

GGRR NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 4

Issue Number 4

Date: April 2007

* * * Meeting Notice * * *

Date: Thursday, April 12th

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Place: The Museum of the Dog

Robert Orta will be speaking at our April GGRR meeting. Mr. Orta is the area representative for Merial, the maker of Heartgard. It is possible for dogs to get a **false negative** reading on heartworm tests, so he will explain what responsible dog owners need to know about preventing heartworm disease.

We love having Golden Retrievers attend our meetings. However, please keep them leashed and at your side while we conduct the business portion of our meeting. Dogs are welcome to romp and socialize both before and after the meeting.



Eileen C. and Buck, who is available for adoption, are decked out in their St. Pat's finery. Chris R. (off to the left) must have some delectable treats, because she sure has Buck's attention!

MINUTES FROM MARCH 8TH:

President Pat Moran called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Rich T. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the March meeting. Mike S. seconded the motion. Paul S. inquired if permission had been granted to reprint the Barbero article from the Post-Dispatch. This had not been done, and Barb said she would make sure to obtain permission for reprints in the future. A vote was taken on the motion to dispense with reading the minutes, and it was approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Pat had no report this month.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Beth was unable to give a report this month, as a family member had taken the car with her financial reports in it. However, she did report that GGRR received a \$750 donation from the Golden Retriever Club of America. Some of this money was a share of profits from the Canine Olympics; while the rest was from GRCA members who overpaid their dues to be used as a donation to our club. We appreciate their generosity!

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

There were 4 membership inquiries during the past month, and 2 families became members. Welcome to Ron and Marla Hamlin and to Kristen Carter!

INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

The following dogs were surrendered to GRRR this month:

- 00-083R** **Copper**
- 07-006** **Emily**
- 07-007** **Faith**, a red female
- 07-008** **Koby**, a blond male who is
 6 months old

ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Carrie reminded the foster homes that she needs pictures for our website. If you have a foster dog that is not listed on the **Current Goldens** page, please send Paul S. a photo and a short write-up with information about the dog you are fostering.

No dogs were placed with adoptive families this month, as we have a shortage of families on our waiting list and a shortage of dogs ready to be placed. However, Kathy D. will be showing Copper this weekend.

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

If you have not yet signed up to walk in the St. Pat's parade, please make sure to do so after the meeting. We still don't have final details concerning the parade. Their website says the parade starts at noon, while we were told it would be in the

morning. When Chris R. gets the information, she will email it to Barb B., who will send out a group email to club members. Check your email to get this information. Chris will bring water and bowls for the dogs. Members are welcome to bring drinks and refreshments, along with a chair to sit on. We will load these items into Chris's van once the parade begins. The parade route is 3 miles long. GRRR St. Pat's sweatshirts have arrived. Pick yours up after the meeting. Give Beth J. a check made out to GRRR for the cost of the items ordered.

Meet the Golden will take place Sunday, May 20th from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. at the Dog Museum. The purpose of this event is to educate the public about the characteristics of the Golden Retriever. We want people who are considering adopting a Golden to understand the needs of our beloved breed and to make an informed decision when they select a family pet. We need a minimum of 4 people with their dogs to staff this event. It will be held in the meeting room, which is where we have our monthly club meetings. Chris R. will ask the Golden Retriever Club of America if they would like to join us for this event.



Our faithful corps of banner carriers led our group along the parade route. Natalie H. is finally big enough to help! Could that possibly be an extremely rare black Golden off to the right side of the photo?!

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT: (cont.)

The GRR Garage Sale will be held at Kathy D.'s house this year. It will be on the first Saturday in June, which is June 2nd. Items for sale can be taken to Kathy's house or given to her at one of our meetings. It would be very helpful to price the objects you donate in advance of the sale.

Our Reunion Picnic will be held Sunday, May 6th. The picnic committee has been hard at work for a couple of months now. The club will provide meat, buns, drinks, and a sheet cake for lunch. We need members to bring side dishes that will safely stand up to the heat of the season. There is some electricity available under the shelter for crock pots and hot plates. Please use the sign-up poster to specify what you plan to bring and when you will be available to work. Do not bring your personal dogs or foster dogs. Members will handle our guests' dogs while they eat and then work at one of the game booths after lunch. Please wear your blue GRR member shirt if you have one. Invitations have been printed and folded. The planning committee will help stuff the envelopes at their next meeting. Invitations will be mailed out during the last week of March. Many corporations will donate items for raffle when approached by an employee who is supporting a charitable cause. Please ask at work to see if your company is willing to help. Paul will make sure that the current letter being used to solicit donations is posted on the website. Click on the **Messages** link and then on **GRR Forms**. Thanks, Paul, for making things so easy for us!

WEBSITE COORDINATOR:

Paul reported the following website numbers for the month of February:

81,158 hits
14,990 page views
11,952 visitors
2,018 unique visitors

Fewer people have visited our website in the past month, but they viewed more pages. 1,772 of the visitors were from Missouri.

There was some concern expressed last month that adoption applications had not been coming in from our website. Paul said that a number of applications were received during the past month, so the website is definitely not experiencing problems.



The cold weather on St. Patrick's Day doesn't seem to dampen the spirits of Lee and Becky R., with their two Golden Retrievers, Gracie (l) and George (r). All of our dogs looked adorable in their matching green bandanas, embroidered by Pat M.'s sister. It's hard to believe that people were able to walk the parade route in shorts last year!

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Pat M. reported on business discussed at a recent Executive Board meeting. The board felt that wearing nametags at meetings would make it easier to get acquainted with new members. Barb made nametags for all of our members. Please return them to the box at the end of each meeting so we will have them available for meetings and special events.

The board decided it would be nice to honor people who make special donations to GRRR by printing their names in our monthly newsletter. Look for this new section in the newsletter.

We are starting a buddy / mentor system to help welcome new members into our group. New members will be assigned to a mentor who will help them feel welcome at meetings, introduce them to others, and make it easier for them to get involved in some of our activities. Please sign the sheet being circulated if you are interested in becoming a mentor to a new member. Hopefully, this buddy program will help more people become actively involved, rather than just being a name on our membership roster.

We need a second person to share the duties of responding to adoption applications received online. Shane S. is currently handling this responsibility alone. We are approaching our busiest months, and answering the large volume of calls received can become overwhelming.

Please see Pat or Shane after the meeting if you would like to help.

All Coordinator positions will be up in June. Nominations will be taken in both April and May for the following positions:

- Membership Coordinator**
- Intake Coordinator**
- Adoption Coordinator**
- Events Coordinator**
- Website Coordinator**

If you might be interested in one of these positions, talk to the person who currently holds the job to find out more about it. Voting will take place in May, with the newly elected coordinators taking over in June.

Pat reminded foster parents to get photos of their foster dogs to Paul. Paul brought his camera tonight and will be happy to take photos of the foster dogs in attendance.



Sydney M. and Alexa S. are ready to roll! They are shown giving Katie, who belongs to Kathy D., some quality time while waiting for the cannon to signal the start of the parade. Sydney and Alexa helped carry the GRRR banner once the parade began.

NEW BUSINESS: (cont.)

Barney announced that the Kirkwood and Webster Times newspaper will contain a monthly ad for GGRR. It will also give the dates of our adoption days at Lucky Dog. Lucky Dog is donating cookies for us to pass out along the St. Pat's parade route. They will also donate a raffle basket for our reunion picnic.

Rich Taylor brought samples of candles that a friend of his makes. She will donate some candles for us to sell at our GGRR booth at various events. As a part of her business, Rich's friend will make custom candles with pictures of your personal dogs if you supply photos for her to use. She will do any breed of dog (and probably cats as well!). See Rich for more details.

Barb announced she had Easter cards for sale. All proceeds will benefit GGRR.



Paul and Nanette S. make sure Jasper (l) and Amos (r) are using their best canine manners before the parade begins. They must have learned a few tricks from Rob Schenberg who gave a training demonstration at our February meeting.

A motion was made by Barney and seconded by Kathy D. to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Gabe, belonging to LaQuita Ebert, looks ready for the hunt! I'm not sure how well he's camouflaged with that bright orange hat!

DONATIONS:

Donations to GGRR were received from the following people and groups:

The Golden Retriever Club of America

Chris and Lesley Albin--
for Andrea Albin in memory of "Dale"

Bill and Barb Blacksher--
in memory of Shelby Roberts

Spay, Neuter, Chip, Love, Protect--
by David Crooks

Dave and Linda Dude

RAINBOW BRIDGE:



SHELBY ROBERTS

February 17, 1998 – March 4, 2007

Our sweet Shelby courageously crossed the Rainbow Bridge on March 4, 2007. Shelby was diagnosed with cancer in mid-January after a tumor was detected in her abdomen.

After fostering Shelby for only one week, we quickly decided we wanted to adopt her into our family. Even though we were only graced with her presence for 5 months, she has left a lasting love in our hearts.

Shelby was the most adaptable fur child we have ever had. For example, after having her in our family for only two days, she took a camping trip with us. She was perfect on her van ride to Tamsauk Mountain, wasn't fazed by the campfire, sleeping inside our tent, or the long rocky 5-mile trail that she walked with us. Her adaptability continued even with her trips to the vet after her diagnosis.

Shelby loved her squeaky toys and balls. She was so much fun to buy presents for,

as she would proudly carry them around in her mouth to let the world know they belonged exclusively to her! We loved to play the "bug game" with her, where our fingers would creep up to try to take her toys and balls. She was never fooled by this game and always won.

Each and every person was Shelby's friend, and the word "sweetheart" sums her up.

We would like to thank GRRR for all the time, effort, and money you invested in giving Shelby quality of life. Shelby was brought into our lives for a reason, and you paved the way for that reason.

Shelby's influence will live on in the many lives that she so generously touched. Thank you, sweet Shelby, for enriching our lives!

- Linda and Dwight Roberts

Kay Callison and Mike Naughton fostered Shelby for many months before she was adopted by the Roberts family. Kay and Mike were generously given an opportunity by the Roberts to visit Shelby just before her 9th birthday.

KATY BILLINGHAM

March 23, 1992 – March 31, 2007



RAINBOW BRIDGE: (cont.)

Katy (Katydid), my “snuggle baby,” just turned 15 on March 23rd. I feel so LUCKY to have had her (and relatively healthy) for nearly six more years after getting a diagnosis of Mast Cell Carcinoma (with the bleak prognosis of only 2 to 4 months) at the age of nine. Recently her arthritis has caused her more and more trouble. Unfortunately, this past week her appetite changed dramatically and was rapidly followed by a total collapse.

This past Saturday evening I had to make the decision to help my Katy go peacefully to Doggy Heaven.

We adopted each other in September 1995 when she was 3-1/2 years young. A really HUGE “thank you” goes to Chris Vassoni for introducing me to Katy, as it did turn out to be a good match. I do believe that Chris V. was one of the original Golden Retriever rescuers here in St. Louis. Thanks to her I got almost 12 years of love from this Golden “snuggle girl.” Katy had just the right temperament to help me recuperate from the loss of my previous, hyper, ball-crazy Golden girl, Amber. Amber, also sorely missed, was my other golden “best friend” for more than 13 years.

Katy is at rest now, and I hope she is getting lots of hugs and kisses and yummy treats from her “Aunt Nancy” and Ginger (formerly Gertie) and playing with Tyler Taylor and all her other buddies who have preceded her.

Now that she is gone I hope to be able to finish the work on my spare room and start fostering again soon. Thank you all for listening to my reminiscing.

- Chris Billingham

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

Please send items of interest, ***photos of your pups, brags***, etc. to:

Barb Blacksher
26 Cynthia Ct.
Florissant, MO 63031

Put your furkids in an upcoming newsletter!

You can also email items to:

[**blacksher@charter.net**](mailto:blacksher@charter.net)

Please submit items by the last day of the month to include them in the newsletter for the following month.

THE SEVEN DAYS OF CANINE CREATION

On the first day of creation, God created the dog.

On the second day of creation, God created man to serve the dog.

On the third day, God created furniture for the dog to use as he wishes.

On the fourth day, God created the tennis ball so that the dog might or might not retrieve it.

On the fifth day, God created honest toil so that man could labor for the good of the dog.

On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the dog healthy and the man broke.

On the seventh day, God tried to rest . . . but he had to walk the dog.

DOGGIE TREATS

- 2 ½ cups whole wheat flour
- ½ cup powdered dry milk
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- 2 teaspoons brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon granulated beef bouillon
- 6 tablespoons meat drippings (from any meat you have cooked; I use bacon drippings.)
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ cup ice water

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine first 7 ingredients. Cut in drippings until mixture resembles cornmeal. Mix in egg. Add just enough ice water to make mixture form a ball. Pat dough to ½ inch thick and cut into desired shapes. (I use mini-cookie cutters that to with the season.) You can also take the easy way and just cut the dough into bite-sized squares. Place on a lightly greased cookie sheet and bake 25 – 30 minutes. Cool before serving. Treats can be frozen to extend their shelf life.



**TO ADOPT OR SURRENDER A DOG, CALL
THE GRR PHONE LINES:**

314-995-5477

Officers:

President: Pat Moran

P4021m@sbcglobal.net

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Dog Visits: Shane Stark

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Foster Homes: Barb Blacksher

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