

Golden Nuggets

www.egrr.net

Official Publication of Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue

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"Two lightens the load"

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



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February 14, 2012
May 14, 2012
August 14, 2012*

From the President's Desk

For many years I have dreamed of having a summer event to bring adopters and volunteers together and this finally came to fruition on July 31st when we hosted our first of what I hope will become an annual Reunion Picnic. Despite clouds and morning mist, we had an excellent turn-out with more than 60 people and 30 dogs. Everyone behaved very well – dogs and humans alike 😊 - and it appeared that a good time was had by all. Truly the best part was seeing our dogs and their happy adopters. We had adopters attend who had adopted as recently as a week prior to someone who adopted their dog 8 years ago. It is so incredibly satisfying to see the fruits of our labor. Thank you to everyone who helped and who attended. Special thanks to Nick Thain, master chef and picnic coordinator. We couldn't have done it without you!

As we approach the final quarter of the year, the trend of fewer dogs and fewer adoption applications continues. Additionally, we continue to see dogs with significant medical problems who are turned into the shelter or Rescue because the family can no longer deal with the cost of their care. Will is our latest "project" dog with so many medical problems it is hard to know where to start. His history is still sketchy but we understand that he fell out of a pick-up when just 2-3 months of age apparently suffering a head injury. He has also been hit by a car once or possibly twice suffering a fractured femur. Probably as a result of these traumas, he has neurological problems including seizures and nerve damage in his leg as well as a possible knee ACL injury. He also has a long history of ear problems. His history and a video of him are posted on our website so that his progress can be followed by all interested. I am very happy to say that in the few weeks he has been under EGRR care, he has shown much improvement and has even shown interest in playing with the other dogs.

Even more alarming is the recent increase in dogs with behavioral problems. Currently, we are working on five dogs with "issues", two in foster care, two adopted and one which we will have to decline. It is anyone's guess as to why this is happening but the common thread in all of these cases is neglectful and sometimes abusive handling in the early years of their lives. We have a very limited ability to help these dogs but are currently investigating other options for them.

So as our work continues and the challenges increase, the support of our volunteers and members becomes that much more important – and even more appreciated.

Nancy

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.

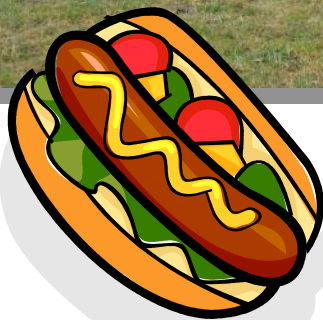
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P.O. Box 3088
Renton, WA 98056**

REUNION PICNIC 2011

One advantage of the misty weather was that we had the park almost entirely to ourselves for our first Reunion Picnic. What a super location with an expansive grassy area, large picnic shelter and lake access for the dogs. Thanks to the grilling expertise of Nick Thain and his buddy Jeremy, we had yummy hamburgers, garden burgers and hot dogs to eat. With the pot luck dishes that everyone brought it was really quite the feast! Several human and dog games were available for those interested and Copper Miller was the big winner. He found the most tennis balls, he found two of the three numbered tennis balls and he had the shortest time (under 1.2 seconds!) in the dunking for hot dogs game. Terry Jenkins had to have a quick finger on the stop watch while supervising the dunking for hot dogs .

On the human side, Conrad and Jody Gehrman had the closest guess for the number of treats in the treat jar winning the jar and 247 treats. Diane Murphy had six wonderful items for the raffle and the winners were very happy when their tickets were drawn. In addition to his culinary skills, Nick is a quite the talented swimmer which was in evidence when Ben, their foster dog, who is normally very good about staying close, decided to swim after some ducks. The ducks were not at all concerned because they knew they could just swim farther out in the lake and if need be fly away which is exactly what they did. Nick, however, decided that maybe Ben was not going to come back so he went in after him! Or maybe he just wanted to chase the ducks too!! The question now is how will we beat that show next year?!!

Sincere thanks to everyone who helped make the afternoon run smoothly by assisting with set up, clean up and everything in between. ***You are all so appreciated!!***



REUNION PICNIC 2011



REUNION PICNIC 2011 RAFFLE WINNERS



HAPPY ENDINGS



When Chap's listing agreement arrived in the mail, everyone from Intake and Placement shuttered. The reason given by his owner for giving Chap up for adoption was that he was being deployed to Iraq and his wife wanted to spend much of the time he was gone with her family in Croatia. Suggestions were offered as to other options but they were steadfast in their decision feeling it was the best thing for Chap. However, once Chap was moved to a foster home, they realized that they had made the wrong decision and asked if he could be returned which we were thrilled to do. The story, however, does not end there. Kathy Hobson, who assists with Intake, was so taken by their situation that she offered to house Chap whenever needed during the owner's deployment. Chap's owners were thrilled by her offer and readily accepted knowing that he could serve our country and she could visit her family without worrying about Chap. Kathy reports that Chap is an easy houseguest and settled right in which is typical of most Golden Retrievers. She brought him to the picnic and he won a prize for finding a numbered tennis ball. Kathy and Chap have already developed a special bond. We have amazing volunteers in EGRR and this is just one example. Thank you, Kathy and her husband, Mike, for supporting this military family and allowing them to do what they need to do with the peace of mind that comes with knowing that Chap will be loved and well cared for and eventually back with them some day.



Sharing the Joys of Fostering

A House Full Of Dogs

Barb Hale

As a little kid, all I thought about was dogs. Dogs, dogs, dogs! When I was seven, I vowed that I when I grew up and could do anything I wanted, I would have a house full of dogs. What do seven year olds know about vet bills?

During the process of adopting my latest dog, the foster mother talked to me a little bit about doing foster care. I came home with my new baby but couldn't get the idea of fostering dogs out of my head. I could finally have my house full of dogs, but without the vet bills.

This created a stumbling block: Would I become too attached to my foster dogs? Would I be devastated when they were eventually placed in forever homes? While discussing this for the millionth time, my friend Julie pointed out that this was a selfish way of seeing the situation. She suggested that I think of what I would be doing for that one dog in my care. That dog's world would change because there was a welcoming place for him to live until he could find his family. I filled out the application that day.

I understood Julie's argument, but that didn't make me any less nervous. When I went to pick up my first foster dog, Jake, I was filled with apprehension. He was adorable and I just didn't see how this would end well for me.

As part of the process of getting Jake into his new home, I talked with the new parent on the phone. Tom's excitement and joy at the prospect of a new family member was obvious. He wanted to meet Jake before introducing him to his two young daughters. At the first meeting, Tom could not stop smiling or petting Jake. And Jake would not quit pestering Tom with his tennis ball. They were in love.

We met again to introduce Tom's little girls to Jake and then handed over the leash. Tom must have told the girls to be calm because they started out calling Jake in very excited little squeaks. This lasted about 30 seconds. Soon, there were shrieks of laughter from the girls and barking from Jake as they chased each other around the dog park. As we watched, Tom shyly asked me if I thought five dog beds would be enough for Jake –Tom's bedroom, the girls' bedroom, the family room, Tom's office, and one for the SUV.

Watching the girls and the dog play, seeing Tom's joy and enthusiasm for adding this dog to their lives made it easy to pass Jake on to his new family. He was going to be the center of the world for these three people. Every dog should get that chance.

I'm not saying I didn't cry the whole way home but I also realized that I could do this. The joy of the adopting family outweighs my sadness every time. So now I get to live out my dream and have that house full of dogs.



A Nugget of Training

By

Jean Whitehead

EGRR Director, Shelter Checker and Behavior Coordinator

Positive Approach Dog Training Instructor

Animal Placement Coordinator for the Tacoma-Pierce Co. Humane Society

In loving memory of Rosie, Shadowland's Dreamin' of the Roses, November 7, 1996 – August 22, 2011

Health Care Can Be Trained Too!

The last two weeks have been a roller coaster for me as my 14 yr old dog developed seizures that would take her away from us. During this last phase of her life I found myself once again glad I had taken the time to train her for medical procedures. Yes, you can train for health care. This type of training isn't just for the geriatric set; dogs of all ages should be conditioned for a variety of health related issues. From an early age our dogs should be trained to calmly accept such treatments as nail trims, tooth brushing and those of us with floppy eared dogs should be preparing to treat ear infections.

Whether it's routine care like nail trimming and vaccines or emergency care like blood draws and restraint, the training is largely the same. Many behaviors can be thought of in small steps - lets use nail trimming as an example. First we determine what success is, in this case the dog staying calm. Then we determine a first step which we want to be simple enough that the dog is highly likely to be successful. Often for nail trimming simply touching the dog's leg and having them stay calm/not pull it away is a great first step. We reward calm for each leg a couple of times before we move on. Then we determine the next step and for our example it is likely to be touching the foot and the dog staying calm. Reward a few calm responses on each foot. Then picking up each foot. Then manipulating each toe. Again reward multiple calm responses. Only move to a harder step if you have had multiple successes.

When there is equipment involved I am often getting the dog used to the sight, smell and sound of the equipment separately. In the case of nail clippers, especially if the dog already has a negative association with them, I start really simple here too. I may just walk around with the clippers and get the dog used to them being seen, or leave them on the floor a couple of feet from the food bowl during meals. Again, we want multiple calm responses before making presence of the clippers more challenging. Ultimately the dog should be calm with the clippers being held and making noise all around the dog.

Eventually, the time will come to combine the equipment and the behavior. Start simple, such as just touching the clippers to a nail and rewarding a calm, still dog. Remember multiple successes with each nail may be necessary before moving on to actually trimming a little off a nail. And so on, and so on...

Key Points:

Each dog and each behavior is different, start simple and only progress according to your dog's successes.

Visit your vets office when you don't have an appointment and have the staff give the dog treats, do some behaviors, reward, then leave. Make it a positive place!

Practice restraining your dog, don't let go until they relax, then reward.

When doing treatments treat it as a training session. For example with eye drops do a drop, give a reward. Repeat as needed.

Take treats to vet visits, have the doctor give cues and reward your dog. It's a great way to start your appointment and change your dog's relationship with the vet.

Practice exams. Start simple – reward calm responses to touching each body part, don't forget the tail. Once the dog is comfortable with you and gentle pressure, build pressure then practice with strangers.

Plan ahead, what might you need to do to care for your dog and train for it.

A few suggestions:

- feed hot dogs when your dog is getting vaccines so needles are fun.
- teach calm responses to mouth, eyes and ears being manipulated
- practice having your dog lie down while eating (very helpful w/arthritis)

By preparing your dog for veterinary care before they are sick or injured the behaviors associated with exams and treatments become known, rewardable "tricks" using them in stressful times can calm your dog. I have been glad many, many times with dogs of all ages to have trained health care behaviors

**EGRR Annual Meeting 5/15/2011—Minutes
Kennydale Memorial Hall
Renton, Washington**



Meeting called to order 2:08pm by President Nancy Kiesler

1. Introductions and welcome

Nancy had all board members and volunteers introduce themselves and describe the functions they provide for EGRR.

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes as published in the Golden Nuggets - MSP

3. Report of the President

Nancy opened with this quote:

"The most golden part of a golden is his heart."

- -Roger Caras

Placement numbers are down, probably due to people using Craigslist to rehome their dogs. Foster home numbers are also down this year. We are researching boarding kennels and seeing if we can find several in this area who will board dogs for us when we're on overload. I'd also like to challenge everyone here to make an effort to talk to people and assist us in our efforts to recruit new foster homes. We cannot do Rescue if we can't provide interim housing for them.

Nancy set a goal to try something "new" each year. Last year EGRR attended multiple "dog events", setting up a booth staffed with our volunteers (and dogs) to get information about EGRR out to the public.

This year, the "something new" will be the upcoming EGRR Picnic on July 31st. We hope to see all our members (and their dogs) at this (hopefully) annual event.

4. Treasurer's report

Treasurer Lee Cummings submitted detailed report and year-to-date comparisons.

As of April 2011, EGRR is breaking even.

Last year the average vet bill per dog was \$642. The EGRR adoption fee was \$250. Last year the total average cost to place a dog was \$758. Our fee has been raised to \$300 this year. The average vet bill is \$424 per dog – though we have had two dogs with over \$2,000 medical expenses each this year.

Changes in the tax laws now require EGRR to file with the IRS and we must pay excise tax on adoption fees.

5. Committee Reports

A. Intake – Desiree Gibson

Intake is currently down, but comes in spurts. Many intakes are "urgent" which involves coordination of volunteers to temperament test, transport and foster.

We need to develop temperament tests/protocol and "testers".

B. Placement – Sue Randall

19 dogs adopted this year. Foster homes adopted 5 of the 19 (3 dogs were over 7yo and one will be 13yo in July).

8 were females/11 were males

6 were seniors/12 were under age 5/1 was "other" age

Minutes continued from page 9

Dogs currently in foster care:

4 males: 1 recovering surgery, 1 skittish, being housetrained, 1 high energy 1yo, 1 needs further evaluation (heart murmur)

0 females.

Currently 21 people on waiting list. 10 want female. 4 want male. 6 will take either. Some require specific criteria... eg mellow dog.

C. Fundraising – Diane Murphy

Continues to apply for and receive April Fund Grants from the Golden Retriever Foundation. There is a yearly “cap” of \$5000 per rescue group. Thanks to the Evergreen Golden Retriever Club and their members, over \$1200 was raised for EGRR at the Seattle Kennel Club Show this past March. EGRC has also offered rescue the Labor Day Weekend agility trials venue for our annual raffle. Please contact myself or Nancy Kiesler if you can donate items (or help).

D. Membership – Rich Randall

Membership Status as of May 14, 2011

2011 Human Members to Date: **221** (119 Full, 102 Supporting)

Comparison to:

- 2010: 208
- 2009: 142
- 2008: 96
- 2007: 39

2010 Members Not or Not Yet Renewed To Date in 2011: 61

2011 New Members: 57

2011 Supporting Golden Members: 1

Rich spoke of this NEW supporting membership category – “SG”. The very first SG (Supporting Golden) membership he received was turned in by “Star”. Rich then submitted membership forms for his goldens and challenged others to join him...multiple checks were written and presented for new “SG’s” membership J

E. Volunteer – introduce Maddy Wiley

Our new volunteer coordinator is Maddy Wiley

F. Webpage – Brad Kammerer

We went live with the new site on Dec. 13, 2010. We have most of the problems worked out and are now working to incorporate online forms to speed up the adoption and membership/volunteer process. We have a Facebook page and online Blog. Our online Blog was developed and is updated by Healthy Paws Pet Insurance.

Please have a look around and let us know what you think.

G. Publicity – Kim Chondrin

Kim will be stepping down from her Board position and Publicity Chair. She will continue to help Rescue and will happily review what she has done the past few years with the new Publicity Chair.

Last year mailers were sent to local vets and shelters to let them know about EGRR. However, the future is internet based...80% of the inquiries to EGRR come via the website.

Prototypes of car magnetic signs, window decals and banners were displayed. These can be purchased at minimal cost. Please contact the Board if you would like to display one on your vehicle.

H. Foster Homes – Karen and Terry Jenkins

People have stepped up in emergencies – for this Rescue thanks you. It would be helpful to have “availability” information ahead of time. Having a list of planned vacations and holidays would decrease the number of telephone calls made to find an available foster home.

A survey was completed last year to look for any areas we could improve to increase the number of foster homes.

Minutes continued from page 10

While the results were interesting to read, we really didn't learn anything new.

Whenever an email request is sent out looking for a foster home for a dog, feel free to raise your hand. We work very hard to match dogs to an appropriate foster home. The average time in foster care is 2-3 weeks.

6. Old Business - none

7. New Business

A. Election of Officers

Three board members are leaving the board but will continue to assist EGRR. Departing board members are:

Susan Randall, Leslea McClean and Kim Chondrin.

Election of next year's Board Members and Officials.

Ballots were passed to all present full/voting members of EGRR.

Slate of candidates:

- Nancy Kiesler – President
- Richard Randall – Vice President
- Diane Murphy – Secretary
- Lee Cummings – Treasurer
- Brad Kammerer – Director
- Roy Talbot – Director
- Jean Whitehead - Director
- Mel Miller – Director
- Desiree Gibson – Director

Motion was made to approve the slate as posted – MSP

Congratulations to the new Board members (and continuing “old” members).

B. Star Awards

Our lovely NEW “Star Award” was presented to Dr. Kennedy for all the financial, medical and emotional support he has given to Rescue.

8. For the good of the order

Door prize winning ticket was drawn

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn 3:00 pm – MSP

Break – refreshments

Presentations:

What to “feel” for when your dog is not feeling well – Dan Kennedy DVM

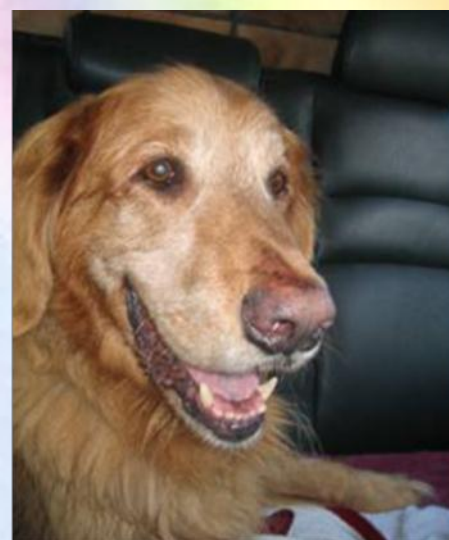
How to handle your dog in a crowd – Jean Whitehead

Rainbow Bridge

Lucky – Bob Sullivan 2003 We didn't know Lucky's age when I adopted him – ya'll thought he was 3, which would place him at 11. He was the best companion someone like me could ever have and I'm completely heartbroken, but he brought so much joy into the world I have no right to be sad about this. Thank you for finding him and putting us together.



Sunshine – Noel Rees 2003 Sunshine was the sunshine of our lives. She never met a stranger as every new person was welcomed with a wag of her fluffy tail, the sparkle of her warm brown eyes and that beautiful smile. Thank you for the memories, sweet girl, each and every one of them. We will never forget you. Like the song, "I've got Sunshine on a cloudy day," your sweet aura stays with us.



Randolph – Barry Lieberman and Maria Larionoff 1998 Randolph, named after one of our best friends Randolph Baunton, (former Principal Percussionist of the Seattle Symphony) was a great friend, true athlete and mentor to Mia Fabienne our 7 year old Golden. His sense of humor, strong heart and handsome looks will stay with us forever.



Sadie – George and Marcy Collins – 2011 Sadie was much loved for 11 years with her first family but when they moved into assisted living, Sadie couldn't go with them and was surrendered to EGRR. We fell in love with her immediately! From the day we brought her home, she greeted everyone with a smile and wagging tail. Not a day went by that she didn't make us laugh. It seemed like Sadie had always been with us. Sadly, we had Sadie for only five months. We miss our silly, sugar-faced girl every day. Special thanks to Karen and Terry Jenkins for bringing Sadie into our home and hearts!

Rainbow Bridge



Dusty – Anita and Gary Honaker 2006 When Dusty came into our lives in May of 2006 as our first dog, our lives and hearts were changed forever. She had the gift of touching that spot deep in your soul and she used that gift not only with us but through the Delta Society as a registered therapy animal. We worked as a team and helped young children through the PAWS to READ program of Olympia. But most of all she was our best friend. We thought our world was falling apart 3 years ago with the diagnosis of Melanoma but she fought and we did what we could but finally the cancer took her from us on May 21, 2011. She leaves behind many friends and her brother, Monte, our second Golden rescue.

Although not EGRR dogs, the following dogs were nonetheless members of the EGRR Family

Rosie – 1996-2011 Jean Whitehead Rosie, who had the most appropriate alpha temperament, was actually a canine EGRR volunteer. Rosie temperament tested and taught manners to innumerable Rescue dogs. She even spent several days with a family with a special needs child to see if a Rescue Golden would be the right choice for them. Rosie raised several of her own litters and assisted her sister, Hailey, with her litters. We will all miss sweet Rosie but not as much as her Mom.



Buffi - 1999 - 2011 John Chapman Knowing Buffi was to know a golden bundle of pure love and the ultimate example of a Golden Retriever – beautiful, big brown eyes, gorgeous pale gold eye lashes, a never ending smile and a tail that never stopped wagging. Her favorite things were swimming, tennis balls, eating water melon and eating apples. She had a favorite apple tree. She would start watching it in late summer, impatiently waiting. When they were finally ripe enough, we would sit under that tree and share an apple every evening until they were gone. Buffi was my first dog, and the light of my life. She left a hole in me as big as her heart and a life time of wonderful memories.

General Donations

Steven Johnson
 Nita Guthrie
 William Smith and Shirley Nicholls
 Greg and Vicky Smith
 Patricia Moore-Fuhrman
 Chris Enrico
 June Gabriel
 Bob and Pat Miles
 Elaine Cruickshank
 Robert Kemper
 Mel and Gail Miller
 Bill, Edie and Lauren Plotkowski
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 Eva Ostberg
 Ane Brusendorff
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 Deb Bullard
 Gloria Miller
 Donna Day
 Sue and Steve Lusa
 Joan and Bob Fetty
 Scott and Ellen Menshew
 Walt and Marilyn Gearhart
 Nancy Light
 Andrea Hogle
 Kathy Fisk

The following donations were matched by Microsoft:

Dottie Shaw
 Robert Reagle
 Brett Flegg
 Edward Fritchman

Memorial Donations

Carol Sager
 In memory of "Yoshi" McBride

Harry and Carol Mackin
 In memory of "Babe"

John Chapman
 In memory of "Buffi"

In Honor Of

Carol Neely and Darrin Jenks
 Wishing Copper Miller a Happy Retirement

Donations given via I-Give, Just Give, Golden Retriever Foundation or United Way of King County are very much appreciated but they arrive without donor information which means we are unable to thank or acknowledge your generosity.

Thank you, whoever you are!



Recycle Your Cell Phone

EGRR has started a new fundraising effort which involves collecting used cell phones and recycling them through GRC Recycling. GRC Recycling accepts a wide variety of used phones, with few exceptions, and pay anywhere from \$2 to \$10 for the average phone with Blackberries, smart phones and iPhone-type phones paying considerably more

If you're able to put out a collection box at any location like work or your neighborhood pet store or coffee house, we can obtain signs for this purpose. We will soon have a list of volunteers in various locations where you can drop the phones off.