

Golden Nuggets

www.egrr.net

Official Publication of Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue

September 2009

Volume 2, Issue 3

Star is Adopted!



After more than 9 months in foster care, EGRR is thrilled to announce that Star has been adopted. The wait was well worth it because we truly found the most perfect match for him. His adopters, Jean Thies and Laura Keim, had just lost their two beloved senior Golden Retrievers, Mike and Sally, and were open to a dog of any age. They had dealt with many health issues in their previous dogs and were willing to do so again. Laura is a grief counselor who has a home office so she wanted a buddy to hang out with and greet her clients.

The bond was immediate and Star's transition was nearly seamless. He seemed to know that finally he was home. Once Star is totally settled, Laura and Jean hope to foster for EGRR. This is another example of why we say that if we can wait long enough, the right home will come along.

You've traveled a long road Star, but now you found your forever home.

This is a picture of Star shortly after coming into Rescue.



"Saving one dog will not change the world, but, surely for that one dog the world will change forever." - Unknown



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The Golden Nuggets will be published on a quarterly basis. Articles, questions, photos, etc. should be submitted by the following dates in order to appear in the next quarterly issue:

May 16, 2008
August 15, 2008
November 14, 2008

From the President's Desk

While economists predict that an end to the recession is near, EGRR continues to struggle with the challenges the recession has created. In a 5 week period, at my vet clinic alone, we spent over \$4000. That covered 2 major surgeries plus miscellaneous other things and included very generous discounts. Additionally, we covered ACL surgery on a dog up north and routine care for dogs at several other veterinary clinics. Hopefully, the economists are correct but I expect that the "trickle-down" affect will not be felt by Rescue for many months.

Despite the challenges, we are determined in our efforts. Thanks to the hard work of the Publicity Team, the wonderful publicity piece that was unveiled at our Annual Meeting has now been mailed to almost 400 vet clinics in our service area. We are already feeling the affects including new adopters and volunteers – and, yesmore intakes, but that is what we are here for. Now the Publicity Team is looking at mailing the brochure to pet stores, groomers and trainers. Included with the brochure was a letter inviting them to join our Rescue team and become a "Partner in Rescue" and we will do the same for the next mailing.

Another result of our increased publicity effort was that one of our volunteers was asked if EGRR would like to hand fliers out at the "Run Like a Dog" fun run in Olympia which benefits the Thurston County Humane Society. The location created some logistical challenges but in a matter of days our Olympia volunteers had a plan and the Publicity Team had created a really nice new flier. The event is being held on August 22nd so by the time this goes to press, it will be over but I am confident it was a fun event and a Great opportunity to get EGRR's name out there.

Adoption income is not enough to cover the extra veterinary costs we have been experiencing and publicity efforts and other events also come with a price tag. To that end, the Evergreen Golden Retriever Club has been very generous in allowing EGRR to host a silent art auction during the BBQ at their Specialty show on Saturday, September 5th. (note this is Labor Day weekend). All art work has been donated so other than some costs for framing, all proceeds will go to care for our dogs. It is being held at Argus Ranch in Auburn which is an absolutely gorgeous venue and worth the trip in itself. Please consider coming out to watch part of the show and then staying for the BBQ and auction. We can pair you up with an EGRC club member so you can learn more about conformation. It is a "golden" opportunity to see some of the best of our breed, chat with other Golden Retriever enthusiasts, show support for both EGRC and EGRR and purchase some new art work. I hope to see you there!

EGRR is a 501c3 organization. Donations are tax deductible so please consider helping us in our efforts. If your employer will match your donation, consider EGRR in your charitable giving.

**Send a check, payable to EGRR to:
Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue
P.O. Box 3088
Renton, WA 98056**

From the Vet's Desk

Managing Allergies - Overview of Treatment Options

By

Kent Thomazin, DVM

Animal Hospital of Newport Hills

The following is Part 2 of a 2 part article on Managing Allergies in Golden Retriever. Part 1, "Managing Allergies in Golden Retrievers" was published in the previous issue.

There are two approaches to managing allergies in dogs - symptomatic therapy and pursuing definitive diagnosis as to the cause of the allergy. Most dogs with seasonal allergies have symptoms that are mild enough that symptomatic therapy is all that is warranted. For dogs that have poor response to symptomatic therapy or require constant therapy to control the symptoms, we can refer to veterinary dermatologists for intradermal skin testing and feeding trials to attempt to identify the specific causative agents. While there are blood tests available to identify allergens in dogs, they generally are quite non-specific and there is poor correlation with success of treatment. Veterinary Dermatologists consider intradermal skin testing the gold standard for allergy testing and do not often incorporate blood tests for allergies as part of their workup. Symptomatic therapy takes a multimodal approach at controlling the inflammation. Because most allergies are contact allergies, therapeutic bathing with an appropriate shampoo can significantly reduce our dependence on systemic medications. We recommend bathing 1-2 times weekly depending on the severity of the problem. This is obviously easier said than done with big dogs but can be quite helpful. For medical management we will use either antihistamines or cortisones to control the itching and inflammation. Cortisones (steroids) are ridiculously inexpensive and extremely effective at controlling itching and inflammation in dogs. Used conservatively and judiciously, they tend to be very safe and effective. That being said, the more severe the allergy and the more frequent the use of cortisones, the greater the risk of side effects. Common side effects of cortisones include increased water consumption and urination, increase weight gain, increased appetite and panting. These are often dose dependant and resolve as we decrease or dis-

continue therapy. The most significant side effects of cortisones is the increased risk of developing diabetes secondary the effects on insulin and glucose metabolism and causing hyperadrenocorticism (Cushing's Disease). For these reasons, we try and use cortisones as conservatively as possible. If dogs have allergies so severely that we need cortisones constantly, they are good candidates for either cyclosporine therapy (immunomodulation) or referral to a veterinary dermatologist for definitive treatment.

We often use cortisones to "put the fire out". Once the inflammation is under control we will switch to antihistamines to keep the inflammation and itching under control. There are an number of different anti histamines available for use in dogs and, as with humans, one may work better for one dog than another and involves trial and error to determine best efficacy. As an adjunct to bathing and medical management with antihistamines or cortisones, we often recommend high doses of omega 3 & 6 fatty acids as anti-oxidants to help control dry skin and itching. Often anti-histamines and fatty acid supplements have a synergistic effect. The best part about antihistamine and fatty acid supplementation is that they are quite inexpensive and ridiculously safe compared to cortisone therapy. It is not unusual to have allergies flare up several times a year. Even though you are doing everything possible to control the allergies, it is not unusual to have to "pulse dose" a cortisone to get the inflammation under control.

For the ears, it is important to understand that this is most commonly an allergy, so the focus shifts from a one time cure of an ear infection to long term management of inflammation associated with allergies. In addition to all the symptomatic therapy listed above, we often need to do maintenance ear cleaning to prevent the accumulation of wax and debris that leads to the secondary bacterial and yeast infections. Once the ears have gotten out of control, the secondary infections may become very difficult to control and may require culture and sensitivity to determine

the cause of the infection and the antibiotic therapy best suited for treatment. The bottom line is that ear problems are difficult, long term and expensive problems to deal with if not managed appropriately. You will need to work closely with your veterinarian to determine the treatment protocol best suited to long term management.

Food allergies will often cause inflammation to the abdomen and itching to the feet and under the tail. There may be occasional bouts of vomiting and or diarrhea with food allergies, but not always. Just because a dog has tolerated a particular food in the past, it does not mean that a dog cannot develop a hypersensitivity to a particular ingredient over time. To determine if there is a food allergy, we need to put the dog on an Elimination Diet for 2-3 months to determine if there is any improvement with the skin. We have to look at what the dog has been eating, INCLUDING ALL TREATS, and try and eliminate common protein and carbohydrate sources. The four most common food allergies in dogs are Beef, Poultry, Corn and Wheat. We will put the dog on a different protein source than it has been exposed to previously (i.e. lamb & rice, Venison and rice, duck and potato, etc.) and feed this exclusively for 2-3 months to see if there is improvement. If we start them on an elimination diet, but continue to give treats we have used in the past, we are rendering the test useless. If a dog has food allergies, there are often very good commercial diets available, but home made diets may be particularly useful as well. That being said, I do not advocate the use of raw meat diets in dogs ever due to the risk of infectious disease both to the dog and to the family. The gold standard for a hypoallergenic diet in dogs is a 50/50 mix of pinto beans and yams. This is considered one of the most hypo-apprentice diets in dogs. If we try this for several months with no improvement, it is highly unlikely that your dog has a food allergy. To complicate matters further, there can be a combination of any of the three primary causes, dogs that have a low grade food allergy or contact allergy can have significant exacerbation of the inflammation if the dog has flea bite allergies. Simply put, one allergen that becomes prevalent in the environment increases the sensitivity to other allergens. The "itch threshold" is significantly lowered the more allergens the dog is exposed to. For this

reason, systemic parasite control and particularly flea control is a very important part of controlling clinical symptomology associated with chronic allergic dermatitis in dogs.

As you can see, Canine Atopy is a very complex problem and requires concerted effort between your veterinarian and the pet owner. There is a lot of trial and error involved and continuity of communication is essential to determine the treatment options that will best control the allergy symptoms that your pet suffers from.



Hypo-allergenic Treats

(They contain no soy, wheat, dairy, eggs or corn)

- 4 c. Oat Flour (plus additional for rolling cookies)
- 1 c. Whole Rolled Oats
- 1/3 c. Brown Sugar
- 1/2 c. Dried Cranberries
- 1 tsp. Cinnamon
- 1 tsp. Ginger
- 1/4 c. Vegetable oil
- 1 c. Applesauce
- 1 c. Canned Pumpkin
- Water to make dough pliable

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly spray cookie sheets with non-stick spray or line with parchment paper. Mix all the dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl (oat flour through ginger). Mix the wet ingredients in a separate bowl (vegetable oil through pumpkin but reserve the water) and add to dry ingredients. Mix on low speed adding a few tablespoons of water until the dough pulls away from the sides of the mixing bowl and is pliable. Lightly sprinkle work surface with oat flour and turn dough out. Knead lightly until smooth, adding oat flour to prevent sticking. With a rolling pin, roll out dough to 1/4 inch thickness and cut with cookie cutters or pizza cutter. Transfer to cookie sheets. Bake 30-40 minutes until lightly golden and dry. Cool completely and store in a non air-tight container or freeze.

Recipe courtesy of Golden Dog Bakery.

Spotlight On Our Volunteers

Jean Whitehead

One of the most senior of our volunteers (in years of involvement, not age) is Jean Whitehead. Soon after moving to Tacoma in 1994 to accept a position as a trainer at the Pt. Defiance Zoo, Jean got involved with Golden Retriever Rescue and is credited for suggesting our logo, “Once Again Golden”. Originally from the Pacific Northwest, Jean received her Associate of Science Degree in Exotic Animal Training and Management in 1985 in California and her first job was at Animal Actors of Hollywood. Since then, she has worked as a zoo keeper/animal trainer at various zoos and facilities around the country. In 1997 she completed her BS degree and currently is on a sabbatical from the Pt. Defiance Zoo to complete work on her MBA. Jean is a certified dog trainer and member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers and teaches obedience classes for Positive Approach Training Programs in Tacoma.

Jean lives with her 11yr old son, Alex and their four Golden Retrievers. She is an experienced dog breeder and member of the Evergreen Golden Retriever Club. Jean’s responsibilities in Rescue include being Board Vice President, consulting on dogs with behavior issues and doing weekly checks and monitoring of the Tacoma Pierce County Humane Society. She is also our contact person for the Ft. Lewis and McChord shelters.

Working at the Zoo has provided Jean with many interesting experiences – and excuses. Like the time she was late for a Rescue party because “she could not get the polar bears to come in for the night!” Jean is an important link in our south Sound operation and we are extremely fortunate to have her!



RESCUE OF THE MONTH UNO, DUE AND TRE

Thanks to a show on Oprah Winfrey last year, many more people are aware of Puppy Mills. Our colleagues in several puppy mill states report a significant increase in the number of dogs they have been asked to take by millers who quitting the business due to the information generated by Oprah's show. Several local puppy mills were recently closed by local authorities and fortunately none involved Golden Retrievers. We have, however, this past month gotten a taste of what it is like to deal with this type of dog. The Everett Shelter called us the end of July asking if we would take three young dogs that had been running loose for a month and had recently been turned in because they had killed someone's chicken. They had labeled them feral and if we did not take them, they would have to euthanize them.

After an emergency consultation, it was quickly decided that we would, of course, take these dogs. So the wheels were put into motion and a short time later, Leslea McLean had them in crates in her car and soon after that, all three dogs were hiding in the far back yard at the Randall's home.

Fast forward 3 weeks. They are now known as Uno, Due and Tre thanks to Rich's brainstorm while eating dinner in an Italian restaurant! No one has yet been able to get close enough to the dogs to bath them or examine them but we now know that

they are females and that two, and possibly all three, are in season. All will now approach close enough to take food out of someone's hand but they will not eat if anyone is in the kennel with them. They have been successfully separated at mealtime so that they could be wormed and now are spending most of their time in separate runs. They really enjoy the presence of a visiting dog. We are getting advice from two volunteers from Rescue a Golden of Minnesota as they have rehabbed many puppy mill dogs. They were also recently assessed by dog trainer Anna Bolick, who made some very good suggestions.

Uno, the dark one, is the obvious alpha of the pack. They are clearly very intelligent and use this whenever possible to manipulate the situation such as avoiding going back in the run after being allowed to run loose in the paddock. They clearly have a long way to go. The next step in that process will be to separate them and send each to an experienced foster home that has another dominant but secure dog that can teach the feral dog how to be a pet. This is scheduled to happen within the next few days. So although this column usually highlights one of our success stories, this time we are starting at the beginning of a long journey and you can look for future updates.



Rainbow Bridge



One of “our” dogs made her journey to the Bridge this past quarter and we want to let her owners know that we share in their loss.



“Every Dog Deserves to Break a Heart When they Die”

Grants Samantha Star, RN

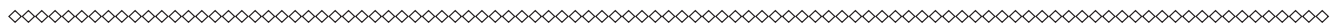
“Sammy”

4/2/97 - 6/13/09

The above are my words to Sue Randall four years ago. We had just lost our Emmo to lymphoma two weeks earlier. Sue was showing me the latest rescue “intake”. Samantha was dark red golden, two weeks shy of her 8th birthday. It took her “family” that long to figure out they didn’t have the time for her. She also had two mammary tumors and a large, bluish growth on her back leg. EGRR spayed Samantha and had her tumors removed and biopsied....malignant, but good margins! Sue was saying “how can we adopt a dog out with cancer?” And I said the above words.... Words that I have spoken too many times, to too many people in the past four years. But this was the first time I said “Every dog deserves to break a heart when they die....we’ll adopt her.

Now it is Sammy’s time to break our hearts. And break them she did! One friend commented “Sammy doesn’t break hearts, she smashes them to pieces.”

Diane & Murphy

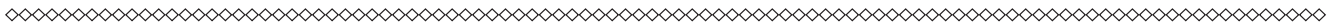


Memorial Donations

Christ Gaustad
in memory of
“Teddy” York

Marc Morin
in memory of
“Tanner” and “Blaze”

Whidbey Search Dogs
in memory of
“Cassie”
owned by
Don Mason and Susan Marchese



Other Donations

Stephen and Ann Bennet
in honor of
Laurie Chesley’s (EGRR Lilly’s Mom) 50th Birthday

General Donations

Donna Becker
 Scott Rohrer
 Karolin Beck
 Jean Baxter
 Ann Mosley
 Lou Drumond
 Caroline McCormick

Donations through the Microsoft Matching Gifts and Giving Campaign

Darin Dishneau
 Reeve Fritchman
 Kellisa Black

“Cassie”

*(Although Cassie was not an EGRR rescue dog I
 thought you would enjoy her story. Editor)*

Cassie was approximately 1 year old when she was returned to her breeder and needed a forever home. It was love at first sight when Don Mason and Susan Marchese met and adopted Cassie. They immediately recognized her immense talent for search and rescue. Cassie became our group’s model for the “perfect” air scent dog. Cassie had the outstanding ability to locate lost people in all types of terrain from local neighborhoods to wooded acreage.

Along with her search dog duties, Cassie became a classroom dog for Sus’s grade school class. Frequently when children in Coupeville see a search dog, they begin fondly telling the story about Cassie’s school days.

Her soft brown eyes and wagging tail charmed everyone she met, including law enforcement officers, firemen and those she found. With a flip of her nose up into the air current and tail feathers waving in the breeze, Cassie would look at her handler, Don, as if to say “Just follow me, Dad, I know the way!” Cassie’s spirit will continue to live on in our search dogs

The Dogs & Handlers of
 Whidbey Search Dogs

SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, September 5th
 (Labor Day Weekend)**

Please join us at Argus Ranch for the Evergreen Golden Retriever Club’s annual Specialty Show. This year, EGRC is offering guided dog show tours. Sign up at the Hospitality Table or contact Claudia Shaw @ 425-827-7253 for information. For directions go to www.argusranch.com

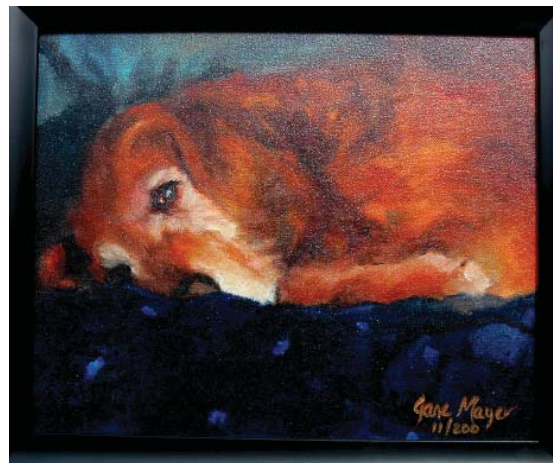
Rescue is very fortunate to have such a wonderful relationship with our local breed club. They help Rescue financially and with knowledgeable support. One breeder recently took Rescue’s abandoned puppy to socialize with her young litter!

Now is your chance to support them. Admission is free. There will be a great raffle benefitting EGRC as well as wonderful vendors to buy grooming tools and shampoos and toys and more.

Saturday evening, there will be a BBQ. Deadline to order tickets is August 23rd. At the BBQ, Rescue will be having our first ever “Silent Auction” of lovely Golden prints and paintings. Some very talented and generous people have donated artwork. It’s not too late to donate!! EGRR is a registered 501(c)(3) so we can provide a receipt for your tax record. Contact Diane Murphy @ 206-527-1219 to arrange pickup/delivery.

Hope to see you there!

Here’s a sampling of the artwork available.



“This Had Better Be Important”
 by Washington artist Jane Mayer.

Update on Golden Retriever Rescue Book



Dear Golden Rescuers,

Thanks again for the great job you did in helping us to gather stories for "Lost Souls: FOUND! Inspiring Stories About Golden Retrievers. We are very excited, the book is off to the designer.

A full list of dogs, authors, and rescue groups can be found at:
<http://happytailsbooks.com/Templates/authors.htm>

Members of EGRR are encouraged to pick up a copy of "Lost Souls: FOUND! The book is available for pre-order until September 15th at <http://happytailsbooks.com/buy.htm>. By pre-ordering you can receive a \$2.00 discount per book or have Happy Tails Books donate double to Golden Retriever rescue.

Up to 50% of the net proceeds from your book purchase will be divided among Golden Retriever rescue groups. The book was compiled of stories from people who have adopted Golden Retrievers from our rescue group and other around the country. The stories are happy, sad and educational; and are meant to encourage pet rescue and paint a clear picture of life with a rescued Golden Retriever.

HELP SAVE HOMELESS GOLDENS

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MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

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