

GGRR NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 3

Issue Number 2

Date: MARCH 2006

* * * Meeting Notice * * *

Date: Thursday, March 9th
Time: 7:15 p.m.
Place: The Museum of the Dog

We love having Goldens 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 Feb. 9, 2006:

President Shane Stark called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. It was moved and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the January meeting. A vote was taken, and all were in favor. No changes were made to the January newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The annual dues of \$10 per person are now due. Please send your check to Beth Johnson as soon as possible if you plan to remain a member and wish to receive the newsletter. **A big thank you goes out to those members who made an additional donation along with their dues payment!**

Shane has fliers from Pet Loss Grief Counseling if anyone would like one. It was suggested that this information be included in the newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The beginning balance for January 2006 was \$6576.55. Income was \$1416.50; expenses were \$1334.55, leaving an ending balance of \$6649.60 for January 2006. Next month the treasurer's duties will be officially handed over to Beth Johnson. Thanks to Kathy Little for her many years of dedicated service as our Treasurer!!



Timer, Pamela Wollenberg's beloved companion of 11½ years, recently passed away from lymphoma sarcoma. Timer, also known as UCDX OTCH Autumn's Double Exposure UDX 4, was Pamela's first Obedience Trial Champion and her very first Golden Retriever. Timer, who Pamela called her "Little Lion," loved to carry around his blankie and glove, steal Pamela's socks, play ball outside, roll in the grass, and sun himself in the back yard--no matter how hot the weather. When told he was going for a ride in Pamela's truck, Timer got so excited he would spin around in circles. Timer will be missed by his GR brother, Nikon; his GSD sister, Dora; and by all of the humans who were fortunate enough to have been acquainted with this beautiful and talented boy!

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

We had 6 inquiries and no new members.

INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

We had 4 dogs come into the program since our last meeting:

- 06-002** Tucker, a 3 month old male
- 06-003** Champ, a 3 year old male
- 06-004** Sundance, a 3 year old female
- 06-005** Samantha, a 13 month old female

ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

We have placed 1 dog during the past month:

- 05-047** Dudley

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

The annual St. Pat's parade will be on Saturday, March 11th. We have just received confirmation from the St. Pat's parade committee. Directions and times will be announced at the March meeting and will also be posted on the message forum on our website.

The Golden Spring Specialty will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 8th and 9th, at the Kennedy Recreation Complex on Wells Road in South County. This event is sponsored by the St. Louis Golden Retriever Club, and it generally

runs from 8:00 a.m. to around 4:00 p.m. We will need volunteers to assist at our information booth, as well as the hospitality station for this event. Last year's lunch was so successful that we have once again been offered the opportunity to provide the hospitality lunch for both days by the Golden Club. All donations received will be given to GGRR. We will be asking our members to sign up to bring a dish. The members of the Golden Club will also be assisting us in an effort to generate donations for GGRR. More detailed information will be discussed at the March meeting and will be posted on our website. (For those of you who haven't attended this event in the past, it includes both conformation and obedience competitions for Golden Retrievers. You'll see gorgeous dogs, walk through the handlers' area to chat and watch them groom their dogs before events, and find lots of Golden Retriever merchandise for sale.)

If you are able to volunteer for any of these events, please contact Chris Rogers. If you won't be at the March meeting, you can reach her at 314-968-1109 or by email at ChrissyRogers@sbcglobal.net. Thanks!!!

PDR REPORT:

Nothing to report this month; we are still waiting to receive the agriculture license that the state requires.

WEBSITE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

In December, our website had 66,084 visitors, with 52,800 hits and 12,094 page views. In January, there were 71,075 visitors, with 12,802 page views.

OLD BUSINESS:

We are still working on setting up dates and times for our mentoring programs. Training will be offered to members interested in learning to do dog visits, home visits, foster dogs, and answer the phone lines. If you'd like to get more involved in GGRR, the training sessions are a great way to get started! More information will follow.

Barb has GGRR posters to hang in vets' offices and other local places to advertise our club. They will be available at meetings or you can contact her at 314-831-0757 or blacksher@charter.net to get some.

Discussion took place on posting the newsletter on the website. It will need to be in a PDF format. This would cut our costs considerably. We will try publishing the newsletter in both formats (on the website and snailmail) for several months and see how members respond.

Due to personal schedules, Beth and Eileen have suggested that the annual reunion picnic be held every other year. Since time is short and there were no volunteers to chair the picnic this year, it was decided that we will postpone the picnic until 2007. Also, with the small active membership we currently have, it would be very difficult to run the picnic as in past years. Suggestions were made that we simply have a lunch for our adoptive families. However, due to the popularity of the "canine carnival" theme we have had in the past, many members felt that our guests would be disappointed by not having games. A suggestion was made to send a letter to our adoptive families informing them that the event will not

take place this year, but will continue in 2007. Barb will draft a letter and bring it to the next meeting for member input. A committee will be formed to start work on the 2007 picnic later this year.

Carrie reported feedback from a friend that calls to our phone lines were not being responded to in a timely manner. We understand a family's anticipation when they are eager to receive a dog. However, we have very few volunteers working the phone lines at this time; so we ask that people be understanding, as we are all volunteers. When performing a dog visit or home visit, make sure to leave a GGRR card with your name and phone number so you can serve as a contact person for the family if questions arise. During home visits, please ask families to contact us if they receive a dog from another source so we can remove their names from our waiting list.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Mad Max Blacksher joins in a three-way tug-of-war with two visiting Golden friends.

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

Please submit items by the last day of the month to include them in the newsletter for the following month.

IT'S JUST A DOG

Author unknown

From time to time, people tell me, "Lighten up, it's just a dog," or, "that's a lot of money for just a dog." They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a dog." Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a dog." Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a dog," but I did not once feel slighted. Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a dog," and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a dog" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it's "just a dog," then you will probably understand phrases like "just a friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a promise." "Just a dog" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy. "Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person. Because of "just a dog" I will rise early, take long walks, and look

longingly to the future.

So for me and folks like me, it's not "just a dog" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment. "Just a dog" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day. I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a dog" but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a woman (or man!)." So the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog" just smile, because they "just don't understand."

WAGS AND BRAGS:

Spurred on by the recent Olympics, Max and Simba Blacksher recently achieved a personal best. Accidentally straying off the 2.1 mile walking path at Creve Coeur Park (Barb's fault!), they completed a 6.8 mile trek. Not bad for an 11 year old senior who survived a bout with cancer and a 3 year-old youngster with a bad rear leg!! Afterward, they paid a surprise visit to Healing Paws Rehab where therapists helped Max recover from his surgery a year ago. Needless to say, Max's surgeon was thrilled to see results of her work!

While her canine brothers were out walking, Nala achieved her personal best by raiding the Blacksher pantry! She gives rave reviews to Post Raisin Bran, although she's not sure whether she prefers the cardboard box or the actual cereal. She also gives high marks to Pop-Secret microwave popcorn. Although the kernels were a bit crunchy, the butter, cellophane wrapper, and paper bag were excellent.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Officers:

President: Shane Stark 636-349-7854
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Treasurer: Beth Johnson 314-846-5645
Goldenmom03@charter.net
Member Rep: Chris Rogers 314-968-1109
chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net

Coordinators:

Intake Coordinator: Mike Stemmler
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kreator@aol.com
Adoption Coordinator: Shane Stark
636-349-7854
tenille@earthlink.net
Membership Coordinator: Ann Timar
314-961-3619
missannstlouis@hotmail.com
Events Coordinator: Chris Rogers
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Webmaster: Paul Swarthout
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Mentors:

Intake Phone Lines: Mike Stemmler
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