



GGRR Newsletter

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July 2012

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Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue
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Inside this issue:

Meeting Minutes 1

Events 2

Why Dogs Kick When Scratch Their Bellies? 2

Old & New Business 3

Rawhide: Delicious or Dangerous? 4

Tips for Handling Abused Dogs 5



the beginning of the month. Income was \$1,712.35 (\$22.35 from Schnucks E-Script Cards) and our expenses were \$1,711.74 leaving us with an ending balance of \$2,831.33. Our balance in the Flash Fund is \$32,463.79.

Membership Report
 Amy G. was not present at the meeting.

Adoption Report

Mike S. reported that we adopted out seven dogs in the previous month:

- 11-002R Ben
- 012-003 Sam
- 012-005 Stitch
- 012-006 Louie
- 012-007 Bogie
- 012-011 Rosie
- 012-012 Hachi

June Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President, Tim M. Julie G. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Rich T. and passed. There were no corrections to the minutes.

President's Report

Tim reported that we have placed a lot of dogs in the last month so the waiting list will be long. The people doing the phone interviews need to let the applicants know that they may be on the waiting list a while. Tim also announced that we received a nice letter from the family who adopted Bogie. They said he's been a delight and they wanted to commend us for our good work!

Treasurer's Report

Pat M. reported that our balance in our checking was \$2,830.72 at



Intake Report

Penny M. Reported that we had one dog come in in the previous month:

011-002R Ben—He was returned to GGRR because he has gotten "too big" and the previous owner is going into the hospital. He is a three year old male.



GGRR Events



Upcoming Events
Next GGRR Meeting
 Thursday,
 July 12th at
 7:00 p.m. at
 the Dog Museum in
 Queeny Park.

another group. The only available date they have is September 23rd. We have a lot of other functions in September that will require a lot of volunteer help so it was decided that we will skip the picnic this year and put a note on our website to let our adoptive families know. Tim will call the Dog Museum and look at dates for the end of April or early May 2013.

Golden Retriever Nationals

The Nationals are coming to Purina Farms on September 3rd through the 8th. The Rescue Parade will be held on September 7th. Take the day off of work if you plan to help with the rescue parade. We will also have a vendor

booth at this event. One or two members are needed each day to staff the booth from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Members need to wear their blue rescue shirts when working this event. Mike S. will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers at the next meeting.

Greentree Festival in Kirkwood Park

The annual Greentree Festival will be held on September 15th and 16th this year. We will need a lot of our members and their dogs to come out and staff our booth. More info to come on this event at the next couple meetings. Sign-up sheet will also be available.

GGRR Annual Reunion Picnic

Tim announced that there was a miscommunication with the Dog Museum and they booked the date of Oct. 27th with

Why Do Dogs Kick When You Scratch Their Belly? www.dogingtonpost.com

If you've got a dog that loves belly rubs, as many of us do, than you've no doubt found "the sweet spot" that gets his leg kicking. This usually happens when you scratch him in his saddle region – the belly, sides, and parts of the dog's back. The exact spot varies depending on the dog. Some dogs have several spots that get their legs moving.

This silly behavior got us wondering, why do dogs kick their legs when you scratch their belly?

Animal Planet offers this explanation:

Dogs shake or kick their legs when you scratch them because of something known as the scratch reflex. It's a completely involuntary reaction, which explains why your dog may look as puzzled as you do when it starts to happen. When you scratch or tickle your dog's belly, it irritates him, much the same way that the wind or a bug might. It activates nerves under his skin that are connected to his spinal cord and relays a message

to his leg muscles to kick in an attempt to get rid of the irritant. Of course, you're the one both providing the "itch" and "scratching" it, so it's a completely pointless act.

Turns out, by causing the kick, you're actually kind of irritating your dog (who knew!?). So, if making your dog feel blissful and happy is what you're going for, just move to another spot that doesn't cause the kick.



The scratch reflex isn't just a funny party trick for your dog, either. In fact, veterinarians can use the spot to identify nerve damage or neurological problems. The belly rub kick can be compared to the

knee-jerk that humans do when the doctor taps just below your knee with a hammer, or how cats automatically raise their bottoms when you scratch the base of their tail.

By: Brandy Arnold

Old & New Business

Old Business

Penny M. announced that she brought a bunch of the blue foster home folders if anyone needed some.

Mike S. announced that he has a committee that will help with the parade entries. It will consist of Kathy D., Penny M. and Rich T. These individuals will also help put the program together for the Rescue Parade and help line the dogs up the day of the parade. They will stop accepting entries when they hit 50. The Golden Retriever Club will be supplying the medallions for the parade dogs. There was discussion about the plaques that each dog will receive and it was decided that the plaques should be personalized for each dog. The money made from the Golden Memorial Wall will go to the National Committee and they will decide where to donate it. If you would like to submit a dog into the rescue parade you can email your entry to mstemmler@charter.net.

New Business

Chris R. presented our trophy from the St. Patrick's Day Parade. We were voted 'Best Canine Unit.' We need to take it to events with us and proudly display it.

Mike S. gave a pop quiz to the meeting attendees. See the questions and answers below:

1. How much is our adoption fee?
Answer: \$300.00. (\$25.00 application fee + \$275.00 adoption fee)
2. How long do we have to keep a dog before it's placed?
Answer: 7 days.
- 3) What is our rule on applications and who handles them?

Answer: The phone interview and home visit have to be done by different volunteers.

- 4) What piece of paperwork do we HAVE to have when we take in a dog?

Answer: Vet Records

- 5) When was GGRR started?

Answer: 1984

Coordinator Positions—Tim M. announced that we needed to vote on Coordinator Positions. The following list is the outcome of this vote:

Foster Home/Intake Coordinator—Michelle F.

Adoption Coordinator—Mike S.

Membership Coordinator—(Will be determined at next meeting)

Events Coordinator—Julie G.

Newsletter Coordinator—Tracie G.

Website Coordinator—Paul S.

Tim reported that Amy G. will be dropping off of the phone lines and that we need a volunteer to take her place. Julie G. volunteered to do it.

Penny M. announced that her little Mia got her Excellent A Agility title.

A motion was made by Julie G. and seconded by Chris M. to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



The dogs are wondering what these babies are doing in their doggie pool? Max Grimm decided that it was his turn and tried to join Leah in the baby/doggie pool!

Rawhide: Delicious or Dangerous? www.dogingtonpost.com

There are numerous types of dog bones and chew toys available in the market today, and rawhide is definitely one of the most popular and widespread. Because there have been apprehensions over the use of rawhide chews, dog owners should know about its various kinds and the pros and cons that each type of rawhide poses.



To help you decide which variety of rawhide best suits your pooch, consider the following:

1. Granulated Rawhides. Dog chews made out of granulated rawhides, also known as extruded rawhides, are considered to be the softest. This kind comes in small amounts and tends to crumble easily which make it especially suitable for puppies and other light chewers.

2. Rolled or Cut Rawhides. This type is normally rolled or made into strips and then shaped into bone forms, typically with a knot on both ends. The flat knotted chew bones are a little softer as compared to the rolled ones. Because the knots on each end can be chewed off easily, care should be taken so as to keep Fido from swallowing it whole. This rawhide is particularly great for average chewers.

3. Compressed Rawhides. This kind is commonly made from many layers of rawhides that are compressed into a specific shape, oftentimes, into a bone but minus the knots. This brings about an extremely dense and very hard rawhide dog chew that certainly lasts for a long time. This is the only variety of rawhide that fits the chewing needs of large breed dogs as well as aggressive chewers.

4. Other Types. The other kinds include the chew flips, strips, and chips. These are smaller, flat portions taken from rawhide sheets. These types soften easily and are usually the appropriate size when it comes to swallowing whole. These varieties are not good for large dogs and puppies, as well as aggressive and active chewers.

If you're looking for a safer alternative to rawhide, but one that your dog will love just as much, many options are available. Many dogs love a pig's ear or hoof. Bully sticks are long-lasting and delicious. Antlers are flavorful and fun to chew (and indestructible!). And, special bones made of nylon that are flavored are also great for chewing.

By: Brandy Arnold

A Brief Overview

Rawhides are basically made from the innermost coating of a cow's hide. After cleaning and drying it, the piece is cut, rolled, and then shaped into different forms. While the US-processed rawhides are not subjected to any type of chemical treatment that may harm the dogs, some reports reveal that rawhides produced in other countries have toxic substances in them such as chrome and arsenic.

Please, when feeding your dog any type of treat, check its country of origin. The US has much stricter regulations for manufacturers than many other countries that have no such regulations in place for pet products.

There are many types of rawhide chews which typically include granulated, rolled, and compressed varieties. Each kind differs in appearance, texture, size, and hardness. Some can even be flavored. The type of rawhide you buy will depend on the kind of chewing style your pooch has.

How to Make the Right Choice

The primary danger in letting a dog eat rawhide chew toys is when blockages occur; thereby, requiring surgery. This commonly happens when your dog rips huge chunks out of the rawhide, swallows them, and the pieces later get stuck in his digestive system. It's always best to monitor your dog's chewing habits and don't leave him unattended with rawhide. At the very least, monitor him until you are comfortable that he isn't able to swallow pieces of it.

Tips For Handling Previously Abused Dogs www.dogingtonpost.com

If you got a rescue dog that used to be abused, then you are more likely going to have problems in training him, and you may need to study these Tips For Handling Previously Abused Dogs. This is because abused dogs behave differently than most dogs – they have trust issues due to their traumatic experiences, and you will need to exert more effort and be more patient to regain his trust. In this article, we are going to give you some information, pointers and Tips For Handling Previously Abused Dogs.



how much the dog was abused and what it has faced during its traumatic experiences.

The actions that could possibly trigger your dog's aggression or fear if he was abused are the following:

- Sudden gestures
- Raising your voice (either to the dog or to other people)
- Saying a word or term that was used by the former owner
- Raising a hand, as if to hit
- Touching the dog in a wounded area
- Using objects like tennis rackets or ball bats

If you do one of these actions and your dog starts to bark or growl aggressively, then try to avoid that behavior. Also note that because your dog has trust issues, it may not be easy to pet or groom him; that is why you will need to train him to trust you and other people first.

Special training is required for abused dogs, because of their fear and trust issues. Be gentle with your voice and gestures and always try to calm him down. You will very likely need the assistance of a behavioral trainer, but be sure to take part in the training procedure so that you will be able to gain your dog's trust, and that you will eventually be seen as the "alpha" dog.

Adopting a dog that has been abused can be a very rewarding experience. In most cases, the effects of the abuse can be reversed over time. However, it is important to remember that the dog comes to you with a history in which humans were not very kind. It can take a lot of time and patience to prove to the dog that not all humans are mean.

Dealing with a dog with such a past is probably the biggest challenge a dog owner will ever face. Hopefully these Tips For Handling Previously Abused Dogs will be of help.

By: Ron Miller

Tips For Handling Previously Abused Dogs

First of all, a dog that has been abused usually displays a lot of fear, or it may react by being overly aggressive. It is easily startled and is afraid of even the simplest things, like if you suddenly raise your voice or make a loud noise, it moves as if it is startled or alarmed. Because of his traumatic past, he will think that you are angry or will hit him violently. Often you can tell if a dog has been abused if he is afraid of sounds that normal dogs don't react to, like ambulance sirens, loud noises and fireworks.

Abused dogs also have the tendency to hide under or behind some object such as furniture, trying to avoid danger and be safe. Again, this stems from its fear of its previous handlers, because they are afraid of being hit..

However, not all abused dogs exhibit this behavior. In fact, some have become totally aggressive due to being provoked all the time. It is quite the same in human nature as it is in dogs – when a person is exposed to violence, he or she will eventually adapt to the situation and return the violence he or she received. Dogs may also become paranoid about possible threats, and become angry or aggressive and may even attack people or other dogs. This kind of aggression depends on

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Next Meeting

Thursday, July 12th at 7:00 p.m.
At the Dog Museum in Queeny Park
We love having happy healthy Golden Retrievers
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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