

# GGRR Newsletter

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March 2013

## March 2013 Newsletter

Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue  
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#### February Meeting Minutes

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

#### President's Report

Mike S. expressed his concern as why we are not getting as many calls on dogs. Julie M. is going to help call shelters every week to see if they have any Goldens. This spring Mike will start mini training sessions at our meetings. Look to the newsletter to see what the topic will be for each meeting.

#### Treasurer's Report

Kathy D. gave the following report on



our accounts:  
Beginning Balance: \$3,861.16  
Income: \$210.00 (\$27.90 Escript)  
Expenses: \$3,099.25  
Ending Balance: \$999.81  
Flash Fund: \$34,824.98

#### Membership Report

Judy S. reported that she had six membership inquiries and two new members, Katherine G. and Luke M.

They were present at the meeting and are interested in fostering.

#### Intake Report

Michelle F. reported that we have had a few leads but no new dogs.

#### Adoption Report

Mike S. reported that zero dogs have been adopted in the last month. We do have a family that is interested in Stevie and they are taking him for a trial

run and will most likely keep him.

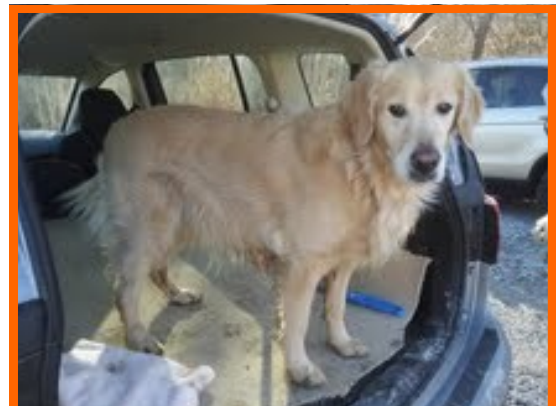
#### Website Report

Paul S. reported on our website traffic for the previous month:

Page Views: 18,418  
Visits: 10,865  
Hits: 103,221

**GGRR Volunteer Renewal Forms are Due!**  
 \$20.00 per Family for the entire year.  
 Please renew only if you plan on volunteering for our organization in one way or another this year.  
**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!!**

Load up your Golden and meet us in Downtown St. Louis on March 16th for the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. (See Page 2 for more info.)



## GGRR Events

### Next GGRR Meeting

Thursday, March 14th at 7:30 p.m. at the Dog Museum in Queeny Park. This month's mini training session will be on Foster Home Procedures. (See Page 4 for more information.)

### Bark In the Park

Julie G. announced that we were invited to participate in Bark in the Park. Due to the cost, we will not be participating.

### Sam's Club & Service Animals

Julie also announced that she spoke with the person that is the head of Wal-Mart and Sam's for their grant program. They are willing to send out volunteers to help out at events or whatever



we need them for and they will also donate that person's salary to GGRR for their time. Mike S. will look into more information on this.

### St. Patrick's Day Parade in Downtown St. Louis

The parade will be held on Saturday, March 16th in Downtown St. Louis. We are #70 in the parade. We need to meet at 10:30 a.m. at the beginning of the parade at Jefferson and Market and it will go down to Busch Stadium. Please dress for the weather in lots of green and bring your dogs out to give GGRR a good showing in the parade. We will have water for the dogs in one of the vans that will drive in the parade. If you have any questions about the parade, please contact Chris R.

## St. Patrick's Day One-Liner Jokes [www.jokes4us.com](http://www.jokes4us.com)

Q: Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?

A: Because they're always a little short.

Q: What's Irish and stays out all night?

A: Paddy O'furniture!

Q: How is a best friend like a 4-leaf clover?

A: Because they are hard to find and lucky to have.

Q: Why wasn't Jesus born in Ireland?

A: He couldn't find 3 wise men or a virgin.

Q: How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time?

A: He's Dublin over with laughter!

Q: What do you get when you cross a pillowcase with a stone?

A: A sham rock

Q: Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?

A: Regular rocks are too heavy.

Q: Why don't you iron 4-leaf clovers?

A: Because you don't want to press your luck.

Q: How did the Irish Jig get started?

A: Too much to drink and not enough restrooms!

Q: Why did God invent Jameson whiskey?

A: So the Irish would never rule the world.

Q: What's the main difference between an Irish wedding and an Irish funeral?

A: 1 less drunk at the party

Q: What would you get if you crossed Christmas with St. Patrick's Day?

A: St. O'Claus!

Q: What would you get if you crossed Quasimodo with an Irish football player?

A: The Halfback of Notre Dame!

# Old & New Business

## Old Business

Mike S. showed concern about how few dog calls we've had in the last few months. Where are all of the Golden Retrievers? Julie M. has volunteered to help call the area shelters to see if they are getting any Golden Retrievers in.

We have been asked to do the "Dog of the Week" at the Dog Museum. Mike will ask the Golden Club to do it with us at their February meeting.

There was discussion about our adds and if they are working. Tim M. reported that he ran adds for volunteers in the



West Magazine, Ladue News and The Call. After some discussion it was decided that we will run them again for another month or so. It was also discussed that we should try running one in the Kirkwood Webster Times.

## New Business

Mike S. announced that the St. Louis Drag Boat Association is hosting a trivia night on April 27th. It's \$20 per person and will be held at the St. Ann Community Center. See Mike S. if you would like to attend.

A motion was made by Paul S. and seconded by Kathy D. to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



## DONATIONS

**GGRR received donations from the following individuals and groups:**

**Paul and Nanette Swarthout**



*May your pockets be heavy and your heart be light.  
May good luck pursue you each morning and night.*



## Have you paid your GGRR dues?

### Volunteer Renewal Forms are Due!

Please send your \$20.00 and  
Renewal Form to Judy S.,  
Membership Coordinator, **ASAP!**





# Foster Home Care Procedures Training Session for March Meeting

## Objectives

- To provide basic, humane care including adequate shelter and food.
- To provide appropriate medical care.
- To evaluate the dog's personality and physical condition.
- To provide lots of tender loving care.

## Procedure (Abbreviated)

1. GGRR will place a rescue Golden in a foster home with all of the necessary paperwork and belongings.
2. The foster home will provide the necessary veterinary care.
3. The Intake Coordinator will suggest a veterinarian to the foster home.
4. Foster homes should assess the dog's physical condition and be responsible for the general care of the dog.
5. Foster homes should evaluate the dog's personality.
6. The foster home is responsible for basic training of the dog.
7. The foster home is responsible for the altering of the dog if age is suitable.
8. Foster homes should make at least two copies of all medical information on each dog.
9. The Adoption Coordinator will contact the foster home when a potential adopter is interested in the rescue dog.
10. The foster home will contact this person and talk to them about the rescue dog and arrange for a visit if they are interested.
11. When the potential adopter arrives, observe his reaction to the dog and the dog's reaction to him.
12. Give the adopter a copy of the Adoption Agreement to read. Make sure that he understands the agreement completely and is willing to comply with the terms.
13. If the adopter has another dog(s), we suggest that he bring his own dog(s) and arrange for all dogs to meet in a neutral area.
14. When the visit is over, give the applicant your phone number to contact you after the required 24 hour waiting period.
15. If the adopter calls and wants to adopt the dog, arrange a mutually convenient time and place for transferring the rescue dog.
16. Have the adopter sign two copies of the Adoption Agreement and give them a copy.
17. The rescue dog's folder complete with a copy of the vet records, transfer statement, AKC papers (if applicable) and a copy of the Adoption Agreement will be given to the Adoption Coordinator.
18. The foster home will contact the adoptive family in one week to check on the dog's adjustment to his new home.

## Foster Home Regulations (Abbreviated)

Foster homes are expected to abide by the same regulations that our adoptive families agree to when adopting a dog from GGRR. Some of these regulations include:

1. The adopter agrees that the dog will be kept as a house dog, not as an outside dog or a kennel dog. The adopter also agrees that the dog will not be kept chained or on a tie-out while unsupervised at any time.
2. The adopter agrees that the dog will be leashed when out of a fenced yard and will not be transported in the back of an open vehicle.
3. The adopter agrees to contact GGRR if the said dog is lost for more than 48 hours or is stolen.

**Come to our March Meeting  
to learn more on  
Foster Home Procedures.**

## Easter Hazards in Dogs [www.petplace.com](http://www.petplace.com)

As Easter approaches, many of us look forward to the excitement of Easter festivities like Easter egg hunts, Easter baskets filled with chocolate bunnies and jelly beans, and parades. But the joys of Easter can mean danger for your pets. Each year thousands of pets are injured and/or become deathly ill. To keep your pet safe, you should be aware of some common Easter pet perils.

**Easter Lilies** (and others such as the day lily and the tiger lily). For many, the beautiful trumpet-shaped white flowers symbolize purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life -- the spiritual essence of Easter. Cat owners, however, need to be especially careful with these beautiful flowers because their leaves contain toxins that can cause severe kidney damage. So far, toxicity has not been reported in dogs.

Eating just one leaf of this toxic plant can result in severe poisoning and within a short time your cat will exhibit signs of toxicity. Minutes to hours after ingestion, your cat may stop eating and begin vomiting. As the toxins begin to affect the kidneys, your pet may become lethargic, and within five days, kidney failure will cause death.

If you suspect your cat has eaten part of a lily plant, it is important that you contact your veterinarian immediately. If treatment is started early, chances for recovery are good, but once the kidneys have been severely affected, your cat may not survive.

Obviously, the best prevention of lily toxicity is to keep the plants away from your kitty. If you bring Easter lilies into the house, keep them in a separate room where your nibbling cat cannot enter.

**Plastic Easter Grass and Other Goodies.** Like children, cats and dogs love to nibble on goodies in the Easter basket. Unfortunately, our curious pets enjoy everything in the basket, even the colorful plastic grass, toys and foil-wrappers on candies.



Take care to keep Easter baskets away from your dog and your cat. The plastic in Easter grass is non-digestible and can get caught in the intestines, leading to blockage and possible perforation. Cats love string-like objects and often play with the grass before eating it. Once ingested, the grass, as well as small plastic toys, can cause choking or become lodged in the stomach or intestines and create an obstruction.

Your pet may also ingest ribbons, bows, streamers and other decorative items -- even ribbons and bows tied around their necks. Don't be tempted to decorate your puppy or kitty; they don't enjoy it and it may result in choking or strangulation. Keep these items away from your pet and throw candy wrappers in a covered trash can.

If you suspect that your pet has ingested something that may not pass through his intestinal tract, contact your veterinarian. Waiting until your dog or cat starts to vomit will make removal of the object more difficult and costly. Also, if you notice a sudden loss of appetite, vomiting, excessive drooling or abnormal bowel movements, consult with your veterinarian immediately.

**Chocolate Toxicity.** Did you know that chocolate can poison your pet? Chocolate is toxic to both cats and dogs, and other candies and wrappers can become lodged in the stomach or cause your pet to choke.

Chocolate has a high fat content and contains caffeine and theobromine, which stimulate the nervous system and can be toxic if taken in large amounts. Depending on the type of chocolate ingested and the amount eaten, various problems can occur. White chocolate has the least amount of stimulants and baking chocolate has the highest. Here is a list of the most common sources of chocolate and the amount leading to toxicity:

- White Chocolate:** Mild signs of toxicity can occur when 45 ounces per pound of body weight is ingested. Severe toxicity occurs when 90 ounces per pound of body weight is ingested. This means that a 20-pound dog would need to ingest at least 55 pounds of white chocolate to cause nervous system signs.

## Easter Hazards in Dogs *(continued...)*

A 10-pound cat would need to ingest 27 pounds. These high amounts mean that theobromine toxicity from white chocolate is highly unlikely.

•**Milk Chocolate:** Mild signs of toxicity can occur when 0.7 ounces per pound of body weight is ingested. Severe signs occur when 2 ounces per pound of body weight is ingested. This means that a little less than one pound of milk chocolate can be toxic to the nervous system of a 20-pound dog. A 10-pound cat would need to ingest 1/2 pound.

•**Semi-Sweet Chocolate:** Mild signs of toxicity can occur when 1/3 ounce per pound of body weight is ingested. Severe signs occur when 1 ounce per pound of body weight is ingested. This means that as little as 6 ounces of semi-sweet chocolate can be toxic to the nervous system of a 20-pound dog. A 10-pound cat would need to ingest 3 ounces.



•**Instant Cocoa:** Mild signs of toxicity can occur when 1/3 ounce per pound of body weight is ingested. Severe signs occur when 1 ounce per pound of body weight is ingested. This means that as little as 6 ounces of semi-sweet chocolate can be toxic to the nervous system of a 20-pound dog. A 10-pound cat would need to ingest 3 ounces.

•**Baking Chocolate:** Mild signs of toxicity can occur when 0.1 ounce per pound of body weight is ingested. Severe signs occur when 0.3 ounce per pound of body weight is ingested. Two small one-ounce squares of baking chocolate can be toxic to a 20-pound dog. A 10-pound cat would need to ingest 1 ounce of baking chocolate. This type of choco-



late has the highest concentration of caffeine and theobromine and very little needs to be ingested before signs of illness become apparent.

Once toxic levels are eaten, you may notice restlessness, hyperactivity, muscle twitching, increased urination, and excessive panting. The high fat content in chocolate can also cause vomiting and diarrhea.

Make sure that chocolate is kept in a safe place. If you suspect your pet has eaten chocolate, consult your veterinarian immediately. Animals treated for chocolate toxicity generally recover and return to normal within 24 to 48 hours.



## Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue

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### Next Meeting

Thursday, March 14th at 7:30 p.m.  
At the Dog Museum in Queeny Park

We love having happy healthy Golden  
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

### Officers

#### **President**

Mike Stemmler  
mstemmler1012@yahoo.com

#### **Vice-President**

Jim Dilg  
jtrdilg@aol.com

#### **Secretary**

Tracie Grimm  
tbayer80@gmail.com

#### **Treasurer**

Kathy Dierkes  
Kathy\_dierkes@yahoo.com

#### **Membership Representative**

Chris Rogers  
chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net

### Coordinators

#### **Intake Coordinator**

Michelle Frasca  
mickyfl@charter.net

#### **Adoption Coordinator**

Mike Stemmler  
mstemmler1012@yahoo.com

#### **Membership Coordinator**

Judy Stroschik  
jstroschik@charter.net

#### **Events Coordinator**

Julie Goldman  
stargazr@charter.net

#### **Webmaster**

Paul Swarthout  
paul@paulswarthout.com

### Mentors

#### **Intake Phone Lines**

Mike Stemmler  
mstemmler1012@yahoo.com

#### **Adoption Phone Lines**

Pat Moran  
p4021m@sbcglobal.net

#### **Home Visits & Dog Visits**

Shane Stark  
golddog05@mac.com

#### **Foster Homes**

Kathy Dierkes  
Kathy\_dierkes@yahoo.com