



# GGRR Newsletter

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March 2015

## March 2015 Newsletter

Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue  
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### February Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:46 p.m. by President, Mike S. Julie G. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Tim M. and passed. There were no corrections to the minutes.

### President's Report

Mike reported again that classes will be offered when the weather warms up on how to do home visits and dog visits so stay tuned for more information on this.

We are still low on dogs and this seems to be a nationwide problem among rescue groups in the past few years. Dogs being posted on Craigslist is a growing problem that we need to be more aware of and we should be watching to see what is being posted.

### Treasurer's Report

Lynn S. reported on our accounts from the previous months:

#### December

Beginning Balance: \$2,715.96  
Income: \$1,500.00  
Expenses: \$278.38  
Ending Balance: \$3,957.95

Flash Fund: \$25,719.79



### January

Beginning Balance: \$3,957.95  
Income: \$31.06  
Expenses: \$56.00  
Ending Balance: \$3,989.01

Flash Fund: \$25,720.47

### Membership/Volunteer Report

Tim M. reported that we had 6 membership/volunteer inquiries and no new members. There were no visitors at the meeting.

### Intake Report

Michelle F. reported that we had zero dogs come in in the previous month.

### Adoption Report

Penny M. was not present to give her report.

### Website Report

Paul S. was not present to give his report.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Want to help out by doing a Dog Visit or Home Visit in 2015? Want to Foster a Golden in your home?

Contact our President, Mike S. to find out how you can help!

## GRRR Events

### Upcoming Events

#### Next GRRR Meeting

Thursday, March 12th at 7:30 p.m., at the Dog Museum in Queeny Park.

#### St. Patrick's Day Parade — Saturday, March 14th

The Annual Downtown St. Louis St. Patrick's Day parade will be held on Saturday, March 14th. We will march in the parade with our dogs. We are unit number 79 and we will meet on the bridge on Market Street by Sybergs. We need to be ready to go at 11:30 a.m. This will have water for the dogs. If you have any questions, please give her a call. Please wear lots of green and bring your dogs. This is a great PR event for GRRR! The dogs are always a big hit at the parade!



#### Treats Unleashed—Saturday, June 6th

We will have a table set up at Treats Unleashed to pass out information on our group. We will be there from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. More information to come on this event.

#### GRRR Reunion Picnic

Due to the poor attendance at the last couple picnics, it was decided to only have our reunion picnic every other year. This year will be our first "off" year and we will plan on having it next year.



## Old & New Business



### Old Business

Each state will require an AG license from all rescue groups. We will comply with all regulations as the new law takes form.

### New Business

Mike S. announced that we are kicking around the idea of having a "Golden Loves" event. If anyone has any ideas on this, please contact Mike. More information to come as things develop.

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 8:45 p.m.



# 12 Things Humans Do that Annoy Dogs [www.moderndogmagazine.com](http://www.moderndogmagazine.com)

1. Staring—To a dog, stares often translate to challenge. Just watch your dog when he spots a squirrel—her level of fixation isn't friendly interest. The last thing you should do is stare too long at a dog. Though you'll probably have no problem with your own dog (note they still likely won't love it), with others it might be interpreted as a challenge. Instead, ask people to look into your dog's eyes for only a few seconds then break off. And never stare into the eyes of a dog who seems worried, edgy or aggressive!
2. Hugs—Your dog probably won't mind regular hugs from you. But many dogs get annoyed at tight hugging, especially from strangers or children. Unlike primates, canines have no history of grasping each other to show affection. In fact, when a dog puts its paws or body onto another dog, it is usually an attempt at domination or control. So unless your dog eagerly enjoys being hugged, tell friends and family to opt for gentle petting instead.
3. Yelling—Yelling is interpreted by your dog as angry barking, which to her means trouble. As a training technique, it works poorly to shut down bad behaviours and only serves to scare, confuse or agitate. Instead of yelling, stay calm and think tone. A deep tone to your voice means, "Hey, I'd like your attention," while a lighthearted tone means "Good job!" or "Let's play." By adjusting vocal tone instead of volume, you'll get your dog's attention without annoying or scaring her
4. Teasing—Children can be especially guilty of teasing a dog. Barking back at them behind a fence, pulling on tails or ears, or even chasing after or wrestling with an unwilling dog are certainly annoying and can make dogs shy, insecure or even aggressive. Moving a dog's dish while he eats, playing keep-away without ever letting the dog have the toy, or even endless laser pointer sessions can drive a dog bonkers, so lay



off the teasing and be sure to reward your dog quickly after he performs a behavior correctly.

5. Too Much Alone Time—Dogs are social animals and you and your family members comprise your dog's pack. Dogs left alone in a home or yard for ten or more hours each day can develop a myriad of behavioral and psychological issues, including separation anxiety, excessive barking or digging, destructive behavior, or escaping. They can even lose housetraining skills and in the process trash your home. Your dog is a member of your family and, as such, needs to spend time with you. If you work during the day and no one else can be home, ask a friend or neighbor to stop by once each day to take her for a walk. If that's not possible, be sure to spend quality time with her when you return. A walk, a round of fetch—whatever makes her happy. When you are home, let your dog be around you. Interaction with others is critical to your dog's wellbeing, so, however you do it, get her some company.
6. Crowded Dog Parks -Many dogs get annoyed or defensive when thrown into a park filled with too many strange dogs. Think about suddenly being thrown into an elevator with twenty clowns and you'll get the idea. The same goes for doggie daycares. If your dog is sociable, she should get along with six or seven other dogs provided the space is large enough and the dogs well mannered. But increase the numbers or reduce the space and you'll almost certainly see stress like pinned back ears, low tail carriage, yawning, avoidance, and even the occasional fight. Is your dog sociable and physically capable of dealing with roughhousing? If so, try a park or daycare with a reasonable number of dogs (about one dog per 150 square feet). If she's shy, opt instead for socializing her with a few dogs she knows or dogs who are gentle and laidback. Avoid parks or daycare with high densities of frenzied dogs.
7. I was dreaming, dude! Even the nicest dogs hate to be awakened suddenly. Older dogs especially, who tend to sleep more deeply, and those whose impaired hearing might



## 12 Things Humans Do that Annoy Dogs



not allow them to hear someone's approach can get scared by the sudden presence of a person touching them. Let your dog wake up naturally, without touching them or sneaking up. Children especially should be taught not to disturb a dog while he sleeps. You wouldn't like being shocked out of a good dream. Why would your dog? If you do need to wake your dog, do so slowly, quietly, and gently.

8. **Strange Dogs**—Your dog will be wary of new animals entering your home. It's a result of his natural, normal instinct to protect his home turf. But some people, thinking that all dogs instinctively love other dogs, let friends bring their dogs over for impromptu visits. This can annoy even the most congenial dog and might incite a skirmish. Instead, first introduce any strange dog while on a walk. Then bring the new dog into your home on leash and have them both perform down/stays for a few minutes. Reward with treats then let them calmly interact. Pick up toys and chews beforehand to minimize arguments. If you have a fenced yard, let them then go out and burn off some social steam.
9. **Changes to Routine**—Stick to the script. Dogs depend on routine. Feeding and elimination schedules, walks, playtime—your dog engrains these into her brain and expects them to happen each day without much variation. If you randomly change her dinner time, take her out later than usual, or even leave or arrive unpredictably, it can stress your dog and result in behavioral problems. As best as you can, stick to the same times, the same diet, the same ritual play activity—whatever is working. On days off, try not to sleep in too late. And, even if you're tired, take her for that walk each morning before you go to work.
10. **Tight Leash**—One aim of every dog trainer is a loose-leash walk, which shows that the dog is paying attention and focused. But most dogs today seem to drag their people down the street, the leash stretched tight behind them. This means that not only is the dog not paying attention, but also has constant tension on his collar or harness, which can lead to health problems. Though the dog technically creates the tension, it nevertheless annoys her.

Teach loose leash walking by changing the direction and speed of your training walks often and unpredictably. As soon as your dog seems to lose focus, do an about-face and walk the other way, keeping the leash as loose as possible. Slow to a crawl, speed up, circle left or right—whatever she isn't expecting. When she responds to these position and speed changes, reward her with a tidbit that can be eaten on the move, with her beside you. You'll soon have a focused, happy dog at the end of a loose leash.

11. **Inconsistency**—Make up your mind already. You often invite your Golden Retriever to jump up on you when you get home from work. But when your mother comes over to visit, you chastise the dog for doing the exact same thing to her. This discrepancy confuses dogs, who can't figure out what you want them to do. To avoid this, decide exactly on what you do and don't want your dog to do, then stick to it. If jumping is not allowed, then the behavior should never be tolerated. If begging is undesirable, never offer food from your plate. Be as consistent as possible with the rules.
12. **Inadvertently Aggressive Greetings**—Are you greeting or attacking? Most people do not know how to properly greet a dog. They crouch, stare, stretch their hand out, and talk in bizarre baby talk. This is a threatening way to greet a dog. First, the person's crouch mimics a predator's pre-attack posture. The stare is the second threat, only to be topped by the outstretched hand reaching into their space, begging for a nip. Not only is this an annoying way to greet a dog, it's possibly dangerous. The best way to greet a strange dog is not at all. Instead, greet the person with the dog. While doing so, the dog will sniff you and interpret that his person seems to be at ease with you. If the dog seems at ease and his person says it's okay, you can then casually reach down and give the dog a quick pet on the head. That's it.

## 5 Ways to Make the Walk More Interesting

By Juliana Weiss-Roessler

Dogs need walks. Walks provide them with exercise, help you assert your position as Pack Leader, and bring some fun to the day for both of you.

But what do you do when that fun fades and you and your dog seem to just be going through the motions, bored and waiting for the walk to be over so you can go back home? It doesn't have to be this way, and we've come up with five dog-walk tips designed to alleviate boredom for both you and your pup.

**1. Take the road less traveled**—Lots of dog lovers come up with a route that works for them and stick with it forever because that's the easiest thing to do, but over time this can bore both you and your dog. If you want to liven things up, you can make a small change, such as walking the opposite direction on your next walk, or try something completely different and head to a park or dog-friendly beach to hike.

**2. Break it up**—Even if you're taking different routes, the simple routine of going out, walking for a while, and then returning home can get old pretty quickly. Bring back some fun by planning the walk around some other activity, such as going to a dog-friendly restaurant for dinner or shopping in a dog-friendly store. When you're done, you can continue the walk and be happy that you accomplished another task as well.

**3. Add in an obedience training session**—Another way to break up your walk is to make it part of obedience training. When your dog acts up, stop them, so you can correct their behavior and don't continue on the walk until they are calm. Bring treats with you to reward good behavior, and use the [Pack Leader Collar](#) to keep yourself from getting frustrated if your dog doesn't immediately behave.



**4. Walk with other dog owners**—No one is saying that your dog isn't good company, but sometimes it's nice to have other human beings to talk to when you're out on the walk. So call some friends or introduce yourself to other dog owners in the neighborhood and see if you can meet up a few times a week for a dog walk. If you're really feeling ambitious, you can even start your own dog walk club.

**5. Complement the walk with playtime**—A walk doesn't just have to be a walk. Yet another way that you can break it up is by bringing some toys with you and engaging in some play time. One of the best ways to do this is to walk to a park and bring a flying disc, ball, or tug-of-war toy with you to have some fun with your dog while you're out. Just remember to have your dog earn the playtime first by walking calmly by your side or right behind you for twenty or thirty minutes first.



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Want to help out by doing a Dog Visit or Home Visit? Or by Fostering a Dog? Contact our President, Mike S. to find out how you can help!

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### Next Meeting

Thursday, March 12th at 7:30 p.m. at  
the Dog Museum in Queeny Park.

We love having happy healthy Goldens  
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  
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#### **Vice-President**

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### Coordinators

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