



GGRR Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 9

September 2014

September 2014 Newsletter

Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue
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Inside this issue:

- Meeting Minutes 1
- Events & Old & New Business 2
- Dogs Prefer Petting Much More 3
- Dog Behaviors Explained 4

August Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Secretary, Shane S., President, Mike S., was on vacation. Julie G. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by John R. and passed. There were no corrections to the minutes.

President's Report

In Mike's absence, Shane reported that he would like everyone to "reply to all" when responding to a Home Visit email so that everyone else is informed that it is covered.

The slate for President and Secretary will come up in the October meeting and will be voted on in the December meeting.

Next month's meeting will NOT be held at the Dog Museum. We will all meet at Kirkwood Park to help set up for Greentree. Greentree will run Friday, Sept. 12th through Sunday, Sept. 14th.



Membership/Volunteer Report

Tim M. reported that we had two volunteer inquiries and no new members. There were two visitors present at the meeting, Michelle and Bill N.

Intake Report

Michelle F. reported that we had three dogs come in the previous month:

14-007 Titus—a 15 month old neutered male

14-008 Bella—a 2 year old spayed female

14-009 Scooby—a 10 month old neutered male

Adoption Report

Penny M. Reported that we had one adoption in the previous month:

14-005 Cooper

Website Report

Paul S. reported on our website activity from the previous month:

Hits: 116,000

Page Views: 23,792

Visitors: 7,847

Unique Visitors: 5,339



Treasurer's Report

Lynn S. reported on our accounts from the previous month:

Starting Balance: \$1,957.64

Expenses: \$50.00

Income: \$29.64

Ending Balance: \$1,937.29

Flash Fund: \$26,935.94



GGRR Events

Upcoming Events

Next GGRR Meeting

Thursday, September 11th at Kirkwood Park for the Greentree set-up.

Greentree Festival (Sept. 11-14)

The Greentree Festival will be held over the weekend of September 11th through the 14th at Kirkwood Park. All volunteers are needed to work a shift at this event. Please bring your dogs because the dogs draw the crowds of people and that's how we get our chance to explain what we do. Our booth will be in the same place as always by the playground behind the tire swing. Please contact Julie G. to let her know when you can work the booth. Greentree is a fun event for our volunteers and their dogs. The dogs get tons of attention and the crowd at Greentree is usually very nice. This is great PR for our group.



Scottish Games (Sept. 26-27)

The Scottish Games will be held again in Forrest Park on September 5th. More info to come on this event.

APA Carnival (Oct.5)

The APA Carnival will be October 5th in Forest Park this year.

Please contact our Events Coordinator, Julie G., for more information on all of these events.



Old & New Business

Old Business

There was no old business to be discussed.

New Business

It was mentioned again that the September meeting will be held at Kirkwood Park for the setup of Greentree Festival. Please bring your dog to Greentree as long as they are okay with crowds and new people. There will be a big ex-pen set up for them to romp and play.

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 8:09 p.m.



FOSTER HOMES NEEDED

Want to help a Golden in need?
Contact us through our website
www.ggrr.com to find out how you
can become a volunteer!

Dogs Prefer Petting Way More Than You Thought www.huffingtonpost.com

"Good dog" just doesn't cut it with pooches. Surprising new research shows that dogs prefer petting over verbal praise.

"I spend half my day talking to my dog," study co-author Dr. Clive Wynne, professor and director of the Canine Science Collaboratory at Arizona State University, told The Huffington Post in an email. "She always looks like it's valuable to her. It's quite a shock to discover that what we say to dogs doesn't seem to be rewarding to them after all."

For one part of the study--published online in the journal *Behavioral Processes*--researchers observed 42 shelter and pet dogs as they interacted one at a time with two people in a room. One person petted the dog, while the other praised the dog verbally. The researchers measured how much time the dog chose to spend interacting with each person.

For the next part of the study, 72 shelter and pet dogs were individually placed in a room with just one person--a stranger for the shelter dogs and the pets' dogs owners. Interactions between the person and the dog were recorded over eight three-minute sessions. Each session varied between the person either petting or praising the dog or both, or having no interaction with the dog.



What did the researchers find? The dogs showed more interest in people who were petting them. Even more surprising, the dogs showed no more interest in spoken praise than in having no interaction with the human at all.

"I was surprised that when only one alternative was available, dogs still did not engage with the human for vocal praise," study co-author Dr. Erica Feuerbacher, assistant professor of anthrozoology at Carroll College in Helena, Montana, told

The Huffington Post in an email. She conducted the research while earning her doctorate degree at the University of Florida.

Why would dogs prefer petting over vocal praise? Feuerbacher noted that previous studies showed that dogs' heart rate and blood pressure were lowered by human petting--similar to the way in which human contact can help human health as well.

Despite this new finding, Wynne said he hadn't stopped talking to his dog. But now, he said, "I just recognize better that I'm doing it more for my benefit than for hers. And this study doesn't say that you can't train your dog to recognize vocal praise. If vocal praise is paired with rewards that dogs do care about (petting, food, etc), then they can learn to value it."



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!

Common Dog Behaviors Explained www.ceasarsway.com

Communication begins with understanding. If you want to build a better relationship with your dog, you can start by working to understand the meaning and causes behind some of her most common dog behaviors.

Common Dog Behaviors and What They Mean

Panting

Because dogs sweat through the pads on their feet, most of their body heat is expelled through their mouth when they pant. It's their primary means of regulating body temperature. Dogs also pant to cope with pain.

Dog Barking

In nature, dogs bark to raise an alarm at the first signs of possible danger or to herald a new arrival. Barking is an important means of canine communication. See [What Your Dog's Bark is Telling You](#).

Dog Chewing

Just as a growing child, your dog will want to chew on toys and other objects to relieve the pain of a new set of teeth coming in. If your dog is full grown, you may also come home to find your couch cushions or favorite pair of shoes ripped to shreds, but it is not because they enjoy the taste. Your dog could be exhibiting signs of separation anxiety or anxiety in general. See [5 Steps to Correct Inappropriate Dog Chewing](#).



Digging

Digging is an instinctual activity, written deep in a dog's DNA. It is especially strong in terrier breeds.

Dogs in natural packs will dig to hide food or to uncover food such as small rodents. A den dug in the cool earth can also provide shelter from the heat. See Cesar's dog training advice on how to get dogs to stop digging.

Jumping up

Though it may seem like play behavior, or an enthusiastic greeting, jumping up is a sign that your dog is attempting to assert her dominance over you. By encouraging jumping up with affection, you are reinforcing the behavior. See Cesar's training video on how to deal with dogs jumping when excited.

Dog Biting

A dog will bite a person as a way of communicating their current state of mind. The dog could be reacting in aggression, fear or nervousness. There are, however, ways to prevent a dog bite from ever happening if you stay in tune to the dog's body language. See [Dog Bites 101: Why Bites Happen and How to Prevent Them](#).

Separation Anxiety

Dogs live and travel in packs, so it's natural for them to feel anxious when they are separated from their pack-mates. Try taking your dog on a nice, long walk before leaving her alone in the house. Leaving her in resting mode can calm her anxiety.

Once you understand these behaviors, you'll be better equipped to recognize when your pack's needs are not being met! When your dog's needs go unfulfilled, unwanted behaviors begin to emerge. Consider: Are you giving Exercise, Discipline, then Affection?

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Next Meeting

Thursday, September 11th at
KIRKWOOD PARK for
Greentree Festival Set Up.

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

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