



# GGRR Newsletter

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March 2012

## March 2012 Newsletter

Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue  
P.O. Box 31700  
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Come see GGRR at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Downtown St. Louis on Saturday, March 17th

#### February 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 Tom S. and passed. There were no corrections to the minutes.

#### President's Report

Tim M. asked if anyone could help with our online applications. If you would like to volunteer, please see Tim after the meeting.

#### Treasurer's Report

Pat M. reported that our balance in our checking was \$2,714.11 at the beginning of the month. Income was \$410.00 (\$39.72 from our Schnucks Escript cards) and our expenses were \$668.68 leaving us with an ending balance of \$2,495.15.

#### Membership Report

Amy G. was absent so Tim M. gave her report.. We had 2 inquiries in the month of December and 1 in the month of January. We also had one new member in the month of December and 0 in the month of January. There was one visitor at the meeting.

#### Intake Report

Penny M. was absent so Tim M. gave her report. We had two dogs come in in the last month.

012-001 Max—a 5 year old neutered male who was found running on a road.



012-002 Stevie—a 1 year old male surrendered to a no kill shelter. He has vision issues and runs into things a lot. The Rutowskis have been fostering this guy and they took him to Columbia to a neurologist who thinks that he might just have something wrong with his brain because his eyes are okay. There is a vet tech there who would like to adopt him and he would get the special care he needs. We cannot adopt

Stevie out to a family until we know his issues and they are taken care of. This vet tech could give him the proper care he requires. We will know more next meeting.

#### Adoption Report

Mike S. reported that we placed three dogs in their forever home in the previous month:

- 011-024 Chase
- 011-025 Ally
- 012-001 Max



## GRR Events

### Upcoming Events

Penny M. is looking for some volunteers to help February 10-12th at an Agility event at the Equestrian Center. We will get a donation for helping. Please contact her if you are interested.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown St. Louis is Saturday, March 17th. The parade will start at 11:30 a.m. this year. It starts at Jefferson and Market and goes down to Busch Stadium. If you

need a green GRR sweatshirt or hoodie, see Chris R. Anything green is fine to wear, you do not have to have a GRR sweatshirt to walk in the parade. Just bring your dog and be ready for some fun!

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 res-

cue parade. We will also have a vendor booth at this event. More info to come on this event along with a list of jobs volunteers are needed for so you can sign up.

**March Meeting**  
**Training Topic:**  
**Online Applications &**  
**Phone Interviews**  
**March 8th, 7:00 p.m.**

## Coordinator Positions for June 2012

There are six coordinator positions that will be up for appointment in June. Please read the following positions and determine if one of them is something you would be interested in. Coordinator positions are 1-year term positions.

### Foster Home Coordinator

The Foster Home Coordinator shall receive all information on any dog needing rescuing. The Foster Home Coordinator shall give each dog a number and maintain a complete list of all dogs currently in the program. Decisions pertaining to the fostering, kenneling or direct re-homing of any dog accepted into the GRR program shall be at the discretion of the Foster Home Coordinator. The Foster Home Coordinator shall work closely with the Adoption Coordinator so that he or she will have current information about all dogs in the program.

### Adoption Coordinator

The Adoption Coordinator shall receive all information on any prospective adopters and shall maintain a complete list of these people. The Adoption Coordinator shall be responsible for selecting the appropriate adopter for any and all dogs in the program.

### Membership Coordinator

The Membership Coordinator shall maintain a complete list of all Rescue members, Supporting members, Honorary members, and volunteers. The Membership Coordinator shall monitor the Volunteer telephone line and respond to inquiries about volunteering and/or membership. The Membership Coordinator shall provide the names and addresses of all members to the person preparing the newsletter. The Membership Coordinator shall collect membership applications and dues and coordinate training of new volunteers or members in any way that may be necessary.

### Events Coordinator

The Events Coordinator shall handle all advertising and publicity for this organization's events. He/she shall be responsible for scheduling events and manpower, promoting the organization, obtaining donated items, etc.

### Newsletter Editor/Coordinator

The Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for the preparing and mailing (emailing) of the monthly GRR newsletter.

### Website Coordinator

The Website Coordinator shall be responsible for the maintenance of the GRR website.

# 10 Urban Pet Myths That Drive Vets Crazy [www.pawnation.com](http://www.pawnation.com)

By Dr. Patty Khuly

Although I keep hoping that its time will come, the Internet hasn't done much to dispel some erroneous thinking on the subject of pet healthcare.

If anything, the Web is fueled by the kind of rumor mill sensibility that leads to even more misinformation on the subject of pet health and pet care. Case in point: the widespread willingness to believe that someone actually microwaved a pet to dry it off.

To that end, here's my list of urban myths that drive me crazy!

## 1. A Cold, Wet, Dry or Warm Nose Tells Us Something

Although some pets' noses might be capable of offering us some useful information, most of them do not - which is why veterinarians do not rely on this information at all when taking stock of a pet's history and physical exam.

## 2. "Happy Pet" Behavior

People have a thing about assuming that pets are really happy when they exhibit certain behaviors, which can lead to all kinds of poor decision-making. A tail wag doesn't always mean that a dog is pleased to see you. A stiff tail wag, in fact, is a sure sign that you should watch your step. A purring cat is not always a content cat. If that were the case, my right arm wouldn't be as scratched up as it is at the moment. After the owner of a new patient swore that her cat was a "purring angel," I reached to pet her and got a sharp set of claws in response to my advance. She was purring though.

## 3. Bad Bloat Advice

Is there any large-breed dog disease that freaks owners out as much as gastric-dilatation volvulus (a.k.a. bloat)? Unlike-

ly. This is probably why there's so much misinformation about the disease all over the Web and in casual conversations. Does drinking cold water give a dog bloat? No. Does using a raised feeder decrease bloat? No.

If you are concerned about bloat at all, just talk with your vet.

## 4. Pet Mouths Are Cleaner Than Yours or Mine

Nope, but there are some caveats. After all, I'd rather be mauled by a dog than lightly bitten by a human with hepatitis C.

## 5. Purebreds Are Healthier Than Mutts

There's been a lot of talk about this lately. Here's the upshot: Purebreds are not necessarily healthier, because they are prone to more genetic diseases.

## 6. People Food Isn't for Pets

In my opinion, this lie would have you believing any comestible that doesn't come canned or kibbled is toxic, will make your pet fat or will automatically put you in the category of "bad pet parent." The unspoken corollary to this message: You need a Ph.D. in nutrition to know how to feed your pets a balanced diet - unless you offer commercial food alone.

## 7. Pregnant Women Can't Scoop Litter

I don't mind if you claim to not be able to clean the litter box for nine whole months, but it isn't really true. Transmission of the organism that causes toxoplasmosis is not possible, as long as you scoop the poop daily, which is how you should do it anyway.

Don't believe me? Here's what the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Pre-

vention has to say on the subject.

## 8. Pets Need to Lick Their Wounds

Wound licking is great for pets if they're simply getting debris off a fresh injury, but continuing to lick only exacerbates inflammation and infection. That's why e-collars exist, and any licking of a surgical site is not a good thing - regardless of what you may have heard about the healing properties of dog saliva.

## 9. Cats Always Land Feet First

I can offer you plenty of examples of a cat who made a splat and broke bones. Cats will not always land on their feet if they don't have enough time to relax and make a complete revolution in the air before landing, or if the surface they land on is irregular.

It should also be inferred from this myth-busting statement that cats do not have 9 lives.

## 10. Mothers Reject Animal Babies Who've Been Held by Humans

OK, some moms will take issue with your human aroma, but the vast majority of domesticated pets won't give a rat's backside whether you touch their babes or not. Wild animals might, but birds, for instance, have little way of knowing whether you've messed with their younglings, since their sense of smell is sorely lacking.

Takeaway points: Feel free to play with newborn puppies and kittens. Downed nests (or babies) should be replaced because they have a better chance of survival that way.



## Donations

*GRR received donations from the following individuals or groups:*

*Chris Wollenberg, in honor of his sister Pamela Wollenberg  
David & Patricia Crooks, of Florissant, MO*



## Old & New Business



### New Business

Mike S. announced that he will be coming up with committees for the Nationals this September. We will need a lot of volunteers to help staff this event. He will have a list of committees at our next meeting so members will have an idea of where they would like to help out.

A motion was made by Julie G. and seconded by Pat M. to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

### Old Business

Our Member Training Session had a pretty poor turnout so we are going to spend a half an hour at the next six meetings going over our Phone Interviews, Dog Visits, Home Visits, etc. If you would like to do more for GRR but aren't sure what that entails, make sure you make it to our upcoming meetings so you can be properly trained on all areas of rescue!

**March's meeting will be online applications and phone interviews. Mark your calendar for March 8th!**



*Photos from last year's St. Patrick's Day Parade.*

## Outdoor Dogs are Miserable, Here's Why From: [www.pawnation.com](http://www.pawnation.com)

By Gina Spadafori

What compels people to get a dog only to keep it isolated outside, away from the family? I have often wondered this as I walk my dogs down streets lined with fences behind which lonely outdoor dogs bark as we go by.

I don't know what they look like and can only guess their size by the deepness of their voices. But I know what the lives of these dogs are too often like. They are animals born to be part of a social structure, a pack or a family, yet this is denied them. They spend their lives on the outside, looking in.

The experts say many of these dogs will never really bond with owners who interact with them so little. When the puppy is no longer cute and the children grow tired of the care they promised to provide, when the destructiveness escalates or the neighbors complain about the noise, it's often just easier to dump the dog than solve the problem.

I have always had difficulty understanding why people want to keep dogs outside. If keeping a beautiful house and yard are of the utmost importance to you, then don't get a dog. If you know someone in your family can't abide a dog in the house, for whatever reason, then don't get a dog. If you can't let a dog be part of your family, then don't get a dog.

You don't get the benefits of companionship from a dog you see so little. You don't even get much in the way of protection from the pet who has no access to the house. And don't count on outdoor dogs as an early warning system. These animals often become such indiscriminate barkers that you couldn't tell from their sound whether the dogs are barking at a prowler or at a toddler riding a tricycle down the street. Besides, people who keep outdoor dogs seem to become quite good at ignoring the noise they make, as any angry neighbor can vouch.

Outdoor dogs often become a problem to their owners. Bored and lonely, these animals develop any number of bad habits. They dig craters in the yard. They bark endlessly day and night. They become chewers of outdoor furniture, sprinkler heads and siding. And sometimes, without the socialization all dogs need, they become aggressive, ready to bite anyone who comes into their territory.

If you're considering getting a puppy or dog with the intent of keeping him exclusively outside, please reconsider -- for the animal's sake as well as your own and your neighbors'. For those who love pets, a pristine home is nothing compared to the pleasures of living with an animal who's really bonded to you.

If you have a dog who has been banished because of behavior problems, find someone to help you turn the situation around. Ask your veterinarian for a referral to a behaviorist or trainer who can show you how to overcome the things that are driving you crazy, whether it's house-soiling, uncontrolled chewing or just the ill-mannered exuberance of a dog who doesn't know any better.

Allergies are a tad trickier, but an allergist may be able to help, along with attention to keeping the house and pets cleaner, using air cleaners and turning bedrooms into no-pet zones for allergy-free sleep.

It's worth the effort. Once you have a dog you can welcome into your home and your heart, you'll start to reap the benefits of a relationship that's finally being realized to its fullest potential. And that's good news for you both.



## Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue

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### Next Meeting

Thursday, March 8th 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!

Online Applications &  
Phone Interview Training  
will take place at this meeting!

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

### Officers

#### President

Tim Miget

tsemiget@charter.net

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#### Secretary

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#### Membership Representative

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### Coordinators

#### Intake Coordinator

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#### Adoption Coordinator

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#### Membership Coordinator

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#### Events Coordinator

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#### Webmaster

Paul Swarthout

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### Mentors

#### Intake Phone Lines

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#### Adoption Phone Lines

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#### Home Visits & Dog Visits

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#### Foster Homes

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