

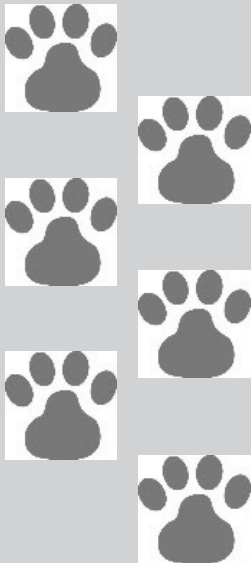


GRREAT NEWS

Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training, Inc • July/August 2013 • Vol. 24 No. 4

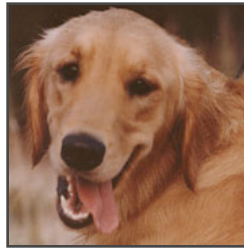
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President's Message

As you probably know, GRREAT has several special funds including the Leo Fund and The Simile-Finale Fund. Did you know that the Simile-Finale Fund turned 15 this year? It was established in 1998 to provide acupuncture treatment for GRREAT dogs. It has since evolved to provide other alternative sources of holistic medical care, such as swim therapy, Reiki (a healing and relaxation technique), TENS (electrical stimulation to control pain), animal communication, homeopathic treatment, Chinese herbs, vitamins, joint and other supplements, and flower essences. The fund has helped our rescued Golden Retrievers recover from a wide variety of medical conditions including surgeries, car accident injuries, neurological and muscular deficits, pain, separation anxiety, thunderstorm and noise phobias, allergies, arthritis and the effects of aging.



Simile



Finale

The announcement of the Simile-Finale fund first appeared in the January/February 1998 issue of the GRREAT News. The founder, Elizabeth Oberdorfer, made a very generous contribution to start the fund because she was so pleased with the acupuncture and holistic therapy administered to her dogs, Simile and Finale.

Where did the unusual names come from? "Simile" was the nickname for Elizabeth's Golden Retriever "Facsimile," who looked just like another Golden Retriever that had once belonged to Elizabeth's son. "Finale" was the name given to another of Elizabeth's Golden Retrievers because she was the last born in a litter of pups. Vitamins and special diets had been recommended for both, and when Simile developed carcinoma in her shoulder, acupuncture was performed to help her overcome the pain associated with the illness. Finale also received acupuncture treatments to help improve her mobility as she aged. After witnessing the positive benefits of veterinary acupuncture, Elizabeth was moved to start the Simile-Finale Fund so that rescued Golden Retrievers could be helped by this type of medical care.

Over the past 15 years, dozens of GRREAT Golden Retrievers have been helped by a variety of alternative treatments provided by donations made to the Simile-Finale Fund. Unlike some one-time medical expenses, treatments such as swim therapy and acupuncture are on-going costs for GRREAT until a dog is adopted, has recovered, or goes to the Rainbow Bridge. Holistic treatments are frequently used to help keep our long-term foster (hospice) dogs comfortable. As modern medicine continues to discover the positive effect of non-traditional treatments, the use of alternative approaches is likely to increase.

The Leo Fund is just a bit older. It was established in 1997 by Jean Kahl after she heard the compelling story of an eight-month-old Golden Retriever named Leo, who had difficulty walking

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INC.

P.O. Box 190, Merrifield VA 22116
Phone: 703-620-6593 • Web site: www.great.org

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

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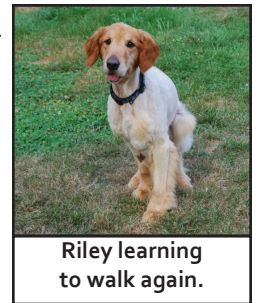


Leo
Inspiration for
Leo's Fund.

and was unable to stand for more than a few minutes because of severe hip dysplasia. The only way to treat this problem was with expensive surgeries and months of special care. Leo became the first GRREAT dog to receive this costly treatment. After a stay with his wonderful foster family, he lived happily with his loving Forever Family until the age of twelve and a half.

Over the years a wide variety of surgeries have been performed with monies donated to the Leo Fund including: correction of genetic orthopedic abnormalities of hips, elbows, and knees; repair of fractures and wounds due to car accidents, gunshot wounds, and other injuries; leg amputations; repair of damaged knee and elbow soft tissues; intestinal blockage surgery; removal of bladder stones; cancer surgery; eye and ear surgeries; dental extractions and jaw repair; and laryngeal and soft palate surgery to improve breathing. The Leo Fund has helped well over 100 dogs since its inception.

Recently Riley (11-172), a charismatic, red-headed southern bell, was able to take advantage of both The Leo Fund and The Simile-Finale Fund. Riley was born with her patellas locked out of place and was allowed to live this way for 8 years before finally being given up to GRREAT when she could no longer get around. By that time she could barely walk in a hunched and crouched way. Because her knees had never been fixed, her tendons and bones were permanently malformed. The orthopedic surgeon said it was one of the worst cases he'd ever seen and it would require two very aggressive surgeries which would mean nothing without months of physical therapy, laser treatment, and substantial nursing care. If we had been able to help her even a few years earlier, she may have had the chance for a full recovery, but the years of neglect had caused damage that was too severe and we were only able to get 70% improvement. Even so, this spunky senior has thrived. She endured two painful surgeries and spent a year learning to walk. Her very patient foster home made sure that she lost weight, went to swim therapy, and did all the right things to regain her mobility.



When Riley's hair is in, she has a lush, curly, fiery-red coat, but in the picture she's sporting a puppy-cut that helped her dry quickly after her therapy sessions on the underwater treadmill. Riley was adopted by a wonderful couple who couldn't love her more. Today she goes on walks in the neighborhood, continues her swim therapy, and attends GRREAT events to help educate the public. You may have seen her being a GRREAT ambassador.

If you would like to help us continue to treat our rescued Golden Retrievers in need of swim therapy and other holistic treatments or to help give Golden Retrievers needing expensive surgeries the chance for a long and happy life, please visit www.grreat.org/donate where you can make a contribution to the Simile-Finale and/or Leo Fund.

Working Golden Retrievers

by David Carter

Most dogs, and nearly every Golden Retriever, do well with a job. Golden Retrievers are born loving humans and loving to help. Our second rescued Golden, Boston, is everyone's dog. He loves everybody and most every living critter. During our first GRREAT Bark-B-Q adventure we had a conversation with the Adoption Coordinator. We sought her out to thank her for all that she had done to bring Boston into our home. Mr. Friendly was acting out his normal in-your-face-pet-me-love-me-see-what-a-handsome-guy-I-am manner, when the coordinator suggested that he would be fantastic as a home-visit Golden. The coordinator gave us the name and phone number of the home-visit coordinator for our area and asked that we give him a call. We were going to work for GRREAT.

Home Visitors

GRREAT gives all Golden Retrievers an opportunity to work for it in the form of performing home visits to those who wish to adopt through GRREAT. These visits consist of having a Golden go through a prospective adopter's home. Some of the tasks of the human home visitor are to check out the home with her or his two legged partner, ask and answer questions, write a report and send the report on for adoption consideration. Currently Boston has logged over 25 home visits. GRREAT has 98 Golden Retrievers signed up to do home

visits with their human owners. That is an incredible number of folks and Golden Retrievers willing to spend a few hours when asked to ensure a fostered Golden will go into its forever home. I was asked to step up and be the MD, DE, and PA home visit coordinator in June 2012. The area I cover has collected 143 home visit reports since last year. Most if not all of our working Golden Retrievers have participated in that number.

GRREAT also gives all Golden Retrievers an opportunity to work during our adoption day events. These events are held in or around pet supply outlets. A table is set up with adoption information, fosters bring dogs ready to be adopted, and adopted Golden Retrievers show off their happiness at finding a Forever home.

Pet Therapy Providers

There are several organizations that provide pet visits to those requiring extended stays in institutional settings. Such visits are



most commonly made to nursing homes; however, assisted-living communities and facilities for the physically and the mentally challenged are also grateful recipients of such visits. Many of these patients have impaired cognitive abilities due to illnesses such as Alzheimer's disease and tend to react more positively to animals than to people attempting to get through to them. For example, symptoms such as repetitive speech behavior or annoying mannerisms may cease while a patient is petting an animal. Pets love unconditionally even when a person is no longer attractive, even-tempered or agile. Their warmth truly makes a difference with those they visit. Golden Retrievers are a natural for such work.

Boston has taken to this service with love. On one of our visits, that will live with us forever, this image was taken. How amazing that the closeness and the touch of a furry creature will bring comfort and a smile to those in need.

Boston and I are also regular visitors with sick children. The resident therapists are consistently amazed and gratified to witness a child, who has not been responsive to any other method, open his eyes and begins to smile and extends a hand or foot to touch Boston's warm soft fur.

Please consider taking part in one or more of these fulfilling activities.

ADOPTION REPORT

Name	#	Age	Sex
Harley	11-212	11	M
Blake	12-159	8	M
Dakota	13-009	14	M
Bailey	13-018	4	M
Nala	13-041	2	F
Butters	13-033	2	F
Sassy	13-034	8	F
Red	13-037	7	M

Name	#	Age	Sex
Rudy	13-038	2	M
Amber	12-006	11	F
Max	12-109	8	M
Sampson	13-019	10	M
Emmy	13-031	1	F
Shelby	13-036	8	F
Nugget	13-036	6	M



Thank You for Your Donations: Through May 1st

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

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

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

Sheryle and Jeanne Robinson

Rance and Zoe Burger

Deborah Ward*

Steve Fisher and Laura Luke

Ilya Somin*

Terry Santos*

In Memory of...

Al Glaser. The best ball tosser ever. Murphy, Quigly Bertin -- Cathy & Dick Bertin*

Uncle John Bunn Hinsley. -- Eric and Rose McCabe

John Hinsley, our friend & neighbor. He was a great supporter of your organization. -- Ed & Karen Daniels

John B. Hinsley. Over the years, he adopted three Golden retrievers through your organization. John passed away April 22, 2013. -- Gloria Irons

John Bunn Hinsley. -- Sandra Whatley Cole and family

Sweet Chance Opel, aka Chancey Pants, who would never go anywhere without his beloved pillow and his loving mom, Dawn, by his side. He will be loved and missed always. -- Debbie Buchanan*

Tarquin Strohm, beloved boy of Jen and John Strohm and their sons, Philip and Henry. -- Lissa Bales

Mindy Beth and Casey. -- Joe and Virginia Fry*

John Scott (Scotty) Ward who passed away on May 9, 2013. -- Terry and Carol Brilliant

Alan K. Glaser - Our deepest sympathy to Jeffrey Glaser and Family, on the loss of your father. -- Rick and Judy Morrison

Baron Melago. -- David E. Drury/Valley Pet Crematory*

Ollie, whose goof ball antics endeared him to all who knew him. He will be missed. -- Martha VanLandingham

In Honor of...

GRREAT means so very much to me and has through the 20+ years I've belonged. It has given the love and friendship of some wonderful people, lots of them, with Jessie Robinson Pickard especially, and some wonderful dogs, adopted and fostered, who have given me so much love and companionship. I was very concerned reading in the Jan-Feb GRREAT News about GRREAT's financial problems, not due to mismanagement, but because so many dogs are requiring extensive vet care. I've wanted to help, so I am sending this check with all my love and appreciation for your dedication to these marvelous dogs. I wish it could be 10x more!! -- Trish Collier***

To Help With Costs...

For Sadie's medical expenses. -- Pam and Keith VanDerbeek*

For precious Sadie who was attacked by neighbor's dogs. -- Nancy Bennet

For Sadie's medical expenses. Thank you for taking such wonderful care of Sadie. -- Steve Fisher and Laura Luke

For Scooter 13-005 to cover flu vaccine he had to have to be boarded. -- Elizabeth Crane

I met Hunter at the Adoption Day in Annandale -- what a sweetheart! His mom said the water therapy was expensive, so please use this for him. I hope Hunter can keep up his wonderful therapy work for a long time. -- Jennifer Gallagher*

For Sadie. -- Michael Grossblatt

For Other Reasons...

Bella, aka Beanie, my kindred doggie spirit, loved nooks and crannies, being underfoot, squirrel sightings (then followed by chases), bones, head scratches, hugs, kisses, songs, walks in the park, nudging, hogging the bed, and psyching out the cat next door. She did *not* love the dastardly vacuum cleaner, loud noises, baths, rain, ear cleanings, thunderstorms, having her bed

Thank You for Your Donations: Through May 1st

moved during vacuuming, and getting her paws wet. I loved her indescribably and think of her every day. I was blessed to have her and thank GRREAT for making it possible. -- Susannah Peters*

Corporate Giving...

United Way*

America's Charities. - Linda and Craig Wensley, Heather Lay, Mark Forster*

Animal Dentistry & Oral Surgery - n memory of Lucas*

Super Pet Expo No Fuss Fundraiser. - Proceeds from tickets purchased online.

Brookfield Financial Group. - Matching gift

T ROWE Price. - Anonymous donor

JP Morgan Chase Foundation. - Donors: Bob Cohen, Karen Stierman

Petco Foundation. - Petco Animal Supplies Spring-A-Pet 2013 Fundraiser*

Petco Foundation. - 2013 Life is Better Together Photo Contest Fundraiser**

Forever Friend...

Memorials can be seen at:

<http://great.org/foreverfriends/index.htm>

Sponsor Me...

For Stevie (08-208) and Trooper (09-209). - Trish Collier*

For special needs dogs. - Eileen Bennett***

For Bailey. - Dunrey LaRose

Wheelchair Fund Donors

Thank you for helping GRREAT acquire two Walkin' Wheels chairs that will initially aid Micki 07-009 and Bailey 04-092, but can be resized for future use. Below is a picture of Bailey learning to use his chair.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Michael Grossblatt | Lee Ann Wolff |
| Dawn West | Karen Smith |
| Amy and Jody Rohde* | Maria Llambes |
| Dianne and Bruce Blackwell | Miracles 4 Pets Transport, LLC |
| Dawn Edgerton-Cameron | Sheena Williams |
| Kim Christensen | John DeBalso |
| Dunrey LaRose | Diana Hermann |
| Ruth R. Molin | Melissa DiNoto |
| Maren Holzinger | Leigh-Anne Dennison |
| Patricia Treadway | Karen Staggs |
| Gabriele Tortolano | |



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 <http://www.grreat.org/donate/index.htm> or mention the fund in a letter with your contribution by mail. Thank you!

Leo's Corner

Leo's Pals (up to \$99)

John Dewar

Leo's Angels (\$100-499)

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

Leo's Heroes (\$500 and Over)

Simile-Finale Fund

Dunrey LaRose

The Three Amigos! :)

We want to share a quick UPDATE ON SADIE (the Golden who survived a vicious dog attack, sustaining injuries to her face and jaw) who was featured in the May/June GRREAT News and in the 3K announcement on the next page. She is recovering well and enjoying nice long walks with her foster siblings. Her Foster Mom says, "We are quite the spectacle walking around town. The neighbors call them The Three Amigos." Sweet Sadie is on the right.



Update to the Update!! - Sadie has been adopted

BECOME A GRREAT 3K WALK SPONSOR

We are planning for this year's 3K Walk which will be held on October 26, 2013. The 3K Walk is a major fundraiser for GRREAT to help offset continually rising veterinary costs. GRREAT takes in Golden Retrievers of all ages with varying degrees of medical issues, so as you can imagine, the veterinary bills GRREAT incurs can be staggering. We pride ourselves in never turning a dog away due to a medical condition; however, it seems that more and more dogs are coming into the rescue with more than one medical concern. During 2012, health care costs for our Golden Retrievers totaled \$304K, which was 74% of all our expenses and 120% of our income.

We introduced you to Sadie in the last newsletter. Sadie wandered into a neighbor's yard where she was mauled by the resident dogs, resulting in extensive damage to her face and jaw. Her family was unable to afford the care Sadie desperately needed and turned her over to GRREAT, knowing that was the only way to save her life. Sadie's tongue and mouth were so infected that she had to undergo several days of debridement before undergoing two surgeries to remove parts of her jaw, tongue and several teeth. In true Golden fashion, Sadie had her tail wagging despite the obvious pain. Sadie recuperated for several weeks in her GRREAT foster home, slowly getting accustomed to eating and drinking with her damaged jaw and tongue. She then underwent eyelid surgery, with another recuperation period in her foster home. Sadie is now happily with her forever home!

While Sadie's story is a bit unique to the rescue, she is just one of many dogs that arrive needing high dollar treatment. It is not uncommon for a dog to be given to the Rescue because the treatment is too expensive for an owner. The only reason GRREAT is able to help these dogs is because of your generous support. Without your help treatment would not be possible. Please consider becoming a sponsor for the 2013 3K Walk. With your help, we will be able to continue taking in dogs that truly need our help and have nowhere else to go.

Sponsorship options include:

RESCUE HERO: for \$750 or more: Your company logo and name – or your name or dog's name – will be listed prominently on the event T-shirt to be given to all walkers. You are invited to have a table at our event to raise awareness of your product and /or services.

RESCUE ANGEL: for \$500: Your company logo and name – or your name or dog's name - will be listed on the event T-shirt to be given to all walkers. Plus, you are invited to have a table at our event to raise awareness of your product and/or services.

RESCUE PARTNER: for \$300: Your company name and logo - or your name or dog's name - will be listed on the event T-Shirt.

FRIEND OF RESCUE: for \$100: Your company name - or your name or dog's name - will be listed on the event T-Shirt.

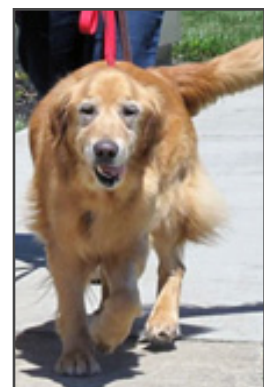
In addition, you will be listed as one of our sponsors on our flier, our website, and our newsletter. You will also be listed in all other publicity about this event, including press releases to local newspapers. If you wish to become a sponsor please email Carolyn Beyer at events@grreat.org no later than September 14, 2013. Sponsor donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 190, Merrifield VA 22116 with a notation of "GRREAT 3K Walk." Should you have any questions you can email events@grreat.org.



Sadie on Intake



Sadie Still Smiling after Surgery



Sadie Happy

The Little Redhead

by Nancy Alexander

It was a cold December morning when 12 of us were pacing around a McDonald's parking lot just over the Maryland-Pennsylvania border. We had come to meet a truck delivering homeless animals from points south. Mostly dogs but some cats and two rabbits were being transported from rescue organizations over-loaded with animals; they would have been euthanized because adoptive homes were not available. Our motley crew of rescuers wandered around chatting, drinking coffee, and munching on Egg McMuffins while sitting on picnic benches or in heated cars. It was early in the morning, too early for most of us. Many traveled quite a distance to meet this truck. The morning air was brisk and puffs of steam could be seen drifting up from newly purchased coffee cups.

We represented animal shelters and breed rescue organizations, like Basset Hound and German Shepherd Rescue. I was there representing GRREAT. Today I was scheduled to pick up 3 Golden Retrievers, one of which I would keep as my foster dog. The other two were to be picked up that afternoon and housed elsewhere. As the dirty white truck careened into the parking lot, an explosion of noise vaulted into the air. Excited barking, howling and yapping erupted triggering the volunteers to move toward the truck, tossing coffee cups and reaching for their leashes. As the front doors opened a deafening crescendo exploded, and I wondered how the transport crew had maintained their sanity not to mention their hearing with that ungodly racket. Riffing through their paperwork they began to call out names of rescue groups and opening the back and side doors of the truck pointing out which animals were going to which group. It was arduous. There were tiny terrified puppies curled up with their mother, wild-eyed cats with their fur straight out, and one completely shell shocked Flemish Giant Rabbit who seemed ready to keel over. I wanted to take them all.

I immediately saw my three passengers but went into a near panic as I tried to imagine getting them out of this truck by myself. The crates were stacked two and three high and every single dog looked ready to burst forth and fly. One seemed to be on the verge of a nervous breakdown as it paced, yapped, scratched at the cage doors and growled. Eyes wide with fear took on a supernatural glow. I saw a scrawny Dalmatian pup huddled in her crate. A huge angry Rottie mix, teeth barred and a tiny Yorkie who kept up an incessant high pitched scream. I had no idea how they were going to get these dogs in various stages of traumatization out of this truck. One of 'my' dogs, a slim redhead, was actually leaping in her crate hitting her head against the top repeatedly in an effort to free herself. "Oh, my God," I thought. "I'm never going to be able to handle this one!"

"Can I get some help over here?" I called out to no one in particular. After I had signed the requisite paperwork and produced the needed identification, I was authorized to take the three bedraggled Golden Retrievers. In time, someone came and helped me load a large underweight, dirty blonde male and a small chubby older female into crates in the back of my Volvo Wagon. That left the crazed redhead leaping about in her crate which was stacked on top of two others near the roof of the truck. A large man in a thick hunting jacket and cap reached up and opened the door for me but, as he started to lift the dog down, she surprised us all by doing a quick back flip and in a flash freed herself from the slip lead he'd put around her neck, slipped out of his hands and tore across the busy parking lot with dozens of dog volunteers instantly in pursuit. She ducked between picnic tables, scrambled under cars and wove her way in and around parked and moving vehicles as McDonald's customers and dog volunteers alike tried to catch her. People stopped their cars and ran after her, horns honked, capture strategies were yelled back and forth. I raced about in a panic thinking I could never explain how I lost one of our dogs at a McDonald's in Pennsylvania. If I had a video camera and if the internet had been as big then as it is now, well this video would have made it to the top 10! It was like Keystone Cop meets the Road Runner. The little redhead was in her glory darting about being chased by 2 dozen middle aged adults. At length, a boy of about 12 with some notable football experience did a running tackle and grounded her. Several of us rushed over with collars and leashes. After much huffing and puffing the frazzled volunteers hauled her to my station wagon and stuffed her into a waiting cage. Phew!

It took about 45 minutes of deep breathing and blessed silence for my nervous system to return to normal. Two of my passengers rested quietly in their crates, heads on paws, glad for the peace and quiet. My third passenger however paced in her crate. Apparently she still had not run out of energy. She had exhausted everyone in that McDonald's parking lot, nearly gotten herself killed several times, but as I glanced at her in my rear view mirror I could tell she was not done yet. Expressive hazel eyes smiled back at me and I suddenly realized that she was having fun. This was fun! She loved to play and this was a game to her. "Great!", I thought. "This is the one I'm going to foster. Too bad I'm not keeping the big, quiet blonde guy," I muttered to myself.

At home, MacGyver and Hannah, my own Golden Retrievers, were eager to meet their new friends. The "energizer bunny" whose favorite activity was being chased (no surprise here) engaged my two in a game of chase, and by dinnertime they were a three pack. MacGyver, a 7 year old male out of international show lines was from Michigan. Like his name-sake before him, was brilliant, figured out how to do everything and loved everyone. Hannah, age 4, had been adopted the year before when her owner had been deployed to Iraq. Her future had been certain death in a Virginia shelter. I had been her foster mother for less than 15 minutes when I decided if MacGyver liked her I would adopt her. He did and I did. That had been a year ago and during that time they had grown as close as any two dogs could. When riding in the car, he would lie with his shoulder against her shoulder and his paw on her paw. He seemed

to know when she was anxious and worked to reassure her. They were a real team who did everything together; run, eat, and retrieve balls. It was a joy to watch them, they were in perfect tandem.

The shelter had assigned little redhead with the temporary name 'Janice,' but after a few hours I renamed her 'Jenny.' It wasn't perfect but more suitable. As it was, Jenny happily accepted her new name and her new pack. To aid in her pack identification I 'dressed her' in a red patterned neck scarf, like my Golden Retrievers wore, along with her GRREAT collar and ID tags. She accepted her new 'pack outfit' happily. In a day she was acting like she'd been with us forever. She had the routine down pat. Jenny listened to commands, observing and imitating my dogs. There was only one thing that she did not do well and that was to obey if she got loose. Then all bets were off.

Jenny was a loving outgoing girl who made friends with people and other animals instantly. Unfortunately, she could not be trusted off lead for one moment. She never lost that urge to run free and be chased. While my two dogs ran obediently off lead during walks in the woods, Jenny had to remain at my side on her stretch leash unless we were at the dog park. Then she could be free and would run with endless abandon, circling the park inviting other dogs to chase her. At those moments she was most fully herself. She simply loved those times when she could run free, head held high, big doggie smile on her lips, tongue lolling out the side of her mouth, lovely feathered tail held high, long ears flapping in the wind. Her feet would barely touch the ground as she flew circles around the dog park. She loved those times so much that we found ourselves going there more and more often. Hannah, MacGyver and I rarely went there ourselves because they could run free anywhere chasing their tennis balls, jumping over logs and careening through forests. However, in deference to their foster sister, we went to the dog park.

On one occasion we were at the dog park and the most amazing thing occurred. Hannah and MacGyver had been retrieving for an hour and were lying panting at my feet as I sat visiting with two other dog owners. Jenny, as usual, was racing around the park with a pack of dogs chasing her. She ran like a Greyhound and was being chased by about 15 dogs of all shapes and sizes. As usual she was in the lead. I watched as she ran past with a big doggie smile. She'd glance at me as she whizzed by with an expression that said, "Look at me I'm flying!"

Then I noticed something different about her. Frowning, I watched her more intently. As she flew by a third time, I saw that her expression had changed. She wasn't smiling. She wasn't happy. Jenny cast fearful looks over her shoulder at a large Swissy-Lab mix closing in on her flank. Then I saw her cast that same worried glance toward the Brittany spaniel who appeared to be nipping at her shoulder. Something was terribly wrong. She was no longer running for fun. She was running for her life! The pack was turning on her! I leapt to my feet and grabbed the leashes and told Hannah and MacGyver, "Jenny's in trouble." I circled the park and headed down the hill toward the pack, Hannah and MacGyver at my side. As the pack approached, I headed toward it only to be outrun by my own two dogs. They raced ahead of me directly toward the pack. I stood in amazement as MacGyver, no spring chicken, sprang into action. He took off at full speed racing along beside the pack until he got in front of it when he turned and cut through the pack of dogs that were circling and snapping at Jenny's face. He grabbed Jenny by her scarf and pulled her out the side of the pack, butting other dogs out of the way with his shoulders and hips. At the same instant, and most amazingly, Hannah, the world's most gentle dog, cut into the pack from the side, coming in right behind Jenny, and rammed into the Swissy-lab snapping at her rump. She knocked the big black dog flat on his side, jumped over him and ran straight out the other side of the now floundering pack. Hannah circled behind the dog pack and ran straight to me, arriving seconds after MacGyver and Jenny who were seated in front of me as if waiting for a treat. Hannah seated herself promptly beside Jenny and looked up at me like the other two. In shock I praised and leashed them all while other dog owners, scattered throughout the park, gasped in collective amazement and slowly began to clap their hands. We stood there, we three, my dogs side by side, in their red patterned scarves, looking up at me as the pack scattered having lost their momentum and their focus.

As we were leaving the dog park, several people approached and asked how I taught my dogs to do that trick and saying we should be on Animal Planet. I shrugged my shoulders and said I didn't teach them anything. They did it themselves. Holding all three leashes I walked my pack to the car and drove home.

As I thought about it later I realized that my dogs rescued Jenny because she was their pack-mate. For them it was very simple. When you are in a pack you are family and that's what families do. On the night of the great dog rescue the dogs got special treats and we snuggled together on my bed. Jenny rested her head on my leg, Hannah laid her head on Jenny's rump and MacGyver faced outward, as he usually did, guarding his pack. I look back on the events of that day with love, warmth and an amazement I have rarely felt before or since. I loved being a member of that pack with its strength, love and loyalty. How swiftly Hannah and MacGyver had acted to save their friend. How they had known exactly what to do? How they had picked up on my concern, assessed the situation and acted in concert with each other? They carried out the rescue without so much as a bark, a bite or a curled lip. The two of them had dealt with a large pack of dogs without as much as a single growl. "I will treasure this day for the rest of my life," I thought. And I have.

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 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 2013 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 enclosing \$10 (each) for a 2013 Golden
Membership(s) Please write name of dog(s)

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 _____

E-mail 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

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Fundraising & Micro-chipping Clinics

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animal shelter, etc.)

____ Perform home visits for potential adopters prior
to adoption

____ Additional Information or Comments:

This form can be filled out online at
www.grreat.org/vol_form.htm

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 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 e-mail events@grreat.org and if you wish to volunteer at any event, please e-mail volunteer@grreat.org.

July

13 12pm until 2pm

ADOPTION DAY

Petco
10600 Baltimore National Pk.
Ellicott City, MD

August

3 12pm until 2pm

ADOPTION DAY

Weber's Pet Supermarket
2599 John Milton Drive
Herndon, VA

October

26 9:30am until 12:30pm

GRREAT's 3K Walk

Weber's Pet Supermarket
11021 Lee Highway
(Rear parking lot)
Fairfax, VA
More D'Tails to come

Please be sure to submit your adoption application at least four weeks prior to the event. We cannot approve applications on the spot.

The deadline for the Sept./Oct. News is August first. The editor is looking forward to your articles.

