

GGRR NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 4

Issue Number 3

Date: March 2007

* * * Meeting Notice * * *

Date: Thursday, March 8th

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Place: The Museum of the Dog

Robert Orta will be speaking at our April GGRR meeting. Mr. Orta is the area representative for Merial, the maker of Heartgard. It is possible for dogs to get a **false negative** reading on heartworm tests, so he will explain what responsible dog owners need to know about preventing heartworm disease.

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.



Rob Schenberg demonstrates how Maggie, a former GGRR dog, supports his weight as he rights himself. A service dog needs to be able to help a person into a standing position after a fall.

A very informative presentation by Rob Schenberg began our meeting. Rob has spent many years training both dogs and their handlers. He currently is head trainer at the Chesterfield Petropolis. Rob trains dogs for a variety of uses, including police work, search and rescue, drug-sniffing dogs, and service dogs. Rob said there were over 80,000 requests for service dogs in our country last year. The wait for one of these trained dogs can range from two to seven years. One of the biggest reasons is that 75% of the dogs who begin training as working dogs are not able to successfully complete the necessary requirements. Rob and Maggie, a former GGRR dog who had too much energy to be suitable as a pet, demonstrated some of the skills a support dog needs. Maggie demonstrated her ability to retrieve a variety of items including a dime, a shoe, keys, and a cane. Rob used a laser pointer to direct Maggie's attention to the item she was to retrieve. She can open and close a refrigerator door and retrieve the desired items. Maggie is scheduled to go to Korea this summer to work in a school for children with physical handicaps. Rob also discussed training issues that arise with pet dogs. He reviewed the desired sequence of steps: command, correct (if needed), praise, and bait. He said that reinforcement, either positive or negative, should be given within 1.3 seconds in order to be effective. He also stated that a child under the age of eleven is usually not capable of training a dog. The dog generally views a child as an

equal or a subordinate, and therefore may choose to ignore a given command. Austin, a 5 year old member of the audience, was chosen to demonstrate that even a trained dog like Maggie will choose to ignore commands given by someone she views as subordinate. Most of us learned a few new things to try at home with our own dogs. We're expecting to see some well-behaved canine companions at our next meeting!



Maggie obeys 5 year old Austin's command to lay down during Rob Schenberg's presentation. One thing Austin learned at our meeting is that he wants a Golden Retriever of his own!

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 8th:

The business portion of the meeting was called to order at 8:40 p.m. by President Pat Moran. Heather moved and Paul seconded that we dispense with the reading of the minutes from the January meeting. The motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Pat reminded members that dues for 2007

are due and are also tax-deductible for people who itemize their deductions. Checks or cash can be given to Barb after the meeting or sent to her by mail.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Beth reported a beginning balance of \$ **6,234.26**. Our income was **\$1,817.19** and expenses were **\$1,569.18**, leaving an ending balance of **\$6,482.27**. The balance in the Flash Fund remains the same since we receive quarterly statements from that account. We have **\$3,021.94** in the Flash Fund.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

We had 4 membership inquiries during the past month, and two families became members. Welcome to Carrie Gassaway and Lee and Becky Rottmann. We had a number of visitors at our meeting, including the Rottmanns with their Golden George and Gracie; Ron and Marla Hamlin with their new pup Max; Tony and Vivian Regna, Marlene Hunter; and Kristen Carter with her mom, Janet O'Neal. It was great to see so many new faces!

INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Three dogs have come into GGRR during the past month:

07-005: Sophie, a 4 year old female

06-027R: Buck, a 13 month old male

(number must be located) **Copper**, a 7-1/2 year old male who is being returned

ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Six dogs were placed in their forever homes during the past month:

06-025 Buttercup (now known as Belle)

07-002 Boomer

07-003 Remington

06-034 Sophie

07-001 Harley (now known as Haley)

06-030 Susie

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Chris reported that our application for the St. Pat's parade has been accepted. The parade will be starting at 9:00 a.m. this year, so we'll all be getting an early start. If you plan to walk in the parade, please let Chris Rogers know so she can email directions to you. We are usually toward the end of the parade, so we have a long wait before our section actually starts moving. Bring a lawn chair and some water or coffee so you are comfortable while we wait. We will have a sag wagon driving behind us in case people or dogs get tired. We can put the chairs in Chris's van before we start to walk. The parade will be held on Saturday, March 17th.

Chris reminded members that she will be placing an order for GRRR apparel in the next couple of days. Please see her after the meeting if you want to order a St. Pat's sweatshirt; GRRR sweatshirt, t-shirt, or jacket; fleece jackets and vests, or anything else with our logo. Pat Moran has made arrangements for our dogs to wear matching green bandanas in the St. Pat's

parade. Pat's sister will embroider them with your dog's name and a picture of a Golden Retriever. The cost of the bandanas will be \$2.00. Pat circulated a list so people could sign up to order bandanas for their dogs.

Our next adoption day at the Lucky Dog in Webster Groves is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 17th. Eileen Combs is scheduled to be there with one of her dogs.

The Golden Retriever Specialty will definitely be held on April 6 – 8, which is Easter weekend. Please check your schedule and see if you might be available to work on Saturday or Sunday for this event. Chris will circulate a sign-up sheet at our next meeting.

The Golden Retriever will be Guest Dog of the Month at the Dog Museum on Sunday, May 20th. GRRR will have a booth in the lobby with some of our dogs. Our goal is to educate the public about this wonderful breed so that people make informed decisions when choosing the breed of dog for their family pet. While Golden Retrievers make great family pets, they aren't necessarily the best choice for every family. Check your schedule to see if you might be able to help staff our booth on that day.



EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT: (cont.)

Eileen Combs reported that the picnic committee held its first meeting. Committee members volunteered to be responsible for chairing the various subcommittees. Eileen brought a poster listing side dishes of food that will be needed for the picnic. Please sign up for the item of your choice. You will also be able to sign up for your choice at the next meeting. The picnic date is Sunday, May 6th at Love Park. To reach the park, drive down Manchester Rd. to Mason Lane (not Mason Road!). Mason Lane will take you directly into the park. Pat Moran is responsible for collecting donations for our picnic raffle. She has already sent out approximately 100 letters to restaurants, golf courses, spas that offer massages, etc. Many employers are willing to donate items when they know the items are used for a charitable cause. Please help Pat by either donating an item of value yourself or by asking for a donation from merchants with whom you do business. Pat recently received our first donation—4 tickets to a Gateway Grizzlies game, which is a minor league baseball team. Yea, Pat! Paul will post a copy of Pat's letter on our website so members can print and present it to merchants when they are asking for a donation.

WEBSITE COORDINATOR:

Paul reported the following website numbers for the month of January:

81,010 hits
14,481 page views
12,820 visitors
3,241 unique visitors

18% of the website traffic came from California during January, while 20% was from Missouri. A new feature has been added to the website. People who have previously adopted dogs from us will be able to update their contact information just by clicking on the moving banner and making the necessary changes. This feature will allow people who have had a change of address to receive an invitation to our reunion picnic.

OLD BUSINESS:

None



Casey Tracy (a.k.a. Paperboy), Always Ready, Willing, and Able!

For Casey, "fetching" the paper consists of a human going outside and handing the paper off to a more than ready Golden. Casey is not quite ready to go into the big scary world by himself yet.

NEW BUSINESS:

Heather Haberstroh announced that her employer, Enterprise Fleet Management, selected GRRR to benefit from an employee fundraising activity during the first quarter. There are a total of 3 organizations selected (GRRR, APA, and Faery Tails Corgi Rescue) to receive donations. The program is part of Enterprise's commitment to strengthen our local communities.

A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Paul to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

WAGS AND BRAGS:

Nikon Wollenberg, a Golden owned and trained by member Pamela Wollenberg, recently earned his Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) Obedience Championship. Pamela made a donation to GRRR in honor of Nikon's accomplishment. Keep bringing those titles home, Pamela! Way to go, Nikon!

Bob Barker Blacksher has completed his 2nd class out of 6 in beginning obedience at Westinn's Under One Woof. It takes about 10 minutes to coax Bob into the car without Max being able to join him; but once he gets to class, Bob does really well—as long as Barb doesn't use that scary clicker!

RAINBOW BRIDGE:

Scooby Loomis, our beloved 8 year old Golden, suddenly passed away on February 20, 2007. The vet believes that

Scooby had Immune Mediated Hemolytic Anemia in addition to either liver disease or cancer. I still remember when we got him at 5 months of age (already weighing 58 pounds!) how afraid he was of everything. Over time, he became more sure of himself. He was my shadow. Everywhere I was, Scooby was right behind. He enjoyed sleeping in our bed, although he was a bed hog at times. He would bark at me when he was tired and wanted to go to bed. Of course, he wouldn't consider going to bed without me! Scooby was great with the kids and Winnie. He will surely be missed !!!!!

- Cindi Loomis and family



Bailey Hamlin proudly displays her LAM scarf. LAM stands for lymphangiomyomatosis, a rare lung disease which almost exclusively affects women. Mom Marla, who has been diagnosed with LAM, hopes to receive a double lung transplant.

Bailey Lynn Hamlin
September 21, 1999 – January 3, 2007

In Memory of Bailey Lynn Hamlin, our Golden Girl

Three years ago, we applied for a dog from GRRR, and you came into our lives.

RAINBOW BRIDGE: (cont.)

You were 4 ½ years old and so beautiful. We knew you were our gift from God. You were named Bailey--we had planned to name our dog Bailey. You needed to lose 15 lbs.—I needed to lose 15 lbs! You were left pawed—I was left handed. Your prior owner had a heart transplant—I'm waiting for a double lung transplant!! You were our Golden Girl; our Mizzou Girl; our sweet, sweet partner. You went wherever we went--even on our boat, although you weren't too happy about that ride!!.

We are grateful for the short time we had you. You bounced back at Christmas, and we called you our "Miracle Dog." You lived longer than the vet expected!!! You sensed we needed another Golden, so you lived long enough so we could bring Max into our lives to fill the hole in our hearts that losing you would cause. You know, Bailey, he has your sweet, sweet spirit. We miss you so much!!! Thank you all for this gift of unconditional love.

- Ron and Marla Hamlin



Bailey Hamlin is shown with her new canine brother, Max, who arrived several days before Bailey crossed over the Bridge. Bailey was diagnosed with liver failure that was probably due to extended use of Phenobarbital, which was needed to control her seizures. The Hamlins were the lucky family chosen to adopt Max, who was acquired from Love a Golden. GRRR did not have any puppies available for adoption.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

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

Barb Blacksher
26 Cynthiaana 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.

IF I DIDN'T HAVE ANIMALS

I could walk around the yard barefoot in safety.

My house could be carpeted instead of tiled and laminated.

All flat surfaces, clothing, furniture, and cars would be free of hair.

When the doorbell rings, it wouldn't sound like a kennel.

When the doorbell rings, I could get to the door without wading through fuzzy bodies who beat me there.

I could sit on the couch and my bed the way I wanted, without taking into consideration how much space several fur bodies would need to get comfortable.

I would not have strange presents under my Christmas tree—dog bones, stuffed animals, toys, treats—not would I have to explain to people why I wrap them.

IF I DIDN'T HAVE ANIMALS

(cont.)

I would have money . . . and no guilt to go on a real vacation.

I would not be on a first-name basis with six veterinarians, as I put their yet unborn grandkids through college

The most used words in my vocabulary would not be: out, sit, down, come, no, stay, and leave him/her/it ALONE.

My house would not be cordoned off into zones with baby gates or barriers.

My house would not look like a day care center, toys everywhere.

My pockets would not contain things like poop bags, treats, and an extra leash.

I would no longer have to spell the words B-A-L-L, F-R-I-S-B-E-E, W-A-L-K, T-R-E-A-T, B-I-K-E or C-A-R.

I would not have as many leaves INSIDE my house as outside.

I would not look strangely at people who think having ONE dog/cat ties them down too much.

I'd look forward to spring and the rainy season instead of dreading "mud" season.

I would not have to answer the question, "Why do you have so many animals?" from people who will never have the joy in their lives of knowing they are loved unconditionally by someone as close to an [angel](#) as they will ever get.

How empty my life would be.

**TO ADOPT OR SURRENDER A DOG, CALL THE
GGRR 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

Far too many of us in GGRR have lost a beloved Golden during the past year--much sooner than we ever believed possible. The following column appeared in the February 1, 2007 edition of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch after the death of the racehorse Barbaro. I think every animal lover can identify with the sentiments expressed by the author. Barb

IN LOVING MEMORY . . .

by Kim Kitson

The announcement on Monday came with little fanfare: "The Associated Press reports that Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro was euthanized this morning."

For some, the news produced little more than a fleeting pause in the course of a busy day. For others, it rekindled the debate over whether the so-called sport of kings could be made more humane and, if so, how.

And for many who had watched closely the colt's valiant struggle to recover from devastating injuries suffered during the Preakness Stakes last May, the news touched a place deep in our hearts for reasons unknown or, perhaps, simply beyond words.

I think many of us have known a Barbaro in some way—at least those of us who have been lucky enough to forge a bond with an animal at some point in our lives. Maybe it wasn't a half-ton racehorse with mesmerizing speed and athleticism. Maybe it was a scrappy terrier who raced beside our bicycle on warm summer days in childhood or a luxurious calico cat who held court from the bedroom window seat.

Whatever the size or the species, the connection is the same. These creatures look to us to care for them, to fulfill such basic needs as water, food and shelter. But they also seem to want more. They improvise mischief to gain our attention, express gratitude for a pat on the head or a scratch behind the ears. They thump a tail, sigh, squeeze their eyes shut, dissolve in a puddle of contentment.

In these simple actions, they give us much in return, eager to do what we ask of them, whether it is chasing a ball, warming a lap, braving numbing water to retrieve a bird—or racing a mile and a quarter at blinding speed.

Ultimately, they also depend on us for a merciful end when the time is right. Determining that moment is a task dreaded by anyone who ever has loved an animal, especially given how difficult it is to know for certain that the decision is the right one. We hope that somehow our animals will let us know with a look or a sign that they have given up the fight, that pain has become unbearable. Some will fight to the end as Barbaro did because never giving up is something we always have asked of them. In such terrible circumstances, we are obliged to step up and take charge, to allow them to relinquish the effort and close their eyes with a final sigh—much as Barbaro's owners, Roy and Gretchen Jackson, and his veterinarian, Dean Richardson, did on Monday.

Today, somewhere, a brokenhearted couple is softly stroking their adored tabby for the last time. Somewhere, parents and children are whispering their goodbyes to the dog who has lived with and loved them for so many years.

And throughout Kentucky, where Barbaro inhaled the sweet smell of bluegrass; in Pennsylvania, where so many fought so hard for so long to save him; and across the United States, strangers grieve for a strapping colt who riveted our attention and captured our hearts with his speed, grace and gallantry.

We were humbled by your courage, Barbaro, inspired by your valor and privileged to have you among us for a brief shining time.

Kim Kitson lives in South St. Louis with two dogs, Riley and Max, and a cat named Tiger. Her horse, Valentino, a retired hunter-jumper, lives in Jefferson County.