



# GGRR Newsletter

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November 2014

## November 2014 Newsletter

Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue  
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### October Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President, Mike S. Pat M. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Tim M. and passed. There were no corrections to the minutes.

### President's Report

Mike reported that we still need people for foster homes and to do dog visits. Since we always need these it was requested that we continue to post this in every newsletter.



### Treasurer's Report

Lynn S. was not present to report on our accounts.

### Membership/Volunteer Report

Tim M. reported that we had two volunteer inquiries and no new members. There was one visitor / GGRR distinguished guest at the meeting, Leah Egan. Leah holds a bake sale every year and donates the money to GGRR. Leah and her family adopted their Golden from GGRR.



### Intake Report

Michelle F. reported that we had one dog returned to us in the previous month: 12-081R—Sadie

### Adoption Report

Penny M. Reported that we had four dogs adopted out in the previous month:

13-012 Beau

14-008 Bella

14-012 Titus

14-009 Scooby

Thanks to everyone that helped out at the Greentree Festival.

Regarding home visits that do not have fences: It has been a long standing policy that people who wish to adopt a dog from us and do not have a fence, must have two home visits completed before they can move on to the next step of our process. Please make sure this is being done.



## GGRR Events

### Upcoming Events

#### Next GGRR Meeting

Thursday, November 13th at 7:30 p.m., at the Dog Museum in Queeny Park.

#### Agility Events—November 13th—16th

These Agility Events will be held at NEC Lake, St. Louis, Missouri. Please contact Julie G. for more information on this event.

#### Golden Specialty—January 15th—18th

The Golden Specialty will be held January 15th through the 18th out at Purina Farms. GGRR will have a merchandise booth as always at this event. Please contact Julie G. if you would like to help out with our booth.

### FOSTER HOMES NEEDED

Want to help a Golden in need?  
Contact us through our website  
[www.ggrr.com](http://www.ggrr.com) to find out how you  
can become a volunteer!



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Want to help out by doing a Dog Visit or Home Visit? Contact our President, Mike S. to find out how you can help!

## Old & New Business

### Old Business

There was no old business to be discussed.

### New Business

The offices of Secretary and President will be slated for voting next month. Anyone wishing to be on the ballot must have been a member for at least one year and be ready to work!

Concerning the no fence policy, if two home visits are evenly matched as perfect fits for a dog, the one with the fence should be the first choice.

A motion was made by Julie G. and seconded by Tim M. to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



# Rainbow Bridge - Logan

**Tina's Logan, CDX, PCDX, NJP, RAE**  
**December 19, 2002 - November 3, 2014**

As you may have heard, Logan was diagnosed with degenerative nerve disease last spring, a condition similar to MS



or ALS in humans. I watched the disease as it progressed from Logan's hind end simply being unstable to not feeling where his back legs were, and falling down progressively more. But in his mind and his heart, Logan was still Logan. He remained his exuberant, happy self to the very end, and he just didn't know why he found it so difficult to get up. Last Friday, I saw his first undeniable tremor, just a brief shaking of the head and body. Over the weekend, this progressed to seizures where he would shake and ease himself down. Clearly the neurological progression of the disease was disturbingly rapid. Anne Branscum, D.V.M., and I spoke on Friday and she indicated that he probably did not have much quality time left. After watching him have several seizures of increasing severity this weekend, I knew that I didn't want him to endure more pain, continuing seizures, and possible injury. This Monday afternoon, a beautiful fall afternoon, he died peacefully in my backyard with Anne's help.

Logan was just such a very special being. Logan bought me so much joy and taught me so very much. After the 10



year anniversary of my adopting him, Logan wrote his last letter, a

thank you to the rescue organization that had fostered him for months, until he and I could be paired. This was indeed his forever home. That letter described his life and his achievements, which were many. If you would like to read his letter, let me know and I will email it to you.

Logan competed in his very last shows just three months ago, last summer at the Jefferson County Kennel Club trials. His willingness to work and dedication to me were so very evident, despite the challenges of his failing body. Through the course of that show weekend, Logan did successfully complete all of the utility level exercises - just not all of them in a single trial. Over the ten and a half years of our being together, Logan had gone from being a difficult home placement for Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue to a utility obedience-trained dog. Logan was my very first competition dog and he gave me his all every time we competed at events ranging from rally to obedience to agility.

I thought Logan might be waiting for his replacement to enter my life, just as my last dog Bruno had waited to die until Logan was part of our family. Indeed, it was just a week after eight-week-old Krista, my newest family member and also a field Golden Retriever, arrived that Logan made it clear that his time was drawing near. The attached picture was taken today in my back yard with Krista under his paw and Ree watching.

Logan lived every moment of his life with me fully with great joy and gave so very much to everyone that knew him. He will be dearly missed...

Tina

# Why is My Dog Whining?

[www.ceasarsway.com](http://www.ceasarsway.com)

If you have or have ever had a dog, then you've probably heard it whine at one time or another. Whining is another form of communication that dogs use, but since a dog's primary form of communication is through energy and body language, the progression to whining indicates a higher level of excitement and need on the part of the dog.

Dogs whine to communicate their physical, mental, or emotional state, and not all whines are created equal. Here are the main categories, and what your dog may be trying to tell you.

## Physical need

If your dog suddenly starts whining for no apparent reason, the first thing to rule out is pain or any other kind of physical distress. This is particularly the case for a dog that whines while lying down in a very submissive posture without trying to engage you in any other way.

If this behavior comes on suddenly, consult your veterinarian first to rule out any pain or discomfort.

Another physical requirement that dogs may express through whining is the need to relieve themselves, particularly if they are housetrained. As the urge to urinate or defecate rises, it conflicts with their instinct not to go inside their den. This is a very specific form of frustration, and may be combined with your dog scratching at the door or nudging you with her snout.



## Mental state

In the pack, whining is often a sign of submission. It's a dog's way of telling a more dominant dog, "I give up." This is usually accompanied by submissive posture: ears, tail and head down, and a dog showing submission or deference may often also "squat," putting their entire body low to the ground.

If your dog does give you an appeasement whine, the best thing you can do is acknowledge it quietly, and then walk away. To a dog, this means, "Apology accepted."

Your dog may also greet you by whining, in which case she is expressing excitement. In this case, your dog may also jump up and down or spin around. This is the time to practice "no touch, no talk, no eye contact," until he settles down.



Finally, a dog can use whining to let you know that they want something — particularly if this behavior has worked for them before. You just have to make sure they go into a calm-submissive state before and if you decide to give them what they want.

## Emotional state

Finally, dogs can whine to communicate their emotional state to us, with their body language and energy being a key to understanding which state they are expressing.

A dog can whine because she's excited, anxious, frustrated, or fearful. Excitement will come with a lot of jumping, circling, yipping, and activity in general. Anxiety is accompanied by nervous pacing, and uncertain body language — ears and tail down, constant looking around.

A frustrated dog may show obsessive behavior while whining, such as scratching at the door or reaching under the couch. A fearful dog will whine while showing submissive body language, possibly even trembling. Such a dog will try to escape by avoiding people or hiding.

Whining is not a dog's preferred method of communication, but since humans talk all the time, it can be natural for a dog to pick up on this and start vocalizing herself. We can certainly learn some useful information when our dog does whine, but if we do not respond to it properly, it can become an unwanted behavior.

It's easy to see a dog's whining as cute, but if we fail to

## Why is My Dog Whining? (Continued...)

understand the reasons for it and instead give immediate attention and affection to a whining dog, we will just teach our dogs to whine all the time, which can lead to other unwanted behaviors, like constant barking.

As with everything else, the key is to remain a calm, assertive Pack Leader, and move your dog from whining to a calm, submissive state before you give them what they were asking for — if you do. As with children, just because a dog asks you for something, it doesn't mean she should get it. That decision is up to you, the leader of the pack.

## Why Do Dogs Lick?

By Josh Weiss-Roessler

See if this sounds familiar: After going for a long walk with your dog and feeding her, you sit down to relax. She comes over, so you start petting her, but as soon as you do, the licking begins. You're not a fan, but it isn't a big deal at first... and then it progresses until she's slobbering all over your face.

This happens every single time you offer affection! Why? Dogs lick their pack members and themselves for many reasons, and if you want to curb the behavior, it helps to understand its cause.

### We taste good

If your dog is licking their bowl, the floor after a spill, or the counter after you've been cooking, you might pretty easily come to the conclusion that they simply like the taste. But did you know that the same thing can be true when they're licking us? Sometimes we have tiny food particles that they can taste, and beyond that, dogs enjoy the salt on our skin.

### Grooming

You might not think of your pup as particularly concerned with hygiene, but dogs often lick to clean themselves, just like cats. Pay close attention, though, because excessive anal cleaning can indicate that the glands need to be expressed.

### Healing

Dog saliva has enzymes that kill off bacteria, and when a dog licks himself, it helps to get rid of dead tissue and clean dirt from wounds. Some dogs, however, just can't stop themselves and may actually reopen wounds or cause other kinds of harm through excessive licking.

### Compulsion

Speaking of excessive licking, if you notice that your dog is licking the same object or area over and over or that they seem to be doing so whenever they are scared or nervous, it might be time to seek medical help. While lick-



ing can be a healthy stress reliever, obsessive licking merely reinforces anxiety and makes the problem worse.

### Communication

Dogs lick other dogs to tell them all sorts of things: everything from "I'm hungry" to "I submit to you" to "Let's be friends." They do this with people as well, but we're typically not as good at interpreting the message. If your dog is licking you with intensity, take a look around and see if something is amiss. Maybe the water bowl is empty or the doggie door is closed. Chances are your dog needs something.

### Affection

This is the most common reason that domestic dogs lick and tends to be the kind of licking most pet parents want to change. Licking for affection causes your dog to release pleasurable endorphins that calm and comfort them, but sometimes it can just get to be too much for people. If you want your dog to stop, ignore them and walk into another room whenever it begins. Eventually they will learn that licking causes you to leave, which isn't what they want.



## Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue

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### Next Meeting

Thursday, November 13th, 7:30 p.m.  
at the Dog Museum in Queeny Park.

We love having happy healthy Goldens  
at our meetings! Please make sure your  
dog is up to date on shots and  
vaccinations please!

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

### Officers

#### **President**

Mike Stemmler  
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#### **Vice-President**

Jim Dilg  
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#### **Secretary**

Shane Stark  
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#### **Treasurer**

Lynn Stark  
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#### **Membership Representative**

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### Coordinators

#### **Intake Coordinator**

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#### **Adoption Coordinator**

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#### **Membership Coordinator**

Tim Miget

#### **Events Coordinator**

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#### **Webmaster**

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### Mentors

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#### **Adoption Phone Lines**

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#### **Home Visits & Dog Visits**

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#### **Foster Homes**

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