



GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc

November/December 2011

Vol. 22, No. 6

IN THIS ISSUE:

Letter from the President GRREAT Joins CFC	3
Membership Renewal Howliday Party	4
Adoption Report GRREAT 2012 Elections New Address	5
GRREAT Walk Sponsors	6-8
2011 Scottish Walk Dear Janet	9
Just Rembering	10
Donations	11-13
Memories	14
Donation, Membership, and Volunteer Forms	15
GRREAT Calendar of Events	16

Transitions

by Sherry B. True

An animal's passing is never easy, especially when it is your own. For all of the animal communications sessions I do, along with the euthanasia calls I get, one would think I would get used to animals transitioning. I don't — and even more so when it is my own. I assisted my own Maggie Moo to transition to the Rainbow Bridge on August 5, 2011. Moo was an Australian Shepherd who was 13 years old and had lymphatic cancer, arthritis and was blind. It was a gradual process that took two years for her to become totally blind. She always remained in high spirits though, although I could tell she kept thinking she would wake up one day and be able to see again. For her, it was the biggest thing she missed in life. I know because she told me so every day. I know she can now see where she is at the Bridge.

It is amazing to see the shift in the dynamics since she has left. Maggie was the glue to the family we had created. Her sister, another Aussie, Addison, who is 14 years old and Takla, who is 10 years old, have gone off on their separate ways. They only come together occasionally at night since Maggie left. Before, Takla would take turns going back and forth between both dogs and groom and lay near them. Takla was especially fond of Maggie and is still a little lost without her. She spent the first week and a half after Maggie passed lying in the spot Maggie would lay in at night. For her, her comfort was found in that spot. Addison doesn't seem too fazed by Maggie leaving, which I guess in a way is good.

For me I am far from being done grieving for her. I am having jewelry made that has some of her ashes infused in it. It is a beautiful piece and I can't wait to get it at the end of the month. I have been blessed with three different signs from her since her passing. The first sign was when I was working at the pet store I work at part time, and a woman brought in an 11 week old Australian Shepherd who had

the same blue merle coloring as Maggie did. The puppy was so playful and full of life! It brought tears to my eyes as I played on the floor with her. The memories of Maggie as a puppy came flooding back, like the time she took the laundry through the dog door into the backyard. She was quite proud of herself for that one!

The second sign came about a week later when I went to pick up her ashes. I was in the middle of cleaning one of my closets out and left to go pick the ashes up at the vet's office. I came back to finish the cleaning and I open up an old photo album and out pops Maggie's baby pictures. For the life of me I couldn't find them the past 4 or 5 years of looking for them. I of course thanked her and began to cry again. I so missed her presence.

The third sign came as I was driving to work the other day. I really wasn't thinking about anything in particular when this van pulls in front of me on the highway. I looked at the bumper sticker on his car and all it said was "Moo". I had to smile at that, it was her kind of humor to be able to catch me off guard and make me laugh. She was, and still is, personality plus!

They are here with us for such a short time, no matter how long it is. We miss them as our friends, companions and often times our true loves in life. They understand us and love us unconditionally, each in their own way. As I reflect back through the life I shared with Maggie, I feel honored that she chose me to be with on this journey. I look forward to seeing her again when it is my time to go home. Thank you for letting me share a little piece of Maggie Moo with you. I encourage you to write about your animal companions and record your memories of them now. You will be glad you did!

Sherry is an Animal Communicator, Certified Healing Touch for Animals Practitioner and healthy Pet Consultant. For more info visit: www.spiritpaws.com

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

PO Box 190, Merrifield, VA 22116

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.

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

PRESIDENT

Barbara Bertsch Boyd* president@grreat.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Helen Whitehead* vp@grreat.org

SECRETARY

Vacant* secretary@grreat.org

TREASURER

Harry Sethna* treasurer@grreat.org

ADOPTION COORDINATOR

Jessie Robinson* adoptions@grreat.org

INTAKE COORDINATOR

Mary Collings* intake@grreat.org

FOSTER HOME COORDINATOR

Carey Brown* grreat_fhc@verizon.net

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Cheryl Andrzejewski volunteer@grreat.org

EVENTS COORDINATOR

Carolyn Beyer* events@grreat.org

EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Robert Moore* education@grreat.org

MEMBER AT LARGE

Scott Daniels* atlarge@grreat.org

POC COORDINATOR

Ann Nelson poc@grreat.org

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Shawne Lampert membership@grreat.org

FOSTER HOME APPROVAL COORDINATOR

Denise Malczewski becomeafosterhome@grreat.org

TRANSPORT COORDINATOR

Bob Patenaude transport@grreat.org

FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR

Vicki Korobkin* fundraising@grreat.org

SILENT AUCTION COORDINATOR

VACANT silentauction@grreat.org

MICROCHIP COORDINATOR

Jeff Twining microchips@grreat.org

MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR

Robin Heinecke merchandise@grreat.org

TRAINING COORDINATOR

Jan White training@grreat.org

NEWSLETTER

Joanne Poesch jmpoesch@gmail.com

Felicia Barlow redanimals@verizon.net

WEBMASTER

Greg Skinner webmaster@grreat.org

* members of the GRREAT Board of Directors

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear GRREAT Members -

Have you ever wondered what happens to the money you contribute to GRREAT? One of the things that impresses me most as a member of the Board of Directors is the effort we make to improve the health of GRREAT dogs. Sure, we ensure they all have the minimum vetting: rabies and other shots, heartworm and fecal tests, and spaying or neutering as necessary. However, there are always dogs that come to us requiring much more...and we never turn away from their health needs. Here are just three examples from this past year, including quotes from Board e-mails, to give you a true flavor of what goes on "behind the scenes."

Goldie is "a 10 year old female who was turned into a shelter because she had a bladder stone and required surgery. The shelter was able to work with a local vet and make arrangements for the surgery at a discounted rate. When Goldie came into GRREAT, there were two rather large masses that the foster home noticed — one on her shoulder and one on her foreleg. Based on the cytology of the aspirates of both masses, the vet recommended we have them removed and sent off for biopsy. The growth on her shoulder was infiltrative lipoma, which will definitely come back because it could not be completely removed. The bad one was the one on her left forearm that was a mast cell tumor — grade ii intermediate. They were able to get clean margins on the mast cell tumor..."

Perhaps my favorite example is a seven-year-old male whose intake interview revealed that "Barron ate a chew toy last month which caused a tear in his intestines. His medical bills/surgery reached about \$6000. He's been fine for the past month but recently not doing well, not eating, won't take ice and is vomiting what looks like feces. Another surgery is needed and the g/u cannot afford another expensive surgery." GRREAT stepped in that same day to cover this medical crisis. "Barron had emergency surgery...today. An 8" section of his bowel was twisted and black. Had he not had surgery today he would definitely have died within 24 hours. Amazingly enough this sweetie walked into South Paws on his own four legs just two short hours after surgery! He is at South Paws for 48 hours of monitoring, antibiotics and fluids and then on to a foster home...his prognosis is very good."

Oliver was only eleven weeks old when he came into GRREAT from a shelter with his mother and a litter mate. Three days later, he "broke with vomiting and diarrhea which might be parvo, but it might also be a reaction to the deworming and the crazy worm load he has." A few days later, "Oliver was really struggling. He seemed to slide downhill pretty quickly in the [past] 12-24 hours...His blood work showed that his WBC [white blood count] was well below normal,

but that his sugars were holding strong in low normal. He is very lethargic and punky... he is on 3 anti-nausea meds and 2 antibiotics. His prognosis is guarded, but the doc is cautiously optimistic." Then... "Oliver has turned the corner! After WBC counts at a crazy all time low day before yesterday he made a huge come back yesterday by quadrupling that count! He is not out of the woods yet, but he was wagging his tail and responsive yesterday when he hadn't been previously. The hope is to get him off of the IV fluids and nutrition in the next few days and get him on everything orally which would mean he will no longer need 24 hours care."

Where are these "pups" now? Goldie is in a very loving forever home; Barron is healthy and awaiting adoption; and little Oliver is happily with a foster family, waiting to move to his (already approved) forever home as soon as he turns six months old and is neutered!

Unfortunately, not all GRREAT dogs with special health needs end up in forever homes. Some are just too sick or injured to make it. Others become long term fosters so that GRREAT can continue to support their special needs. But the bottom line is that GRREAT does everything possible to save these sweet dogs. In fact, 73% of all donations go to veterinary services. Please remember GRREAT in your end-of-year giving!

— Barbara Boyd, GRREAT President

Attention Federal Employees! GRREAT Joins National Capital Area Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

Federal employees in the Washington, DC area take note... you can now contribute to GRREAT through the CFC. We are listed under "Local Independent Organizations." Our number is: 51768. However there is an error in our overhead rate. The correct rate is just under 7%, not 79%.

Please consider including GRREAT in your contribution or pledge this year! The Golden's will thank you!!

2011 Howliday Party

Kick off your Holiday Season by attending this year's GRREAT Howliday Party, which will take place at the Frederick County Fairgrounds on Sunday, December 4, 2011 from 11 am until 2:30 pm. Have a fun, relaxed time while enjoying the company of good friends, both two and four legged. Pictures with Santa, 50/50 raffle, doggie gift exchange, a silent auction, and GRREAT merchandise guarantee a good time will be had by all.

The party will be a POT LUCK

The GRREAT Board will provide the main dishes such as meats and sides. Families are asked to bring snacks (chips and dip, cheese and crackers, vegetable tray), beverages (canned soda and cases of bottled water), desserts (cookies, cakes, pastries) to share.



IF YOUR LAST NAME BEGINS WITH THE FOLLOWING PLEASE BRING:

A-G: snacks

H-O: desserts

P-Z: beverages

ADMISSION: \$20 per person or \$30 per family. ***Please note that the admission fee helps defray the cost of renting the facility***

RVSP: Please send an email to events@grreat.org or call (703)620-6593 and leave a message in Box 5. To ensure we have enough food, we would like to know your name, number of people and number of dogs attending.

SILENT AUCTION: The silent auction will be held throughout the party to benefit GRREAT! We are looking for any items such as toys and/or general dog products, as well as gift baskets, gift certificates or cards, and handcrafted items from talented artists. Because we can combine items together into baskets, no donation is too small! And it doesn't need to be dog oriented. Please contact events@grreat.org to coordinate the drop off of your donated item(s). We'll need them by Sunday, November 27th.

DOGGIE GIFT EXCHANGE: Each dog can "pick a gift" if he/she brings a loosely wrapped doggie prize, under \$5. Gifts are placed on the floor, and each dog that brings a gift will have a chance to put their nose to work and retrieve a toy.

GRREAT Membership Renewal

Be sure not to miss out on a thing! Renew your GRREAT membership for 2012!

We rely on membership dues, donations, and fundraising to operate. Your \$40 membership dues keep this newsletter coming to your mailbox every two months and will help us save more Goldens in 2012.

Please continue to support GRREAT by being a member. Clip and complete the membership renewal form on page 15 of this newsletter. Be sure to include your current mailing and email addresses. Mail the form along with a check for \$40 payable to GRREAT. Send to: GRREAT, PO Box 3069, Falls Church VA 22043-0069.

If you would like to renew your membership online, please visit the following web site: http://www.grreat.org/membership/mbr_center.htm

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

ADOPTION REPORT

Name	#	Age	Sex	Name	#	Age	Sex
Bailey	11-021	11	M	Zach	11-126	7	M
Midas	11-100	2	M	Winnie	11-127	9	F
Dixie	11-111	6	F	Remmington	11-147	4	M
Stanley	11-113	8	M	Baby Girl	11-152	4	F
George	11-119	11	M	Hoover	11-153	4	F
Red	11-122	3	F	Bailey	11-154	3	M
Coco	11-133	6	F	Meg	07-099	10	F
Jordin	11-135	2	M	Daisy Mae	08-080	8	F
Sunny	11-146	6	F	Toby	10-103	12	M
Izzy	11-058	3	F	Cooper	11-121	2	M
Skylar	11-112	8	F	Winnie	11-131	3	F
Gracie	11-137	5	F	Lady	11-157	1	F
King	11-072	11	M	Max	11-161	2	M
Quincy	11-077	6	M	Muffy	11-162	2	F

REMINDER: GRREAT 2012 Elections

Nominations are now being accepted for the Board of Directors offices of Vice President and Secretary for two-year terms, and also for President to serve the remaining one year of former President Louise Davidson's term.* If you would like more information on what each position entails, please email president@grreat.org.

Guidelines

You may nominate yourself or another GRREAT member for any one of these three offices. You may make nominations for one or more of these offices, but you may not nominate the same person for more than one office.

- If you are nominating someone other than yourself, please obtain consent before submitting the nomination.
- No nominations will be taken from the floor during the 2012 Annual Meeting when voting will occur.
- Nominations must be received at training@grreat.org no later than Wednesday, November 30, 2011.

** Barbara Boyd, who was appointed by the Board to serve as President until the 2012 elections, is a candidate for election to the office of President at the 2012 Annual Meeting.*

GRREAT Has a New Address

GRREAT has become the latest victim of Post Office closings!

As a result we have a new mailing address:

GRREAT
PO Box 190
Merrifield, VA 22116

GRREAT's 2011 3K Walk Sponsors

On behalf of all the Golden Retrievers who are and will in the future benefit from your generosity, GRREAT sincerely wants to thank all of our walk sponsors. The 3K Walk has always been our most successful fundraiser and this year is no different. Thanks to you, our walk sponsors, GRREAT raised more than \$14,000 in sponsorship alone. Also, a very special thank you to Gianni Masciopinto from niangi.com who gave his time and talent to create an amazing event shirt.

RESCUE ANGELS



Individual Rescue Angels

- Jeff and Lucinda Twining - Brody, Mackenzie, Eaden & Shamus Twining
- Liz Kaiser and Ned Scherer - GRREAT dog Zoe "10-197"
- Louise Davidson - In Memory of Cooper and Ruby Dee: From Penny, Kate, Teddy, Romeo, Isabel and Ruby
- Heather Kourcklas - Duke, Angel Buddy and Spirit Zeus
- Edward and Susan Glynn - Dakota Glynn
- Sherry and Richard Carson
- Amanda and Dean Blankenship - Tucker "09- 49", Max "11-005", and Izzy "11-058"

RESCUE PARTNERS



Individual Rescue Partners

- Michael Miles and Lois Lerner - Harley and Hunter “07-080”
- Sharon Coale - MED, MS, CCC-SLP, ABC Kids Therapy LLC, Language Therapy, (301)469-8151, www.abckidstherapy.com
- John and Heidi Rhodes - Roman and Lucy Rhodes
- Norm and Elizabeth Wright - In Memory of Casey
- Bob Taylor - Chase and Finn
- William Buklad - In appreciation of Mary Ellen Lunde
- Kevin Lewis - In honor of Fergus of Soar
- Louise Hansen and Shira Modell - The Hansen/Modell Pack - Wally, Kodi, and their humans (Shira, Louise, Julia and Nick)
- Kim and Don Dawson - In Loving Memory of Kabe Bond Dawson/In honor of

FRIENDS OF RESCUE

- Phebe Brown
- Fran and Phil Krasner - In Memory of Andy Bandy Man “05- 261”
- Paige Jones - In Memory of Dewey and Pomme Jones
- Anita Funk - In Memory of Morgan Funk
- Terry and Karen Moses - In Memory of Sunshine “98- 011”
- Lona Gordon - Alexis, Franco and Bailey Gordon
- Elaine Zacheis and Joe Hawaka - Buddy, Braddock and Misha
- Richard and Susan Boecomley - Bailey Boecomley
- Carol Taylor - In Memory of Cornbread “07- 188”
- Laura Luke - In Memory of Gussie Luke
- Celeste Linthicum - Celeste Linthicum Photography
- Crosspointe Animal Hospital
- Shenandoah Animal Hospital, Inc.
- John Ganoe - Henry “07- 164”
- Linda and Craig Wensley
- Sport Honda
- Sport Chevrolet
- Jeanne and Ken Blood - Ken and Jeannie Blood for Jack and Takota
- Bob and Shirley Coelho - Bob and Shirley Coelho, and Dax,
Chelsea and Canyon (RIP)
- Penny and John March - In Memory of “Raddie” March
- Harry Sethna and Sarah Navia - Go Bronte Girl!
- Churchville Veterinary Clinic
- Ed Yawn and Melissa Neilson
- Susan Van Bell - In Memory of “Jack” Van Bell
- Nancy Bromberg - SouthPaws Ophthalmology
- Bill and Deb Haegele - Sir Pete Haegele
- Phil and Janet Hauck - Goldens@Hauck’s.Home
- Pam and Keith VanDerbeek - Zach VanDerbeek
- Steve Lowe - Lucy Lowe
- Brian and Ann Marie Quinn - Murphy Quinn
- Loudoun Medical Group Pediatric Healthcare - In honor of Jennifer King
- Barbara Boyd - Max “11- 069”
- Heather and Kip Lady - Maisy Lady
- Jim Wilmoth
- John and Jennifer Shama

41st Annual Scottish Christmas Walk

Who doesn't love a parade? Did you know that the Golden Retriever breed originated in the Scottish Highlands back in the 1800s? To celebrate the origins of this magnificent breed, GRREAT will be participating in the Annual Scottish Christmas Parade in Old Town Alexandria held on Saturday, December 3, 2011.

The walk is a wonderful opportunity to be part of a tradition enjoyed by thousands of people to kick off the holiday season. The Scottish Christmas Walk lets GRREAT show off our Golden Retrievers to an adoring, enthusiastic crowd — and from my vantage point in the parade, we are the crowd favorite.

The Golden Retrievers do what they do best, playing the crowd, criss-crossing the parade route making sure no one — young or old — misses the opportunity to pet a lovable Golden.

GRREAT is looking for walkers to show off their GRREAT pride. While the weather can be a bit unpredictable, it is guaranteed that you will have a unique, fun experience. Let's have the largest GRREAT contingency ever in this year's Scottish Christmas Walk! More information please email events@grreat.org



Dear Janet,

In the late spring, we adopted an adult Golden Retriever who we named Buddy. We already had an adult female Golden, Chloe, and the two of them enjoy playing together and get along very well. Buddy has adapted well to living with us with one exception. He refuses to go up or down the flights of stairs between the different floors of our house. Buddy will, however, go up and down the 2 steps from the front stoop to the ground.

We have a finished basement, ground floor and upper floor. Both sets of stairs are carpeted so he shouldn't be having trouble with traction. Our veterinarian found that Buddy is in good health with no joint problems. We spend most of our time on the ground floor and in the basement, so when we want Buddy to go to another floor with us, we've been walking him out the front door and around to the basement door in the back yard. At first we thought that Buddy would learn to use the stairs from watching Chloe go up and down them, but he just stands at the staircase looking forlornly after her. We have also tried coaxing him with treats and toys. He will look at us anxiously but won't put a paw on the stairs no matter what we're offering. Do you have any suggestions? B.T.

Dear B.T.

For most dogs, going down stairs is more intimidating than going up stairs. If you haven't ever tried it, go to the top of a flight of stairs and get down on all fours as if you're going to crawl down the stairs like a dog. It's a much more scary perspective than our normal two-legged view!

Since Buddy will go up and down the 2 steps from your stoop to the front yard, take that skill and build on it. Start with both of you standing on the main floor of the house at the top of the stairs that lead to the basement. Pick Buddy up (hopefully he's a smaller Golden!) and gently put him on the first step from the top. Hold him gently so that he won't panic and fall down the stairs. Put several treats in your hand and use the treats to coax Buddy up the one step until he has all 4 feet on the main level. Give him the treats and lots of praise. He should be able to go up this one step fairly easily since he can do 2 in the front yard. Repeat as time allows until Buddy will confidently go up that one step.

Next, pick Buddy up and put him on the second step from the top. Repeat as above until he can negotiate the 2 steps with confidence. Then progress to the third step from the top and so on until he can go up the entire flight of stairs. It is important that you not move on to another step until Buddy is fully confident with the number you're currently asking him to do. If you push Buddy too fast, he may fall or panic and then you'll have to start all over.

Once Buddy will go up the entire flight of stairs, he may decide to try going down all by himself. If not, when you're in the basement, pick him up and put him on the last step from the bottom. Coax him to go down that one step and once all 4 of his feet are on the basement floor, praise him and give him his treats. When he can confidently negotiate that one downward step, put him on the second step from the bottom and so on, until he can go down the entire staircase. You can then work with him on the staircase that leads from the main floor to the upper story of your house.

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

Just Remembering

by Skip Nizer



Part of my career was spent in various areas of the state — a large part of which was Baltimore City. For a while, I had the pleasure of working with police officers out of Old Central District. Old Central was between Fayette Street and The Falls-way. I am not sure

when it was built, but it had both brass and crystal door knobs, the cell area skylight had been painted dark green (from WWII) and it had seen its share and more of drunks, ladies from the “block” and other members of the “Baltimore Street society.” Back in those days, each district had its own court room. Seeing one of the old guys a few days ago brought back memories — most notably of Brownie. Some people thought that he belonged to Old Central, but those that knew him, knew that Old Central belonged to him.

Brownie didn’t talk to me or bark at me, he just somehow knew that I belonged there, that I was one of his people and that was good enough for him. Brownie was called Brownie because he was, you guessed it, brown. I don’t know how old he was and neither did anyone else. Brownie stood about 16 inches high and weighed about 45 pounds (not muscle). I believe that he had a neck but I never saw it. He was of mixed parenting and he was the strong silent type.

Brownie was taken in by Old Central around 1969. He tolerated strangers and kept a sleepy eye on them. Those in handcuffs were watched with an open eye, provided that he was awake when they came in. The officer that was in charge of checking the people going to court was Rizzo. Rizzo was a good man and a cop from the old days. I asked him about Brownie one day and was told, “Yea, he sleeps here” and “People think that he belongs to me, but he ain’t mine.”

One day I was talking to Rizzo as he worked the metal detector where people entered to go to court. Next to the detector was a church-pew type of bench where Brownie slept. Now some people are real smart. As they emptied their pockets into a basket, Rizzo would check it as they walked through the detector. Everyone could see the basket being checked. One guy emptied his pockets into the basket and Rizzo looked at me then to the basket. The guy had placed several glassine bags of drugs in the basket. This caused Rizzo’s demeanor to change from easy going to official. As Rizzo started to make the arrest, Brownie (30 feet away) perked up and jumped off his bench and stood behind the man as Rizzo cuffed him. As soon as a couple of other officers escorted him to the cell

block, Brownie waddled back to his bench and continued his nap.

One very rainy day, I walked into Old Central and Brownie wasn’t on his bench. The new Police Headquarters was across the street and that is where Brownie went to take care of all of his personal business. That habit brought laughs to the guys that worked Old Central. They would say that Brownie had left his opinion of the “Palace,” as they called it.

On the bench was an old drunk we called George. The rain caused George to find a dry place to sleep. As I talked to Rizzo, a refreshed Brownie walked in the door. I saw Brownie stare at George. Brownie then walked over to Rizzo, looked up at him and then to his bench where George was sleeping. Rizzo walked over to George, grabbed the back of his belt and shirt and tossed him outside. Rizzo looked at Brownie and walked away. Brownie then got on his bench and went to sleep.

The K-9 unit was housed in Old Central. One day as I stared down a hallway, I saw a somewhat new officer and his dog, a large muscular German Shepard, coming up the hall. In front of them was Brownie. There was not enough room for the three of them to pass. The young officer kept his dog at his side and looked at me and half smiled, half smirked — the kind of smile/smirk that said “watch this mutt move for my dog, who is trained to attack, to disarm a crook and put fear in people.” Brownie, on the other hand, was trained to eat and sleep. Brownie suddenly stopped and then stared at the Shepard. The Shepard had a good 65 pounds and 10 to 12 inches on Brownie. The Shepard looked at Brownie and suddenly stepped behind his handler. Brownie walked past them. The handler yanked on the lead and the dog came to his side, walking away with his tail down and looking back. One of the older guys told me that none of the dogs from the unit ever disrespected Brownie.

Early one Monday morning, after leaving his opinion at the “Palace” and returning to his bench, Brownie was killed by a hit and run driver. The news made the rounds fast. I walked into Old Central that morning and looked at an empty bench, then I walked up to Rizzo. Before I could say anything, he looked at me and said, “A lot of people keep giving me their sympathy. Brownie wasn’t mine, ya know. He just stayed here.” Rizzo then looked to the empty bench and walked away with his head down. I looked back at the bench for a second. Of course I knew Brownie didn’t belong to him...

Brownie was buried the next day at the Dulaney Pet Cemetery. Officer Tillis, of the K-9 unit, stood at the foot of Brownie’s casket. Brownie received full departmental honors. All patrolmen of Old Central District drove with their headlights on that day.

Don’t forget to pet your dog.

DONATIONS

Thank You for Your Donations

*denotes total contribution of \$100-\$499

**denotes total contribution of \$500-\$999

***denotes total contribution of \$1000 or more

Lona Gordon

Jeff and Lucinda Twining

Erin Furman

Demetrio Guerrero and

Sandra Rutan

Mary O'Connell*

John Ganoe*

Sheryle and Jeanne Robinson

Amanda and Dean Blankenship

Shirley and Robert Coelho*

Karin Bruich

Steven and Kathryn Troch

Dick Way

Jonathan Tarlin and

Vanessa Mitchell*

Mary O'Connell*

Steven and Kathryn Troch

In Memory of...

Edward E. Gainor. -- Eugene and Margaret Gainor*

"Jake," George's faithful, loving, loyal companion who is waiting for him at the Rainbow Bridge. -- Kathleen McGinnis

Rita Wible, mother of Arleen Dinneen, who adopted "Gracie" a loving, wonderful Golden from your organization a couple of years ago. -- Dorothy Sinha

Al Blumberg (PVGRC member). -- John and Jody Culver

Kirby, a beautiful Golden Girl. -- Susan, Lanny, and Jake Griffith

Clark (04-061). -- Lynne Glennon and Tom Ludwig*

Our good friend Al Blumberg who passed away on August 7th. Al and his wife Teresa have been actively involved for years in caring for Golden Retrievers. -- Ronald and Brunhilde Robinson

My mother, Rita Dinneen Wible. -- R. Arleen Dineen*

Alfred Blumberg. -- Gerald Kowalski

Belle 10-200. Ms. Belle came to GRREAT last year with a diagnosis of cancer. She was so lucky to have a very special foster mom, Denise Malczewski. With Denise's love and devotion and Belle's Golden spirit, she survived a year. Without our long term foster families our organization could not do what we do. Thank you for your time, devotion and love in caring for Belle. -- Diane and John Hein

Susie and Ron's sweet girl, Lizzie. -- Susan McGee

Our foster dog Bodie (07-100)-faithful friend of Chuck and Kim Dorsey. -- Julie Palais and Rick Stevens

In Memory of Clark (04-061)

On April 25, 2004, my dad and I drove to the Bishop's farm in Martinsburg, WV, to pick up a foster dog. There was Clark, all 138 pounds of him, who could barely move because he was so heavy. After loading him in my car and making the drive home, I wondered who would want such an overweight guy.

I knew I had to begin the diet process, so with lots of green beans and low-cal food, he was on his way to losing 1-2 pounds per week. Eventually, his big brown eyes worked their way into my heart and I adopted him in July. He continued losing weight and ended up being a handsome and healthy 78 pounds.

Clark and my Hannah bonded and were inseparable. They greeted many foster dogs and helped them become acclimated to living in a home and showed them the routines and good manners they both had learned.

Clark continued to live his life as if nothing in the world bothered him. He didn't like the outside too much and was content to stay in the kitchen or family room. He was sweet to everyone he met and so enjoyed his home and family.

He has left a hole in my heart but will live in my soul forever. I miss you, Clarkie.

-- Lynne Glennon



DONATIONS

In Memory of... (con't.)

Lynda and Bob Lake's cherished Lucky whom they lost suddenly and sadly a few days ago. I was privileged to meet that grand happy gentlemen ("gentle dog"): he was a love and will be greatly missed. -- Trish Collier

Finnigan, a sweet, beautiful Golden who was the heart and soul of our friends' lives. He will be greatly missed. Thank you for all you do. -- Joan Schramm and Michael Garcia

Sadie (01-196) adopted 9/8/01, deceased 11/2/10 -- Dawn Bowen**

Our friend, Alfred S. Blumberg II, who died on August 7, 2011. -- Elaine Schneider

Simba who passed away 9/23/11. He was simply the best Golden ever. -- Kathryn Routzohn*

In Honor Of...

The tremendous love and wonderful life given to Annie by Jessie Robinson. May all Goldens be as lucky as her dear Annie was. -- Helen Whitehead

Kim and Carl Wiff's Rudi. -- Diane Lanigan

Ruth Chase for her incredible love and dedication to dogs. Thank you for your continued guidance, knowledge and patience. -- Ellen Steiger*

Nam & Eric's Ian. -- Diane Lanigan

The wedding of my friends, Zac Leghorn and Karen Zook. Zac and Karen, congratulations on your engagement, and my best wishes for many happy years together! -- Alison Somin

To Help With Costs...

Of medical care for Murphy (nee Harris) 11-129. -- Patrice and John Scanlon

For vet bills pertaining to Roxy and her puppies. -- Dorothy Jones

For Other Reasons...

I am sending a contribution to GRREAT in Memory of Jessie Robinson's Annie, and also in honor of Jessie and the deep enduring love between the two for so many years in dog life but so brief a time for us to have them. The amount represents the years of Annie's life, remarkable in length and love. -- Trish Collier*

My name is Michelle Livengood, and I've worked with GRREAT as a foster. I also tend to babysit friends' dogs while their humans are away. My most recent visitor was Frodo, a cute little schnauzer mix who stayed with my dogs - one of them adopted through GRREAT - and me for three weeks. Frodo's humans wanted to make a donation to GRREAT as appreciation for us hosting Frodo. -- Chris and Jane Thorne

Thank you for all the work you do with the dogs you care for. -- Ruth and Walter Dominick

Corporate Giving

Microsoft Matching Program — Anonymous donor*

IBM Employee Services Center — Anonymous donor

iGive — Proceeds from on-line shopping

Tiger Tails LLC — Proceeds from Rescue Rebate Program

America's Charities — on behalf of Judy and Steve Daner*

America's Charities — on behalf of Linda and Craig Wensley

America's Charities -- on behalf of Barbara and Mark Forster

America's Charities — on behalf of Heather Lay

Northrup Grumman Employee Charities (ECHO) -- Stanley Smith and Sheri Ulrich

Mt. Airy Mattress — In honor of Dan and Lori Mensing. Mt. Airy Mattress makes a contribution on behalf of each mattress purchaser to the organization of their choice.

Forever Friends

"Pixie" Wildasin (02-194). -- Patti and Brent Wildasin

Sponsor Me!

For Special Needs dogs Stevie (08-208) and Charlie (08-150). -- Trish Collier*

For Special Needs dog Trooper (09-209). I am the one who rescued Trooper and 10 other dogs from the breeder. I found homes for two, kept one, and GRREAT helped me place the rest. Trooper was the last dog to get out and it took me about a year before they let me buy him. I had been told that Trooper had been adopted, and just found out that he was in foster care. I am so sorry to hear about his condition, but SO glad he is with a family that loves him. He is a great dog, and had such a joy for life even in the conditions he grew up in. -- Deborah Fisk*

DONATIONS

Sponsor Me! (con't.)

For Peaches (05-140). In remembrance of our little goldie, Becky. -- Jeanie Pakenas,

For Charlie -- Jeffrey and Helene Casper*

For Charlie (08-150) and Clover (10-164)
- In memory of Buddy, our sweet golden.
-- Saje Cox



GRREAT operates three funds for dogs with special needs. The Leo Fund provides surgical care, the Simile-Finale Fund provides holistic and alternative therapies (acupuncture, swim therapy, etc.), and Chief's Fund provides MRI diagnostics. To support these funds, make the selection on the online donation page (www.grreat.org/donate/donorinfo.htm) or mention the fund in a letter with your contribution by mail. Thank you!

Leo's Corner

Leo's Angels (\$100-499)

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

Ruth Chase for her incredible love and dedication to dogs. Thank you for your continued guidance, knowledge and patience. -- Ellen Steiger*

In honor of Cherryl Dickinson, the best Golden lover ever. -- Terry Dickinson*

Leo's Heroes (\$500 and Over)

In honor of Sassy and Kodi. -- Jim and Ginny Hayes**

We have been blessed with wonderful rescued Golden Retrievers and wish to give back to GRREAT. This is in honor of our current Golden Retrievers and Springer, our GRREAT Foster Dusty and in memory of all our dogs waiting at the Bridge. -- Tim and Linda Daniel**

Gracie & Grandma

I'm fairly certain it was love at first sight for both of them, Gracie and Grandma.

In 2008, my mother was 92 and lived in Ocean City with my sister and her husband. I had just adopted Gracie, my very shy and sweet Golden Retriever. After only two weeks together, Gracie bravely jumped into my car and we made our first of so very many trips to Ocean City. My mother was waiting at the door to meet her. Gracie and Grandma.

As the years went by, Gracie was never far from Mother's side during our visits. Mother always said that Gracie told her she wanted to stay with her until my next visit. Gracie and Grandma.

Mother always had a hand on Gracie's head and Gracie's eyes never left Mother's face. Gracie and Grandma.

In June, Mother went from the hospital in Ocean City to a rehab center. I thought Gracie might be too anxious and shy to go into such an unfamiliar and busy place. Gracie walked right in, straight to Mother's wheelchair, and took her usual place by my mother's side. Gracie and Grandma.

In early July, two days before she died, Mother rested her hand on Gracie's head and ever-so-faintly said, "Good girl." Gracie, with her chin on Mother's bed, gently kept watch. Gracie and Grandma.

-- Arleen Dinneen

Memories

by Robert Moore



Personal Memories are precious. Our brain cells play around with them, over time embellishing, refining and amending. But never deleting.

Memories are like these huge li-

braries up there in your head. My library life dates to the brick and mortar libraries of the late '40's, early '50's, crawling through library stacks, guided by Dewey Decimal. Brain categorization seems more akin to Google, certain external stimuli instantly calling up files from related memory storage shelves. Unfortunately, some folks reading this may not be that familiar with the Dewey Decimal Classification System, but I suspect everyone is intimately acquainted with Personal Memories of which I write.

I have a very special, emotional place up there where memories of every dog with whom I've had the honor of sharing my life are stored, where they roam about unleashed, jumping on me, sleeping on the couch, chasing tennis balls, chewing furniture, shedding prodigiously and, yes, sloppily drinking water out of the toilet. And regularly waking me at all hours to reminisce.

Take Blackie, for example. In 1950 we moved from North Carolina to northwestern Ohio, where we lived on Allen Avenue, a residential street eight miles from town off US 25, at that time a major north-south highway. Blackie loved riding in the car and two months after we arrived, she jumped out of our '49 Plymouth, parked downtown. Sixty-one years later I still hear the amazing jingling of her tags as she jauntily sashayed down Allen Avenue at the end of her eight-mile journey home, single pawedly recovering my destroyed world. I've never come close to figuring out how she knew the way . . .

Honey, Santa Clause's gift to five-year old Angie, continues forty-three years later to lay under baby sister Alice's high chair vacuuming up the inevitable spillage.

Then here is Wendy, a Cocker/Poodle mix who's own Mom was Goldie Hawn's dog in Takoma Park, always assisting Honey in raising two little girls. Wendy continues to bark at the mailman, Chip, and then to noisily embrace him as another close friend after he came visiting one day out of uniform.

Lucy, whom I finally persuaded to marry me in 1984, never had a dog until Jud, the first Golden in our life. Jud never knew a stranger. Whether greeting folks on the beach or along a hiking trail, he had the political instincts of a may-

or. Jud is still bringing to life many lost souls as we visit nursing homes these fourteen years later.

Grady, our first GRREAT adoptee, entered our lives for all time in October, 1997 and will always be robustly and endlessly crashing through the biggest surf the Atlantic could hurl his way. Grady physically left us much too early, January 2, 2009, before his young Golden brother, Eli, had sufficient tutoring. Grady left a gaping hole for us all and I knew I could never return to our North Carolina beach house without him.

Eight months later, August found us participating in a miracle. At the cost of several thousand dollars, GRREAT had put back together a ten-month old youngster with two ACL surgeries and a procedure to correct an entropion condition. We were on hand to watch him swimming in extensive rehab and could hardly wait for GRREAT to release him. This whimsical fellow, Marlowe, not only got Eli up and going, he brought us all back to life, and back to the beach where the two of them challenge the surf in a manner that must make Grady proud!

Life seems unbearably cruel at times. Why do so many of us humans treat these loving fellow creatures so disrespectfully? Why do these precious, innocent beings have such relatively short life spans?

I suspect there is no answer to the former query. It appears that society is slowly awakening to the inequities by enacting laws to protect other animals. But most encouraging is the existence of organizations like GRREAT. Since I have come to know the extraordinarily selfless commitment of GRREAT's many volunteers in finding and protecting these dogs, and the staggering sums GRREAT spends to nurse them back to health – to allow them the comfort and dignity they so richly deserve – I am more confident for the future.

As to life spans, I can only reiterate how precious my accumulating library of memories is to me. I know you must feel the same.



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, PO Box 190, Merrifield, VA 22116

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 \$40 for my 2011 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 190

Merrifield, VA 22116

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? This is a commonly asked question at the numerous events that GRREAT 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 you can hear it in their voices. People know that Golden Retrievers are such good dogs, so they can't help but wonder "Why would anyone give up a Golden?" 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.

November

5 GRREAT Adoption Day
Noon until 2 pm
Petco
2319-D Forest Drive
Annapolis, MD

13 Dog Days of Downtown
Silver Spring
11am until 3pm
On the Plaza, Ellsworth Drive
Silver Spring, MD

3 41st Annual Scottish Christmas
Walk Parade
Parade Begins at 11am
Corner of Wilkes St./South Saint St.
Old Town Alexandria, VA

5 Home 4 the Holidays
11am until 4 pm
Reston Town Center
Market Street
Reston, VA

December

3 GRREAT Adoption Day
Noon until 2 pm
Petco
4167 Chelshire Station Plaza
Dale City, VA

4 GRREAT Howliday Party
Frederick County Fairgrounds
797 E. Patrick Street, Bldg. #12
Frederick, MD