



GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc. • May/June 2009 • Vol. 20, No. 3

IN THIS ISSUE: **Every Day is a Gift**

by Mary Collings, Intake Coordinator

Letter from the President
Microchipping Coordinator 3

The Perks and
Perils of a Pack 4 & 6
Dear Janet 4

Energetic Ripple Effect
GRREAT Store for Moms 5

GRREAT Bark-B-Que
AKC Events 7

The Birthday Gift 8

A New Look for
GRREAT News 9

Adoption Report 10

Donations 11-13

Thanks to Our Volunteers 14

Donation, Renewal, and
Volunteer Forms 15

GRREAT Calendar 16

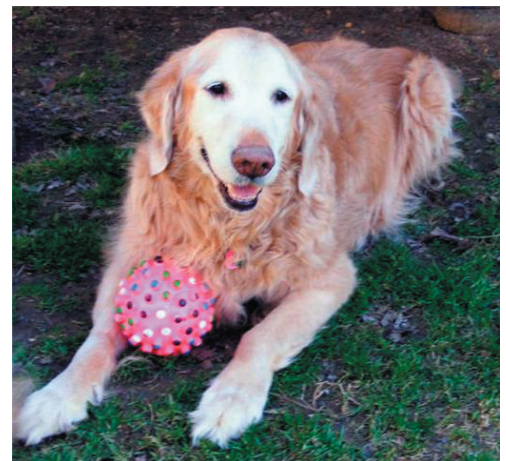
Shelby came into GRREAT in September 2003 from a shelter. She was brought in as a stray, so no history was known about her other than she seemed to be a really nice dog; so nice, in fact, that the shelter held on to her for a month to see if an owner would come looking for her. At the time, I'd been doing intakes for GRREAT for 6 months and when I got the intake information from the shelter, I agreed she sounded pretty nice. I was asked to transport her to a local animal hospital for vetting and boarding, which I agreed to do. When they brought her out from the back of the shelter, I knew the moment I saw her that I was looking at our new dog.

When I brought Shelby home from the animal hospital as a GRREAT foster dog, she walked into our home like she belonged here — she walked through the door, greeted our other dogs, hopped up on the couch, and fell asleep until she was called for dinner.

Through the years, Shelby has been such an important part of our lives, and we hardly remember not always having her as part of our family. When she joined our family, it was obvious she had never played with a woobie or even chased a ball. All of the “fun things” were new to her, but she caught on very quickly! Her enthusiasm for chasing after squeaky balls in the back yard has always been endless and she loves chewing on, and carrying around, stuffed animals.

In 2005, we welcomed a second GRREAT dog, Rocky, into our home. With four dogs — three of them Golden Retrievers — my husband and I agreed that life couldn't be any better. Our dogs were happy and healthy, we were happy and healthy, and everything was as it should be in the Collings household.

On December 22, 2008, everything in our lives began to change. Several masses



were discovered by our vet in one of Shelby's lungs and after multiple tests, X-rays, and a biopsy, the oncologist vet confirmed our worst fears. Our sweet Shelby was diagnosed with cancer (carcinoma). This was followed by more bad news; it's inoperable because it has spread, chemotherapy won't help, radiation won't help, nothing will help. Her prognosis was a few weeks to a couple of months.

We were completely devastated. Every morning for days and days, the moment I opened my eyes from yet another night of restless sleep, I'd start to cry. For about a week, I couldn't look at Shelby without crying and I'd leave the room so as not to upset her or the other dogs. My husband had to practically force himself to go to work. He didn't want to leave her, for fear she might suddenly take a turn for the worse while he was at work.

We quickly realized we were wasting valuable time. Not only were we wasting time that we could be doing fun things with Shelby and our other dogs, but we were wasting time by not trying to help her in every way we could. We started reading everything we could get our hands on about cancer in dogs, and we called just about everyone we know

(continued on page 9)

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

P.O. Box 3069, Falls Church, VA 22043-0069
Phone: 703-620-6593 • Web site: www.grreat.org

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.

2009 COORDINATORS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT		
Robin Heinecke*	president@grreat.org	410.758.2395
VICE PRESIDENT		
Steve Bergstrom*	vp@grreat.org	703.988.0266
SECRETARY		
Louise Davidson*	secretary@grreat.org	703.281.7698
TREASURER		
Stephanie Eberly*	treasurer@grreat.org	410.987.0962
ADOPTION COORDINATOR		
Jessie Robinson*	adoptions@grreat.org	301.577.8350
INTAKE COORDINATOR		
Mary Collings*	intake@grreat.org	540.720.8588
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR		
Lisa Cook*	volunteer@grreat.org	703.620.6593
FOSTER HOME COORDINATOR		
Erin Ledbetter*	fosters@grreat.org	410.231.2096
FOSTER HOME APPROVAL COORDINATOR		
Denise Malczewski	becomeafosterhome@grreat.org	443.305.2184
POC COORDINATOR		
Lucinda Twining	poc@grreat.org	703.754.4379
TRANSPORT COORDINATOR		
Vicki Eurice	transport@grreat.org	410.893.5412
EDUCATION COORDINATOR		
Vacant	education@grreat.org	
FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR		
Vacant	fundraising@grreat.org	
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR		
Jeremy Ledbetter*	mail-admin@grreat.org	410.231.2097
MICROCHIP COORDINATOR		
Jeff Twining	microchips@grreat.org	703.754.4379
GRREAT EVENTS COORDINATOR		
Carolyn Beyer*	events@grreat.org	703-273-2618
MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR		
Sharon Meirose	merchandise@grreat.org	410.569.7311
TRAINING COORDINATOR		
Bud Allen	GRREATTrain@gmail.com	703.992.7990
NEWSLETTER		
Joanne Poesch	jmpoesch@aol.com	703-858-9560
WEBMASTER		
Bob Fritz	webmaster@grreat.org	301.330.5749

* members of the GRREAT Board of Directors

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear GRREAT Members:

It's May already, which means summer is right around the corner. For many people, warm weather means time spent swimming, boating, or just hanging out by the water. Those of us with dogs often-times assume that swimming comes naturally to our dogs — that is not necessarily the case. Golden Retrievers for the most part are swimmers, but that does not mean you should let your dog run into the pond, river or ocean while you go back inside, because just like people, dogs can struggle and drown. Dogs that love to swim can wander off in the water if you aren't right there with them, or get pulled away by the tide. If you're out on your boat, having a life vest made to fit your pet is just as important as having a life vest for every person on board. Your pet can panic in the water just as you can.

In-ground swimming pools can be a challenge for even the most seasoned swimming Golden. Unlike the water at the beach, pools don't have a gradual entry and exit — they have walls. It's important if you have a pool to have a person in the pool with the dog at all times, and to teach your dog how to safely get out of the pool.

There are other dangers as well. One danger is drinking from a body of water contaminated by parasites or bacteria, such as *Giardia*. Both are common in stagnant bodies of water, such as ponds, bogs and small lakes. At the beach,

your dog may swallow too much saltwater while romping in the surf. Excessive saltwater can make him quite sick. Sea lice and jellyfish are other concerns to watch out for at the beach. Ear infections can also be a common problem.

All of this being said, enjoy the summer weather and a swim with your pooch, just be as careful as you would with your children or friends when swimming.

—Robin Heinecke, GRREAT President



A Change in the Microchipping Coordinator Role

by Bob Kurtz



During the past two years, I've been writing to you about GRREAT's use of microchips to help identify lost dogs and return them to their owners. This spring, I passed on the Microchipping Coordinator role to long-time volunteer, Jeff Twining.

I'm proud of the work that the microchipping team has accomplished during this time — experienced volunteers Carolyn Beyer, Scott Daniels, Janet Hauck, Jill Kurtz, Jessie Robinson, Jeff Twining and myself, and new volunteers Robin

Heinecke and Erin Ledbetter. We have microchipped about 350 GRREAT dogs, and we've brought the microchipping program a large part of the way to financial success by chipping non-GRREAT dogs. Between our own chips and pre-existing chips that GRREAT re-registered, we've provided 95% or more of our Golden Retrievers with permanent identification.

We've seen the payoff of our hard work, with six GRREAT dogs identified and recovered by microchips during 2008!

Please welcome Jeff and give him your support as he and the microchipping team work to help identify and protect each and every GRREAT dog. You can contact Jeff at microchipping@grreat.org.

Perks and Perils of a Pack

by Janet Hauck

“Who wants ear juice?” That gets their attention even if they’re dozing. It provokes a vast array of responses. One lowers head in the “O.K., do it now submissive mode”; another freaks with an “Oh no, not that stuff”!; the third is compliant, sighing, “She’ll catch me anyway”; number four flies down the basement steps; and the fifth acquiesces, mumbling, “Only if you do it one at a time” with a roll around the carpet to rub it out in between!! There is an atmosphere of playfulness in this hilarious scenario since they’ve done it dozens of times and know the routine.

Yes, we are asked how and why we became owners of five rescued Golden Retrievers. The truth is that it snuck up on us. Sure, fostering contributed to some of the adoptions where special issues were involved. Others were not so clear, but just as necessary in our hearts. We have had Golden Retrievers for 23 years and our packs have suffered the inevitable losses. Replacements always seemed to step up. Bottom line: we were chosen, we chose, it happened.

Changes in pack members trigger subtle adjustments in hierarchy. We’re not talking battles for superiority so much as roles being filled by different dogs. Our 14-year old has retained her ownership of the matriarchy. Jake became the boss man —“I’ll handle this situation” guy. Bingo and Shana, the neediest of the bunch, still vie for the “me/my/mine” spot. It takes vigilance and creativity to retain the pack leader status in human hands.



Thus far with this group, we are blessedly able to feed all the same food and Nupro supplement. I order seven bags at a time with coupons through the internet; each bag lasts 9

½ days. Medications, however, are varied for thyroid, seizures and anti-inflammatories for arthritis. Glucosamines and chondroitins with MSM are given to all but the youngest. Flea/tick and heartworm preventatives are fondly known as our “mortgage payment”. And poop detail is “our business”!!

Luckily, only one needs her anal glands expressed regularly. Gloves are expensive...but not as expensive as a vet doing it is :). Similarly, only two need to wear booties on our long daily walks; one for a deformed leg shuffling, and the other for arthritic wrists and old cracked pads. Tar and chip is hard

(continued on page 6)

Dear Janet,

I am expecting my first baby in four months. My Golden has been around friends' toddlers and is great with them, but she hasn't spent much time with infants. With her personality, I'm not worried about her showing any aggression toward the baby, but what can I do to make the coming change as easy on her as possible? E.F.

Dear E.F.

Congratulations! It's wonderful that you are thinking of your dog during what must be a very busy time for you. Here are some steps that you can take to prepare your dog for living with a baby:

- Some dogs can become upset when they hear an infant crying, so you should get your dog used to the sound now. Get a CD of a baby crying and play it very softly when your dog is having a positive experience such as eating, playing with you, or being pet. As she becomes accustomed to the sound, gradually increase the volume to a realistic level.
- Many baby toys are very similar to dog toys, so begin to teach your dog the difference now. Keep all of your dog's toys in one area such as a basket, a corner or her crate. As you begin to acquire toys for your baby, when you can closely supervise your dog, leave one of the baby toys on the floor, as if the baby had thrown it there. If your dog notices the toy and ignores it or notices the toy, sniffs it, then leaves it alone, give her lots of praise and attention. You want her to understand that her job is to leave the baby's toys alone. If your dog tries to put the toy in her mouth, tell her “no.” Quickly lead your dog to her toy area and praise her so that she understands where her toys are.
- When you bring your baby home, your dog may be curious and want to investigate her new family member. You do want your dog to be able to see and sniff the baby, but not to jump up on you in order to do so. To help your dog understand appropriate behavior, get a doll which resembles an infant. Practice carrying the doll around the house as if it's a real infant. Praise your dog for not jumping. If your dog does jump, correct her as you normally would for jumping on you. If she seems interested in the doll, sit down and let her sniff it. If she's sniffing gently, tell her what a good dog she is. If your dog tries to sniff too vigorously or tries to chew on the doll, tell her “no”.
- Once your dog has learned to behave well when you're simply carrying the doll around, incorporate other actions that your dog might find harder to resist such as singing, bouncing, burping etc. Rock the doll in a rocking chair. Put the doll on the changing table and change it. Do anything else you can think of with the doll that you will be doing with your baby. Continue to praise your dog for good behavior and correct her for any inappropriate actions.
- Most dogs are comforted by a regular routine, so try to get your dog on a routine now that you think you'll be able to maintain once your baby arrives. Once you bring your baby home, his/her needs may necessitate a change in the routine, but try to keep it as much the same as possible.

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

The Energetic Ripple Effect

by Sherry B. True

How have the recent turn of events affected you individually, locally and globally? Do you find you, your friends and family anxious, distracted and agitated by the energy that has been created by our current economic situation? How is your worry or fear about your situation being felt out in the world? Remember that for whatever we do or think is always being sent out to the Universe and becomes part of the universal collective. It has a ripple effect on all we do and with the animals we share Mother Earth.

It is from this circumstance that I have noticed and felt the uneasiness of animals during this time, too. Throughout the past several months, there have been a lot of news reports about animals attacking people. In almost every news story, the people who owned the animals or the people being attacked said it was completely out of character of who the animal really was. So, why would seemingly docile and normally happy pets be reacting in this way? Think about the feeling of where our nation, or the world for that matter, is as a whole right now? Don't you think the anxiety we feel transfers over to our pets and all animals who inhabit the planet?

As we know, energy is a powerful force to deal with! We also know animals are far more connected to Mother Earth and with their energetic surroundings. We as human beings generally have the ability to block unwanted energy from our space. We can move away from it, not acknowledge it, protect ourselves from it, or make a conscience effort not to let it affect us. Animals unfortunately do not have that same ability. They are more like energy sponges, soaking up all the energy that surrounds them, both good and bad. This also includes the animals out in the wild. Many are feeling the collective negative energy being created by humans all over the world due to economics, war and a host of other issues.

Take a few moments to see how your pets or animals in your area have been affected? Do you find that they too are more agitated and full of anxiety these days? This is not a normal behavior for them as it is a human emotion. However, because they live with us or share the planet with us, they are exposed to the energy being put forth by us on a daily basis. Now if our energy is coming from a much calmer and more positive space, our animals will react to that also.

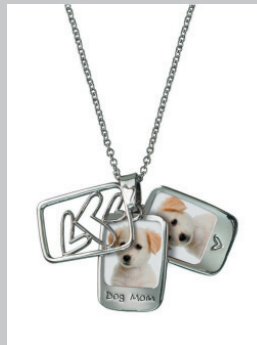
Animals are asking us to get back to that true form of who we are spiritually. Some of us are finding out the hard way we do not need all the things we think we need to live. Animals exist on the planet in the purest form of being minimalists. Some of us on the other hand, live to maximize and take as much as we can from each other and the planet. As recent days and events have come to pass, we are learning that more is not better; it is, in fact, possibly far more destructive in more ways than one.

Animals are trying to adjust to this new energy as it seems to become stronger and more prevalent. Each day, they show us how we could be living our lives, and everyday we push back thinking we know best. Sometimes we do and other times we could certainly be taking cues from them and how they live. Is it Utopia? No, but it is certainly one which is more aligned with our true nature. Animals hope we get the message soon, as we have a direct effect on the planet we share with them. They are hopeful and look forward to the time when harmony among the species will exist.

Sherry B. True is owner and service provider for Spirit Paws, alternative animal wellness services. Her services include Animal Communication, Healthy Pet Consults, Animal Blessings and Healing Touch for Animals®. For more information please visit www.spiritpaws.com.

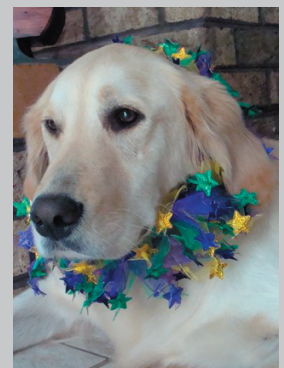
GRREAT Store for Dog Moms

by Sharon Meirose



If you're reading our newsletter, chances are you know a "Dog Mom." Just in time for Mothers Day, GRREAT has a new Dog Mom necklace available that features a locket on an 18" chain to hold her two favorite photos of her dog(s)! For Fathers Day, we recommend paw print magnets in 20 sayings such as: Who Rescued Who?, You Had Me at Woof, and Wet Kisses are the Best. And, your dog will look

great in our new party collars with patriotic and gingham designs, perfect for summer outings. Everything is available at www.grreat.org/store.



(continued from page 4)

for both of them. Four of the five are wonderfully cooperative and patient with nail and foot trims. Our Jake, after years of struggle, has found happiness and a seriously wagging tail response when we offer and use a muzzle. He relaxes and is SO proud when he is released and praised lavishly!

Just one pup has really disjointed hips and I've mentioned Reba's arthritis. "Frisbee queen" she was; a limping, hurting elder she's become. Modifications help. All are groomed and bathed at home in our unfinished, heated, cool basement with a sunken tub. Here again, the rollicking rituals are full of maneuvers to avoid being first (joke) or to be first so a treat comes quickly. Wet towels become dead prey, shaken and tossed in glee. Who cares? We don't because it helps clean the vinyl tile when we walk the towels with our feet before washing them!

As you can tell, modifications are SOP for multi-dog households. Obvious are: not everyone goes on a ride at one time, nor are home visits/events, or even certain toys, for everyone all the time. We use Air Kong rope toys rather than tennis balls because Jake almost lost his life five years ago when he tried to stuff a third ball into his mouth and it shoved a ball deep into his throat! No one said these guys have common sense. Swift vet intervention and puncture of the ball to grasp and remove it saved the day.

Walks with five dogs can present problems if another dog passing on the road growls or lunges at our pack on leashes. Anxious dogs, tethered, can turn on one another in their frustration. One lovely afternoon in the backyard with all the dogs, presented a traumatic episode when Jake and Shana were running and playing in their Preakness mode and I heard Shana screaming. I looked to see Jake with his mouth at her neck and every time she moved or struggled to get away, his head moved with her and she appeared to be being choked! I did everything in my power to get them to separate and found that the problem was that Jake's canine tooth was caught in Shana's collar. Therefore, every time they twisted, it choked her. Slowing them down enough for the collar to loosen freed Jake, and we all embraced in relief having dodged another bullet! Can I say NEVER leave dogs unattended in the yard? Can I say NEVER let them play with collars on? No, but I can urge extreme vigilance. Even a game of fetch with many dogs can be problematic if they both dive for the same ball/toy at the same time. I have witnessed the muzzle of one caught by the teeth of another (inadvertently) in this scene and, yes, it resulted in stitches! Our vet once commented, "Yes, you rescued them—and then rescued them...and rescued them again." Injuries and ills come with the territory. Vigilance is the watchword.

Recognizing and supporting differences, and demanding respect within the pack, is a constant though it is not always about serious management. There are the delightful, charming

and heartwarming moments of interaction and glee that make it so worthwhile. One of our favorite canine displays occurs when one or both of us return home and, in unison, with different pitches, a full pack chorus of howls with heads raised and muzzles in the air, erupts and persists like the echoes in a canyon! It repeats as each dog runs out of breath and then howls again in support of the group. The largest, most masculine dog has the choirboy soprano voice. What a hoot...err howl!

"Mother May I?" is our name for the pleading "rower-roo-rooing" in a soft voice that is used by a few of ours when they feel pressed to ask permission to pass another dog lying in their path. It is so precious to behold...so sweet and polite! Bingo does this to enter our bedroom at 4:00 a.m. if he forgot to reserve a spot there earlier in the night. THEN...it is not so precious!

Reba, the matriarch, and Jake Da Boss Man have an evening ritual of the most terrifying growls and snarls and yips when they play tug-o-war with a stuffed toy. It ends in a crescendo of fierce finality and two proud, happy friends prancing in delight at their game of "Let's Pretend." I love it!

Four years ago, we began our dog friendly landscaping in the backyard. I had read an article in the paper and began creating garden areas that are walled in strategic places. The plan should involve paths and routes for activity. Ours beckons "hide and seek" and figure eight races for some of our pack. Watching them fly around in almost a gallop is a joy. Bingo finds stripping bark from a huge tree more to his liking. Hmmm, barking up the wrong tree if you ask me!

As we have watched and helped difficult Golden Retrievers evolve and blossom, it has often felt like a living soap opera. They've each looked, smelled and felt differently. We use the pack to change behavior through modeling, routines and fun. Sure, some individual perks are eliminated in a pack of five, but ours seem to thrive in our rich and stimulating environment. They seem genuinely secure and happy...thank dog!

Did I mention vacuuming?



2009 GRREAT Bark-B-Que

Join GRREAT on Saturday, June 13 for our annual Bark-B-Que at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis, Maryland.

Quiet Waters Park offers an off-leash, fenced park for the dogs to play, and an off-leash dog beach for swimming. The park also has more than 6 miles of trails for spectacular walk/hiking. While the Bark-B-Que is over at 3 pm, you're welcome to stay until dusk when the park closes.

Food and beverage will be provided. Activities for both two and four legged guests will be available. This is a wonderful way to start off the 2009 summer season with friends, food, games, merchandise, prizes and lots of fun for all!

In addition to the 50/50 raffle drawing, we'll hold a raffle for gift baskets and other donated items. If you can donate items for the raffle, please contact Carolyn Beyer, Event Coordinator, at events@grreat.org

For information about the park, call 410-222-1777 or visit the web at www.aacounty.org/RecParks/Parks/quiet_waters_park.

Special Note: Tell the park gatekeeper that you are attending the GRREAT Picnic and you will not be charged admission.

****Price of parking is included in admission****

The Bark-B-Que is held rain or shine, but in the case of severe weather and the Bark-B-Que is canceled, the registration fee will be donated to GRREAT.

Bark-B-Que Details:

Date: Saturday, June 13

Time: 11a.m. until 3p.m. (park open until dusk)

Place: Quiet Waters Park, Red Maple Pavilion
600 Quiet Waters Park Rd., Annapolis, MD 21403

Cost: \$10 per adult (age 17+) in advance;
\$15 at the door. Children under 16 and dogs, of course, are free!

To save \$5 per adult go to <http://grreat.org/barkbque.htm>
If you do not wish to pay with your credit card via PayPal, you can mail a check to GRREAT (P.O. Box 3069, Falls Church VA 22043) no later than June 7.

RSVP: Email to events@grreat.org or call 703-620-6593 (box 5) Tell us your name, # of people and # of dogs attending.

Volunteer: To volunteer (set-up, clean-up, game coordinator, merchandise, registration), contact Lisa Cook, GRREAT Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@grreat.org

Directions: From US-50 East, take exit 22/Rt.665 (or Aris T. Allen Blvd). Stay on Rt. 665 until it merges into Forest Drive. Continue straight on Forest Drive for 2 miles. Turn right at the Exxon Station onto Hillsmere Drive (you'll see a "Quiet Waters Park - Next Right" sign). The park entrance is 100 yards on the right hand side. Parking is included, just tell the gate keeper you're with GRREAT.

Competing in AKC Events with your GRREAT Dog

by Bob Kurtz, PVGRC Vice President

The Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club (PVGRC) holds a variety of competitive dog activities annually. These include an obedience and rally event each spring, hunt and field events in the spring and fall, and three agility trials in the spring and summer. Because these events are sponsored by the American Kennel Club (AKC) or Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA), all entered dogs must be registered with the AKC.

Of course, GRREAT dogs are often from an uncertain background and do not generally have AKC registration paperwork. So how can you participate in these events with your GRREAT dog?

Luckily, the AKC allows unregistered dogs to enter these events using the Indefinite Listing Privilege (ILP). An ILP certification identifies your dog as a particular breed, and allows you to enter performance events like obedience,

field, and agility.

You can obtain an ILP from the AKC by downloading an application form at <http://www.akc.org/pdfs/ilpform.pdf> and submitting it with two photos of your dog to the AKC. A \$35 application fee is required. You can find more information about the ILP process at <http://www.akc.org/reg/ilpex.cfm>.

I obtained an ILP for my Labrador Retriever. My family raised Janet to be a guide dog for Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Unfortunately, she didn't meet their strict health requirements due to allergies and she stayed with us. With her ILP, I have entered her in several AKC field tests.

If you would like to get involved in competitive events with your GRREAT Golden, the ILP is the way to go. It's easy!

The Birthday Gift

by Skip Nizer

The year was 1951, the month was February. February 1st to be exact. It was dark outside and bitterly cold. The young boy had turned five that day.

There hadn't been anything said about his birthday, nothing special had been done. As a matter of fact, the child didn't even remember that it was his birthday. The boy's grandmother had supper on the table a little after 4:30, not too long after the man of the house, his uncle, had cleaned up after walking home from work. Nothing was said at the dinner table about it being his birthday. Nothing special had been cooked, and all of the talk was the usual conversation. The only thing unusual was that his uncle had put on his hat, coat and gloves and had left the house. Usually his uncle read the paper and watched a little TV and was in bed before 10pm.

The child watched his uncle walk up the road until the night had made him disappear. No one mentioned where he was going. When the child asked where his uncle had gone, his mother only said that he would be back in a couple of hours. The boy noticed that his mother and grandmother would take turns looking out the window, talking about how cold it was and how slippery the roads were. His grandmother said that it had been more than two hours now. Then he heard his Mom say, "He's coming down the road now." The boy looked out the window and saw a figure walking thru the snow; it was his uncle.

Several minutes later, the front door opened and Uncle George was finally home. His face was red from the wind, his glasses were steamed, and snow covered his hat and the fur collar of his coat. "Did you get it?" the boy's mom asked. A smile came over the uncle's face and he said, "Yes. It was a long, cold walk but I think it was worth it."

The small boy stared up at his uncle as he slowly pulled his coat zipper half way down. Suddenly, there appeared a tiny black and white face with big eyeballs from inside the coat. The small face looked down at the child and, as if magic, a bond that would last forever was made.

The uncle carefully took the puppy from his coat and it was then that the child heard his mother, grandmother and uncle say, "Happy Birthday!" The boy then touched his best friend for the first time.

That was more than 58 years ago and I can still hit "play" and that recorder in my mind plays that scene over and over again. He was Mr. Attaboy; out of Big Bertha and bred by a man named Mr. Taber. Boy, as we called him, was a Boston Bull Terrier — loyal, protective and my best friend. There



were no pet stores around us. My mother had managed to locate a breeder a couple of miles away and my uncle was willing to walk there in the cold and snow. Had the breeder been a Newfoundland owner, my uncle would have needed a bigger coat!

There's always something special about your first dog. Do you remember yours?

He was the only Boston Bull that I have ever had, but to this day whenever I am around one, I have to pet it. My mind seems to automatically hit rewind and play.

Boy taught me what courage and loyalty are when he came between me a stray dog that didn't like kids, or people in general. That stray dog was big enough that he looked down at me. To protect me, Boy got between us and he had to jump up to bite the dog. He went for the neck. He held onto the stray's neck and all four of his paws were off the ground. The stray yielded and Boy let go. I quickly doubled back inside our fence with Boy guarding the rear...mine! That stray dog never came down our road again.

As you probably noted, Boy was the one with courage and I was the one with a guardian angel. And as far as I am concerned, having a dog for your guardian angel is a pretty good thing.

All of my dogs have been special, regardless of the breed — Bostons, Goldens, Chessies, Llewellyns, or the all American mutt. But then we all know that dogs are special. I think that the first dog a child has is usually just a little more special. What do you think? Our first foster dog, Speedy, was special too. If you want to share something about your first dog, please email me at coyoteeskip@aol.com.

Until next time, sit down, relax, pet your dog, hit rewind and then hit play.

(continued from page 1)

who'd been through this with a dog. We became dedicated not only to educating ourselves, but to making every moment of her life the happiest it could be and the healthiest it could be. We knew what we were up against, but we made the decision that we were going to fight this cancer with everything we could.

And here we are, April 2009. Shelby continues to be on a few medications prescribed by the vet, lots of supplements "prescribed" by us, she gets lots of meat and veggies in her kibble at breakfast and dinner, she gets apple slices and blueberries for afternoon snacks, and she gets lots and lots of play time, exercise, and love. Grocery shopping and cooking for Shelby make me feel like an active participant in her care and that I'm making a difference in her life.

Watching Shelby chase her squeaky ball in the back yard is the happiest time of my day. Sometimes when I'm outside with the dogs, I think ahead about the day that she won't want to chase the ball or that she'll tire out and want to stop after just a couple of throws. Without fail, I quickly put those thoughts out of my head because while I know this cancer will someday take her away from us, I refuse to let it take away today.

Every time I look at Shelby, I smile. I don't know how much longer she'll be with us, and it's rare that I even think about that because I'm too busy enjoying her. What I do know is that I won't have regrets. I know that I'm the very best Mom I can be and that I'm making every moment of every day special for her. No matter how busy I am with GRREAT or things in my personal life, I take time to go outside with my dogs and let them play, or I'll snuggle with them on the couch or bed or we'll sit quietly and share some special moments together — and most days, we do all of the above!

I've learned a lot in recent months about cancer and special diets and supplements, but the most important thing I've learned is that every day is a gift.

Calendar Photos

It's time to collect pictures for the 2010 GRREAT calendar. Here are the rules:

- Pictures must include a dog adopted through GRREAT, although it can include other animals (no people.)
- Dogs that were included in the 2009 calendar are not eligible.
- All pictures must be horizontal due to the calendar design.
- No costumes, please.
- No "red-eye" or "dog eye"
- Digital images are preferred, please do NOT send actual photographs, unless that is all you have.
- If you send prints, they should be at least 4x6
- Quality is important, as the photos are enlarged.
- You can send as many pictures as you like.
- Pictures should be clear and sharp, with good color, contrast and centered subjects
- Include your dog's name, GRREAT number and a brief paragraph about the dog, as well as contact name, address and phone number

**DEADLINE FOR PHOTO SUBMISSION IS
JUNE 15, 2009**

Please email photos to President@grreat.org, if you are unable to send a digital image, please mail your picture to Robin Heinecke, 107 Holden Farm Lane, Queenstown, MD 21658.

A New Look for GRREAT News

by *Jeremy Ledbetter, Membership Coordinator*

I would like to thank all of you that have chosen to "opt out" of the printed newsletter. It's because of your generosity that we are now saving an average of \$600 per bi-monthly mailing (\$3600 a year). You will also notice a new look to this and future issues of the newsletter, including black ink on a glossy paper stock, all at a discount from the usual newsletter printing. By using this new ink and stock, the quality of the newsletter will be much improved by being easier on the eyes and clarity of the pictures. Due to our newly streamlined mailing process, you will also be receiving the mailed newsletter more quickly, typically at the beginning of the month that it is released.

Full color pictures are included in the online (PDF) version of the newsletter, available for download from our home page: www.grreat.org. If you did "opt out" of the printed newsletter, you will receive a GRREAT email reminder when the download version is available.

As always, if you wish to "opt out" of the printed newsletter, become a member, or renew your membership, please contact me at membership@grreat.org.

ADOPTION REPORT

Spring is in full bloom and the sun is shining brightly on these lucky Golden retrievers who found new families -- and we couldn't be happier for the pups and their parents! Be sure to check out our upcoming adoption days to find your next furry friend.

Name	#	Age	Sex	Name	#	Age	Sex
Woody	08-155	10m	M	Molson Golden	09-030	1	M
Miley	09-018	1	F	Champ	09-038	5	M
Daisy	09-027	7	F	Katie	09-043	2	F
Max	09-028	7	M	Quinn	09-048	6m	M
Busta Henry	09-037	1m	M	Kramer	09-051	3	M
Max	09-047	3	M	Major	08-162	3	M
Buddy	08-210	10m	M	Rocco	08-190	7	M
Copper	08-214	4	M	Ripley	08-198	5m	F
Junior	08-220	9m	M	Goldie	08-217	1	F
Moses	08-222	8	M	Maggie	08-218	5	F
Duke	08-223	3	M	Cinnamon	08-219	1	F
Casey	08-225	4	F	Sedona	09-011	5	F
Page	09-024	1	F	Axel	07-137	2	M
Brownie	09-029	3	M	Romeo	09-016	9	M
				Eli	09-022	1	M

GRREAT Adoption Days

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

Saturday, September 5, 2009
 Noon until 2 p.m.
 Petco - Bel Air
 615 Belair Road, Suite P
 Bel Air, Maryland 21014

Saturday, October 3, 2009
 Noon until 2 p.m.
 Petco - Alexandria
 6612 Richmond Highway
 Alexandria, Virginia 22306

Saturday, November 7, 2009
 Noon until 2 p.m.
 Petco - Annapolis
 2319-D Forest Drive
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401

DONATIONS

Thank You for Your Donations

Phil and Jeanne Agee

Linda and Don Baier

Lee Beaton

Eileen Bennett

Diane Boudalis

Carolyn Cole

David and Teresa Concordia

Judy and Steve Daner

Kevin and Diane Duvall

Eileen Flanagan

Mary and Richard Gillett

Leon Guerrero and Sandra Rutan

Phil and Janet Hauck (a donation from the proceeds of the sale of Golden Retriever merchandise)

Gary Heurich

Brian and Beth Ives

Dianne and Mike Jones

Mark and Kim Kabbes

Kelly Kane

Mark Ketterman

Dottie and Marie Kilcarr

John and Miriam Miceli

Carol Moore

Dan Neuhart

Stuart Painter

Marion Pontzer

Tammy Rosenthal

Janette and Dave Siebs

Marianne Stanley

Judith and Stephen Urbanczyk

In Memory Of...

• In memory of Chas (98-130), beloved companion of Gail and Tom Koch. Chas went to the Rainbow Bridge on 2/8/09 at 15 years of age. He was the BEST! - Gail and Tom Koch

• In memory of Baxter (Buster), 8 year old Mulligan who died of lymphoma in January. - Michael and Angela Mulligan

• This donation is in memory of Bill Barrows, who died on Feb. 3rd. - John and Jody Culver

• In memory of Jenny (05-247). - Trish Collier

• Please find enclosed our check in memory of our precious Grady. We adopted Grady (97-101) from GRREAT September 28, 1997, and he was a major part of our lives for eleven years and five months, until he passed away January 2, 2009. Please put our donation to use in a manner to best further the important work GRREAT does. - Robert and Lucy Moore

• In memory of William "Bill" Smith of Mt. Airy, MD who passed Dec. 26, 2008. Bill was a great guy whose love for friends, family and dogs was very special. - Tamara Hurley

• In memory of Paddington Arzaga, July 1997 - February 2009. She was the light of our lives, and we miss her terribly. We hope that this donation will help other Golden retrievers find happiness and health. From the Arzaga Family. - Trina Arzaga

• In memory of Lani, the queen mom. This sweet Golden girl's "subjects" included Chuck & Sandra Johnson who served her every whim with love and devotion. She left her paw prints on the hearts of all who know her and she will be missed. - Jeff and Lucinda

• In loving memory of Bailey Dickerson (08-121). His sweet, gentle nature and loving smile will truly be missed! - Kathy Dai

• For the IOW Golden retrievers in loving memory of my beautiful Golden girl Carly Brown who passed away from cancer and left for the Rainbow Bridge January 18, 2009. - Martha Brown

• In memory of Josh. - Tom and Kathy Tucker

• In memory of William (Bill) Smith. - Mark Thomas and Cam McCarthy

• Please accept the enclosed check in memory of Scout, loving, faithful companion and friend to Francine Sudduth. With much love, Joyce, Joanne, Suzie and Mary. - Mary Johnson

(continued on page 12)

DONATIONS

In Memory Of...

• Please accept the enclosed donation in loving memory of Jan Brown's beautiful Cassie, who departed this world for a better one on March 8th this year. She was a month shy of her 12th birthday. Though not a GRREAT Golden, Cassie was very tolerant and shared her home, and sometimes even her toys, with many of Jan's fosters during the past 6 years. Cassie would go so far as to accompany many of these to adoption days to provide moral support. Well, maybe it was really to be sure they got adopted and would be out of her hair, but she was a constant presence there nonetheless. Cassie loved her chew toys and walking with her Mom, but I will always remember her most as the best friend of my Bear (05-012) until he departed this earth about a year ago. Despite their differences in size and personality, these two absolutely loved each other's company, be it playing with a tug toy or romping off leash in some new, unexplored and, if Cassie had any choice about it, wet location. Now they are together once again and able to play in a far more beautiful place. Godspeed Cassie. We miss you. - Greg Russell

In Honor Of...

- In honor of Joy and Aslan. - Toni and James Johns
- In honor of Tibby, time was donated to provide legal assistance. - Michael Alexis
- To honor our 3 sweet Golden, Lucy, Jessie & Brandy. - Olivia and Tom McDonough

• This is in honor of Jackson, the McCarthy Family's wonderful Golden Retriever pet who recently died. - Katie Parks

• In honor and dedication of Amber. - Sheila and Al Vertino

To Help With Costs...

• To help with Sandy (09-012) surgery - Dan Lips

• To help with Sandy (09-012) surgery - Emily Porter

• For Major (08-162) - Dennis and Judy Smith

• For Peaches (05-140) - In memory of my boy Jake who suffered from a similar digestive problem to Peaches, a GRREAT special needs dog: I am donating funds towards Peaches' on-going care and treatment. To her caretaker, I know this is hard because I went through it with Jake. God bless you - she is a beautiful girl. - Meg Ellacott

• I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for Nikita (09-036) for her medical costs. - Tom and Jean Klinger

For Other Reasons...

• In remembrance of Big Red, beloved Golden of Sandy Diamond. When I first met him, he was Sandy's foster dog. He was one of those special fosters that managed to find a spot in Sandy's heart and there he stayed! Big Red was a real sweet boy and will be missed by all

who knew him! - Jeff and Lucinda Twining

• Our wonderful Golden, Missy, passed away on Feb.19th after twelve glorious years with us. She was a sweet, incredibly loving and energetic love bug who was always quick to give you lick when you felt down. She was a real individual with lots of quirky traits that made her so very special. We had twelve lovely years with our wiggly, little girl and we miss her terribly. But she is now pain free and happy and hopefully we will one day see her again on the other side of the Rainbow Bridge. - Rick and Peggy Fowler

• Thanks for all the work you do taking care of this wonderful breed. - Nina Jackson

• I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for our wonderful dog Roxy. In honor of Jessie Robinson. In memory of Koko. To thank GRREAT for just being there. - Evan and Emil DeRenzo

• I'm sending this donation for my husband, Paul G. Kovacs, as my Valentine gift for him -- he loves Golden, especially his Lucy! - Darlene Kovacs

• Birthday donation on behalf of Tina Verceles. - Scott Shoemaker

• To thank Jill Kurtz, donation made instead of reimbursement for sending out the newsletter to new members/adopters. - Idalia Fernandez

DONATIONS

For Other Reasons...

- The Swann family is making this donation as a wedding gift in honor of Anne Hermoyian and Brad Wachowiak and their two Golden Retrievers - Jake and Emma. - Heather Swann
- For the poor animals. – Heather Davis
- For Prince and his Tap Tap. - Diane Lanigan

Corporate Giving

- T. Rowe Price Matching Fund, to match donation made by Lucy Pollard
- First Data Foundation, on behalf of Barbara Dunnington
- Petco Foundation, proceeds from the Tree of Hope fundraiser

A GRREAT Bequest

Golden Retriever Rescue Education and Training has been the very fortunate beneficiary of a bequest left to us by Dr. Henry Balch. Dr. Balch and his wife, Julestar, were members of GRREAT and adopted Brandy from us.

The bequest did not include a specific use. The Board made the decision to invest the money safely to help ensure the future financial stability of GRREAT in continuing to help Golden Retrievers in need. We depend upon donations and the charity of our members to allow us to continue to bring in dogs with a myriad of medical and behavioral issues. So far this year, we have taken in several dogs in need of eye surgeries, heartworm treatments, as well as several other dogs needing costly orthopedic surgeries to fix pre-existing conditions.

Dr. Balch was Director of Surgery at the old D.C. General Hospital from 1956 to the late 1980s, as well as being a Clinical Professor of Surgery at Georgetown University. The Balch's didn't have children, only their beloved Golden Retrievers. The Rescue feels very fortunate that Dr. Balch considered our organization when making delegations in his will. His kindness and evident love of Golden Retrievers will long be remembered.

Forever Friends Fund

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

- For Bailey (08-121) - Alan and Mollie Dickerson

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 Joy and Aslan - Toni and James Johns
- Linda and Neil Jester
- This donation is made in the memory of my friend Sue's loving dog Taffy. - Jan Sherfy

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

- Tim and Linda Daniel
- For Chassidy and Polar Bear. - Joe O'Neill and Walt Atha
- Echo-Employees Charity Organization of Northrup Grumman, on behalf of Sheri Ulrich

Leo's Heroes (\$500 and over)

- Kodi (05-018). Thank you for now 4 yrs in March in my forever home. I love it here with Mom, Dad, Sassy, my dear sister, and now many neighborhood friends. - Jim and Ginny Hayes

A Big Thank You to our Volunteers!

GRREAT would not exist without our wonderful volunteers to ensure all of the numerous jobs get done that are involved in making a rescue work. We attempt to thank all of our volunteers in each area, but know that we may be missing a name or two. Please let us know if your name does not appear so that we may thank you in a subsequent issue!

Any volunteer areas not listed in this newsletter will be listed in subsequent editions. We are making the effort to recognize 2-3 areas in each newsletter, depending on the size of the list of names.

And as always, if you would like to volunteer, please visit www.grreat.org/voluntr.htm and fill out our Volunteer Form. Or contact Lisa Cook, Volunteer Coordinator, with a quick email at volunteer@grreat.org.

Thank you so much to all of our volunteers. You are what makes GRREAT the rescue that it is!

Intake Team

This group of volunteers calls and gathers the information about the Golden retrievers we are taking in.

Mary Collings	Carey Schultz	Martha VanLandingham
Louise Davidson	Susanne Cummings	Marie Lavallee

Home Visit Volunteers

This group of volunteers evaluates the prospective adopters homes and our foster homes.

Paula Abernethy	Louise Davidson	Kelly & John Iffland	Diane Petruso
Cheryl & Michael Andrzejewski	Ruth Dominick	Denise & Jeff Irwin	Leslie Pezynski
Rachel Bagnulo	Gwyn Donohue	Tom Janczuk	Chris Pierce
Betsy Bake	Kathleen Doyle	Chuck & Sandra Johnson	Doug & Marilyn Reedy
Susan Batla	Marlies Durso	Terri Jones	Connie Rhodes
Rose Bayat	Kelly Edmonds	Christa Keysar	Stella Rineer
Andy Becker	Carolyn Ellington	Marsha King	David & Nancy Ris
Carolyn Beyer	Sue Erbele	Jean Klinger	Jessie Robinson
Jude Biedenkapp	Chris Evert	Jill Kurtz	Katherine Scherer
Diane Blackwell	Jeff Exkhaus	Marie LaVallee	Nan Schramm
Jeannie Blood	Stephanie & Fran Fedoroff	Suzanne Lazanov	Carrie Sensabaugh
Anne Bolan	Idalia Fernandez	Amy Lenz	Harry Sethna
John Bowlin	Judi Fishman	Charlie Liebetau	Jean Shamberger
Linda Brandwin	Nancy Forest	Jan Livingston	Lynn Shine
Valerie Brecher	Kelly Forgues	Frank Mackowick	David & Lauri Silberstein
Lee Bro-Kohn	Julie Gale	Denise Malczewski	Joan Sills
Jan Brown	Denise & John Gettier	Penny March	Annie Simon
William Buklad	Mary Ginn	Christie Marshall	Robert Spangler
Laura Caliguiri	Tamara Goddard	Krista Maslin	Teri & Louise Stachowiach
Jan Carlson	Debbie Haegle	Donna McConn	Kathi Stanhope
Sharon Carr	Nancy Haisenleder	Olivia McDonagha	Donna Stillwell
Sheri Carson	Jean Hartman	Mary Ann McFarland	Wendy Bill Thomas
Nancy & Dave Carter	Janet & Phil Hauck	Anna McGuiney	Donna-Bea Tillman
Laura Catalano	Diane & John Hein	Judy McKinley	Jean Traub
Jule Ann Cheslock	Robin Heinecke	Kathy Mitchell	Jondelle & Ralph Truitt
Linda Chup	Robin Heinecke	Tina Moran	Melanie Twigg
Kate Chutuape	Karol & Bob Hickman	Rhett & Carolyn Murphy	Sean Combetty & Vicki Keslar
Sean Clancy	Pamela Higgins	Jen Murray	Ann Wakefield
Liz Clark	Heather Hiserman	Emily Otte	Bob Walker
Joan & Bert Coble	Sarah Howlet	Don Owen	Kim Wiff
Sam Connelly	Leslie Hoy	Julie Palais-Stevens	Dick Wilcher
Curtis Dalpra	Linda Hunt	George & Laura Panagoulis	Katie Wirth
Tim & Linda Daniel	Melissa Hyman	Pete Peterson	

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.

May

9 GRREAT Education Table at Perfect Pet Expo from 10am until 3pm; Perfect Pet Resort, 840 Bay Front Rd, Lothian, MD

16 GRREAT Education Table at Strut Your Mutt from 10am until 3pm; Woodmont Ave between Bethesda Ave and Hampden Ln, Downtown Bethesda, Maryland

June

13 GRREAT Bark-B-Que, 11am until 3pm; Quiet Waters Park, 600 Quiet Waters Park Rd., Annapolis, Maryland

See page 10 for GRREAT Adoption Days and locations!