

GGRR NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 5

Issue Number 10

Date: October 2008

* * * Meeting Notice * * *

Date: Thursday, October 9th

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, to allow us to get through our agenda in a timely manner, please keep dogs 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.

Mark your calendars! Sharon West, trainer and owner of Westinn Kennels, will be speaking immediately following our NOVEMBER 13th business meeting. She will discuss helping rescue dogs overcome past issues so they can become happy, well-adjusted family members.



Tennis anyone? Jilly Dierkes is surrounded by tennis balls, but she appears to have no idea who created such a mess! Jilly discovered a garbage bag filled with about 150 tennis balls that Kathy D. uses to make dog toys. Since dad, Jay, was outside cutting the grass and Kathy was at work, Jilly had plenty of time to scatter the balls and chase them around the living room. Mom Kathy came home to a Kodak moment!

When your family is considering acquiring a dog as a family member, take some time to research various breeds that appeal to you. Golden Retrievers make wonderful family dogs. However, they are not right for every family. A young, rambunctious Golden is definitely not the best choice for a family with preschool children. Golden Retrievers are also a very social breed. If your dog will be home alone for 8+ hours a day, a lonely, young Golden will find ways to amuse itself; and they probably won't be ways that meet with your approval! The following article can help you decide whether or not a Golden Retriever is right for your family.

Top Ten Reasons NOT to get a Golden

by Cheryl Minnier

(reprinted with permission from the author)

- 1. YOU ARE LOOKING FOR AN "OUTSIDE ONLY" DOG.** Part of what makes Golden Retrievers "golden" is their affectionate, people loving nature. This trait makes them **VERY** unhappy when they don't have a high amount of interaction with you. A Golden confined to the backyard can become destructive and **LOUD!** Imagine if you left your children alone most of the time until they reached adolescence. The wild child you are picturing is similar to what will happen to a Golden left alone that much. If you aren't planning on your dog becoming one of the family—a Golden is not the breed for you!

Top Ten Reasons NOT to get a Golden

(cont.)

2. **YOU DON'T LIKE DOG HAIR.** Goldens shed - a little all year round and then a couple of times a year - look out! If you have a problem with Golden fuzz becoming part of your dietary fiber or you're compulsive about always dressing in black - this is not the breed for you! Goldens also need regular grooming to keep their skin and coat in good condition. You can easily learn to do this yourself or have your dog professionally groomed, but grooming time is something to factor into the amount of time you will need to spend caring for your dog.
3. **YOU HAVE NO SENSE OF HUMOR.** Goldens are born with a sense of mischief. If you really see nothing funny about waking up to a cold, slobbery tennis ball in your face or a puppy that decides 2:00 a.m. is a great time to play fetch - perhaps another breed or an older dog might be best.
4. **YOU ARE A CLEAN FREAK.** Muddy paws, nose prints on every window in your house and car, and did I mention the hair? Enough said . . . If you can't relax and enjoy it, you and your dog will both be miserable.
5. **YOU ARE A COUCH POTATO AND HOPE YOUR DOG WILL BE, TOO.** Goldens are sporting dogs, bred to retrieve game all day. They need regular exercise, especially as puppies, or they can become destructive and unhappy. If your longest walk in the past month was from the couch to your bed, perhaps a more sedentary pet would better suit your needs.

6. **YOU LIKE EVERYTHING TO STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU PUT IT.** Goldens have a last name – “Retriever,” from the Latin meaning, “to put EVERYTHING in your mouth and dance around with it!” The retrieving instinct **SHOULD** be a part of every Golden; so if you object strongly to your dog happily strutting out to greet company with your underwear in his mouth—perhaps you should continue your search for the perfect breed.
7. **YOU ARE APPROACHING GETTING A DOG AS A TEMPORARY CONDITION.** Not only are Goldens addictive - but they will hopefully live for a long time. Dog ownership is a commitment for the life of a dog. If you figure your dog will head for the pound once the kids are in school – please reconsider getting a pet! Golden rescue is full of dogs that have lost their homes as a result of changes in life circumstances. Some are not preventable and the dedicated volunteers who care for these dogs are ready and willing to help—but the changes that **ARE** predictable should be taken into consideration **BEFORE** committing to a dog.
8. **YOU DON'T LIKE MEETING NEW PEOPLE.** Your new family member will need obedience classes to help him become a well-behaved canine citizen. This is a dangerously easy place to make friends. It is also impossible to walk down the street with a beautiful Golden dog and **NOT** be stopped by strangers. Goldens are people magnets. Got a problem with this? Maybe something in the guard dog family would serve you better!

Look for the rest of this article to be continued in next month's newsletter.

MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 11th :

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Pat Moran. Drew C. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Kathy D. seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed. No corrections to the minutes were noted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

None this month

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Not available

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Tim M. reported for Janice E. who was unable to attend the meeting. There were five membership inquiries during the past month. The following people joined GRR:

Sandy Bayer (Tracie's mom)

Judy Drozda

Steve Ryals

Make sure to welcome our newest members when you see them at a meeting!

INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Barb B. reported that four dogs were surrendered to GRR during the past month:

08-038: Rocky, a two year old male being fostered by Susan Ittner

08-039: Ben, a 10 month old neutered male being fostered by Michele and Darren Huelsman

INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

(cont.)

08-040: Yadi, a 2 year old male being fostered by Pat Moran

08-041: Tess, a 4 year old female being fostered by Cheryl and Bill Klousia

Envelopes addressed for mailing paperwork to Barb, Beth, and Carrie were circulated for those who need them.

ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

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

08-032: Oliver

08-035: Chico

08-036: Shine

Carrie has updated our current waiting list for dogs and has copies available for anyone who would like one.



Faith Taylor, dressed in her finest lei at Slider and Jewel Taylor's birthday party, captures the piñata of dog treats. I hope she shared the contents with the birthday girl and boy.

WEBSITE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

None - Paul S. was unable to attend the meeting.

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Chris R. reported on final details for the **Kirkwood Greentree Festival**. (A last minute decision was made not to participate due to inclement weather throughout the weekend and safety concerns from lightning.)

The **APA Canine Carnival** will be held on Sunday, October 5th at Tilles Park from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Janice E., Tom and Donna S., Pat M., and Chris R. are all scheduled to work at this event. The Golden Retriever Club of Greater St. Louis will be participating with us in this event.

The **Lucky Dog** adoption event on Sept. 20th will be staffed by Tom and Donna S. along with their Golden, Oliver. A jazz festival will also be taking place on that date, so there should be lots of traffic in the store. Parking lots may also be filled to capacity.

Celebrate Spot, a walk for dogs and their owners to benefit breast cancer research in young women, will take place on Sunday, October 12th in Forest Park. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. in the Upper Munny parking lot. The event begins at 9:00 a.m. Participants can choose to walk the 1-mile route or a 5-mile route. The cost is \$30 in advance or \$35 on the day of the walk. There is no fee for walkers under the

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT: (cont.)

age of 12 years. GRRR would like to send a team of walkers to this event. All registered walkers will receive a free t-shirt. The first 750 people who arrive will receive a free Build-a-Bear black Lab. Imo's is providing a pizza party after the walk. Activities for dogs include a Stupid Pet Trick contest and a Best-dressed Dog award. See Chris R. after the meeting for a brochure about this event.

Heather H. discussed plans for a Halloween party at **Lucky Dog** on Saturday, October 25th from 10:00 a.m. – noon. GRRR is planning the event and will receive all of the proceeds from it. Heather circulated a list for members to sign up to help plan or work at this event.



Slider Taylor decides to cool off after bobbing for hot dogs at his recent birthday party. Message to Rich and Carol: Your boy has outgrown his kiddie pool! Time to get a new one so this big boy can actually swim!

OLD BUSINESS:

You can still purchase **Macy's Shop for a Cause** passes for \$5.00. See Beth J. after the meeting. Passes will also be sold from our booth at the Greentree Festival. Beth announced we have already made a profit of \$375 from the sale of these shopping passes. The passes are valid for a 20% discount on most merchandise purchased on Saturday, Sept. 20th.

Pat M. reminded members that she has coupons for \$2.00 off the purchase of any Nylabone product. See her after the meeting to get one.

Pat M. discussed the ***As Good As Gold*** Rescue Conference taking place in the Chicago area on October 25th. Pat and Barb B. plan to attend the conference. Anyone else interested in attending should talk to Barb or Pat after the meeting. The conference is on the same date as the Halloween party at Lucky Dog.

NEW BUSINESS:

Eileen C. reported that she and Beth J. do not want to chair our Reunion Picnic committee in 2009. They have been in charge of the picnic for the past seven years. Please consider taking on this responsibility. For the past two years, a committee was formed to help plan the event. The new chairperson will have plenty of help in planning the picnic. In the past, the picnic was held on the first Sunday in May. Love Park has not yet been reserved for the 2009 picnic. Reservations can be made on the St. Louis County Parks website or by phone once a date has been selected.



Scottie Adkins, fur child of Lee and Carmie Adkins and canine sibling of Iris Adkins, takes some time to catch his breath at the dog swim in Arnold. He is one handsome boy--whether soaking wet or dry!

NEW BUSINESS: (cont.)

Kathy D. reported that she took a supply of her hand-made holiday dog bandanas and woolie toys to Lucky Dog, where they will be sold. GGRR will receive the profits from the sale of these items. Thanks for your hard work, Kathy!

Pat M. informed members of an online coupon which is available from the Petco website. Print the coupon and receive \$10 off a \$50 purchase at PetCo. You must show your P.A.L.S. card along with the coupon when you make your purchase.

Pat M. reminded members that elections will be held for the positions of President and Secretary at our December meeting. Please consider being nominated for one of these positions. It is great to have fresh faces with new ideas on our Executive Board!

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Kathy D. It was seconded by Korisa C. A vote was taken and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

DONATIONS:

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

Ms. Sharon Blaszak

WAGS AND BRAGS:

Congratulations to **Drew and Korisa Carbone** on the birth of their son, **Alexander Thomas Carbone**. The big event took place on Monday, Sept. 22, 2008. Alex weighed in at 8 lbs.1 oz. Mom, Dad, Alex, and canine sibling, Stone, are all doing well and provided these photos.



Baby Alex



Alex and Stone

WAGS AND BRAGS: (cont.)

Blitz Blacksher, who recently became a full-fledged member of the Blacksher family, is now 23 pounds lighter after three months on the green bean diet. With another three months of the same routine, Blitz should reach his goal weight, which is 80–85 lbs. The dogs outnumber the humans currently residing in the Blacksher household.

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.

RESCUERS NEED RESCUE, TOO

by Chandra Moira Beal

Animal rescue is deeply rewarding yet extremely difficult work. To survive in this realm, one must find healthy ways to cope with the emotional challenges. Here are 10 points to ponder.

You can't save them all. Even if you spent every hour of every day working to save animals, you still wouldn't be able to save them all. Take comfort in knowing that you are not alone in your efforts.

Work smarter, not harder. Manage your rescue efforts like a business. Organize tasks to make the best use of time. For example, time spent recruiting more volunteers may make more sense in the long run than trying to do everything yourself. If you find yourself pulled in many directions, you might be more effective if you focus on one rescue facility, one geographic locale, or one species or breed.

Just say no. Many people feel guilty when they can't take care of everything that comes up. Be realistic about how much you can handle! If you're feeling overwhelmed, it's okay to say, "I can't right now." Delegate to others when possible, and ask for help when you need it.

You are making a difference. Whenever you question whether you're helping very much, remember the old parable about the man walking on the beach, picking up starfish who have washed ashore and tossing them gently, one by one, back into the ocean. Another man approaches, notices that there are starfish on the beach for as far as the eye can see, and asks,

"What difference can you possibly make when there are so many?" Looking at the creature in his hand, the first man replies, "I can make all the difference in the world to **THIS** starfish."

Celebrate victories. There are happy endings to many rescue stories. Rejoice in what is working. Of course, seeing an animal go home with a loving family is the greatest reward of all.

Small kindnesses do count. It's common to think that small efforts don't mean as much as large victories, but stopping to pet an animal, even for just one minute is worth doing. Your touch may be the only friendly attention he or she receives that day. Grooming, holding and comforting, or intoning softly that you care, are activities that many shelters don't have time for.

Find outlets for emotional release. Rescue work can be physically exhausting, emotionally draining, and spiritually challenging. Don't dismiss your feelings or think you're a wimp for being affected by it all. Talk to someone you trust about what you're experiencing. Cry when you need to. Write your feelings in a journal.

Channel your emotions into action by writing to the editor of your newspaper or your local representatives about the need for animal protection legislation.

Take care of yourself. Make time to do whatever makes you feel good. Take a relaxing bath, or go out to dinner and let someone else do the cooking. You need to recharge your batteries in order to maintain mental and physical health.

RESCUERS NEED RESCUE, TOO

(cont.)

Don't downplay your compassion. When people ask me why I rescue animals, often I'm tempted to say, "Oh it's not a big deal" or "Somebody's got to do it," when in reality I rescue animals because I care so deeply about them. Compassion is healthy, normal, and necessary for this work. Let people know how important this cause is to you. You might just inspire others to become involved.

Never give up. When you get discouraged, it is tempting to throw in the towel. Take a break, and come back fighting. And remember the man and the starfish.

Thanks to Rich T. for submitting the above article for inclusion in the newsletter.



Stone Carbone keeps a watchful eye on his new sibling, Alex. That sure looks like a smile on Alex's face. He and Stone seem destined to become best of buddies.

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

314-995-5477

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