

GGRR NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 3

Issue Number 6

Date: JUNE 2006

* * * Meeting Notice * * *

Date: Thursday, July 13th
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 JUNE 8, 2006:

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Shane Stark. It was moved and seconded that we dispense with the reading of the minutes. The motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Shane asked if everyone had been able to access the online newsletters. So far response has been positive. However, we are still refining the process. Barb will continue to send out a group email informing members when the newsletter has been posted.

We have added Clarkson-Wilson Animal Hospital as one of the vet practices our foster homes are able to use. It is located at 32 Clarkson Wilson Center, Chesterfield, MO 63017. There is a St. Louis County Government Center located in the same shopping plaza, as well as a Kennelwood Village Pet Depot. This practice is offering the best rates of any of the other vets we are currently using.

Shane asked that we take foster dogs there, if at all possible--especially for surgical procedures. It is difficult to make comparisons, as there are large fluctuations in what is covered. Some vets give us a discount off the total bill, while others discount vet fees, but not medications. In any event, Clarkson-Wilson is by far the cheapest for us to use. For example, spay/neuter prices are as follows:

Kirkwood Animal Hospital: **\$100**
Chesterfield Vet Group: **\$79** (21-50 lbs.)
Clarkson-Wilson: **\$45** (21-50 lbs.)

For a routine vet exam, the prices are:

Chesterfield: **\$22**
Kirkwood: **\$12**
Clarkson-Wilson: **No charge when other services are provided**

Please consider costs as well as convenience when deciding which vet to use for your foster dogs.

Shane thanked our newest foster parents, Kay Callison and Mike Naughton, in Columbia, MO for making room in their home for Shelby.



Mike Stemmler and his dog, Taz, take a break after walking in the Valley Days Parade.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (cont.)

The majority of our costs right now are for kennel expenses. Maggie, Bernie, and Sundance are housed at **Westinn's Everything Under One Woof** kennel in Wentzville. *(Since the meeting, Pat Moran has taken Sundance as a foster dog.)* We are not currently accepting new dogs as we have no foster homes open and 3 dogs at the kennel.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Our account balance at the beginning of the month was \$7,335.82. Income totaled \$2,879. Expenses were \$2,796.03, leaving us with an ending balance of 7,418.79. The Flash Fund has a balance of \$2,431.71.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

We had one inquiry, but no new members joined GRR in the past month.

INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Two new dogs came in during the past month:

06-015 Tyler, a 7 year-old male, who has a history of seizures

06-016 Bailey, a 5 year-old male

The owner would like these 2 dogs placed together, and he will retain possession of them until an adoptive home can be found.



The water bucket was a popular meeting place after walking the 2-mile route in the Valley Days parade. Pictured from left to right are Korisa Carbone with Stone, Shane Stark with Belle, Nanette Swarthout with Tucker, and Tim Miget with Rush.

ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Two dogs have been placed since our last meeting:

06-013 Drake

06-014 Sunny

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

The Valley Days parade will be held on Saturday, June 17th. The parade begins at 10:00, so plan to arrive between 8:30 and 9:30. Chris Rogers will drive her van behind our unit in case anyone is unable to walk the entire distance. She will also bring plenty of water for the dogs. Chris distributed maps with directions to the starting point of the parade.

PDR REPORT:

None

WEBSITE REPORT:

During the month of May, the website had the following traffic:

Page Views: 12,314
Visits: 8,765
Hits: 67,353

Since January 1st of this year, the website has received:

Page Views: 63,756
Visits: 40,726
Hits: 317,522

Approximately 20% of the page views came from residents of Missouri. 8.6% of the visits came from Missouri, and 26% of the hits are from Missouri residents. Illinois residents account for another 3% of the activity on our website.



Warner Rogers was a real chick magnet while catching his breath after the parade! Do you think he's that popular with the 2-legged variety?!

OLD BUSINESS:

The phone lines are being covered well, with two of our newer members volunteering to take days in the rotation. Thanks Donna and Korisa!

Our waiting list for dogs is rather small for this time of year. There are only 3 families who have not been matched with dogs at the present time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Paul mentioned that the website still contains a section with items for sale, and he wondered if any of the merchandise was still available. Chris replied that the link should be removed from the website as many of the items are no longer in stock.

Barb shared information about a program in Springfield, IL which involves Meals on Wheels deliveries. Pet-owning recipients not only get a meal for themselves, but also a cup of dry food for their animals. Local rescue groups donate the food and package it in ziplock bags. The program hopes to keep people from having to surrender their pets to shelters due to financial constraints. The animals also benefit from receiving a meal of high-quality pet food daily. Barb will check with the Humane Society to see if any rescue groups in the St. Louis area have formed a similar partnership with Meals on Wheels.

Coordinator positions expire in June. Mike Stemmler will continue as the Intake Coordinator. Carrie Tennesen volunteered to handle the Adoption Coordinator duties, replacing Shane Stark. Barb Blacksher will continue as the Membership Coordinator, and Chris Rogers will continue as the Events Coordinator.

NEW BUSINESS: (cont.)

We have a shortage of people who are able to conduct home visits for families interested in adopting our dogs. Several people expressed an interest in being trained to perform these visits. Chris Rogers will train Carrie Tennesen, Barb Blacksher will train Nicole VandeSteege, and Tim Miget will train Nanette Swarhout. Thanks to all who volunteered to help!

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

RAINBOW BRIDGE:

Murphy Cavin, beloved companion of Sarah Cavin and her fiancé Derek, went to the bridge on Memorial Day at the age of 13 years, 2 months, and 6 days. Her heart just wasn't able to work any longer, which is ironic since Sarah says she was the most kind-hearted dog you could ever meet. Murphy will be greatly missed by all, including her buddy, 1 year-old Addison. Murphy has been reunited with her departed friend George, the tabby cat; and is keeping a close watch over Addison.



Addison Cavin (left) and Murphy Cavin (right) pose for the camera at their home in Columbia, MO.



Ben, formerly known as Bingo, was considered by his sister, Natalie, to be her very best friend. Ben recently went to the bridge and will be fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Heather Haberstroh, mom to both Ben and Natalie, wrote this moving tribute in memory of Ben. She has graciously agreed to share it in the newsletter.

**Ben
2006**

When I met Bingo, I knew he was special. It had been almost 2 years since I had lost my first Golden. I was not sure when I would be able to love another. I joined GGRR as a way to deal with my grief. As I slowly began working events, volunteering for the phones, and making friends, my heart started to heal. Bingo and I were introduced in 2001. I didn't realize how much I missed having a Golden or how lonely I had been without my companion. I remember thinking how beautiful Bingo was and so well behaved. Like so many others I had met, I could not understand how someone could toss him aside. It didn't take long before we both knew he had found his "forever home." Our routine came easily like he had always been with me. First things first. . . change the name. Bingo became Bin and then Ben. Ben and I participated in as many events as we could. At home, he enjoyed his stuffed toys and bones filled with cheese. Throughout his life with me,

we had many adventures. I have never met a dog that was so flexible and forgiving. He just seemed to take the changes in our lives in stride, whether it was moving or staying with the Combs' (his "other" parents) while I brought home his baby sister. Ben was a great boy and a joy to have as part of my family. Natalie and I miss him every day. Truthfully, I didn't rescue Ben . . . Ben rescued me. Thank you GRRR for giving me the opportunity to adopt this wonderful boy. We will be forever grateful.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

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

Barb Blacksher
26 Cynthia Ct.
Florissant, MO 63031

Put your furkids in an upcoming newsletter!

You can also email items to:
blacksher@charter.net

Please submit items by the last day of the month to include them in the newsletter for the following month.



Tim Miget, his daughter Sydney, and their dog Rush still appear to have lots of energy after walking 2 miles in the parade. Check out the tongue on Rush. I'll bet it could lick a dinner plate clean in record time!

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

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