



**Golden
Retriever
Club of
Illinois**

Golden Moments

November 2013-February 2014

MISSION STATEMENT

The Golden Retriever Club of Illinois is an active club with many diverse interests in the Golden Retriever breed.

The GRCI sponsors vaccination clinics, heart and eye clinics, educational forums, hunt tests, working tests, an independent conformation/obedience specialty, agility trials and field training classes.

The Club has members from all over Illinois, southern Wisconsin and northern Indiana. The majority of our members are located in the Chicago and suburban Chicago areas.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Hal Axelrod

Dear GRCI members,

As I begin writing this article, I just got back from Florida where the weather was cool and rainy. However, there was no snow. Like all good things, the trip must come to an end. Reality struck when the pilot aborted our first landing attempt, a first for me. Upon landing we walked into the second polar vortex of the season. Welcome home! Is it me or before this “polar vortex” phrase, did we say it was just darn cold, or something to that effect? I am always surprised how my dogs brave the cold and snow as long as I’m out there with them. Once I head in or let them out alone they want nothing to do with it. I am still trying to figure out the balance of when they really need to go, or if they just want to see me suffer.

Once again I need to thank so many of you who have volunteered at our club events the last few months. I apologize if I forget to name all of you. The October Agility Test was held at Rush ‘n’ Around and received rave reviews. We want to extend thanks to Annette Narel, Robin Comp-Zelles and Kris Garra for producing another great event. Thanks also to Sandy Foster and her crew of volunteers for making everything run so smoothly. We are very appreciative of their commitment and dedication to GRCI.

The GRCI Tracking Test held in October was very capably organized by Kay Dahlquist, Nancy Einwich and Michelle Kolb. There were 4 entries and all passed with flying colors and received their TD titles. Also in October, Barb Gron-Grosse set up a GRCI booth at the CCI walk in Naperville and spent the day fielding questions on the club’s behalf.

We had a wonderful turnout for our October general meeting at the Bellyrub Klub in Lombard. After a brief meeting, Randy Johnson presented all of the awards and certificates that our members and their dogs earned during the last year. Robin Comp-Zelles was awarded the Pete and Cathy Miller award. This trophy is to be awarded to a member(s) for leadership in the golden retriever community and selfless commitment to the well-being and betterment of the breed. It was a wonderful time clapping for handlers and their dogs for all the hard work they put in over the last year.

Barb Gron-Grosse brought a cake congratulating all the award winners and some special treats for the four legged attendees.

We had a surprise visit from Santa Claus at our December holiday party. All the “kids” got to sit with Santa and have their picture taken. If they had been good this year they got a gift. Thank you to Barb Gron-Grosse for arranging dinner for the evening, and to Randy Johnson who pulled some strings to get Santa away from the North Pole. We did have a brief meeting where the membership approved donations to As Good As Gold Rescue, The Golden Retriever Foundation and to the AKC.

Well, spring must be coming soon. I just signed up the dogs for a field seminar and it will be outside. Hope to see you at some of the spring events.

Stay warm.

Hal Axelrod

Upcoming Events:

Chicagoland Family Pet Show
March 14-15
Arlington Racetrack

Training the Beginning Retriever for AKC Hunt Tests
Sunday, April 6, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
King’s Kennels
238 Saunders Rd., Riverwoods, IL 60015

GRCI Annual Eye, Heart, and Microchip Clinic
Sunday, April 13, 2014, 10:30am - 1:30pm
Dundee Animal Hospital
2565 Algonquin Road, Algonquin, IL 60102

GRCI Hunt Test
Saturday, May 03, 2014, 8:00 AM
Sunday, May 04, 2014, 8:00 AM

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This will be the last edition of *Golden Moments* edited by Lynn Mines. We all want to thank her for the years she has given putting this newsletter together. Her dedication will be dearly missed.

With that being said, we are going to need an editor going forward. If you are interested, please contact me.

Hal Axelrod



THE OBEDIENCE CORNER

By Jane L. Coen

What Does It Take To Produce a Good Heeling Dog?

If your objective is to have an obedience dog that is competitive—one that will consistently qualify with good scores and have a chance of placing in its classes—then it is important that the dog learn to Heel well. By “Heel well,” I mean maintaining proper Heel position, at all times, and exhibiting the desired attitude, as defined by the AKC *Obedience Regulations*.

So what is required to deliver that type of Heeling performance? The same attributes required for good performance in any other obedience exercise: attention and response. To make sure we have a common understanding of those terms, let me define them below.

- **Attention** – When working with its handler, the dog’s attention is constantly focused on the handler and his/her verbal commands and signals. In other words, the dog keeps its eyes on its handler, at all times, and is not distracted by smells, sights or sounds in its surroundings.
- **Response** – When given a verbal command or signal, the dog responds instantly, with enthusiasm and speed. In other words, the dog does not hesitate before responding, and does not execute the command slowly, reflecting disinterest and a lack of desire.

If you have attended one or more obedience trials, you have undoubtedly seen dogs that would fall into both camps: sharp working dogs that Heel with enthusiasm and precision and who maintain constant eye contact with their handlers, and dogs that Heel sluggishly and inattentively, seeming to wander aimlessly around the ring. Is the difference in these dogs’ performances a function of the dogs’ temperaments or the way they were trained? Based on well over four decades of experience training dogs and instructing others to train their dogs, I would unequivocally answer that poor Heeling dogs are much more a result of their training than their temperament.

Just to clarify, let me say that there is no doubt that some dogs are more naturally suited to competitive obedience training than others. Not every dog is Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH) material. That being said, even less competitive dogs can be trained to Heel decently, if not well.

The Obedience Corner continued,

So if a dog’s Heeling performance is more a function of training than temperament, what does it take to produce a good Heeling dog? There are actually a number of key success factors.

- 1) The dog must understand attention is mandatory, not optional. I teach my dogs to pay attention to me starting with their first obedience training session. I use the command, “Watch Me!” Initially, I use a treat to get the dog’s attention. With the dog sitting in Heel position, and holding a treat in my right hand, I place the treat by the dog’s nose and then lift the treat up to my face, as I give the “Watch Me!” command. After the dog looks at my face for a moment or two, I reach down and hand the dog the treat. I slowly increase the time until the dog will look at me on command for 30 consecutive seconds before being rewarded. Once the dog understands the “Watch Me!” command, I correct the dog if it looks away after being given the “Watch Me!” command by snapping the leash as I repeat the command, “Watch Me!” I never give the dog a command unless it is looking at me.
- 2) When I begin teaching the dog to Heel, I initially use automatic corrections, meaning quick leash snaps, when I start forward, change direction or pace. With the dog sitting at Heel, I say, “Watch Me!” to make sure the dog’s attention is on me. Eventually, the dog will glue its eyes on me automatically when brought into Heel position, without having to be given a “Watch Me!” command. My Heel command is “Dog’s Name, Heel” (e.g., Kiz, Heel!). On the “Heel” portion of the command, I snap the leash forward lightly with my left hand a split second before I step forward. That teaches the dog to move off with me, and not lag a step behind. In the beginning, when I change direction, I give the leash a quick snap as I make the turn. Similarly, when I change pace, I give the leash a quick snap as I slow down or speed up. In all cases, I am conditioning the dog to respond instantly. I never give the dog a chance to be inattentive, unresponsive or sluggish. All leash snaps are accompanied by enthusiastic praise.
- 3) I do a lot of proof training by working my dogs in environments that offer a lot of distraction. When Heeling, if the dog’s attention begins to stray, I make a quick turn in the direction opposite where the dog is looking as I give a sharp snap on the leash and say in a happy, enthusiastic voice, “Gotcha!” Very soon, the dog will not look away—even under distraction. In fact, the greater the distraction, the greater the dog’s attention.
- 4) Train don’t complain (one of Bob Self Sr. and Jack Godsil’s mottos), and for heaven’s sake, don’t nag the dog. In other words, practice makes perfect, so train regularly, and give one command only, demanding and rewarding the desired response.

Successful Heeling to a large degree is dependent on good dog attention, which requires that the dog be worked on a loose leash. There should never be any tension on the leash or collar when a dog is Heeling. If a correction (leash snap) is required, it must be given quickly when the leash is loose, and the tension from the snap must be released instantly.

Let me relate a quick story about a dog trainer that made a lasting impression on me when I was a child. As a young child, I was obsessed with dogs and dog training, and asked for dog training books for all my birthdays and at Christmas. Over the years, I accumulated quite a library of dog training books, including most of the books Bill Koehler wrote.

The Obedience Corner, continued

Thirty plus years ago, there was a Chicagoland dog training club that proclaimed that it used the Bill Koehler method. I attended obedience matches hosted by that club, and would always be appalled at the abusive treatment members of that club subjected their dogs to in the name of the Koehler method. I was baffled by that club's interpretation of the Koehler method since I had read most of Koehler's books. When that club hosted a Bill Koehler dog training clinic, I registered and attended. In Bill Koehler, I witnessed a gifted trainer who was anything but abusive toward dogs. The timing of his corrections was impeccable. He clearly communicated to the dogs what he expected, and the results he obtained were nothing less than remarkable. He transformed distractible, obstreperous dogs into attentive, obedient ones before our eyes—in mere moments. His key to success: effective use of the leash and collar—nothing more, nothing less.

Since attending that Bill Koehler clinic three plus decades ago, I have found that I, too, can transform the behavior of uncontrollable dogs in my public training classes easily and quickly by making the same type of quick, well-timed leash and collar corrections that Bill Koehler did—the same type of leash and collar corrections that produce confident and happy, attentive and accurate Heeling dogs. With self-discipline and practice, anyone can master the techniques required to produce a good Heeling dog, providing they set high enough standards and consistently reinforce the desired behavior.

Until next time, Happy Heeling!



HUMOR

How Dogs and Men Are the Same

1. Both take up too much space on the bed.
2. Both have irrational fears about vacuum cleaning.
3. Both mark their territory.
4. Neither tells you what's bothering them.
5. The smaller ones tend to be more nervous.
6. Neither does any dishes.
7. Both fart shamelessly.
8. Neither of them notice when you get your hair cut.
9. Both are suspicious of the postman.
10. Neither understands what you see in cats.



GOLDEN NOTES

By Karin Boullion

This month I thought I would check through my past articles to look for one I had done that contained items I used for grooming my dogs. While I didn't find the one I was thinking about, I did come across a list that was compiled by a friend that covers items to have on hand when going to a dog show. Some of the items are more generic (brushes, scissors), but the list is a good starting place of things to have, "just in case".

In addition, I'm including a website that has some sections on grooming your golden. I had written the person trying to get permission to publish the pages in our newsletter, but had not heard back by my deadline. There are 4 sections on grooming different parts of the dog; scroll down the page to find the selections

<http://morningsagegoldens.freeservers.com/index.html>

Dog Grooming and Ring Preparation

- Scissors
- Shears
- Oil for shears
- Greyhound combs
- Brushes
- Stripping knives (fine and medium)
- Dremel or guillotine toenail reducer
- Septic stick
- Ear cleaner and cotton balls
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Self-clean shampoo
- Coat revitalizer
- Spray bottle for water
- Blow dryer
- Vaseline (brings out nose blackness and shine)
- Baby Powder (for tail feathers if bitch is in heat or GR has diarrhea)
- Tacky Paw
- Show collars and leads
- Small bait toy

People Grooming and Ring Preparation

- Safety pins (falling hem)
- Rubber bands (for armband numbers)
- Extra set of panty hose (plus small bottle of hairspray or nail polish to stop runs)
- Anti-static spray (static cling)
- Sewing kit (mend a hem, put back on a button) Nail clipper and file
- Turns, cold pills, headache meds
- Peppermints or other candy (for breath control and to settle the nerves)
- Hot and cold thermapacks for muscular injuries (shake to activate)
- Hand sanitizer

Medicine and Bandages

- Anti-diarrheal medicine
- 2 12.5 Benedryl (children's meltable on tongue strips) or

Golden Notes, continued

Apis (homeopathic) for stings Buffered Aspirin / Traumeel (homeopathic) for muscular injuries/dead tail

- Gauze bandage tape
- Vet wrap
- Super glue (cut pad)
- Antibiotic ointment
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Gold Bond Powder (for hot spots)
- Thermometer (check body temperature)
- Mini first aid kit
- Q-tips and tweezers for emergencies

Miscellaneous

- Paper towels
- Sanitary wipes
- Bait
- Poop bags
- Sharpie to put your name on your catalog
- Ink pen to mark catalog
- Business cards with your contact information
- Empty Kleenex box stuffed with plastic grocery bags (attach one to grooming arm for trash)
- Clips for hanging towels, material over crates
- Plastic forks, knives and spoons for meals
- Tums, cold pills, headache meds for human
- Small, hand-held fan to cool human, larger ones for the dogs.
- Vicks Medicated Ointment (to put on male dog's nose when bitches in heat are present)
- Sunshades, if an outdoor show, to help keep the vehicle cool
- Water & bucket

This is just a start. And some of the items, (first aid & miscellaneous) can be taken to any dog event.



The Agility Corner

By Jane L. Coen

[NOTE: Since Golden Moments is currently without an Agility Columnist, Jane Coen has agreed to "recycle" some of the agility columns she wrote back in 2003-2004. If any GRCI agility enthusiasts are interested in becoming the permanent Agility Columnist for Golden Moments, please contact President Hal Axelrod.]

My Top Ten Agility "Lessons Learned"

Let me begin by going on record as stating that I didn't volunteer to serve as GRCI's agility columnist because I consider myself to be an expert on the subject of agility. There are other club members who are far more experienced and knowledgeable than I am. However, in the time I've been involved in the sport of agility, I have learned a lot that may be of interest to GRCI members who are contemplating getting involved with agility or may have limited experience and would like to be able to benefit from the mistakes and "lessons learned" of others--like me!

I began my involvement with agility in 1996 because I was feeling guilty about leaving my Golden, "Sandy," home on obedience outings after retiring her from obedience at the age of seven. Sandy clearly was not ready to retire!

Sandy taught me most of what I know about agility--and what a great teacher she was! We made our fair share of mistakes along the way, particularly during our first year of training. In spite of those mistakes, Sandy went on to earn her AKC Novice (NA), Open (OA), Excellent (AX) and Master Excellent (MX) agility titles over about a fourteen month period starting at the age of eight. My most memorable agility-related memory of Sandy was her back-to-back first place Excellent class wins over a weekend in October 1998 when she defeated close to 50 competitors in her class each of those days. How happy I was to learn that Sandy had been ranked second in her AKC Excellent class height division for Guldens in 1998.

Through what Sandy taught me, I was able to train my two Sandy daughters in far less time, earning their Excellent Agility titles in about a third of the time it took us to earn Sandy's AX title. Sandy's daughters went onto earn their Master Excellent (MX) agility titles.

What have I learned about agility through my personal experience and through observation? Let me present my learnings in the form of my "Top Ten Agility Lessons Learned." I hope you find them interesting--or at least thought-provoking!

1) Success in agility is heavily dependent on a sound basic obedience foundation. A successful agility dog must respond instantly to basic commands like "Come" (including such agility derivatives as "Here" and "Come in"), "Sit," "Down," and "Stay." A high percentage of the problems and agility trial failures I see (and, at times, personally experience!) can be directly attributed to the fact the handler doesn't have good control over his or her dog. In other words, the dog doesn't respond *instantly* when given a command.

2) The dog's undivided attention on the handler is a critical success factor in agility training and competition. Through the dog's basic obedience training, attentiveness must become an automatic response on the part of the dog. There should be no need to give extra commands such as "Watch me." Dog

Continued on Page 5,

The Agility Corner, continued,

attention must become a given.

3) An agility handler must develop good timing, in terms of giving verbal commands and signals. Agility is very unforgiving when it comes to late commands—things just move too fast out there on a course to be able to recover from a poorly timed verbal command or signal. Don't despair, however, since good timing can be learned!

4) An agility dog *must* be thoroughly trained on holding its contacts on the contact obstacles (the dogwalk, A-frame and teeter-totter). In other words, the dog must go up and come down the piece of equipment quickly and then wait at the end of the piece of equipment in the contact zone until specifically commanded to move on. It should not require a lot of extra commands to prevent the dog from flying off a piece of equipment which, as often as not, results in a non-qualifying (NQ) score, A.K.A. as "flunking!"

5) A handler must thoroughly understand and remember the capabilities and limitations of the particular dog he's running in order to determine the best strategy for navigating through an agility course. In 1998, I was running three dogs through the same Excellent course at trials. Each time I walked through the course prior to the class beginning (handlers are provided the opportunity to walk through the course and plan their strategies before they run their dogs through the course), I had one of the three dogs specifically in mind. I needed to alter my strategy and handling style to adapt to each of the individual dogs. For instance, my dog Sparkle was not that good of a jumper; therefore, I always made sure I positioned her so she was coming straight at a jump, rather than approaching the jump from an angle.

6) There's always another agility trial! Regardless of how hard you work to prepare for a trial, happens! Learn from your mistakes. Wasn't it the Japanese who said "Treasure your mistakes"? That philosophy certainly applies to agility. I don't mind making a mistake, I just don't like repeating one. If you NQ at an agility trial, analyze why and determine what you could have done differently to have avoided the mistake. My experience and observations tell me 99% of the time, an NQ in an agility run can be traced to something the handler did wrong. Learn from your mistakes.

7) Video-taping your agility runs is an invaluable way to improve your handling, learn from handling mistakes and improve your success rate in the agility ring. Besides, it's such a thrill to be able to come home and relive—over and over—those faultless runs that make all the work worthwhile!

8) A successful agility handler *must* be able to "lead off" from his dog: a) at the start line, b) off the pause table, and c) off contact obstacles where doing so provides an advantage as you continue through the course. I never fail to be amazed by the number of handlers who put themselves at great disadvantage by not leading off. I find this to be true not only in the Novice agility ring, but in the Open and Excellent/Master rings, as well. I can't imagine taking a dog into even the Novice agility ring if the dog doesn't know how to obey the basic obedience command "Stay."

The Agility Corner, continued,

9) From Day 1 of the dog's agility training, have the MX/MXJ titles in mind. Don't allow any behavior on the part of the dog that's going to contribute to problems down the road. That means being in control at all times. Teach the dog to perform each command and execute each piece of equipment correctly from the very first day. For instance, teach a command like "pass" as you pass by a piece of equipment that is not part of the course set-up and don't allow the dog to jump over a piece of equipment *that you didn't send him over*. I hear people whose dogs take a piece of equipment on their own laugh and say "Oh, he wants to earn extra credit points!" No, actually what he's learning to do is to take an "off course" which will cost you 5 points (out of the 100 possible points) in an agility competition. Since you need 85 points to qualify, "off courses" are to be avoided at all costs!

10) Select the best agility instructor that's available to you—even if it means driving a ways to get to class. Evaluate the instructor by his/her own dogs' performances, as well as his/her students' dogs. Ask yourself "Do the dogs work the way you want your dog to work—with enthusiasm, speed and control? Do they look confident and happy?" I would look for an instructor that has put the MACH (Master Agility Champion) title on at least one dog, preferably on more than one dog. Equally important, I'd find out how many of the instructor's students have acquired MACH titles.

Agility is a great way to enjoy your dog and the accomplishments you achieve together. It can be a great aid in developing a dog's confidence and happy attitude. As a sport, it provides you with another means of meeting new people and developing new friendships with people who share a common interest in dogs and their training.

If you haven't given agility a try, I hope you'll consider doing so. I don't think you (or your dog) will regret it! In the next issue, I'll think about the principles of successful agility training – according to Jane! In the meantime, "get out" and "weave them poles!"



Continued,

Golden Retriever Club of Illinois

Annual Eye, Heart, and Microchip Clinic

Sunday, April 13, 2014

10:30 am - 1:30 pm
 Dundee Animal Hospital
 2565 Algonquin Road (just West of Randall Rd.)
 Algonquin, IL 60102

Open to members and non-club members. All breeds welcome!

Eye: -Exams by Dr. Gretchen Schmidt, Ophthalmologist Animal Eye Clinic, Denmark, WI.
 -\$30.00 per dog — a minimum of 50 dogs total is required for this service. -Arrive 20 minutes before your appointment in order to complete the forms, and to receive eye drops.

Heart: -Exams by Dr. Michael Luethy, Cardiologist Veterinarian Ref. Services.
 -\$35.00 per dog. **Note:** Heart exams are at: 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, and 1:30

Microchip: -Home Again microchip —Implementation by Dr. Mark Rusley, DVM Dundee Animal Hospital
 -\$35.00 per dog. Price includes National Registration.

Please select a preferred appointment time. All dogs will be taken on a first come, first served basis within the appointment time slots. You will be contacted only if your requested time slot is already filled. Then we will try to fit you into the next available time.

Preferred Appointment Time — Circle One:

10:30 11:00 11:30 Noon 12:30 1:00 1:30

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Breed _____ Age of Dog _____

Eye	# of dogs @ \$30 each:	Total:
Heart	# of dogs @ \$35 each:	Total:
Microchip	# of dogs @ \$35 each:	Total:

Please fill out this coupon and your check payable to: **The Golden Retriever Club of IL** Send to: **Pat Covek, 595**

Leon Dr. Tower Lakes, Barrington, IL. 60010 Phone: 1-847-526-5089 [Email: patriciamcovek@gmail.com](mailto:patriciamcovek@gmail.com)

Deadline for receipt of reservations is April 8, 2014



Training the Beginning Retriever for AKC Hunt Tests

GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB OF ILLINOIS, INC.

Sunday, April 6, 2014

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

King's Kennels, 238 Saunders Rd., Riverwoods, IL 60015

Presenters: Carol Reed, Duane Walton & Beth Gerdes

\$60/working dog, limit of 15 dogs

\$35 audit (without dog)

Includes Continental Breakfast & Hot Lunch

Please make checks payable to GRCl.

NOTE: Please bring a chair & a crate for working dogs/puppies.

Mail registration & check to:

Jane Coen

926 Warrington Rd.

Deerfield, IL 60015

(847) 236-0138

_____	_____	_____	Working/Audit
Handler's Name	Breed	Phone	Circle One

Please describe any previous Hunt Test Experience:

Please list any specific questions, issues, or problems you would like addressed:

Sunshine Notes:

Please remember to call our "Sunshine Person" if you know of someone who is in the hospital, sick, or in need of some "sunshine" in his or her life.

Call Laurie Stecker at 847-705-9172 or email at Aylwyn1@aol.com and she will arrange flowers, cards, and other forms of "sunshine" to brighten their day.

ADVERTISING POLICY

It is the responsibility of all advertisers in "Golden Moments" to ensure the accuracy of all references made to official field/obedience/show and other wins and awards. Challenges to the factual correctness of a particular advertisement may be addressed to the Board of Directors of GRCI. GRCI will only investigate complaints that include the name of the author. Any necessary corrections will be published in "Golden Moments"

Rates are as follows:

- Full Page \$20/members \$30/non-members
- Half Page \$15/members \$25/non-members
- Business Card \$10/members \$20/non-members

Rates are based on camera-ready art. Litter listings must indicate appropriate clearances for sire and dam.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB OF ILLINOIS NEWSLETTER POLICY

"Golden Moments" will not publish any article or letter of comment that is in disagreement with the policy or procedures of the AKC.

Articles carried will be such that they are of an informative or educational nature or general interest.

Letters to the editor will be published that do not criticize any member of the club, his/her dogs or kennel, or the judging of any dog, but that are of general interest to the members. Letters that are acceptable must indicate the name of the author. "Golden Moments" invited diverse opinions from the members of the club. Anyone wishing to comment on a particular issue may do so. However, remarks which stray from a particular issue, make negative comments on members as individuals or in groups, or attack a member's character or personality are not in good taste, do not benefit Golden Retrievers, and will not be accepted.

For a copy of the **GRCI Code of Ethics** go to:
www.grca.org/pdf/all_about/codeofethics.pdf

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Golden Moments

TO:



Next Meeting: *Monday, April 28, 2014, Chicago Canine Club, Burr Ridge*