

# GGRR NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 5

Issue Number 11

Date: November 2008

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

**Date:** Thursday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>

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

**Place:** The Museum of the Dog

*We love having well-behaved, healthy Golden Retrievers (up-to-date on shots, please) 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.*



**DON'T FORGET !**

**Sharon West, owner of Westinn Kennels and expert dog trainer, will be speaking at 8:00 p.m., immediately following our Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> business meeting. She will discuss training issues that are common with rescued dogs and ways to overcome these issues. Mark your calendars and plan to stay for her presentation!**

**The Webster Groves Christmas Walk will take place on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. This is a fun event for you and your dog(s). We will have an Ex-pen set up next to Lucky Dog. Dress for the weather and include some holiday apparel for you and your dog. Please let Chris R. know if you plan to attend!**

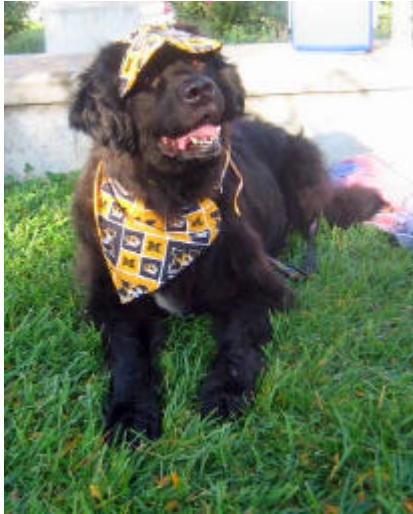


What's a little mud?! Kaia Tennesen can't understand why mom Carrie won't let her in the house! Shadow, Kaia's canine mom, has similar issues. If there's water or mud, count on Shadow to be in it! It must be a genetic trait!

## Top 10 Reasons **NOT** To Get A Golden *(continued from last month)*

**by Cheryl Minnier**

**9. YOU WANT TO MAKE A QUICK BUCK BREEDING DOGS.** Last year Golden Retriever Rescue spent hundreds of thousands of dollars working to save hundreds of dogs. Most of these dogs wound up in rescue because their owners had little idea of the time, commitment, and effort it takes to own a dog. And their breeders had little idea of the proper techniques for placing puppies in the RIGHT homes. These rescue dogs are a testament to the fact that there are too many carelessly bred Golden Retrievers. If Golden breeding is done right, it is RARELY a



Sebastian Moran models his Mizzou cap and bandana at the Celebrate Spot walk. Sebastian competed for the Largest Dog prize, but lost to a Great Dane. Sebastian is an honorary member of GRRR since his heart is Golden, even though his coat isn't!

### Top 10 Reasons **NOT** To Get A Golden (continued)

profitable adventure. Health clearances, veterinary care, and puppy supplies are just a few of the many expenses that occur as a result of an "uncomplicated" litter. If you consider the possible problems you may encounter, it is easy to see why breeding is NOT a money making venture!

- 10. YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A GUARD DOG.** Did I mention the part about Golden Retrievers loving everyone? They will be eager to assist the thieves that are breaking into your home; probably even helping them carry out the silver. If you are looking for protection, this probably isn't an endearing quality . . . maybe that guard dog is looking better.

- 11. YOU LOOK AT THAT LITTLE 10-POUND BALL OF FUR AND OFFER UP A SILENT PRAYER THAT HE'LL STAY THAT SIZE.** Golden Retrievers should range from 21 inches at the shoulder to around 24 inches and weigh in anywhere from 50 to 80 lbs. This is a lot of dog. If you don't plan on heeding my advice about obedience classes, you may find yourself with an out of control, furry, wiggly monster with a tail that can clear a coffee table in one great swoop! As an alternative, there are several wonderful smaller breeds (many without tails!) to choose from.

- 12. YOU THINK DOGS MAKE GREAT NANNIES FOR SMALL CHILDREN AND A WONDERFUL LESSON IN RESPONSIBILITY FOR OLDER KIDS.** You are partly right. A Golden Retriever and a child often form a loving, inseparable bond. However, the ultimate responsibility for any living, breathing creature must always fall to an adult. Children can be wonderful dog groomers, trainers, and best friends; but they need adult guidance. You should also remember that Golden Retrievers are big enough – even as puppies – to knock down a small child. Small children and dogs should ALWAYS be supervised when together, for both their sakes!

**AND THE NUMBER ONE REASON NOT TO GET A GOLDEN RETRIEVER . . . .**

- 13. YOU THINK AN IDEAL PLACE TO GET ONE IS THE PET STORE IN YOUR MALL!** Golden Retrievers can have several potential health problems. Chief among these are Canine Hip Dysplasia – a sometimes crippling joint disease; sub-

## Top 10 Reasons **NOT** To Get A Golden (continued)

aortic stenosis – a usually fatal heart defect; several inherited eye diseases that can blind or disable a dog; epilepsy, early onset cancer and temperament problems ranging from hyperactivity to aggression. It is essential that you seek out a responsible breeder if you are looking for a puppy or an established rescue group if an adult dog would fit your needs better. For information on how to find a responsible breeder, visit the Golden Retriever Club of America's home page [www.grca.org](http://www.grca.org). For help finding a rescue Golden, visit the list of Golden Rescues across the country: <http://www.grca.nrc.org/Localrescues.htm>.

If you've run out of excuses NOT to "GO GOLDEN" – Congratulations! You're ready to be owned by a Golden Retriever! . . .and yes, for the obsessive-compulsive types, there ARE 13 reasons - not ten, but "the top 13 reasons" just sounded silly.



Chloe Rogers enjoys a Frosty Paws treat at the Celebrate Spot walk. Mom Chris tries to keep Chloe from demolishing it in a single gulp.

## MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 9<sup>th</sup> :

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by President Pat Moran. Rich T. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Blaine E. seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed. There were no corrections to the minutes.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

None

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

Beth J. reported that our account balance at the beginning of September was **\$1,866.24**. Income was **\$2,187.50**. Expenses were **\$1,563.51**, leaving an ending balance of **\$2,490.23**.

## MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Janice E. reported there were three membership inquiries during the past month but no new members. Visitors included Sherilyn and Ken Dieckhaus, who are currently on the waiting list to adopt a dog.

## INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Barb B. reported that two dogs were surrendered to GGRR during the past month:

- 08-042: Cody**, a 1-1/2 year old male being fostered by Kate Ryder
- 08-043: Chance**, a 2 year old male stray picked up in New Haven, MO; he is currently housed at Under One Woof

**INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:**

(cont.)

We currently have 3 dogs that need foster homes: Duke, Yadi, and Chance. All three dogs are at Under One Woof. Yadi is housebroken, while the other two dogs are not. We will not be accepting additional surrenders until all of our dogs are out of the kennel.

**ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:**

Carrie T. reported that 3 dogs were placed in their forever homes during the past month:

**08-033: Blitz****08-037: Bella****08-038: Rocky**

Carrie has updated the waiting list for dogs and has copies available for anyone who would like one. See her after the meeting.

**EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:**

Chris R. reported that we took in \$194 at the APA Canine Carnival.

Adoption Days at Lucky Dog are scheduled for the following dates:

**October 18:** Rich T. and Mike S.**November 15:** Amy Hernlund-Gerber**December 20:** volunteer needed

The Webster Groves Christmas Walk will be held Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Our dogs were a big hit with the crowds last year, and it's great publicity for GRR. Let Chris R. know if you and your dog(s) plan to attend.

**EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** (cont.)

Chris reported that GRR has a team participating in the Celebrate Spot walk to benefit breast cancer research in younger women. It's not too late to register. GRR has donated 3 gift baskets as prizes for some of the contests being held after the walk.

Heather H. reported on plans for our Howlin' Halloween party at Lucky Dog. It will take place Saturday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Rich T., Mike S., Tracie B., and Sandy B. will help with the set up and should arrive by 9:30 a.m. We are asking participants for a \$5 donation, and the proceeds will go to GRR. One of the events includes a costume contest for dogs. Members are welcome to attend with their dogs.

Barb B. reported that GRR will be providing lunch for the employees of Under One Woof on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> to thank them for the wonderful care our dogs receive there. Pat M. volunteered to help.

Our first event in 2009 will be the St. Pat's Day parade in March.



Nikon Wollenberg and Mom Pamela take a lunch break together at Under One Woof. They were attending a weekend conditioning seminar.

## WEBSITE COORDINATOR:

Paul S. reported our website statistics for the previous two months. They include:

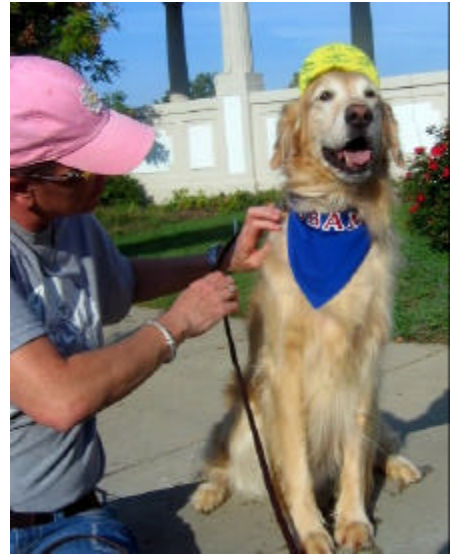
	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>
<b>Hits:</b>	<b>77,666</b>	<b>68,916</b>
<b>Page Views:</b>	<b>19,799</b>	<b>18,425</b>
<b>Visitors:</b>	<b>8,807</b>	<b>7,148</b>
<b>Unique Visitors:</b>	<b>2,460</b>	<b>2,226</b>

Paul also discussed some of the new features he has added to our website. Changes to the Intake List can now be updated on the website instead of being kept on a separate spreadsheet that we currently use. When a dog is added to the Intake List, the information is automatically added to the Available Dogs page on the website. The Intake Coordinator can add biographies of each dog along with photos. The Adoption Coordinator can add the date each dog is adopted as well as the adoptive family's contact information. We will eventually be able to generate mailing lists from the online intake list. Thanks to Paul for the many hours of work he has devoted to making these tasks easier for all of us!

## OLD BUSINESS:

Pat M. still has discount coupons for Nylabone products. See her after the meeting if you would like any.

Amy H. has volunteered to head the Reunion Picnic committee for 2009. She will reserve the Mary Shelter at Love Park for the first Sunday in May. The committee will have its first meeting in January. Let Amy know if you would like to volunteer for this committee.



Truman Stark models his Obama bandana at the Celebrate Spot walk. Lynn S. makes sure her dapper dude looks totally presidential before the walk begins.

## OLD BUSINESS: (cont.)

Carrie T. and Pat. M. both have a supply of puppy training pads if anyone can use them for a foster dog. See one of them if you are interested.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Pat M. reminded members that elections will be held for the positions of President and Secretary at the December meeting. Nominations can be made at both the November and December meetings.

Barb B. reported that Sharon West will be speaking at our November GGRR meeting. If you have any topics or questions that you would like Sharon to address, write them down on the paper being circulated. You can also email questions to Barb.

## **NEW BUSINESS:** (cont.)

Rich T. and Nancy R. are doing dog therapy visits at a facility located in Winghaven. Nancy is a certified to teach Canine Good Citizen classes and to perform CGC evaluations. She is also certified to teach Delta Therapy Dog classes. Pat M. will ask Nancy to speak about these programs at a future meeting. If enough members are interested, perhaps Nancy would be willing to schedule a class for us.

Pat M. was contacted by an author who wants five Golden Retrievers for a photo to be used in her upcoming book. See Pat after the meeting if you would like to volunteer your dog.

Pat M. reminded members that our annual Christmas party takes place after our December meeting. We also have a dog gift exchange at the party. Participating members should bring a wrapped dog toy which costs approximately \$5.00 for the exchange.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Kathy D. It was seconded by Tracie B. A vote was taken and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

## **DONATIONS:**

Donations to GGRR were made by the following individuals and groups:

**Mrs. Mary Smith and Sam**



Ginger B. models her costume at the Howlin' Halloween party at Lucky Dog. She actually seemed to enjoy wearing the costume that Mom Sandy made for her.

## **ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER:**

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

## **DOG PARK ETIQUETTE**

If you have considered visiting any of the local dog parks that are becoming popular in the St. Louis area, the following tips may be of interest to you.

1. The first few times you take your dog to a dog park, visit the park when it is less crowded than usual. Your dog may feel overwhelmed in the company of so many unfamiliar dogs, so give your pet time to adjust. Gradually increase the length of

## **DOG PARK ETIQUETTE** (cont.)

your visits and work your way up to times when greater numbers of dogs are likely to be there. Evenings and weekends tend to be peak times at the park.

2. Consider the health of both your dog and the other dogs. Puppies under the age of four months are not fully vaccinated and should be left at home. All other dogs should be current on vaccinations. If your dog doesn't seem to be feeling well or is being treated for an illness, postpone your visit until another day. No one wants a furchild to be exposed to contagious diseases.
3. Clean up after your dog. Leaving piles for others to clean up is both rude and unsanitary.
4. Take water for both you and your dog. Common water dishes can spread disease.
5. Know where your dog is at all times. Watch the body language of your dog and the dogs he is interacting with. Step in at the first sign of a problem.
6. Leash your dog when entering or exiting the park. Remove the leash before your dog is allowed into the area where the dogs run loose. A leashed dog can feel threatened or defensive when approached by unleashed dogs, which could trigger a fight.
7. Do not bring food into the dog park. That includes both human food and dog food. Dogs trying to compete for food can provoke a fight.



**Trick or treat  
I'm no mutt.  
Turn around  
I'll sniff your butt,  
Happy Halloween!**

**Bob Barker, Max, and Blitz**

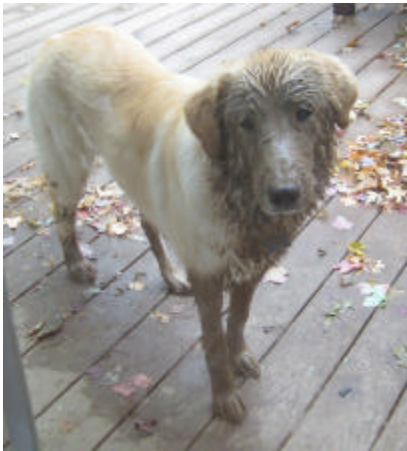
## **DOG PARK ETIQUETTE** (cont.)

8. Do not bring small children. With lots of dogs romping and playing, a child can easily get injured. Children are also more susceptible to intestinal parasites which can be transmitted by dog feces.
9. Leave tennis balls and other toys at home. Many dogs are protective of their belongings. Toys can also spread intestinal parasites from dog to dog if they come into contact with contaminated feces. Save games of fetch for your own backyard.

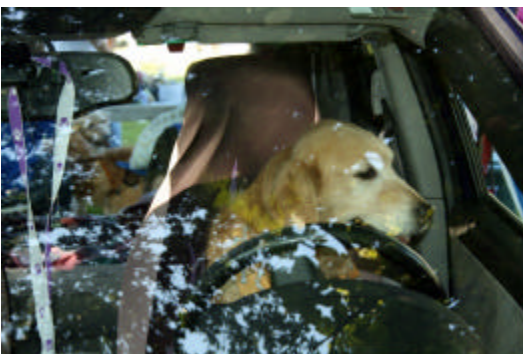
## DOG PARK ETIQUETTE (cont.)

10. Stay at the park only as long as both you and your dog are having fun. When your dog gets tired, is being provoked by other dogs, or the chemistry between the dogs causes you to feel nervous; it's time to leave.

When dog owners comply with park rules and use a bit of common sense, everyone can have a great time at the dog park!



Here's a full-length view of Kaia Tennesen after her muddy adventure in the back yard.



Shadow Moran, apparently tired of waiting for mom Pat, attempts to hijack the car at the A.P.A. Canine Carnival and head for home. Fortunately, Pat didn't leave her keys in the ignition!

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

**314-995-5477**

### Officers

**President: Pat Moran**  
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**Vice-President: Tim Miget**  
[tnse@charter.net](mailto:tnse@charter.net)

**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: Barb Blacksher**  
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**Adoption Coordinator: Carrie Tennesen**  
[carrie2tenn@aol.com](mailto:carrie2tenn@aol.com)

**Membership Coordinator: Janice Eisenraat**  
[RaileyJR@hotmail.com](mailto:RaileyJR@hotmail.com)

**Events Coordinator: Chris Rogers**  
[chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net)

**Tracie Bayer**  
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**Webmaster: Paul Swarthout**  
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### Mentors:

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[Mstemmler1012@yahoo.com](mailto:Mstemmler1012@yahoo.com)

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

**Home Visits: Shane Stark**  
[golddog05@mac.com](mailto:golddog05@mac.com)

**Dog Visits: Shane Stark**  
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**Foster Homes: Kathy Dierkes**  
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