



GGRR Newsletter

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December 2014

December 2014 Newsletter

Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue
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Membership/Volunteer Report

Tim M. reported that we had two volunteer inquiries and one new member, Michelle G.

Intake Report

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

Adoption Report

Penny M. Reported that we had no dogs adopted out in the previous month either.

November Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:00

p.m. by President, Mike S. Paul S. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by John R. and passed. There were no corrections to the minutes.

***Holiday Party
December 11th Meeting***

Bring a \$10 Dog Gift Exchange Item and a snack to share to our meeting.

The party will begin after the meeting.

Website Report

Paul S. reported on the traffic on our website in the previous month.

Hits: 91,063
Page Views: 11,653
Visitors: 5,744
Unique Visitors: 5,300

President's Report

Mike didn't have a report.

Treasurer's Report

Lynn S. reported on our accounts for the previous month:

Beginning Balance: \$1,060.80
Income: \$3,560.84
Expenses: \$1,073.15
Ending Balance: \$3,548.49



Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season!

GGRR Events

Upcoming Events

Next GGRR Meeting

Thursday, December 11th at 7:30 p.m., at the Dog Museum in Queeny Park. This will also be our holiday party. Please bring a \$10 wrapped dog gift for the gift exchange and a snack to share if you like.



Golden Specialty—January 15th—18th

The Golden Specialty will be held January 15th through the 18th out at Purina Farms. GGRR will have a merchandise booth as always at this event. Please contact Julie G. if you would like to help out with our booth.

FOSTER HOMES NEEDED

Want to help a Golden in need?
Contact us through our website
www.ggrr.com to find out how you
can become a volunteer!



Old & New Business

Old Business

There was no old business to be discussed.

New Business

The offices of Secretary and President were voted on. The new President is Mike S. and the new Secretary is Shane S. Congratulations!

A motion was made by Paul S. and seconded by John R. to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Want to help out by doing a Dog Visit or Home Visit? Contact our President, Mike S. to find out how you can help!



8 Winter Dog Myths Dispelled www.ceasarsway.com

Recently, we sat down with Dr. Henry Cerny, Vetericyn's preferred veterinarian, to discuss some of the common myths about dogs and cold winter weather. Here are the misconceptions and the facts you need to know as temperatures drop.

Myth 1: Salt doesn't hurt dog's paws

Lots of fans say their dogs' paws get burned by the salt used to melt snow on the ground. They suggest putting Vaseline on paws so the cushions don't get burned by the salt on the road, or the cold of the snow. What do you think?

Dr. Cerny: There are a variety of products used to melt snow and ice. Some compounds can damage the concrete and

leave it pitted, so you can imagine what it may do to a dog's paws.

There are several products on the market that are labeled as pet safe. I have no recommendations of one over the other. Vaseline is generally safe but can stick to things like carpet.

Rinsing your dog's paws with Vetericyn after a walk where snow

and ice melting products have been applied is a safe and effective means of protecting your dog's feet.

You can also use baby wipes.

Myth 2: Dog boots are just a fashion fad

Why and when can dogs benefit from wearing boots? How can you tell if they fit properly?



Dr. Cerny: There are quite a variety of styles and quality of boots designed for dogs. Boots can help protect a dog's feet from rough, chemically treated, cold and hot surfaces. The inside of the boots should be kept clean and dry, and they should not be left on for an extended period of time. Finding the right fit may require some trial and error. Some boots require frequent adjustment because they slip.

Myth 3: If it's too cold outside for humans, it's too cold for dogs

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How cold is too cold to leave a dog outside? Is there any difference across various breeds?

Dr. Cerny: Many dogs can handle much colder conditions than humans, but nothing beats common sense. A sled dog is used to extreme cold while a Chihuahua probably is not. Thick coated breeds can handle much colder weather than short haired breeds. If a dog lives outside it is important to provide shelter from the wind and snow.

Myth 4: My dog has fur, she doesn't need to wear a coat

What are the recommendations? What are things to look for in a dog coat? Are electrically heated pet beds or a dog house with a heated floor also recommended? Do dogs need blankets?

Dr. Cerny: Some dogs, especially short haired breeds, can benefit from a coat during cold weather. Make sure the coat adequately covers the body and does not obstruct movement.

Any electric heating bed or pad always



8 Winter Dog Myths Dispelled *(Continued)*

carries the risk of burns, so follow the manufacturer's guidelines. Blankets can add another layer of insulation during the cold weather.

Myth 5: Dog's watery eyes can't be dry

What are some symptoms of dry eyes in dogs? What are some good eye care tips during winter using

Vetericyn? Do dogs need eye wash during harsh, cold weather?

Dr. Cerny: Common signs of dry eye (keratoconjunctivitis sicca) in dogs include conjunctivitis, mucoid discharge, and irritated painful eyes. Without prompt treatment the surface of the eye (cornea) can become scarred and affect vision.

During the colder months the air is much dryer and some breeds are predisposed to eye irritation. Products such as artificial tears and Vetericyn can be used to help

moisten the eyes. Some eye conditions can become serious quickly, so consult your veterinarian to determine

the cause and best treatment for eye problems.

Myth 6: Some dog breeds are immune to the harsh effects of winter

Do all Huskies, German shepherds, and St. Bernards want to be outside during winter? Are some dog breeds immune to the harsh effects of winter?

Dr. Cerny: Some dog breeds (especially thick coated breeds) seem to enjoy the cold weather. It is important to observe how your dog acts when outside in the cold. Signs such as shivering and wanting to come back in-



side immediately indicate that your dog does not appreciate the cold outside.

Myth 7: It's never too cold to exercise outdoors

What do you recommend for exercising dogs when it is too cold for them to be outside?

Dr. Cerny: Inside exercises

range from supervised treadmill walks to walking or running up and down the stairs and creating mini obstacle courses with household objects, such as pillows. When it's cold outside, this provides a great opportunity to work on basic obedience in the comfort of your own home.

Myth 8: Ear infection is a summer illness

Low temperatures and higher moisture can increase the incidence of ear infection in dogs. How do you treat it with Vetericyn?

Answer: Ear infections can occur year-round and may be quite advanced before you notice. Routine use of Vetericyn in most cases can be beneficial in the treatment and prevention of ear infections. Some ear infections require prescription strength medications, so if your dog has an ear problem have it checked out by your veterinarian.

Dr. Cerny, DVM, MS, is a veterinarian at Yankee Hill Veterinary Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska.



A Very Berry Howl-a-Day Cake

by Doggie Bag Café Chefs

Treat your dog this holiday season to a healthy, canine friendly fruitcake. It's easy and quick to make, and your dog will love it. But be warned: You may be tempted to have some yourself, so make extra!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (250 ml) of cranberries (fresh or frozen)
- 1 cup (250 ml) of blueberries (fresh or frozen)
- ½ cup (125 ml) of apples (peeled)
- ½ cup (125 ml) of banana Chips
- 2 cups (500 ml) of coconut Flakes (unsweetened)
- 2 ½ (625 ml) cups of brown rice flour
- 3 eggs slightly beaten (or substitute with 1 cup (250 ml) of unsweetened apple sauce)
- ¾ (188 ml) cup of peanut butter
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) of honey
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) of water

Preparation:

- Pre-heat oven to 350° F (175° C)
- Roughly chop fruit
- Crumble banana chips
- Place chopped fruits and banana chips in a bowl
- Add and stir in coconut flakes and brown rice flour,



then set aside
Lightly beat 3 eggs
Melt the peanut butter
Add the honey, peanut butter, and water to the eggs.
Add this liquid mixture to the fruit, chips, and dry mixture.
Stir until thoroughly combined.

Baking instructions:

Using an ice-cream scoop, place a full scoop of the mixed dough on a lightly sprayed baking sheet. Bake for 25 minutes.

You can also use a small melon scoop for smaller cakes or use any baking molds you prefer. You can also roll out the dough on a small amount of flour and cut with cookie cutters (cooking time will differ).

For crunchier cookies — or pup-cakes — turn off the oven and leave in for an additional 20 minutes.

Bring your Golden to our Next Meeting for some Howl-A-Day Fun!
\$10 Wrapped Doggie Gift Exchange and snacks after the meeting!
Join us this Thursday, December 11th, 2014



Let it Go: How to Say Goodbye to Your Foster Dog

Fostering is a wonderful thing that saves dogs' lives. It gets them out of shelters and into human packs, where they can receive the rehabilitation necessary to make them adoptable.

However, fostering comes not only with the responsibility of caring for the dog, but the necessity of eventually giving up the dog when it finds its forever home. Attachment can make this process difficult. Fortunately, there are some things you can do to make the process easier.

1. Start before you even foster: When selecting a foster dog, don't pick the one that you think is the cutest and ideal for your family. Pick the dog that you wouldn't necessarily want to keep long-term. For example, if you don't like tiny dogs, consider a Chihuahua or Yorkie. If you don't think you'd have the resources to care for a handicapped dog for life, then find that dog who's blind or deaf, or is missing a limb. This will make it easier for you to adjust to the temporary status of the foster dog, but it will also be an educational process. As Cesar says, "You don't always get the dog you want. You get the dog you need." If nothing else, it will allow you to experience types of dogs you would never normally adopt, and to learn even more about dog behavior.

2. Assist in the adoption process: Find out whether your foster program will let you help out in finding that forever home. This can range from documenting your dog's behavior and personality for future owners to locating and interviewing potential owners themselves. This will help you be more confident in letting go because you'll have a stake in the process, and you can assure yourself that you've found the right home for your foster.

3. Ask for progress reports from the new family: You can continue to take part in your foster dog's life with photos and stories from her new family, and the Internet makes distance irrelevant. Many shelters ask this of people who adopt dogs from them, largely as a way to keep their staff positive about seeing dogs they've gotten to



know be adopted. If distance permits, you could even consider having regular playdates with your current foster (and permanent pack) and adopted past fosters, as long as the new owners are agreeable.

4. Celebrate the adoption: Don't think of giving up your foster to adoption as losing a dog. Think of it as a dog gaining a permanent home. It should be a cause for celebration because you have helped to save a life. Treat yourself and the dog to a

fancy meal, go out to your favorite dog park, or invite friends and their dogs over for a party... However you choose to celebrate, focus on the positive and make the adoption a source of good memories. Document your time with each foster with photos and stories and keep a scrapbook of your successes.

5. Foster again: The best part about fostering dogs is that there will always be dogs to foster, and the best way to celebrate one dog leaving your life is to save the life of another. And another. With each foster that you help place in a loving home, it becomes easier to say good-bye. With each new foster, you have another chance to get to know a new dog and help him on the way to his forever home.

During the process, always keep in mind what fostering is. As Amy Romanofsky at FosterDogs.com puts it, "I never think of a foster dog as 'mine.' Each dog already belongs to someone else — it just so happens that I haven't met that person yet."

But, when you and your foster dog do meet that person, take comfort in knowing that you had a large part in making it happen, and preventing the unthinkable alternative.



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Next Meeting

Thursday, December 11th, 7:30 p.m. at
the Dog Museum in Queeny Park.
Holiday Party—Dog Gift Exchange &
Snacks—See Details Inside!
We love having happy healthy Golden
at our meetings! Please make sure your
dog is up to date on shots and

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

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