

# GGRR NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 4

Issue Number 5

Date: May 2007

## \* \* \* Meeting Notice \* \* \*

**Date: Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 7:15 p.m.**

**Place: The Museum of the Dog**

*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.*



The duck pond was a popular stop for dogs at the 2007 Reunion Picnic. Dogs enjoyed retrieving the ducks for a prize or just laying in the water to cool off.

A very informative presentation by Robert Orta began our meeting. Mr. Orta is a representative of Merial, the company which manufactures Heartgard Plus and Frontline. He spoke on the topics of preventing heartworm, roundworm, hookworm, fleas, and ticks in dogs. It would be impossible to

include all of the information from Mr. Orta's presentation in the newsletter, but here are some of the highlights. The only way heartworm disease can be transmitted is through an infected mosquito. Pups should be started on a heartworm preventative at the age of 4 months. Heartworm larvae live for 2 months under the skin as they develop and molt. It then takes four months for the immature adults to migrate to the heart. **A dog needs to have two heartworm tests 6 months apart before you can be sure they are heartworm negative. Heartgard Plus is the only heartworm preventative on the market that has a guarantee. If your dog has been on Heartgard Plus continuously and tests positive for heartworm, Merial will pay for the dog's heartworm treatment, which generally costs hundreds of dollars. A vet's record that you purchased Heartworm Plus is all that is needed for proof. It is assumed that if you buy the product, you are going to use it. It is also important that you purchase Heartgard Plus for each of your pets so their vet records will show this purchase. Sharing one box between your pets is not advisable, as it will appear that one of the dogs has not been taking heartworm medication. The Merial guarantee is only valid if the purchase of Heartgard Plus is on your pet's vet records. This guarantee is not in effect if you purchase Heartgard Plus from an Internet provider. Online products are sometimes manufactured**



Gracie R. models one of the costumes from the dog dress-up booth at the 2007 Reunion Picnic. She seemed to enjoy her new look!

### Mr. Orta's Presentation: (cont.)

outside the U.S. Heartgard Plus must also be kept within a certain range of temperatures or it will lose its effectiveness. If it is subjected to freezing temperatures or very high temperatures (for example, in a mailbox), it will not be effective. **Heartgard Plus is also effective in preventing both roundworms and hookworms. Merial will pay for treatment if your dog is on their product and contracts either type of worm. People can acquire these parasites through contact with objects or areas contaminated by the fecal matter of an infected dog.** This can occur through toys, sporting equipment, gardening tools, playgrounds, parks, and sandboxes. Children are more susceptible to these worms than adults are due to immature immune systems and because they play on the ground and are more likely to put dirty objects into their mouths. Roundworms in humans can cause damage to internal organs. Roundworms can also become

trapped in the eye, scarring the retina and causing blindness. The CDC estimates that 10,000 humans are infected with roundworms each year. Hookworms in people cause red, itchy skin rashes, called creeping eruptions because of the way they spread. In a study which tested soil in parks, playgrounds, and public sandboxes, 100% of the areas were contaminated with the eggs and larvae of these parasites. **To prevent roundworm and hookworm infection, keep your pets on a preventative; keep your yard free of animal waste; and cover sandboxes when they are not in use.**

The Merial corporation also manufactures Frontline for the control of fleas and ticks. Frontline kills 98-100% of the fleas on your dog, including adults, eggs, and larva. No products on the market will kill fleas in the pupa stage. If you have a flea infestation, 5% on the fleas are on your dog, while 95% of the fleas remain in its environment. After treating your dog with Frontline, you may continue to see fleas on your dog for two to three months until all of the newly hatched adult fleas in your pet's environment are killed. Frontline kills all types of ticks in Missouri within 24 to 48 hours of its application. Ticks can transmit Lyme disease to you and your pet. **For the best flea and tick control, you should use a preventative on your dog (and cats) monthly all year long.**

Mr. Orta also stressed the importance of preventing dental and gum disease in your dog. He suggested asking your vet to check your dog's gums every time you have an appointment. There are 4 grades of gum disease in dogs. You should never let your dog go past Stage 2. He suggested intervening even if your dog is at Stage 1. Keeping your dog's teeth and gums free of

### Mr. Orta's Presentation: (cont.)

disease is important to its overall health. Don't neglect having your dog's teeth cleaned at regular intervals. Mr. Orta also suggested wiping your dog's teeth and gumline with an old sock once or twice a week to prevent the buildup of plaque.

Mr. Orta left informational pamphlets on all of the topics he discussed. If you weren't able to attend his presentation, ask Pat M. for some of the literature he left for us

### MINUTES FROM APRIL 12<sup>th</sup> :

The business portion of the meeting was called to order by president Pat M. It was moved and seconded that we dispense with the reading of the minutes. The following correction was made to the April newsletter: Under the heading of Donations, we received a donation from the local Golden Retriever Club of Greater St. Louis, not the national group. A vote was taken on the motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and the motion carried.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

None

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Our account balance at the beginning of the month was \$5,782.41. Income was \$2501.50. Expenses were \$2,606.13, leaving an ending balance of \$5,677.36. The current balance in the Flash Fund is \$3021.94.



Rich T. tosses a chunk of hot dog to a very attentive Golden at the 2007 Reunion Picnic. Families who have adopted dogs from GGRR are invited to attend the picnic each year.

### MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

We had 2 membership inquiries. Two new members have joined GGRR. Denise Brown, who attended the meeting, and Tara Bolen were added to our roster.

### INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Two dogs were surrendered to GGRR during the past month:

- 07-009 Sillie (renamed Sallie)** a 6 month old female
- 07-010 Portner**, a 5 year old male

### ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

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

- 00-083R Copper**



## ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT: (cont.)

07-007    Faith  
07-005    Sophie

Our list of families waiting for dogs is quite short right now. This is a perfect time to bring a new pet into your home. People who wait until summer will face a much longer wait.

## EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Chris R. circulated a sign-up sheet for adoption days at Lucky Dog. If you and your dog would like to participate and didn't have an opportunity to sign up, please contact Chris.

We are participating in Meet the Golden Retriever on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 4:00 at the Museum of the Dog. The event will take place in the room where our meetings are held. Several people have already agreed to work at this event. If you haven't signed up and want to participate, contact Chris R. The Golden Retriever Club of Greater St. Louis will also be invited to participate with us.

Our Reunion Picnic will be help on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 4:00. Members who plan to work should arrive by 10:00. Wear your blue GGRR shirt if you have one. If not, Eileen has plenty of extras. Personal dogs and foster dogs should be left at home, as we will be handling our guests' dogs and running the carnival games. We have had a good response to Pat's letter requesting raffle donations. These donations include tickets to Cardinal baseball games, Rams football games, the St. Louis Symphony, the



Joan T. wraps a raffle basket in preparation for the 2007 GGRR reunion picnic. Members of the picnic committee met at Beth J.'s house to assemble baskets from the many items that have been donated for the raffle.

Repertory Theater of St. Louis, and a NASCAR race, along with many other items of value. Pat M. has done an awesome job of soliciting donations! There will not be running water due to renovations at Love Park. **Please bring a jug of water to be used for hand washing.** Hand sanitizer will also be provided. **If possible, members should bring a lawn chair for extra seating and for your comfort while working at the game booths.** If you have not yet signed up for a side dish, please contact Eileen C. to see what items are still needed. Burgers and hot dogs, chips, dessert, and drinks will be provided by the club.

## WEBSITE COORDINATOR:

Paul S. reported that our website received 101,571 hits during the past month. There were 17,521 separate page views. The total



The cake walk was a popular event at the 2007 Reunion Picnic. One of the lucky winners walks her dog over to claim its prize.

### **WEBSITE COORDINATOR:** (cont.)

number of visits was 13,347 with 3,281 unique visitors. Paul reported that we had a 20% increase in traffic this month over the previous month. Approximately 8-12 applications were received through our website.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Pat M. briefly explained the buddy program which the Executive Board decided to implement. Volunteers are needed to buddy up with new members to help them feel more welcome at meetings and to help involve them in more of our activities. Make sure to add your name to the sign-up sheet if you are interested in participating in this program.

Pat reminded members to pick up their monogrammed dog bandanas if they have not already done so. The cost of the bandanas is \$2.00 each.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Elections will be held next month for all of the coordinator positions. Each coordinator briefly discussed the duties of his/her position.

**Intake Coordinator:** This person is responsible for dogs coming into GRRR. Several people currently handle messages left on our intake phone line. These people assign someone to evaluate the incoming dog, verifying that it is a Golden and a dog that we can safely place in an adoptive home. The coordinator assigns the dog to a foster home and arranges for it to be transported to the that home. Mike S. would like to relinquish this position.

**Adoption Coordinator:** This person is responsible for matching up each dog with a suitable adoptive family. The coordinator keeps a file on every dog with its health records, a photo, dog visit information, the home visit form for the adoptive family, and copies of all of the adoption documents. The coordinator maintains contact with the foster families so he/she knows when a dog is ready to be placed and gives the foster parent information about the family to whom the dog will be shown. This person also keeps the picnic list updated by adding families as they adopt our dogs. Carrie T. is willing to retain this position for another year.

**Events Coordinator:** This coordinator is in charge of scheduling dates for the events in which GRRR participates. He/she schedules members to staff each event and makes sure that everything

needed to set up our booth arrives where it is needed. The coordinator also makes sure these items are taken down and stored properly at the end of each event. There has been discussion on having 2 people share the duties for this position. Chris R. would like to relinquish this position, as she has held it for several years.

**Website Coordinator:** This coordinator maintains and updates our website. He/she is responsible for posting photos and short bios of each new dog, which the foster home provides. The coordinator also posts the monthly newsletter on the website. This position definitely requires in-depth knowledge of computers. Paul S. is willing to retain this position for another year.

**Membership Coordinator:** This coordinator receives website messages from people who indicate they would be interested in volunteering with our organization. This person contacts potential volunteers online or by phone. He/she sends a membership packet to in anyone interested in joining GGRR. This coordinator also keeps our membership roster up to date. Barb B. would like to relinquish this position. Kristen C. said she would be interested in filling this vacancy.

Elections for coordinator positions will be held at the May meeting, with the elected person taking over the position in June. The current coordinators are all willing to help newly elected people with their responsibilities until they feel comfortable handling the duties of their new positions.

A motion was made by Heather H. and seconded by Nanette S. to adjourn the

meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

### **DONATIONS:**

Donations to GGRR were received from the following people and groups:

**Employees of Enterprise Rent-A-Car—  
(Fleet Management)**

**Sarah Helwig**

**Kay Callison and Mike Naughton—  
in memory of Shelby Roberts**

**Pamela Wollenberg—**in honor of Nikon earning 1<sup>st</sup> place in Versatility on Saturday at the recent Golden Specialty in St. Louis (see more on Nikon below)

### **WAGS AND BRAGS:**

On Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup>, Nikon Wollenberg earned 1<sup>st</sup> place in Versatility at the Golden Specialty in St. Louis. Versatility is a non-regular class that requires the dog to perform two exercises each from the Novice, Open, and Utility classes. On Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup>, Nikon earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Open B (a regular Obedience Class) and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Versatility. Nikon is owned and handled by Pamela Wollenberg. Nikon also received a perfect score in heeling, which was one of Pamela's goals for this competition.

### **ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER:**

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

Barb Blacksher  
26 Cynthiana Court  
Florissant, MO 63031  
[blacksher@charter.net](mailto:blacksher@charter.net)

**Photos from our recent 2007 Reunion Picnic  
would be greatly appreciated!!**



## 2007 Picnic Photos



Pat M. and helpers draw winning tickets at the raffle table.



Warner R. fills out his raffle ticket stubs while Kathy D. and Kristen C. staff the merchandise table.



Andrew C. helps a dog at the Pupperoni Pull as Korisa C. and Natalie M. cheer them on.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

GGRR PHONE LINES: 314-995-5477

*In order to reach the appropriate person, please call our phone line number to adopt or surrender a dog.*

### Officers:

President: Pat Moran

[P4021m@sbcglobal.net](mailto:P4021m@sbcglobal.net)

Vice-President: Tim Miget

[TimMiget@hotmail.com](mailto:TimMiget@hotmail.com)

Secretary: Barb Blacksher

[blacksher@charter.net](mailto:blacksher@charter.net)

Treasurer: Beth Johnson

[goldenmom03@charter.net](mailto:goldenmom03@charter.net)

Member Rep: Chris Rogers

[chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net)

### Coordinators:

Intake Coordinator: Mike Stemmler

[kreator@aol.com](mailto:kreator@aol.com)

Adoption Coordinator: Carrie Tennesen

[carrie2tenn@aol.com](mailto:carrie2tenn@aol.com)

Membership Coordinator: Barb Blacksher

[blacksher@charter.net](mailto:blacksher@charter.net)

Events Coordinator: Chris Rogers

[chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net)

Webmaster: Paul Swarthout

[Cody@antidotecomputer.com](mailto:Cody@antidotecomputer.com)

### Mentors:

Intake Phone Lines: Mike Stemmler

[kreator@aol.com](mailto:kreator@aol.com)

Adoption Phone Lines: Barb Blacksher

[blacksher@charter.net](mailto:blacksher@charter.net)

Home Visits: Eileen Combs

[leenbean58@charter.net](mailto:leenbean58@charter.net)

Dog Visits: Shane Stark

[tenille01@earthlink.net](mailto:tenille01@earthlink.net)

Foster Homes: Barb Blacksher

[blacksher@charter.net](mailto:blacksher@charter.net)