

GRRoW's GOLDENTAILS



tail on trails huge success *by Kim Kreimann*

The 2008 Tails on Trails Dog Walk was held on Saturday, October 18 at Lapham Peak State Park in Delafield. We had beautiful weather and perfect fall colors to enjoy. This was our seventh annual walk and it proved to be our most successful yet. With the combination of registrations, pledges, sponsorships, and sales we netted over \$21,000, far surpassing last year's total of \$15,000!! All of this money goes to help the dogs GRRoW takes in each year.

It was a real treat to see all of the Goldens (and various other breeds) line up for the start of the walk. For anyone who loves dogs, or who volunteers for GRRoW, it is a perfect example of the difference you can make by volunteering. Most of these dogs would not be alive today if it weren't for the efforts of volunteers. We had over 160 people attend this year's walk and God only knows how many goldens since most GRRoW volunteers have more than one! The scene on the trail was really cool, all of those golden tails covering the whole width of the trail and stretching out in a long line...awesome! Another great sight was that of foster homes getting to see their former foster dogs that are now happy and healthy in their new homes...how rewarding!

People who attended the walk who were not associated with GRRoW told me how much they enjoyed it and they plan on coming back in 2009. They said hearing the stories of the Goldens



that were rescued was very touching and they thanked us for doing such a great thing for the dogs. This thanks goes out to all who volunteer with GRRoW, without all of you none of this could happen.

If you missed the walk, you really missed a huge selection of terrific raffle baskets! Our donors were very generous this year and walk participants loved the selection! Baskets alone raised over \$800.00!

Special thanks to our financial supporters:
Pete and Cathy Miller of Miller Group Charitable Trust who matched donations up to \$5,000

Friends of Flicka (Denise Luke, Director of Donations) who matched donations up to \$2,500 and donated \$900.00 toward the cost of the T-shirts

Friends of Nature (Genesee Depot) sponsored for \$225.00

Veterinary Specialty Options—Madison sponsored for \$200.00

Purina Veterinary Diets/Tender Touch Veterinary Care sponsored for \$200.00

Blue Dog Training sponsored for \$200.00

Herbsmith sponsored for \$200.00

Petco sponsored for \$200.00



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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

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a word from our second to top dog... *by Denise Konkol*



What on earth am I doing here?

You may recognize the question if you're an avid volunteer. At times, you feel like what you're doing is all for naught, at other times the worry you feel over your latest foster dog makes you swear that you won't do this again...until the next available dog comes through and you jump back in.

It's how I felt when I was first invited to join the Board of Directors, only 6 months after I first joined GRRoW (September 2006), and again

when I was interim Volunteer Coordinator during the early part of my term as Vice President of Administration. There have been times when I felt like seeking out the nearest chapter of Volunteers Anonymous. However, I learned to embrace the madness, because secretly I aspire to be more like my dogs, and they seem to thrive on the philosophy of giving everything you have in your heart to give.

Jumping into volunteering is both rewarding and nerve-wracking, but I have learned the power of the rewards I've gotten after a job well done, and when a decision I've helped to make on the board creates opportunity for one of our beloved Golden Retrievers. Invariably, any leap forward was met by support that I didn't see until I jumped, and I've become a better person for it.

Volunteering for me has been much like raising and nurturing my dogs over the last 17 years: It's sometimes messy, most of the time enjoyable, but always rewarding and enriching.

Again, I continue to look to my own dogs for guidance. They've taught me a few 'Golden Rules' about life, and I think they apply to devel-

oping a healthy attitude toward volunteering that even the meekest among us can understand.

Trust and be trustworthy: Do this often, as people often respond favorably to the vote of confidence you have placed in them, and will often give you their trust. If someone calls you, come willingly wagging your tail, and odds are you'll like the reward.

Have fun: If you're taken on a walk to a new place, enjoy yourself, sniff around, be inquisitive and learn something in the process. Never overthink, and never take yourself too seriously.

Ask for help: Ice between your pads? Raise your paw! Lost? Bark!!

Pace yourself: Life is not a sprint, it's a marathon; if you're running too fast through the woods, you'll never get to enjoy all the sights, sounds and smells you'll come across. The journey is the thing – why wear yourself out in the process?

So, while you're thinking 'What I am doing here?' or even 'should I even get involved,' the answers are right in front of you, wagging their tails.

board of directors and coordinators

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StylLynn Pets sponsored for \$75.00

Brook-Falls Veterinary Hospital sponsored for \$25.00

An anonymous donor sponsored by donating the brats, hot dogs, and chicken!

Ralph Kamps for donating the postage for brochures

Jack & Cary Hock & Bailey contributed the Packer Tickets as a pledge prize

Dr. Sue Fluhr contributed the i-Pod Touch as a pledge prize

Kong, Nylabone

Contributed items or gift certificates used in raffle baskets or as pledge prizes:

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The Poop Lady

Thanks to everyone who collected pledges this year! It's not fun asking people for money, but look at the difference it made!!! Last year our total was \$15,000 for the walk and this year we are over \$21,000. THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to the following people who helped out with this year's event:

Jeanne Rufflo, Deb Lukasik, Natalie Banach, Cheryl Krueger & Danielle, Jen Mieritz, Barb Egan, Lisa & Brad Chapiewsky, Carol Gautsch, Lisa & Dave Rosenau, Shayla Willmarth, Josie Trad, Heidi Zich, Jean Matthisen, Terri Hagmann, Jan Sabella, Bob Falconer, Fred Lukasik, Tanni Baird, Debby Rice, Wendy Wells, Scott & Nancy Miller, Diane Stevens, Caitlin Heideman, Denise Konkol & Aly, Katie Kucken, Dianne Fitting, Lynn Kiley, Tom Thorpe (GRRoWVER), Kathy Groeger & Terri (for baking), and my husband Todd!!! I hope I didn't miss anyone!!!

Thanks to Lapham Peak State Park for letting GRRoW hold the event there and letting us use their Kawasaki Mule for setting up the trail this year...what a backsaver!

The date for Tails on Trails 2009 is tentatively set for Saturday, October 10 (there is no Badger football home game!) and we have already started the planning process. If you would like to help plan or volunteer for Tails on Trails 8th Annual Walk please contact Kim Kreimann at k9house1@juno.com or call 262-352-1066. We hope to see you there!



Hooch Gives Back

Hooch here—you probably don't remember me, I'm GRRoW number 03-388, so it's been a few years. I'm dropping you a line to let you know how I'm doing.

Overall, life is grand. I live with my former foster mom, and now forever home. My Golden brother, sister and me play together and run around on five acres. A little bit ago, I noticed my back leg starting to hurt. Mom took me to the vet and we found out my ACL is starting to tear. I don't need surgery yet, but will soon. On the drive home,

Mom tells me I'll need to get a job. No more free-loading she says. Hey, I wasn't free loading, I did lots of work—warmed the bed, tracked muddy paws across the kitchen floor so she could have some cleaning to do, exercised the kitty. I was busy, but apparently she was talking about a real job. So I read her marketing books while she was at work, and surfed the Web, and here's what I came up with... Healthy & Tasty Dog Treats – www.hoochdogtreats.com

Because GRRoW saved my life and brought me to a wonderful home, I'd like to give back. I'm donating 10% of my profits to GRRoW so the organization can continue to help other nice doggies like me. I'd also like to offer a discount to GRRoW members who'd like to order treats for their dogs. Just use the coupon code "grrow" when they're checking out and your folks can save \$1 on their order!

Thanks a bunch and happy munching!
The Hooch

CODY (GRRoW 04-159)

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success stories

An Unusual Success Story

My husband and I recently considered adopting a wonderful Golden from your organization. The Web site included all the information we needed, the adoption application was very professional and thorough and the home visit/foster representative was fantastic. Even the dog we met was better than special. She was an older girl about ten; healthy, beautiful, and most loving. In fact, the entire adoption process, from the GRRoW individual we met, to the amazing Golden, was perfect.

Even though we chose not to adopt, our story is still a success. You see, we had very recently lost our ten-year-old beloved Golden, Monty, to splenic hemangiosarcoma. Amazingly it did not occur to me, although everyone else had figured it out, that I wanted my Monty back. And I still do. But thanks to those around me who understand, and thanks to our GRRoW volunteer for her sensitivity and personal touch, the match did not take place for all the right reasons. I hear that "Golden Girl" has a tremendous forever family now and I'm at peace with the wise decisions that were made. On behalf of my husband and me, thank you for taking good care of all of us. Most importantly, thank you for your golden hearts.

Annie – The W Family

It was love at first sight! Annie is a beautiful redhead with a bushy tail like a fox. Her superb foster care showed from day one. Annie was an outside dog before coming to GRRoW, so her foster parents needed to give the time and love to teach her the joys of being inside. They were very helpful explaining the adoption process to us, and



all about Annie's behavior. They are very nice people.

Adoption has been a big part of our lives because I was adopted as a child and I have

an adopted daughter. For Annie and I, it didn't take too long to adapt to one another. We take

lots of walks so I am in better shape. Annie has filled the void left from our previous special Golden. We all know that those Golden eyes tell it all. Because Golden retrievers give so much love, I am very lucky to have Annie.

Annie loves car rides, but she would immediately lay down for the trip. After many car rides she learned it's more fun to sit up and put her head out the window. I don't think she had known that pleasure before. Thank you to all the people at GRRoW from the transporters, assessors, home visitors, foster care givers and the people behind the scenes who do so much volunteer work.



Blaze – The S Family

After losing our 13+ year-old black Labrador this spring, we just knew we wanted another "fur-friend" in our lives. My husband and I are both retired and we knew we could give a Golden a lot of attention. GRRoW found the perfect new friend for us. Blaze needed to be the center of attention and thanks to her foster parents, we found each other. Blaze came to us with special health needs and we are so grateful too for all the information given to us regarding Blaze's needs. She is the love of our life and has adapted very well. Thank you GRRoW for being such a caring and dedicated organization. Special thanks to Blaze's foster parents for being the BEST foster parents ever.

Jack and Arnie – The T Family

Life has not been the same since we were blessed with Jack and Arnie. These two brothers have really added a lot of joy and fulfillment to our family. Our two girls were instrumental in their adoption. Jack and Arnie love car rides, and



besides a little counter surfing they have been perfect. They are getting fit thanks to walks every morning with my wife and constantly playing in the yard with our daughters. The boys sleep in our room or on the bed in our girl's room. Jack and Arnie are truly spoiled, but that's okay. Thank you to GRRoW for helping us find the right dogs for our family.

Miller, GRRoW's 1,500 Rescue! – The J Family



It has been six months since we adopted our boy, Miller. We are very happy to report that Miller is an excellent fit in our family. We are very lucky to have the opportunity to have him in our lives. Our five-year-old Golden, Ginger was not so sure she wanted this pushy, toy-stealing boy in her life, but they have since become good friends.

Our children, Jessica (19), Morgan (15), Olivia (8), and Alex (6) often comment that they can't remember life without Miller, it's like he has always been here. Although Jessica did get a little upset with him when he licked all the frosting off her birthday cake, she forgave him rather quickly and he has made it up to her in many ways!!

Thank you, GRRoW for choosing our family to give Miller his forever home. It has been a wonderful learning experience for our family and we have loved Miller since the first moment we saw him.

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Mylee – The L Family

Rylee (now Mylee) came to us in July 2008. Having just moved, our family, including three little girls (9, 7 and 3 years of age) were all trying to adjust to a new home, a new neighborhood and the looming first day at a new school. It was a difficult time of adjusting and settling in.

We have always been dog people and had previously had a beautiful Golden named Casey, as well as a “humane society special” named Fiona. They each lived to a ripe old age, but we had to put each of them down within about a year of each other. We had promised the girls we could get a new dog after we found a new house and settled in. They reminded us of that promise nearly every day and we finally checked the GRRoW Web site. To make a long story a little shorter, we became the proud owners of Mylee (and all her tennis balls) a few weeks later!!

Riley – The S Family



In February 2007 we applied to adopt a Golden and were lucky that a foster family lived close by. They setup a home visit and brought Riley along to assure that our dog Casey, also a Golden, would be compatible.

The minute Riley entered our house, both dogs hit it off. Within five minutes, Riley had found the toy basket and was playing tug-of-war with Casey. They played together as if they were brothers.

A few days later we were offered the opportunity to adopt Riley and jumped at the chance. It was one of the best decisions we have ever made.

He adapted to his new home and his new “big brother” extremely well; he was 8 months old.

Riley is a great dog, full of energy and well behaved. He loves to play with our son or just follow us around. We are incredibly lucky; he is great on a leash and very obedient to commands. Riley and Casey walk side-by-side on a dual leash.

Thank you GRRoW for giving us a great dog, playmate, and companion!!!

Sidney – J & C

Our first GRRoW Golden who was a wonderful success lived to be 15.5 years old. After his passing, we were inspired to adopt Sidney. She is 10 years old, but thinks and acts like a 4-year-



old! She has HUGE feet, long legs and loves to use them! She loves cars, people and running! Since we have lots of nice off leash, unfenced places to take her, I started working on

her off leash skills. From the start, we believed Sidney just loved to run, not to run away. I started taking her to the fenced dog park almost every day and she never lets me out of her sight for long, looking back for me and watching for directions. She even follows some hand signals.

Sidney loves attention. She has to be right next to me at night having her head petted and nose rubbed. She is great with people and with other animals, including our cat. They often share the same food/water station.

Sidney is very, very different than the first Golden we adopted, but just as sweet and has a fabulous personality and is a very, very happy girl! We are so pleased with her and with GRRoW for helping all of us find a happier life!

Sirius – The D Family

We were given a very special gift in “Sirius,” the foster we received into our home in December 2007. He was a little over 4 years old when he arrived. He is now almost 5 years old and after some TLC, is a very happy, healthy, lovable, wonderfully perfect addition to our family. We lost three beautiful “Golden Angels” in a period of 6



years. Because we were so extremely saddened by the loss, we were rather scared to have another. It was a strange household for some time. Then we found GRRoW.

After serious consideration, we decided that fostering would be a great thing, though we were pegged for “failures” right off the bat! What can I say, we tried. We had a potential “forever home” for Sirius in March (after his medical condition was under control) and had several chats with the potential adopters. After the adoption process was put on hold, we decided that we were, in fact, “failures” and wanted to be selfish and keep this most perfect foster boy for ourselves! We love him to bits and pieces and we know the feeling is mutual.

Sonny – The W Family



It feels like Sonny has been with us forever. He is a dream; such an easy and kind old boy. He pretty much goes with us wherever we go. He rides around in the back seat of the van and hangs out while I drop the kids off at school, etc. He is so disappointed on the occasions that he has to stay home. Sonny is incredibly gentle with the kids, cats and birds. I've really overwhelmed him!

He loves other dogs and has a ball at doggy daycare on my work days. I go to check on him and he is always playing, either strolling around with other dogs, or in the play pool. He gets so tired, and sometimes a little sore, after his daycare

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days because he gets so much action, but he loves it.

On the evenings that I work late, he stays up waiting for me downstairs. It really warms my heart. We will be going to doggy training in a month or so. My girls have a regular doggy beauty parlor so Sonny is getting all sorts of brushing and looks great.

Tango & Toby – The B Family



Our boys “Toby and Tango” have been such gifts to us that we wanted to share our story of joy and success in adopting both of them from GRRoW.

Toby came to us 4 years ago. We had a Labrador Retriever mix, Harley, for about 6 years and had always thought we would add to our furry family. We were referred to GRRoW through a friend and found the whole interview and adoption process easy and thorough. We are truly blessed to have been able to adopt “Toby.” His background was sketchy and he had an extensive leg operation.

The minute he came into our home, he came downstairs and jumped up on the love seat in our family room, and that has been “his” special spot ever since. We were a little hesitant about how young he was and were a little worried about his leg healing. We started him on walks the very next day and soon he ran and caught balls and Frisbees as well as his brother Harley did. Toby is the sweetest dog in the world. He is so loving and so, so gentle. His smile just melts you.

Sadly, our special Harley died March 5 in his sleep. Toby was heartbroken from the very first hours after Harley was gone. They had become such good buddies and Toby had learned so much from Harley. We knew immediately that we had to get another pal for our Toby, so we immediately started the process again and GRRoW offered that if we were willing to foster, our wait time might be less. Tango came to us about a month later. He had spent most of his 2 years in a basement, in a kennel for the majority of each day. He is a big guy—very tall and

lean, with a beautiful golden coat. He was a little rambunctious the first day or so, but given the kind of life he led up until that point, it was understandable.

He and Toby bonded immediately. They are such good buddies now and Toby took over the role of teacher and mentor, as Harley had done for him years earlier. They are both snugglers, with us and each other. They spend their days with at least two walks a day, and play time in the yard. They have the roam of the yard and house and are happy to snuggle in bed with us. All Tango ever wanted and needed was to be loved.

We think they have given more to us than we ever could to them. Our hearts have been filled and our lives enriched by these two. We are so grateful to GRRoW for giving us the opportunity to adopt such wonderful dogs.

Teddy – The H Family



We rescued a wonderful Golden friend about 4 years ago. Teddy is my constant companion and dear buddy. He loves to go on car rides with the convertible top down. It always makes me smile to look in the rear view mirror and see his ears flapping in the wind while he contentedly watches the landscape roll by.

Teddy was very needy and skittish when we first got him. Now he is settled into our home and has a wonderful, peaceful life. He recently hurt his back and we learned through x-rays that his hips are quite malformed. But he recovered, has no symptoms and still jumps like a puppy. He has an honorary PhD in begging for treats. I can't remember our lives before we had this wonderful creature living with us.

It warms my heart to know that Teddy was rescued from living outside and has a new life where he is adored and gets lots and lots of affection and love. I am grateful to GRRoW.

Violet – The Z Family



At 7 weeks old, Violet, along with her littermates, came into GRRoW in July 2007. She was first fostered by a veterinarian and then transferred to our home the first week of August so my husband and I could work

with her resource guarding. We already had two male Golden and told each other that Violet was only temporary and once she was better with the guarding we'd find a great home for her. Our 3-year-old Golden took to her right away; our 6-year-old Golden tolerated her, but didn't play too much (which wasn't out of the ordinary). However, after two or three weeks, our 6-year-old fell in love. He was the older brother who she looked up to and he took the role as her protector. We had fostered numerous Golden before and the bond was never greater than what we were seeing with the three of them.

As we worked on Violet's guarding, we also worked on potty training. It seemed as if her accidents every 10-15 minutes were never going to end. In November, Violet passed her re-assessment and was ready for adoption. Well, she stayed and is the sunshine in our lives. She is such a sweetheart, the boys adore her, she is a daddy's girl to my husband and the most energetic little peanut. She really has completed our pack and makes us laugh every day!

Zoe – The H Family

We had such a joyful day on July 12. This is the day our family fell in love with Zoe. Zoe came to live with us, in her forever home, on July 13 and we have not looked back even once.

Zoe is a wonderful, kindhearted, playful dog. She absolutely adores our two children, Grace (6) and Meredith (1) who equally adore her. Most days you will find Meredith leaning against Zoe while drinking her milk, and most nights you will find Zoe sleeping at the foot of Grace's bed.

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member bios

Karen Peckham

Home Visit Coordinator Assistant

I live in Fitchburg, a Madison suburb, with my husband, Kevin, and two GRRoW adoptees, Raider and Buddy. We have two grown children in the Madison area. I grew up with a Toy Manchester Terrier, a Miniature Poodle, and cats; Kevin had a Briard and rabbits. We made the jump to Golden retrievers when our kids were young and haven't looked back. Our first Golden, Indy, lived to 13 and was around when we adopted Raider in 2004. Having two dogs was so wonderful; we knew we wanted to adopt another Golden after Indy died. We finally got Buddy in 2006. They are good companions for each other and for us. We are so lucky to have them.

I've worked for over 20 years in the education department at International Dairy-Deli-Bakery Association, a trade association in Madison. I help research and write informational pieces for our members, administer our scholarship programs, and whatever else might fill the day.

Dog-wise, I've enjoyed participating in Meet & Greets for GRRoW. Raider, Buddy, and I have taken many classes in obedience and agility. Both dogs passed their Canine Good Citizen evaluation. Recently, Buddy and I passed our Delta Society evaluation to become a registered therapy dog team and we're also a Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D.) team. I'm looking forward to being more involved with dogs in the community.

Marjorie Falkowski

Sunshine Coordinator

Since my own dog bit me when I was 5 years old, I was terribly afraid of all dogs. One Saturday morning in December 1997 my now deceased husband and I were watching Portage County's Pet Profiles. I took one look at a beautiful Golden and told my husband, "That's our dog!" He stared back at me as if someone new had possessed my body! The morning ended with us making some phone calls and less than one week later, the Falkowski household had its first senior Golden! Her name was Missy. After 5 years with us she went to the Rainbow Bridge and I believe I was heavenly guided to "find" GRRoW's Web site! Thus began our associa-

tion with the organization. We adopted our first Golden from GRRoW in the fall of 2002. She was a senior diabetic who was with us until a few weeks before Christmas 2003 when she went to the Rainbow Bridge.

On my 50th birthday, Karen Stapleton brought Samantha II into our lives. She loved men more than women because of some things that happened in her home of origin. Ron was like a dog whisperer and they became great buddies. She also got plenty of love and attention from me. She was with us until May 2005 when I had to re-surrender her to GRRoW. In less than 3 weeks time I lost both my husband and our wonderful Golden. It was a very difficult time.

On September 17 of last year I finally decided to get another Golden. It was my husband's birthday and I thought it would make him happy to know that another Golden was in the household! In November 2007 Kramer came into my life from GRRoW! It was love at first sight and I brought the senior arthritic dog with glaucoma into my home and heart until that fateful day this summer when she went to the Rainbow Bridge.

My life has been very enriched with Golden retrievers being part of it. I recently received foster training and look forward to getting my first foster dog. I'm currently a licensed sales associate and marketing director for the Allstate Insurance office in Stevens Point. I work part-time which gives me time to pursue personal interests. I am very honored to become the Sunshine Coordinator of GRRoW.

Ann Hendricks

Placement Team

I live in New Franken which is a few miles from Green Bay. I share my house with my husband of 22 years, Gary, 2 Golden retrievers Sophie (5), Candie (4 ½), Chloe a Ragdoll cat and Kamea a Himalayan cat. Our pets are at the center of our lives and we love them dearly.

Growing up, we had dogs in our home but they were always small dogs. After just 1 night in our first home that we purchased, we were surprised the next morning by a runaway puppy that ended up on our doorstep, scared, wet and cold. She

had broken out of her kennel and had made her way to our house. That was the start of our love affair with Golden retrievers. This little run away was a Golden/Great Pyrenees mix that we immediately fell in love with and named Sadie. She lived to be almost 13 years old. During that time we also adopted a Spaniel mix named Nicholas who lived to almost 9 years old. After their deaths we knew we had to have a Golden (or 2) in our lives again and we got Sophie and Candie who are 6 months apart in age. We enjoy doing the simple things in life with Sophie and Candie which include walks, playing ball and just snuggling on the floor with them.

I have been a Human Resources Manager for 20 years and currently work for U.S. Oil Co., Inc. in the Fox Valley. My job is very challenging and rewarding. I often get to travel and am still trying to talk them into purchasing a business in a sunny location such as Florida or California so I could travel there, but so far I have not had much luck.

My husband and I enjoy volunteering for GRRoW and are involved in fostering, home visits, assessments and fund raising events. Every day is a new adventure with GRRoW and we love it.

Wendy Kubokawa-Wells

Shipping Coordinator

I recently moved from Stoughton, Wisconsin to Cambridge, Wisconsin to



live out in the country. I have two adult children. My daughter is attending Marquette University to receive her masters in counseling with an emphasis on the Latino population. My son is working at the University of Chicago and will start his masters in Asian Studies next fall. I am single, living the good life. I make jewelry, sell on eBay, read, hike, bike and adore the outdoors. I now have my adopted Annie from GRRoW so we do walks, rides and dog parks. She goes everywhere with me. I look forward to being the shipping coordinator and I hope I do as good a job as Sylvia Sipple has. I run to the post office often for my eBay sales so this should work out well. I look forward to meeting other GRRoW people as I attend events such as the recent dog walk.

elbow problems in golden retrievers *by David Edinger, DVM, DACVS*

The elbow joint is amazing in its intricacy. Imagine three bones moving together flawlessly, holding up to the pounding, the twisting and the turning of everyday life. These multiple moving parts must perform effortlessly for years.

The elbow joint is also very unforgiving. Alter one small part and the machinery starts to break down.

The humerus bone is the large bone of the upper arm (the dog's front leg). The ulna bone is the slim bone of the forearm that cradles the end of the humerus in the elbow. The radius is the stout bone of the forearm that provides most of the strength. The ulna provides a large part of the elbow's smooth gliding surface.

The cradled end of the humerus is covered with glistening, white cartilage inside the elbow. The cradling upper end of the ulna has a curved, cartilage-covered gliding surface shaped like the slope of a ski jump and widened to the inside with an extension called the medial coronoid process. The medial coronoid process helps to stabilize the position of the humerus against the ulna's "ski jump" as the elbow moves through a normal range of motion. The anconeal process is the top of the ski jump, a triangular portion of bone covered with cartilage that locks into the end of the humerus when the elbow is fully straightened.

The top, circular, slightly cupped upper end of the radius also glides with the humerus inside the elbow and is tight against the front edge of the ulna. The cartilage of the upper end of the radius should be a smooth continuation of the ulna. In a perfect elbow, the humerus glides back

and forth on the ski jump of the ulna and onto the dished "head" of the radius without a skip or bump. This should be a very smooth and secure gliding motion.

Elbow arthritis begins when the gliding surface is flawed. The early inflammation (the "arthritis") grows into more severe alterations with time termed "osteoarthritis." If the radius and ulna don't grow in perfect synchrony, there can be a small step between the ulna and radius. This imperfection creates inflammation with elbow movement and cartilage begins to show signs of wear such as softening and cracking. If the medial coronoid process or anconeal process do not form correctly, cartilage may also begin to wear inappropriately, inflammation sets in, and the damage starts to spread.

The medial coronoid process can be a real problem for elbows if it does not form correctly. It should become bone and unite to the rest of the ulna during the early months of growth. Sometimes the medial coronoid process fails to become strong bone, or it fails to unite to the rest of the ulna. Depending on the degree of its imperfections, osteoarthritis can be present by 5-8 months of age and be severe by 1 year of age.

The anconeal process may also fail to unite to the rest of the ulna during growth. The loose or wobbly process can beat up the cartilage surfaces and result in severe osteoarthritis prior to one year of age.

Occasionally a growing dog will have a defect in the bone growing under the surface of the humeral cartilage in the elbow. This defect is

termed "OCD" when it leads to breakdown of the humeral cartilage surface. This type of growth injury devastates an elbow quickly.

The key to keeping elbows as healthy as possible is early identification of the problems that can lead to breakdown of the cartilage surfaces. Physical examination and radiographs are the keys to early identification. Treatment is simpler and more successful the earlier the problem is identified. Treatment often can be accomplished through the minimally-invasive approach of arthroscopic surgery. Arthroscopy uses the latest imaging technology to explore the elbow and allow removal of loose pieces of bone and cartilage and treatment of damaged cartilage.

The elbow is a marvel of moving parts. It is an important and intricate joint. It must be respected at a very young age with good physical fitness and careful observation for lameness. I recommend an exam with a board-certified veterinary surgeon at less than 6 months of age to check for any growth-related problems. Check our Web site for information about Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Care (www.vetspecialtycare.com) and for links to find other board-certified surgeons. Please call us to make an appointment (608-845-0002). Annual or twice-yearly evaluations with the family veterinarian are also good practice to check for changes in the elbow joint over time.



David Edinger, DVM, DACVS
Board-certified, small animal
surgeon, friend and admirer of
GRRoW



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a voice for hayley

Before I met Hayley something had already inspired me to watch over her. I was participating in her initial assessment because I had read her intake file and volunteered to take her into my home. Looking back, I know I wasn't there by chance. When we assessed Hayley she didn't exactly pass with flying colors. Hayley scored high on resource guarding because she lifted a lip and gave a growl. We of course called the GRRoW Board of Directors to make a decision about whether or not this dog could be accepted into the organization. Then came the question I had to answer. "Are you comfortable taking this dog into your home?"

Dogs don't have more than a one-word vocabulary, yet they manage to convey so much to us. Sometime during that first meeting Hayley communicated with me that she should be given an opportunity to have a better life. I didn't need to think twice about my answer because it was clearly, "Yes!" That is the precise moment when it happened. I didn't know it at the time, but I had just become Hayley's advocate. Hayley came home with me and I now had the power to speak on her behalf. And speak I did.

At first, I told her story on the GRRoW Web site. I explained how she had not been given any boundaries and how our goal was to teach her rules. I talked to everyone I could about how to help her. I asked on her behalf and help I found. GRRoW sent me books and I found a private trainer who worked with Hayley and me on her off hours. We started to forge a bond of trust.

Next, I found myself speaking out for her again when GRRoW reassessed her behavior after she had been in my care for a little over a month. I said, "Just a little more time is all we need," and fortunately everyone agreed. Progress had most certainly been made. I was listening to Hayley and she was listening to me. She stopped lunging and growling at the other dogs on our walks and in our home. She was feeling loved and gaining confidence in being the dog she always wanted to be.

Finally, I advocated with the veterinarian to first give her relief from her painful hips. I helped her find comfort when she could not do it for herself. When we got the news of her failing health I prayed. My own voice said to save her and go to the extreme, but Hayley had a different wish. So I put my selfish thoughts aside and listened to what



was so hard to hear. I spoke on her behalf once more. It was time to be done with vets and private trainers. She asked for fun-filled days with playful moments and a tender touch. Through my tears and heartache we made her wishes known and honored her last requests.

There are no coincidences when it comes to life and love. We give a voice to these rescued dogs. In a world where they cannot speak for themselves, they come to us. They talk to those of us who will listen. Each of us who shelters dogs has a unique ability to hear with our hearts. We look into the eyes of these wonderful creatures to know whether they are happy or in pain. It is because we can hear when we are called to take action to give them what they need. These beautiful animals never put together a sentence and yet they compel us toward a better life for both us and them.

clicker seminar



August 8 & 9, 2009
Western Waukesha County Dog Training Club
Ixonia, WI



Golden Retriever Rescue of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Special Response Team have partnered together to bring Laura VanArnedonk Baugh to Wisconsin for a two day clicker seminar. Laura has been working with dogs and horses since childhood, and she began training professionally in 1999. Laura was one of the earliest dog trainers to achieve national certification, scoring 98% on her written exam. She is very active in pursuing continuing education, staying abreast of the latest research in behavioral science.

Laura is well-known in the clicker training community and is particularly fascinated by the hard

science of altering behavior. Her instructional videos are popularly recommended by other trainers and used in national presentations on clicker training, and one even made its way into a Harvard behavior class! Laura is also trained in TAGteach, ensuring that she can provide a fun and positive learning experience for the human handler as well as for the dog.

In January 2008 Laura graduated as a Certified Training Partner from the highly-regarded Karen Pryor Academy for Animal Training & Behavior, from which students graduate with an A or not at all! She is returning to the Academy as an instructor, teaching workshops around the country. Laura is also a Professional member of the APDT.

Mark your calendar. Watch the GRRoW website, GRRoW event calendar and yahoogroups e-mail for details coming soon on pricing and the syllabus.

Questions: Contact Deb Lukasik at deblukasik@wi.rr.com

brags

Buddy

Buddy (#06-027) and Karen Peckham are very proud to have recently passed their Delta Society Pet Partners evaluation and are now a registered therapy dog team. Their first project will be to participate in the READ program (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) in which children read to dogs. It's much less intimidating to read to a dog, and the program has been very successful and popular nationwide. Buddy will be great at it—he's a good listener! Congratulations Buddy and Karen!



A Special Package for GRRoW

The other day, I received an email from a gentleman asking that I watch for a package that was being sent to GRRoW. I received the package and I wanted to share this with all of GRRoW.

Dear GRRoW:

My name is Frank and I have Katie, one of your rescued Golden Retrievers. She is about 11 now and she is one of the best dogs we have ever had. We are truly blessed by God with her. She is having some medical issues right now but she still has a great temperament and a loving attitude. This donation is from the wonderful thought of my loving daughter, Amanda. She recently threw me a surprise 50th birthday party. She asked the guests, in lieu of gifts for me, to bring donations for GRRoW and the Cancer Society. I could not believe the great response we received. We received over \$200 for the Cancer Society and well over \$200 for GRRoW. So please accept this gift of love on behalf of my family and myself and all my loving friends.

*All of God's Blessings,
Frank*

Besides a stack of checks totaling over \$200, the following items were in the box:

Two different sizes of reflective collars, dog treats, tennis balls, rope tug toy, more doggie treats, two plastic dog dishes with cute paw prints on them, a dog brush, dog shampoo and poop bags.

I just have to say God Bless Frank and the generosity of his family and friends.

Continued from page 6

It amazes me how quickly Zoe has learned who her family is and how protective she is of those she loves. Meredith rolled her ball into the road and was approaching the road herself



and Zoe continued to bark until Meredith was brought safely back to the yard.

We were on the waiting list since before

Christmas, 2007 and we finally found our forever dog. Zoe was worth the wait. Thanks for the kindness and support during Zoe's transition from her foster home to our home. Not only did we gain a loving dog from this experience, but also friends for life.

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Acknowledgments

for the months of September, October, November

adoptions

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

OCTOBER

07-072	Baxter	Joan Potter	08-040	Rusty	Shirley Fender
08-030	Scarlett	Barbara Konz	08-071	Gabby	Jones
08-068	Dakota	Kathryn Kukkan	08-070	Jack	Kotecki
08-045	Matt	Maria Terres-Sandgren	08-058	Cody	Scott & Nancy Miller
08-069	Gus	David Kieckhafer	08-076	Sully	Callow-Vasquez
08-079	Duke	Karen Lukitsch	NOVEMBER		
08-064	Hank	Cindy Ellingson	08-074	Chloe	Jeanne Rufflo
08-084	Sophie	Shannon Matheis	08-072	Sunshine	Tanni Baird
08-038SN	Lucky	Scott & Mary Lewis	08-089	Max #3	Roberta Karol & Andrew Kowalski

volunteer recognition

Thanks to those who volunteered in the following areas:

FOSTER HOMES

Andrea Stephenson
Ann & Gary Hendricks
Anne Coleman
Becky Funk
Bill & Lindy Penn
Brad & Colette Countryman
Cheryl Krueger
Darren & Andrea Siverling
Dave & Lisa Rosenau
David Gnoza
Debbie Rice
Denise Konkol
Dr. Sue Fluhr
Ellen Bothe
Jan Egdorf
Jane Babcock
Jean, Perry & Caitlin Heideman
Jeanne Rufflo
Jodi Forrester & Phil Shaw
John & Janet Egdorf
Judy Potratz
Karen Stapleton
Kathy & Mark Schmitt
Kelly & Dustin Murley
Kelly Ciesielczyk
Kelly Murley

Kirsten Walth
Krista Graven
Linda Rebiger
Lisa Juhay
Lynn Kiley
Marsha White
Mary Helinski
Mike & Peg McElwee
Mindy Redington
Pam Miller
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Ralph & Kay Kamps
Ryan & Tami Shaw
Sami Thorp
Scott & Amy Baer
Scott & Nancy Miller
Sheri Marek
Steph & Nick Boismenu
Tanni & Steve Baird
Todd & Tanya O'Connor
Tom & Ellen Bothe

FOSTER HOME TRAINERS

Anne Coleman
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Ellen Bothe
Larry & Diane Stevens

Lisa Rosenau
Mary Helinski
Mindy Redington
Sheri Marek
Teresa Barta

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Barb Egan
Besty Sande
Carly Penn
Deb Bevers
Debbie Rice
Diane Stevens
Gary Hendricks
Heidi Zich
Karen Stapleton
Kaysie Ryan
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Lisa Rosenau
Mary Helinski
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Paula Kirchman
Sally Berner
Scott Pahl
Shayla Willmarth

Sheri & Steve Marek
Stacy O'Bannon
Steph & Nick Boismenu
Steve Zich
Terese Barta
Wendy Strang

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Ann & Gary Hendricks
Barb Egan
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Cheryl Krueger
Chris Hoover
Colleen Marleweski
Darren Silverling
Dave & Lisa Rosenau
Dave Gonza
Deb Bevers
Deb Lukasik
Debbie Rice
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Kristin Graven
Larry & Diane Stevens
Linda Rebiger
Lisa Chapiewsky
Lisa Juhay
Lynn Kiley
Marsha White
Mary Helinski
Mindy Redington
Nancy Buechel
Pam Miller
Sally Berner
Scott Miller
Shayla & Scott Willmarth
Sheri Marek
Stacy O'Bannon
Stephanie & Nick Boismenu
Tanya & Todd O'Connor
Terese Barta
Wendy Strang

HOME VISITS

Bob Falconer
Gail Schwichtenberg

Continued on page 12

donors/contributors

Adam Nonn
Aetna Foundation
Alan & Patricia Ruud
Amanda Stevens
Amy Taebel for Barb Egan's birthday
Animal Clinic of Sturgeon Bay, Dr Lois
Ann Wiley
Antoinette Waddick
Blue Dog Training & Behavior
Bob Falconer
Brian Wolff
Brook-Falls Veterinary Hospital
Bruce & Patricia Tonkin
C.L. & Gene Kroll
Charles & Terri Hagmann
Cheryl & Frank Langel
Christine Shaefer in memory of Oso
Christopher Etmanczyk
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Susan Ruesch in memory of Hannah
Ruffin' It Resort
Teresa Mambu
Teri Knuese
Therese Weick
Thomas & Winifer Eckert in memory of Max
Timothy & Gayle Beck in memory of Rusty
Veterinary Speciality Options

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



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EVENTS/MEET & GREETES

For the most up-to-date information on GRRoW events and meet-and-greets, visit the event calendar on grrow.org.

Reminder

Do you know a GRRoW volunteer who is celebrating a birthday, is ill or their dog went to the Rainbow Bridge? Contact the GRRoW Sunshine Coordinator, Marjorie Falkowski, at contact@grrow.org and she will send an e-card on behalf of GRRoW volunteers.

**Coming to GRRoW in AUGUST 2009,
a two-day clicker training seminar!
See page 9 for further details.**

Mark your calendar!

June 13

Bark in the Park

Annual Reunion and Picnic

**Western Waukesha County Dog
Training Center, Ixonia, WI**

Details to follow

Continued from page 10

Gary Hendricks
Julie Peroutka
Kirsten Walth
Melissa Kissinger
Pat Tonkin
Scott & Nancy Miller

EVENTS/MEET & GREETES

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Shayla Willmarth
Stacy O'Bannon, son Noah &
friend Isaiah Ness
Sue & Dave Rohlinger
Tanni Baird
Terese Barta
Terri Hagmann
Tom Thorpe (GRRoWVER)
Wendy Strang
Wendy Wells

NEW VOLUNTEERS

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Barbara Konz
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Carol & Richard Shimek
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