATIONS

Thank You for Your Donations

Lynn Abbe
Anita and Frank Abbruscato
Paula Abernethy
Debbie and Steve Aitken
Melissa Ash
Scott and Lynne Babcock
Debra and Bill Barrows
Lila and Richard Barth
Jean and Robert Barton
Rebecca Benner
David and Jennifer Bishop
Beth and Chris Bogusky
Priscilla and John Borden
Sharon Bottcher and Joan Peddicord
Sara Gray Bowen
Linda and John Bowlin
Lee and Daniel Broh-Kahn
Doug and Pam Brouder
Catherine and William Brown
Tina Brown
William Buklad
Jerry Cann
Holly and Vincent Caporale
Margaret Carpentier
Rick and Peggy Cassara
Laura Catalano
Patricia Cecil
C.S and P.M. Channer
Kate and Art Chutuape
Jan and Jack Clark
Bob Cohen and Karen Stierman
Dennis and Laura Cooper
Michael D'Aiuto
Betsy Davis
Daniel and Aldona DeBold
Pamela and Terry Dempsey
Ruth and Walter Dominick

Jennifer and Jim Dougherty
Barbara Dunnington
Kevin and Diane Duvall
Wendy Grace Eady
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Chuck and Carolyn Ellington
Connie and Ben Etheridge
Judith Eyler
Faye Fields
John Fisher and Donna Mistretta
Michelle Fleming
Eugene and Margaret Gainor
Donald Gakenheimer and Pam Traxel
Gloria Garcia
Karen Gardner
Dennis and Melinda Garvin
Rick and Nancy Gasko
Mary Ginn
Lynne Glennon
Edward and Susan Glynn

Walter Grabowski and Robin Hoesch
Gary Greenwood
Bruce and Sue Gross
Leon Guerrero and Sandra Rutan
R. Gulliver
Debra and William Haegele
Matt Harder
Amy Hardin
Stephen Harris
Lauren and Brian Harris-Kojetin
Paula and Michael Hart
Jim and Ginny Hayes
Stephen and Kristina Hays
Kathy Heck and Angie Adams
Patty Heenan
Tonia Heffner
Diana and Doug Hellinger
Dorothy and Ernest Helmick
Sue and Charles Henkin
Douglas and Judith Henry
Mary Ellen and Gregory Hilleary
Eileen and James Hollaway

(continued on page 16)



DONATIONS

Mary Anne Hovatter
Lily Grace Hudson
Linda and Al Hunt
Brian and Beth Ives
Mary Johancen
Eunmi Kang
Gary Kanner
Tom and Jean Klinger
Robert and Judi Knott
Gary and Debbie Kramer
Terri M. Kunze
Michael and Jane Landis
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Debra Laudenslager
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Laura and John Whitbeck
Patti and Brent Wildasin
Maureen Williams

Jim Wilmoth
Katie Wirth
Edythe and Charles Wise
Janis and Kevin Woolsey
Doreen and Brad Wright
Debbie and Peter Young
Lisa Zolly

In Memory Of...

In memory of Callie. - Robin Forster and Jennifer Utz

In memory of Teddy. - Cynthia Martin

In memory of Brandy and Rudy. - Ray and Kathy Schmid

In memory of Charlie and Mars. - Caroline and Peter Miller

In memory of Maggie Lou (GRREAT 2003), Sammie & all our other wonderful "pups" who have crossed over. - Laura and Jim Horn

In memory of a dear golden friend, Calin. - Ernest and Iscella Wittich

In memory of Quentin, our cat who died in November. My dogs loved him. - Al and Sylvia Glaser

In memory of Otis. - Patricia Kennedy

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

In memory of Molly, our beloved Golden who for 12 years gave us loyalty, protection, friendship and amusement. She was not a "GRREAT" dog but she was a "GREAT" Dog. We will miss her always. - Bill Kiefaber

Please accept this donation in memory of Lucy (my previous non-GRREAT Golden) on this fourth anniversary of her arrival at the Rainbow Bridge (11/21/04). She was the essence of class, brains and sensitivity. I know it

DONATIONS

In Memory Of...

was she who selected my wonderful Emily (05-099) as my perfect match!
- Susan Swift

In memory of Brandy (Orchid 98-206) and Jenny (non-GRREAT golden).
- Patrick Neiler

In memory of Sam and Margaret.
Michael and Allison Stiller

In memory of Goldie. - Dan and Lillian Roach

Please accept this enclosed donation in memory of Ginger, the most loved GRREAT companion of Maggie Gibbons. - Greg Russell

In memory of Mackenzie. - Jennifer Hackler

In memory of Ceinger and Tuli. - Joanne Heining

Please accept this donation in memory of our beautiful girl, Sydney (03-069) who went to Rainbow Bridge on October 13th. She came into our lives on March of 2003 and stole our hearts in a matter of minutes. Because of her many health problems, she was hard to take care of, but so very easy to love. Sydney is sadly missed by us and her three golden brothers, Hoops, Nittany and Shadow. - Matt and Heather Hiserman

In memory of Sadie. - Skip and Deb Nizer

In memory of our Golden - Barney, Copper and Traveler. - Charles and Gillian Heagy

In memory of Rheba - our little red head. - Robert and Bernadette McDonald

In memory of Holly - a GRREAT dog and my faithful home visit partner.
- Penny March

In memory of Elizabeth Crane's beloved Denver. - Jan and Bill Carlson

In memory of Nicholas and Geebers.
- Jane Kunze

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Beers' Golden Retrievers. - Robert and Louise MacDonald

In memory of Rusty and Bear. - Walter Baecht

Donation in memory of "BEAR". Loving friend of Greg Russell, who has gone to the big dog house in the sky!
- Jeff and Ellen Russell

In memory of our best friend "Lindy" who was our loyal companion for 15 years. She is and will be greatly missed.
- Daniel Wood

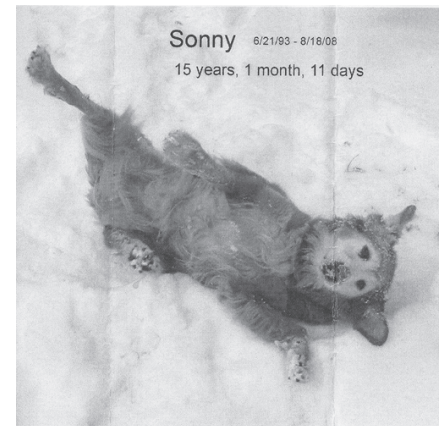
In memory of Wrangler, the coolest friend we could ever have. May you rest in peace our boy. We love you and always miss you! Nikolaos, Tia and your little brother Hairy! - Nikolaos Dimopoulos

In memory of Akea, my 14 year old Golden, and my Christmas gift to Golden who are in need of medical assistance or help of any kind. I created the Simile Finale Fund, but this is in addition. - Elizabeth Oberdorfer

In memory of Abby who passed to the Rainbow Bridge Aug 29 at 17 years of age. - Al and Jean Huey

In memory of Jason, Brandy and Sundance. - Donald and Lynlee Brock

In memory of Sandy, Shadow and Daisy, and in honor of our new resident "Golden", Lexie. - John and Marie Powell



In memory of Sonny 05-143. 6/21/93-8/18/08 15 years, 1 month, 11 days.
- Ethel and Haddon Carryer

In memory of Rose. - Elaine Feidelman

This donation is being made in memory of Barbara and Russell Stephens, my adoptive parents (05-08) and in honor of my 12th birthday!! Thanks Kevin and Shelley for giving me a new lap to rest my head ~Rusty (06-055). - Kevin Stephens and Sarrin Shelley

Please accept the enclosed donation in memory of our Scout, GRREAT# 01-254. We lost Scout October 27, 2008. He was so gentle, so loving and only wanted to love you. Our hearts ache, and our Jake is lonely. Please use the funds where they are most needed.
- Becki and Paul Pendell

We would like to donate the enclosed check in memory of Levon, a beautiful Golden Retriever. Levon's owners were Amy Vokes and Laura BonDurant. Sincerely Gram and Gramps. - Edward and Marcia BonDurant

This donation is memory of Jelly, a beautiful Bullmastiff, who suddenly passed away. Jelly was dearly loved by my pet sitter, Karen. Karen has cared for many GRREAT dogs in my household and on one occasion, saved Barney's life. - Nicolette Parisi and Richard Wakeling

(continued on page 18)

DONATIONS

In Memory Of...

In memory of Bill Smith, husband of Peggy Baker. - Margot Post

In Memory of Chief. - Michael Rolband

In memory of Bill Smith. - Eileen Lewis

In memory of Teddy, the beloved Golden Retriever of the Wanerman Family. - Harriet Loeb

In memory of Ginny, Sidney, and Liam. And in honor of Nick. All truly great Landis dogs. - Patricia Beaston

This gift is in loving memory of our wonderful Golden Tucker (12/23/92-7/11/08) who showered us with unconditional love for nearly 16 years. He touched so many lives of our family and friends; he will live in our hearts forever. - Susan Rodis-Jones

In memory of William T. Smith and his Golden friend Charlie. - Barbara Schofield

In memory of our sweet boy, Rudy (aka Kramer #96-135). We love you and still miss you every day -- Barb & Sharon (&Emma). - Barbara Hals

In memory of Hollie (03-048) and our GRREAT five and a half years together. - Barbara Boyd

In memory of Roll (02-081). - Bob and April Fritz

In memory of Kia, my accomplished, rescued Golden. Not a GRREAT dog, but a great dog! - Ellen Ziegler Ward

In memory of Jenny and Otto. - Bill and Corrine Rath

I wish to make this donation to GRREAT in memory of my friend's Golden, Barney Ellington, who was stricken with incurable cancer. His owners were Chuck and Carolyn Ellington. - Caroline Roberts

In memory of Joe Sloan. - Lee Edgren

Please accept this donation in memory of M.J. Sloan. - K. R. Fitzsimmons

In memory of Joe Sloan. - Mike and Joni Staten

Donation made in memory of Mr. Joe Sloan. - David Weiss

In Memory of Joe Sloan! - Melanie Weston

This donation is in memory of Daisy Ann (a canine GRREAT volunteer). Daisy accompanied me on many home visits and was always a wonderful ambassador for GRREAT. She enjoyed meeting the various families as well as all the attention. Daisy brought a lot of love and laughter to our family. For that I am eternally grateful. Daisy was a best friend to our other dogs, a big sister and protector for our daughter and a furry daughter to us. We miss her tremendously. She will always be in our hearts and never forgotten. - Christen Geiler and The Geiler-Phillips Family

In memory of Chesapeake, a sweet Yellow Lab with a heart of gold. - Robin Graham

In memory of Katie Dawson who touched the lives of so many canines and their people. - Andrew Vassar

In memory of Dr. Miner (Joe) Sloan from the dental office of Dr. John W. Martin. - Dr. John Martin

In memory of William Smith. - Steven Yowell

In memory of Popeye and Tucker, my beloved boys. - Thomas and Donna Frankhouser

In memory of all the beautiful Golden's who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

- James and Sharon Qualls

In memory of BJ, our first GRREAT dog. - Richard Pehle and Sharon Robinson

In memory of Minor J. Sloan. - Louise Angerer

Please accept the enclosed donation in memory of Sandy Diamond's wonderful and much loved Red. - Greg Russell

In memory of my dear friend Mr. Miner Joseph Sloan. - James Dowler

Enclosed is a donation in memory of Wayne Wichlatz and in honor of his beloved wife, Michele Seiler and their two Golden Retrievers, Emma and Maisy. Wayne passed away suddenly on January 17, 2009. - Cal Coop

In memory of Fred & Penny, two GRREAT friends. - Michael and Janene Kalb

Enclosed is my donation in memory of M.J. Sloan. - Gloria Bennett

Our donation is in memory of Bill Smith, who died on December 26, 2008. - Thomas and Patricia Heeney

In memory of April and Bob Fritz's GRREAT dog Rock. - Robin Graham

In Memory of Joe Sloan. - Rockford G. Yapp, Jr.

In Honor Of...

In honor of Kess & Becky. - Cynthia Martin

In honor of our wedding. - Mike and Pam Higgins

In honor of Jazz - Calendar boy 06/2009, and Sophie - Calendar girl 08/2008, our beloved Golden's, we

DONATIONS

love you so much. - Lisa and Andrew Melvin

In honor of Toby (2003-GRREAT), Sierra and Diego (2007). - Laura and Jim Horn

In honor of Morgan (98-133). - Anita and John Funk

In honor of Al Glaser our best pal, from Max and Murphy. - Catherine Bertin

The enclosed contribution is a gift in honor of The Heaton Family from the Turner Family. - Patrick and Rebecca Turner

In honor and memory of Ben II, aka Bello (06-075). - Christine and Kenneth White

In honor of "Bear" Russell "April". - Dick Salsitz

I would like to make this donation for my husband Kevin, in honor of our beloved Golden, Max. Max crossed the Rainbow Bridge on August 15th. When we adopted Max from GRREAT, the vet estimated he was between 5 and 7 years of age. We had Max for nine wonderful years. He was a true blessing and we miss him dearly. Please use this donation to help some of the Golden oldies at GRREAT. - Allison and Kevin Long

With Thanks in honor of Judy and Neil. - Melanie Emerick

In honor and memory of Beau 04-060 our GRREAT foster dog who was loved by his forever family Howard and Patti Murphy and children. - Nancy and Ray Jones

In honor of Blazer 00-272 and In memory of Toby, Morgan and Jost. - Steve and Betsy Surprenant

In honor of Devlin and Duffy! - Cheryl Brooks

This donation is being made in honor of Christine Pierce. - Harriet McDowall

This gift is in honor of the following special people: Pat and Andy Phebus, Joan Montanari and Pat Stanislaski, Janie and Frank Donaldson. Also to honor our two GRREAT dogs: Mickey 08-003, and Jack 08-159; and our beloved Goldens, Champ and Baron. - Joan and Don Hillier

In honor of Lily, loved by many but most especially Dad Tim and Brother Bailey. With Respect, Susan. - Susan Ham

This donation is in honor of Judy and Joe Ashley. - Denise Mathew

We would like to donate this gift in honor of Annie, the wonderful Golden Retriever adopted by my brother and wife Chris and Ship Coale. - Aggie and Michael Sanders

In honor of our Elvis and Sweetie who keep us laughing all the time, and in Memory of Sandy, Max, and dear Gus who still tug at our hearts. What wonderful furry babies they were! - Richard and Jule Ann Cheslock

In honor of "Maisy" Lady - our beloved Golden. - Heather and Kip Lady

In honor of Cody who has been a wonderful member of our family for 9 years. - Kim and Dan Rolland

In honor of Homer and Missy Nastus. - Tony and Barbara Nastus

In honor of Copper (00-278). GRREAT Calendar playmate of the month for Oct. 2009. - Andrew and Barbara Becker

In honor of Buddy (03-115) and Jersey (07-139). In memory of Ralphie and

Gandalf. - Steve and Robin Mathews

In honor of Murphy. - Brian and Ann Marie Quinn

In honor of Bailey. - Barbara and Dave Abernethy

In honor of Joe Sloan. - Jean Staten and Mark Tanton

In honor of Sadie. - Dawn and Marshall Bowen

In honor of Tim, a wonderful man, beloved by many, especially Bailey and Lily. A man who constantly gives to others and a man you can really count on, whether you have skin or fur! - Susan Ham

In honor of Carey Schultz's birthday and to support her incredible love of dogs. Happy Birthday, Carey!!! - Carol Steinkirchner

In honor of Brinkley 04-151. - Richard and Anna Dodson

I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for our 2 favorite Goldens Taffy and Murphy. In honor of Taffy and In Memory of Murphy. - Brian and Beth Ives

In honor of Jenny. Please accept these donations in honor of Trish Collier's beloved Jenny. Trish graciously adopted our foster dog Penny (04-197) in March of 2008. The two "girls" looked like they could be sisters and settled in quite comfortably with Trish. We know Trish will miss Jenny, but we're glad she has Penny to help her heal. - Lynda and Bob Lake

Please accept our donation to GRREAT in honor of the memory of William ("Bill") Smith. - John and Alicia Stover

(continued on page 20)

DONATIONS

To Help With Costs...

To help with Buddy's (08-137) expenses. - Kathy and Wayne Hunter

I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for Buddy (08-170) to pay for his boarding at Commonwealth AH. - Susan and James Leonard

To help with expenses for Leah (08-204) and Kane (08-203). - Denise and Ray Malczewski

Sponsorship for Goldie 08-217 in honor of Steve and Elaine. - Darlene Veverka

This is for Goldie, the PG county dog my friend found who needs eye surgery. - Marcia Berdansky

I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT to fund surgery for Goldens. To thank Diana and Doug for fostering Annie. - Tim White and Anna Alt-White

To pay the medical expenses of our foster dogs. - Jan Livingston and Al Curtis

For Major's Medical Care. - Dennis and Judy Smith

A donation to cover the cost of medicine for Zeke 06-186 for his thunderstorm phobia. - Betsy Davis

For Other Reasons...

A gift for Al Glasser. - Barry and Yolanda Weller

For the Love of Goldens! - Donna and David Tillman

This donation is in the name of Patricia Collier. - Wendy Eakle

Thanks to everyone who helped unite Emiko and I with Andy and Chase. We re-named them Kansuke (Andy) and Shingen (Chase) after characters from

16th Century Japanese History. They are doing GRREAT (pun intended)! It feels like they have always lived here. GRREAT gave us a (and I'm sure a lot of other folks) very Merry Christmas! Thank you for all that you do. - Alan and Emiko Alborn

On Behalf of Mike and Julie Fowler. - Mark Green

To thank Sandy Diamond for all her years of dedicated service to and for GRREAT- we miss her. - Lane and Gene Weinzwieg

To thank Vicki Eurice. - Laura and Jim Horn

Keep up the great work. - Betty Van Dyke

On behalf of "Lacy". - John Hinsley

Please use this donation wherever it is most needed. Thank you again for my "Gillie", she is my angel. - Linda and Robert Young

This donation is being given as a Christmas gift to Lisa Zolly and her GRREAT dog, "Reilly". - Jane Rachel Potts

We would like to make a donation in Ernie Clasing's name. - Beth, Jerry and Seth Hake

Merry X-mas Nancy! - Jessica Howell

This donation is made in the name of Emma Kaplan "The World's Greatest Dog". She is still sorely missed. - Scott and Laura Kaplan

For Goldie, rescued by Neva Davis. - Gary Loewenthal

To thank you for Grady (aka Teddy) 2006. - Joseph Lenczycki

To salute Jeffrey Balenson's fostering. - Cory and Stanford Rothschild

Please accept this donation as a Christmas gift to Janet and Nick Kaplan. Thank you for your good work. - Michael Kaplan

This year my husband asked for people to give donations instead of Christmas presents. We adopted Maggie the end of June and have been so blessed to have her. This can go towards anything needed. - Lauren and Brandon Robinson

Please accept the enclosed check as a holiday season contribution to the work you do with Golden Retrievers. - Marshall Schy

Dedicated to Amber. - Sheila and Al Vertino

Donation of 3 hours of pet tracking services. - Sam Connelly

Please use this money where it is most needed, either for a special fund or any other expenses. We think GRREAT is a terrific organization and we are so thankful for our current GRREAT Brady, our perfect dog and cherished member of our family! Thanks for all the hard work from so many dedicated members of GRREAT who do so much for so many - your efforts are greatly appreciated. - Joe and Judy Niebauer

In lieu of exchanging Christmas gifts, we are making donations to worthy Animal welfare organizations, and none is more worthy than GRREAT. Thank you for all you do to help Golden Retrievers! - Dawn and Ed Lowe

To thank all the GRREAT Volunteers. - Barbara and Ace Oestreich

I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for all the hard work you do. - Beverly and Steven Kreisberg

DONATIONS



To help all of our wonderful Golden retrievers in need. - Ralph and Jondelle Truitt

For Annie Clark who at 14 1/2 continues to inspire and enlighten me. - Bonnie Clark

For Christine Peirce. - Don Ash

Please accept this gift with gratitude for the loving care Jannus (07-015) received from the GRREAT organization and his wonderful foster parents, Chris and Larry Ronald. - Marge McMonagle

My girlfriend and I decided that this year we would donate to charity instead of exchanging gifts. I, of course, thought of you first. Enclosed is a check for my donations for Steve (Papa), and my two friends. We are so happy to be able to help and hope that 2009 finds many "forever homes" for our Goldie pups. A gift for Steve Daner (our Papa): "Merry Christmas and Happy 2009 Papa. Our wish for the new year is that all Goldies find 'forever homes' and are as happy as we are with you. We love you with every wag of our tails! XOXOXOXO Cate & Ally" Another gift: "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our extended family Jill, Bill, and Cameron Konrad. We wish you all the joys and blessings of 2009. We love you. Cate & Ally Daner (Mom & Dad, too)" And another gift: "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our extended family Aunt Debbie and Carle Spriggs. We wish you all the joy and blessing of 2009. We love you. Cate & Ally Daner (Mom & Dad, too)". - Judy and Steve Daner

Please accept the enclosed donation from Mary Colling's brother. - Charlie Nordstrom

My daughter, Susan Leonard, fosters dogs for GRREAT and because of her strong feelings for the proper care of dogs, I wanted to donate to your cause. - Mary Dougherty

To all our beloved fuzz butts who have gone on to the Rainbow Bridge; gone but will never be forgotten. - Robin and Donald Greenfield

Dedicated to my most beautiful Goldie - Casey, who gives us so much love and joy. - Shiela Ramsey

Dedicated to Elizabeth Crane & Denver. - Samuel Visner

Fund in Chief's Honor. Dedicated to the memories of our rescue dogs, Chief and Dusty, and our other kids, Sunny and Lani. - Chuck and Sandy Johnson

We are so happy with Annie (formerly Puck), adopted Sept 2007. She is definitely an old dog who is very happy in her new home. As always, thanks to GRREAT for your great work. - Eileen Powers and Fred Delavan

Thanks for all the GRREAT work you do! We love Bailey very much and he has been such a joy in our lives! - Cheryl and Brad Sidwell

Corporate Giving

Fidelity Charitable Gift, on behalf of Mary Ginn

CCA Mortgage LLC, company matching donation for Connie and Ben Etheridge

Capital One Associates Political Fund Matching Program, on behalf of Sharon and David Johnson

Giving Express Program from American Express, on behalf of Eileen Bennett

Pacer LLC

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

Schwab Charitable Fund - We are pleased to present you with the enclosed grant. This grant is made possible by the generosity of Brian Donovan on behalf of Kathy and Ray Schmid

The Skeen Family Foundation - see article on page 6

Alberto Culver Company, on behalf of Marjorie Taylor and the Sloan family in memory of Miner Joe Sloan

Definitive Logic Corporation

WellPoint Giving Campaign, on behalf of Renee Miller

Forever Friends Fund

Memorials can be seen at www.grreat.org/foreverfriends

To honor Tally and help GRREAT. - Samantha Jessee

In honor of Sam's memory. - Jill Freifeld

In honor of GRREAT rescue Katie Dawson. - Michele Windsor

(continued on page 22)

DONATIONS

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)

In honor of Jesse-not a GRREAT dog, but a great dog! -
Susanne Lazanov

Edward Niemann

In memory of Chaucer, Spencer and Dylan. - Douglass Gray
and Patricia France

A check is given this Christmas in honor of Eric and Chris
Boehm. - J.T. and Pat Catlett

In honor of Ben (04-173). - Terri Jones

For Dr. Bruce Smoller -- In celebration of Molly's life and
for all the precious memories you have of her... I'm thinking
of you and your family during this rough time -- those dog-
gies take a bit of our hearts with them but oh the joy they
give... so my parting words are: another Golden when both
of you are ready! Warmest Woofs, Daphne. - Daphne King

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

In memory of Bob Johnson and all our fur-face friends who
are with him. - Marjorie Johnson

Rebecca and Art Hotop

For Belle - our 1st Golden who passed on 7/5/04, and
Rocky - our 1st adoption from GRREAT. - Julia and Dick
Kwiatkowski

Donated on behalf of Marty, Susan, Maggie, and Katie
Scheina. - Jonathan Scheina

In memory of Tawni who has never been forgotten. - Nancy
Hamilton

John and Yvonne Kinkaid

For Halley and Molly. - Susan Abbott In Honor of Penny
(97-039) for giving us 10 extra months (so far) since her 3
cancers were diagnosed! Max (04-031) loves you! - Vicki and
James Eurice

Leo's Heroes (\$500 and over)

In memory of NORRA (05-094) - A sad note, during a sea-
son of joy. We just learned over Christmas that Norra, one
of our previous fosters, had passed away earlier this year, just
shy of her 11th birthday. Petite and precocious, she always
gave the impression that she needed to be taken care of. Her
theme song on our web site ([http://home.teleport.com/
~goldens](http://home.teleport.com/~goldens)) was the Gershwin melody "Someone to Watch
Over Me" I'm a little lamb who's lost in the wood I know
I could Always be good ... Someone who'll watch over me.
We know Norra is watching over us now. She will always
have a special place in our hearts, and that of her forever
mom, Linda Prendergast. - Sarah Navia, Harry Sethna, and
Brontë (02-198)

A great big Christmas hug for GUNNAR (07-167) aka Gun-
Gun, who spent 13 months as our foster. Despite a variety
of health and behavioral problems that needed multiple
visits to the vet and a behavioral specialist - and included
much poking and prodding, x-rays, blood tests, and a muscle
biopsy - Gun-Gun appears to have borrowed from Admiral
Farragut's adage at the Battle of Mobile Bay: "Damn the tor-
pedoes, full steam ahead." We miss you Gun-Gun. We know
you are happy in your forever home. We love your new name
- Quinn. - Harry Sethna and Sarah Navia

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

Simile-Finale Fund

In memory of Bonnie and in celebration of the love,
fun, kisses and companionship she shared with Theresa
and Adam. - Joan Ansheles

In memory of Kate and BJ Johnson. - Katherine John-
son

The Spears family wishes to make this donation as a gift
to Jeff and Lucinda Twining. Merry Christmas, we love
and miss you very much. - Amanda Lewis

Dedicated in memory of Mr. Joe Sloan... my friend's
Dad. - Daniel R. Hodges

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

There is a rescue for Golden Retrievers? It is this question that people ask when they see GRREAT's booth at one of the numerous events the rescue participates in. When people find out that GRREAT takes in about 250 dogs every year, you can see the shock and amazement on their faces and in their voices when they state that Golden Retrievers are such good dogs why, would anyone give them up? It is because of comments such as these that GRREAT attends events to help educate the public on the need for rescue and on the Golden Retriever breed. GRREAT is always looking for and in need of committed volunteers who wish to give some of their time to attend events. For a list of upcoming events go to www.grreat.org/calendar.htm. For more information on any event, please email events@grreat.org and if you wish to volunteer at any event, please email volunteer@grreat.org.

March

14 PVGRC Banquet Dinner from 6pm-9pm; Golden Bull Restaurant, 7 Dalamar St, Gaithersburg MD; www.pvgrc.org

14 Dogwash and Microchipping Clinic from 11am to 3pm; 4 Paws Spa and Training Center, 121A Industry Lane, Forest Hill, Maryland

20-22 GRREAT Education Table at Super Pet Expo, from March 20 from 4pm-9pm; March 21, 2009 from 10am-7pm; March 22, 2009 from 10am-5pm; Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly VA; www.superpetexpo.com/chantilly.html

April

24 GRREAT along with Paws Pet Boutique will host Canines & Cocktails for a Cause from 5pm to 8pm. Theme is Pirate Parade Costume Contest; Lowes

Annapolis Hotel; www.pawspetboutique.com/news_events.aspx

24 GRREAT Education Table at Paws In the Park from 10am-2pm; Prince William Forest Park, Pine Grove Picnic Pavilion; www.nps.gov/ncr/customcf/apps/event-calendar/events/prwievnt00841243.html

May

2 GRREAT Education Table at 9th Annual Reston Pet Fiesta from 10am to 4pm; Reston Town Center, Reston, VA

9 GRREAT Education Table at Perfect Pet Expo from 10am to 3pm; Perfect Pet Resort, 840 Bay Front Rd, Lothian, MD; www.pawspetboutique.com/news_events.aspx

16 GRREAT Education Table at McLean Day Festival from 11am-5pm; Lewinsville Park, McLean, VA

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

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