

GRRoW's GOLDENTAILS



a special gift – maya's story *by Stephanie Boismenu*

A puppy is pure, fresh, wants to play with the world, investigate everything and try everything. They run and slide across the kitchen floor and crash into the cabinets. They roll and tumble across the grass. They are in constant motion and are exhausting. Puppies are eating machines, have cute pink bellies that are plump and round and they have the sweetest twinkle in their eyes. They are carefree and are in love with life. So, why was Maya different?

My husband, Nick and I met Maya while we were attending an all-day GRRoW training session at Lisa Hilgart's home in Marshfield. Maya, an adorable, little, 17-week old puppy had been owner-surrendered the previous evening because she had growled at her human's 3- year-old child and the child's babysitter. Maya came across as friendly and sweet but there was something very lacking about her and she was skin and bones.

Nick, who had volunteered himself to be the official dog walker for the day, commented he could not get Maya to walk, nor would she take any kind of treat from him – not even Corn Chex. He also noted her rapid breathing.

Throughout the day, the five of us discussed how skinny she was, noted her breathing was hard and fast, that she slept almost the entire day and ate very little. By the late afternoon, Maya vomited a little, began to look horrible and acted even more ill. We all felt that she needed to be seen by a veterinarian immediately.

We all took Maya to the on-call veterinarian in Marshfield. During the exam, the vet noted that he could not hear her heart on the left side but rather on the right side, which is not normal. An x-ray revealed a significant mass in her left chest which pushed her heart significantly to the

right. He felt she had a tumor either on her lung or heart and felt that it was not an emergency situation but referred us to the University of the Wisconsin Veterinarian Teaching Hospital in



Madison for an evaluation and consideration of removal of the mass.

Since we had the following week off of work, it was decided she would come to our home and we would take her to Madison during the week. Nick, Maya and I arrived home in Rhinelander at about 10:00pm. We fed her and moments later she vomited. She drank a little water but moments later she spit it up. She started having bouts of dry-heaves that lasted 3-5 minutes. Her labored breathing worsened, she dry-heaved while lying on the ground, obviously exhausted.

We had her lay on our bed between us so we could closely observe her. She tried desperately to snuggle with us but the poor thing couldn't seem find any comfortable position to lie in. As the night grew on, she had many more dry-heave spells and after each episode she struggled to walk. She kept her neck and head extended out and had a blank look on her face, like if she was far away from earth. Maya began to work hard for every breath – she was in an emergency

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Mission Statement

To encourage and promote responsible dog ownership and to reduce the abuse and neglect of all Golden Retrievers through rehabilitation and adoption.

To do all in our power to assure the humane treatment of Golden Retrievers and to accept unwanted Golden Retrievers, care for them medically, spay/neuter and rehabilitate them and place them in caring homes.

To educate the public in responsible dog ownership to include proper health, spay/neutering, nutrition, training and good canine citizenship.

To discourage unwanted or careless breeding practices and promote care for all dogs.

Golden Retriever Rescue of Wisconsin, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

www.grrow.org

See Maya on page 2

a word from our top dog...



We are taking up this space to fit in all our material this newsletter. Deb's letter will return in the next issue of GoldenTails.

Maya continued from page 1

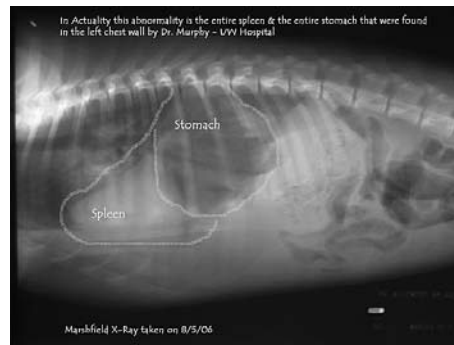
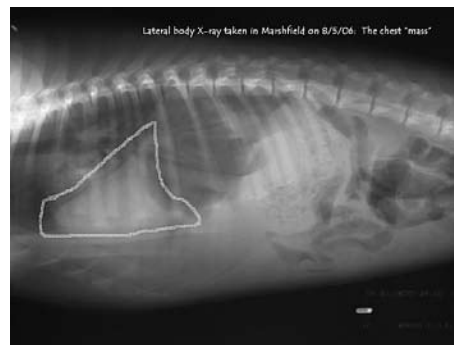
situation, rapidly deteriorating and desperately needed help.

At 3:00 a.m., we called the UW Veterinary Hospital. They accepted her as a patient. Nick and I put Maya in the car, drove to Madison and arrived at the hospital around 8:30 a.m. Maya was immediately admitted and the doctors explained that she had a diaphragmatic hernia and would need immediate surgery to save her life. Her 4-hour surgery revealed that the mass in her chest was not a heart or lung tumor but rather it was her entire stomach, spleen and a lobe of her pancreas. All three of these organs had come through a quarter-sized hernia (hole) in her diaphragm adjacent to the hole in the diaphragm for the esophagus.

At the time of surgery, the stomach had been inflated with air to much larger than its normal size. This explains why her heart had been pushed aside. The surgery involved carefully moving her stomach, spleen and pancreas back through the small hole of her diaphragm and into their proper places in her abdomen and getting her heart and lungs back into place and in work-

ing condition. The surgeon felt that the hole in the diaphragm had been present since birth and that the stomach had probably freely herniated in and out of the chest cavity for some time (a non-strangulated hernia). The critical change came when more organs herniated into the chest cavity such that the muscular ring of the opening of the hernia acted identically to a rubber-band being applied to the "stalks" of the herniated organs (strangulated hernia). In Maya's case, the stalk contained both the inlet and outlet of the stomach, which is why Maya was vomiting. She had almost complete obstruction at the end of her esophagus, as well as both the arterial and venous blood vessels of all three involved organs. If the strangulated hernia is allowed to remain strangulated for very long, it would cause tissue death (necrosis) of all three involved organs and release (from the necrotic stomach) of bacteria and toxins into the blood stream and chest cavity causing sepsis (blood infection) and a massive pneumonia.

Other things that the surgeon reported post-operatively were: 1) she had quite a bit of blood in her stomach, which he had not expected and stated it would need to be followed, 2) there



Maya's X-ray photos

was fluid in her lungs and in time it should go away, 3) because of the entrapment of a lobe of the pancreas, he expected some measure of pancreatitis, which if severe would lead to lots of nausea and vomiting, 4) because of the obstruction of the esophagus, he suspected there may be permanent changes that would lead to acid reflux problems, 5) he was hoping that she would not need supplemental oxygen after surgery but since she was still on oxygen, he told us that she might need to be re-intubated and put on a ventilator if her respiratory status deteriorated or 6)

See Maya on page 8

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canine allergy primer *by Dr. Ron Beatty, DVM*

There is no cure for canine allergies to molds, pollens or dust mites. Golden Retrievers may suffer even when we do our best to manage their allergies just as many allergic people do. Our goal is to lessen their itchiness so we can make them more comfortable.

First, we must make sure that there are not other common reasons for a Golden's discomfort. If this is a new problem with your dog, we need to first make sure that they don't have hormone imbalances, fleas or mange. Blood work needs to be done to rule-out thyroid and adrenal problems.



A simple flea comb lets us check for fleas. Skin scrapings can check for mange. Once these problems are ruled-out we can move on to examine other possible causes for itchiness.

Above: Demodex mite found on a skin scraping.

When the above tests results are normal, a possible food allergy may be considered. Many people are under the impression that food allergies are really common but they're actually very uncommon in dogs. Another common myth is that lamb and rice food is hypo-allergenic. Not so! Years ago lamb was used in allergic dogs with success but this was because it was a new protein in dog diets. A second urban myth is that corn and meat by-products can cause allergies or that dogs commonly have allergies to these things. This idea is false. When dogs have a food allergy, the meat protein source seems to be the problem most of the time, as opposed to the grain source. The majority of dogs have been exposed to beef, chicken, fish or lamb in their food. So, we have to look for new proteins to try that they have not eaten like venison, duck, kangaroo, etc. I often recommend starting with Nature's Recipe Venison and Rice because you can get it at the pet supply stores. There are special prescription diets such as Science Diet Z/D or Eukanuba Fish and Potato from vets that may work well. A strict diet of the chosen food is done for two months to determine if a food works. Strict means no biscuits, people food, rawhide, other dog foods or treats. We often do several food trials until we

throw in the towel regarding possible food allergies. In any case, although a food allergy is very unlikely, I still do food trials because there is a small chance that changing your dog's diet may help solve the problem.

If several strict dietary trials fail, we finally come to a diagnosis of canine atopy. This medical term means that a dog has an allergy to molds, pollens, dust mite waste or some other environmental allergen. Each dog has his own allergy cocktail or combination of allergens. So his allergies may be seasonal, all year, mild to severe or can vary from year to year. For example, ragweed is worse some years than others. I experience this personally! Environmental allergies usually begin at one to two years old in most Golden's and other dogs. Often, this is a hereditary condition that a dog gets it from his parents, grandparents or deeper in his family tree.

Does your dog constantly lick his feet? This is the cardinal sign of allergies. Dogs lick and bite their feet because of histamine release in their paw pads causing itching and burning. No, I'm not kidding! In contrast, we humans get runny, itchy eyes and noses. Also in dogs, allergies cause some histamine on the body skin, upsetting the harmonious balance of naturally growing yeast and bacteria. The overgrowth of these organisms leads to infections noted in the photos below. These infections are the really horrendous part of dog allergies. Sometimes the initial environmental allergen can be gone and now the infections are the main problem. The infections cause histamine release, as well. In any case, these infections must be treated because they cause severe itchiness or burning by themselves.

Treating the infections

I often sample organisms from my patient's skin or ears to diagnose if there is yeast

and/or bacterial infection. This involves examining them under the microscope.

Yeast and bacteria each require different medications for different lengths of treatment.

Ketoconazole

This is an oral medication used to kill yeast infections. Yeast cause severe itching and burning whether you're a person or a dog. The medication is costly and wonderfully effective. Yeast is a type of fungus and is much harder to kill than bacteria. Thus, the length of treatment is longer. If your dog has any vomiting or diarrhea while on this drug, stop this medication and call your vet. It can be a little rough on the GI tract (stomach and intestines) in some dogs. If GI problems occur, I usually stop the medication for a few days and then restart it at a more tolerable, lower dose.

Cephalexin or Clavamox

These are my favorite oral antibiotics that effectively kill bacterial skin infections. When a dog is on antibiotics they may have soft stool and may rarely vomit. If there is vomiting or diarrhea call your vet.

Otomax/Momentamax

These medications combat ear infections. They have worked well in my patients and in my



Figure 1
Infected ear



Figure 2
Self-traumatized feet
with a yeast infection



Figure 3
Skin infection of upper
forelimbs and chest

own dogs. On rare occasions they may cause problems. In one case they caused head tilting and temporary deafness that resolved when the medication was stopped. If you see these signs,

See Allergies on page 11



5th Annual Tails on Trails Dog Walk

Saturday, October 21, 2006 • 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Lapham Peak State Park, Delafield, WI • (South of I-94 & Hwy C)

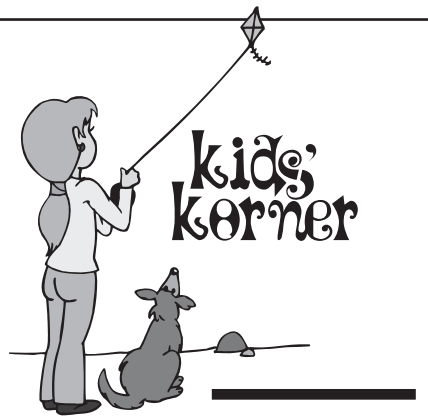
This promises to be a fun-filled day and a wonderful opportunity to spend time with your K-9 companion while helping to raise funds to help Golden Retrievers in need get a new start in life. All breeds are welcome, so spread the word!

In addition to the walk along the beautiful trails of Kettle Moraine, we will have a number of activities for you and your furry friends, including: Doggie Demos, Dog-Related Organizations and Vendors, Raffle, Food and Beverages, Rescue Parade and more!

Go to www.grrow.org for a brochure and registration form.

Start collecting pledges now. The person who raises the most in pledges will win a very special prize: A hand drawn portrait of your favorite pup(s) by talented artist Tammy Pozayt. You can see samples of Tammy's work at her website, www.tammypozayt.com

Questions? Interested in volunteering to plan or staff the walk? To find out more, contact Kim Kreimann at: k9house1@juno.com OR Jeanne Rufflo at: jrufflo@sbcglobal.net



Baily Goes Home!

This is Bailey. Pretend that Bailey is your new dog. Circle the items you need for her. You can learn about responsible dog ownership by visiting the AKC Web site at www.akc.org.



Can you guess what breed Bailey is?



Dish



Flowers



Dog Food



Leash



Bed



Candy Bar



Brush



Doll



Crayons



Collar



ID Tag



Paint



www.akc.org

Answers: Dish, Dog Food, Leash, Brush, Doll, Collar, ID Tag. Bailey is a Beagle



HALLOWEEN PARTY!



Nov. 4, 2006 • 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Western Waukesha County Dog Training Club
Ixonia, WI • \$5 registration fee

Food will be available for purchase from SAR (food not included in fee).
More info and directions will be posted on web site and also emailed to GRRoW members and adopters.

The party is co-hosted by GRRoW and a local Search & Recovery group, Wisconsin Interstate Search & Recovery K-9 Team (WISARK9). The group is comprised of professionally trained volunteer K9s and handlers who are dedicated to assisting Law Enforcement in search for missing or deceased people. They are a tax exempt, 501(c)(3) organization servicing Southeastern Wisconsin and Northeastern Illinois communities. There is never a fee for their services.

Some of the events:

Canine Good Citizen testing by Deb Lukasik.

The cost is \$10 per dog and all proceeds will be donated to GRRoW.

You must pre-register because space is limited. Contact Deb Lukasik (deblukasik@wi.rr.com) to set up appointment and if you have any questions about the CGC. Also, see the CGC article below.

Search & Recovery Demo

Costume Contest (humans & dogs, of course!)

Halloween/Fall theme games for humans and dogs

Silent Auction(s)

Raffle Baskets

Bake Sale (SAR)

It's a good time to do some holiday shopping! The contact for the Halloween Party is Ali Stapp at gldnbud@charter.net



canine good citizen

The Canine Good Citizen (CGC) program, established in 1989, is an American Kennel Club program to promote responsible dog ownership and to encourage the training of well-mannered dogs. A dog and handler team must take a short behavioral evaluation of less than half an hour; dogs who pass the evaluation earn the Canine Good Citizen certificate, which many people represent after the dog's name, abbreviating it as CGC; for example, "Fido, CGC".

The evaluation consists of ten objectives. All items must be completed satisfactorily or the team fails. Test items include:

- Accepting a friendly stranger.
- Sitting politely for petting.
- Allowing basic grooming procedures.
- Walking on a loose lead.
- Walking through a crowd.
- Sitting and lying down on command and staying in place.
- Coming when called.
- Reacting appropriately to another dog.

Reacting appropriately to distractions.

Calmly enduring supervised separation from the owner.

Evaluators sometimes combine elements during the actual test.

If all ten objectives are met, the handler can apply for a certificate and special dog tag from the AKC stating that the dog has earned the CGC.

Dogs do not have to be registered with the AKC to earn a CGC, nor do they have to be purebred or, in fact, registered with any canine organization. The goal is to promote good citizenship for all dogs.

Since its inception, the CGC program has become the model for similar programs around the world, is the backbone of other exams, such as those given for therapy dogs, and is a good starting point for more advanced dog training.

The following is an excerpt from the AKC Web site

Started in 1989, CGC is a certification program that is designed to reward dogs who have good manners at home and in the community. The Canine Good Citizen Program is a two-part program that stresses responsible pet ownership

for owners and basic good manners for dogs. All dogs who pass the 10-step CGC test may receive a certificate from the American Kennel Club.

Many dog owners choose Canine Good Citizen training as the first step in training their dogs. The Canine Good Citizen Program lays the foundation for other AKC activities such as obedience, agility, tracking, and performance events. As you work with your dog to teach the CGC skills, you'll discover the many benefits and joys of training your dog. Training will enhance the bond between you and your dog. Dogs who have a solid obedience education are a joy to live with—they respond well to household routines, have good manners in the presence of people and other dogs, and they fully enjoy the company of the owner who took the time to provide training, intellectual stimulation, and a high quality life. We sincerely hope that CGC will be only a beginning for you and your dog and that after passing the CGC test, you'll continue training in obedience, agility, tracking, or performance events.

AKC's Canine Good Citizen® (CGC) Program is one of the most rapidly growing programs in the

See CGC on page 7

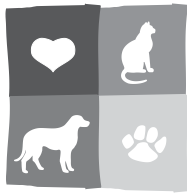
sharon strege volunteers of the month

June: Jeanne Rufflo (Shorewood)

Jeanne has had a number of difficult fosters throughout the years and is currently fostering Comet, the malnourished and neglected senior. She is always willing to help mentor a new volunteer, help a foster home or be our emcee at GRRoW events.

July: Sue Schultz (Plover)

Sue is a very dedicated volunteer, I see at least 10 e-mails a day from her and she has taken on the foster coordinator job as well as fostering and is always very pleasant.



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by Dr. Sue.

success story!

Annie by Susan Dickert and Phil Whitford

Annie has been with us for several months now and is a regular member of our family. We have found that her favorite pastime is not sleeping—contrary to what her previous owners believed—it is swimming, sloshing around in the muck of our ponds, running with the horses and tormenting Surfer (our Black Labrador) when she tries to retrieve a ball or Frisbee. She is not a retriever and never will be but that is just fine with us. One retrieving fanatic in the family is



These were submitted by adopters Susan Dickert and Phil Whitford. They are pictures of Annie (their Golden) and Surfer (their Black Labrador).

enough. She is down to a normal weight for a dog her size and her behavioral issues have made a turn-around for the most part. Last night she counter-surfed for the first time in a long time but we expected her behavior to regress after 2 weeks boarding while we were on vacation.

Anyway, we are very happy with our new-to-us Golden and thank GRRoW for the opportunity to adopt Annie!



CGC continued from page 5

American Kennel Club. There are many exciting applications of this wonderful, entry level that go beyond the testing and certifying of dogs.

Many other countries (including England, Australia, Japan, Hungary, Denmark, Sweden, Canada, and Finland) have developed CGC programs based on the AKC's CGC Program. A CGC Neighborhood Model has been established, police and animal control agencies use CGC for dealing with dog problems in communities, some therapy dog groups use the CGC as a partial screening tool, and some 4-H groups around the country have been using the CGC as a beginning dog training program for children.

A number of specialty (one breed only) clubs give the CGC at their annual national dog show. Dog clubs have discovered that the CGC is an event that allows everyone to go home a winner. Veterinarians have recognized the benefits of well-trained dogs and there are some CGC programs in place in veterinary hospitals. State legislatures began recognizing the CGC program as a means

of advocating responsible dog ownership and 22 states now have Canine Good Citizen resolutions.

In a little over one decade, the Canine Good Citizen Program has begun to have an extremely positive impact in many of our communities. This is a program that can help us assure that the dogs we love will always be welcomed and well-respected members of our communities.

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golden of the month...

JULY: Princess by Erin Zander

Princess, Kelly Ciesielczyk's foster, is now adopted. Princess came into GRRoW as an outside dog and had (from what I heard) 50 ticks on her. I understand that she had really beautiful long hair that had to be cut in order to get her cleaned up. Sounds like her exposure to other dogs was limited as well. She was house-trained while in her first foster home but did have a few "accidents." Then she went into heat and had to be uprooted again to a second foster home. She was spayed, crate trained and almost trained to fetch while in her second foster home. Just before being adopted, she had a sleep-over at yet another foster home for a few days and was able to socialize and play with two other Golden Retrievers. By the time she left there she was in the thick of things with these two dogs that were much bigger than her. It is amazing that through all the stress she was able to keep her easy-going, sweet personality. It shows how far a dog can come in a short period of time with just a little TLC.





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2007 GRRoW calendar winners

For those who missed the Bark in the Park, we tried to get every dog in the calendar. If your golden was not on the winning list, your dog is probably one of the 55 small pictures that are in the calendar. Every Golden and Golden mix is winner!!

- Cover:** Happy - submitted by Stephanie Boismenu
Back cover: Alex - submitted by Carol Gautsch
January: Nahji - submitted by Christine Mohl
February: Buddy and Buddy K - Mary Helinski
March: Teddy, Hunter and Kya - Michelle Dermest
April: Marleigh - Cathleen Cochrane
May: Sasha - Stephanie Boismenu
June: Raider - Karen Peckham
July: Tahoe - Kim Sprecher
August: Dallas - Deb and Fred Lukasik
September: Sadie - Stephanie Boismenu
October: Barney - Kyle Strege
November: Bailey - Dianne Fitting
December: Happy, Sasha, Belle, Grandma Tiffany and Tucker - Stephanie Boismenu

Honorary winners: Buddy, Buddy and Chance - Mary Helinski; Murphy - Sue Schultz; Elle, Chloe and Fawn - Roger and Donna Balfanz; Lexy - Dawn Christenson; Meg and Duncan - Michelle and Jim Lepak; Dallas - Fred and Deb Lukasik; Brandy, Daisy and Copper - Becky Schellinger; Savannah and Indy - Laurel Mohs; Casey - Susan Stieg; Ashley - Rhonda Wallsch; Prince and Peaches - Mary and Tom Ciske; Grandma Tiffany - Stephanie Boismenu

CODY (GRRoW 04-159)



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Maya continued from page 2

during surgery he found that her lungs could only expand to half of their capacity.

With the severity of the strangulated hernia, he couldn't believe that Maya was still walking around (some) and interacting with people right up until she had surgery – what a tough, little, wonderful Golden!

After a long day of tears and prayers, Nick and I were allowed to see her at 6:00 p.m. Maya did not realize that we or anyone else, were there. She



Maya post-op

was heavily sedated, breathing on her own with the help of nasal oxygen tube in each nostril, an IV, a chest tube, a cutaneous oxygen sensor, her own heater as well as lots of other monitors and things. She had a 14-inch incision from her chest down through her abdomen. Maya was to be in the hospital for the next two days. At 6:30 p.m., Nick and I decided to drive home to Rhinelander, get some rest and return to pick her up upon discharge.

Just as we arrived home at 10:30 p.m., the vet called and told us that moments after we left the hospital, Maya's respiratory status deteriorated and had just now, at 10:30 p.m., gotten her stable. He said it was touch-and-go for a while and felt a couple of times he had lost her. He had to remove some more fluid from her lungs and did some other things until she finally stabilized.

On Tuesday afternoon, we got the final OK from the hospital that Maya could be discharged. We joyfully jumped in the car, drove to Madison or swooped-up our sweet little girl. She still had a large pneumothorax, which we saw on the discharge x-ray, which would slowly diminish over a few weeks time. A pneumothorax is where there is air in the chest – outside of the lung, so her lungs can't expand as much as they need to. Her 14-inch incision is loaded with staples – too many to count, which lead Nick and I to nickname her "Zipper".

Maya has received a special gift – A Second Chance at Life. For the first time in her short life she has the desire and ability to devour a big meal, play till she's exhausted, romp in the yard, tear through the house and explore the world – in short, live the life of a normal puppy. Indeed, Maya is loving her new life.



assessment training & new foster handbook *by Mary Helinski*

GRRoW BOD recently approved new procedures for assessing our dogs. In order to maximize training opportunities for all our volunteers, our assessment coordinator, Mary Helinski, took this training on the road over the months of July and August, visiting Cornell, Marshfield, Appleton, Madison and Lannon. Training consisted of watching the "Am I Safe" and "Language of Dog" dvds by Blue Dog, and providing "hands on" training on the new GRRoW assessment procedures. Also provided was some training on the new GRRoW foster handbook.

A big thanks goes out to Shayla Willmarth & Scott Pahl, Lisa Hilgart, Steve & Heidi Zich, & Dawn Christenson for hosting these events.

Pictured are some of the participants at the various sessions.



**grrrow
merchandise**



**Friends
Are
Golden**

A special design from local artist Nancy Mitchel, features two Golden Retrievers snoozing on each other in complete harmony with the world around them. Limited sizes/quantities of tees and sweatshirts available.

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\$41.00 to \$50.00	\$7.00
\$51.00 and above	\$8.00

For information on availability of clearance items, please email Sylvia Sippel at shipping@grrrow.org. Please allow 10-14 days for delivery.

For secure online ordering, visit our web site at www.grrrow.org

magnets and other items For magnets, please contact Ali Stapp (gldnbud@charter.net)



GRRoW Logo Mug
\$8.00



Friends Are Golden II Notecards

Set of 8 notecards with envelopes. Blank inside, brief story about the artist and GRRoW on the back of each card.

\$8.00

Keep an eye on the shopping section of the GRRoW web site for the most current selection of items.



Friends Are Golden II Mug
\$8.00



Friends Are Golden II T-shirts & Sweatshirts

Available in: Sage Green, Aztec Gold & Natural

T-shirt \$15.00
Sweatshirt . . . \$25.00

GRRoW Bumper Sticker Magnet \$8.00



Acknowledgments

for the months of June, July and August. Thanks for all you do!

adoptions

R is a Return GRRoW dog • SN is a Special Needs dog

JULY 2006

Tucker	06-066	Grace & Robb Spangler
Princess	06-033	Vicki & Rod Olson
Casie	06-060	Sue Zaremba
Dexter	06-045	Karen Stapleton
Scout	06-061	Dave & Deb Schultz
Dakota	06-056	Dan & Teri Olshefski
Samson	06-057	Sandra Carlson
Daisy/Biscuit	06-063	Denise & Mark Meske
Maggie #3	06-070	Gordon & Sharon Jaworski
Hutch	06-044	Laura Seymer

AUGUST 2006

Buddy #4	06-055	Matthew Johnston
Copper	06-072	Chris & Jen Schneider
Walker #2/Tucker	06-077	Mara & Thomas Kuhlmann
Bailey #3	06-047	Maureen & Scott Planey
Ginger #2	06-075	Richard & Tammy Pozayt
Comet	06-050SN	Jenna Buley
Samantha #2	06-058SN	Jane Babcock
Sooner	06-069	Charles & Shirley Haase
Emmy	05-102SN	Kim Kreimann
Nala	06-065	Dolores Pokrop
Dakota	06-056	Dan & Teri Olshefski

attention volunteers it's renewal time!

Thanks so much to each and every one of you who have volunteered in some way this year. Every little thing you do makes a difference in the life of the Golden retrievers that are cared for in our rescue.

It is getting close the busy time of year again when kids go back to school and we start getting ready for the holidays. Volunteer renewal will be coming up this October. This is the time for you to start thinking about the ways in which you want to help GRRoW in 2007. With your 2007 application you have the opportunity to add and/or remove yourself from the various areas in which to volunteer. The renewal forms will be emailed or mailed in October.

We have a new insurance company as of this summer so our Hold Harmless will be changing. It is very important that EVERY member of your household sign the Hold Harmless agreement. All adults over the age of 18 need to sign and parents need to sign for any children under the age of 18 in the household. If you have questions, contact Erin Zander at ezridar03@charter.net.

volunteer recognition

New Volunteers Welcome!!

NEW FRIENDS OF GRRoW

Jane Rohner

NEW GRRoW

FAMILY MEMBERS

Terry & Catherine Brlecic
Nancy Cushing
Scott & Nancy Miller
Richard & Tammy Pozayt
Jan Sabella
Erin Sacharski

Thanks to those who volunteered in the following areas:

FOSTER

Andrea Stephenson
Barb & Dick Carlson
Betsy Sande
Brad & Colette Countryman
Brad & Linda Whitcomb
Brian & Dana Kleinhans
Cathy & Terri Brlecic
Cheryl & Todd Krueger
Cheryl & Tom Julian
Dr. Lois Kurschner
Dr. Sue Fluhr
Erin Zander
Gail Schwichtenberg
Jeanne Rufflo

Jennifer Jensen
Joan Christensen
Kelly Ciesielczyk
Krista Graven
Lisa & David Rosenau
Lisa Hilgart
Mary Helinski
Mike & Peg McElwee
Mindy Hickman

Rachel Reiman
Richard & Tammy Pozayt
Sandy Persinger
Shayla & Scott Willmarth
Suzan VanBeaver
Tammi Buhler
Terese Barta
Teri & Dan Olshefski
Terri & Kevin Lasky
Todd & Cheryl Krueger
Verna & Richard Totftum

FWITA HOMES

ASSESSMENT

Ali Stapp
Barb Egan
Betsy Sande
Brian Kleinhans
Erin Zander
Jamie Gloede
Karen Stapleton
Kim Diloreto
Lisa & David Rosenau
Mary Helinski
Mindy Hickman
Nancy Buechel
Paula Kirchman
Sally Berner
Scott Pahl
Shayla Willmarth
Steph & Nick Boismenu
Steve & Heidi Zich
Sue Schultz
Sylvia Sippel
Vic & Dianne Penna

TRANSPORT

Ali Stapp
Andrea Stephenson
Steph Boismenu
Barb Carlson
Barb Egan
Betsy Sande

Brian Kleinhans
Cathy Brlecic
Cheryl Julian
Cheryl Krueger
Cindy Hoch
Dawn Baumgardner
Erin Zander
Jeanne Rufflo
Jennifer Jensen
Karen Stapleton
Kelly Ciesielczyk
Kim Diloreto
Kirk Patterson
Lisa Hilgart
Lisa Rosenau
Marie Hongisto
Mary Helinski
Mindy Hickman
Mindy Steighner
Sally Berner
Scott Miller
Shayla Willmarth
Scott Pahl
Steve & Heidi Zich
Sue Schultz
Tammi Buhler
Tammy Pozayt
Terese Barta
Terri Olshefski

HOME VISITS

Ali Stapp
Barb Egan
Cheryl Krueger
Dana Kleinhans
Diane Schultz
Erin Zander
Jamie Gloede
Jeanne Rufflo
Kim Sprecher
Lisa Hilgart
Mary Ciske
Mary Helinski

Mindy Steighner
Roger Goppelt
Sally Berner
Scott & Nancy Miller
Shayla Willmarth
Sheri Marek
Steph & Nick Boismenu
Ted & Linda Miess

MEET AND GREETs

Ali Stapp
Betsy Sande
Brad & Lisa Chapiewsky
Brian & Dana Kleinhans
Carol Gibbons
Cheryl Krueger
Chris Pozayt
Colleen Cross
Dakotah Schwichtenberg
Dawn Baumgardner
Dianne Fitting
Dianne Schultz
Erin Zander
Fred & Deb Lukasic
Jan Sabella
Jeanne Rufflo
Jennifer Jensen
Joan Christianson
Karen Stapleton
Kim Kreimann
Lisa Hilgart
Mary Helinski
Michelle Demarest
Nancy Buechel
Rachel Reiman
Richard & Tammy Pozayt
Roger Goppelt
Scott & Nancy Miller
Sherry Helmer
Sue Gilbertson
Terry & Cathy Brlecic

donors/contributions

Ann & Jeff Leiskan
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Nick Haviland
Lindsey Bewick
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Nancy & Scott Miller
Nancy Cushing
Nancy Fletcher
Oakwood Hills Animal
Hospital LLC
Prairie Animal Hospital
Ralph Kamps & Employees
Rebecca Flogert
Scott Pahl & Shayla
Wellmarth-Pahl
Stella Raasch
Tim Boudreaux
Tom & Cheryl Julian
William & Elizabeth
Anderenn

Though we try to list all contributors, inevitably we may miss a few. If we've missed your name, we apologize. Please email us and we'll get it in the next newsletter.

Allergies continued from page 3

stop the medication and call your vet. These rare potential side effects are noted in medical literature and are due to the antibiotic Gentocin.

Medicated Shampoos

Shampoos kill bacteria and yeast on the outside of the dog. I don't like pet store medicated shampoos — I commonly see skin infections and rashes from these. I tell people to throw these shampoos away! Vets have medicated shampoos that are safe and really work. Don't use very warm or hot water. They steal the skin oils and leave the skin dry. Use lukewarm to cool water and rinse many times. Dogs with allergies have very sensitive skin so we need to remove any shampoo residue.

Keeping the infections away and your dog comfortable

Once the infections are cleared up, try and manage your dog's allergies to keep the infections from coming back. We have different ways to do this. The first four are often used together and do not have significant side effects.

1. Bathing. Dogs both inhale allergens and get them on their skin. We can't inhibit them from breathing but we can wash the allergen off the skin. We tailor the frequency of bathing to keep them feeling good. When allergy signs are bad, we can bathe once or twice a week. The use of fish oil, noted below will help skin stay supple and hydrated. Again, DO NOT use medicated pet store shampoos.

2. Antihistamines. They can work in some dogs. About 50% of dogs get some benefit from antihistamines but the other 50% percent get absolutely nothing. I like to do two-week trials with antihistamines starting with the old standby, Benadryl. If it doesn't work we can try other antihistamines. We must try several before giving up on these drugs. Dogs are like people in this regard. For example, Benadryl doesn't help my allergy suffering at all. Allegra helps somewhat. Claritin helps the most. I still suffer but just less. Less suffering is a good thing! You understand my point if you suffer from allergies too. The minor potential side effect to antihistamines is—you guessed it—sedation.

3. Fish Oil. Fish oils help in two different ways: they make skin healthier and resistant to allergy

inflammation and they help make antihistamines more effective by better absorption after swallowing. The omega three and six fatty acids are the keys. Derm Caps and 3V Caps are great products. They come in gel caps and pump dispensers. There is a big difference in quality and fatty acid ratios among the brands available. Many dog foods now have these fatty acids but the drawback is that allergic dogs need much more than what is in these foods. Still, I recommend high quality foods with omega fatty acids. You are what you eat! I supplement my allergy patients using the noted products. Dogs must stay on these supplements during their allergy season, however long that might be. There are no side effects to fish oils.

4. Otomax/Momentamax. Earlier I mentioned that allergies cause the harmonious balance of yeast and bacteria in the skin to change. The cortisone in these products helps soothe the skin allowing this balance to stay in place. Once we cure the initial infection, it crucial that you regularly watch your dog for head shaking and ear scratching—early signs that an infection is recurring! Some dogs require these medications in their ears once or twice a week during their allergy season to keep infection from starting. In other dogs, we just watch for ear scratching and head shaking, telling us that it's time to apply Otomax twice a day or Momentamax once daily for a few days to get the ear back to a healthy place. I have not had any patients develop bacterial resistance problems.

5. Corticosteroids (steroids). They work superb when a dog is really miserable—when mutilating their own body because of itchiness—and they work fast especially if injected. These medications can help break the cycle of foot licking and biting. The short-term side effects are drinking and peeing a lot. As a result, a dog on steroids will ask to go out to urinate more often. I always tell clients their dogs can't hold their urine for an eight-hour workday and should be let out at lunchtime. Steroids usually cause weight gain or lethargy, also. The body can easily recover well from short-term usage but not from long-term usage. Corticosteroids are recommended only for short-term use because they damage the liver if used 6-12 months or longer. So, if a dog has allergies the majority of the year, or all year, long then steroids are not a safe option.

6. Atopica (Cyclosporine). This is a very nice alternative to steroids. When owners experience the side effects of steroids in their pets and have dogs that need relief the majority of the year or all year long they really like this option. The dosage lessens over time. The goal is to gradually decrease the amount given to the lowest amount required to keep allergy signs away. Initially, its main draw back is the cost but that decreases after the first couple months. It does not have the side effects of steroids. It modulates the immune system so the body is not so hypersensitive to allergies.

7. Allergy shots. These are technically called hypo-sensitization shots or immuno-therapy. It is a last resort. This is used in dogs that are miserable year round with allergies. About 70% of dogs get some benefit from this therapy. It may take a year before we tell if the shots will help or not. The first year is expensive as it entails blood testing and more frequent shots—about \$1000. I've helped many dogs with allergy shots. There are many owners who are happy with the results of allergy shots.

That's it in a nutshell. Allergies are the bane of vets, clients and dogs. There is no cure. A dog with allergies is often on the verge of infections. We try to prevent those and keep the dog comfortable. It's all about management and it always requires time and work for both the owner and the vet. It's important to find a vet who has patience and takes time to get to know your dog's allergies. This problem will require communication and teamwork—it's not a one office visit deal. You and your vet will get to know your dog's allergy condition better and better after each year passes. Remember, the above therapies are always adjusted according to your dog's current needs. Allergies wax and wane during the year or from year to year, whether you're a person or a dog, so therapy adjustments are necessary. Along the way he may still get skin and ear infections that will need treatment. Overall, you and your vet can make your dog feel better and give him good quality of life.

Dr. Beatty cares for Golden Retrievers in Mequon, Wisconsin. After having a dog with severe atopy, canine allergies have become a special interest of Dr. Beatty's. mypetsvetmequon.com © 2006



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CASH FOR CRITTERS

This is a easy, fun way to raise money for our Golden Retrievers.
— a project involving collecting used ink jet cartridges.
If you have any used cartridges or know of a business
who might be willing to collect used cartridges, please
contact me.

I GIVE

Don't forget I Give at our web site: www.grow.org. We
have been able to get over \$200 for GRRoW!

Any questions, feel free to email Dawn at
fundraising@grow.org

Saturday, October 21

Dog Walk, Lapham Peak Park
Kim Kreimann, Chairperson, k9house1@juno.com

Saturday, November 4

GRRoW Annual Holiday Get Together.
Halloween party theme.
Contact Ali Stapp, gldnbud@charter.net



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