



**Golden
Retriever
Club of
Illinois**

Golden Moments

June 2014 - July 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, tracking tests, 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,

So much has happened since I last sat down to write my article. The health clinic in April was a great success. Thanks to Pat Covek and board member Randy Johnson for helping keep our dogs healthy. Big thanks to Mark Rusley for allowing us to use his clinic for the day. Of course no event with Pat in charge was lacking for good food. I was reminded how you never know who you are going to run into at our events. As I was assisting someone who brought 12 dogs to be looked at, I noticed one of her dogs looked like a twin to my boy. The coloring, size, shape of head and most importantly the personality was one that I have lived with for over four years. Turns out they have the same father and grandfather. Genetics are an amazing thing.

In early May we hosted the Hunt Test at the Des Plaines Conservation Area. This year the number of participants was back up and we had enough volunteers to deliver a really top notch event. This Test could not have gone off so smoothly if it were not for the time and efforts of Beth and Terry Gerdes and Joan Wetton. We received much positive feedback that we all should be proud of. We even escaped the weekend with just a few minutes of a light sprinkle. I escaped the weekend with only one tick sighting.

And lastly we had the nose work seminar on May 17. Thanks to Cathy Williams for putting it together and to Margaret Simek who instructed us on how to train the dogs.

If I can get this newsletter out on time, I urge you all to go and attend your GRCI Specialty on Saturday, June 14. Come out and see so many wonderful Golden Retrievers strut their stuff.

Lastly but most importantly we have our next general meeting coming up on Monday, June 23 at the Bow Wow Playground in Villa Park. It is very important for us to have a quorum as we are presenting the new board of directors and the revised By-Laws for your approval. After the business meeting we will have a presentation by our member Dr. Mark Rusley on canine medical issues we all face. It should be very informational and we hope many of you will attend.

Get out and enjoy the weather with your four legged friends.

Hal Axelrod

Upcoming Events:

June Specialty

Saturday, June 14, 2014
 Lake County Fairgrounds
 Grayslake, IL

GRCI General Meeting

Monday, June 23, 2014
 Bow Wow Playground
 Villa Park, IL

GRCI Agility Trials

July 26-27, 2014
 McCook, IL

GRCI Annual Meeting and Picnic

August 17, 2014
 Hawthorne's Backyard Restaurant
 West Chicago, IL

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THE OBEDIENCE CORNER

By Jane L. Coen

“Communication, Consistency and Reinforcement”

I have had my visiting puppy, “Bruiser,” in residence for almost a month now, and things are progressing well. A week ago, I had a friend who is the supervisor of my pet visitors group come to my home to screen two of my students’ dogs to become therapy dogs through Therapy Dogs International. Happily, both of the dogs passed. Since my friend was at my home, I asked her if she would be willing to run Bruiser through the Canine Good Citizenship (CGC) test. I was not sure he would pass, after only three weeks of training, but I thought it would be a good gauge of what he had learned so far. Bruiser surprised me and passed with flying colors.

A great deal of Bruiser’s training has occurred in natural settings rather than during formal training sessions. With a puppy or young dog, I am always looking for opportunities to reinforce what the dog has learned. Two recent examples include a trip to the vet’s for Bruiser’s last distemper booster, and his attendance at GRCI’s April 28 General Meeting. Both experiences gave me opportunities to reinforce my expectations of Bruiser in terms of demonstrating good manners when interacting with new people and dogs, walking without pulling on the leash and staying in whatever position I placed him in until I released him with his “FREE!” command.

As I write this column, I am sitting at a desk in a hotel room in Roseville, Michigan. I made a trip to Michigan to breed a Golden. I brought Bruiser along since I knew it would be a good learning experience for him. He’s already a seasoned traveler, and perfectly behaved in the hotel room. He has learned to relieve himself on leash on command (“Hurry up, be a good boy”), and is trustworthy regarding housebreaking and not chewing on taboo objects like rugs and furniture.

I believe that success in any kind of dog training depends on clearly communicating expectations to the dog. Bruiser is crystal clear on what behaviors are and are not allowed. He does not challenge me or test me once I have made it clear that a given behavior is not acceptable.

It should be noted that clearly communicating expectations involves both positive and negative reinforcement. Rewarding the dog when he responds properly to a command is critically important. However, teaching the dog the consequence of not obeying a command or engaging in an unacceptable behavior is equally important. I will share a recent example of the latter.

I teach the Open and Utility classes at my dog obedience club. A Novice class is held concurrently with the Open class I teach, and the two rings are adjacent to one another. I have a very strict rule for any dog training class I teach (puppy class through Utility); namely, the dogs are not allowed to make any noise during class or when in the training facility. I tell my students that if their dogs are making noise, the dogs won’t be able to hear them, and they won’t be able to hear me. I also tell them that barking is contagious. If one dog barks, another is inclined to start barking, and so on.

The other night at class, numerous dogs in the other class were barking. Two things surprised me. First, the instructor did nothing to address the barking dogs. Second, the owners of the barking dogs appeared to be oblivious to the fact their dogs were barking. The acoustics in the training facility are not great in the first place, and my students were having difficulty hearing me. Finally, I exhausted my patience. I walked over to the owner of a Cairn terrier that was yapping incessantly. I gently rested my hand on the owner’s shoulder because she could not hear me for the dog’s incessant barking. When she turned and looked at me, I looked her in the eye and politely asked her if she would please stop her dog from barking. She replied with an apologetic, “I’ll try.” Well, I guess she got the message, because from that point on, she reacted immediately whenever the dog started to bark and, lo and behold, the dog quickly learned to keep still.

Setting standards—and adhering to them—is so important in training dogs. I have found that, typically, an undesirable behavior, like barking inappropriately, can be stopped with one firm, effective correction. My observation is that people who have dogs they cannot control simply have not earned their dogs’ respect. Students in my training classes often are surprised at how quickly I can stop a dog from exhibiting an undesirable behavior like barking in class, lunging at another dog, attempting to drag their handler along when walking, etc. One snap on the leash usually is all it takes, but that snap needs to be administered in a firm, confident manner so the dog instantly understands who is in charge.

When a dog is under control and attentive to its handler, then training the dog is so much fun. In such a case, all of the handler’s energy can be focused on positively motivating the dog, and rewarding desirable behaviors.

Next time you attend an obedience trial, keep an eye out for the really spectacular working dogs. Then take note of the relationship that exists between those dogs and their trainers. The dogs are confident and enthusiastic about responding to their trainers’ commands. The trainers are confident in themselves, and in their dogs’ desire to work and please them. These relationships are founded on mutual trust and respect.

I am convinced that poorly behaved dogs lack respect for their owners or handlers. That is not to say that ultra-friendly dogs won’t occasionally get wound up and need to be reminded of their manners. I have one such dog lying at my feet as I write this article, my Kizzie. She is overly friendly when it comes to meeting new people. So, with Kizzie, I need to be vigilant, and continually reinforce good manners when it comes to greeting people. At times, that involves administering a firm leash correction when she forgets her manners.

I happen to believe that we own dogs to enjoy them. Maybe it’s just me, but I cannot imagine enjoying a dog that constantly misbehaves, disregards the rules I have set, and ignores my commands. It is so easy to earn a dog’s respect and gain basic control over a dog. It doesn’t take a great deal of time or effort, but it does take communication, consistency and reinforcement.

Four month old Bruiser is already a pleasure to have around, and a big part of why that is so is that he has acquired good manners

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through a limited amount of formal training and a lot of reinforcement through daily living.

Until next time, Happy Heeling!

GOLDEN NOTES

By Karin Boullion

Looking to learn more about conformation, but don't have a dog worthy of competition? Why not volunteer to be a ring steward. You literally have a ringside seat for what is going on. Most often one of the others you would be working with is very experienced and can explain what is happening during the course of judging.

Most of the duties are really pretty straightforward. Handing out armbands to check in the dogs for the different classes; calling in the dogs for the different classes, and making sure the ribbons and prizes are available for handing out as the placements are awarded. The superintendent or show secretary provides the armbands and steward's book that are used for checking in exhibitors. They come to the table by the show ring to check in and get their number. They should know their class and will usually have their entry confirmation that also has their assigned number. The steward marks the book with a check or other mark to designate they have "picked up" and hands them the armband.

A good secretary or super will usually assign the numbers somewhat sequentially in the classes to help make it easier to track. This makes it easy to quickly see if one is missing from a class. The dogs are called in for their class by one of the ring stewards and directed as to where to set up as initially instructed by the judge. Absentees are confirmed between the gate steward and the judge to make sure the proper dogs are marked absent. Leftover armbands are a double confirmation of absent dogs and should be set aside. While the judge and one steward are busy checking the dogs in the class, another steward can be getting the ribbons and prizes ready for the class and setting them on the ring table. This way the judge can mark the judge's book at the end of the class, then hand out the ribbons. This is repeated for each class. One steward should also make note of the placements in the steward's book and make a list of the first place class winners and the second place counterparts. This will be used to call in the dogs for the "winners" class where the best get chosen for the championship points. The steward again directs the dogs to the place designated by the judge. After the winner is selected, the second place dog from the same class is called in to replace the winner. The judge then selects his "reserve". The classes are all then repeated for the girls.

If a class is exceptionally large, then one of the stewards will help keep track of the splits if the class is cut in half and also any of the "cuts" or selections the judge wants for then making his final placements. Unlike obedience or agility, where handlers with conflicts can ask to run earlier or later in the group, conformation judging requires all dogs to be in the ring at the same time. Substitute handlers can be used if a person has 2 dogs in different rings at the same time. After the class is checked in by the judge, they can then ask to be at the end of

the class being judged. So long as the judge has not examined the dog, the handler might be switched, but it is up to the judge to allow it. The steward will alert the judge if the person needing the switch is then available. A good team of ring stewards will keep things running smoothly, with very little pause between the classes. And a good judge is appreciative of those services.

If you are interested in helping as a conformation ring steward, let one of the board members know.

Until next time!

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 GRCA agility enthusiasts are interested in becoming the permanent Agility Columnist for Golden Moments, please contact President Hal Axelrod.]

A question that a prospective agility enthusiast might ask is: "Is it best to introduce a dog to agility *after* it has been trained in basic obedience?" It is a good question that I'll answer with a qualified answer! If (and it is a big "IF"!) the basic obedience training a dog received prior to starting agility work was good, effective training [and by that I mean the dog has learned to 1) give its *undivided* attention to its trainer while working, 2) respond to commands *instantly*, 3) execute commands in a *brisk, accurate* manner and 4) exhibit *enthusiasm* in performing its work], then that training will be a tremendous asset and will facilitate the dog learning the agility exercises. If, on the other hand, the dog's prior training was poor (namely, the dog has learned to be inattentive, unresponsive, sloppy, and lethargic during training sessions) then the prior training will be a detriment and serve as a source of barriers that will need to be removed and/or overcome in order to achieve success in agility.

It is a common saying that "first impressions are long-lasting." That saying is very applicable to agility training. A puppy or older dog's (hereinafter referred to as "dog") first introduction to agility needs to leave it with a couple of strong first impressions: 1) agility is *FUN and rewarding* and 2) agility work requires the utmost in attentiveness, responsiveness, and enthusiasm. Whether the dog comes away from its first agility lesson with these important impressions is *entirely* up to you--his trainer. In this regard, your key to success is understanding what best motivates your particular dog.

In every agility training session, the dog must see "what's in it for him." That "what" must be attractive enough to motivate the dog to do whatever it is you want him to do. In agility, if at all possible, we want that "what" to be a positive reward, i.e. food, the chance to retrieve a favorite toy, meaningful verbal and/or physical praise, etc. Occasionally, that "what" may need to be the avoidance of an unpleasant correction. However, in all but very exceptional cases, problems requiring the application of negative motivation (a verbal or physical correction) should be dealt with as a basic obedience problem and should not be handled within the context of an agility lesson.

For example, inattentiveness or refusing to wait for the handler's command to begin at the start line are both ways a dog demonstrates its lack of respect for its handler and his commands. These problems are not "agility" training problems,

but instead are basic training problems. If you are not an experienced obedience trainer, and you run into a problem that requires the reinforcement of a basic obedience command or concept, seek out a successful, experienced (if not professional) obedience trainer and get some help. In fact, if you find yourself running into such problems regularly, take a break from agility training until you get the dog under control and in the right frame of mind! Otherwise, all you will do is to continue to frustrate yourself and teach your dog a myriad of bad habits that will need to be eliminated by retraining the dog—a difficult proposition at best!

In the remainder of this column I'll explain how I *introduce* a dog (of any age) to the following: 1) working off both sides of the handler, 2) executing a 180 degree turn to switch directions and sides (known in agility lingo as "counter-rotating"), 3) jumping, in general, and 4) jumping onto the table.

Obviously, the progress your dog makes will be limited if you only practice the agility exercises once a week at class. Buying commercially available agility equipment can get very expensive--very fast. However, the good news is there are a lot of pieces of equipment that you can create with a small investment of money and labor. I'll give you some ideas as I address each of the four training exercises listed above.

- 1) **Working Off Both Sides of the Handler and Counter-rotating to Change Sides and Directions** - Agility dogs must be able to work off both sides of the handler to successfully navigate through an agility course within the time allotted. This is one area where a dog with extensive obedience training may initially have a little difficulty adjusting to working off its handler's right side, since an obedience dog is so used to working off its handler's left side. My three obedience dogs adjusted to working off the right side very quickly, with very little trouble.

To begin this work, you need to find a motivator that is going to keep your dog's interest at a high level. If your dog lives for food, then use food (you may need to select something other than your run-of-the-mill dog treat). If your dog loses interest in your standard treat, then switch to cheese, hotdog slices or some other irresistible delicacy. If, on the other hand, your dog is an avid retriever, you may be better off with a tennis ball, fleece toy, or whatever object the dog simply can't resist.

This exercise is incredibly easy for the dog to learn, providing you select the right motivator. Because we introduce the counter-rotation turn right from the beginning, some *handlers* find this exercise a little challenging--at first.

What you want to do is to find an area with as little distraction as possible--initially. A long hallway in your house could work well, if the surface of the floor provides good footing for the dog (obviously, a slippery tile floor is NOT a good choice).

Snap a four to six foot long leash onto the dog's buckle collar. Gather the leash up and hold it in your right hand. Use your food treat or toy, held in your left hand, to lead your dog over to your *left* side. Have the dog assume a sitting position at your left side facing forward, even if you have to physically position him in the "sit" position. Hold the food or toy close (and I

mean close--like an inch!) from the dog's nose with your left hand. When you are ready to move forward (and you want to move forward in a straight line), say your dog's name in a happy and excited tone of voice, immediately followed by the "Here" command. [NOTE: I would *not* use the command "Heel," which for an obedience dog or future obedience dog conveys the need for far more precision and accuracy than we need for agility.]

Begin moving forward very briskly with lots of happy, excited praise. Walk 15 to 30 feet (15 feet for a very young puppy, 30 feet for an older puppy or grown dog). Once you've gone that distance, you are going to counter-rotate by turning to *your left* toward your dog *as* you pass the food or toy from your left hand to your right. At the same time, you will be passing the leash from your right hand to your left. This action involves making a 180 degree turn in place and then immediately moving forward in the opposite direction (back toward where you started). As you begin to turn and counter-rotate toward the dog, switching the food from the left to the right hand, say the word "Turn." You will be turning *toward* the dog and the dog will be turning *toward* you. You may want to practice this maneuver a few times without the dog!

The dog should now be on your *right* side as you head back in the opposite direction. When you reach the spot where you started, do another counter-rotation--you once again will be turning toward your dog (this time toward *your right*) to make a 180 degree turn *as* you pass the food or toy from your right hand to your left and the leash from your left hand to your right. Again, command "Turn" as you are turning, and immediately continue walking in the opposite direction. Walk 15 to 30 feet and then stop and have your dog sit at your left side (the side he is on at this point). Pause a few moments and then release the dog with an enthusiastic "FREE!" and play with him for a few moments.

A couple of important tips: 1) in performing this exercise, always imagine that there is a narrow white line drawn on the ground, because you simply walk back and forth down that imaginary line and actually turn tightly on that line (do NOT make wide, "U"-type turns), 2) literally keep the food or toy right down by the dog's nose and mouth, and 3) with a puppy, don't hesitate to let the puppy nibble on the food or toy as you move down and back, and execute the turns. When you start your dog off your right side, you'll be holding the food or toy in the right hand. You always hold the food or toy on the side closest to the dog. If the dog starts off of your right side, when you make the turn, you'll be turning to the right toward your dog to counter-rotate. The dog will then be on your left as you continue back in the opposite direction. The handler's counter-rotation movement is used to get the dog to change sides. It's an invaluable handling move in the agility ring.

In practicing this particular exercise, it's best to go down and back a couple of times (e.g. down the mat, turn; back down the mat, turn; down the mat, turn; back down the mat (or hall) and then release). I release with the command "Free!" and a lot of hoopla, e.g. tossing a toy so the dog understands he is no longer under command. If the dog is focused and eager to do more, the exercise can be repeated a couple more times. *A general rule of successful dog training: always quit when the dog is eager to do more!*

When the dog performs this exercise well down a hallway, move out into the open. Working down and back on a four-foot wide training mat or on a sidewalk helps ensure that you are moving back and forth in a *straight* line.

- 2) **Jumping** - Once you and your dog are comfortable performing the “working off both sides and counter-rotating” exercise (and it shouldn’t take but a couple of training sessions to get there), you can introduce the concept of jumping to your dog. It is not difficult to teach a dog to jump well if you go about it correctly and give the dog a chance to get comfortable with jumping before you begin increasing the height of the jump.

The way I introduce jumping is very simple. I use the bar of the bar jump used in AKC obedience competition to introduce jumping. The bar is a 2 by 2 inch piece of wood or plastic about five feet long, with black and white stripes around the circumference of the 2 by 2 inch bar. In the absence of a bar, a broom handle or five-foot piece of PVC pipe can work just as well. You simply lay the bar (whatever its composition) on the floor (here again a hallway works very well assuming it provides good footing for the dog), and then you walk with your dog back and forth over the bar with the dog on leash using lots of enthusiastic praise. Simply place the bar midway between your starting point and the spot at which you intend to counter-rotate, as outlined in exercise 1 above.

Some dogs will step over the bar the first time as if it is not there. Others will actually hop over it. Still others may balk as if to say, “What’s that scary thing and is it going to hurt me if I get any closer?”

As the dog approaches the “take-off” point, give him your jump command in an enthusiastic voice. I use the word “hup!” Praise the dog as he hops over the bar and lands. You can then toss a toy for him to retrieve as a reward. If the dog has a tendency to balk before he reaches the bar, show him a treat or toy and just before he reaches the point where he balks, toss the treat or toy across the bar so he steps or hops over it to get to the treat or toy. Praise, turn around and try it again. Continue to work with the dog, over as many sessions as necessary (with most dogs they will master the concept during the first session), until the dog will willingly step or hop over the bar without giving it a second thought.

At that point, you can *slowly* begin increasing the height of the bar (by “*slowly*,” I mean two inches at a time, usually a two inch increase per each subsequent training session). I would recommend you build or acquire one or more bar jumps if you are serious about getting involved in agility training and competition. In the meantime, you can begin increasing the height of the bar by simply placing both ends of it on sturdy objects that will increase the height. For example, if you have two sturdy shoe boxes of the same or approximate same size, you can tape them shut, stand them on end and cut holes in the boxes two inches apart starting from the floor so that you can increase the bar’s height by inserting the bar into the holes. That would enable you to raise the bar to probably an eight to 12 inch height, depending on the size of the shoeboxes. Another approach would be to cut two 2-foot long pieces off of a four by four-inch length of wood. Simply hammer large nails into one side of each length of wood at two-inch intervals. This would enable you to raise the bar all the way up to 24”,

which is the maximum height a dog over 22” at the withers would have to jump in AKC agility competition.

The important thing to keep in mind is that you want to progress *slowly*, in terms of increasing the height of the jump. If the dog exhibits any hesitancy in taking the jump or attempts to balk or go around the jump, you have increased the height too quickly. Another important point: do not attempt to get puppies jumping their full height before they are physically ready to do so. Consult with your veterinarian for advice on this matter. I would keep a puppy jumping quite low until he is well past six to eight months of age. This is particularly important for puppies that are heavier boned and on the larger side.

Once the dog will take the bar as part of the “working off both sides and counter-rotating” exercise down the hallway, move the bar out into the open. Placing it on a four foot wide training mat or sidewalk works well. You will now want to begin going around the bar rather than hopping over it with the dog. For the first few jumps out in the open, continue to hop over the far right or left side of the jump with the dog. If the dog is on your left, you will hop over the far *right* edge of the jump. Likewise, if the dog is off your right, you’ll hop over the far *left* side of the jump. This prevents your body from forcing your dog to go around the outside edge of the jump rather than hopping over the center of the jump, which is the objective.

Once you see the dog is beginning to “lead off” toward the jump ahead of you as you approach the jump, you can begin going around the jump, rather than hopping over it with the dog. Be sure to practice this exercise with the dog working off both your left and right sides.

- 3) **Jumping onto and Remaining on the Table Until Released** - Put your creativity hat on again to devise a makeshift table to practice with during the week between agility classes, unless you want to build a table with adjustable heights or invest in a commercial one (the commercial one I have costs about \$300.00!). For example, you can get by with a three by three foot piece of one inch thick plywood and four 4X4 inch pieces of wood, each about two feet in length. Simply create the table by placing the four pieces of wood in the shape of a square with the corners of the ends of each piece of wood touching, and then place the three by three-foot piece of plywood centered securely on top. The important thing is to ensure that whatever table you use is sturdy. The dog should not be asked to get onto something that is wobbly and likely to collapse. Test the table’s sturdiness by stepping onto it yourself before asking your dog to hop aboard!

When you are ready, put your dog on leash and place him in a sitting position at your side about six feet away from the table, aligned with the center of the table, not an outer edge. Hold your toy or treat near his nose in the hand closest to the dog and enthusiastically command “Table Up!” as you lead him to the table with the toy or treat as briskly as possible. If necessary, pat the top of the table (keep in mind the table we’re using is only about four inches off the ground) or hold the treat or toy at the surface of the table just beyond the dog’s reach while he’s standing on the floor. Once the dog hops onto the table, use the treat or toy to get him to turn around to face you as you command “Turn!,” turning him 180 degrees to the right if he started out on your *left*. Once he’s completed the 180 degree turn, have him sit before giving him the treat. You remain on

the side of the table where the dog hopped aboard--you do not break the plane by moving past that front edge of the table.

Praise him verbally as you keep him still for several seconds (even if that means gentle physical restraint). Release him by giving him a "Free!" command which lets him know he's no longer under command and may hop down off the table.

Continue to practice this exercise with the table down low until you can send your dog onto the table from both your left and right sides, first from a six foot distance away, then ten feet, and eventually from a distance of twenty feet or more. We're looking for the dog to run ahead, jump onto the table without hesitation, turn around and automatically sit on the table--with its handler still twenty feet away from the table. This is accomplished gradually over several training sessions. We're also looking to increase the amount of time the dog is required to remain sitting on the table to a minute or more. To work on increasing the sitting time, you will need to remain very close to the dog and table, so if the dog begins to move, you can immediately say "NO!, Sit!" and reposition the dog physically into the sit position, if necessary.

Once the dog will run ahead of you, jump onto the table, automatically turn and sit and remain sitting for up to a minute, you want to go back to the beginning and do the same thing, but making the dog assume the down rather than the sit position after it has hopped onto and turned around on the table. Eventually, you want to be able to send the dog to the table ahead of you, commanding either "Sit!" or "Down!" and have the dog execute the commands and remain in the designated position until you give him permission to get off of the table.

If handled properly, this is a fun, rewarding exercise for the dog to perform--one that he will enjoy and master very quickly. Caution: don't try to progress too fast too soon. Take it one step at a time to ensure your dog's success. Remember, you always want your dog to be happy and confident.

The above exercises provide a new agility dog and handler with some fun, fundamental agility exercises to work on over the next few weeks. I'll introduce additional agility exercises that build on this first set of exercises in the next column. Until then, "Get Out and Weave Them Poles!"-- or at least get out and practice counter-rotating, hopping over bars and hopping onto low tables!

GRCI Hosts K9 Nosework Introductory Seminar

By Cathy Williams

On May 17, GRCI hosted an Introduction to K9 Nosework in Mundelein, Illinois. It was open to GRCI members and non-members and was led by accomplished trainer, Margaret Simek of One Happy Dog Training. Ten working teams participated, along with two auditing attendees.

Margaret started the 1/2 day session by introducing the group to the types of "odor" dogs are trained to find as part of the National Association of Canine Scent Work (NASCW) competitive events - birch, anise and clove essential oils.

The first odor dogs are trained to find is the essential oil of Birch. Critical to K9 Nosework training is the handling of "odor."

Margaret showed participants the proper way to handle the oils, q-tips and boxes, so that we do not contaminate surrounding objects or environment and can properly train and reward.

Margaret's method of operant conditioning - rewarding dogs when they offer the correct behavior - proved successful for all the working teams. We watched as each of the dogs learned that hitting the odor "source" resulted in positive reinforcement (aka many, many treats)! It was fascinating to see them learn so quickly!

Many of the teams went home with beginner kits and practice boxes to continue their training. I hope to see several of them continue on and participate in the fun sport of K9 Nosework in the Odor Recognition Tests and Trials!

Happy Sniffing Everyone!

2014 Hunt Test

By Joan Wetton

GRCI had a large number of entries for the May 3 and 4 AKC Hunt Test held again at the Des Plaines Wildlife Area in Wilmington, Illinois. 272 dogs were handled during the weekend. With the exception of a couple of hours of drizzle on Sunday, the weather was great for both dogs and handlers. Junior tests were run on both Saturday and Sunday. Senior was run on Sunday. This year, due to the large entry, there were three Master groups.

A special thank you goes out to Beth and Terry Gerdes for again making this event possible. It is through their many hours of hard work and dedication that GRCI is able to have a well-run, successful test. Thanks also to other GRCI members who assisted at the test: Hal Axelrod, Robin Comp-Zelles, Kathy Guerra, and Larry Larson. Their efforts--whether in delivering food, marshalling, or just pitching in when help was needed--aided in making things run smoothly. It is only through volunteers such as these that GRCI can continue to put on trials.

GRCI Awards

Awards will be presented following our October General Meeting. All members are encouraged to apply for appropriate awards, which include eleven Perpetual Trophies.

Please see the GRCI Awards Document at <http://www.grcillinois.org> for award program General Requirements and descriptions of the available Award Recognitions, i.e. plaques, certificates, and perpetual trophies. Print and fill out the application on the next page and send it in by June 30.

Golden Retriever Club of Illinois

Award Application

Please see the GRCI Awards Document available at: <http://www.grcillinois.org> for award program General Requirements and descriptions of the available Award Recognitions, i.e. plaques, certificates, and perpetual trophies. In completing this application form, type or clearly print all required information.

Your award will be engraved using the exact spelling you provide on this application.

Submit a separate award application form for each venue, i.e. conformation, obedience, agility, rally, perpetual, etc.

Note: All members in good standing of the GRCI who wish to be eligible for any of the GRCI awards and certificates must:

- Actively participate in assisting with at least one GRCI event or GRCI-sponsored event per year or hold an office or position which requires voluntary time.
- Attend at least two GRCI General Meetings during the award year (June 1st 2013 through May 31st 2014).
Note: Volunteering at a second GRCI event or GRCI-sponsored event during the award year can be substituted for attendance at one of the two required GRCI General Meetings.
- Have joined or renewed their membership with GRCI by January 15th 2014.

Owner/Co-Owner Name: _____

Dog's AKC Registered Name: _____

Call Name: _____

Phone #: _____ E-Mail: _____

You are responsible for submitting the required copies of all AKC Title Certificates related to this award. If you do not submit these copies to document your application, you will not receive your award. Forms must be submitted to the Awards

Committee. **Send or email your form with documentation by June 30, 2014** to:

Betty Smith, 28W085 Cantigny Dr., Winfield, IL 60190. Email: betty.greg@comcast.net.

VENUE: (Please circle one that applies)	Conformation	Obedience	Agility	Rally	Other
PERPETUAL TROPHY: (Circle one)	CH ROCKGOLD CHUG'S RIC O SHAY TROPHY, CH AYLWYN'S KEY LARGO, SCARSDALE L-CON RIC MEMORIAL, AYLWYN'S JUMP N JYME O SUNDOWN, FIRST PRESIDENT'S TROPHY, BYRON TROPHY, THE LINUS TROPHY, THISTLE TROPHY, DOG OF THE YEAR AWARD, VERSATILITY AWARD, THE PETE & CATHY MILLER TROPHY				
OWNER: (As you want your name to appear on the award plaque.)					
DOG'S NAME: (As you want your dog's name to appear on the award plaque)					
Dog's first Title for this venue?	YES	NO	Note: You will be issued a wood plaque w/ Dog's first Title. Thereafter only a brass placard will be given for Titles earned		
Award Type:	8" x 10" Wood Plaque		1 1/4" x 4" Brass Placard		
Perpetual Award: (Write Your Name and Dog's Name w/Titles as it will be on trophy)**					
Dog's Title: (As you want it to appear on Plaque and placard)					
Note: New Title and date earned will be engraved on a brass placard.					
Ex: 6/1/2013 CDX, or 5/31/2014 RN					

Check list: Have you included the following with your award application?

- **AKC Documentation, AKC Award Record, and/or certificates**
- **Description of Volunteer time worked for G.R.C.I.**
- **Log of Volunteer time and locations for Therapy Dog Award Documentation**

****On a separate sheet, list the required details** pertaining to this perpetual trophy, as specified in the GRCI Awards Document (<http://www.grcillinois.org>). Please type or write legibly!

Approvals: (For Committee Use) Date Received: _____ Initials: _____ Date Approved: _____

The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study

Dear Golden Retriever Lover,

Does your club have what it takes to help prevent cancer in Golden Retrievers? If it includes people who are passionate about Goldens and want the breed to be as healthy as it can be, then the answer is “Yes!”

Morris Animal Foundation still needs 2,000 Golden Retrievers for our Golden Retriever Lifetime Study, the most important observational study ever undertaken to improve canine health.

Your club can help us reach our enrollment goals for the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study. It’s easy.

Encourage anyone you know with a healthy purebred Golden Retriever less than 2 years of age to apply to the study at www.CanineLifetimeHealth.org.

Share information about the study on your club website and online communities, including Facebook and Twitter. There are many resources on the website [here](#)

Let’s reach the goal of 3,000 Goldens strong—and have some fun doing it!

Thank you,

The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Team

<http://www.caninelifetimehealth.org/about/the-golden-retriever-lifetime-study/>

Excerpts from site:

60% of Golden Retrievers will die of cancer. Your dog can help change that.

We’re looking for a few good pups—3,000 to be exact—to be part of the most groundbreaking study ever undertaken to improve the lives of dogs. Morris Animal Foundation’s Golden Retriever Lifetime Study tracks volunteer dogs’ health for life in order to gain insights into preventing and treating cancer and other canine diseases.

- **Be Part of History** This is the largest and longest study ever conducted to advance veterinary medicine for dogs.
- **Help Determine Risk Factors for Canine Diseases** The genetic, environmental and nutritional data from participating dogs will help us learn how to prevent cancer and other canine diseases.
- **Improve the Health of Future Generations.** What is learned from the Golden Retrievers in the study will give *all* dogs a brighter, healthier future.

Morris Animal Foundation is a nonprofit organization that invests in science that advances veterinary care for all animals.

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 GRCA. GRCA 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 **GRCA Code of Ethics** go to: www.grca.org/pdf/all_about/codeofethics.pdf

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Golden Moments

Hal Axelrod
214 Barberry Road
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60035

TO:



Next Meeting: Monday, June 23, 2014 (7-9PM) at Bow Wow Playground in Villa Park, IL