

Golden Nuggets

www.egrr.net

Official Publication of Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue

December 2008

Volume 1, Issue 4

HAPPY TAILS

“Lucy”

Lucy started life in her first home tied up outside without shelter with only rainwater to drink and fed poorly and inconsistently. Her owners had not even bothered to name her. Thankfully a neighbor convinced them to give Lucy to them and they turned Lucy over to EGRR. With such a poor start in life, Lucy had some catching up to do both physically and socially. In her first foster home she showed signs of separation anxiety and chewed her way out of one crate. She was very malnourished so she needed time to regain her weight and health before being spayed. Proving to be a bit too much for her first foster home, Lucy was moved to another more experienced foster home.

Lucy's journey to her forever home was not destined to be smooth. In her first placement, she intimidated the resident Golden who was very submissive. This was quite unexpected because Lucy had been around other dogs since coming into Rescue without apparent problems. She was then placed as an only dog but returned again, this time because the adopter felt she was depressed without another dog in the house.



The third time is the charm, as the saying goes, and it certainly worked for Lucy. In November 2007, Lucy was adopted by previous EGRR adopter, Howard Jacobs and it was an extremely good fit. Howard keeps her busy with a 2 mile run every morning and an hour walk in the afternoon in addition to chasing tennis balls every day at the park. She gets along well and is respectful of Howard's senior Golden, Dylan. To quote Howard: "She is one of the brightest and most amazing Golden I have ever owned". Howard also reports that he has to search his house daily to unite his pairs of shoes as Lucy likes to collect them. A truly happy ending begins with a good match and this is definitely a good match!!

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



President
Nancy Kiesler

Vice President
Jean Whitehead

Secretary
Leslea McLean

Treasurer
Lee Cummings

Directors
Susan Randall
Roy Talbot
Diane Murphy
Kim Chondrin
Gayle Ballinger

Web Site
www.egrr.net

Contact Us
Evergreen Golden Retriever
Rescue
P. O. Box 3088
Renton, WA 98056
206-286-5900
goldenrescue@egrr.net

Editor
Gayle George-Sackett
gaylesac@mindspring.com

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

As concern rises over the current economic situation and it's impact, we in Rescue wonder what effect it will have on us. A recent discussion on an e-mail list showed that some Rescues are being hit extremely hard with a large influx of dogs due to home foreclosures and/or the owners just not being able to afford to feed or care for their dog. The PNW has been relatively spared compared to other areas of the country but we have not escaped unscathed. Our application numbers are down although this is certainly due in part to the fact that we no longer receive applications through Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue.

What we have noticed is that more of the dogs we are taking in have greater, more expensive medical issues that must be dealt with. We have also recently had several owner released dogs where the reason given was that they could not afford the vet care. One such dog, 3 yr old Jack, is diabetic and his owner could not afford their house payment so paying for vet care was not an option. Jack's diabetes was totally out of control with his blood glucose level higher than the meter could measure and as a result was continually incontinent. Jack was in foster care for over 3 months as we saw to his medical needs and found the perfect home for him.

Currently we have Star, a 7 yr old male turned into the Seattle Shelter because his owners were moving. Thank goodness he was turned in because he was in serious need of vet care. Much of his body had little or no hair and his skin in these areas was black. He was also 25 pounds underweight and deaf from chronic ear infections. Star is doing much better but will likely remain in foster care for another 3-6 months before he'll be ready for placement.

Our profit-loss statement for this year shows that our expenses are slightly exceeding our income even though we increased our required adoption donation. This is also despite 2 successful raffles that our Breed Club, Evergreen Golden Retriever Club, generously allows us to sponsor at their two agility events.

Over 85% of the money is spent on vet care for our dogs. Some might argue that we should turn down the dogs with serious health issues but it is our opinion that these are the dogs who need us the most as they have been abandoned by the humans in their lives. EGRR volunteers will continue to work tirelessly to see that these dogs receive the care and treatment they deserve.

On a more positive note we are growing in number of volunteers, number of vets who support our efforts and in community awareness all of which are critical to our success. I am certain that this is only going to continue.

Happy Holidays and a wonderful 2009 to you and yours!!

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

Golden Retriever Uveitis

By

Karen C. Weeks, DVM, MBA
Animal Hospital of Newport Hills

I've seen a look in dogs' eyes, a quickly vanishing look of amazed contempt, and I am convinced that basically dogs think humans are nuts ~ John Steinbeck

Golden Retriever Uveitis (GRU), or Pigmentary Uveitis, is a condition of the eye that can cause blindness. Uveitis is inflammation of the uvea, which is the layer of tissues in the eye that is made up of the iris (the colored part of the eye), the ciliary body, and the choroid. There are many causes of uveitis in dogs, including infection, cancer, and diseases of the immune system. GRU, however, refers to an inherited uveitis that occurs in Golden Retriever dogs. The exact cause of the inflammation is unknown, but it is a chronic condition that can lead to blindness and often goes undiagnosed.

The disease usually affects dogs that are older than four. No sex predilection has been identified. There are many signs of this disease, but they can be limited to redness of the sclera (the white of the eye) and mild discharge, which is why it is often unnoticed. Other signs included tearing, squinting, aversion to light, redness of the conjunctiva (the tissue surrounding the eye under the eyelid), pigment in the front part of the eye, constricted pupils, and pigmented cysts on the iris. These can be signs of many ocular diseases, so if an owner suspects that anything is wrong with their dog's eye, they should see their veterinarian.

GRU is serious because the inflammation damages other structures in the eye, leading to cataract formation, glaucoma, and blindness. Damage to the lens causes it to lose transparency and prevents light from reaching the back of the eye (cataract). Scar formation can lead to a build-up of fluid which causes increased pressure inside the eye (glaucoma). The formation of glaucoma is often the cause of the blindness and is very painful. Blindness from cataracts or glaucoma is the most common complication of GRU. Cataracts that develop from this condition are not ideal for surgical removal and the glaucoma may not be able to be treated medically.

Unfortunately, dogs with advanced stages of the disease have a poor prognosis for maintaining their sight. The further the disease has progressed, the less likely it will respond to medical treatment. Even blind eyes will need treatment however, because the dog may still be quite painful from the glaucoma. If the disease has progressed to a point where the dog is blind and the pain cannot be

controlled, the owner may need to consider having the eyes surgically removed.

The good news is that with early detection and treatment, some affected dogs can go years without complications. Early treatment basically consists of topical medication to decrease inflammation in the eyes, which will prevent changes associated with chronic inflammation. If a dog is diagnosed with this condition, it should be treated continuously- not just when the owner notices the eye is looking red. This is incredibly important because a lapse in treatment can lead to damage that will progress the disease.

Golden Retrievers should have yearly medical examinations with their veterinarian, and owners may consider having further diagnostic testing done on an annual or bi-annual basis after the dog turns four. Local veterinarians can do a thorough ophthalmic exam, including testing the eyes for increased pressure. If your local veterinarian suspects GRU, they can refer you to a veterinary ophthalmologist, who will have the specialized equipment necessary for diagnosis.

The most important thing Golden Retriever owners can do is to pay attention to their dog's eyes. Golden Retrievers are stoic- they don't always show when they are in pain or not feeling well. It is up to owners to know what their dog's eyes look under normal circumstances, so that if there are changes, they can be addressed by a veterinarian. Things to pay attention to includes redness, tearing, and pupil size. If there is ever any concern, owners should contact their veterinarian so that the inflammation can be treated before any of the debilitating side effects come about.

Hopefully, in the future, GRU can be bred out of these amazing dogs. In the meantime, you and your veterinarian can work together to try and identify this disorder early and treat accordingly. Vigilant observation and annual veterinary care may just save your dog's sight so don't be afraid to look in his or her eyes- the sloppy kiss you get in return will be your thanks for paying such close attention to your dog's health!



Spotlight On Our Volunteers

Fundraising

Creativity is the first word that comes to mind when describing our Fundraising Coordinator, **Diane Murphy**. Since adopting senior Rescue Samantha and learning what EGRR typically spends on seniors and dogs with health issues, Diane has made it her personal mission to replenish the coffers so more dogs could be helped. Diane, who works in the publishing department at the UW, is also an artist and she has used these talents in many ways to benefit EGRR. She has painted a dog's portrait with the fee being a donation to EGRR. She has made various items with the Guisachan Tweed she acquired from Scotland (read about it at <http://www.goldenretrieverclubofscotland.com/gg4.htm>) and these items were raffled along with the many other items she procured from donors. Her hard work in organizing and overseeing the Rescue Raffle which was held during the 2007 National Specialty earned over \$3000 for EGRR.

In addition to her fundraising efforts, Diane also assists with home visits, temperament testing, grooming, transporting and fostering. Diane and husband "Murph" compete with their other Golden, Briggs, in Agility and with both Sammy and Briggs in Rally. Last year then 10 yr old Sam earned her title of RN (Rally Novice) and was one of the 3 Wilson Award Winners. Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks!

Every non-profit organization will espouse the importance of fundraising and EGRR is most fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented person at the helm.



HOLIDAY SHOPPING

One easy way you can help raise funds for EGRR without cost to you is to do your on-line shopping via our webpage. In fact, each time you surf the net via the EGRR shopping page, we earn 3 cents. If you purchase something from the many shops that are linked to our page, we earn a percent of the sale. It is very simple, takes very little extra time and produces revenue for EGRR so please give it a try when you're in shopping mode. To date, this program has earned over \$300 for EGRR. Go to www.egrr.net and try it.



Thank you to all of our volunteers



Happy Holidays



Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue
PO Box 3088
Renton, WA 98056
206-286-5900
www.egrr.net

November 16, 2008

Dear Friends of Rescue,

"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little."
—Edmund Burke (British Statesman and Philosopher)

I open with the above quotation because I find myself in the uncomfortable position of having to write EGRR's first "annual" appeal letter. All of us are aware of these hard economic times. Rescue groups across the nation are reporting the same disheartening statistics. The most alarming trend having the biggest impact on our resources (foster homes and funds), is the increase intake of seniors and dogs with medical conditions. Rescue was always able to care for the occasional dog needing an expensive operation or treatment because most incoming dogs were up-to-date on their vaccines/exams and were already spayed or neutered. They only required a week in foster care to assess their temperament before placing in their "forever homes" from our waiting list of potential adopters. Our adoption fees and donations were able to "subsidize" our medical issue dogs.

Flash forward to 2008. As the economy collapsed, so did our waiting list of adopters. Senior dogs and dogs needing expensive tests/medicine/treatments are now outnumbering the healthy young dogs we take in. These senior and/or "medical" dogs tie up our foster homes for weeks and MONTHS. Many foster homes are justifiably reluctant to take on such long-term commitments. And the bills just keep coming. Just this past month alone, we took in a diabetic dog (rescue paid for all the diagnostic testing and bought an expensive blood glucose monitor that would be given to his new owners), a dog with severe skin infections/multiple tumors/ear infections and old ACL tears, and another dog needing ear surgeries (and meds for skin infections that previous owner said they could no longer afford to refill). Our raffles held at Evergreen Golden Retriever Club's agility trials were our first realization that the Pacific Northwest was not immune to the failing economy. Donations were down and tickets sales were HALF of what we had in previous years. I was devastated...we had worked so hard! We also lost our largest annual benefactor (who was also dealing with a cash shortfall).

As EGRR's Fundraising Coordinator, my initial plan for the coming year is to host a wine-tasting/art auction. We have some wonderful original artwork and some stunning framed art prints for you. I will form a new committee to assist me in contacting vendors (and especially corporations) for donations to our agility trial raffles. Most corporations have a budgeted amount for donations to non-profits but we must contact them early in the year before the funds are gone. I have also researched and am applying for some grants. However, with so many rescue groups in the same predicament, these funds will be limited as well. I have succeeded in having EGRR added to the Combined Fund Drive for the State of Washington. Hopefully some new funds will come from this affiliation.

So friends, our best hope is you! Please renew your membership with EGRR. Many of the grant applications ask how many members we have. Please be "counted" this coming year! Hopefully you'll consider giving a little extra along with your renewal fee. A full 93% of all funds received from membership dues, donations and adoptions pay for EGRR dogs' medical care and expenses. Only 7% is used for administration costs.

More and more families can no longer afford to care for their aging or special needs pets in these hard economic times. Rescue exists to act as a safety net for these dogs. We strive to give them the best possible chance at a new life...a life with sufficient food, medical care, a warm bed and loving owners. Together we can make it happen.

Sincerely,

Diane Murphy
EGRR Fundraising Coordinator

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.

“JORDAN”

Jordan, fostered and adopted by Andrea Gleichweith. Jordan was released to EGRR just a year and a half ago when his owner relocated to California and could not take him or his canine sister with her. Imagine how difficult it would be for a 12 year old dog to have to leave the only home he had ever known. The road was rocky in the beginning but soon Andrea knew that Jordan was there to stay and they became best friends. Their time together was much too short but it was very sweet and Andrea misses him terribly.



“JERRY GARCIA”

Jerry was originally placed by EGRR to be trained as a narcotics detection dog. When his career ended, his handler turned him back in to the training facility who contacted EGRR. Mel and Gail Miller, believing that the bond between a working dog and handler should be for life, adopted Jerry in February 2006. Mel is a deputy and narcotics detection K-9 handler for King County. Knowing that Jerry needed to have a job, Gail worked with him in Agility until a progressive neurological condition dictated they stop. Besides Mel and Gail, Jerry will be missed by his canine brothers, Copper and Milo, who are EGRR dogs.



Memorial Donations



Scott Rohrer In Memory of
his beloved dog
Dax

“SCOUT”

Although not an EGRR dog, Scout was special to us all because he was volunteer Stephen Guy’s special boy. Scout was adopted from Homeward Bound GR Rescue and Sanctuary and had separation anxiety. That made him perfect for Stephen who is confined to a wheelchair and homebound since they would be together 24/7. So Stephen lost not only his best friend but his constant companion. Stephen will tell you that initially his thought was that he could meet Scout’s needs but over time it has become apparent they met each other’s needs. Scout leaves a huge hole in Stephen’s heart and life.



I Rescued A Human Today

Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her. I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid. As she stopped at my kennel I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn't want her to know that I hadn't been walked today. Sometimes the shelter keepers get too busy and I didn't want her to think poorly of them.

As she read my kennel card I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life. She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her. Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship. A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well.

Soon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms. I would promise to keep her safe. I would promise to always be by her side. I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes. I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor. So many more are out there who haven't walked the corridors. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one.

I rescued a human today.

by Janine Allen



Holiday Treats

Doggy Oatmeal Cookies

1 Cup uncooked Oatmeal
 3/4 cup cornmeal
 3 cup whole wheat flour
 3/4 cup powdered Milk
 1/2 cup margarine
 1 tsp. bouillon granules
 1-1/2 cup meat broth or hot water
 1 egg, beaten

Preheat oven to 325F. Dissolve bouillon in meat broth, while still hot, put some of the broth into a blender with the garlic and blend on high. Pour all broth into large bowl, add margarine & oatmeal and stir. Let sit 5 minutes to cool. Stir in powdered milk, cornmeal & egg. Add flour, 1/2 cup at a time, mixing well after each addition. Knead by hand, adding more flour if needed. Roll on floured surface to 1/2" thick, cut into shapes. Place on greased cookie sheet. Bake 50-60 minutes, allow to cool & dry out until hard.

Beefy Biscuits

Mix in a medium bowl
 2 cups whole wheat or all purpose flour
 1 cup cornmeal
 1/4 cup wheat germ
 2 teaspoon beef bouillon powder
 1/2 teaspoon yeast extract

Add 2 large egg, 1 T cooking oil and 1 cup hot water. Stir well. Roll out on a well-floured surface to 1/2 inch thickenss. Place on ungreased cooking sheet. Bake on center race, (275 F or 140 C) for about 2 hours until dry and very hard. Let stand overnight to dry thoroughly. Makes 10 big bones and 14 puppy bones.



2009 Annual EGGR Membership Drive

Thank you so much to all of you for joining Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue (EGRR) in 2008. As mentioned many times before, you are helping to promote responsible dog ownership and helping homeless Golden Retrievers. The over 50 dogs, that EGRR has already placed in 2008, also thank all of you. And, if these Golden Retrievers could speak for themselves, they would ask for your continuing support in 2009 - by renewing your annual individual memberships!!! The 2009 membership application is included in this newsletter.

Ask a friend to join. In 2008 we increased our membership to 95 members!! Why does this matter? Because EGGR is seeking outside sponsorships and, because these potential sponsors or grant providers ask how many members we have, this increased membership total is very important. Oh, but to say we have well more than 100 members in 2009!! Ask another owner of a Golden to join.

There are two levels of membership. Supporting membership is for individuals who wish simply to express their encouragement of the work of Rescue. Full membership is for those who wish to participate in Rescue activities and in the decision making process.

Thank you also to all members for continuing to volunteer for transportation, foster care and a host of other needy activities. The services of EGRR could not take place without this volunteer work! And, finally, since EGRR is a 501c3 charitable organization, donations over and above membership dues are tax deductible and these are gratefully received!! With high expenses for veterinary care, medication and vaccination, sustaining the very existence of EGRR depends on these donations and other fundraising. The Appeal in this newsletter from our Fundraising Coordinator well expresses the financial needs of EGRR.

It is only \$10 for each individual person to become a member. Thanks kindly.

HELP SAVE HOMELESS GOLDENS

JOIN EGGR

VOLUNTEER

MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue (EGRR)



2009 Annual Membership Application

___ Renewal *** ___ New Member

Name _____

Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____ (cell) _____

E-mail _____

*** Renewal - Please check (√) if: Address _____, Phone _____, e-mail _____ has changed since last year.

We welcome those who support the goals of our organization to become a member of **EGRR**. A full membership is for those who wish to participate in activities and decision making, attend the Annual Meeting and vote, or hold office. A supporting membership is for those who wish to show support for Rescue, but do not plan on attending meetings or other events, hold office or vote.

The benefit of membership is knowing that you are helping to sustain the key efforts, canine and human, of EGRR – to help homeless Golden Retrievers and to promote responsible dog ownership.

For those interested in active participation, below are the areas in which we could use your help.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grooming | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter Visitation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art/Graphic Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing/Communication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer/IT | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Screening | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Visits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Care |

___ I am interested in being a general volunteer – send me a Volunteer Application.

___ I am interested in becoming a foster home – send me a Foster Home Application.

Membership: Annual Dues \$10.00 per each individual member. Please make your check payable to **E.G.R.R.** and mail with your application to the P.O. Box address below.

Enclosed (Your financial support is very welcome and most needed):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Membership (\$10 each member) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Membership (\$10 each) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional tax-deductible donation | EGRR is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization.
\$ _____ |
| | Total enclosed |
| | \$ _____ |

Signature

Date

Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue, PO Box 3088, Renton, WA 98056

Phone: 206-286-5900

Website: www.egrr.net

E-mail address: info@egrr.net