

# GRR NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 3

Issue Number 11

Date: NOVEMBER 2006

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

**Date:** Thursday, Nov. 9th

**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.*

**Rob Schenberg, now the head trainer at Petropolis in Chesterfield, will be speaking at the November meeting. He has been training Maggie, a dog he acquired from GRR, to be a companion therapy dog. Rob and Maggie will demonstrate some of the skills she has acquired during the past year. I'm sure we'll all be impressed with how Rob has turned this high-energy, wild child into a well-mannered canine companion!**

### MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 12th:

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Shane Stark. It was moved and seconded that we dispense with the reading of the minutes. The motion carried.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Shane announced that an election for the positions of President and Secretary will be held next month. Nominations will be accepted under new business and again at the November meeting.



Randy Carriker, a radio sports announcer from ESPN radio (1380 AM) emceed the rescue parade at the Canine Olympics. He was ably assisted by his daughter, Katie (1). The Carriker family has two dogs from GRR. Dogs adopted from GRR were well represented in the parade. Chris Rogers put many hours of work into organizing this event.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

The account balance at the beginning of the month was **\$5956.74**. Income was **\$2195.00**; expenses were **\$366.83**, leaving an ending balance of **\$7784.91**. The current balance in the Flash Fund is **\$2568.30**.

### MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

We had 4 membership inquiries this month, and we added 2 new members to our roster. Jeff Melnick and the Amy Hernlund/Tom Gerber family joined GRR during the past month.

**INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:**

Four new dogs were surrendered to GRRR during the past month:

- 06-023: Sunny**, an 11 month old female who is being fostered by Karen Higgins
- 06-024: Honey**, a 12-month old female who weighs just 35 lbs; she is currently kenneled at Under One Woof so Sharon West can work with her
- 06-025: Buttercup** (aka **Belle**) an 8-year old female obtained from St. Charles City Animal Control, who is being fostered by Lee and Carmie Adkins
- 06-026 Cowboy**, an 11-month old unneutered male, being fostered by Pat Moran

There are three additional dogs still with their owners waiting for space in a foster home.



Slider Taylor, owned by Rich and Carol Taylor, attends his very first GRRR meeting. Slider came from a litter of three pups in Canada, and all of the puppies were given names with a baseball theme.

**ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:**

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

- 06-019 Truman**
- 06-022 Chance**, now known as **Cody**

**EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:**

Chris reported that we made \$324.75 at the Greentree Festival. We took in almost \$70 at the APA's Canine Carnival. She reported that the Canine Carnival was a great success this year. Attendance was up greatly from previous years, and the event was very well-organized.

The rescue parade at the Canine Olympics will begin at 12:30 on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at Purina Farms. Randy Carriker will be the announcer for the parade. Chris Rogers, Heather Haberstroh, Mike Stemmler, and Rich Taylor will help with the parade on the day of the event.

Three of our Golden Retrievers were able to attend the taping of Show Me St. Louis on Monday to advertise the Canine Olympics. Chris Rogers with Chloe, Pat Moran with Cowboy, and Barb Blacksher with Max attempted to hold their own among all of the Samoyeds in attendance. If case you didn't get to see the program, Chloe's nose got up close and personal with the cameraman's lens while taping during commercial breaks!

Three of our members will be taking their dogs to the Sacred Heart Villa preschool located on the Hill tomorrow. Chris Rogers, Pat Moran, and Barb Blacksher will attend with Chloe, Max, and Newton. Approximately one hundred 3 to 5 year old children will enjoy a short presentation about caring for their pets and personal safety around dogs.



Max Blacksher enjoys playing with some new friends during his visit to the Sacred Heart Villa preschool. The children had fun throwing balls for Chloe, Newton, and Max to retrieve. The children also had time to pet the dogs and offer them some well-deserved treats.

**PDR REPORT:**

None

**WEBSITE COORDINATOR:**

Paul Swarthout reported there were 80,445 hits on the website this month. There were 14,153 page views. The total number of visits was 8,276. There were 2,828 unique visitors, which are defined as visitors who arrive at the website after more than an hour away. 20.4% of the hits were from Missouri. The top entry points to the website were the *Forum*, which is the message board for members; *About Goldens*; and *About Us*. *About Us* should not be an entry point to our website. Paul said people entering there have probably googled a phrase containing these words. He changed the website so people will arrive at our Homepage when this occurs.

Chris asked if it would be possible to have our membership roster posted on the member's section of the website. Paul fears that non-members might inadvertently access the roster with a Google search. He is going to work on changing the website so that new members automatically receive an invitation to our message board as soon as they join GGRR.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Shane opened nominations for the positions of President and Secretary. Pat Moran was nominated for President. Rich Taylor was also nominated but declined. Barb Blacksher was nominated for Secretary. Nominations will also be taken at the November meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Natalie Haberstroh, our youngest GGRR member, distributes treat bags to the participants of the rescue parade at the Canine Olympics.



## RAINBOW BRIDGE:



Lilly Hynes (l) is pictured with her sister Sara Hynes (r). Tom and Fran Hynes adopted Sara from GRRR after she was rescued from a puppy mill. When the Hynes' saw Lilly's picture on the GRRR website in 2003, they were haunted by the sadness in her eyes and insisted that she join their family. Lilly and Sara became best buddies and definitely had lots to smile about during the three years they were together!

Lilly Hynes crossed over the bridge on October 16, 2006. She leaves behind her adopted canine sister Sara and her forever family Tom and Fran Hynes. She will also be missed by a human sister Julie (Alan) Haake and her original foster parents, Barb and Bill Blacksher.

Lilly died unexpectedly from complications following an internal infection. She was estimated to be between 11 and 12 years old. Lilly was a puppy mill survivor. She was a part of our lives for just over three years, but she will live in our hearts forever.

The members of GRRR made it possible for us to have this sweet animal in our lives. Without these wonderful souls, we would never have met our sweet Lilly and had the opportunity to love her for three short years. Thank you.

Tom and Fran Hynes



Canines Simba Blacksher (l) and Nala (r) visit their sister Laura after marching in the St. Patrick's Day parade with GRRR in 2003.

Simba Blacksher, our gentle giant, went to the bridge on October 18<sup>th</sup>, just six short weeks after his sister, Nala, passed away. Simba died unexpectedly from lymphoma at the age of 11-1/2 years.

Simba became the top dog in our house soon after he crossed the threshold. He carried himself in such a regal manner that few dogs ever felt the urge to challenge him. Simba would never start a dogfight, but he'd gladly finish one! He mellowed a bit with age and eventually learned to let his mom or dad settle any dog problems in the family.

Simba was always ready for fun, as if he were making up for all those years of being 50 lbs. overweight. Our macho boy loved his squeaky toys and raced through the house searching for ones that we hid for him. We never needed an alarm clock with Simba in the house. He started prancing around and barking at 5:30 in the morning— weekdays, weekends, it made no difference to him. He just knew it was time for breakfast. We may get to sleep a bit later now, but we sure will miss Simba's happy feet! Nala and Simba have been reunited again.

Bill and Barb Blacksher

## **ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER:**

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

Barb Blacksher  
26 Cynthia Ct.  
Florissant, MO 63031

***Put your furkids in an upcoming newsletter!***

You can also email items to:

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

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

### **My Foster Dog**

Author Unknown  
(obtained from The Best of Craigslist)

My foster dog stinks to high heaven.  
I don't know for sure what breed he is.  
His eyes are blank and hard.  
He won't let me pet him and growls when I reach for him.

He has ragged scars and crusty sores on his skin.  
His nails are long and his teeth, which he showed me, are stained, I sigh.  
I drove two hours for this.

I carefully maneuver him so that I can stuff him in the crate. Then I heft the crate and put it in the car. I am going home with my new foster dog.

At home I leave him in the crate until all the other dogs are in the yard. I get him out of the crate and ask him if he wants "outside." As I lead him to the door, he hikes his leg on the wall and shows me his stained teeth again.

When we come in, he goes to the crate because that's the only safe place he sees. I offer him food but he won't eat it if I look at him, so I turn my back. When I come back, the food is gone.

I ask again about "outside." When we come back, I pat him before I let him in the crate; he jerks away and runs into the crate to show me his teeth.

The next day I decide I can't stand the stink any longer. I lead him into the bath with cheese in my hands. His fear of me is not quite overcome by his longing for the cheese. And well he should fear me, for I will give him a bath.

After an attempt or two to bail out, he is defeated and stands there. I have bathed four-legged bath squirts for more years than he has been alive. His only defense was a show of his stained teeth that did not hold up to a face full of water.

As I wash him, it is almost as if I wash not only the stink and dirt away, but also some of the hardness. His eyes look full of sadness now. And he looks completely pitiful, as only a soap-covered dog can.

I tell him that he will feel better when he is clean. After the soap, the towels are not too bad, so he lets me rub him dry.

I take him outside. He runs for joy . . . the joy of not being in the tub and the joy of being clean.

I, the bath giver, am allowed to share the joy. He comes to me and lets me pet him.

One week later, I have a vet bill. His skin is healing. He likes for me to pet him (I think). I know what color he will be when his hair grows in.

I have found out he is terrified of other dogs, so I carefully introduce him to my mildest four-legged brat. It doesn't go well.

Two weeks later a new vet bill for an infection that was missed on the first visit. He plays with the other dogs.

## **My Foster Dog** (cont.)

Three weeks later his coat shines, he has gained weight. He shows his clean teeth when his tongue lolls out after he plays chase in the yard with the gang.

His eyes are soft and filled with life. He loves hugs and likes to show off his tricks—if you have the cheese.

Someone called today and asked about him. They saw the picture I took the first week. They asked about his personality, his history, his breed. They asked if he was pretty. I asked them a lot of questions.

I checked up on them.  
I prayed.  
I said yes.

When they saw him the first time, they said he was the most beautiful dog they had ever seen.

Six months later, I got a call from his new family.  
He is wonderful, smart, well-behaved, and very loving.

How could someone not want him?  
I told them I didn't know.  
He is beautiful.  
They all are.



A dog sure can work up a powerful thirst! Chloe Rogers stops for a drink after romping on the playground with the children at the Sacred Heart Villa Preschool.

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

**314-995-5477**

### **Officers:**

**President:** Shane Stark  
[tenille01@earthlink.net](mailto:tenille01@earthlink.net)

**Vice-President:** Tim Miget  
[TimMiget@hotmail.com](mailto:TimMiget@hotmail.com)

**Secretary:** Eileen Combs  
[leenbean58@charter.net](mailto:leenbean58@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 Swarhout  
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### **Mentors:**

**Intake Phone Lines:** Mike Stemmler  
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**Adoption Phone Lines:** Barb Blacksher  
[blacksher@charter.net](mailto:blacksher@charter.net)

**Home Visits:** Eileen Combs  
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**Dog Visits:** Shane Stark  
[tenille01@earthlink.net](mailto:tenille01@earthlink.net)

**Foster Homes:** Barb Blacksher  
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