

GGRR NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 5

Issue Number 5

Date: May 2008

* * * Meeting Notice * * *

Date: Thursday, May 8th

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Place: The Museum of the Dog

Rich Taylor will be doing a demonstration at the May meeting on grooming Golden Retrievers. Learn how to keep your dog or foster dog looking good in between visits to the groomer.

* * * * A NOTE OF GRATITUDE * * * *

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the many people who donated their time, money, puppy formula, and puppy chow needed to feed our ravenous litter of pups. A very special thanks goes to the Golden Retriever Club of America - St. Louis for donating the proceeds from their recent Golden Specialty show to Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue; to Suzanne, who bought and donated woolies to every puppy attending the show; to GRCA members who made additional donations; and to Collette and Ruth Ann, who did the temperament testing on our pups. We couldn't have raised such a healthy and happy litter without your assistance.

MINUTES FROM APRIL 10TH :

The meeting was called to order at 7:24 p.m. by President Pat Moran. Drew C. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the March meeting. Paul S. seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed. Paul S. noted one correction to the minutes: He stated he will donate **20% of the sales** from his Golden Retriever photos sold on the website, rather than 20% of the profits, resulting in more income for GGRR.



The pups love chasing toys attached to ropes which hang from a post in Pat M.'s yard.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

None this month

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Beth reported that our account balance at the beginning of March was **\$3,398.50**. Income was **\$1002.50**. Expenses were **\$1,033.65**, leaving an ending balance of **\$3067.35**. The Flash Fund total remains at **\$7918.86**; however, we still have a surgery bill that needs to be paid from this fund.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Kristen reported we had 6 membership inquiries, and two new families who joined

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT: (cont.)

GGRR. Welcome to **Blaine and Janice Elsenraat** and **Ann Kanasek**. We also welcomed one visitor, **Kim Mauer**, who was attending the meeting..

INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Three dogs were surrendered to GGRR last month:

- 08-019: Sugar**, a 2 year old female being fostered by Tom G. and Amy H.
- 08-020: Mizzou**, a 9 month old female being fostered by Betsy F.
- 08-021: Nicholas**, a 4-1/2 month old male being fostered by Paul and Nanette S.



When the pups are outside, one of their favorite places to rest is underneath the outdoor fireplace.

ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

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

- 08-004: Chester**
- 08-019: Sugar**

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Chris R. thanked Korisa C. and Kathy D. for all of their work in coordinating and shopping for the luncheon GGRR provided at the Golden Specialty. We took in over \$1400, which is the most we have ever made from this event.

Lucky Dog has a number of upcoming events and would like to include GGRR in them. There will be someone demonstrating Reiki, a Japanese technique that uses gentle touch to promote better health and well-being in your dog, on April 26th. GGRR will receive part of the proceeds from this event. Paul S. will attend with one of his dogs. We will have several of Shadow's puppies at Lucky Dog on Saturday, May 10th from 12:00 until 3:00 p.m. Chris R. and Pat M. will attend with several of the pups. Our regular monthly Adoption Day at Lucky Dog will be held on Saturday, May 17th. Chris needs one volunteer with a dog to be at this event. Lucky Dog will also hold a canine Halloween party in October. GGRR will plan this event, and the proceeds will be donated to our group. We will also participate in their Christmas Walk again this year.

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT: (cont.)

The Golden Retriever will be the Guest Dog of the Week at the Dog Museum on Sunday, June 25th. We will be participating in this event along with the Golden Retriever Club of America. Hours will be from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. The purpose of the event is to educate the public about characteristics of Golden Retrievers so people can make informed decisions before adding a Golden to their household.

Tracie B.'s father is in charge of the Webster Groves July 4th parade this year. GRRR was invited to participate. We decided to decline the invitation, as it is generally too hot for our dogs to be comfortable.

Kirkwood's Greentree Festival will be held on Sept. 12, 13, and 14th this year. Please mark your calendars, as this event requires a large number of volunteers to staff our booth over the three days. GRCA will share the booth with us.

The A.P.A. Canine Carnival will be held on Sunday, October 5th from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. We did not participate last year because the cost of a booth was \$75. Since the A.P.A. is celebrating their 18th anniversary this year, booths will be \$18.00. GRCA will share a booth with us.

Chris R. has placed an order for GRRR blue member shirts. They will arrive in time to wear at the Reunion Picnic. She ordered sizes medium, large, and extra large. Please see Chris if you wish to buy one.

WEBSITE COORDINATOR:

Paul S. did not have our website numbers available at the meeting, but he submitted the following information for the newsletter. Paul also found an error in the numbers he reported for January. He transposed several numbers, which he now has corrected.

JANUARY

	As Reported	Corrected
Hits	75,658	75,658
Visits	17,246	8,868
Unique Visitors	8,868	2,712
Page Views	2,712	17,246

MARCH

Hits	129,700
Visits	15,821
Unique Visitors	11,108
Page Views	3,339

Website traffic increased greatly during the month of March, which is probably due to having lots of puppy pictures posted on the website. Thanks go out to Paul for all of the work he has done on our website and for the informative tables of data that he provided for the newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Reunion Picnic will be held on Sunday, May 4th from noon until 4:00 p.m. at Love Park. Members who volunteered to help set up for the picnic should plan to arrive by 10:30 a.m. Please wear your blue member



Goldens are never too young, or too old, to enjoy a great stick!

OLD BUSINESS: (cont.)

shirts to this event. Members should ***not*** bring their dogs or foster dogs. We still need some additional people to donate side dishes. If you volunteered to help with the games, you will be assigned one of them to run. Look for the poster with job assignments when you arrive. The picnic committee will meet at Beth's house to assemble raffle baskets on Friday, April 18th at 7:00 p.m. Amy has received 22 items for our raffle in response to the letters she mailed. Some of the items include a Bissell vacuum cleaner and some large, lighted signs from Anheiser Busch. The Canine Center donated a huge basket of toys. If you have any additional items for the raffle, please let Amy know. If you order items from the Drs. Foster and Smith catalog, Amy can get a \$5.00 gift certificate for you. Please talk with Amy after the meeting if you would like one.

Members provided some updates on their foster dogs. Bailey, fostered by Kathy D., will not require hip surgery, as she is too old for the less invasive procedure. The vet advised giving her glucosamine as a supplement. It's possible that Bailey may need a hip replacement as she ages, but nothing needs to be done at the present time. Shadow, fostered by Pat M., tested positive for heartworm and has had her first treatment. Our puppies are still generating huge bills. Pat recently turned in \$800 in receipts for their care.

There have been problems getting a Pay Pal account set up so people can make donations to GRR. We will need to open a separate account at a different bank. Beth J. will be in charge of opening a new account.

NEW BUSINESS:

Our garage sale will take place on June 7th at Kathy D.'s house. Last year we made approximately \$800 on our sale. If you wish to donate items for the sale, you can bring them to the next GRR meeting or drop them off at Kathy's house. Please do not donate clothing items, as we don't have any way to display them. DVDs sold well if you have any that you no longer want.

We will be discussing the revised home visit form that Kathy D. created at our May meeting. Please get a copy from Kathy so you can provide some feedback about the form before we actually begin using it.



Won't someone *please* let us come out and play? We promise not to get into any mischief!

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Eileen C. It was seconded by Heather H. A vote was taken and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

RAINBOW BRIDGE:

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our GRR families who have recently lost a beloved Golden Retriever companion:

Lily, beloved companion of **Jim Timar**, went to the Bridge in March.

Bailey, beloved companion of **Cathy Arnold**, went to the Bridge on March 22, 2008 at the age of 13 years.

Bailey Arnold

Bailey was my foster dog that I fell in love with and couldn't let go. He was a big boy, weighing 92 lbs. Sue Freund worked with Bailey's first owner. They had to move and couldn't take Bailey with them.

He was a very gentle and loving dog. If you

sat in a chair, it was Bailey's signal to come over and have his chest rubbed with your foot. He'd stand there FOREVER!! Bailey loved chasing tennis balls. They were his super favorite toy. He'd once in a while decide that something of yours, like a shoe or one of my granddaughter's stuffed animals, would be nice to play with in the yard, too.

Bailey came into my home when I had three other dogs. He got along fine with all of them except the terrier beagle mix (known to the family as Boss Ass). She never missed an opportunity to stand on her hind legs, wrap her front legs around Bailey's neck and yap in his ear. Bailey learned real fast to give her a lot of space.

In June of 2007, Bailey lost the use of his back legs. After visits to the vet, he was diagnosed with a compressed disk. For two weeks, Bailey just couldn't understand why he was unable to get up. I'd help him down to the back yard by holding up his back legs with a towel wrapped under his stomach. Bailey would work the front legs, and I'd be his back legs. I didn't know how long I could do this. Bailey was a big dog, and we have steps down into the yard.

My husband mentioned to his chiropractor the trouble our dog was having. My husband's doctor wanted to work with Bailey free of charge and see if he could get his legs working again. All that summer and early autumn, Bailey and I went twice a week to have a decompression treatment done. We were working with equipment designed for humans, so the doctor and I had to improvise several extra pieces of equipment to help Bailey. By October, my beautiful boy was walking again. He had lost some muscle tissue and his back legs

RAINBOW BRIDGE:

would never totally recover; but Bailey could walk, go up and down steps, and even do a little running in the yard. Bailey was named the “Miracle Dog” by my family and our neighbors.

Everything was going well until October of 2008. I took him into the vet’s office, and this time the diagnosis was cancer. Bailey was 13 and the vets didn’t give him much chance of surviving a lengthy operation. They also suspected the tumor was growing inside, and it was a big mass. Bailey adjusted again to wearing a wrap with padding inside to absorb the drainage. He got real good at pulling off the whole thing and trying to destroy it. We finally had to have him wear a shirt to keep him from tearing the wrap. He looked very nice in his yellow or navy tops. We gave him lots of extra love and special treats. It was an honor to be his human companion.

On March 22, 2008, Bailey lost his battle with cancer. He died very peacefully snuggled up to his bed. Go gently home my golden boy.

by Cathy Arnold

DONATIONS:

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

The Buchert family—Amy, Rob, Shawn, and Elise

The Curran family—Maureen and Melissa

Pamela Wollenberg

Jim Moran

Kristen Carter



It’s not a “real” Golden Retriever unless it develops an obsession with balls at a young age—and bigger is always better!!

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

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

blacksher@charter.net

Please submit items by the last day of the month to include them in the newsletter for the following month.

DO I GO HOME TODAY?

by Sandi Thompson

My family brought me home, cradled in their arms

They cuddled me and smiled at me and said I was full of charm.

They played with me and laughed with me and showered me with toys.

I sure do love my family, especially the girls and boys.

The children loved to feed me, they gave me special treats.

DO I GO HOME TODAY? (cont.)

They even let me sleep with them - all snuggled in the sheets.
 I used to go for walks, often several times a day.
 They even fought to hold the leash, I'm very proud to say.
 These are the things I'll not forget - a cherished memory,
 because I now live in the shelter - without my family.
 They used to laugh and praise me when I played with that old shoe.
 But I didn't know the difference between the old ones and the new.
 The kids and I would grab a rag, for hours we would tug.
 So I thought I did the right thing when I chewed the bedroom rug.
 They said that I was out of control, and would have to live outside.
 This I did not understand, although I tried and tried.
 The walks stopped, one by one; they said they hadn't time.
 I wished that I could change things, I wish I knew my crime.
 My life became so lonely, in the back yard, on a chain.
 They brought me to the shelter but were embarrassed to say why.
 They said I caused an allergy, then they each kissed me goodbye.
 If I'd only had some classes, when I was just a little pup,
 then I would be the dog they want when I was all grown up.
 "You only have one day left," I heard the worker say.
 Does that mean I have a second chance?...

DO I GO HOME TODAY?

TO ADOPT OR SURRENDER A DOG, CALL THE GRRR PHONE LINES:

314-995-5477

Officers

President: Pat Moran
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Coordinators:

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Events Coordinator: Chris Rogers
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Mentors:

Intake Phone Lines: Mike Stemmler
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Dog Visits: Shane Stark
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