



GGRR Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 5

May 2011

May 2011 Newsletter

Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue
 P.O. Box 31700
 St. Louis, MO 63131
 Phone: (314) 995-5477
 www.ggrr.com

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Meeting Minutes | 1 |
| Events | 2 |
| Thunder Storm Tips | 3 |
| Donations & Rainbow Bridge | 4 |
| Weight Management Tip | 5 |
| Old & New Business | 5 |

March Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by President, Tim M. Julie G. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Pat M. and passed. There was one correction to the minutes.

President's Report

Tim reported that we received a check from Pfizer's Matching Funds program and that Mike Stemmler has the new copies of our Agriculture license.

Treasurer's Report

Beth J. was not present so Heather H. gave her report. Our beginning balance for the month of March was \$2,243.47. Income was \$8,290.96 (mostly from our Trivia Night and \$27.37 came from our Schnucks e-Script

cards) and our expenses were \$1,021.00 leaving us with an ending balance of \$9,540.80.

Membership Report

Amy G. reported that we had two inquiries in the last month and no new members. There was one visitor at the meeting, Audrey C. that adopted from us recently.

eter family.

011-007 Honey—a 7 month old female that was digging in her previous family's yard. She needs to be placed with a family that has another dog as a play-mate.

011-008 Samantha—a 7 year old female at original owner's home waiting for a foster home

011-009 Bear—a 3 year old male in the same home with Samantha
 011-010 Shelby—a 4 year old female at Under One Woof. She's a sweetheart.

RFR-001 Harley—a 9 year old female with eye issues. (Harley is a referral dog. See website for information.)

Adoption Report

Amy R. reported that one dog was placed in it's forever home in the past month:

011-002 Ben
 Amy also reported that we have three pending adoptions on Twitch, Lacey and Buddy. We have three families on our waiting list right night with very specific wants.



One of the Golden at the Golden Specialty catches a few minutes of shut-eye before competition.

Intake Report

Penny M. reported that we had six dogs come in in the last month:
 03-068R Holly—an older female that was returned to GGRR after 8 years because she needs a qui-

Website Report

Paul S. was absent so Nanette S. gave his report. Our website had the following traffic in the last month:

Hits: 115,032
 Page Views: 27,551
 Visits: 9,475
 Unique Visits: 2,770

Nanette announced that Paul has been working on creating a new look for our GGRR website. She gave the members the link to check out our new website design so comments or suggestions could be given to Paul.



Helena S. and her Goddaughter at our reunion picnic. Sophie can't have a dog yet so she dressed up as one.

GGRR Events

Event Coordinator's Report

Barb thanked all of our members that walked in the St. Pat's parade. We had 20+ dogs and 40+ people. Barb asked if there were any suggestions for next year since our shuttle system didn't seem to work as planned. Julie G. suggested meeting at the Dog Museum and all riding together. Next year we'll revisit these ideas.

Barb also thanked Julie G., Chris R., Pat M. and Kathy D. along with all of their dogs for joining her at the Dog Museum's Dog of the Week Golden Retriever event. One family visited us with their two small children. Two families topped in with Golden pups they had adopted from a breeder affiliated with the Golden Retriever Club. Although attendance was poor, they enjoyed visiting with Love a Golden and the Golden Retriever Club of St. Louis members and the dogs had a great 3-hour romp with some new friends!

Barb reported that we took in \$695 in merchandise sales and \$16 in donations at the Golden Specialty this year. She also thanked Tracie G., Jim D., Julie G., Chris and Warner R. and Kathy D. for helping with staffing our booth for the weekend. Last year we old sold \$470 in merchandise but we took in \$581 in donations for serving breakfast and lunch. We will continue looking for reasonably priced merchandise to add to our stock in preparation for the 2012 Golden Specialty.

GGRR Upcoming Events

Adoption Days at Lucky Dog— Saturday, April 16th.

We need a volunteer to go to Lucky Dog in Webster Groves to do our adoption days. Time is flexible. See Barb if you would like to do it.

Delta Pet Partner Dogs Walk with the Brentwood Children's Home Society in Tilles Park -

Saturday, April 16th at 11:00 a.m.

Tim and Bentley and Barb and Max will be attending. Other members without their dogs are welcome to join the walk. This event

might be cancelled due to weather. See Barb for more information.

GGRR Reunion Picnic—Sunday, May 1st.

This is a required event for our members. The museum will open up at 11:00 a.m., but we ask that you show up at 10:00 a.m. to help unload cars and carry all of the supplies around to the side doors. Since we will be working, please leave your Golden Retrievers at home.



Please wear your blue member shirt and if you need a shirt, please see Barb after the meeting. 182 invites were mailed on 3/31. So far 10 have been returned with the forwarding time expired. So far about 12 families have RSVP. Donations for our raffle baskets hasn't been so great. If you have anything to donate, please let Amy R. or Barb B. know. Baskets can also be made up by members and brought to the picnic the day of. Amy G. asked that all members bring a bag or two of ice. We will also need folding tables. Amy G. will assign jobs to all volunteers. Amy passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers and for side dishes. All GGRR members need to let our guests eat first and once all of the guests are done eating, members can take turns eating lunch.

A couple of our guests gave the agility course a try (above) while others enjoyed the Pupperoni Pull (right) which is always a big hit!

Adoption Day at Muddpuppies Wellness Center, Saturday, May 7th from 11:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Muddpuppies is located at 1120 Technology Drive, Ste. 114 in O'Fallon, MO. Thanks to Rich T. for arranging an event at a new location. We would love a great turnout for this first-time event. We will be outdoors if the weather is nice and will have an ex-pen for our dogs set up. In case of rain, we can setup inside.

Wildlife Rescue Center Baby Shower, Saturday, May 14th from 10:00—3:00

This will be held at 1128 New Ballwin Rd., Ballwin, MO next to Castlewood State Park. We met representatives from this group at the APA Carnival last year and they invited us to be part of their event. There will be tours of the center, games, food, crafts, education programs and more than 20 animal welfare and environmental groups with booths. We can bring our dogs and set up an ex-pen but no dogs are allowed inside the building. We need to be set up by 9:30 a.m. Volunteers who work our booth will be given a ticket for a free lunch. They have a wish list of items needed at the center. The most urgently needed items are unscented laundry detergent, unscented bleach, non-flavored Pedialyte, infra-red heat lamp bulbs (50, 75, 100, 150 or 250 watts) and UV bulbs for reptiles. See Barb after the meeting for a complete list or go to www.mowildlife.org. If you would like to donate items but cannot attend the event, bring them to the May meeting.



10 Steps to Calm Dogs Afraid of Thunder & Lightning Storms



One of the best dress-up contestants from our picnic.

By Patty Khuly, *Special for USA TODAY*

It's the same thing every year. The summer storms ... they stress our dogs unduly. We vets call it "storm phobia." You call it your worst nightmare. (The howling, the hiding, the destruction!)

Either way, we all want the same thing: a calmer dog that doesn't have to suffer the psychological damage done by booming thunder, wicked lightning and plummeting barometric pressures.

And it's not just their psyche (and ours!) at risk. We all know that dogs are capable of doing serious damage to themselves during stormy times of the year. Fractured claws, lacerations, broken teeth and bruises are but a few consequences.

So how do you handle thunderstorm phobia? Here are my suggestions:

• Handle it early on in your dog's life.

Does your dog merely quake and quiver under the bed when it storms outside? Just because he doesn't absolutely freak doesn't mean he's not suffering. Since storm phobia is considered a progressive behavioral disease, signs like this should not be ignored. Each successive thunderstorm season is likely to bring out ever-worsening signs of fear. It's time to take action — NOW.

• Don't heed advice to let her "sweat it out" or not to "baby" her.

I've heard many pet owners explain that they don't offer any consolation to their pets be-

cause they don't want to reinforce the "negative behavior" brought on by a thunderstorm. But a severe thunderstorm is no time to tell your dog to "buck up and get strong." Fears like this are irrational (after all, she's safe indoors). Your dog won't get it when you punish her for freaking out. Indeed, it'll likely make her anxiety worse. Providing a positive or distracting stimulus is more likely to calm her down.

• Offer treats, cuddlings and other good stuff when storms happen.

This method is best employed before the phobia sets in — as pups. Associating loud booms with treats is never a bad thing, right?

• Let him hide — in a crate.

Hiding (as in a cave) is a natural psychological defense for dogs. Getting them used to a crate as pups has a tremendous influence on how comfortable they are when things scare them. Having a go-to place for relaxing or hiding away is an excellent approach, no matter what the fear. Another approach to try, whether he's a pup or not:

• Get him away from the noise, and compete with it.

Creating a comfy place (for the crate or elsewhere) in a room that's enclosed (like a closet or bathroom) may help a great deal. Adding in a loud radio or white noise machine can help, too. Or how about soothing, dog-calming music?

• Counter the effects of electromagneticism.

Though it may sound like voodoo, your dog can also become sensitized to the electromagnetic radiation caused by lightning strikes. One great way to shield your dog from these potentially fear-provoking waves is to cover her crate with a double layer of heavy-duty aluminum foil. Another method involves clothing her in a commercially available "Storm Defender" cape that does the same work. If she hides under the bed, consider slipping a layer of aluminum foil between the box-spring and mattress.

• Desensitize him.

Sometimes it's possible to allay the fears by using thunderstorm sound CDs when it's not raging outside. Play it at a low volume while plying him with positive stimuli (like treats and pettings). Increase the volume all the while, getting to those uncomfortable booming sounds over a period of weeks. It works well for some.

• Ask your veterinarian about drugs.

Sure, there's nothing so unsavory as the need for drugs to relieve dogs of their fears, but recognize that some fears will not be amenable to any of these other ministrations without drugs. If that's the case, talk to your vet about it — please. There are plenty of new approaches to drugs that don't result in a zonked-out dog, so please ask!

• Natural therapies can work.

For severe sufferers, there's no doubt it'll be hard to ask a simple flower essence to do all the heavy lifting, but for milder cases, Bach flower extracts (as in Rescue Remedy), lavender oil (in a diffuser is best) and/or "Dog Appeasing Pheromone" (marketed as D.A.P. in a diffuser, spray or collar) can help.

• Consider seeing a board-certified veterinary behaviorist.

If nothing else works, your dog should not have to suffer. Seek out the advice of your veterinarian, and, if you've gone as far as you can with him/her, consider someone with unique training in these areas — perhaps a board-certified veterinary behaviorist.



The hot dog toss requires extreme concentration.

GRR Donations

GRR received donations from the following individuals and groups:

The Pfizer Matching Gifts Foundation

Pamela Wollenberg, in honor of all of GRR's Foster Homes

Robert & Toni Green, in memory of Shawn Blaes

St. Luke's Medical Group, in memory of May Barner

The Karraker Family, in memory of Kay Callison's Lady Day

The Karraker Family, in memory of their beloved Angel.

Judith Hoffman

David & Helena Servis

Donald and Jean Foster

Linda Varberg

John Sturm

John & Sue Ellen Choate

Tri County Agility Club of Missouri

Robert & Mary Ann Scher, in memory of Nicklous Riley Sturm

Chris Rogers, in memory of Riley

Shirley & Edward Smith, in memory of Riley

The following were made in memory of Ron Graef:

Steve & Carlyn Clayton

Vernon Smith



DRS Sustainment Systems, Inc.

Mary LaDuc

Ferguson-Florissant

School District

Rainbow Bridge

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the following families that recently lost their beloved Golden companions:

Kay Callison—"Lady Day"



Just to let everyone know that we lost our beautiful Puppy Mill rescue, Lady Day, yesterday. Now she is at the Bridge to join her dad, Mike, and Townes, Shelby, and Nala. I am devastated, brother Walker seems lost. Lady came into our lives June 13, 2007. She was a five year old breeder bitch from a kennel in Montgomery County. She had had no human socialization, no name, and didn't know what grass was. It was a long haul, I knew nothing about puppy mill dogs, but with a lot of help

from many of you, plus Janice Mitchell's wonderful book about Lucy Blue given to me by Barbara Blacksher, she turned into a lovely Lady in every sense of the word. We traveled with her out West in 2008 and 2009, and she did just great. Had gotten so that she would come out to greet anyone at the door and even let them pet her right off most of the time. Most of all, she made me a better person, and for that I am so deeply grateful. Please think of her at the Reunion Picnic. She was a great dog, and testament to how a dog that seemed hopeless could turn around with love, time, and patience.

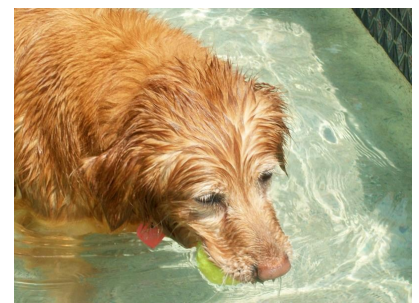


Winnie Loomis (above and to the right)



Cindi Loomis—"Winnie"

Winnie passed away just one month shy of her 13th birthday. The attached pictures are of Winnie hanging out with her buddy, Katie, my daughter. The other two show her swimming and playing in the snow. We fostered her when she turned 5 and instantly fell in love with her. She will be missed dearly.



Managing Your Dog's Weight From The Whole Dog Journal Tip of the Week

Managing Your Dog's Weight

Submitted by: Barb B.

Fat has more than twice the calories per gram of protein or carbs, so the amount you feed should be limited. Fat, however, is also what satisfies the appetite best. A diet that is too low in fat will leave your dog feeling hungry all the time, making it harder for you to stick to the diet plan and potentially leading to food-stealing or even poop-eating. It's better to feed a diet with moderate

fat and reduce the portion size as needed rather than feeding a low-fat diet.

If you are feeding kibble or other dry food, look for a minimum of 25 percent protein. More is better: generally, the higher the protein, the lower the carbs. There is no harm in feeding high protein diets to puppies, seniors, or healthy adult dogs; there are only a few specific health conditions that require protein to be limited.



GGRR Members, like Pat M. above, worked hard to make our Reunion Picnic a success! A big THANKS to all that were there!

Old & New Business

Old Business

Shane S. announced that Billy will have his hip TPO surgery on 5/3/11. Dr. Anderson at VSS is giving GGRR a great deal on the cost of the surgery. Lynn and Shayne would like to pay for the surgery and then adopt Billy after he has recovered.

Tim M. revisited the topic of donating money to other rescue groups. Mike S. reported that in our early years we applied to April's Fund and we received \$800 from them. It would be nice to give that back now that we have the funds to do so. It was decided that we would donate \$1,000.00 to April's Fund.

More discussion was had on PR for GGRR. Tracie G. volunteered to work on a new brochure to give out at GGRR events. Liz T. volunteered to work on new car decals for the group too.

New Business

Tracie G. reported that GGRR received a bunch of donations of dog items from the

Ramsey family because their dog had passed away recently. All items were at the meeting and members were asked to take whatever they could use for their fosters and Golden.

The Carolhouse Furniture radio commercial was brought up and it's content about rescue dogs should not cost more than \$200 was upsetting to some of our members.

Tim M. volunteered to send a letter to Amy at Carol House explaining some of the costs rescue groups incur when placing dogs.

Barb B. announced that she had an email to Jay Nixon about the Puppy Mill bill. See Barb B. if you're interested in seeing it.

Penny M. announced that GGRR placed Golden, Body (used to be Cody) is now doing agility.

Tim M. reported that we will be doing appointments for Coordinator positions. The positions include Intake, Adoption, Membership and Events. Appointments need to be approved by the members. Barb B. stated that she is okay with keeping the Events Coordinator position but will give it up if somebody really wants it.

A motion was made by Julie G. and seconded by Kathy D. to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

A Big Thank You to all of our Members that helped out at our Reunion Picnic on May 1st!



Another Doggie Dress Up Contestant at our Annual GGRR Reunion Picnic. At least he has a smile on his face!

Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue

P.O. Box 31700
St. Louis, MO 63131
Phone: (314) 995-5477
www.ggrr.com

Next Meeting

Thursday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m.
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.

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

Officers

President

Tim Miget

tsemiget@charter.net

Vice-President

Heather Haberstroh

heather_haberstroh@yahoo.com

Secretary

Tracie Grimm

tbayer80@gmail.com

Treasurer

Beth Johnson

johnson.beth.ggrr@att.net

Membership Representative

Chris Rogers

chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net

Coordinators

Intake Coordinator

Penny McNeil

pbmacnboys@charter.net

Adoption Coordinator

Amy Rhynerson

amylynn1027@gmail.com

Membership Coordinator

Amy Gerber

amyjane83@msn.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 & Dog Visits

Shane Stark

golddog05@mac.com

Foster Homes

Kathy Dierkes

Kathy_dierkes@yahoo.com