

GGRR NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 5

Issue Number 9

Date: September 2008

* * * Meeting Notice * * *

Date: Thursday, Sept. 11th

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.

GGRR is participating in **Macy's Shop For A Cause** this year. By purchasing a \$5 shopping pass, you will receive 20% off most merchandise purchased at any Macy's store nationwide on Saturday, Sept. 20th. Contact a member, send an email to our website, or visit our booth at **Kirkwood's Greentree Festival** on Sept. 12-14 to buy a shopping pass. GGRR keeps **ALL** proceeds from the shopping passes we sell.



Kaia Tennesen models the latest in fashionable attire for dogs—a cast with dog bones on it. Kaia fractured her leg while playing and will be wearing her cast for another 3 weeks. I'll bet Kaia thinks it looks good enough to munch!

"I ADOPTED YOUR DOG TODAY"

- Author unknown

I adopted your dog today . . .
The one you left at the pound,
The one you had for seven years
And no longer wanted around.

I adopted your dog today. . .
Did you know he's lost weight?
Did you know he's scared and depressed
And seems to have lost all faith?

I adopted your dog today. . .
He had fleas and a little cold;
Guess you don't care what shape he's in
You abandoned him I am told.

I adopted your dog today. . .
Were you having a baby or moving away?
Did you suddenly develop allergies,
Or was there **NO** reason he couldn't stay?

I adopted your dog today. . .
He doesn't play or even eat much;
I guess he's very sad inside and
It'll take time for him to trust.

I adopted your dog today. . .
And here he is going to stay;
He's found his **FOREVER** home
And a warm bed in which to lay.

I adopted your dog today. . .
And shall give him all that he will need.
Patience, love, security,
So he can forget your selfish deed.

I will continue to focus this month on how to surrender a dog that you are unable to keep. Shelters were intended to house stray dogs and to serve as a lost and found for dogs and their owners, not a place to drop off unwanted pets. The following tips will help you find a reputable rescue group.

FINDING A REPUTABLE RESCUE GROUP

There are many unscrupulous people trying to turn a quick profit in the animal business. Don't surrender a pet or adopt one from the first group that appears from your internet search. Use the guidelines listed below when looking for a **reputable** rescue group. Ask questions about their procedures and listen carefully to what you are told.

A reputable rescue group . . .

- ? is registered as a 501(c)(3) organization, operating as a not-for-profit group.
- ? has an Animal Care Facility License from the Missouri Department of Agriculture or from the state in which it operates. Ask to see it!
- ? requires a legal release form signed by the person surrendering a pet.
- ? carefully screens incoming animals for temperament and health issues.
- ? keeps its dogs in foster homes, not housed in kennels.
- ? understands the limits of its resources and does not accept more animals than it can legally house or has the space and time to care for.

- ? spays or neuters all pets before they are placed in adoptive homes. If the animal is too young to be altered, the group makes arrangements for the surgery when the animal reaches the recommended age.
- ? ensures that all animals receive necessary vet care, are up-to-date on vaccinations, are tested for heartworm and receive a heartworm preventative, and are microchipped.
- ? screens potential adopters with a **mandatory** home visit with all family members present.
- ? does not permit "on the spot" adoptions at adoption events or when conducting a home visit.
- ? does not permit its animals to be given as gifts or as a surprise for the intended adopter.
- ? requires an application form and an adoption contract.
- ? works carefully to match up the right forever home with the right pet, based on the animal's needs and personality.
- ? always takes back its adopted animals if the placement isn't successful.



Lee and Scottie Adkins enjoy the end-of-the-season dog swim at the water park in Arnold.

MINUTES FROM AUGUST 14th :

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by President Pat Moran. Drew C. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from our July meeting. Jim D. seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed. The following corrections were made to last month's minutes: The online newsletter has question marks rather than bullets highlighting the Dos and Don'ts of Surrendering a Pet. Paul S. has told Barb B. how to avoid this problem in future editions.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Pat M. reported that **As Good As Gold-Golden Retriever Rescue of Northern Illinois** is sponsoring a rescue conference in Chicago on Saturday, October 25. There is no charge to attend the conference, and meals are also included free of charge. The only cost is for a hotel room if you choose to spend the night. See Pat after the meeting if you would like additional details. Pat and Barb B. plan to attend and others are welcome to share a ride.

Pat has a supply of \$2.00 off coupons on any Nylabone product. They are good until 12/31/09. Pick some up after the meeting if you are interested.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Beth J. reported that our account balance at the beginning of April was **\$7,298.78**. Income was **\$870**. Expenses were **\$4,896.67**, leaving an ending balance of **\$3,272.12**. All outstanding bills have been paid.



Flash, fur child of Lynn and Shane Stark, waits patiently for a turn at bobbing for hot dogs. Flash was attending a birthday party for Jewel and Slider Taylor.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Janice E. reported there were two membership inquiries during the past month. There were no new members added to the roster. Visitors at the meeting included Sandy Bayer and Don and Judy Delonjay.

INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

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

08-036: Shine, a 2 year old female who is good with children, dogs, and cats; she is being fostered by Jennifer Kandlik in Columbia, MO.

08-037: Bella, an 11 month old female from Springfield, MO; she is being fostered by John and Nancy Rudkowski



Jewel Taylor licks her lips in anticipation as she waits for her turn to bob for hot dogs. A good time was had by all at the birthday party for Jewel and Slider.

INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

(cont.)

Kathy D. has foster home manuals for any of our new foster parents. See her after the meeting.

ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Carrie T. reported that 5 dogs were placed in their forever homes during the past month:

- 08-024: Ruby**
- 08-025: Haley**
- 08-027: Cindy**
- 08-030: Duke #2**
- 08-034: Buddy**

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Chris R. reported on plans for Kirkwood's **Greentree Festival**. Our booth is Unit 108 and will be on the east side of the playground, which is the same location as last year. However, this year we will be at one end of the row so there will be more room for our dogs. The **Golden Retriever Club of Greater St. Louis** will share our booth and will provide one person to staff the booth each day.

The following people have volunteered to work in our booth:

Friday, Sept. 12th:

5:00 – 10:00 p.m.:

Chris and Warner R., Pat M., Heather and Natalie H., Paul and Nanette S.

Saturday, Sept. 13th:

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.:

Donna and Tom S., Tim M., Rich T.

2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.:

John and Nancy R., Paul and Nanette S., Barb B.

Sunday, Sept. 14th:

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.:

Pat M., Kathy D., Lynn and Shane S.

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.:

Courtney and Brennan W., Paul and Nanette S., Pat M., Tracie B.

All shifts have been filled, but members should feel free to join in the fun even if you haven't signed up.

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT: (cont.)

The **APA Canine Carnival** will be held from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5th at Tilles Park. We have enough workers to staff our booth, but all members are welcome to attend.

The fall schedule for **Lucky Dog** adoption events is complete. The following people have volunteered:

Sept. 20: Tom and Donna Schmiederer

Oct. 18: Tracie Bayer

We receive lots of publicity at **Lucky Dog** so please make a point to patronize the store when you need a dog gift. The store will be selling some of the dog scarves and woolies that our members make. A date for our Halloween party there has not yet been decided. Heather H. will give us details at the next meeting.

Chris has a copy of **Java Journal** in case you haven't had a chance to read **Jessica Wilson's** first article about **Toby**, the Golden she adopted from GRR.

We will be participating in Webster Groves' annual Christmas Walk again this year. In the past, we have been the only rescue group there, so our dogs are quite a hit! Chris will have details for us as soon as they become available.

The **Maryland Heights Aquaport** is having its dog swim on Friday, Sept. 5th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Several members are planning to attend, and it would be great to see more friendly faces there. It is a fun-filled evening for both people and dogs. The cost is \$10 for one person with a dog. Additional people can attend for \$3 each. Make sure to bring your dog's shot records to the check-in desk.

The **Boat House** in **Forest Park** allows dogs to accompany their owners while dining out on the patio. It was suggested that members meet there for dinner while the weather is still nice.

WEBSITE COORDINATOR:

Paul S. reported our website statistics for the month of July. They include:

Hits:	82,560
Page Views:	20,542
Visitors:	8,611
Unique Visitors:	2,716

Traffic was down about 30% from the previous month. Paul is currently working on adding our Intake List to the website, so members can be kept up-to-date on the dogs available for adoption. Hopefully Paul will have it up and running by September.



Does the Canine Olympics have an event called Synchronized Fetching? If so, sign these boys up! Max Blacksher and a Golden Doodle friend are ready for action, just waiting for Melissa C. to throw a tennis ball for them to fetch. Bob Blacksher is in the background with his bright yellow life preserver.



Bob Blacksher is a bit obsessive when it comes to his tennis balls. After retrieving them from around the house, Bob arranges them in a straight line by the door. He is ready to play at a moment's notice and can protect them from the other dogs. Now if he could just figure out how to get all 3 of them in his mouth at the same time, he'd have it made!

OLD BUSINESS:

Barb B. reported that we were approved to participate in the **Macy's Shop For a Cause** event. Shopping passes cost \$5 and entitle shoppers to a 20% discount on most merchandise on **Saturday, Sept. 20th**. GRR keeps **all** proceeds from the shopping passes our members sell. See Beth J. after the meeting to purchase tickets.

The following changes have been made to the adoption phone lines and online volunteers:

Amy Hernlund will replace Korisa C. on the adoption lines on Thursdays.

Cindi Loomis will replace Nancy A. handling online adoption applications.

Thanks to all of our volunteers for their help!

NEW BUSINESS:

Barb B. asked about publishing some of the more bizarre excuses people have for surrendering their Golden Retrievers to GRR. It was suggested that we compile the Top 10 Stupid Reasons for Surrendering a Dog based on stories we have heard. We might want to make this handout available to the public at some of our events. Send your stories to Barb, and she will put together the list.

Sharon West has graciously offered to present a training session for our foster parents with ideas for solving some of the more common problems that occur with foster dogs. A vote was taken, and everyone was in favor of accepting Sharon's offer. Barb B. will contact her to set up a time and location for this training.

Amy H. presented information about the **Schnuck's e-Script Community Card** program. Charitable organizations can enroll in this program, and when a group's card is scanned at the checkout, **3%** of the total purchase is donated to that organization. A vote was taken and members decided to pursue this fundraising option. Amy will send in a copy of our 501(c)(3) documentation along with a voided check. Once GRR is accepted into the program, Barb will send an email to all members telling them how to get their cards. Paul will also put information on our website about our participation in the Schnucks e-Script program once he receives the details.

Korisa C. informed members about a new rescue group called **Senior Dogs 4 Seniors**. The group matches older dogs

NEW BUSINESS: (cont.)

with older people. Older dogs often have trouble getting adopted, and older people often have trouble adopting a dog. The couple who started this group previously fostered dogs for Love a Golden, and recognized the potential for a group that focused on both senior canines and senior citizens. The website address for the group is www.seniordogs4seniors.com. An article about the organization recently appeared in the **Kirkwood/Webster Journal** and in the August 6th edition of the **West County Journal**. You can access the article by visiting the Senior Dogs 4 Seniors website. Members who deal with the phone lines and with online inquiries should keep this group in mind. Feel free to refer people to them if GGRR is unable to meet their needs.

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

F. Y. I. :

Below is an update on attendance at our GGRR meetings in recent months:

March 2008: 27 people

April 2008: 25 people

May 2008: 25 people

June 2008: 28 people

July 2008: 25 people

August 2008: 28 people

Thanks to everyone for making the effort to come to our meetings after a hard day at work! We all have busy lives; yet we continue to find time for our Golden Retrievers and the families who adopt them. It's great to work with such a caring group of people!

DONATIONS:

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

Pamela Wollenberg, in honor of **Canon's** completion of Pre-Novice class

In honor of **Karen Winter**, an AKC agility trial judge, and a Golden Retriever lover and trainer:

Evansville Obedience Club, Inc.

Agility Club of Evansville

In honor of **Pat Moran's** milestone birthday:

Jim and Conor Moran

Ed, Jennie, Ethan, and Bella Moran

WAGS AND BRAGS:



Meet the youngest and most recent addition to the GGRR family, **Iris Adkins**. She is held by her proud dad, **Lee**. **Mom Carmie** was also in attendance. Iris was a perfect lady throughout the meeting. In fact, she was better behaved than some of our members!

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.

Thanks to everyone who submitted photos for this month's newsletter! If some of yours didn't appear this month due to lack of space, look for them next month!



Rocky D. (l), who was adopted from GGRR back in November 2007, is shown with his newest buddy Shadow (r). Shadow recently moved into the neighborhood, and the two Golden Retrievers love hanging out together. Rocky originally came to GGRR from a local shelter and had to be treated for heartworm disease. It's great to see Rocky enjoying a wonderful new life!



Jack Tennesen is dressed in team colors for his sister's soccer game. He'd make a great goalie if they'd let him on the field!

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

314-995-5477

Officers

President: Pat Moran
P4021m@sbcglobal.net

Vice-President: Tim Miget
tse@charter.net

Secretary: Barb Blacksher
blacksher@charter.net

Treasurer: Beth Johnson
Goldenmom03@charter.net

Member Rep: Chris Rogers
chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net

Coordinators:

Intake Coordinator: Barb Blacksher
blacksher@charter.net

Adoption Coordinator: Carrie Tennesen
carrie2tenn@aol.com

Membership Coordinator: Janice Elsenraat
RaileyJR@hotmail.com

Events Coordinator: Chris Rogers
chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net

Tracie Bayer
Tbayer80@gmail.com

Webmaster: Paul Swarthout
Cody@antidotecomputer.com

Mentors:

Intake Phone Lines: Mike Stemmler
kreator@aol.com

Adoption Phone Lines: Barb Blacksher
blacksher@charter.net

Home Visits: Shane Stark
golddog05@mac.com

Dog Visits: Shane Stark
Golddog05@mac.com

Foster Homes: Kathy Dierkes
Kathy_dierkes@yahoo.com