

GGRR NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 4

Issue Number 1

Date: January 2007

* * * Meeting Notice * * *

Date: Thursday, January 11th
Time: 7:15 p.m.
Place: The Museum of the Dog

We love having Goldens 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 DECEMBER 14th :

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Shane Stark. It was moved and seconded that we dispense with the reading of the minutes from the October meeting. The motion carried. There were no minutes from November since the meeting could not be held.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Shane explained that the reason the Dog Museum was locked when we arrived for our November meeting was because the regular security guard at the Dog Museum was on vacation. A replacement from park security should have arrived and opened the Dog Museum for our meeting. However, due to some miscommunication, this did not happen. GGRR will receive a \$50 refund for the canceled meeting, which will be applied to our bill in 2007. Shane apologized for any inconvenience to our members.



Chloe Rogers gets a hug from a friend at Children's World preschool in South County. Chloe, along with four other GGRR dogs, visited the 4 year-old class there. GGRR members talked with the children about pet care and safety.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Beth's report was a summary of two months of activity. The account balance at the beginning of December was **\$7,259.06**. Income was **\$629.00**; expenses were **\$1,534.80**, leaving an ending balance of **\$6,353.26**. The balance in the Flash Fund remains at **\$2568.30**.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

In October, we had 3 inquiries and 2 new members. The new members are Betsy Finnegan, who has been approved as a foster home, and Mary Fran Figge. In November, we had 1 membership inquiry

and 1 new member. Welcome to Kristen Weinberg, who is Newton's mom. Many members are already acquainted with Newton, who often attends meetings with Chris Rogers and Chloe. Visitors Lee and Becky Rottmann attended the meeting with their Golden Gracie. New member Nancy Agee also attended with her son.

INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Eight dogs have been surrendered to GRR since our meeting in October:

- 06-027: Buck**, a 13 month old male
- 06-028: Bob Barker**, a 5 mo. old male
- 06-029: Lucy**, a 6 month old female
- 06-030 Suzy**, a 6 year old female arriving tomorrow, who has recently completed treatment after testing positive for heartworm
- 06-031 Wyatt**, who came from Linn County Animal Control
- 06-032 Jack**, a 3 year old male
- 06-033 Sam**, a 14 month old male
- 06-034 Sophie**, a 2-1/2 year old female, who is currently with the surrendering owner



Barb and Max Blacksher demonstrate some tricks for the children at Children's World preschool.



We had 14 Golden Retrievers attending the December meeting along with their owners. Pat Moran, GRR's own Dog Whisperer, commands the dogs' rapt attention by holding up a tennis ball. They all had a wonderful time playing fetch in the meeting room.

ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Ten dogs were placed in their forever homes since the October meeting:

- 06-009/03-013R Shelby**
- 06-015 Bailey**
- 06-016 Tyler**
- 06-023 Sunny**
- 06-026 Cowboy**
- 06-027 Buck**
- 06-028 Bob Barker**
- 06-029 Lucy**
- 06-032 Jack**, whose adoption was a collaborative effort between GRR and lab rescue
- 06-033 Sam**

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

The St. Pat's parade will be held on St. Patrick's Day this year--Saturday, March 17th. Chris mailed in our application, and we should know by mid-January if we have been accepted. The parade route, which is about 3 miles long, is slightly different this year. It will separate and follow two

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT: (cont.)

different branches, meeting up at the end—much like the Cardinals World Series Championship parade did.

We have no other events scheduled other than Adoption Days in the next few months. The members decided to continue our monthly Adoption Day at Lucky Dog. However, we will switch to the 3rd **Saturday** of the month since the store doesn't have as many shoppers on Sundays. Dates for the next several months will be:

- Saturday, January 20th
- Saturday, February 17th
- Saturday, April 21st

We will not be at the Lucky Dog in March because the St. Pat's parade is on the 3rd Saturday. A sign-up sheet for these dates will be circulated at the next meeting. One person with one dog will be needed for each date. Bring a chair and some GRRR business cards to give to people interested in obtaining more information about our group.

The Golden Retriever Specialty will be held on Saturday, April 7th and Sunday, April 8th at the Kennedy Recreation Center off Wells Road in South County. It is taking place over the Easter weekend this year.

Work is beginning on the Reunion Picnic for all families who have adopted dogs from us. It will feature a barbecue, games for the dogs, and raffle items. As in past years, the picnic will be held at Love Park off Manchester Road. A date has not yet been reserved.

Five of our members and their dogs will be visiting Children's World preschool in South

County tomorrow. Natalie Haberstroh, our youngest GRRR member, is in the 4 year old class we will be visiting. Natalie was at the meeting and modeled her T-shirt with the names of the GRRR dogs who will be visiting her school. Pat Moran's sister did a great embroidery job on the shirt! The following members will attending:

- Heather Haberstroh, Natalie's mom
- Bill and Barb Blacksher with Max and Bob Barker
- Chris Rogers with Chloe and Newton
- Mary Fran Figge with Jackson
- Pat Moran, who will handle Newton



Chloe Rogers and Max Blacksher patiently wait their turns for a drink during a preschool visit. They lapped up water like pros once Chris turned the handle for them. Pity the poor children who followed the dogs in line and ended up with those dreaded dog germs!

WEBSITE COORDINATOR:

Although Paul Swarthout was not able to attend the meeting, he supplied the following website numbers:

- October: 81,126 hits
- 15,062 page views
- 9,140 visitors
- 3,103 unique visitors

WEBSITE COORDINATOR: (cont.)

November: 83,886 hits
17,186 page views
9,641 visitors
2,989 unique visitors

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Shane reopened nominations for the positions of President and Secretary. Pat Moran was previously nominated for president, and Barb Blacksher was previously nominated for secretary. No additional nominations came from the floor. Votes were taken. Pat was elected as president, and Barb was elected as secretary. They will assume their new positions at the January meeting.

Shane informed the members that Angel Carriker, a Golden adopted from GGRR, recently passed away. Angel belonged to Randy Carriker and his family. Randy was the announcer for the Canine Olympics Rescue Parade in the fall. The Carriker family made a donation to the Flash Fund in Angel's memory.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Refreshments and a gift exchange followed the meeting.

WAGS AND BRAGS:

Barb and Max Blacksher earned \$50 for GGRR by doing presentations on dog training to several classes of gifted 4th grade students in the Hazelwood School District. The children were taking a class on pet care and had the opportunity to practice the "sit," "down," "come," and "heel" commands with Max. They learned how to teach these commands to their own dogs. The Boosters' Club for the gifted program created a speaker's fund which pays guest speakers by making a donation to the organizations they represent.

RAINBOW BRIDGE:



MAGIC ADKINS
November 14, 1998 – January 3, 2007

To Our Friends at GGRR:

Magic, our little dog, passed away on January 3, 2007. He was just a couple of months over eight years old. He had a bright and gentle spirit that seemed to always be happy; and he never stopped loving, laughing, or trying to please. His passing has left a huge hole in our hearts,

RAINBOW BRIDGE: (cont.)

and our now-too-quiet house will never be the same.

Several years ago, Magic was diagnosed with hemangiosarcoma, an extremely aggressive blood-based type of cancer that is almost always fatal.. After several operations to remove tumors, and several courses of the strongest chemotherapy available, Magic beat the odds and his cancer went into remission. Subsequent ultrasounds over the next couple years revealed no recurrences of any tumors, and he was finally pronounced cancer free.

The weekend before last, Magic collapsed while on a walk. He remained unconscious for a couple minutes, but then woke up and gradually came out of his daze. A chest x-ray taken the next week at our local vet revealed an enlarged heart, and we were referred to the same specialists who treated his cancer years before. All last week, we could tell that something was wrong with Magic—he didn't want to run with his brother Scottie any more, preferring instead to just walk by our side. His appetite eventually decreased to the point where he wouldn't eat anything, even table food.

Our visit to the cardiologist was on January 3rd. They took Magic in the back for an ultrasound to determine what was causing the swelling in his heart; and just after the procedure ended, our little dog went into cardiac arrest. The doctors tried very hard to save him but were unsuccessful.

The ultrasound showed heart damage that was probably caused by the chemotherapy drugs Magic received several years before. Prior to when he collapsed last week, Magic seemed to be the picture of health; and

though we always knew his sweet heart was bigger than everyone else's, we never realized there was a problem.

We buried Magic in a special corner of the back yard. Come springtime he'll be surrounded by the blossoms and sweet fragrances of lilac and forsythia. Carmie and I, however, will forever be surrounded by the unconditional love that was Magic's hallmark. We miss him so much

- Lee and Carmie Adkins

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.



Bree Sullivan, and her dog Charlie Brown, enjoy hiking in Junction Park, CO where they currently reside. It looks as if Charlie is having the time of his life!

WHEN I A OLD

-author unknown

When I am old . . .

I will wear soft gray sweatshirts . . .
and a bandana over my silver hair . . .
and I will spend my social security checks
on wine and my dogs.

I will sit in my house on my well-worn chair
and listen to my dogs breathing.

I will sneak out in the middle of a warm
summer night
and take my dogs for a run if my old bones
will allow . . .

When people come to call, I will smile and
nod as I show them my dogs . . .
and talk of them and about them . . .
. . . the ones so beloved of the past
and the ones so beloved of today . . .

I will still work hard cleaning after them,
mopping and feeding them and
whispering their names in a soft, loving
way.

I will wear the gleaming sweat on my throat,
like a jewel, and I will be an embarrassment
to all . . .

especially my family . . .
who have not yet found the peace in being
free to have dogs as your best friends . . .

These friends who always wait, at any hour,
for your footfall . . .

And eagerly jump to their feet out of a
sound sleep, to greet you as if you are a
God,
with warm eyes full of adoring love and
hope that you will always stay;

I'll hug their big strong necks . . .
I'll kiss their dear sweet heads . . .
And whisper in their very special
company . . .

I look in the mirror . . . and see I am getting
old. . .

This is the kind of person I am . . .
And always have been.

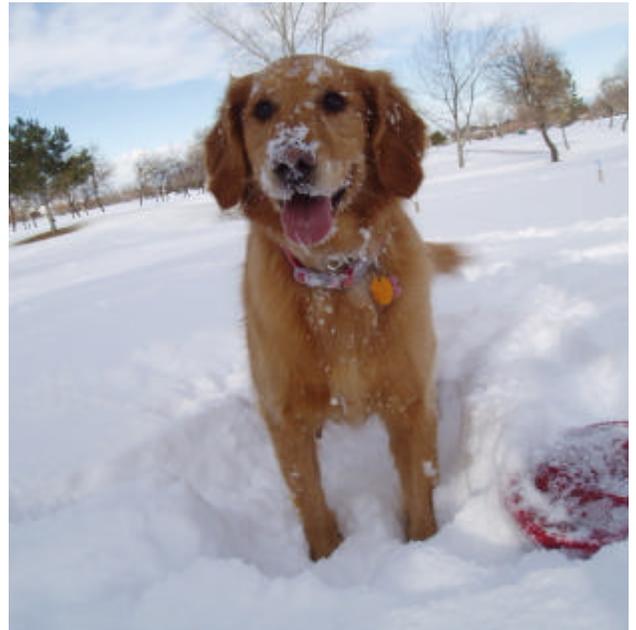
Loving dogs is easy, they are part of me.
Please accept me for who I am.

My dogs appreciate my presence in their
lives . . .

they love my presence in their lives . . .

When I am old, this will be important to
me . . .

You will understand when you are old, if you
have dogs to love, too.



Nikki, who was adopted from GGRR by Tony and Molly Teasley, enjoys romping in 2 feet of snow on a recent trip to Colorado. The red object to her left is most likely Nikki's beloved frisbee, which she will fetch for hours on end. Nikki also has a canine brother, Casey, who was also adopted from GGRR. Bill and Barb Blacksher were Nikki's foster parents, and they report that Nikki was the most fun dog they have ever fostered!

Below are photos taken at various GRRR events in 2006 that didn't make it into our monthly newsletters.



Show Me St. Louis



Our faithful GRRR banner crew in parades



Valley Days parade



Sacred Heart Preschool Visit



St. Pat's parade



St. Pat's parade



Children's World preschool visit



December GRRR meeting



Canine Olympics



Canine Olympics



Kirkwood Greentree Festival



Kirkwood Greentree Festival

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

314-995-5477

Officers

President: Pat Moran
P4021m@sbcglobal.net

Vice-President: Tim Miget
TimMiget@hotmail.com

Secretary: Barb Blacksher
Blacksher@charter.net

Treasurer: Beth Johnson
Goldenmom03@charter.net

Member Rep: Chris Rogers
chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net

Coordinators:

Intake Coordinator: Mike Stemmler
kreator@aol.com

Adoption Coordinator: Carrie Tennesen
carrie2tenn@aol.com

Membership Coordinator: Barb Blacksher
blacksher@charter.net

Events Coordinator: Chris Rogers
chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster: Paul Swarhout
Cody@antidotecomputer.com

Mentors:

Intake Phone Lines: Mike Stemmler
kreator@aol.com

Adoption Phone Lines: Barb Blacksher
blacksher@charter.net

Home Visits: Eileen Combs
leenbean58@charter.net

Dog Visits: Shane Stark
tenille01@earthlink.net

Foster Homes: Barb Blacksher
blacksher@charter.net