



GGRR Newsletter

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January 2014

January 2014 Newsletter

Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue
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December Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by President, Mike S. Julie G. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Shane S. and passed. There were no corrections to the minutes.

President's Report

Mike S. announced that we will vote on Treasurer and Vice President under Old Business. He also brought up the topic of possibly offering the option of "Foster to Adopt" to some of the families on our waiting list. This would help us out because we don't have many foster homes. We would want to make sure the families/homes are screened and ready to do this before giving them a dog. This topic still needs to be discussed and we need to come up with exactly what it all entails.

Treasurer's Report

Kathy D. was absent.

Membership/Volunteer Report

Tim M. reported that there had been two volunteer inquiries, but no new members/volunteers. Volunteer renewal forms are due! Dues are \$20.00.

Intake Report

Michelle F. reported that we had zero dogs come in.

Adoption Report

Penny M. was absent.

Website Report

Paul S. was absent.



GRR Events

Upcoming Events

Next GRR Meeting

Thursday, January 9th at 7:30 p.m. at the Dog Museum in Queeny Park.

Golden Specialty

The Golden Specialty will be held January 16th through the 18th at Purina Farms. We will have a booth set up at the Specialty every day from about 10:30a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact Julie G. if you would like to volunteer at the Specialty.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

The annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Downtown St. Louis will be held on Saturday, March 15th. We usually walk in the parade with our dogs. Chris R. received our parade packet inviting us to attend and it has to be turned in by the 30th of December. It was voted that we will walk as usual in the parade.

GRR Reunion Picnic

Our 2014 Reunion Picnic for our adoptive families is scheduled for Sunday, May 4th at the Dog Museum. Julie G. is going to start coordinating this event. Anyone that would like to help should let Julie know. All volunteers are needed at this event. Mark your calendars now!



Ginger, GRR Rescue, didn't want anyone touching her Christmas Gifts!

Old & New Business

Old Business

Mike S. announced that Shane S. will volunteer to take over the Secretary position for Tracie G. in early 2014. Thank you Shane!

Voting on Vice President and Treasurer—Ballots were tallied

and it was announced that Jim Dilg will continue as Vice President and Lynn Stark will be Treasurer. Congrats!



New Business

John R. announced that there is a new Executive Director of the Dog Museum and his name is Steve. He would like to get the Dog Museum more out into the public and would like to encourage more people and groups to hold meetings there. They are also putting in a dog park next to the Museum. It's still in the planning stages, but it will most likely happen.

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



Winter Safety for Dogs and Cats www.huffingtonpost.com

While winter may be mild in some areas of the United States, in other areas, it's virtually a wet and windy freezer. We humans have heaters, special hats and winter clothes, but what about our pets? What winter dangers do they face, and how can we keep them safe?

Even mildly cold weather can be bad for cats because cats are resourceful at finding warm places. So, if left outside in the cold, they may hide under the hood of your car. As a result, when someone starts the motor, the cat gets injured or killed.

A friend of mine, who lives in Denver, Colo., used to have a St. Bernard. Of course, this dog, descendent of those renowned rescuers of travelers and hikers in the Swiss Alps, was primarily kept outdoors. And as is common, my friend was busy with everyday life and didn't closely monitor his dog. The dog was eating, so that was all he needed to know... he thought. When the dog finally stopped eating and was taken to the vet, the vet found -- under all that hair -- that his tail had been frostbitten and was now gangrene. The tail was amputated.

Salt for Street De-Icing Can Cause Irritation

A major issue is salt and chemical alternatives. Says one dog owner, Jean Lessard, from Montreal, Quebec, "It is cold! I'm downtown. Here, the problem is not the snow, nor the weather... but the salt! There is so much salt on sidewalks and streets, it's ridiculous! So the dogs will step on this, get their paws... wet from melted ice, then walk on ice again and freeze their paws."

Lessard also points out that the salt can cause some major irritation, and veterinarian Rachel Germain of Central Pennsylvania agrees:

It's not extremely cold here, but my own dog has significant issues with sidewalk salting. He has to wear booties in the winter because his pads get so burned. I have talked with several clients about the same issue. It's a small thing, but seems to be significant for dogs in my area.



As Dr. Germain suggested, for many dogs, training them to wear booties is the solution. Many can be trained just by putting a bootie or two on while giving many tiny treats in rapid succession, or playing with them in way such that they are engaged in interacting with you. Then, keep them distracted as they get used to the feel. When you stop with the play and treats, take the booties off. The goal is that the dog learns to associate the booties with treats,

play and, later, with going out on a walk. Another solution for less salt-sensitive dogs is to just wash the salt off with warm water as soon as you get home. Unfortunately, neither of these solutions works as well for cats who traipse in the salt laden streets.

Says Lori Tyler of Ithaca, N.Y. : Several years ago, when I worked at the shelter, a person found a cat on the side of the road. She had severe burns/ulcerations throughout her mouth and esophagus from eating from the roadside (and eating lots of road salt in the process). We treated her and nursed her back to health, and she certainly would have died if not noticed by the driver.

This provides yet another reason to keep cats inside.

Pets Can Ingest Snow with Toxic Substances

Cats aren't the only pet that can ingest something toxic during winter. Pets that eat snow that contains toxic chemicals can become fatally ill. Amos Suguitan of Massachusetts reports:

A client I had in daycare a couple years ago had an Aire-dale puppy, who suddenly became very ill after the first major snowstorm for the area. Vomiting, lethargy, stopped eating, etc. That curly hair around his feet had collected a lot of ice around his toes, and a big chunk of chemical ice melt had gotten stuck in there as well. Poor guy had gotten home, chewed the ice melt out and eaten it. He spent a couple days at the hospital, but was fine afterwards, thanks to his mom's quick action!

Depending on the substance and how quickly the pet is brought to the veterinary hospital, the outcome may not

Winter Safety for Dogs and Cats *(Continued)*

be so good. If the chemical is car antifreeze, the dog may have vomiting later in the day and by the next day may start going into kidney failure. So, if you see your dog eating discolored snow, especially if it's bright green, take him to the veterinarian immediately.

Exercise-related Winter Injuries

Winter is also fraught with physical injuries. Although the snow looks soft, the ice can rip and cut the feet.

Leslie Finnegan Conn gives an example: "I remember our Lab mutt ripped her dew claw out when she was doing a crazy run-in-circles in the snow. It looked like someone had been murdered in our yard. We had to take her in to get her paw wrapped up."

Both boots, as well as careful and regular trimming of the nails, can help prevent such injuries.

Courtenay Watson, who lives in British Columbia, says, "My dog has sliced his metacarpal pad on the snow crust that forms when the snow melts a bit then freezes hard. That's a pain. We've been using Pad Heal and it helps."

Not everyone wants to use boots, and one solution that has worked for Courtenay has been to train her dog to play differently:

He is also a bit of a careless guy, and when there is ice on the ground, he will spin out and slide and hurt himself playing fetch. So, I've taught him to run around a pole. He worked up to running around two poles many feet apart. This way, he has a more controlled path and doesn't slide. He does a couple of those laps, then I toss his toy to him to catch instead of chasing it. Much safer.

Injury related to snow and ice is not limited to dogs. It can extend to those trying to help dogs in winter distress. Leslie Finnegan Conn says:



My neighbor let his Shih Tzu out in the backyard after a snowstorm that ended in a coating of ice. The dog went to the back of the yard and then couldn't get back to the house because it was too slippery. My neighbor went out to get her and fell on the ice, hitting his head. About six weeks later, he had emergency surgery for a subdural hematoma.

Some situations are even more dangerous to both owner and dog. Says Claudine Sleik, owner of a Border collie (BC):

My husband was cross country skiing with our BC near a small, swift-moving river. He thought they were on the shoreline. He was; Jak, our BC, wasn't. Jak suddenly fell through the ice. Craig, with his skis on, slid onto the ice, scooped Jak up by his harness and tossed him towards what he hoped was the shore. Without missing a beat, Jak landed on all fours and quickly ran to find a stick in the hopes of playing fetch. They were both very lucky that day.

A similar situation happened to an acquaintance of Courtenay Watson: My mom's boyfriend (from England and not used to snow) tossed a toy onto the ice on the river. The dog fell partway through the ice trying to get the toy. He crawled onto it and got her, both cold and scared, but no lasting damage, thank goodness!

An emergency clinic in Denver related that they always see a rise in HBCs (dogs hit by cars) after a snow storm. For some reason, people think it is safe to let their dogs run at large after a snow storm because traffic is somewhat decreased. What they don't consider is the stopping time required for those who are out on the slippery streets has greatly increased. The drivers often can't stop in time to miss that dog who's been let out to enjoy the snow while the owner shovels the driveway.

Winter: A Dangerous Season

Overall, winter can be a dangerous season. However, it doesn't need to be. Keep pets indoors when temperatures drop; take time to care for their feet, or train them to wear booties; avoid letting them eat snow; and be careful to avoid thin ice on lakes. By doing this, you'll help your pet avoid most winter dangers.

Dogs May Recognize Familiar Faces In Images Just Like We Do

www.huffingtonpost.com



It's no secret that dogs recognize their owners' faces in the flesh. But what happens when your canine companion is shown just a photo or video of you?

A new eye-movement study from the University of Helsinki in Finland showed that dogs recognize us in imag-



es too. Wild.

In the study, 31 dogs watched a video screen displaying images of dog and human faces while researchers tracked their eye movements. Some of the images were of familiar faces -- their owner or another dog in the household. Others were of strangers.

What did the researchers find? "The results indicate that dogs were able to perceive faces in the images," study leader Dr. Outi Vainio, a professor of veterinary medicine at the university, told The Independent.

And, dogs were more likely to fix their gaze on the image of a familiar face than that of a stranger.

But you know what catches your dogs' attention more than your face? That of another dog. The study also showed that dogs gazed at images of dogs longer than images of humans, whether or not the faces were familiar.



Donations

The following people made generous donations to our organization:

Susan Shepherd Ittner, the Shepherd Foundation

Ann & Peter Merten, in memory of Nicki Taylor.

Angelia Gosney, from the estate of Jewell F. Langhorst.

Lee Rottmann, Hermann Oak Leather Co.

Volunteer Renewal Forms are Due along with \$20 for the year.

Please fill out your application and update your profile at GGRR.com.

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Next Meeting

Thursday, January 9th at 7:30 p.m.
At the Dog Museum in Queeny Park

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

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

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