



GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB OF ILLINOIS Golden Moments Newsletter

February 2019

GRCI News & Updates

Welcome to GRCI Golden Moments! This version is mobile device friendly! We hope that it will be even more convenient for member communication. While we try our best to get everything updated, if you notice something that could be better or a link that isn't working, please give us your feedback.

Message from GRCI's President, Donna Bihner

Happy New Year GRCI Members!

As I write this we have all survived the polar vortex and thankfully things will begin to melt soon. Those potty trips to the frozen tundra are thankfully over. My poor dogs were not happy with being out there very long and with being cooped up in the house. It was a no win situation for us all but it is over and now we just wait for spring!



For the past 20 years! Beth & Terry Gerdes have organized and run our hunt tests. Do you know how lucky this club is to have that level of commitment? There is no way we can ever adequately thank them for all they have done. I helped at the hunt test last year and found it to be incredibly organized, fun and relaxed. People and judges told me how much they appreciated such a well-run trial. It was a pleasure to be a part of it. Sadly but certainly understandably the Gerdes's have let us know that their time running the trial is coming to an end. They are willing to run them two more years. We are hoping that there are members out there that would like to take on this task, help the next two years and learn the ropes. Is there anyone out there? As a Golden Retriever club we would all hate to lose these tests. Our dogs are meant for this work. Who can help?

To Beth and Terry - THANK YOU. Thank you for all your time and hard work on behalf of the Club. Thank you for your dedication to our beloved breed. And finally thank you for being kind enough to give us a long notice so we can hopefully find someone to step in when you are done. You are going to be a very hard act to follow.

We have a lot of things happening in the next few months. Hopefully you can participate and if you can help even better!

February 25

Membership Meeting 7PM

Kane County Extension Office 535 Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL 60174

March 10

CCA at Dash K9 in Geneva IL

Contact Donna Bihner dbihner@gmail.com

March 15-17

Pet Expo at Arlington Race Track

Contact Cheri Mitchneck agility12@aol.com

Cheri needs a lot of help for this event. Can you spare a few hours?

April 28

Health Clinic (hearts, eyes and microchip) at Dundee Animal Hospital

Contact Pat Covak patriciamcovek@gmail.com

Forms will be out soon!

May 4-5

Hunt test

Contact Beth Gerdes gerdess2@maxwire.net

Finally to the very few who have not sent in your 2019 membership, we don't want to lose you! Please send it in!

See you all soon,

Donna Bihner

GRCI President

Dbihner@gmail.com

GRCI Membership Meeting
Monday, February 25, 7 p.m.
Kane County Extension Office, 535
Randall Road, St. Charles, IL

WHAT IS FIELD WORK AND SCENT
WORK ALL ABOUT??

Attend our next membership meeting
Feb. 25th and find out all you need to
know to get started.

Club member Beth Gerdes will be speaking on how to get started in hunting and field training. Club member Helen Borosak will be speaking about Canine Scent Work. Both ladies are accomplished competitors who have years of experience and a wealth of knowledge to share with you. Please attend our Feb. 25th membership meeting to learn more. Location: [Kane County Extension Office- 535 Randall Rd. St. Charles, IL. 60174](#)



IMPORTANT! Please note that we are not able to bring our Goldens with us to this facility. We will have other meetings and events where we welcome your Goldens!

Certificate of Conformation Assessment

March 10, 2019

GRCI is pleased to be hosting a GRCA CCA event on March 10th. The event will be held at Dash K9 in Geneva IL.

We will be having two groups, AM and PM. You can indicate on your form which you would prefer, and we will do our best to accommodate your request. The entry is a random draw, but GRCI members will be chosen first, so do not delay in getting in your entries!



Remember you do NOT need to show groom your dog for a CCA but they must be clean and in good physical condition. A judge must easily be able to run their hands over your dog so practice if your dog doesn't like strangers put their hands on their body. Dogs must be over 18 months old to be entered.

For more about the CCA, check the [GRCA website CCA Page](#).

Please see a link to the [CCA premium here](#).

GRCI hosts a CCA event every two years so take advantage of this opportunity!

If you have questions, please contact Donna Bihner at dbihner@gmail.com.

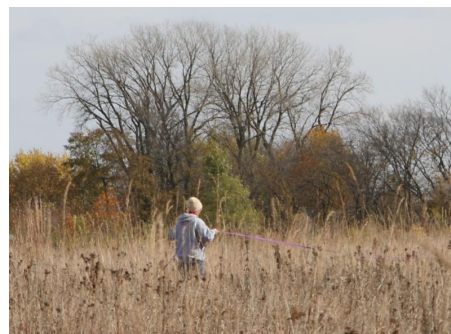
GRCI's Tracking Test 2019

Help Wanted!!!

GRCI Tracking Tests
October 12 - 13, 2019

We are looking for Volunteers to help with the Tracking Test. We need:

- Chairperson
- Secretary
- Hospitality Chairperson
- Committee Members



We already have one volunteer: Kaye Dahlquist has offered to be responsible for finding track layers and to be part of the committee to help with the event.

If we cannot find helpers, we will not be able to put on the Tracking Tests.
If you are interested, please contact Michelle Kolb, 847/800-6124,
partyinthepaint1@sbcglobal.net

Wags and Brags

Sandy Heimburg reports: My little gem Treasure earned her UDX at the Northwest Obedience Trial in Cary on December 15, 2018. She is my first UDX dog! We have had an incredible 2018, and I can't wait to see what we tackle in 2019!

MACH Argo's Heavenscent Golden Treasure UDX OM1 PCD BN GN MXB MJS T2B NF
ADHF CCA



Sandy and Treasure

Cathy Williams reports that Keenie earned her UKC Novice Nosework title on January 25 at the 4G and TB trial in Joliet. She also passed and placed in UKC Advanced nose work element trials, and got one High in Trial!



Please share your Golden's accomplishments! Send an email summary and a photo to Cathy Williams at cwilliams0727@gmail.com to be included in the next Golden Moments!

Preparing Pups for the Polar Vortex

by Cathy Williams

Were you and your Golden prepared for the Polar Vortex super-subzero temps? Many dog owners were scrambling at the last minute to figure out how they were going to protect their dogs, particularly their paws and pads, during these extreme temperatures.

It's best to introduce cold weather protection gear to our dogs while we have a bit of a break in the extreme weather. If you wanted a pair of dog boots or other cold weather items the day before the subzero temps, you were probably out of luck. Supplies are low, and you don't have time to get your dog used to the new, and for them, quite unusual, apparel.

Training your dogs to wear boots can be a tricky task. You want to have patience and LOTS of treats! I trained my dogs to get used to their boots in a small closed room, like the laundry room. I put just one boot on a front foot, gave him a few treats, then stepped back with my treats and had him walk to me with the boot on his foot. I repeated this a few times until he was comfortable. I put on the other front boot, so now he has 2 boots on, more treats, and again, stepped back and called him to me and rewarded with treats. I did this again with the 3rd boot, and then the 4th. Once he did not seem to mind the boots on all four paws, I put on the leash, and with lots of treats in my pocket, we went on a short walk down the driveway and a few blocks.

If your dog does not want to move forward with the boots on, try a higher value treat, like roasted chicken pieces (you can buy these from Jewel in the deli!)

What boots do you buy? Whole Dog Journal evaluated several boots. A link to [the summary is here](#). Many of these boots are expensive, so you may want to try these less expensive options below first.

One alternative to boots are [Pawks](#). They are a non-slip sock made for

dogs. These handy items cost less than \$20, and they can do double-duty as a non-slip aid or to cover a paw if your dog is chewing his feet!

You can also try paw rub protector, like [Musher's Secret](#), which is what the Alaskan sled dog handlers use. You can try small children's or baby socks or coconut oil instead of the Musher's Secret. Don't worry if your dog licks the Musher's or the coconut oil - they are all natural products, and coconut oil has many health benefits for dogs!

Don't forget to wipe your dogs paws after a walk or trip outside. Most streets and sidewalks are coated with ice melter that is painful for unprotected paws. You do not want your dog to lick any chemicals off their feet!

Our Golden Retrievers are double coated dogs, so they do not necessarily need a sweater or coat, but their time outside should still be limited. A coat can be nice for keeping some of the wet dirt off their belly coat though. If you have a small dog or a dog with a single coat (Greyhounds, Dobermans, Chihuahuas) make sure you use a sweater or coat to keep him warm.

I certainly hope that Mother Nature is kinder to us as we move toward spring, and that you find these tips handy for the next time we have extremely cold weather! Stay warm!



Pawks



Musher's Secret

February is Pet Dental Health Month

by Cathy Williams

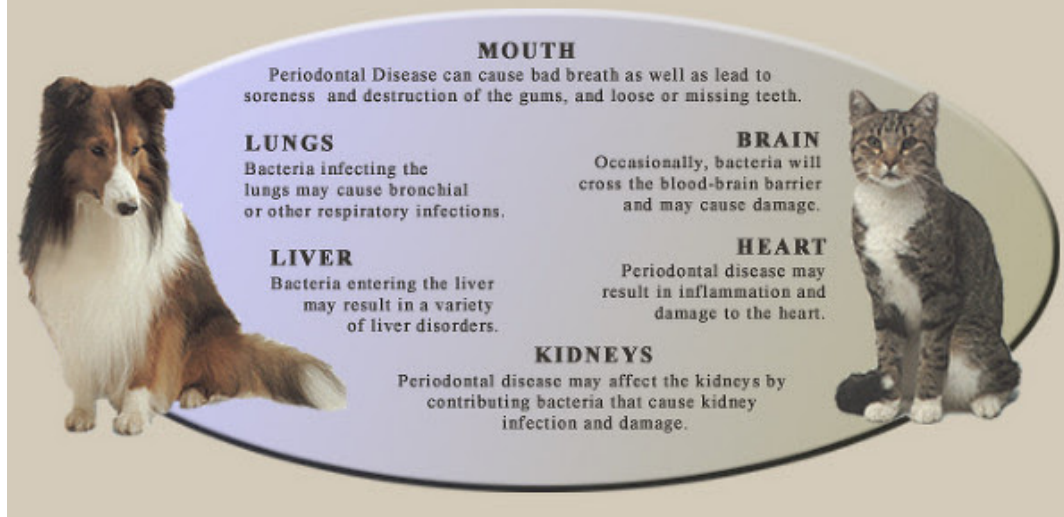
My, What White Teeth You Have!

People always tell me what clean, white teeth my dogs have. In the past few years, I made a commitment to brushing my dogs' teeth at least twice a week - I choose the same days, because it's easy to remember, or I pair it up with brushing their coats or ear cleaning and call that day "Health Care Wednesday"! It makes a huge difference. Brushing every day is best, and easy if you have one or 2 dogs, but if you can't keep that commitment with more, imagine the difference brushing their teeth 50 to 100 times a year will make!



Why is dental upkeep important to your pet's overall health? Tartar and plaque build up is not only bad for your pet's teeth, but oral disease and bacteria in the mouth and gums can spread to your pet's vital organs including their heart, kidneys and liver which can create serious health issues.

DENTAL CARE KEEPS MORE THAN YOUR PET'S TEETH FROM GOING BAD!



Brush with toothpaste specific for pets, as people toothpaste can be harmful to your pet. In addition to brushing, chewing on raw marrow bones and other dental chew toys can also help keep your pet's teeth and gums clean.

As always, consult your veterinarian if your pet has a lot of plaque and tartar for the best dental treatment.

Happy Golden Smiles to you!

Remember your
toothbrush is green,
mine is blue.



Bob would learn the hard way that
dogs are color-blind.



[Shop GRCI Merchandise!](#)

Show your support of GRCI through logo apparel, hats and outerwear. Check out

the website - choose any item and size you like! They are nice for GRCI event chairs and committees, or for your competitions.



Sunshine Notes

Do you know someone 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. She will arrange a cards or other forms of "sunshine" to brighten their day.

GRCI Board of Directors

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Newsletter Editor - Cathy Williams, 847-452-2568, cwilliams0727@gmail.com

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STAY CONNECTED:

