

GRRR NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 4

Issue Number 2

Date: February 2007

* * * Meeting Notice * * *

Date: February 8th

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Place: The Museum of the Dog

Rob Schenberg, now the head trainer at Petropolis in Chesterfield, will be speaking at the February meeting. He has been training Maggie, a dog he acquired from GRRR, to be a companion therapy dog. Rob and Maggie will demonstrate some of the skills she has acquired during the past year. I'm sure we'll all be impressed with how Rob has turned this high-energy, wild child into a well-mannered canine companion!

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.

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 11th:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Pat Moran. It was moved and seconded that we dispense with the reading of the minutes from the December meeting. The motion carried, and the minutes were accepted as printed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Pat, who was chairing her first meeting as president, had no report this month. She asked members to feel free at any time to offer suggestions for ways GRRR could function more effectively.



TREASURER'S REPORT:

Beth reported that our account balance at the beginning of January was **\$6,353.26**. There was no income during the past month. Expenses were **\$119.00**, leaving an ending balance of **\$6,234.26**. The balance in the Flash Fund is **\$3,021.94**. Beth said she had just made two large deposits of approximately **\$1,500** to the general fund and **\$1,300** to the Flash Fund.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

We received 1 membership inquiry during the month of December, and there were no new members. Barb announced that 2007 membership dues would remain at \$10.00 per family. Cash or checks made out to GRRR will be accepted. If you are mailing

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT: (cont.)

your dues, please send them to Barb instead of the treasurer to make sure our membership roster gets updated. You will also be asked to update personal information and sign a new release of responsibility form. Mailings will go out to members who weren't at the meeting. Barb introduced Lee and Carmie Adkins and Susan Ittner, members who aren't often able to attend meetings, so some of our newer members could meet them. Nancy and Brian Agee, who are new members, were also in attendance.

INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Four dogs have been surrendered to GRR during the past month:

- 07-001: Harley**, a 2 year old female
- 07-002: Boomer**, a 6 year old blond male who is currently with the surrendering owner
- 07-003: Remington**, a 2-1/2 year old blond male who lives with Boomer and is currently with the surrendering owner; both dogs were originally strays and came from Florissant Animal Control; both dogs love people, cats, and other dogs; they do not need to be placed together
- 07-004 Bogey**, a 14 month old, red, 105 lb. male out in Winfield, MO; he is active, trained, and needs more attention; he is not crate trained

ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Two dogs were placed in their forever homes during the past month:

06-015 Bailey

06-016 Tyler

Bailey and Tyler were placed as a pair, which the surrendering owner requested. This pair of Golden Retrievers was in the system for 8 months before we were able to find an adoptive family willing to take both dogs. We are grateful to the angels who took on this sweet pair!



Kay Callison and Walker Texas Ranger enjoy hiking together in Columbia, MO. Walker, aged 2-1/2, was adopted in October from Bill and Helen Burt at Show Me Golden Retrievers in Farmington. This sweet, obedient boy fetches the Post-Dispatch from the curb every morning! Kay and her husband, Mike, were foster parents for Shelby for 7 months before she found her forever home.

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Chris announced that Rob Schenberg has been rescheduled to speak at our February meeting. He and Maggie, a Golden who came from GRRR had been scheduled for the November meeting, when we were locked out of the building.

Dates for our Lucky Dog adoption days were scheduled. The following members volunteered to staff these events:

- January 20th: Cathy Arnold**
- February 17th: Eileen Combs & Kristen**
- March 17th: None (St. Pat's Parade)**
- April 21st: Shane Stark**

We have not yet received confirmation for our place in the St. Pat's parade. However, please mark the date on your calendar, as we have been in the parade for a number of years now. It will be on Saturday, March 17th.

The Golden Retriever Specialty show is scheduled for the first weekend in April, as far as we know. This is also Easter weekend. GRRR is generally asked to provide breakfast and lunch on both Saturday and Sunday. Donations are requested from people showing dogs to cover the cost of the food provided, and GRRR is given the money that is collected.

An agility event is being held at the Equestrian Center off Hwy. N on the weekend of April 13-15. GRRR has been asked to provide 6 people to help with the event. Our tasks generally include resetting bars to the proper height and making sure participants are ready to compete at their scheduled times. Although this is an indoor event, the center is not heated. Volunteers will want to wear coats, hats, gloves, and

scarves. Please bring a chair for yourself as well. More information will be upcoming on this event.

Chris is planning to place an order soon for member apparel. Short and long-sleeved t-shirts, crew-neck and hooded sweatshirts and fleece tops, vests, jackets, and green GRRR St. Pat's sweatshirts can be ordered. Please contact Chris if you wish to place an order.

Chris asked if members would like to participate in the Dog Museum's Guest Dog of the Week program. These events are held on Sundays from 1:30 to 4:00. We would set up a display table with GRRR information, have dogs on hand, and be available to educate the public about Golden Retrievers. It would be our responsibility to publicize the event through the media. Chris will check to see if May 20th is available.



Donna Graef, along with granddaughter Megan who was visiting from Baltimore, take a break from hiking with Snider. Snider, who the Graefs adopted from GRRR, was fostered by Kris and Nicole VandeSteeg and was formerly known as Spider.



Samantha Wolff, niece of Bill and Barb Blacksher, gets acquainted with Max and Bob Barker Blacksher. Sam and her sister Hunter were visiting from California.

PDR REPORT:

None

WEBSITE COORDINATOR:

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

- 74,090 hits
- 15,783 page views
- 12,292 visitors
- 3,110 unique visitors

The number of visitors is up by about 3,000 from the previous month. Paul explained some changes that will be coming to our website. He is working on installing a Member Management Tool program. This feature will allow members to update their own information whenever there are changes. Paul noticed that it is taking a long time to post messages on our message board. He is not sure why, but this new upgrade should also solve that problem.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mike Stemmler reported that he had been out to Westinn's Under One Woof kennel to visit Honey. She is doing very well and may be ready for adoption in several weeks. Honey is receiving both obedience and agility training at Westinn. Her adoptive family will need to continue this work so Honey does not regress.

NEW BUSINESS:

The GRR Reunion picnic has been scheduled for Sunday, May 6th at Love Park off Manchester Road. A picnic committee planning meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 21st at 1:00 at St. Louis Bread Company, near the intersection of Manchester and Hwy. 270. Members interested in helping to plan the picnic should attend. People are needed to take responsibility for:

- Invitations
- Donations (for raffle baskets)
- Food
- Set Up
- Clean Up
- Barbecue
- Carnival games (for the dogs)

Beth has letters she can email to anyone who would be willing to solicit donations. We can use gift cards to restaurants or gas stations, sports tickets, dog-related items, etc. Please mark the date on your calendar, as the picnic requires many hands to make it a success. Members should not bring their own dogs, as this is a working event for us. The hours for our guests will be from 12:00 to 3:00. Members should plan to arrive by 9:00 a.m. to help get ready for the event.

NEW BUSINESS: (cont.)

Carrie asked that foster parents make sure to leave their name and phone number (or those of the person transporting the dog) with the vet when foster dogs are scheduled for veterinary procedures. She has been contacted after surgical procedures for other people's foster dogs because the vet's office doesn't know who to contact.

Some problems have been reported in dealing with one of the veterinary practices we use. Office staff are withholding the rabies tags and certificates. Instead they want to mail them to the adoptive families. The foster home must have proof of vaccinations in their possession. Mike said he would take care of the matter. Foster parents should consider cost, quality of service provided, and personal convenience when they select which veterinary practice to use for a foster dog.

Susan Ittner mentioned that she had a dog shower installed during some recent renovations to her home. She is willing to make it available for use with foster dogs.

Buck, who was recently placed in an adoptive home, is being returned due to some dominance issues. He did not exhibit these behaviors in his foster home. Buck will be evaluated by Sharon West to determine what should be done with him.

Korissa Carbone brought in a copy of St. Louis Tails magazine. Some of the contact information for GGRR is incorrect. Paul will take care of providing the correct information for future editions.

A V.P. of marketing for Krispy Kreme donuts gave Pat Moran her business card at the Webster Groves holiday walk. The

V.P. is an animal lover and might be willing to set up an adoption day at one of their locations or help with donations. Pat will contact her to explore some of these options.

A motion was made by Heather Haberstroh and seconded by Cathy Arnold to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

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

Barb Blacksher
26 Cynthiana 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.



Walker Callison enjoys playing with the Air Dog toy that his human sister, Dora, sent him from New York City.

YOU KNOW YOU'VE GONE TO THE DOGS WHEN . . .

- ? nobody's feet are allowed on the furniture, but your dogs are welcome to sleep on any piece they so choose.
- ? you start barking at your children to "Sit! Stay!"
- ? you can only remember people by associating them with their dog.
- ? you snuggle closer to the dog than the person with whom you are sleeping.
- ? every gift you ever get has something to do with dogs.
- ? your children (wife, husband, etc.) complain that you always take more pictures of the dog than you do of them.
- ? the cost of the dog sitter or kennel for your furkids equals that of your entire vacation.
- ? you don't think twice about sitting on the floor because both the couch and chair have been claimed by the dogs.
- ? your desk proudly displays your canine family.
- ? your carpeting matches the color of your dog—purposely.
- ? your spouse issues the ultimatum: "It's them or me!" and you have no problem pointing out the suitcase.
- ? your dogs eat only the most nutritionally sound food, while your favorite meal is mac'n cheese.
- ? you've traced your dog's family tree farther than you have your own.
- ? dog hair in food is just another spice.

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

314-995-5477

Officers

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Foster Homes: Barb Blacksher

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