

# GGRR NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 3

Issue Number 9

Date: SEPTEMBER 2006

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

**Date:** Thursday, Sept. 14th  
**Time:** 7:15 p.m.  
**Place:** The Museum of the Dog

*We love having Golden retrievers 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.*

### MINUTES FROM AUGUST 10th:

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 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 thanked Tim Miget for filling in for him at the July meeting. He thanked Carrie Tennessen for assuming the responsibilities of Adoption Coordinator until June 2007.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

The account balance at the beginning of the month was **\$6731.29**. Income was **\$973.50**; expenses were **\$2,105.47**, leaving an ending balance of **\$5595.32**. The current balance in the Flash Fund is **\$2434.77**.

### MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

We had 6 membership inquiries this month, and we added 3 new members to our

roster. Laura and Reed Haberstroh, Cheryl Gruber, and the Kevin Germino /Jessica Lester family all joined GGRR during July.

### INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Three new dogs were surrendered to GGRR during the past month:

- 06-019:** Truman, a 2-1/2 year old male
- 06-006:** Gordon, a 3-1/2 year old male
- 06-020:** Annie, a 2-1/2 year old female who is still with her owner in Ava, MO

### ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

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

- 06-012** Ginger
- 06-017** Bailey L.
- 06-001** Maggie



It's triplets born to mom Sydney at Lazyriver Golden retrievers in Canada.! Rich and Carol Taylor will be getting one of the pups once they're ready to go.



Ginger, fostered by Carrie Tennesen, gets her leash in preparation for a walk. Ginger, never much of a home body, enjoyed letting herself out of the yard as well. She seldom passed up an opportunity to climb over the fence or squeeze through the smallest of openings.

**EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:**

The Dog Museum is starting a new educational program called Teaching Life Values Through Canine Relationships. Letters were sent to 30 area schools describing the program and inviting them to participate. Schools will be matched with dog breed clubs, who will visit classrooms with their dogs throughout the year and teach children lessons about being responsible pet owners. Several members are interested in participating, so Chris will complete the application form.

The volunteer schedule to work in our booth at the **Kirkwood Greentree Festival**, held in Kirkwood Park at the intersection of Geyer and Adams Road is listed below:

**Friday, Sept. 15**

**5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.:**

Chris R., Warner, Eileen, Barney, Paul, Nanette

**Saturday, Sept. 16**

**8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Tim, Mike, Cathy A.

**2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Beth, Eileen, Tim, Paul, Nanette

**Sunday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>:**

**8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

Beth, Barb, Joan E.

**12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.**

Kathy D., Pat, Korissa, Jack, Joan, Paul, Nanette



Ralph Bauer, adopted by Nona Bauer, shows off his new haircut. Nona says he prances around like a puppy and even lifts his leg a little higher now! Ralph was the foster dog of Carrie Tennesen. Who can resist those eyes?

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

The following people have volunteered to work in our booth at the **APA Canine Carnival** at Tilles Park:

**Sunday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>**

**10:00 – 3:00**

Chris R., Cathy A., Pat, Cheryl

The following people are scheduled to work in our booth at the **Canine Olympics** held at Purina Farms in Grey Summit:

**Saturday, October 14th**

**8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

Pat, Chris R., Nanette, Lee

**12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.**

Mike, Pat, Barb, Chris R.

Heather, Chris R., Barb, Eileen, and Beth volunteered to be on the committee to plan the rescue parade at this event. We need to select an announcer for the parade, and several names were suggested for Chris to contact.

## **PDR REPORT:**

None

## **WEBSITE COORDINATOR:**

Our website numbers are lower this month than usual, with an average of 300 page views per day. There were 80,445 hits, which is an increase that may be due to having more dogs pictured on our website. There were 8,339 visits, of which 2816 were unique visitors. Approximately 5,000 of the 80,000+ hits were from Missouri.



Max Blacksher and his foster brother, Gordon, engage in a game of tug. Simba, pictured in the background, keeps a close watch from his den under the computer.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

We will not be holding our fall garage sale this year. Kathy Dierkes volunteered to hold the spring sale at her house.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Carrie requested that foster homes keep her updated when arrangements have been made to show a dog. A number of foster parents report difficulties reaching the families who have been matched with their foster dogs. The foster parent leaves messages, and they aren't being returned—sometimes due to vacation schedules, but often because the family adopted a dog elsewhere. It was agreed that foster parents would make 3 attempts to contact an adoptive family. If a foster parent's messages have not been returned within one week, we will move on. We cannot hold dogs indefinitely when other families are interested in the same dog. Contact Carrie when this happens so she can match the dog with another family on our waiting list. The original family will **not** lose their place on the list when this occurs.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (cont.)

The group discussed limits we might want to place on the geographic areas GRRR serves. In Missouri, we operate in St. Louis and the surrounding area. In Illinois, we operate in the west central portion of the state. Inquiries from areas more than an hour's drive from St. Louis can be handled on a case by case basis. Sometimes members will be traveling through areas farther away and are willing to perform home visits or transport a dog. Find out how willing the caller is to work with us. Owners who wish to surrender dogs may be willing to drive the dog to a centrally located meeting place. When distance is truly an issue, the callers can be referred to the Golden Retriever Club of America or to Petfinder to aid in their search for a dog.

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

**WAGS AND BRAGS:**

A big thank you goes out to Lynn Stark! Never one to be idle, Lynn assembled 45 adoption folders while she was recuperating from her recent surgery. Our foster homes will have enough to take them into 2007. Folders will be available at meetings, or you can ask Barb to mail some to you.

**RAINBOW BRIDGE:**

Emma Combs unexpectedly made her way to the Rainbow Bridge on April 19, 2006 at the age of 11-1/2 years. She was the princess of the herd, a very dainty Golden. Emma made friends with everyone she met; and although she would have never admitted it, her home destroying habits as a puppy were what convinced us to go the

rescue dog route a few years later. As she grew up, she became the very gentle soul we all knew and loved. Emma enjoyed being around people, and one of her favorite things to do was hang around with her people friends at GRRR events.

Maddie (aka Madeline) came to us as a very sad looking foster in July 2002. Her family loved her very much but found they could no longer afford to care for her many health issues. After getting her allergies somewhat under control, she suddenly developed an auto-immune disease. We thought we would lose her then, but promised to keep her forever if she'd pull through. Maddie proved to be a much tougher cookie than we thought and decided she'd found her forever home. She taught us that it's what's inside that really counts. Although she battled many health issues over the years, it was a short but tough fight with cancer that quickly sent her to the Bridge on August 28<sup>th</sup> to join her sister Emma.

Both Emma and Maddie are sorely missed and fondly remembered.

by Barney & Eileen, Buddy & Moses



Maddie (l) and Emma (r) Combs are pictured together in a favorite photo Eileen keeps on her desk at work.

## **FOSTER HOMES NEEDED!**

GGRR currently has 18 homes in the St. Louis area that have been approved as foster homes for dogs surrendered to us. We also have 3 homes outside the St. Louis area that will accept dogs requiring long-term care and rehabilitation. However, only 10 of our approved homes have actually fostered a dog this year. Foster homes go on hold due to illness in the family, long work hours during certain seasons, construction projects in the house or yard, and even when they just need a break from having an extra dog.

While we realize that not everyone is at a place in their lives where they are able to foster a dog, it really isn't a difficult task. Having foster homes to care for and evaluate incoming dogs is essential for GGRR to accomplish its stated goals. Below are some foster home statistics gathered from the past 8 months:

- 1 person has fostered 5 dogs**
- 2 people have each fostered 3 dogs**
- 3 people have each fostered 2 dogs**
- 5 people have each fostered 1 dog**

The figures can be a bit misleading, as a couple of harder-to-place dogs have tied up individual foster homes for months at a time, severely limiting the number of dogs they could foster. These figures help to explain why we haven't been able to place as many dogs so far this year as we have done in previous years. Our Intake Committee is forced to turn down dogs when our foster homes are full. While we do occasionally kennel dogs, it is far too expensive to be used on a routine basis. In addition, when dogs are in a kennel, it doesn't allow us to become acquainted with the temperament and personality of each dog. Just think what we could accomplish if a majority of our members would commit

to fostering just one or two dogs sometime during the year! It would also give some of our "regulars" a break from fostering every now and then.

What does it take to be a foster home for GGRR? It requires a home visit to make sure you are able to provide a safe environment for our dogs. It requires someone who loves Golden Retrievers and will love and care for a foster dog as if it were their own beloved pet. It requires a fenced yard where a dog can safely romp, play fetch, and have fun. A foster dog may be in your home from a couple of weeks to a couple of months, depending on its age and medical needs. GGRR pays for the dog's food and medical care. You provide the love and whatever else might be needed to make the dog more adoptable—some brushing, a nail trim, working on some basic commands, leash manners, and anything else you do with your own dog. Please consider opening your home to a foster dog so more people can experience the joys of having a rescued Golden Retriever as a companion for their family.



Kayla (l) and Megan (r) Tennessen are pictured above with their foster dog, Ginger. Their Golden brother, Reggie, can be seen off to the left. Ralph Bauer, who was visiting the Tennessens while Nona toured with her newest book **Dog Heroes of September 11<sup>th</sup>**, can also be seen in the background.

## ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

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

Barb Blacksher  
26 Cynthiana 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.*

:



Ralph Bauer takes some time out to rest from his busy day. Nona calls him the canine flying nun when his ears stick up this way. You're well on your way to geezerdom if you're old enough to remember Sally Fields in "The Flying Nun!"

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

### Officers:

President: Shane Stark 636-349-7854  
[tenille01@earthlink.net](mailto:tenille01@earthlink.net)  
Vice-President: Tim Miget 636-458-2145  
[TimMiget@hotmail.com](mailto:TimMiget@hotmail.com)  
Secretary: Eileen Combs 636-464-5937  
[leenbean58@charter.net](mailto:leenbean58@charter.net)  
Treasurer: Beth Johnson 314-846-5645  
[Goldenmom03@charter.net](mailto:Goldenmom03@charter.net)  
Member Rep: Chris Rogers 314-968-1109  
[chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net)

### Coordinators:

Intake Coordinator: Mike Stemmler  
636-227-3471  
[kreator@aol.com](mailto:kreator@aol.com)  
Adoption Coordinator: Carrie Tennesen  
314-843-1593  
[carrie2tenn@aol.com](mailto:carrie2tenn@aol.com)  
Membership Coordinator: Barb Blacksher  
314-831-0757  
[blacksher@charter.net](mailto:blacksher@charter.net)  
Events Coordinator: Chris Rogers  
314-968-1109  
[chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net)  
Webmaster: Paul Swarhout  
636-530-7204  
[Cody@antidotecomputer.com](mailto:Cody@antidotecomputer.com)

### Mentors:

Intake Phone Lines: Mike Stemmler  
636-227-3471  
[kreator@aol.com](mailto:kreator@aol.com)  
Adoption Phone Lines: Chris Billingham  
314-427-3979  
[teenakaty@aol.com](mailto:teenakaty@aol.com)  
Home Visits: Eileen Combs 636-464-5937  
[leenbean58@charter.net](mailto:leenbean58@charter.net)  
Dog Visits: Shane Stark 636-349-7854  
[tenille01@earthlink.net](mailto:tenille01@earthlink.net)  
Foster Homes: Barb Blacksher  
314-831-0757  
[blacksher@charter.net](mailto:blacksher@charter.net)