GRRoM Newsletter

Fall, 2001 Edition

Be sure to visit our web site at:
http://www.grrom.com/

A DIFFICULT DECISION

At the October 28, 2001 meeting of the GRRoM Board of Directors, it was reluctantly decided to no longer accept Goldens age 10 or older, as owner surrenders. Seniors from shelters and Humane Societies will only be accepted if a suitable foster home is available. Since the seniors are rarely adopted and usually live out their lives in foster care, we are turning down younger dogs that would have been quickly adopted, due to a lack of foster homes. There are foster homes that only want younger dogs because they don't take long to adopt, and they prefer to foster many different dogs.

This was a very difficult decision for the Board to make as seniors are the easiest to foster, they are very gentle and loving, and are a great addition to our homes. However, families that apply to us for a Golden want that wonderful "young" dog, and won't even consider a dog over eight.

But there IS a solution to this problem. We will NEVER have to turn down any Golden, no matter what age it is, IF we can recruit foster homes that only want the wonderful seniors! GRRoM pays the medical bills, and the foster home pays for the toys and food. In return, the foster home gets to love these gentle, wonderful Goldens for as long as they live. Remember that they make great companions for your dog or your grandkids! If you can help GRRoM by becoming a Senior Golden foster parent, please call us and let us know that you would like to help these Goldens in their Golden Years. Please help us to continue rescuing the most deserving Golden Oldies!

GOLF FOR GOLDENS RECAP

The first annual GRRoM "Golf for Goldens" was held Saturday, June 16. We played the Golden Fox 18 hole championship course at Fox Hills in Plymouth, Michigan. The weather was gorgeous. Eleven teams entered the outing, and we were able to raise over $3,800 for the group!

Thanks to Paulette Lerman, Sharon Hutchinson, Karen Angell, Walt Mahler, Craig Vanek and Pat Finnigan. These are the volunteers that helped organize and run the outing, keeping things straight for all who played.

Keep an eye out for information about next years outing…

GRRoM STATISTICS

Between 1991 and March 2001 we have rescued over 1600 Golden Retrievers. We have taken in 169 Goldens this year and have adopted out 134. That means that we currently have 35 of them in foster homes.

OBEDIENCE CLASSES LISTED

Obedience class is a great place for you and your dog (of any age) to bond, as well as to make new friends. But most of all, you and your dog will have fun, and people will be impressed by your well-behaved companion! Please note that some of the facilities give a discount for rescue dogs, so be sure to ask. See our web site for a listing of classes throughout Michigan.

CHEWBACCA'S STORY

Hi, my name is Chewbacca. My mom and dad named me this because I make sounds like the movie character. I was born in 1996 in Michigan but I didn't get my mom and dad until October 1997. My mom found me advertised on a Golden Retriever Rescue web site. My previous family was mean and cruel to me. They realized that I was gradually going blind and their plans for a hunting dog went down the tubes. They could have given me to another family but they didn't. I guess they thought no one would ever want a blind dog. They took me out into the country, muzzled me, and set me loose in a field. I was so very frightened. I had a terrible time out there wondering around and running into so many hard hurtful objects. When the kind people at the shelter found me wondering around, I was in bad shape. I couldn't even get a drink. My eyes were bright red from running objects into them.

(Photo of Chewbacca by Jenny Alt)

I lived with a kind foster family until my mom and her son traveled a long way to get me, and I'm sure glad they did. Mom kept putting drops in my eyes so they didn't hurt so much until they were healed. At my new home, I have two sister dogs and three fun-to-play-with cat friends. I had never heard or smelt a cat before.

Mom and Dad say that I am really intelligent too because I learned the layout of my new home the same night that they brought me home. I even explored the 2nd floor; I use the wall as my guide up and down the stairs. I am Mom's constant shadow and I even get to lie next to Mom or Dad when they are on the couch or loveseat. Dad takes me outside without a leash too! He lets me be like a normal dog and tells me CAREFUL if II need to stop and slow down. I know what that word means very well.

A year after I was with Mom and Dad I began to have seizures. Mom took me to Dr. Jack right away. He thought that maybe I had gotten a bad head injury while on my own before the rescue group found me. He gave my mom medicine that I take morning and night with a piece of cheese. I'm glad I don't have those things anymore and so are my folks. We take good care of each other.

If given the opportunity, please give a shelter dog or cat or a specific breed rescue group a chance to match you up with an animal that you can love. I'm sure the animal will give you back that love three fold.

Time for my nap now!
CHEWBACCA
(Reprinted with permission of Chewbacca's mom, Jenny Alt)

LOVE YOUR DOG - KEEP IT SAFE!

Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida
(Reprinted by permission of GRRMF)

Will you love your dog? If you have a dog, do you love it? Most of us would say a resounding "yes" to this question - we give our pets all kinds of affection and make sure their every need is met and often shower them with toys and treats. We'd like to present loving your pet in a different light.

We so often hear heartbreaking stories from people who have lost their dogs to accident or because the dog ran away. They profess their undying love for their lost pet. But soon it is apparent that these people didn't think of one think as the ultimate way to love their pet - SAFETY! At GRRMF, we are absolutely passionate about safety. Safety is the reason that the GRRMF adoption contract that all adoptive families must sign has a requirement that whenever a dog is outside of a securely fenced area, it MUST be on a leash. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Why are we so passionate about this? What about the dream of taking your retriever to the park, letting it off leash, so it can chase those tennis balls? What about enjoying freedom on a farm or the beach? There are other ways to let your dog enjoy some freedom without risking their life. If your dog is off leash, it can run off, be hit by a car, bitten by a snake in the woods, swim in an alligator or snake infested waters, be stolen, etc. Goldens are sporting dogs and are very excited by moving objects. It doesn't take much for them to chase a small animal or moving vehicle. If you want to give your dog some freedom, purchase one of those long retractable Flexi leashes (they have a professional version that is 35 feet long!). That way your dog can enjoy sniffing the parklands without running off.

Leashes are also extra important when dealing with a rescued dog. These dogs have varied histories that may make them more likely to chase animals, cars, or run off.

Your adopted dog may have at one time roamed the streets or been allowed to run free in a neighborhood. Sometimes, no matter how much they bond with their new family, they always remember those "wild, free" days and will take advantage of being off leash in a heartbeat. Remember: LEASHED IS LOVED!

IF IT SHOULD BE

IF IT SHOULD BE THAT
I GROW WEAK,
AND PAIN SHOULD
KEEP ME FROM MY SLEEP,
THEN YOU MUST DO WHAT
MUST BE DONE,
FOR THIS LAST BATTLE
CANNOT BE WON.
YOU WILL BE SAD, I UNDERSTAND,
DON'T LET YOUR GRIEF
THEN STAY YOUR HAND,
FOR THIS DAY MORE THAN
ALL THE REST
YOUR LOVE FOR ME MUST
STAND THE TEST.
WE'VE HAD SO MANY
HAPPY YEARS,
WHAT IS TO COME CAN
HOLD NO FEARS,
YOU'D NOT WANT ME
TO SUFFER SO,
THE TIME HAS COME
PLEASE LET ME GO.

TAKE ME WHERE MY NEED
THEY'LL TEND,
AND PLEASE STAY WITH ME
UNTIL THE END,
HOLD ME FIRM AND SPEAK TO ME
UNTIL MY EYES NO LONGER SEE.

I KNOW IN TIME THAT
YOU WILL SEE
THE KINDNESS THAT
YOU DID FOR ME.
ALTHOUGH MY TAIL
ITS LAST HAS WAVED
FROM PAIN AND SUFFERING
I'VE BEEN SAVED.

PLEASE DO NOT GRIEVE
IT MUST BE YOU.
WHO HAD THIS PAINFUL
THING TO DO,
WE'VE BEEN SO CLOSE,
WE TWO, THESE YEARS
DON'T LET YOUR HEART
HOLD BACK ITS TEARS

--ANONYMOUS--

GRRoM WEB SITE GUEST BOOK COMMENTS

Date: 10/27/2001
Name: Lauren
Location: Plymouth, Michigan
Dear GRRoM,
I really enjoy viewing/reading your web site when II get a chance. We adopted a golden from your organization several years ago and we feel blessed that we have 'Baxter' in our lives. Keep up the fantastic work. Lauren, Bob, Baxter (11 year old, from GRRoM) and Coach (7 year old golden retriever, he was free at a garage sale six years ago).

Date: 10/22/2001
Name: Jaye
Location: Boyne City, Michigan
Comments: I lost my golden Zak last year around Christmas time due to cancer. He was blind most of his life, but he got around so well and would "yell" all day to have the ball thrown to him in the yard or the lake, that I would have to convince people he really couldn't see. I would come to this web site and cry after he was gone. Then I found Cigar. He was nine months old and already 80 lbs.! He has brought so much happiness to my life. This is a great place to find the love of your life!

Date: 7/10/2001
Name: Susan
Location: Harbor Springs, Michigan
Comments: We were rescued by one of Bev Filmore's Goldens, after the death of our 8 year old female Alex in June of 2000. Chloe is a joy beyond words, an old soul with brown eyes that dance. We hope to get her a little sister in the next few months. Thanks to Bev and GRRoM for giving us the opportunity to be rescued by such a joyful spirit, and letting us borrow Chloe for the time she is on this earth. It is our pleasure to have her. Paul and Susan

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Please come and enjoy yourself at one of our events!

THE FORT DETROIT GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB (former parent club of GRRoM) will hold its fall Specialty at the Michigan State Fair Coliseum on Friday, November 23, 2001. For those of you who are not

familiar with dog show lingo, a "specialty" is a dog show given by a breed club, just for that one breed. It will feature conformation (the "beauty contest" part of the show) and obedience, as well as an Honors Parade for Goldens who have earned AKC titles. If you haven't ordered your Gold and Glory shirts yet, Bev will be selling them at the Specialty! Gold Dog will also be there selling their wonderful golden goodies. For more information on the FDGRC Specialty, please contact Paulette at info@grrom.com.

GROSSE POINT SANTA CLAUS PARADE

Friday, November 23, 2001 at 10:30 AM Contact: Ro Arabla at 313.885.3647

OXFORD DOG DAZE

Metamora Canine Academy in downtown Oxford. December 8 & 9. Please watch our web site for more details as they come in.

THREE DOG BAKERY

Downtown Birmingham. Come in Sunday, December 16 to get your dog's picture taken with Santa! A portion of the proceeds will go to GRRoM. Three Dog Bakery will be taking reservations for specific times, but walk-ins are also welcome. Please call Three Dog Bakery at 248.723.1582 for more information, reservations and for the times.

Please watch our web site for additional information as we get closer to events dates. Also, don't forget to check out the Links on our web site http://www.grrom.com/links.htm before starting your holiday shopping! (Also, check out our new Gold and Glory GRRoM shirts. They make GREAT gifts http://www.grrom.com/.) You'll find some great places to shop, and your purchases will benefit GRRoM. Be sure to mention GRRoM when you place your order.

Source Menagerie, http://www.dogstuff.com

Gold Dog, http://www.golddog.com/

Pet Cot, http://www.petcot.com/ (reference acct. #3003)

TO CONTACT GRRoM

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