



February 2010
Volume 8, Issue 2

P.O. Box 31700
St. Louis, MO 63131-1700
(314) 995-5477
www.goldenrescuestlouis.org

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Next Meeting

**Thursday, Feb. 11th
at 7:00 p.m.
held at The Dog Museum
in Queeny Park**

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

GGRR Newsletter

Minutes from Our Last Meeting Held on January 14th, 2010

By Tracie B.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Tim M. Ron moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the December meeting. The motion was seconded by Korisa C. A vote was taken and the motion passed. There were two visitors at the meeting, Chris and Tracey S. who adopted Sugar and Eric C. that adopted Flame.

Treasurer's Report

Beth J. gave the treasurer's report. Our account balance at the beginning of December was \$5,617.57. Income was \$633.00. (\$19.68 came from our Schnuck's e-scrip cards!) Expenses for the month were \$790.64, leaving an ending balance of \$5,479.61.

Membership Coordinator's Report

Janice E. was not able to attend the meeting, so Tracie B. gave her report. There were not any membership inquiries or new members during the month of December. The total for 2009 was six new members and 11 inquiries. 2010 Membership Renewal forms were e-mailed out to everyone today and you can fill them out and mail them to Janice with your \$20.00 dues or she will be present at the February meeting to collect them.

Intake Coordinator's Report

Carrie T. reported that two dogs came in in the month of December:

10-001 BB (Butterball) - a 2 year old female that is spayed and could use to lose a little weight. She's being fostered by Kate R.

10-002 Hank – a 6 year old male that came from Franklin County

Carrie also reported that we have one more dog that is coming in tomorrow:

10-003 Jazzy – an 8 year old female who's owner passed away and was taken to a shelter.

Carrie also gave her year-end intake report. In the last year we have taken in 20 males and 11 females. 28 came from owners and 3 from shelters. That comes to 31 dogs total for 2009. (Technically 29 dogs because one was returned to the original owner and the other was a return.)

Happy Valentine's Day!



Adoption Coordinator's Report

Amy A. reported that we placed three dogs in the month of December:

- 09-023 Otis
- 09-025 Flame
- 09-029 Tucker
- 09-028 Sugar (January)

Amy also mentioned that she has a BIG waiting list right now. Carrie asked about Marcus. Amy reported that she hasn't found the right family to fit his age range and he does not interact with other dogs real well and cannot be crated.

Event Coordinator's Report

Barb B. started out by thanking everyone for their quick responses on her email about picking up Jazzy in Illinois. She had seven volunteers offer to pick up this poor girl and transport her to her foster home. Carrie T. is doing an awesome job at determining what dogs will be good for our group and passing up the bad cases that we know we will not be able to place easily.



Sugar, a stray found in a field with her pups, has settled in and made herself at home with her new forever family!

Barb B. passed around the 2010 events calendar. Please mark your calendar now for the events you would like to attend. (See page 7.)

Lucky Dog Adoption Days

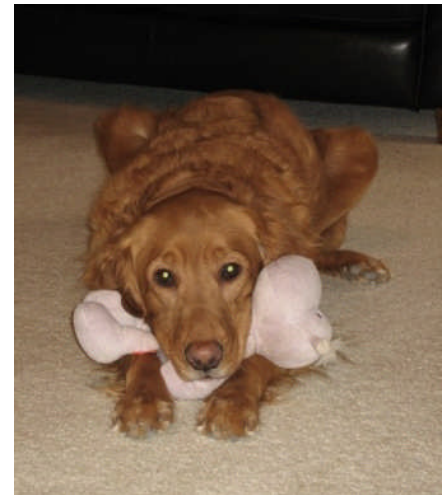
Barb B. reported that she will cover Lucky Dog for January. Kathy D. volunteered to due February 20th and Nancy R. will do March 20th. Please remember that Beth at Lucky Dog does a lot for our group and she really enjoys us being there. Barb encouraged everyone to sign up for one of these adoption days this year because it's great PR for our group. Barb also has a tote that has a GGRR bandana and all of the brochures and paperwork you need to take with you when you do a Saturday at Lucky Dog.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

The St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held downtown on Saturday, March 13th at noon. Barb asked Chris R. if we've been accepted yet, and Chris stated that we usually do not find out until the end of January but it's usually not a problem. Barb reported that the last of the St. Pat's candy has arrived and will be labeled by a Girl Scout troop in Hazelwood. We will have 3,000 packs of candy to give out at the parade so hopefully there will be enough to cover the entire parade route.

GGRR Reunion Picnic

Barb B. mentioned that it's time to form our picnic committee and to decide on a place and date for this event. It was decided to have it again this year at The Dog Museum in Queeny Park. The possible dates to have this would be May 16th or June 13th. It was decided that June would be a better month for this event. We started the picnic at



Addison is pictured above with her "best friend" Gloria the purple hippo! Addison belongs to Sarah C., one of our Columbia, Missouri members.

1:00 p.m. last year and ended it at 4:00 p.m. It was decided to keep the times the same. Barb asked if anyone would like to chair the committee and Amy G. volunteered. If you would like to be a volunteer on the picnic committee, please let Amy G. know. Being on the committee is fun and we are always looking for new ideas and it's really easy when you divide up the responsibilities!

Wrapping Gifts at Barnes & Noble Next Christmas

Barb ran into members from the Samoyed Club before Christmas wrapping gifts that were purchased at the Florissant Barnes and Noble. Barnes & Noble provides the paper and necessary supplies and the charity keeps all the donations collected. They had 3 wrappers and a dog there. Their donation jar was stuffed with money!!! Arrangements can be made now for dates in 2010 with individual stores.



Family Photo Time!
 Pictured above is the stray Golden family that was turned in to GGRR from the Springfield, Missouri area. Pictured from left to right are the two pups, Mya and Ginger, Flame (dad) and Sugar (mom). Three out of the four have been placed in their new forever homes!

The Samoyed Club just has members get together, choose a nearby store, and arrange a date. It's great PR and brings in a profit as well. If you are interested in participating, talk to Barb about selecting a busy shopping day between Thanksgiving and Christmas and a location.

Trivia Night for GGRR

Barb asked if anyone was interested in trying to put together a Trivia Night fundraiser for our group. The Samoyed Club is planning a trivia night for April or May. They previously had a very small one just for practice, so this is going to be a much larger one. They would love to have some of our members help out on the night of the event and said any of our members are welcome to sit in on their planning sessions if we are considering hosting one of our own. Talk to

Barb if you are interested in attending any of their meetings. The Trivia Night will be held at the Maryland Heights Community Center. Barb will have more information on this as the date gets closer. Korisa C. mentioned that she volunteers on a Trivia Night committee for another group and would be able to assist in planning ours. Tracie B. mentioned that her father does all of the scheduling for Webster Groves Masonic Lodge on Elm and Lockwood and their hall is really large and has a kitchen available along with all of the tables and chairs that we could use. There was some discussion about alcohol and liquor licenses at these events. Tracie B. will find out the restrictions for Webster Groves Lodge so we know if we can consider it. Barb B. mentioned that not only do you make money off of the trivia, but the silent auction items draw a lot of the money. Barb picked up a bunch of discounted toys from Petco after the holidays that can be used in baskets. It was decided to pursue the fundraising trivia night. If you are interested in helping out, please talk to Barb.

Website Coordinator's Report

Paul S. reported on our website traffic during the previous month. Our website had:

- Hits: 85,354
- Page Views: 15,066
- Visits: 7,808
- Unique Visits: 2,708

We are now on Facebook and we have 63 fans! We also ran an advertisement on Facebook and it ran from the 2nd of January to the 11th and it was displayed to people over the age of 21 that have dogs. We got 44,063 displays for \$8.66.

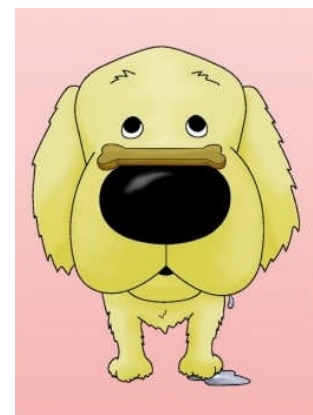
All of our Facebook fans can post to the wall and upload pictures of your dogs. We also have 21 followers on Twitter now.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Barb B. mentioned that she spoke with Nancy R. about the training she does to certify her dogs so she can take them to preschools, nursing homes, etc. Nancy R. does the Canine Good Citizen training. If we got a group together to do this, our mission would be to educate the public and form a group and advertise on our website. Nancy R. has volunteered to do the training. Amy G. asked about the age limit on doing this. Nancy said that there is not an age limit on Delta certification. Nancy explained that part of the training is petting your dog, touching their feet, hugging, etc. Part of the class is book work and the rest is hands on training. This also involves training around wheelchairs and walkers, etc. Delta offers insurance for dogs for two years that covers any accidents. This is \$35.00 per dog and \$10.00 per additional dog. If you are interested in getting your dog certified in the Canine Good Citizen group, please let Nancy R. know. (See box on page 5.)



Amy G. mentioned that her husband Tom insures the director of the Human Society of Missouri and he is trying to get a bill passed regarding puppy mills. He needs 25,000 signatures. If anyone is interested in trying to help get signatures, please see Amy.

Heather H. reported that we need some volunteers to help with the online Adoption Applications. There have been a lot of them coming in lately and it's hard to keep up with them. Amy G. volunteered to help and Paul S. said he will get her set up on the website to receive these applications. A lot of the people that submit their online application get antsy and end up calling the phone lines. Our website says that it may take up to a week to get a callback, but they don't want to wait that long.

A motion was made by Paul S. and seconded by Amy G. to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Mike N., Kay Callison's husband, is pictured above with Walker and Lady in the middle of the Grand Staircase in Southern Utah at the Mormon Dance Hall Rock. Kay calls this his 'Dancing with Dogs' photo.

THE TRAINING CORNER

With Valentine's Day Coming Up...

What To Do If My Dog Eats Chocolate?

Taken from: www.candywarehouse.com

What if my dog eats chocolate?

The short answer to this question is, get the chocolate away from them and call your veterinarian immediately. Chocolate is highly toxic for dogs and can result in an irregular heart beat, seizures, and even- in severe cases- death. Symptoms will vary depending on the weight of your dog, how much chocolate was eaten, and the type of chocolate eaten.

Additional Q & A

Why is chocolate toxic for dogs?

Chocolate contains the chemical theobromine, a stimulant similar to coffee that is harmless to humans. Dogs cannot tolerate theobromine, and once it is ingested, they may become very sick, including problems with heart rhythm (arrhythmia) and problems with the central nervous system.

What are symptoms of severe toxic sickness from chocolate?

Your dog may appear restless and irritable, and may have increased urination. Other symptoms may include an irregular heartbeat, tremors, or seizures.

At what levels are different types of chocolate highly toxic?

Milk chocolate has 45 mg. of theobromine per ounce; it is toxic at one ounce eaten per pound of body weight
Semi-sweet chocolate has 150 mg. - 260 mg. of theobromine per ounce; it becomes toxic at one ounce eaten per 3 – 6 pounds of body weight
Baker's chocolate has 450 mg. of theobromine per ounce; it is toxic at one ounce eaten per 10 pounds of body weight
Cocoa beans have 450 – 1500 mg. of theobromine per ounce; they become toxic at one ounce eaten per 10 – 33 pounds of body weight

What if my dog eats a smaller amount of chocolate than the toxic levels listed above?

Digestive upset such as vomiting and diarrhea may occur; this can happen immediately or even the next day.

What about white chocolate, carob, and cocoa butter?

These do not contain theobromine and are therefore not toxic for dogs.

What will happen if my dog has ingested very toxic levels of chocolate?

If it has been within two hours since your dog ate the chocolate, your veterinarian will give your dog a vomit-inducing medication. After two hours it will be absorbed by the body. At that point, inducing vomiting will rid your dog of the toxin, followed by repeated doses of activated charcoal to absorb any remaining toxins. Depending upon the severity of the case, your dog may need to be hospitalized for a time so that he can be observed and given proper treatments for any symptoms he has (i.e. anti-seizure medication for seizures). The length of the hospital stay will depend on the situation, but will likely last until the theobromine has left his system (up to 15 hours). Symptoms can last for up to 72 hours.

THE THERAPY DOGS & ROCKY'S BIOGRAPHY

Submitted by Nancy & John Rutkowski

My name is Nancy Rutkowski. I have been involved with Golden Rescue for about 18 years in St. Louis and San Diego.

I have been involved with therapy dogs for about 15 years and I belong to Delta Therapy dogs with 4 of my dogs. I am an evaluator and class instructor for Delta.

My dogs and I have visited hospitals, psychiatric units, children's homes, reading groups with children, hospice, convalescent homes and the VA Center at Jefferson Barracks.

We have done this for 15 years because we love it. My dogs love the attention and it makes a big difference to the people we visit. I always feel better when I have done a visit.

There are a few people in the Club who are interested in becoming a therapy dog team. The basic test is based on the CGC. I was supposed to speak at the February meeting but we will be out of town.

If you are interested in becoming a therapy team or want more information, please contact me at nancy2802@aol.com or 636 273-5868.

Below you will find an article written by a friend who works for an animal center where we did therapy visits. Rocky is the second dog we adopted from GGRR.

Rocky's Biography

- Found in Elephant Rocks state park, where he ate out of garbage cans and begged for food, in Missouri in 1995 (hence the name "Rocky").
- Rocky's estimated birthday is February 1, 1993.
- Rocky had Heartworm when he was found. He was treated by the woman who found him, before being turned over to the rescue organization. This involved treatment with arsenic where the result is "cure or kill" and he survived, partly because he was young at 2 1/2.
- Rocky was fostered by John & Nancy Rutkowski as part of GGRR. He wormed his way into their hearts and never was placed in another home. He is extremely needy and Nancy knew that Rocky needed her.
- He had many training issues including having a few problems with other dogs because he was a stray. He wasn't housetrained when they got him and knew no commands. He still steals food off the kitchen counters, eats their son's white socks, paper, and cardboard. He loves to steal an empty pizza box and eat it. He loves to pop tennis balls and eat pieces. He was first trained to basic obedience commands and then therapy commands.
- Rocky moved with John and Nancy to California in 1996 with the intention of becoming a "surfer dog". He loves to run on Dog Beach.
- He started visiting as a therapy dog in 1996 at Helen Woodward Animal Center. As part of this work, he visits nursing homes, Polinsky Children's Center, assisted living centers, and private homes where hospice situations exist. He was one of only a few dogs permitted to visit the locked-down psychiatric facility run by the county. He has attended many obedience and therapy classes in order to be trained well enough to visit all these populations, but he always had the most important requirement, needing to be loved and petted.
- He plays ball with the children at Polinsky Children's Center. While he was chasing a ball, one girl started saying "Good Dog, Good Dog". I found out a little later that she hadn't said a word since coming to the children's center.

(Continued – Next Page)

THERAPY DOGS & ROCKY'S BIOGRAPHY (Continued)

- Nancy and Rocky were awarded "Volunteer of the Year" as a team in 1998.
- Rocky has over 600 hours of therapy visits to date.
- Rocky started Flyball in October, 1998.
- In October, 2003, he earned his "Grand Champion" Flyball title (30,000 points). At a maximum of 25 points per heat, he has raced over 2,000 heats in five years to achieve this plateau.
- We also participate in obedience trials and have earned an obedience title as well as his Canine Good Citizen award.
- In May 2000, he was rushed to the veterinarian because he wouldn't eat (a major sign that he was sick). The x-ray showed pieces of tennis ball blocking the exit from the stomach to the intestine. He was also diagnosed with intestinal carcinoma. They found the cancer earlier than would have happened if the tennis ball pieces hadn't been blocking the stomach. Surgery was performed to remove the tumor. Results of testing indicated the margins of the surgery still had cancer cells and a second operation was performed. Following this, he was placed on intensive chemotherapy for five months. He was given a 50/50 chance of surviving a year. Not only did he survive, but he wanted to continue to play flyball all through his chemotherapy because he felt so much better. At present he is almost 11 years old and a 3 1/2 year cancer survivor. He still has a physical, ultrasound and blood work every 6 months. While the cost of his medical treatment has been more than \$15,000, his value in performing therapy for people in need far exceeds this amount.
- In 2001, Rocky and Nancy became charter team members of a dog organization at Rancho Santa Fe Library named "Book Hounds" where children are encouraged to read to the dogs to improve their skills and desire to read.
- In May 2001, Rocky was a featured story as part of a Flyball video shown on the OLN Network in Canada as part of their Top Dogs series.
- He was able to do this because GGRR saved his life. We lost him to cancer 3 years ago.

Thank you GGRR,
John and Nancy

DONATIONS

GGRR received donations from the following individuals and groups:

Pamela Wollenberg, in honor of her Golden, Canon's, CDX Obedience Title

James Moran, in honor of Pat's two Golden's, Rain & Shadow

Sarah Cavin, in memory of Murphy and in honor of Addison

Beth Farmer

Ken and Barb Fritz, in memory of their friend's Golden, Hope.

Janice Anderson

Jim Alexander

Jane & Harry Millaway

Donna & Ron Graef, in memory of their Golden, Snider.

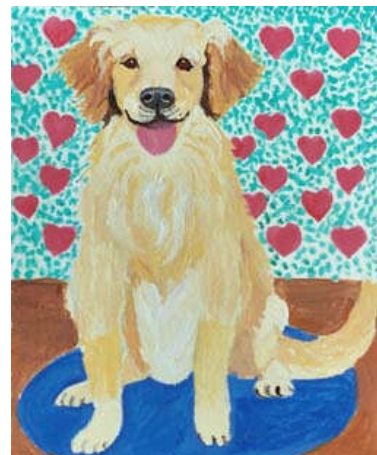
John Hefner

Susan Shepherd Ittner and The Shepherd Foundation, in honor of her two Golden's, Duke and Chip.

Ann Stochel as a gift to her friends Denise and Lori

Drew & Korisa Carbon

Kay Callison



*My little dog – a heartbeat at my feet.
~Edith Wharton*

GGRR 2010 EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 1st Newly elected officers assume their positions
 14th Monthly meeting - Take volunteers for the Reunion Picnic committee
 16th Adoption Day at Lucky Dog

FEBRUARY

- 11th Monthly meeting - 2010 Membership Dues should be paid
 20th Adoption Day at Lucky Dog

MARCH

- 11th Monthly meeting
 13th St. Patrick's Day parade
 20th Adoption Day at Lucky Dog

APRIL

- 2nd-4th Retriever Field Trials sponsored by the Golden Retriever Club (a competition)
 9th-11th 2010 Golden Retriever Specialty
 13th Monthly meeting
 15th Adoption Day at Lucky Dog

MAY

- 13th Monthly meeting—Elections for Coordinator Positions
 15th Adoption Day at Lucky Dog
 22nd-23rd Hunt Test, WC, and WCX at Weldon Springs—we provide lunch and workers

JUNE

- 1st Newly elected coordinators begin 1 year terms
 10th Monthly meeting
 13th Animal Reunion Picnic at AKC Museum of the Dog
 19th Adoption Day at Lucky Dog

JULY

- 8th Monthly meeting
 17th Adoption Day at Lucky Dog

AUGUST

- 12th Monthly meeting
 21st Adoption Day at Lucky Dog

SEPTEMBER

- 9th Monthly meeting
 17th-19th Kirkwood Greentree Festival
 25th Adoption Day at Lucky Dog (postponed a week due to the Greentree Festival)

OCTOBER

- 14th Monthly Meeting-- Form Nominating Committee of 3 people to find candidates for President and Secretary
 _____ Board of Directors Annual Meeting
 16th Adoption Day at Lucky Dog
 _____ Celebrate Spot Walk
 _____ APA Canine Carnival
 _____ Member Picnic

NOVEMBER

- 11th Monthly meeting—Officer's slate is presented; additional nominations taken for President and Secretary
 _____ Webster Groves Christmas Walk
 20th Adoption Day at Lucky Dog

DECEMBER

- 9th Annual Membership Meeting—Voting by ballot for Offices of President and Secretary, Party and Dog Gift Exchange after the meeting
 18th Adoption Day at Lucky Dog

Rainbow Bridge

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the following family who recently lost a beloved Golden companion:

George - Lee and Becky Rottmann had to put George down on the Monday after Thanksgiving. He was 5 years old and a wonderful loving guy. He developed cancer and was only sick for 5 days. He was a rescue Golden that Pat had found for them. He will be missed dearly.

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

OFFICERS

President:

Tim Miget

tnsemiget@charter.net

Vice-President:

Heather Haberstroh

heather_haberstroh@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Tracie Bayer

tbayer80@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Beth Johnson

Goldenmom03@charter.net

Member Rep:

Chris Rogers

Chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net

COORDINATORS

Intake Coordinator:

Carrie Tennessen

Carrie2tenn@aol.com

Adoption Coordinator:

Amy Anzelmo

amylynn1027@gmail.com

Membership Coordinator:

Janice Elsenraat

raileyJR@hotmail.com

Events Coordinator:

Barb Blacksher

blacksher@charter.net

Webmaster:

Paul Swarthout

cody@antidotecomputer.com

MENTORS

Intake Phone Lines:

Mike Stemmler

Mstemmler1012@yahoo.com

Adoption Phone Lines:

Pat Moran

P4021M@sbcglobal.net

Home Visits:

Shane Stark

golddog05@mac.com

Dog Visits:

Shane Stark

golddog05@mac.com

Foster Homes:

Kathy Dierkes

kathy_dierkes@yahoo.com



GRR Newsletter
Tracie Bayer, Secretary
329 Providence Rd.
Ballwin, MO 63011

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED