

Golden Nuggets

www.egrr.net

Official Publication of Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue

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WILSON AWARD

This is the second year that the Evergreen Golden Retriever Club has sponsored the Wilson Award, named for a Rescue boy who was denied the chance for a full life because of severe health problems. Wilson's memory lives on in the Rescue dogs who win this award. Wilson would be so proud!! To qualify for the award, the dog needs to earn a title and the owner must be a member in good standing in the Evergreen Golden Retriever Club. We believe that the Evergreen Golden Retriever Club is the only Golden Retriever Breed club to sponsor an award designated only for Rescue Golden Retrievers. Thank you, EGRC!!



Allan Kiesler and Princess Sandy Underfoot, NAP, NJP - "Mandy" are this year's recipient. This is the second year they have received this award.

Congratulations to both of you!!!!

"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

Every year seems busier than the previous year even though the year-end stats do not always support this feeling. This year the numbers do show a slight increase in dogs – 64 compared to 56 in 2007. Ten of those dogs were Carmel and her 9 puppies which were a labor intensive project but well worth the effort. We also feel that even though the numbers of dogs from year to year is relatively steady, the dogs we are taking in require more in the way of remedial veterinary care and training. The numbers for 2008 also support this. Without the cost of a major surgical procedure (we usually have one or two of these to pay for), our veterinary expenses were just shy of \$15,000 for 2008. This is made more impressive by the fact that 75% (48 dogs) came to us already neutered or spayed. Add our operating expenses and that brings our annual expenses up to almost \$19,000. Adoption donations brought in \$12,800, despite an increase in our required adoption donation mid-year, with the difference made up by fundraising, other donations and fees.

What else do the numbers tell us? For some years the male-female ratio has been approaching 50-50 but not this year. In 2008, it was back to 2:1 as we took in 43 males and 21 females. Average age for both genders is 3½ years. When broken down by years, we placed 31 dogs 0-2 years old, 18 dogs 2-5 years old, 11 dogs 5-9 years old, 3 dogs 9-11 years old and 1 dog 12 years old. Continuing the trend of previous years, the majority of our dogs came from owners with only 11 coming to us from shelters and 1 from another Rescue group. We declined 5 dogs because of temperament issues but did not have to euthanize any for this reason. We lost two dogs due to health reasons, one of Carmel's puppies, Pink collar, and 15 yr old Miss Sandy Claws.

Some might think that this is just a math exercise but it is much more than that. Watching these trends help us to plan for the future. Additionally, these numbers are reported to the Golden Retriever Club of America where they monitor, assist and support Rescue groups from around the country. For instance, the number of Golden Retrievers needing to be rehomed in the US in 2007 was a staggering 10, 564!!

These numbers and the current state of the economy tell us that EGRR needs to be prepared for greater challenges in the coming years. In addition to managing the ongoing financial issues, EGRR's goal this year is to expand our volunteer base to both distribute the work load and to add new talent and energy to our team. This will ensure that EGRR will be there to care for the dogs that will need our help in the years to come. If you have not already, please show your support by joining EGRR and becoming a volunteer. Together we will succeed!

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

Basic Canine First Aid

By

Pete Hetrick, DVM

Animal Hospital of Newport Hills

Whether you are playing fetch in the back yard, heading out for a long drive, or going on an outdoor adventure with your pooch, its important to have a canine first aid kit available and some basic knowledge in case of an emergency. First and foremost, you should always have the number of your local veterinarian handy along with the number of a nearby 24 hour emergency hospital. Anytime you have questions about the health or safety of your pets, you should call and ask. Another valuable number to have available is the poison control center (1-800-222-1222). The poison control center can be reached 24 hours a day and is extremely helpful in the case of accidental ingestion of poisons or toxins, including some people foods like grapes/raisins, chocolate, onions, macadamian nuts, and certain chewing gums. It is also important to stock some first aid items around the house, in the car, and especially when you hit the trail. The following is a list of some items to include:

- Forceps or hemostats
- Tweezers
- Bandage scissors
- Telfa pads
- Band-aids
- 2 inch square gauze sponges
- 2 inch roll gauze
- Vetwrap or ace bandages
- 1 inch adhesive tape
- Betadine scrub
- Antibiotic ointment
- Thermometer
- Protective booties
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Benadryl (25mg Diphenhydramine)
- Any medications your dog needs on a daily basis

For cuts, scrapes or lacerations, you should first stop the bleeding. Applying direct pressure with gauze sponges is a good first step. Then gently clean the wound with betadine, which does not sting. Keep

the area clean and dry using telfa, rolled guaze and vetwrap, being careful not to cut off circulation to any distant body parts. Booties can also come in very handy for cuts or scrapes of the paws or pads. They can reduce pain and are effective at keeping dirt out of the wound. Generally, when the skin has been compromised, there is the possibility of infection, so you should consult your veterinarian.

Another common injury is insect bites or stings. In this case you should remove the stinger if visible and monitor closely for swelling, redness and pain. If excessive swelling occurs, especially around the head and neck, seek a veterinarian immediately. If you are far from a veterinarian, Benadryl at 1 mg per pound of body weight can be used to help buy time while you are in transit. In the case of a rattlesnake bite, go directly to a veterinarian.

For more serious injures, such as suspected fractures or hit by car accidents, bring your dog to a veterinarian as soon as possible. This also goes for signs of respiratory or cardiovascular distress, which include excessive panting, increased abdominal effort while breathing, disorientation, collapse, and pale mucous membranes/gums. Another immediate medical emergency is gastric dilation or bloat which is characterized by excessive dry heaving or retching, anxiousness, and distended abdomen.

This is not meant to be a comprehensive first aid guide, but is a basic overview and a starting point. Being prepared in the event of a canine emergency by having important phone numbers and some basic first aid items on hand, will hopefully help you through a canine accident or emergency and help insure the safety of your furry family member.



Spotlight On Our Volunteers

Phone Contact

In a recent conversation, EGRR volunteer **Stephen Guy** shared his description of a Golden Retriever which most will agree with. Stephen said, “A Golden Retriever thinks life is a party and he is the guest of honor!” That perspective serves him well as he picks up daily messages to the EGRR “hot line” because the life circumstances of many of ‘our’ dogs has been nothing like a party. Stephen views each call as an invitation back to the party of the true Golden spirit for each dog and all the human lives they will touch.

Although Stephen applied to adopt a dog from EGRR over 2 years ago, we didn’t have a dog that was a good match for him at the time. He found the perfect dog for him on Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary’s web page. Scout already had the training and temperament that enabled him to become a service dog for Stephen. It was a perfect placement for Scout because he had separation anxiety. Really they met each other’s needs. Scout never had to be alone again and Stephen got a 24/7 helper to ease the challenges of progressive Multiple Sclerosis that now confine him to a power wheel chair.. Sadly, after just a year, Scout was diagnosed with an inoperable cancer and a year later went to the bridge leaving a huge hole in Stephen’s heart. Stephen now gets his Golden fix by playing with and occasionally babysitting the neighbor’s Golden, Max.

Stephen came to Seattle 15 years ago from the Midwest where he worked in Human Resources. His move here also resulted in a job change as he took on the job of Development Director for a local arts organization, which evolved into a lucrative national consulting career, until he was stricken with M.S. He lives with his partner, Butch who is an architect.



They divide their time between two homes; a condo near Pike Place Market in Seattle, and a 30 acre forested preserve at Pt. Lawrence on Orcas Island. Checking our phone messages two or three times a day may appear to be an easy job, but in reality it is not because it is an easy thing to forget and yet it is very important because that is often where emergency messages are left. Stephen takes this job seriously even checking for messages when they are on Orcas Island. He says he is glad to have found a small way to contribute to the Golden Retriever rescue team and that he is humbled by the devotion and magnitude of the tasks undertaken by all the hands-on volunteers. One cannot argue that point! *Thank you Stephen – your efforts are greatly appreciated!*

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.

Tucker (adopter Chris Enrico)
Clovis (adopter Linda Steiner)
Katie (adopter Ann Mosley)

Memorial Donations

Andre Gleichweith
 in memory of
"Jordy"

Stephen Guy
 in memory of
"Scout"

Kathryn Seliger
 in memory of
"Matzo"

Memorial Donation



Evergreen Golden Retriever Club
 &
 Washington State Obedience Training Club
 in memory of
Roberta Anderson

Roberta Anderson, Bonnie Island Golden Retrievers, a longtime Golden Retriever breeder and champion of passed away on January 1, 2009. Roberta was an active member of the Golden Retriever Club of America, the Evergreen Golden Retriever Club, Washington State Obedience Training Club and Chuckanut Dog Training Club.

RESCUE OF THE MONTH

Update on “Starman”

No one could be prepared for what Diane Murphy saw when she picked up 7 yr old Star at the Seattle shelter last September. He looked like a survivor



of a horrible puppy mill despite the fact that the shelter had been caring intensely for him for 2 weeks. The reason given for his turn in – owners

were moving. In addition to his being underweight, his coat was extremely thin or non-existent and in many places his skin was black and reminded you of an elephant. He had multiple cysts and growths, an old scar on his cornea and chronically swollen ears from infections which resulted in his being deaf. Despite all of these problems, his true Golden temperament shown through and within days of arriving at Diane and Murph’s house, Star had found the toy box and was carrying woobies around in his mouth.

Recognizing the long term nature of Star’s foster needs, he was transferred to the Kiesler Rehab House where his recovery has continued. Additional blood work indicated a thyroid deficiency and supplementing with thyroid medication has really boosted his progress. The swelling in his ears is much less and although his ear drums appear intact, he has yet to show signs of any hearing. Orthopedically, his hips are not the best and x-rays will be done in the future but the hope is that with continued exercise, he will build muscle which will improve his gait and reduce the stress on his hips. He has gone from tiring with a slow 15 minute walk to jogging (his choice) for most of a 30 minute walk! He has even started playing tug-a-war with his foster brother, Charlie. Due to his deafness, he does not hear the



warnings his alpha foster sister Mandy gives him so she feels obligated to “educate” him by getting in his face. He takes all this in stride never objecting or complaining. He is a little stubborn, especially when he wants to get petted but above all, he has remained a perfect gentleman despite the ordeal he has gone through. It is our hope that in the next edition of our newsletter, we will be able to report that Starman has found his forever home.



What a change!

SPEAKING FOR SPOT

By
Dr. Nancy Kay

Review by Gayle George-Sackett

This is the best book I have ever read on the subject of health care for our precious companions. Dr. Nancy Kay has created a wonderful resource that is beneficial for the new dog owner as well as the seasoned owner. This book tells us how to be advocates for our dogs.

Although I have been in the dog world for over 45 years, I found “Speaking for Spot” full of information that will help me make more informed choices concerning my dogs’ veterinary care. The book is well written and easy to understand. Dr. Kay addresses the frustrations of not knowing what to do when you have to make choices in the care of your pet. She tells you how to find the right doctor, the importance of communication with your vet, and what to expect during routine exams. One chapter covers procedures that are performed on dogs. She goes into some detail regarding tests and treatments. Another chapter addresses vaccinations including recommendations and adverse reactions.

The book covers questions you should ask your vet, how to ask them, and how to ask for second opinions. There is a complete chapter on cancer that covers the various levels of decision-making in treating your dog. As we all know, cancer is a big problem in the Golden Retriever breed, and I found this specific chapter very informative if ever I have to face making a choice concerning the treatment of cancer.

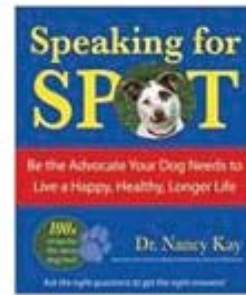
Also covered in “Speaking for Spot” are money matters and euthanasia. When we have to make choices, both of these subjects are very difficult to contemplate. I feel Dr. Kay gives us some very informed information that makes it easier to address these matters.

“Speaking for Spot” is a well written book and a must for all dog owners.

Be your dog’s advocate

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Nancy Kay received her degree from Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine, and she completed her residency training in small animal internal medicine at the University of California, Davis, Veterinary School. She is a board certified specialist in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and an owner and staff internist at the Animal Care Center, a 24-hour emergency/specialty care center in Rohnert Park, California. As a way of providing emotional support for people with sick four-legged family members, Dr. Kay founded and helps facilitate the Animal Care Center Pet Support Group. Dr. and her family – including a menagerie of dogs, cats, birds, horses, and goats – reside in Sebastopol, California.



<http://www.speakingforspot.com/>

“Speaking for Spot” can be ordered through Amazon at www.amazon.com or Barnes and Noble at www.bn.com

PEDIGREE AWARD

The Golden Retriever Club of America was the recipient of the AKC Parent Club Breed Rescue award given by Pedigree at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show. The representative for GRCA at the awards dinner and other festivities was a very deserving Carol Allen, the chair of the National Rescue Committee.

***Congratulations
to
GRCA and to Carol Allen***

EGRR Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 17th at 2 PM
Pawsabilities Training Center
1007 Industry Drive, Building 33, Tukwila

The guest speaker will be a volunteer from the Red Cross that will present an introduction to
Canine First Aid and CPR

The election of Board Members and a social time will take place at this meeting.

DIRECTIONS:

From I-405 North or Southbound, Take Exit #1, Tukwila. From either exit ramp, turn right onto Interurban Blvd./ West Valley Highway. Turn right onto Strander Blvd. (Just past Residence Inn and 7-11 Store. Turn left onto Andover Park East (Video Only intersection) Turn left onto Minkler Blvd. Turn right onto Industry Drive and right into Paws-Abilities Parking lot.

HELP SAVE HOMELESS GOLDENS

JOIN EGGR

VOLUNTEER

MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

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FOR MORE INFORMATION AND
MEMBERSHIP FORMS