

Golden Nuggets

www.egrr.net

Official Publication of Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue

September 2010

Volume 3, Issue 3



Blue

"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:

November 14, 2010
February 14, 2011
May 14, 2011
August 14, 2011

From the President's Desk

Recent news that the economy is taking much longer to recover than initially expected comes as no surprise to Rescue as we have seen the same trend in our recent intakes. In Leo's case, his owner had recently declared bankruptcy and consequently decided to relinquish him when they woke one day to discover that Leo had a very swollen eye and probable eye infection and no ability to cover the vet bill. We called upon adopter, Vicky Smith, DVM in Lacey and she arranged for Leo to be seen at EGRR expense the same day. This also provided an excellent opportunity to temperament test him. Leo's eye infection is now gone and he is waiting for his forever home.

Polo's devoted owner was forced to relinquish him to EGRR because she was herself dealing with serious medical issues and could not afford to care for Polo who needed cruciate surgery on both knees. Milo was turned into the Kent Shelter when his owner died and EGRR took him at the shelter's request because he was lame on one leg which was later determined to be a cruciate tear. Both dogs had surgery recently, a week apart, and are recovering and feeling quite good. Now the challenge of keeping them quiet is main issue.

10 yr old Cody came to Rescue because his owner who adores him, was being forced by financial issues to move in with family members and could not take Cody with her.

These are only a few of the stories that we could share with you and we are not alone and in fact, are better off than many other groups. A Golden Retriever Rescue group in Oklahoma reported they have almost 50 dogs in foster care. Delaware Valley Golden Retriever Rescue's facility, Golden Gateway, is for the first time in their 10 year history, full. They cannot take in a dog until a run is made available by the adoption of another dog. Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue, who also has their own facility and covers 5 states, is also full. These groups are also dealing with the challenge that many of these dogs are seniors with medical problems. An effort is underway to move some of these dogs, youngsters and seniors, to the west coast where they will have a better chance of being adopted. If it happens, EGRR will step up and take several dogs if needed.

Fortunately, we continue to receive 2-3 adoption applications every week along with the occasional volunteer and foster home application. It does seem that every time we add a new foster home we lose another usually because they get a new puppy or adopt their foster dog. We will continue to persevere because the need is GReat and the heart (of our organization) is strong.

Nancy Kiesler
President

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**

Spotlight On Our Volunteers

Ane Brusendorff

Perhaps the person with the most frequent contact with the community is Ane Brusendorff as she answers all the messages left on our hotline. On a daily basis she listens to stories, answers questions and gives guidance. This is a very important job because it requires an intimate knowledge of EGRR, dog experience, reliability and lots of patience. If the message



is urgent she may have to stop whatever else she is doing and make multiple phone calls. Ane's prompt and professional handling of her responsibilities demonstrates to the public that EGRR is a reputable and responsible organization. A recent upgrade in our phone system has resulted in all messages being sent to her in e-mail format making it very easy to receive them.

Ane met her husband, Stephen Peterson, in her native Denmark while both were in school. Once Steve finished graduate school, they moved to his native California and in 1991 relocated to Woodinville along with their five Golden Retrievers. Five seems to be a magic number for them because they again have five Golden Retrievers: Tudor, Tuppence and Tuppence's "kids", Trudy and Thomas and Trudy's pup, Teddy. Outnumbered are their two cats, Tinkerbelle and Tee. Ane is a certified kitchen designer and partners with Steve in his architect business. A Brusendorff kitchen is something to behold!

Ane was no stranger to rescue when she became involved with Golden Retriever rescue locally in 1993 (before the days of EGRR) as she had worked with rescue in Los Angeles. She has done about every job there is to do which makes her perfect for her current position. With her own dogs, Ane competes in Conformation and Agility and has trained several in field work. She is also very active with the local breed club, Evergreen Golden Retriever Club, for which she is currently the Treasurer. She was Chairperson for the 1998 National Specialty that was held at Marymoor Park. Perhaps most importantly, Ane has shown by her years of Rescue work and her breeding efforts that her commitment goes beyond her own dogs to Rescue Golden Retrievers and the breed itself. Thank you, Ane for your many years of service to our wonderful breed!



The Joys of Fostering

David & June Akizuki

We were first introduced to Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue through the breeder we got our second Golden Retriever from (Jean Whitehead).

I had wanted to get involved with rescue but wasn't sure about the time and resource commitment of being a foster home. So we kept putting off getting involved.

Finally, my husband Dave gave me the best wedding anniversary gift; it was the go-ahead to sign up as a foster home. After filling out the necessary paperwork and getting the approval as a foster home, we got a call to foster our first golden. Happy was rescued from a shelter so not much was known about his history. He turned out to be a wonderful boy, obviously trained and very attentive. He easily weaseled his way into my heart within a few days and he became my constant companion during his stay with us.

We fostered Abby about a month after Happy went to his forever home. She is a beautiful, petite but timid golden. We can only imagine what she endured during her first 6 years of life. Now that she is with her new family she has blossomed into the playful golden we knew was hidden under her shyness.

We come across a variety of cases where a family isn't able to continue caring for their golden for so many different reasons. No matter what their previous experiences have been, they come into our foster homes with the hope of finding a family who will care for them in the next phase of their lives.

We have been a foster home for only 3 months thus far and have provided shelter for 2 goldens but it has been the most rewarding service we've been involved with. Although it is difficult to see our 'temporary' family member leave us for their 'forever' home, it is knowing they are going to a family who will love and care for them that makes it less sad. It is so satisfying to hear the happy ending during the follow-up communication to find they are thriving in their new home with their new family.



Happy



Abby

HAPPY ENDINGS

“Will”



The story of Will is one of perseverance and determination. He was originally taken in by the Rescue arm of the Golden Retriever Club of British Columbia (GRCBC) from a local shelter. He was in extremely poor shape and suffered from seizures. They placed him in a wonderful home who worked very hard to get Will healthy. However, family health issues necessitated Will being returned to Rescue and EGRR agreed to take him when GRRBC was unable to.

Judy Tallant was able to pick Will up on a trip to Vancouver and then fostered him for over 7 weeks. During that time, she worked with Dr. Brad Evergreen of Evergreen Holistic Vet Care in Monroe to adjust his meds and his diet to reduce the obvious side-effects of the medication he was taking without increasing the frequency of his seizures which were every 4-6 weeks. During this time, Will's picture and story were posted on our website and read by a lovely woman named Marti in Boise, Idaho. After many e-mails were exchanged in which all of Will's medical issues were explained, Marti still was interested in adopting him so a

phone interview was conducted and then a home visit completed thanks Karen Jones' daughter. After they passed this with flying colors, they had a conversation with Dr. Evergreen. The next step was scheduling the trip to Seattle and when Marti met Will, the bond was almost immediate. Despite the good time he had at the Tallant house, he jumped into Marti's car and never looked back!

Fast forward 3 ½ months. Will was seizure free for 11 straight weeks! When he has a seizure, Marti knows how to manage it and keep Will safe. He is getting stronger and can now jump onto Marti's bed in one leap. He is energetic and

loves to play with his toys, especially in the morning. He and Marti go for two walks a day and he goes everywhere with her including on bike rides in his special cart. Perhaps his favorite thing is having visitors and he is getting better in not monopolizing the conversation with his “Will talk”.

Marti's last words in a recent e-mail say it all: “I am ever so grateful to all of you for taking care of Will and giving him the chance of a forever home with people who love him and I truly do.” Rescue would add that we are just as grateful to Marti for opening her heart to this special boy!



A Nugget of Training

by

Jean Whitehead

**EGRR VP, Shelter Checker and Behavior Coordinator
Positive Approach Dog Training and Daycare Instructor**

Explode

See red

Loose their mind

Barking and lunging

Out of control

People refer to their reactive dogs in many ways. It is one of the main reasons people seek help for their dogs and if you were at the EGRC meeting we learned reactivity is a major reason for dogs to wash out of service dog programs. A dog pulling and barking at the end of the leash causes great tension with other people and embarrassment for the person with the dog. However, dogs bark for many reasons: for attention (will any one look at me!?!), to defend (a dirty Harry attitude), out of boredom (nothing better to do), defensively (GO AWAY!!!), enthusiastically (it's a blast!), and because of separation (come back, coooommeee baaaaacckkk!). Often it is a combination such as too much energy/enthusiasm and boredom. In many ways these canine reactions sound and look largely the same. Check out Terry Ryan's *The Bark Stops Here* for more details and some great sketches of postures on these differences.

Dogs bark because it works for them, there is some sort of reward for them when they bark:

- To get their owners attention. We go from ignoring the quiet dog to "shhh"ing the barking dog, we bring them in to avoid disturbing the neighbors, etc.
- They succeed in "chasing off" their perceived offender/threat. The mail is delivered and the delivery person goes away, the people on the sidewalk continue on their way, etc.
- It can be a way to relieve the tension of the situation they find themselves in – a stress reducer.

Most dogs have predictable situations (mail delivery, garbage pick-up, etc.) or specific items (dogs, cats, kids, etc.) that lead to excessive barking. Such items are considered "triggers" for the barking. Typically each dog also has a reactive distance, that space at which the dog starts to react. For example your dog may ignore the dog across the street, but

bark like crazy when someone walks on the sidewalk in front of your home. Identifying what kind of barker your dog is, what your dog barks at, how close it has to be to trigger a response and what your dog finds rewarding about the barking can all help you develop a training plan specific to your situation.

As with any behavioral issue some foundation work has to be done before dealing with the specific issue of barking:

- Address any health concerns with your veterinarian.
- Leadership and training. Develop a more balanced relationship with your dog; improve their manners and compliance to your cues.
- Management of the situation while your training plan is getting the behavior under control:
 - Avoid triggers
 - Plan ahead to set your dog up to succeed.
 - Increase structured exercise

Create a training plan including leadership, preventative, corrective and management strategies then **STICK WITH IT**. Correcting barking takes time. It has worked for your dog to bark in the past, it will likely get worse before it goes away. Don't give in. Next time we'll go over some of the specific training options to reduce the reactivity.



Rainbow Bridge



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

“Chloe” – We brought her home when she was just 8 weeks old, and little did we know the impact she would make on our hearts and our lives. It was because of her that we were introduced to rescue and we knew that we wanted to help other goldens find their forever homes and enjoy that special bond with their new families like the one Chloe had with us. She welcomed many foster dogs into our home. I know she is running after tennis balls at the bridge, as she was a true retriever and loved her tennis balls. We do miss her so.
Rick and Rhonda Comfort



“Duchess” (2010) – Duchess, 12+ yr old, was with Rescue for 3 short weeks before passing away in her sleep one night while in foster care. Left behind in a pen with her 6 yr old “daughter”, Grace, when their owner moved, both dogs were taken to the Kent shelter by concerned neighbors.

“Buddy” (2008) – Tom Walz had only 2 years with this special boy but they were GReat years. Buddy went to work with Tom every day where Buddy had his own space and bed. He had many toys including a nylon bone he picked out himself. When there was a party, Buddy was always in the center of it. Tom misses his special Buddy and constant companion



*Then you cross
Rainbow Bridge together....*

General Donations

Tony & Kathy Bahnick
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 in memory of "Holmes"

Margaret Brown
 in memory of "Duchess"

Cindy Beaver
 in memory of "Chole Ferguson"

Barb Hale
 in memory of "CJ"



The Holiday season is rapidly approaching. Remember to do your shopping via the "I-give" link on the Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue webpage. EGRR receives a percent of your purchase at no cost to you.

Comming Soon!

*Updated EGRR website
 EGRR Facebook Page*



Out & About



Allan and Nancy at “Petpalooza” in Auburn.



Brad Kammerer and Kim Condrin at “Go Dog, Go” in Kirkland