

# GGRR NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 6

Issue Number 1

Date: January 2009

## \* \* \* Meeting Notice \* \* \*

**Date:** Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 7:15 p.m.

**Place:** The Museum of the Dog

*We love having well-behaved, healthy Goldens (up-to-date on shots, please) 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 11<sup>th</sup> :

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by President Pat Moran. Janice E. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Jim D. seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed. There were no corrections to the November newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

None

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

Beth J. was unable to attend the meeting, but she provided the following information for the newsletter. Our account balance at the beginning of November was **\$2125.91**. Income was **\$1215.00**. Expenses were **\$803.98**, leaving an ending balance of **\$2536.93**.



Walter Hernlund-Gerber keeps a close eye on his stash of tennis balls. He seems to have had plenty of practice hoarding them, given that the balls are so perfectly aligned!

## MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Janice E. reported that 2 new members joined GGRR during the past month. Welcome to the Gorman family, who is fostering Chance, and to Amy Anzelone who recently adopted a dog from GGRR. Amy A. was attending her first meeting

## INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Barb B. reported 1 dog was surrendered to GGRR during the past month:

**08-047: Max:** a 9 month old neutered male being fostered by Tom and Amy Gerber.

She also reported that **Sniffy**, who is being fostered by Betsy Finnegan, had surgery on both eyes yesterday to correct eyelashes that were turned inward and irritating her eyes.

## ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Carrie T. reported that 4 dogs were placed in their forever homes during the past month:

**08-040: Yadi**

**08-044: Snickers**

**08-045: Junior**

**08-047: Max**

Carrie also has an updated waiting list for anyone who would like a copy. See her after the meeting.

## EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Chris R. reported she has sent in our application to participate in the 2009 St. Pat's parade and is currently waiting for a response. The parade is scheduled for Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Chris will be placing an order for GRRR apparel soon. Let her know if you need a green sweatshirt for the parade or any other items of clothing.

Tim M. circulated a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in working at the GRCA of Greater St. Louis field trials on May 30 and 31<sup>st</sup>.

Adoption Days at Lucky Dog will be held on the following dates:

**January 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>**

**March 21<sup>st</sup>**

Please check your schedule to see if you are available to work on any of these dates. Chris will be asking for volunteers at our January meeting.



Slider and Jewel Taylor enjoy an outing in Queeny Park. They were kind enough (or tired enough!) to pose long enough for dad Rich to snap their photo.

## WEBSITE COORDINATOR:

Paul S. was unable to be at the meeting, but he provided the following website statistics:

**Hits: 75,495**

**Page Views: 23,669**

**Visitors: 8,751**

**Unique Visitors: 2746**

31% of the website traffic was from Missouri. 2.4% of the traffic was from Illinois.

## OLD BUSINESS:

None



Blitz Blacksher tells Santa what a good boy he has been this year, including losing 36 lbs. since being surrendered to GRRR in late June. Oops—guess he forgot to mention those fights at the dog park! Maybe Santa wasn't watching! The Blacksher family delivers gifts to needy families on Christmas morning. Perhaps Blitz can be Santa's reindeer next year!

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Pat M. has 20% discount shopping passes from Macy's that can be used on various dates in December. See her after the meeting if you would like any.

The Nominating Committee presented their recommendations to fill two positions on the Executive Board:

**President: Tim Miget**

**Secretary: Tracie Bayer**

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor in January, when voting will be held. Nominees must have been active GRRR members for at least a year.

Mike S. reported that the Department of Agriculture has spay/neuter grants available for 2009. Guidelines for these grants are posted on their website. Applications must be received on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> to be considered.

## **NEW BUSINESS:** (cont.)

Amy G. announced that we have been approved for the Schnuck's E-script program. She will have cards available at the next meeting. You can also pick up a card yourself at any Schnuck's service desk. Directions are provided on the card so GRRR can be designated to receive a percentage of your purchases.

Barb B. suggested raising membership dues for 2009 to help raise needed funds. The original intent of the dues was to pay for mailing of the newsletter to members. Now that the newsletter is posted online, approximately 20 copies are being mailed each month. Discussion was held and members decided to raise the dues to **\$20** for 2009. Janice E. will email members with this information. Dues should be paid by the end of January.

Tim M. discussed a recent email Rich T. received from Love a Golden. LAG recently took in Izzy, a 6 year old female with a torn ACL whose family could not afford the expense of her surgery. GRRR was contacted by Izzy's owner, but we were unable to take Izzy due to the estimated \$1600 cost of her surgery and 16 weeks of recuperation. With a limited number of active foster homes and the recent expense of Sniffy's eye surgeries, we referred the family to Love a Golden. They are currently trying to raise money to help with with Izzy's expenses. If anyone would like to help LAG with Izzy's expenses, go to:

<http://www.loveagolden.com/Foster%20Buddy.htm>

Follow the directions provided on the website to make a donation. Don't forget to indicate Izzy as the dog you would like to support.

## **NEW BUSINESS:** (cont.)

Janice E. has information to share if anyone has dogs groomed at The Barking Lot on Manchester Rd. You can speak with her after the meeting.

Jessica W. announced that the **Java Journal** sponsors Happy Hours at various locations and donates the \$5 per person donation to local charities. She will see if GGRR can benefit from one of these events. Look for Jessica's article about Toby in the next edition of **Java Journal**.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Holiday refreshments and socializing followed the meeting.

## **DONATIONS:**

GGRR received donations from the following individuals and groups:

**Lynne Glatthaar**

**Rich and Carol Taylor**

- in memory of **Westinn's Everything's Jake CDX**, beloved companion of **Sharon West**

**Rich and Carol Taylor**

- in memory of **Murphy, Shadow, and Tyler Taylor**

**Pamela, Dora, Nikon, and Canon Wollenberg, and Shadow and her pups**

- in appreciation for Shadow's rescue and to Pat M. and Barb B. as they leave their positions on the Executive Board.

## **RAINBOW BRIDGE:**

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the following families who recently lost a beloved Golden companion:

**Westinn's Everything's Jake CDX**, beloved companion of **Sharon West and family**, went to the Bridge on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Jake followed Sharon wherever she went and did anything she asked of him. He loved to heel and excelled at it because he just wanted to please. Jake has joined his friends at the Bridge and is running through the nice green grass playing with his soccer ball.

## **WAGS AND BRAGS:**

**Brett Grimm and Tracie Bayer** are pleased to announce their recent engagement.



Getting ready for the holidays is hard work, so Champ Ellege takes advantage of an opportunity to catch a nap. This boy doesn't look too spoiled, does he?



Stone Carbone keeps a close watch over his baby brother, Alex, while Alex naps. What more could a little guy ask for in a canine sibling?

## **ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER:**

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

## **TRUST – A DEADLY DISEASE**

**by Sharon Mathers**

There is a deadly disease stalking your dog, a hideous, stealthy thing just waiting its chance to steal your beloved friend. It is not a new disease, or one for which there are inoculations. The disease is called "Trust."

You knew before you ever took your puppy home that it could not be trusted. The breeder who provided you with this precious animal warned you, drummed it into your

## **TRUST – A DEADLY DISEASE** (cont.)

head. Puppies steal off counters, destroy anything expensive, chase cats, take forever to house train, and must never be allowed off lead!!

When the big day finally arrived, heeding the sage advice of the breeder, you escorted your puppy to his new home, properly collared and tagged, the lead held tightly in your hand.

At home the house was "puppy-proofed." Everything of value was stored in the spare bedroom, garbage stowed on top of the refrigerator, cats separated, and a gate placed across the living room to keep at least one part of the house puppy free. All windows and doors had been properly secured, and signs placed in all strategic points reminding all to "Close the door!"

Soon it becomes second nature to make sure the door closes nine tenths of a second after it was opened and that it is really latched. "Don't let the dog out" is your second most verbalized expression. (The first is "No!")

You worry and fuss constantly, terrified that your darling will get out and disaster will surely follow. Your friends comment about who you love most, your family or the dog. You know that to relax your vigil for a moment might lose him to you forever.

And so the weeks and months pass, with your puppy becoming more civilized every day, and the seeds of trust are planted. It seems that each new day brings less destruction, less breakage. Almost before you know it, your gangly, slurpy puppy has turned into an elegant, dignified friend.

## TRUST – A DEADLY DISEASE (cont.)

Now that he is a more reliable, sedate companion, you take him more places. No longer does he chew the steering wheel when left in the car. And darned if that cake wasn't still on the counter this morning. And, oh yes, wasn't that the cat he was sleeping with so cozily on your pillow last night?

At this point you are beginning to become infected, the disease is spreading its roots deep into your mind.

And then one of your friends suggests obedience classes; and, after a time, you even let him run loose from the car into the house when you get home. Why not, he always runs straight to the door, dancing a frenzy of joy and waits to be let in. And, remember he comes every time he is called. You know he is the exception that disproves the rule. (And sometimes late at night, you even let him slip out the front door to go potty and then right back in.)

Years pass—it is hard to remember why you ever worried so much when he was a puppy. He would never think of running out the door left open while you bring in the packages from the car. It would be beneath his dignity to jump out the window of the car while you run into the convenience store. And when you take him for those wonderful long walks at dawn, it only takes one whistle to send him racing back to you in a burst of speed when the walk comes too close to the highway. (He still gets in the garbage, but nobody is perfect!)

This is the time the disease has waited for so patiently. Sometimes it only has to wait a year or two, but often it takes much longer.

## TRUST – A DEADLY DISEASE (cont.)

He spies the neighbor dog across the street, and suddenly forgets everything he ever knew about not slipping out doors, jumping out windows or coming when called due to traffic. Perhaps it was only a paper fluttering in the breeze, or even just the sheer joy of running . . . Stopped in an instant. Stilled forever – Your heart is broken at the sight of his beautiful body.

The disease is trust. The final outcome, hit by a car.

Every morning my dog bounced around off lead exploring. Every morning for seven years he came back when he was called. He was perfectly obedient, perfectly trustworthy. He died fourteen hours after being hit by a car.

Please do not risk your friend and your heart. Save the trust for things that do not matter.

*Thanks to Rich Taylor for submitting this food for thought from Slider's breeder.*

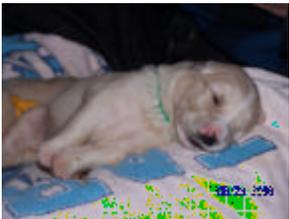


This adorable litter wasn't ours. It belongs to a friend of Rich Taylor; but the photo sure brings back a flood of memories. The breeder says her pups have already mastered down-stays, at least while they're napping!

**2008 – A GOLDEN YEAR FOR GGRR**

**MARCH**

Shadow, a very pregnant stray, was captured on the third attempt and delivered 12 puppies five hours later. Many of us experienced for the first time how much work and expense a litter of puppies involves, especially ones that have to be bottle fed! We also had the opportunity to develop closer friendships with the members who shared our round the clock feeding shifts!



**MARCH** (cont.)

In another yearly March event, GGRR members and their dogs marched in the St. Patrick's Day parade.



\* \* \* \*

**APRIL**

Rich Taylor demonstrates grooming techniques with his dog, Jewel.



\* \* \* \*

**MAY**

We had nice weather and a great turn-out for our 2008 Reunion Picnic.



\* \* \* \*

**JUNE**

Members Lee and Carmie Adkins welcomed baby Iris into their family. Below are some recent photos of Iris.



\* \* \* \*

**AUGUST**

Members gathered at Lucky Dog for a surprise baby shower for Korisa and Drew Carbone.



\* \* \* \*

**SEPTEMBER**

Members Drew and Korisa Carbone welcomed baby Alex into their family.



**SEPTEMBER** (cont.)

September brought some disappointment, too. Due to heavy rainstorms and muddy fields, GGRR was unable to take part in one of our favorite events – Kirkwood’s Greentree Festival.

\* \* \* \*

**OCTOBER**

The APA Canine Carnival was fun for all who attended.



October also brought a new event. For the first time, GGRR members and their dogs participated in Celebrate Spot, a walk to benefit breast cancer research.



GGRR hosted an appreciation luncheon for the staff at Westinn’s Everything Under One Woof. The kennel staff gives our dogs lots of love, attention, and socialization when they need to be kenneled due to a lack of foster homes or some behavior issues that require Sharon West’s expertise.

## OCTOBER (cont.)

October also brought Halloween, and GRR hosted the Howlin' Halloween Party at Lucky Dog.



\* \* \* \*

## NOVEMBER

A number of GRR members have dogs that are certified therapy dogs and make visits to area hospitals and nursing homes.



What's that tennis ball doing under there?

\* \* \* \*

## DECEMBER

We try to give our members some rest and recuperation time after an active year. Then we're ready to get off to a fresh start in January. In 2008, GRR took possession of 48 dogs. Except for a few dogs that came to us later in the year, all of these dogs have been placed with adoptive families.

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

**314-995-5477**

### Officers

President: Pat Moran  
[P4021m@sbcglobal.net](mailto:P4021m@sbcglobal.net)

Vice-President: Tim Miget  
[tnse@charter.net](mailto:tnse@charter.net)

Secretary: Barb Blacksher  
[blacksher@charter.net](mailto:blacksher@charter.net)

Treasurer: Beth Johnson  
[Goldenmom03@charter.net](mailto:Goldenmom03@charter.net)

Member Rep: Chris Rogers  
[chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net)

### Coordinators:

Intake Coordinator: Barb Blacksher  
[blacksher@charter.net](mailto:blacksher@charter.net)

Adoption Coordinator: Carrie Tennesen  
[carrie2tenn@aol.com](mailto:carrie2tenn@aol.com)

Membership Coordinator: Janice Eisenraat  
[RaileyJR@hotmail.com](mailto:RaileyJR@hotmail.com)

Events Coordinator: Chris Rogers  
[chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net)  
Tracie Bayer  
[Tbayer80@gmail.com](mailto:Tbayer80@gmail.com)

Webmaster: Paul Swarthout  
[Cody@antidotecomputer.com](mailto:Cody@antidotecomputer.com)

### Mentors:

Intake Phone Lines: Mike Stemmler  
[Mstemmler1012@yahoo.com](mailto:Mstemmler1012@yahoo.com)

Adoption Phone Lines: Barb Blacksher  
[blacksher@charter.net](mailto:blacksher@charter.net)

Home Visits: Shane Stark  
[golddog05@mac.com](mailto:golddog05@mac.com)

Dog Visits: Shane Stark  
[Golddog05@mac.com](mailto:Golddog05@mac.com)

Foster Homes: Kathy Dierkes  
[Kathy\\_dierkes@yahoo.com](mailto:Kathy_dierkes@yahoo.com)