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### December Holiday Meeting & Gift Exchange

**Thursday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:00 p.m.  
held at The Dog Museum  
in Queeny Park**

**Bring a \$5 wrapped dog toy  
for our Golden gift  
exchange!**

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

# GRRR Newsletter

## Minutes from Our Last Meeting Held on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009

*By Tracie B.*

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Tim M. Pat M. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the October meeting. The motion was seconded by Penny M. A vote was taken and the motion passed. There were no corrections to the minutes.

### President's Report

Tim M. thanked everyone for coming out for the Webster Groves Christmas Walk on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November.

### Treasurer's Report

Beth J. gave the treasurer's report. Our account balance at the beginning of October was \$5,905.93. Income was \$482.00. (\$29.36 came from our Schnucks e-Script cards!) Expenses for the month were \$1,218.59, leaving an ending balance of \$5,191.70. Beth also mentioned that the person with the bad check the previous month had tried to contact us through our phone lines and nobody called her back. Please make sure you are calling in and checking messages if you've signed up to do phone lines.

### Membership Coordinator's Report

Janice E. was not present at the meeting to give the Membership report. We did have one visitor at the meeting. Michelle F. and her dog, Peyton.

### Intake Coordinator's Report

Carrie T. reported that two new dogs came in during the month of October:

**09-023 Otis** – a 1 year old male who is being fostered by Kate R.

**09-024 Marcus** – a 5 year old male who came to us through St. Charles County.

### Adoption Coordinator's Report

Amy A. reported that one dog was placed in his forever home during the past month:

**Cody**



**Merry Christmas &  
Have a Happy New Year!**

## Event Coordinator's Report

Barb B. said that if it wasn't for a small group of dedicated volunteers, our ex-pen would be nearly empty at too many of our GGRR events. Volunteers who come for one shift end up spending the entire day there so we have enough workers. Yes, they enjoy doing events, but they have busy lives like everyone else. For the Webster Groves Christmas walk event last weekend, Chris and Pat came early to set up and were still there until after 5:00 p.m. to help take everything down, not so much by choice, but because no one signed up for the 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. shift. Nobody can be at every event, but every member should be able to find the time to participate in a couple of events during the year. Paying dues and coming to meetings isn't what keeps our organization operational. It is our officers, coordinators, foster homes, and volunteers who answer the phone lines, respond to our online inquiries, do home visits, dog visits, work on the picnic committee, and bring themselves and their dogs to our events. Make it your New Year's Resolution to spend a couple of hours next year at an event that you have never attended before. You'll have a lot of fun as well as doing your part to help our wonderful Goldens!

### Reports on Past Events

#### **Webster Groves Christmas Walk**

We had gorgeous weather and mobs of people stopping by to see our dogs. We collected \$104.50 in donations and have a potential foster home from our contacts there. This is a great event that costs us nothing, earns income, and gives us lots of PR. Thanks to all of our members who stepped up to

work this event and filled our ex-pen with dogs!

#### **Golden Retriever Day at the Dog Museum**

About six families showed up to learn more about Golden Retrievers. No one was actually looking to adopt a Golden, but they attended these events to learn more about various breeds since they plan to have a dog in their lives in the future. The Golden Retriever Club did not show up and Nancy R. had the flu, so it was just Barb and her Golden, Max. This event definitely fits our mission of educating the public about our breed, and it needs to be continued. Love a Golden should also be invited to participate next year and we should have more members and dogs there. We need to make a bigger deal out of this event because its purpose is to educate the public about our breed.

#### **Macy's Shop for a Cause**

We sold sixteen tickets, making a profit of \$80. Two members brought 12 out of the 16 tickets sold. Macy's has discount coupons in the paper all of the time, but this is Macy's way to help raise money for charitable causes. There really isn't enough participation from our members to continue this event.

### Upcoming Events

#### **Lucky Dog Adoption Days**

We still need a volunteer to work Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from noon until 3:00 p.m. If you are available, please email Barb B. We received about \$60 in October from the donation jar at Lucky Dog and we appreciate the publicity Beth, the Owner of Lucky Dog, gives our organization!



Pat M. is pictured above showing off Max Blacksher to a little boy at the Webster Groves Christmas Walk.

#### **Holiday Party after the December Meeting**

We will have a dog gift exchange after our December meeting. If you would like to participate, bring a wrapped dog toy/gift having a value of approximately \$5. For each gift you bring, you will select that number of gifts for your dog(s). A small appetizer, dessert or snack to share with others is also appreciated.

### **Website Coordinator's Report**

Paul S. reported on our website traffic during the previous month. Our website had:  
 Hits: 59,821  
 Page Views: 12,887  
 Visits: 7,353  
 Unique Visits: 2,593

Paul explained that our low hits are because we do not have very many dogs on the website.



**Old Business**

Pat M. asked if anyone is available to take over the adoption phone lines on Sundays. Stephanie A. volunteered to take over for Pat on Sundays.

Barb B. explained that she has new adoption folders ready. These folders have new handouts and information in them and a sheet on how to make sure you're tracking dog information correctly.

Nancy R. reported on Cedar who was the dog that was turned in to us last month, and then returned to his original owner from a divorce. His original owner was so happy that we returned him to her, that she made a \$260.00 donation to our organization!



Pat M. is pictured above showing off our Golden Retrievers to some of the crowd. The dogs are a big hit at this event and we collected over \$100 in our donation buckets during the day!

**New Business**

Tim M. reported that Mary Jane and David W. made a donation of \$500.00 to GGRR in memory of their Golden, Katie.

Tracie B. reported that she has envelopes available that are addressed to Amy A., Adoption Coordinator, and to Beth J., Treasurer. Hopefully this will help in our paper trail problems.



Guess who has the cookies? This little boy was a big hit at the Webster Groves Christmas Walk.

Tim M. reported that we need to have nominations for the positions of Vice President and Treasurer. Pat M. nominated Heather H. to continue in the position of Vice President and for Beth J. to continue as Treasurer. We will vote in December.

Mike S. asked if we wanted to keep our meeting nights the same. It was decided to keep the meeting nights as the second Thursday of the month.

Pat M. asked if we are planning to have the reunion picnic at the Dog Museum again next year. We will discuss this more at the December meeting.

Penny M. asked about the K9 Flu and reported that they will have shots available for dogs January 1<sup>st</sup>. Paul S. said that there is a link for more information on the K9 Flu available on our website.

Carrie T. reported that she had a call on a litter of puppies that

were found outside of Springfield, Missouri and they are about six weeks old right now. The lady seems to think that they are Golden puppies and she has four that she cannot place and would like us to take. It was discussed that she needs to send a picture of the puppies so we can determine just how Golden they are, and then we can go from there.

A motion was made by Nanette S. and seconded by Paul S. to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



## THE TRAINING CORNER

### Dogs & Holidays

By: The American Kennel Club  
Taken from their website: [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

Because your dog is special to you, you want him to share all the special times in your life, including holidays. But to your dog, every day spent with you is a holiday, and he may not be able to appreciate or understand the strange people, noises, things and goings-on associated with holiday celebrations. Here are some ways to keep your dog safe and happy during those festive times.

#### General Christmas Tips

- Stick as closely as possible to your normal routine. Try not to vary your dog's feeding, walking, and playtime schedule.
- Don't give your dog scraps from the holiday buffet. Cookies and pies, macaroni salads and stuffing, potato chips and fancy hors d'oeuvres, are inappropriate foods for dogs and may make them sick.
- If you host a party, remember that some guests may be uncomfortable around dogs. Your dog may, in turn, be uncomfortable or frightened around a large group of unfamiliar people. You may want to confine him in a crate or a room that will not be used by guests. Otherwise, keep him by your side, or with another family member, to keep him from getting into trouble or underfoot.
- No matter how fun the party gets, never ever give your dog alcohol.
- Holly, mistletoe and poinsettia plants are poisonous to dogs. Make sure they are kept in places your dog cannot reach.
- Do not put lights on the lower branches of your tree. They may get very hot and burn your dog.
- Watch out for electrical cords. Pets often try to chew them and get badly shocked or electrocuted. Place them out of reach.
- Avoid glass ornaments, which break easily and may cut a dog's feet or mouth.
- Do not use edible ornaments, or cranberry or popcorn strings. Your dog may knock the tree over in an attempt to reach them.
- Keep other ornaments off the lower branches; if your dog chews or eats an ornament, he can be made sick by the materials or paint.
- Both live and artificial tree needles are sharp and indigestible. Keep your tree blocked off (with a playpen or other "fence") or in a room that is not accessible to your dog.
- Tinsel can be dangerous for dogs. It may obstruct circulation and, if swallowed, block the intestines.
- Keep burning candles on high tables or mantels, out of the way of your dog's wagging tail.
- Review canine holiday gifts for safety. Small plastic toys or bones may pose choking hazards.
- Your dog may want to investigate wrapped packages; keep them out of reach.

## Twas the Night Before Christmas... *Rescue Version*

Twas the night before Christmas,  
and all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.  
the stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
With nary a thought of the dog in their heads.  
And mamma in her kerchief and I in my cap,  
Knew he was cold, but who cared about that?

When out on the lawn there rose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
The dog must be loose; he's into the trash!

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,  
Gave the luster of mid-day to objects below.  
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But Santa Claus with eyes full of tears.

He unchained the dog, once so lively and quick,  
Last year's Christmas gift, now thin and sick.  
More rapid than eagles, he called the dogs name,  
And the dog went right to him, despite all his pain.  
Now DASHER, Now DANCER, Now, PRANCER and VIXEN!  
On COMET on CUPID on DONNER and BLITZEN!  
To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!!  
Let's find him a home where he'll be loved by all!!

I knew in an instant there were not gifts this year.  
For Santa had made our mistake very clear.  
The gift of a dog is not just for the season,  
We had gotten a pup for all the wrong reasons.

In our haste to think of a gift for the kids,  
There was something important that we had missed.  
A dog should be family, and cared for the same.  
You don't give a gift, then put it on a chain.

And I heard him exclaim as he flew out of sight,  
"YOU WERE GIVEN A GIFT!! YOU WERE GIVEN A LIFE."

*Author Unknown*



### DONATIONS

**GGRR received donations from the following individuals and groups:**

**Mary Jane & David Wolk in memory of their beloved Katie who was adopted from GGRR five years ago.**

**Ajor-Helyn (Joree) Johnson in memory of Eileen Kurtz and her love for her Golden, Lily.**



**The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that Santa Paws soon would be there!**

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

### OFFICERS

**President:**

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED