

Golden Nuggets

www.egrr.net

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Before Humans die, they write their Last Will and Testament, give their home and all they have to those they leave behind. If, with my paws, I could do the same, this is what I would ask.

To a poor and lonely stray, I'd give my happy home. My bowl and cozy bed and soft pillows and all my toys. The lap, which I loved so much, the tender loving touch. The hand that stroked my fur and sweet voice which called my name. I'd will to the sad, scared shelter dog, the place I had in my loving human's heart of which there seemed no bounds.

So when I die, please do not say, "I will never have a pet again for the loss and pain is more than I can stand". Instead go find an unloved dog. One whose life has held no joy or hope and give MY place to HIM. This is the only thing I can give.....the love I left behind.

THIS is my inheritance! My Last Will and Testament.



Author Unknown



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



A word about this edition of the newsletter. One of the hardest issues we deal with is the loss of our beloved pet and memories of this pain affect our decision making. Understandably, people are reticent to adopt a senior or a dog with health issues because they will endure the grief of losing this dog sooner rather than later. We are going to explore these issues here in the hopes that we will all gain some insight and new strategies on how to deal with the difficult process. Often, these are the dogs who need Rescue the most.





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Directors
Desiree Gibson
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Mel Miller
Roy Talbot
Jean Whitehead

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

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From the President's Desk

As I write my last report as President, I find myself thinking about the changes that EGRR and Rescue in general have experienced over the past years. EGRR has grown from a handful of volunteers to a large network of people who contribute in so many ways. We have wonderful donors who remember and support us regularly allowing us to help dogs like Star and Will who would otherwise be lost. Local shelters now recognize and readily work with many purebred and all-breed rescue groups. Shelters have also added staff and volunteers who provide many more services to the animals and they advertise their adoptable pets on various websites. The result of this for the Tacoma-Pierce County Humane Society is that an adoptable dog has not been euthanized in over four years. I am sure that other shelters in our area can say the same. The popularity of our breed continues and adopters are being more proactive so that we are only infrequently asked to take a dog from a local shelter.

These changes become even more apparent to me every year when I do the annual statistics. For instance, we took 14 dogs from shelters in 2011, 15 in 2010 and 24 in 2009. Another very important trend is the number of dogs EGRR accepted that needed to be spayed or neutered. In 2011, this number was only 5 dogs compared to 18 in 2010 and 17 in 2009. I like to think that this shows more people are having their dogs neutered at a young age.

Despite the gradual improvement in the economic forecast, dogs are still coming in with serious and expensive medical issues. We started 2012 with 2 surgical procedures – one to remove a benign abdominal tumor and the other a 2.4 pound soft tissue tumor that a year ago was the size of a golf ball. Both dogs are happily in their forever homes and worth every penny of what we spent. We wonder if EGRR's mission will shift to dealing more with dogs with medical issues than healthy dogs as overall, our intake numbers are gradually getting smaller. In 2011, we accepted 53 dogs, 3 less than 2010 but 13 less than 2009. Since I have numbers dating back many years, I decided to look at those and was surprised myself to see that in 1999, we took in 92 dogs and in 2000, 86 dogs.

Have you ever wondered why people give up their dogs? We track that too and the most common reason given year after year is "no time". This year, "financial reasons" tied for first. Tied for second place was "moving" and "dog's behavior" and in third place was "illness or health of owner".

As you can see, times are changing and EGRR is working at positioning itself for the future. I am very confident that our Board of Directors will steer EGRR in the right direction and be well prepared to handle any challenges that come their way. If you have the time and desire, now is a good time to get involved as there are several open Board and Coordinator positions. Rescue work is very challenging but also incredibly rewarding and life changing and I invite anyone interested to contact me or other Board Members.

Finally, I just want to say "thank you" for allowing me to serve EGRR as I have for these years and for the support you have shown me during this time.

Nancy Kiesler
President, EGRR

Love Lessons



There comes a moment when we know without a doubt that something is different about our animal companion. The change is palpable. That instinctual and interior knowing sends shock waves throughout our system. Sometimes the symptoms of our companions are obvious. At other times the signs are more subtle. It can be an expression in the eyes, not being as eager to go for a walk or finding a new place in the house to go when we are away. Something isn't right and we know it. Whatever it is won't heal, even with excellent veterinary care. My own experience of this is one of shock and a kind of psychic numbing when the vet confirms what I intuitively already know. It is a gut wrenching experience and I have to remind myself to breathe.

Some conditions escalate rapidly without much time to prepare our hearts for what we know is coming. In other situations, there is a slow goodbye that is heartbreakingly poignant and tender. No matter how many times we may have accompanied a previous animal friend into death, it always hurts. Hopefully, one advantage of experiencing this landscape of grief previously is that it will enable us to be more attuned and of assistance to our companion who is ill and/or dying.

I would like to share some of what I call "Love Lessons" that may be of help in responding to the anticipatory grief you most likely will experience as you live into the reality of the loss of your animal companion. To anticipate means to expect and/or foresee. Grief is a deep and/or intense sorrow or mourning. Anticipatory grief is a knowing there is an ending of our relationship as we know it with our beloved companion. Death may not be far off.

The Love Lessons are as follows:

1. Be present in the here and now to what your companion is experiencing so you can pay close attention to what is happening. A high degree of alertness and awareness is necessary. Staying in the here and now will help you ground your own fear and concern. Take one step and one day at a time.
2. Know what you know intuitively and experientially about your animal and get things checked out by a good vet. This will help you formulate a care plan and decide how to proceed as events continue to unfold. Knowledge and a plan will keep you from feeling so helpless.
3. Keep the question "What is best for my companion?" ever before you. It will help you stay focused and confident as you care for and make decisions on behalf of your animal companion. Trust that your love for your companion trumps the grief you are experiencing and that you will do what is in the best interest of your treasured companion. Let Love Lead!
4. Take some concrete actions that will create rich memories of your animal's life and the relationship that you have shared together. (e.g. gather pictures and make a scrapbook, share stories with your significant others who know you and your beloved companion.) You will find doing some of these activities will help you sort through your own emotions and feelings as you experience letting go and surrendering your companion.
5. Take as good of care of yourself as you can during this time. Deliberate and conscious self-care will help you anchor and direct your grief in a compassionate manner both for yourself and your companions.
6. If possible, find someone to talk with about what is happening for and to you. If you don't feel like talking, perhaps a walk or sharing a cup of coffee with someone may be of support. If you prefer solitude, do whatever you can that will be of some help and consolation to you (e.g. read a book, garden, listen to music, pray).
7. Finally, allow yourself to listen, be still and be present to what is unfolding. Know that some days will be easier than others and that there is not a right or wrong way to grieve. What matters most are the moments you have remaining with your animal companion. And if you can, believe and be assured that all manner of things will be well and that you will continue to grow in love because of what has been given between you and your beloved companion.

Happy Endings



14 years ago we got a Golden Retriever puppy (Copper) and 2 years later we brought home a puppy, her ½ sister (Penny). These were my first dogs and Penny was a mommy's girl. These dogs were our whole life as we have no human children. The girls would say (in their doggie language) that they were the luckiest dogs on the planet. In September of 2011 we found out that Penny had bone cancer that had also moved to her lungs and spleen. We lost her just 10 days after first being told of the cancer. Penny was my forever dog and there is a hole in my heart that will never heal. The pain of the loss to us was unbearable.

But we were not alone in our sadness - there was still our 13 ½ year old girl who was all alone and grieving. After about 2 weeks we decided that Copper needed a canine friend. Due to her frail state (mentally she is 2 but physically she is an old lady) we decided that we wanted an older dog to be her companion. We filled out the application to EGGR, spoke to staff and were placed on a waiting list.

In December we were contacted about a girl (who sort of had a boy name). She was about 8 years old. We agreed to meet her and her foster family. I must say I vacillated in the days before we met asking myself if we were doing the right thing or not for Copper. On a snowy day in January, Dan, Copper and I met Jasper, Roy and Linda. I walked in the door, looked at Jasper and thought she's perfect. As I was sitting on the floor to get to know her, Jasper came up to me and just plopped down on my lap wanting me to rub her belly. I looked at Dan (my spouse) and he told me weeks later that he knew at that point that there was no way we were not adopting Jasper. Still, we went home to talk about it to make sure we were making the right decision for both Copper and Jasper. We called Roy that night and said we would like to give Jasper a forever home.



Jasper has been with us for 5 weeks now. I cannot express to you what this dog has meant to our family. She has become a sister to Copper and it is as if they've been together for their whole lives. She went swimming for the 1st time and now we cannot get her out of the water so we spend every weekend at the water or in the park on the trails running. She cuddles with us and loves her dog toys (she has like 30 of them!). There are several things she has done, characteristics she shows, that mirror my angel Penny. I often say that Penny brought Jasper to us to help us heal.

Adopting an older dog instead of getting new puppies has been the most rewarding thing I have done in my whole life. To look at her gray face as she has a stuffed toy in her mouth or as she runs in the park and to know that at least for her final years she will know pure joy and pure endless love is so uplifting that I will treasure this experience always. And when we lose her we'll be comforted by the fact that we gave this dog such a loving home that she'd forget her sad years and be happy at the Rainbow Bridge. I will not hesitate to adopt an older dog again in the future. My Penny, Copper and Jasper would want it that way.

Rachelle Clutter, Dan Kelleher and Copper, Jasper and angel Penny

Sharing The Joy Of Fostering

Hospice Fostering

By

The Bahnick Family

Through EGRR, we have been privileged to have fostered 4 seniors thus far; we assumed all were with us to stay, but three of them were actually adopted, including Copper to Karen and Terry Jenkins! The situations for seniors coming into rescue are as unique as they are. One unfortunate circumstance that may be more common for seniors is forced separation from their long time, well caring human companions due to health issues with the human (such as going into a nursing home). Suddenly, the senior golden is thrust from years of known, loving comfort into the uncertain world of strange surroundings, shelters, and with a little luck, rescue. Fortunately, once they regain some stability in their life, they are very appreciative, even more so for those poor seniors who have been abandoned, or have endured years of less than favorable living conditions.

Being a permanent foster home to these seniors is bittersweet, but the benefits far outweigh the health issues (which EGRR is generous to subsidize) and the far too short amount of time we have to spend with these wonderful goldens.

The benefits include, but are certainly not limited to:

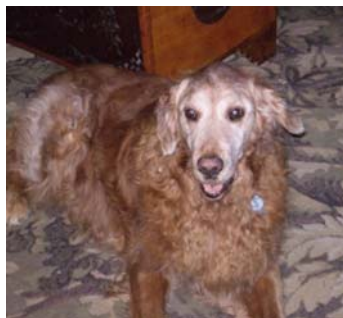
- 🐾 generally easier to foster than younger goldens, and they are GRateful to have a home, especially for the seniors that have been abandoned or had abusive pasts;
- 🐾 quick to figure out the “pack” pecking order, and more willing to accept their position;
- 🐾 relatively easy going, don’t usually require a lot of activity;
- 🐾 many come with some level of training, and housebroken;
- 🐾 and perhaps most importantly, mellowed with Great golden qualities, not to mention loads of personality and quirkiness (from some only wanting 25 square feet of space to others that truly believe the world is THEIR oyster).

We always assume that the senior goldens we foster are with us to stay, but they can still make the ultimate companion for the right adopter who is willing to take on the added responsibilities that come with a senior.

I hope you will consider being a permanent (hospice) foster for a senior golden that comes into rescue, it is truly a rewarding experience, plus you don’t have to feel guilty about keeping them!



Copper enjoys a moment of bliss with Holly



← Sandy Claws



Katie (in the back) shares her “space” with Hops



“Old” Toby →

Massage, Reiki and Grief

“When we tell a dog to stay, we really mean forever”

Rondi Lightmark (<http://www.Lightmarkphoto.com>)

I am no stranger to grief. I worked with people and grief in my first career as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor. Little did I know when I began my midlife career as a massage therapist I would be awash in loss; death and grief would be my daily companions.

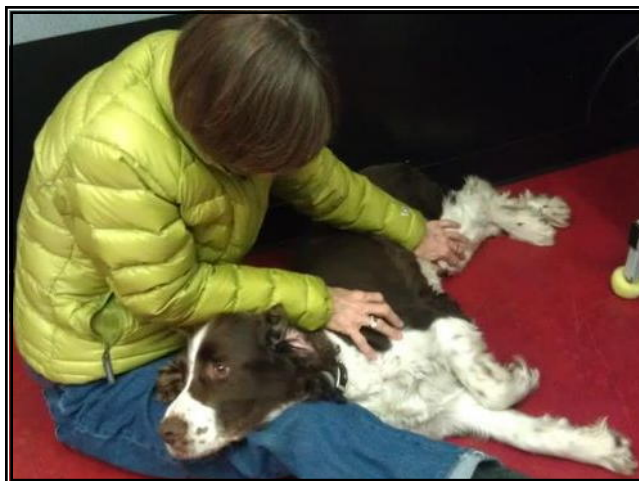
My practice is made up largely of older dogs (and cats). Massage diminishes the pain of arthritis, stiff muscles, and relieves slow digestive systems. I use Range of Motion exercises to stretch legs that have lost muscle tone, and give relaxation massages for dogs experiencing cognitive dysfunction. My work sometimes turns to that of Hospice – palliative care as an animal moves toward death. The focus becomes that soothing and comfort. Through the use of Effleurage, a long slow stroke, massage relaxes the nervous system. I also talk to the dog as I work and tell them what I am doing and what is going on with them physically.

Another tool I use is Reiki. It is an ancient healing method that allows a Being to absorb life force energy. Reiki is an integral part of my massage sessions. As a Reiki Master I am a channel for Reiki energy. Laying my hands on a dog, I direct the Reiki energy into the dog. Reiki relieves pain, strengthens the immune system, and balances and replenishes energy. As a dog draws closer to death Reiki can make that transition peaceful.

When I begin working with a beloved pet I often know I will be accompanying their guardian on a journey through death and grief. Death changes us forever. We can never return to the way we were. We weave the loss into the fabric of our lives, reinventing ourselves and our lives with this piece missing. I believe we learn with each death. Each Being that we lose benefits from our wisdom gained from previous losses. I don't think future losses hurt less, but we are able to navigate them in a more satisfying way. The alternative to deep loss is living a shallow, non-committal life. We give up attachment to avoid pain. I know people who won't have another dog due to the pain of losing their last one. This always makes me sad – there are so many dogs out there that would benefit from a loving guardian.

So for those of you who may be losing your sweet dog know that massage and Reiki can bring peace to you and your dog; and for those of you who have loved and lost please love again.

Jen Streit, LMP, SAMP, LMHC
EGRR Adopter



The Truth About Golden Retriever Uveitis



When our girl, Mandy, was first diagnosed with Pigmentary Uveitis at a screening clinic hosted by the Evergreen Golden Retriever Club, she was only 4 years old and I was confident from everything I had heard that this was no big deal. One drop in each eye, once a day would be easy to do and if we were consistent with this, her life would be minimally impacted by this disease. For many, this is the case. However, now almost 4 years later, I recently learned that we were not that lucky.

For the first two years, check backs every 6 months showed that her eyes were stable. However, at a visit over a year ago, we were told that the pressure was up in her

left eye and that she now had secondary Glaucoma in that eye. We would have to add another eye drop to our routine, this time given at bedtime. Choosing to be optimistic, my wife and I said “we can do this” and we did, believing that this would stabilize her condition which it did, for awhile.

Then the pressure increased again and we were told to give the glaucoma medicine twice a day, morning and bedtime, and the PU medicine at dinner time. Pressure was down and stable for about 6 months on this regimen when we noticed increased redness in the left eye in early January, two months before we were due for a check back. We made an appointment immediately and were shocked to learn that the pressure in that eye had reached the level of producing headache type of pain and she was already essentially blind in that eye. That day we made the appointment for her surgery.

We decided rather than remove her eye and have her eye lid sutured closed, we would have a procedure done that saves the eye while the pain sensitive structures inside the eye are removed. As I write this, she is now four weeks post-op and doing well. She acts like nothing has happened and perhaps we have suffered more as a result of this than she has. Dogs are amazing in how they handle a disability which is one of the reasons I enjoy fostering special needs dogs. However, we are acutely aware that we need to do everything we can to maintain her vision in her remaining eye. At this time, that eye shows minimal affect from the PU including normal pressure. What is scary to us is that we were extremely reliable in giving Mandy her eye drops and she still developed Glaucoma and the Glaucoma progressed.

I am sharing our story because I believe most people take this disease too lightly as did we. Please have your dog screened for PU by a canine ophthalmologist annually until you are told it is no longer needed. The Evergreen Golden Retriever Club will be holding their screening clinic on April 28th. Registration is open and it fills up quickly so please call. If you are unable to attend this clinic, schedule your dog for a CERF exam as that type of exam tests specifically for genetic problems and typically costs less than a regular exam. Registration information for the clinic is in this newsletter and available on our website.

Allan Kiesler

Grieving Through Social Media

By

Bob Sullivan, EGRR Adopter



There's a reason the expression goes "You look like your dog just died." Losing a dog is a sadness so profound that it's useless to explain to anyone who hasn't been through it. In fact, finding others who understand is probably the only way to get through it.

My beloved Golden Retriever rescue Lucky was a bit of a national celebrity. I am a consumer reporter for msnbc.com, and have spent several years including Lucky as a key figure in my reports. He was most famous for being my sidekick in coast-to-coast road trips that I took chronicling the struggles of regular Americans as they try to avoid getting cheated by hidden fees or scam artists. "Bob and Lucky's Hidden Fee Tour of America," even had a theme song. His 10-year-old face had been whitened by time, but he otherwise still behaved like a puppy. So I was completely stunned when, as we were preparing for the 2011 version of the

trip, Lucky passed away suddenly from an enlarged heart.

In the sleepless nights that followed I spent a lot of time fruitlessly reading about enlarged hearts, alternatively looking for an explanation that might calm my racing analytical mind or an excuse to blame myself for the ailment to distract my aching heart. You probably know the ending to that trip. I found no answers. But I did find a lot of places to share. Sharing makes nothing better. It doesn't replace a wet nose, a joyful face, the endless presence of love that follows you everywhere. But still, sharing eases pain.

When Lucky first died, I spent a lot of time reading Web sites that offer advice on surviving the loss of a beloved pet. There's many places offering tips on how to cope. I suspect some would find them helpful. I did not. The sheer amount of people discussing the problem helped me hang on to my sanity, however. A couple of the better sites are at the Human Society

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/coping_with_pet_death.html

<http://pet-loss.net>

There are also a number of sites that allow grieving pet owners to post memorials of their lost dogs, with pictures and paragraphs that serve as online odes to the beloved pets. Some of these post advertisements; some promise not to. I chose not to put Lucky on any of these sites, but reading through the stories there, I found, helped a little. Misery loves company. Here's a few:

<http://www.dogquotations.com/write-a-memorial.html>

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

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

<http://www.pets-memories.com/>

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

But using the Internet as part of the mourning process, rather than just a source of information, was much more effective. Plus, I was facing an immediate problem. Lucky was a social butterfly and had hundreds

Grieving Through Social Media continued

of close friends. And I'd already promised readers another Red Tape road trip with Lucky as the mascot for my blog. How would I tell everyone?

When someone you love dies, there is always the complicated and painful affair of telling others about the tragedy. The conversations often force you to relive the horrible moments, when people naturally ask questions like "How did it happen?" No one knows what to say, and you, as the recipient of the kindness, always sense that and spend your energy trying to make sympathizers feel better instead of saving your strength for you.

When a dog dies, less sensitive non-dog-owners will inevitably ask a dumb question like "So, are you going to get another dog now?" as if you were trading in a used car. Others will just breeze past the sadness with a trite "He had a good life," and change the subject.

It all begins to feel like piling on, and sometimes you just can't face that steady drumbeat of painful conversations.

Facebook turned out to be a powerful friend in this dilemma. I wrote a simple status update that explained the basics and created a photo album for Lucky. I was able to tell most of my friends and family at once. It was the most effective way I could avoid telling and re-telling the story hundreds of times. As is custom now, I changed my Facebook avatar picture to an image of Lucky, which signals to Facebook users that something might be wrong. I did the same with my professional Facebook page, letting readers know that he wouldn't make my coming trip for the saddest of reasons; I called attention to the notice by Tweeting it.

I was surprised that pressing "share" on Facebook turned out to be another one of those painful goodbye moments, like packing up his dog toys or placing his dog collar around my car's rear-view mirror. I knew it would set off another chain reaction of sadness, but I was committed to getting that part over with as soon as I could.

I expected to cry again. I didn't expect the incredible outpouring of love that came flying through the Internet during the next 48 hours. There is just something about losing a dog, and either you know about it or you don't. I heard from hundreds of people who did, strangers who expressed deep sympathy and then sent me their own tales about their beloved pets who'd passed away. One woman I heard from was even named Sullivan and had lost her dog named Lucky.

Somehow, things seemed better. All these kind thoughts, these memories, these well-wishes — they felt as important as food and water to me during this time. Facebook and Twitter saved me hundreds of these dreadful encounters and eased my pain. For me, it was the perfect tool for tastefully sharing bad news and for facing grief head on.

This story is adapted from a piece that originally appeared at RedTape.msnbc.com. Follow Bob Sullivan on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/BobSullivanFans> or on Twitter @RedTapeChron



Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of Heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food and water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable. All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who are hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by.

The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they miss someone very special to them; who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. The bright eyes are intent; the eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to break away from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster. YOU have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart. Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together.....



Jasper – Greg and Vicky Smith (2009) We adopted Jasper from EGGR when he was a senior, 10 or 11 years old. His kidneys were already failing but he still needed a home. He was the sweetest, most loving dog ever, content to hang out on the couch or in the open garage when Greg worked on his motorcycles. Jasper was my faithful shadow during Greg's year-long deployment to Afghanistan. The picture was taken during a little club dog show. Jasper schmoozed with the judge in the conformation class and won first place. He will always be a champion love sponge in our hearts and greatly missed by us and his canine pals.



Rainbow Bridge



Winston - Joy Erickson (2000) We were referred to the Kent shelter to adopt Winston. He was 2 years old, intact, weighed only 45 pounds and was covered with dog bites and flea bites. We discovered that he had fear aggression toward other dogs. I took him through 4 obedience classes and worked with a behaviorist and we had some rough years but he adored us and we him. He was a dog so in need of rescue and so happy to be rescued. Soon he learned he was safe and secure and he gave up many of his fears. After we retired, he traveled everywhere with us. We miss him terribly and talk about him every day.

Sassy – Carolyn Freeman (2008) I fell in love with Sassy the moment that I met her and although we only had 14 short months together before she passed away, we formed a very strong bond. She was my perfect dog - so beautiful, so loving, so funny. I adored her and I miss her every day.



Rusty – Debra and Mike Barer (1998) We adopted Rusty when he was about 2 and he was a real handful. We knew he would end up being a great dog. He spent most of his life visiting seniors and went to work with us every day. He was loving and was loved by everyone who met him. He was a true companion to both of us and to the entire Crossroads community. We can't thank you and all of the volunteers enough for giving us Rusty. We will remember Rusty forever.

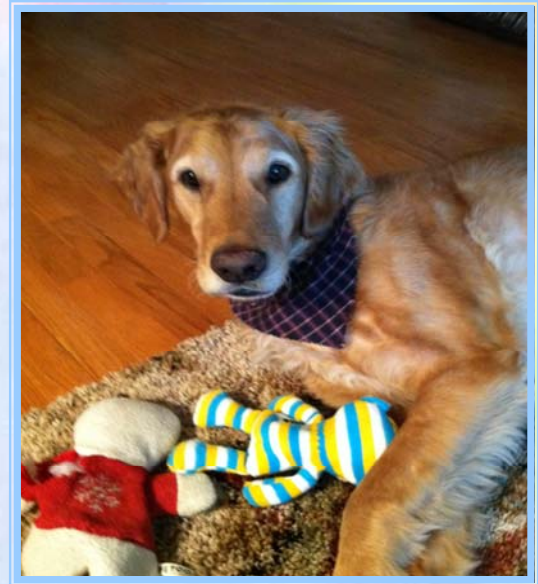


Rainbow Bridge



Bentley – Sue Zimbrick (2008) During our four years together, Bentley was my constant companion. I loved him, and he loved me. Our eyes met constantly as we went through our day. We had two walks a day...one perfunctory, the other a long "adventure walk." It was good for both of us. This past year I had medical and dental appointments and each time I returned to the car, Bentley was waiting for me, to comfort me and go on a walk to erase the badness. I lost track of the years and came to think he would always be there for me...that we would grow old together. I didn't want to think of the time when he would be gone and I would soldier on alone. He had a kind countenance, a sweet spirit, and I gave him everything I could to make his life the best it could be. He did the same for me, and I am desolate without him.

Parker – Andrea Gleichweich (2010) Parker was an unexpected addition to my household as he came as a foster perfect for me! Never have I had a dog that was so crazy about balls and toys. Parker did not allow me to be lazy. We walked, ran and went for car rides all the time. We even played catch in the dark. He was a great companion. Everyone he met adored him. His long legs, proud stance, permanent smile and floppy ears always made me happy. Sadly, our time together was too short. There were many more adventures ahead. I hear that they have automatic tennis ball machines in heaven so Parker will be eternally happy! Have fun sweet boy!



Rainbow Bridge

Although not EGGR dogs, the following are volunteer's dogs and therefore part of the EGRR Family



Tuppence (Stanroph Surfing USA CD AX AXJ) – Ane Brusendorff and Stephen Peterson Tuppence was just 2 weeks short of her 10th birthday, when we lost her. I went to England to pick her up as an 8 week old puppy and she was such a sweet and clever girl. She achieved her CD, her AX and AXJ. She had one litter and was a wonderful Mom. We miss her terribly and are grateful we have her son, daughter, grandson and granddaughter.

Lake (Glenlaurel's On Golden Pond CGC)
03/12/2001 - 02/13/2012 – Jim and Suzy Miller
Each day was a wonder with you. From your first snowflake to your last ray of sun, you took our breath away. Now Fate has taken our hearts. We miss your cuddles, your smile and your goofy indecision when trying to pick which woobie was best for greeting people at the door, so you'd try to carry them all. We find comfort in knowing one day we'll be together again. All our love, Mummy, Daddy, Phoebe & Soul



IMPORTANT DATES

Annual Meeting – May 20, 2012

The annual meeting will again be held at the **Kennydale Memorial Hall** which is located at 2424 NE 27th St. in Renton. It is very easy to find and is less than a mile east of exit #6 off I-405. It will start at **1:30**. The agenda will include a business meeting with Board elections, a presentation by *Lee Cummings* on *Emergency Preparedness for Your Pets and a Microchip Clinic* under the direction of **Kent Thomazin, DVM** of **Animal Hospital of Newport Hills**. Cost for the microchipping will be \$15.00 per dog. Please remember to keep your dog on a shorter leash and under control and out of the faces of the other dogs there. The floor is linoleum tile so if you feel you need it, bring a mat for your dog. As always, we will also have a human social time for refreshments and conversation. We hope to see you there!

EGRR will be hosting two fundraising raffles this summer – one at the Evergreen Golden Retriever Agility Trial being held over Labor Day weekend and the other at the Reunion Picnic on August 19th. Please consider bringing a donation for one of these raffles. Check your closets for gifts or other items that you've never used and are just taking up space. Dog related or not, all donations are welcome. Smaller items will be combined to make gift baskets. Everything is greatly appreciated and your closet will thank you! Tax receipts will be provided upon request. Bring your raffle donations to the Annual Meeting.

Important! Pigmentary Uveitis Screening Clinic Saturday, April 28th

The Evergreen Golden Retriever Club is again sponsoring a screening clinic for Pigmentary Uveitis also called Golden Retriever Uveitis at the **Animal Eye Clinic on Roosevelt Way** in north Seattle. This year's clinic will be held on Saturday, April 28th. The cost is \$22.00 per dog. **Registration is limited and can be made by calling the Animal Eye Clinic at 206-524-8822. Call any day except Wednesday and ask to speak to Leah.** Once registered, you will be asked to send in a check and they will send you information and directions to the clinic. Every Golden Retriever from the age of 4 years should be checked yearly for this condition. This is a serious condition and is thought to be present in as many as 1/3 of all adult Golden Retrievers. If left untreated, the dog can develop Glaucoma which can then result in blindness and severe pain. If diagnosed early, treatment involves eye drops administered once a day and usually it will not progress to Glaucoma.

June 15-17—Evergreen Golden Retriever Club Agility Trials, Argus Ranch

June 23-24—Evergreen Golden Retriever Club Hunt Test, Carnation

August 17 - Evergreen Golden Retriever Club Specialty, Enumclaw

August 19—Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue Annual Reunion Picnic, Lions Camp, Maple Valley (*Watch for more information in next issue*)

August 31-September 1 —Evergreen Golden Retriever Club Agility Trials, Argus Ranch

Watch www.egrr.net for more information

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In Honor Of

"Star, Jean & Laura"
 From
 Betty Oliver

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!

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**