



# GGRR Newsletter

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August 2013

## August 2013 Newsletter

Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue  
P.O. Box 31700  
St. Louis, MO 63131  
Phone: (314) 995-5477  
www.ggrr.com

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reported that we have 33 paid volunteers and there are about five more people that she needs to follow up with.

#### Intake Report

Michelle F. reported that we had three dogs come in in the previous month:

13-006 Daisy—a 4 year old spade female that is up to date on shots.

13-007 Lou—a 6-1/2 year old male that is neutered. Has minor seizures.

13-008 Nika—1 to 2 year old female who is very small.

#### Adoption Report

Mike S. reported that we had zero dogs adopted out in the previous month, but next month should have a few.

#### Website Report

Paul S. was not at the meeting to give his report.



#### July Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by President, Mike S. Penny M. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Julie G. and passed. There were no corrections to the minutes.

#### President's Report

Mike S. reported that there's not much going on right now because it's summer time. The coordinator positions are up this month so we need to take nominations/appointments for these positions. See New Business for these new positions.

#### Treasurer's Report

Kathy D. was absent but her report was given by Tracie G. Our beginning balance was \$676.45. Income was \$22.12 from our Schnuck's Escrip cards. Expenses were \$275.65 leaving an ending balance of \$422.92.

#### Membership Report

Judy S. reported that we had two membership inquiries and no new members. Judy also



## GRR Events

### Upcoming Events

#### Next GRR Meeting

Thursday, August 8th at 7:30 p.m. at the Dog Museum in Queeny Park.

#### GRR Adoption Days at Three Dog Bakery in Town and Country Crossing

We will be holding our Adoption Days (information booth) the second Saturday of every month at the Three Dog Bakery in Town and Country Crossing from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The next one will be Saturday, August 10th. Please come join us!

#### Greentree Festival in Kirkwood Park 2013

The Greentree Festival will be held on September 13, 14, and 15 at Kirkwood Park. We usually have three booths and share with the Golden Re-

triever Club. Mark your calendars now and set aside a time to come work our booth with your Golden. All volunteers are needed to work a shift at the Greentree Festival. Please email Julie G. with the day and time you can work the festival this year.

#### The Scottish Games at Forest Park

The Scottish Games will be held on Saturday, September 28th at 10:00 a.m. We will have a booth there. More information to come on this event.

#### APA Carnival in Tillis Park in Rock Hill

The APA Carnival will be held on Sunday, October 6th. We will have a booth at this event. More information to come later.



## Old & New Business

### Old Business

There was discussion about printing our GRR flyers or pamphlets to leave at vet clinics around the St. Louis area. Tracie said that she could see if World Press Printing in Fenton would do them for us like they did for our Reunion Picnic. We also need to find the display brochure holders for them. Tracie will report more on this at the next meeting.

### New Business

The new coordinator positions were appointed. Paul S. will continue to do our website. Julie G will do Events, Judy S. will continue with Membership, Michelle F. will do Intake and Penny M. will do Adoption. Tracie G. will continue to do the newsletter.

Julie G. announced that we have a lot of home visits that need to be done. Julie will send a list of these home visits to all members and the areas they fall in to see if we can get these done as soon as possible.

A motion was made by Julie G. and seconded by Penny M. to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

## Rainbow Bridge - Cupid

*Cupid belonged to the Karraker family and had been with them for almost 11 years. The letter they sent is below.*

Dear GGRR,

Please accept the enclosed donation in loving memory of our sweet and beautiful "Cupid," who passed away on June 3, 2013, almost making it to her 11 year anniversary with us.

We want to thank everyone at GGRR for placing "Cupid" and her mother "Angel" with us in 2002, especially Barney and Eileen Combs. We were so fortunate to have had Cupid and Angel join our family and will always treasure our memories with them. We know Angel was waiting on the other side to welcome her daughter Cupid home.



Cupid was just 1-1/2 years old when she joined our family and she grew up with

our children. She was such a wonderful athlete and was our morning newspaper retriever. Cupid's name was so fitting because she truly was the angel of love. She was always kind, loyal and loving, and was a caretaker to all, human and four-legged friends alike. She intuitively knew when someone was not feeling well, had a bad day, or needed a little extra love, and knew just what to do to lift your spirits.

With her strength, Cupid was able to beat cancer and the chemotherapy process several years ago. We are so thankful to have had the extra years with her. We are grieving for her, but we know she is in a better place where she can run and play ball again. She will always be in our hearts.

Warmly,

The Karraker Family

### ***I Lost a Friend***

*I lost a special friend today  
the kind you can't replace,  
and looking at her empty bed  
I still can see her beautiful face.  
I know she's in a special place  
our Lord has for such friends,  
Where meadows, fields & flowers  
help make them strong and whole again.  
I know she's watching over me  
She'll be with me when I cry,  
So with one more kiss on her beloved head  
I told my friend goodbye.*

*-Author Unknown*



# Arthritis in Dogs: Symptoms and Causes [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com)



Arthritis is a degenerative condition that affects one or more joints. Most cases occur in dogs with an inherited orthopedic disease such as osteochondrosis or hip dysplasia, or those with a joint injury. Some cases of arthritis are related to an immune-mediated joint disease or a joint infection.

## Osteoarthritis (Degenerative Joint Disease)

Osteoarthritis is a common disease that affects one out of five dogs during their lifetime. The problem isn't confined to older dogs. Hip dysplasia, ruptured cruciate ligaments, patella luxation, joint trauma, and other joint conditions can cause degenerative arthritis, even in young dogs. Large-breed dogs are affected more often than small dogs. Heavy dogs are more likely to experience symptoms because of the extra strain placed on ligaments and joints.

Dogs with degenerative arthritis experience varying degrees of lameness, stiffness, and joint pain, which is more apparent in the morning and after getting up from a nap. They often exhibit irritability and behavioral changes associated with increasing disability. Cold and damp surroundings increase pain and stiffness. Degenerative arthritis is progressive, and in time makes the dog's life miserable.

The diagnosis is made by joint X-rays that show bone spurs at points where the ligaments and the joint capsule attach to the bone. There may be varying degrees of joint space narrowing and increased density of bone around the joint.

## Treating Osteoarthritis

Degenerative joint disease is incurable, but treatment can substantially improve the dog's life. Treatment involves physical therapy and weight control, the use of analgesics and corticosteroids to relieve pain and improve function, and the use of chondroprotective agents to repair joint cartilage and prevent further damage. Acupuncture is another therapy that has shown good results for arthritic dogs. All of these should be used at the same time.

Acupuncture and physical therapy are alternative or additional ways to make arthritic dogs comfortable.

In severe cases, surgical fusion of painful joints, such as the hock or elbow, relieves pain and restores limb movement in some dogs.

## Physical Therapy

Moderate exercise is beneficial because it maintains muscle mass and preserves joint flexibility. Excessive exercise, however, is counterproductive. Arthritic dogs should not be allowed to jump up and down and should never be encouraged to stand up on their back legs. Dogs with pain and lameness should be exercised on a leash or a harness. There are veterinary physical therapists who can help de-



sign an exercise (and weight loss) program.

Swimming is an excellent exercise that improves muscle mass without overstressing the joints. Exercise can be increased as the dog improves with the use of medications.

*(continued on next page...)*

## Arthritis in Dogs: Symptoms and Causes *(continued)*



Overweight dogs should be encouraged to lose weight. Being overweight seriously complicates the treatment of osteoarthritis.

### Immune-Mediated Arthritis

This is an unusual group of diseases in which antibodies are directed against the dog's own connective tissue, resulting in either an erosive or nonerosive arthritis. In erosive arthritis, cartilage and joint surfaces are destroyed. In nonerosive arthritis, there is inflammation but no tissue destruction.

Rheumatoid arthritis is an erosive arthritis that occurs primarily in toy breeds and other small breeds, such as Shetland Sheepdogs, at approximately 4 years of age. It is characterized by morning stiffness, shifting lameness, and swelling of the smaller joints, particularly the wrists and hocks. Fever, loss of appetite, and lymphadenopathy are accompanying features.

Nonerosive arthritis tends to occur in midsize and large-breed dogs at about 5 to 6 years of age. The cause is unknown. Signs are intermittent fever, loss of appetite, joint swelling, and a lameness that often shifts from limb to limb. A form of nonerosive arthritis occurs with systemic lupus erythematosus.

The diagnosis of immune-mediated arthritis is made by joint X-rays and specific laboratory tests. Synovial fluid analysis helps distinguish immune-mediated arthritis from infectious arthritis and osteoarthritis.

Treatment: Immune-mediated arthritis responds to anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive drugs, including

corticosteroids and chemotherapy agents. Treatment must be continued for eight weeks or longer. Your veterinarian may use several drugs or drug combinations before determining which protocol works best for your dog. Rheumatoid arthritis is less responsive than non-erosive arthritis to drug therapy.

Light to moderate activity is beneficial, but vigorous exercise, which is most likely during periods of remission, can injure the joints and should be restricted. Overweight dogs should be placed on a calorie-restricted diet. In fact, it may be advantageous if the dog is somewhat lean. Discuss this with your veterinarian.

### Infectious Arthritis

Infectious diseases can produce arthritis. Rickettsial arthritis is seen with Rocky Mountain spotted fever and canine ehrlichiosis, and spirochetal arthritis with Lyme disease. (All of these are tick-borne diseases.) Fungal arthritis is a rare complication of a systemic fungal infection.

Treatment: Most of the tick-borne diseases respond to doxycycline or tetracycline. Some dogs will have permanent joint damage.



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### Next Meeting

Thursday, August 8th 7:30 p.m.  
At the Dog Museum in Queeny Park

We love having happy healthy Golden  
at our meetings! Please make sure your  
dog is up to date on shots and  
vaccinations please!

## To Adopt or Surrender a Dog Call the GRR Phone Lines: (314) 995-5477

### Officers

#### **President**

Mike Stemmler  
mstemmler1012@yahoo.com

#### **Vice-President**

Jim Dilg  
jtrdilg@aol.com

#### **Secretary**

Tracie Grimm  
tbayer80@gmail.com

#### **Treasurer**

Kathy Dierkes  
Kathy\_dierkes@yahoo.com

#### **Membership Representative**

Chris Rogers  
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### Coordinators

#### **Intake Coordinator**

Michelle Frasca  
mickyfl@charter.net

#### **Adoption Coordinator**

Mike Stemmler  
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#### **Membership Coordinator**

Judy Stroschik  
jstroschik@charter.net

#### **Events Coordinator**

Julie Goldman  
stargazr@charter.net

#### **Webmaster**

Paul Swarthout  
paul@paulswarthout.com

### Mentors

#### **Intake Phone Lines**

Mike Stemmler  
mstemmler1012@yahoo.com

#### **Adoption Phone Lines**

Pat Moran  
p4021m@sbcglobal.net

#### **Home Visits & Dog Visits**

Shane Stark  
golddog05@mac.com

#### **Foster Homes**

Kathy Dierkes  
Kathy\_dierkes@yahoo.com