

# GGRR NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 5

Issue Number 8

Date: August 2008

## \* \* \* Meeting Notice \* \* \*

**Date: Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 7:15 p.m.**

**Place: The Museum of the Dog**

*We love having well-behaved, healthy Goldens (up-to-date on shots, please) 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.*



Kaia Tennesen, formerly known as Kelsey, may be dog tired; but she's not planning to miss any treats that might come her way! Kaia, one of the pups from Shadow's litter, was adopted by a member of GGRR.

Our newsletter usually begins with the minutes from our last GGRR meeting. However, this month I decided to use the front page to address an issue that is at the heart of every rescue group—finding a new home for **your** dog. Few things are more

traumatic for a dog than losing its family. No one wants to see the situation described in the following poem, but these incidents occur on a daily basis when families lose their homes or can no longer afford to care for a pet.

### A DOG SITS WAITING

by Kathy Flood

**A dog sits waiting in the cold autumn sun**

**Too faithful to leave, too frightened to run.**

**She's been here for days now with nothing to do**

**But sit by the road, just waiting for you.**

**She can't understand why you left her that day.**

**She thought you and she were stopping to play.**

**She's sure you'll come back, and that's why she stays.**

**How long will she suffer? How many more days?**

**Her legs have grown weak; her throat parched and dry.**

**She's sick now from hunger, and falls with a sigh.**

**She lays down her head and closes her eyes.**

**I wish you could see how a waiting dog dies.**

Rescue people understand that sometimes circumstances change, and owners are forced to give up a beloved pet. Below are some things to consider if you must relinquish a pet.

### **DOS AND DON'TS OF SURRENDERING YOUR PET**

- ? **DO** contact the breeder if you purchased a purebred dog from one. Reputable breeders feel responsible for each dog they had a hand in creating. They will often take the dog back and assume responsibility for finding it a good home. Good breeders often have waiting lists of people wanting a puppy who might consider adopting an adult dog.
- ? **DO** consult with a dog trainer, an animal behaviorist, or obedience school if your dog has some problem behaviors that will make it difficult to place. You may decide to keep your dog if those behaviors get corrected.
- ? **DO** talk with staff members at the veterinary practice you use. You will find more good pet owners here than anywhere else. They often know of clients whose pets have died and are looking for a new one.
- ? **DO** network with friends, relatives, and co-workers. There could be someone you know who just might consider adopting your dog.
- ? **DO** plan ahead. It takes time to find a good home for your pet. If your dog needs to be out of your home by the end of the week, you are likely to be disappointed. Rescue groups are inundated with requests to take dogs.



Bob Blacksher, shown with his dad Bill, rests up for his next plunge into the pool. Bob was later brave enough to shed his life vest while swimming!

### **DOS AND DON'TS OF SURRENDERING YOUR PET** (cont.)

They are often short on space in their foster homes. Most rescue groups are staffed by volunteers. These volunteers often have full-time jobs, family commitments, and pets of their own. They donate both their time and money to helping homeless pets because they love animals. Don't expect them to perform miracles because you haven't allowed sufficient time for them to be of help!

- ? **DO** be responsible enough to have a dog spayed or neutered before it leaves your care. Updating the dog's vaccinations will also help it be more adoptable.
- ? **DO** tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about your

## **DOS AND DON'TS OF SURRENDERING YOUR PET**

(cont.)

animal. If your pet has some health problems or behavioral issues, make them known upfront. Most rescue groups have experts who may be able to help resolve some of those problems. Keep in mind that if you don't want to deal with a dog's problem behavior, a stranger won't want to deal with it either. You could also end up liable for undesirable or undisclosed behaviors. Problem dogs often end up being bounced from one home to another unless those behaviors are corrected. No one wants that to happen to a pet.

- ? **DO** insist on a signed adoption agreement between you and the family who adopts your dog. This requirement will usually weed out dishonest people who don't care about the welfare of your pet. You can often find sample contracts online.

### **Now for the DON'Ts:**

- ? **DON'T** turn your pet loose "out in the country" and hope that someone else will take it into their home. This is one of the cruelest fates any domestic pet could meet. The fear, abuse, and suffering they will encounter is heartbreaking if they even manage to survive at all.
- ? **DON'T** give a dog away for free. Charging an adoption fee **increases** your chances of finding your pet a loving home. There are plenty of unscrupulous people who make a

## **DOS AND DON'TS OF SURRENDERING YOUR PET**

(cont.)

living by collecting free dogs and selling them at flea markets, to research facilities, dog fighting groups, etc. Don't make it worth their while to stay in business! If a person can't afford to pay for your pet, he/she can't afford to care for it either.

- ? **DON'T pay someone** to take your dog. If anything attracts a con artist, it's money! Unscrupulous people will be happy to accept your payment of cash, gift cards, etc. and think nothing of dumping your dog along the side of the road or taking it to a shelter where it may end up being euthanized.
- ? **DON'T** dump your dog at an animal shelter. Shelters and humane societies were created to care for stray and abused animals. They were never intended to be a drop-off for people who no longer want their pets. Shelters are required to keep stray animals for a designated number of days so owners have the opportunity to find a lost pet. Pets surrendered by their owners can be euthanized the day they arrive. No shelter enjoys euthanizing its animals, but they simply run out of space. They have learned by experience that only the youngest, friendliest, cutest, and best behaved animals are going to get adopted.

Next month's newsletter will contain tips on locating a reputable rescue group if you need to find a new home for your pet.



Kaia Tennesen is a perfect fit for riding in a doll stroller. She doesn't seem to mind being dressed up either.

### MINUTES FROM JULY 10<sup>th</sup>:

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by President Pat Moran. Drew C. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the June meeting. Jim D. seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed. Paul S. made the following correction to last month's minutes:

On page 4, the website address listed in the newsletters sent by mail is incomplete. To access GRR merchandise for sale, use [www.cafepress.com/ggrr](http://www.cafepress.com/ggrr). The online newsletter is correct since Paul made the correction before he posted it.. Korisa C. noted that Janice Elsenraat took the photos that appear on the merchandise. Tracie B.'s Golden, Tanquerey, is pictured on some of the merchandise, while the puppies shown are from Shadow's litter. Korisa and Jim T. modeled the GRR hats they ordered through Café Press.

Chris B. asked if the discrepancies in the May treasurer's report had been corrected. Beth J. was not present to address the question.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

None this month

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Tim Miget gave the treasurer's report for Beth J., who was unable to attend the meeting. Our account balance at the beginning of June was **\$5067.83**. Income was **\$3863.00**, and expenses were **\$1632.04**, leaving an ending balance of **\$7298.79**. After all of the checks Beth has written recently clear the bank, we will have approximately **\$2400** left in our account.

### MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

There was no membership report because Kristen C. was not able to attend the meeting. The membership materials will be given to Janice E., the new Membership Coordinator, before the August meeting.

**Courtney Hunt** and **Brennan Wells** attended the meeting as visitors.

### INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Barb reported that five dogs were surrendered to GRR during the past month:

- 08-031: Jackson**, a male of unknown age, was a stray found on a golf course in Belleville; he is being fostered by Jim and Kathy Dilg,
- 08-032: Oliver**, a 10 month old male, being fostered by Tom and Donna Schmiederer

## INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

(cont.)

**08-033: Blitz**, a 6 ½ year old male, who weighs 129.4 lbs.; he is being fostered by Bill and Barb Blacksher.

**08-034: Buddy**, a 5 ½ year old male, who is being fostered by Cindi Loomis

**08-035: Chico**, a 2 ½ year old male, who is being fostered by Janice and Blaine Elsenraat.

Barb has self-addressed envelopes available for people doing dog visits to make it more convenient for them to mail paperwork to her. See her after the meeting if you need some.

## ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Barb B. gave the report for Carrie T., who was unable to attend the meeting. Three dogs were placed in their forever homes during the past month:

- 08-006 Shadow**
- 08-024 Ruby**
- 08-031 Jackson**

Barb has envelopes addressed to Carrie available for anyone who needs to mail home visit or dog visit paperwork to her. They sure save time when life gets busy. See her after the meeting if you would like some.



Korisa was popular with the dogs when she Received a squeaky toy for Stone at her baby shower. No one wanted Stone to feel left out of the action when the baby arrives.

## EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Chris R. asked for volunteers to staff our Adoption Days at **Lucky Dog** in Webster Groves for the next few months. The times can be a bit flexible, but we are scheduled from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month. If possible, take one dog along with you. There is a fenced yard behind the store so the dog can go outside when necessary. Beth, the owner of Lucky Dog, knows to expect you. The dates and volunteers are:

- July 19: Kathy Dierkes
- August 16: Amy Hernlund
- Sept. 20: Tom and Donna Schmiederer
- Oct. 18: still needed

One of our largest events of the year is the **Greentree Festival** in Kirkwood on Sept. 12, 13, and 14. We need at least four

## EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT: (cont.)

volunteers to work each shift. An ex-pen will be set up for the dogs. The hours are:

Fri. Sept. 12: 5:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Sat. Sept. 13: 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
(2 shifts needed)

Sun. Sept. 14: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
(2 shifts needed)

Sign up sheets will be circulated at the August meeting, so please check your calendars to see when you are available to work. The festival is held in Kirkwood Park, which is at the corner of Geyer and Adams Roads.

**Kirkwood Dogs Days** will be held on Saturday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until noon. It takes place by the Farmer's Market on E. Argonne. The event includes a pet parade, pet contests, pet adoptions, and informational booths. This is a small event and will only require a couple of GRR volunteers to staff our booth. This is the same day as our Adoption Day at Lucky Dog.

The **APA Canine Carnival** will be held at Tilles Park on Sunday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. There will be games, crafts, activities, and vendors to amuse both 2-legged and 4-legged children. GRR will have a booth at this event.

GRR will be holding a canine Halloween event at **Lucky Dog** in October. Heather H. is in charge of planning the activities.

Chris is waiting for information on an event called **Celebrate Spot** that sounds as if it will be fun. It is a walk for dogs and their owners to help support the fight against breast cancer. Chris hopes to have more details by our next meeting.

## WEBSITE COORDINATOR:

Paul S. furnished the following website statistics for the month of June:

<b>Hits:</b>	<b>114,425</b>
<b>Page Views:</b>	<b>25,571</b>
<b>Visitors:</b>	<b>11,133</b>
<b>Unique Visitors:</b>	<b>3,285</b>

If you have a foster dog(s), please make sure Paul gets a photo and a bio about each dog. He also reported that we have made online sales of GRR merchandise. The Golden retrievers on the merchandise include Tracie B.'s dog Tanqueray and some of Shadow's puppies. Visit [www.cafepress.com/grr](http://www.cafepress.com/grr) to view and order a wide variety of items featuring some of our dogs.

## OLD BUSINESS:

None



The dogs attending Korisa C.'s baby shower had more sense than many of the humans. They hung out in the air-conditioned comfort of **Lucky Dog** while the human guests were outdoors chatting in the courtyard on a hot August evening while Korisa opened her baby gifts. Store owner, Beth, graciously invited us to host the event at her store after it closed for the evening. Both dogs and humans enjoyed socializing, snacking, and admiring the baby gifts! Max Bayer (l), Kaia Tennesen (r), and an unidentified dog (background) keep cool as they watch the festivities.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Jessica W. does free-lance work for a small newspaper called the *Java Journal*. She will be writing a monthly journal for the paper called "*Toby's Tale: A Year in the Life of a Rescue Dog*" featuring Toby, who Jessica recently adopted from GGRR. You can read her first installment in the August edition at <http://javajournalonline.com/>. The story and a photo of Toby are on page 17.

Kathy D. distributed copies of a handout she put together listing pet limits for various cities and municipalities in the St. Louis area. Members doing phone interviews and home visits will want to refer to this list to make sure that potential adoptive families stay within the legal limits for pets in their area of residence. Thanks, Kathy, for the work you put into collecting this data for us! Handouts will be available at future meetings for anyone who wasn't present to receive one.

Korisa C. said she needs someone to take over handling Thursday's calls on our adoption phone lines. This responsibility involves calling into our adoption phone line each Thursday to retrieve any messages left by people wanting to start the process to adopt a Golden from GGRR. The volunteer returns the calls, answers questions, and briefly explains how our adoption process works. The family can then either fill out an online application to adopt a dog or respond to questions by the volunteer to complete our brief phone interview form. Once the family completes the phone interview, they are asked to mail a check for \$25 to the volunteer as a non-refundable application fee. Checks should be made out to GGRR. When the volunteer receives this check, he/she asks another member to complete

## **NEW BUSINESS:** (cont.)

the home visit. The \$25 application fee is applied toward our adoption fee of \$275 when the family receives a dog from us. Returning calls from the phone lines is a great way to get involved in GGRR and seldom requires more than 10–15 minutes per week. Chris B. said she could take on this responsibility if no other members are willing to do it, as she has previously volunteered on the phone lines. However, it would be great to see some of our newer members volunteer!

Barb B. discussed the *Macy's Shop for a Cause* program that was recently advertised in the Post-Dispatch. It is a one day nationwide shopping event to raise money for charitable organizations. Participating groups sell \$5.00 shopping passes to the event. Each organization keeps all of the proceeds from every shopping pass it sells. Groups are asked to sell a *minimum* of 100 tickets. On Saturday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, anyone with a shopping pass receives a 20% discount on most regular, sale, and clearance merchandise. The savings are 10% on furniture, mattresses, and rugs. Cosmetics, fragrances, some designer merchandise, and gift certificates are excluded from these discounts. Macy's will be open to the general public on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, but only people with shopping passes will receive discounts. Macy's will also sell shopping passes at their registers on the day of the event and donate the proceeds to designated national charities. A vote was taken and members were in favor of participating in this event. Barb will complete the application form and let us know if GGRR is approved to take part in the program.



Heather H. helps prepare refreshments at Korisa C.'s baby shower. Heather's daughter, Natalie, is in charge of keeping the dogs in attendance from stealing any snacks.

A motion was made to adjourn the July meeting by Kathy D. It was seconded by Heather H. A vote was taken and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

### RAINBOW BRIDGE:

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our GRR families who recently lost a beloved Golden companion:

**Sara Beth**, beloved companion of **Tom and Fran Hynes**, went to the Bridge on Aug. 2, 2008 from cancer. Her faithful canine sister, Lilly, another GRR dog, was there to greet her after passing away in Oct. 2006. The Hynes family would like to thank all of the GRR volunteers for helping both of these Golden angels come into their lives.

### DONATIONS:

Donations to GRR were received from the following individuals and groups:

**Kim Berkly** from Kim's Canine Club LLC

**Mr. and Mrs. Mgysgt Saenz**

**Clark and Donna Schmiederer**

**Mary Smith**

**Sharon West**

In memory of Sara Hynes:

**Tom and Fran Hynes**

**Barb and Bill Blacksher**

### ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

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



You've seen that the dogs had a great time at Korisa's shower! Rest assured that the human guests at the shower also thoroughly enjoyed the evening! Korisa received many lovely gifts for the baby, including the booster seat in the photo. Additional photos from the shower will appear in upcoming months.



## **A DOG'S PURPOSE**

(from a 6-year-old)

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane, were all very attached to Belker and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.

The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation.

He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life—like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The six-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

Thanks to Korisa C. for submitting the above story for the newsletter.

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

**314-995-5477**

### **Officers**

**President:** Pat Moran  
[P4021m@sbcglobal.net](mailto:P4021m@sbcglobal.net)

**Vice-President:** Tim Miget  
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**Secretary:** Barb Blacksher  
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**Treasurer:** Beth Johnson  
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**Member Rep:** Chris Rogers  
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### **Coordinators:**

**Intake Coordinator:** Barb Blacksher  
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**Adoption Coordinator:** Carrie Tennesen  
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**Membership Coordinator:** Janice Elsenraat  
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**Events Coordinator:** Chris Rogers  
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**Webmaster:** Paul Swarhout  
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### **Mentors:**

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**Adoption Phone Lines:** Barb Blacksher  
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**Home Visits:** Shane Stark  
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**Dog Visits:** Shane Stark  
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**Foster Homes:** Kathy Dierkes  
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