



GGRR Newsletter

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November 2011

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Gateway Golden
Retriever Rescue
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October Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:24 p.m. by President, Tim M. Pat M. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Sandy B. and passed. There were no corrections to the minutes.

President's Report

Tim reported that Dr. Boillot is here and will be answering questions after the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Beth J. reported that our balance in our checking was \$4,388.24 at the beginning of the month. Income was \$1,015.00 (\$33.78 from our Schnucks Escript cards) and our expenses were \$768.06 leaving us with an ending balance of \$4,668.96.

Membership Report

Amy G. reported that we had three membership inquiries and no new members. Membership renewal information will be



emailed out in November. If you have no interest in renewing your membership, please let Amy know. We had one visitor at the meeting, Robert B. who would like to become a member and foster home!

Intake Report

Penny M. was unable to attend so Tim M. gave her report. We

brought in zero dogs in the previous month. We are working on two females in Waynesville.

Adoption Report

Mike S. reported that we placed one dog in their forever home in the previous month:

011-014 Romeo

Next Saturday we will have our inspection from the Agricultural Department. We need to make sure we have all of our forms in the appropriate files. Just a reminder, the Transfer Agreement is a required form.

We have a lot of applications in. Please make sure you are using the phone interview form when doing your phone interviews. Make sure you cover both pages of questions. These help determine if the family is a good match for one of our Golden Retrievers.

Website Report

Paul S. reported on our website's traffic from the previous month:

Hits: 133,719
Page Views: 21,309
Visitors: 5,680



GRRR Events

Reports on Events

Tim reported that Greentree, held on September 17-19th, went really well despite being rained out on Sunday. We made \$485.00 in sales and donations over the weekend. The puppies were also a big hit. A big thank you to all of the GRRR members that worked that weekend at our booth!

The APA Carnival was held on Sunday, October 2nd and Tim thanked all of the workers that staffed our booth. We made \$185.00 in sales and donations.

Upcoming Events

Tim reported that we have no upcoming events until the Spring of 2012. We will most likely do another event at Muddpuppies and more information will come on that.

Nominations for Vice President, Treasurer and Member Representative will be held at our November Meeting.



~Money will buy a pretty good dog, but it won't buy the wag of his tail.

*Josh Billings
(Henry Wheeler Shaw)*

Old & New Business

Old Business

Nominations for Vice President, Treasurer and Member Representative will be held at our November meeting. Penny M., Shayne S., and Rich T. have been appointed as the nominating committee. These positions will be voted on in December by ballot. These are Board positions so you must be a member in good standing for one year to be nominated.

Mike S. reported on the Rescue Parade that will be held in October of 2012. They have found a reader and a guy to play the bagpipes at the event. Pat M. asked if they will need volunteers to help out with this upcoming event and



Mike replied that he will need help sorting through emails and help with publishing the booklet with pictures and write ups on all of the dogs. More information will come on that.

New Business

Korisa C. announced that she will not be able to head up another Trivia Night for GRRR this upcoming January. Tim M. suggested that maybe we skip a year or look into Mouse Races or some other sort of fundraiser for this year.

A motion was made by Kathy D. and seconded by Bob B. to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

After the meeting, Dr. Wayne Boillot answered many canine questions for GRRR members.

Understanding Dog Growling *From The Whole Dog Journal Tip of the Week*

Growling is a valuable means of communication for a dog - something that dog owners should appreciate and respect rather than punish. Of course, we don't want our dog to growl at us, but neither do we want him to fail to growl if something makes him uncomfortable; that's very important information in a successful canine-human relationship.

It's very common for dog owners to punish their dogs for growling. Unfortunately, this often suppresses the growl - eliminating his ability to warn us that he's about to snap, literally and figuratively. On other occasions, punishing a growling, uncomfortable dog can induce him to escalate into full-on aggression.

So, if you're not supposed to punish your dog for growling, what are you supposed to do? The next time your dog growls at you, try this:

Stop. Whatever you're doing, stop. If your dog's growl threshold is near his bite threshold - that is, if there's not much time between his growl and his bite, get safe. If his growl doesn't mean a bite is imminent, stop what you're doing but stay where you are. Wait until he relaxes, then move away, so you're rewarding the relaxed behavior rather than the growl.

Analyze the situation. What elicited the growl? Were you touching or grooming him? Restraining him? Making direct eye contact? Taking something away from him? Making him do something?

If you need help to create and implement a behavior modification protocol, contact a qualified behavior professional who is experienced and successful in modifying aggressive behavior with positive, dog-friendly techniques.

For more details and advice on modifying dog aggression, purchase Whole Dog Journal's ebook, Approaches to Modifying Dog Aggression.



Donations

GGRR received donations from the following individuals or groups:

Pat Moran, in memory of Barb Blacksher's mother, Helen Wolff.

Cathy and Joe Jordan in honor of Darleen Harmon.

Sandra Ganz, in memory of Allison White's Gold-N-Glows Touched By An Angel.

Pamela Wollenberg, in memory of Allison White's, Charity.

How to Spice Up Your Dog's Exercise Routine Submitted by: Julie Goldman

A varied exercise routine will help your dog stay in shape, and save it from boredom. "Being stuck in a yard or crate is an incredibly boring existence for a dog," said Chicago-based veterinarian Dr. Tony Kremer, citing boredom as one reason for incessant barking. According to Kremer, a bored dog can also be destructive, out-of-shape, and rife with behavior problems.

To prevent these problems, he recommends giving dogs what they need to explore and interact with the world and keep "life exciting." That includes a spiced-up exercise regimen to maintain their weight and stave off monotony. Following are a few suggestions.

Walking

While a walk may not seem like much for people, it can be a stimulating experience for a dog, said Kremer, especially if it's not used to getting out.

"The same way we check our e-mail, dogs use a walk and their heightened sense of smell to check their 'pee-mail,'" he said. "That's what keeps their lives interesting."

But is a walk always enough? It depends, he said, on a dog's breed, age, and energy level. For example, sporting and herding breeds like retrievers and collies may need more than toy breeds like pugs and poodles.

High-Energy Activities

If you know your dog is high energy, there's much you can do to keep them busy. That includes, for example:

- Competitive events like fly ball, a relay for dogs, and agility training, in which dogs navigate an obstacle course.
- Running, or, if your dog has hip and joint issues, the more gentle activity of swimming.
- Bicycling with a dog bike leash that attaches to your bike.
- Fetch with a tennis ball, Frisbee, lure, or Dog Kong.
- A trip to the dog park, where dogs can play and interact with others.
- Lunge-whip, in which you throw a buggy whip (from a farm supply store) with a ball or toy attached, and twirl it in a big circle for the dog to chase.

These activities are not only fun for your dog, but also good for your relationship. "Telling your dog to go to the hoop or A-frame during agility enhances your shared vocabulary and strengthens your overall connection," Kremer said.

In The House

Finally, if you think inclement weather has to put the kibosh on exercise, think again, said Andrea Metcalf, a fitness expert in Chicago. She recommends:

- Creating an obstacle course indoors and making use of boxes for jumping, balls for chasing, and stairs for climbing.
- Playing hide-and-seek with your dog. "One of my sons holds the dog while the other hides the ball and then we run around together trying to find it," she said.
- Yoga for smaller dogs. Simply lie on your back and hold the dog above you, using your hands and bent knees to support the dog's underarms and legs. Then, pull its front legs and drop your knees to extend its back legs alternately for a good stretch.

No matter what you do, experts agree, spicing things up a bit can make a difference in your dog's overall health and disposition, Kremer said. After all, "a well-exercised and engaged dog is a content dog." And that, he adds, is good for everyone.

*Credit: Reviewed by Amy I. Attas, V.M.D.
www.webvet.com*



Weird Stuff Dogs Eat *By: Amy D Shojai, www.pawnation.com*

Owners fill bowls with nutritious food to keep dogs healthy. So why do dogs eat weird, disgusting and even dangerous stuff?

Dogs use their mouths the way we use our hands. They pick up objects and explore their world by mouthing, tasting, and chewing. That sometimes gets them into trouble if they swallow something they shouldn't.

Eating Grass

As omnivores, dogs benefit from eating vegetables or fruits. Even coyotes and wolves eat vegetable matter found in the stomach of prey, as well as roots, grasses and fruit. Dogs often beg for and enjoy snacks of raw vegetables like lettuce, green beans and carrots.

Most pet dogs occasionally eat grass, which may provide vitamins the dog craves, or it may simply like the taste. Dogs also eat grass to stimulate vomiting when they feel ill. Occasional grazing isn't a cause for concern unless your dog turns it into an obsession or it gnaws poisonous houseplants.

Poop-Eating Pups

Eating feces--called coprophagia--disgusts dog owners, but this common habit comes naturally especially to puppies. Mothers keep their nests clean by picking up after the puppies, and youngsters typically copy-cat the behavior. Most outgrow the habit, but many dogs continue to snack on cat-box "treats" or the leavings of cows and horses. Also, the cat, horse or other animal may not have completely digested all the nutrients, so the dog is not above giving the poop another chance.

Eating Dirt

We're not sure why dogs eat dirt but many seem to relish certain types of soil. Some wild animals target clay-like soils that naturally absorb toxins, and others are known to eat mineral-rich dirt to supplement their diet.

For dogs, scent probably plays a role. Perhaps another animal has "marked" that spot of dirt, so the dog tastes to get a better "read" on the message. Dogs seem to prefer specific types or locations of dirt too. Eating too much dirt can plug up doggy plumbing but an occasional taste probably isn't worry-worthy.

Eating "Stuff"

Dogs swallow an amazing range of inedible items and it goes beyond eating the kid's homework. The behavior is called pica, and can be an accident when the dog gulps down a piece of a toy. Pica may be purposeful if the object proves too tempting. Baby-bottle nipples that smell of milk, used tampons, and grease-smearing foil or turkey-basted string may prove irresistible to dogs.

The most common item dogs eat is a sock, followed by underwear, pantyhose, rocks, balls, chew toys, bones, hair ties/ribbons, and sticks. Most items tend to be owner-scented objects.

Some dogs seem drawn to such weird items as pagers, hearing aids, drywall, batteries, rubber bands, or anything (including sand) with bacon grease poured on it. Dogs develop bad habits out of boredom, stress or even obsessive-compulsive behaviors and turn into garbage disposals. These dogs may even eat rocks and sticks.

Poke the Poop

In most cases, small objects pass harmlessly through a dog's body and end up on the lawn within 24 to 72 hours. Get a stick and wear gloves to poke through the dog's leavings to be sure it's gotten rid of the object. Feeding your dog a meal can turn on digestive juices, cushion the item, and help move it along.

But sharp objects can cut, heavy stones can plug the system, and string-type material (thread, ribbon, Easter grass, tape from a cassette) can cut and strangle the intestines. Swallowed coins, batteries or other metal objects can poison pets once they react with digestive juices. String hanging out of either end of the dog shouldn't be touched, or you risk causing further harm.

If you've seen your dog swallow something it shouldn't but it doesn't pass, or the dog begins vomiting, retching without result, won't eat, looks or behaves distressed, or coughs repeatedly, seek help. It may require X-rays to figure out what's wrong on the inside of your pet, and surgery to get it out.

Most puppies outgrow indiscriminate munching. But if your dog vacuums up anything that hits the floor, pet-proof dog toys as well as your home. It could save your dog's life.

Amy D. Shojai is a certified animal behavior consultant and the award-winning author of 23 pet care books, including The First-Aid Companion for Dogs & Cats.

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Next Meeting

Thursday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m.
At the Dog Museum in Queeny Park
We love having happy healthy Golden Retrievers at our meetings! Please make sure your dog is up to date on shots and vaccinations.

To Adopt or Surrender a Dog Call the GRR Phone Lines: (314) 995-5477

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