



**GOLDEN
RETRIEVER
CLUB OF
ILLINOIS**

Golden Moments

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Judy Bush

Happy New Year and best wishes to all our members and their Golden, and dear friends!

Another twelve months have passed and we look forward to another year filled with many great programs, and events. We already are in the process of producing events for the next twelve months.

This year we proudly experienced the CCA event through the outstanding efforts of Patti Stitz, Bev Kozlowski, and Cathy Williams. As with anything new, there are always great expectations of a successful event; and this event exceeded our expectations. Please be sure to take a look at our photos expertly taken by Jeff Simmons. Thank you all.

Just a few weeks ago, GRCI had its Annual Christmas-Holiday Party at the Bellyrub Klub. Pat Alberts received rave reviews for putting together a great event. Michelle Kolb pitched in effortlessly to ensure that our Golden party goers had games to add to their enjoyment. What Golden doesn't love to party!

As always, the star of the Christmas-Holiday party is Santa. Santa a/k/a Randy Johnson presented all Golden with a gift, and posed for pictures with each member and their golden. Everyone can view all party goers on our web site, thanks to the talented photographer, Jeff Simmons.

Prior to the party starting, Randy Johnson presented the handsome golden gentleman, Uncle Charlie to Club members at the Christmas Holiday Party. It was nine year old Charlie's first visit to a GRCI function. Randy told us the heart touching story of this kindly golden returning to his household through the miracle of the microchip, after he was found wandering the streets in Elgin. Please read the article he prepared for members, and don't forget to bring a Kleenex to dry a tear or two.

It was such a pleasure working with Pat, Michelle, Randy and Jeff to produce a memorable event for our members. Thank you all!

GRCI is an all volunteer organization, made up of wonderfully talented, experienced members, and many new members who are open to learning about golden activities. We offer as many events as we can to engage all levels of members in competitive events, and general education programs. We ask that you consider volunteering in some areas to assist club members and to engage in expanding your interests. The fellowship is wonderful, and the feeling of contributing to the overall success depends on all of us helping out together. Ruth Smith wrote a wonderful article for the GRCA magazine describing her over all surprise and happiness at a recent Club agility activity that was originally a little outside her comfort level. That article was published in the November-December, 2011 issue of GRCA's Golden Retriever News. We have great members and look forward to seeing more members turn out in the New Year!

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Upcoming Meetings:

General Meeting

7:00 PM, February 15, 2012
Location: The Bellyrub Klub
612 E. Western Avenue, Lombard, 60148
630-542-3559

Upcoming Events:

Golden Retriever Club of Illinois Specialty
Saturday - February 25, 2012

IKC Dog Show – Feb. 25 & 26, 2011
McCormick Place, 23rd & Martin Luther King Dr. Chicago, IL

Chicagoland Family Pet Expo

March 16-18, 2012
Fri. 1-9, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5
Arlington Park Racecourse, Arlington Heights, IL

Health Clinic

Sunday, April 1, 2011 – 11:30AM to 2:30PM
Dundee Animal Hospital
2565 Algonquin Rd. (Just west of Randall Rd.)
Algonquin, IL 60102

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, continued.

Just some reminders.....the IKC show in February is right around the corner. Chicagoland Pet Show coming up in March. Health Clinic is quickly approaching also in April. Ruth Smith has consented to produce a Fun Day event for us again with a Hunt Test in May. These events are all in addition to the regular meetings. We have a busy year ahead, and want you to be a part of it.

Next general meeting is February 15th, at the Bellyrub Klub. Sandwiches will be served for all who attend. More details out shortly. Presently, the program segment of the meeting is being confirmed.

To all of you, a Happy New Year and give those gorgeous Golden of yours a huge hug on behalf of GRCI. We look forward to seeing you and your golden kids soon.

Warm Golden Regards,

Judy and Chase



ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

By Judith C. Bush, MS, CJ

Right of Refusal.....

Therapy visits are intended to be a source of enjoyment, friendship, and a giving of yourself and your Golden to the special needs of those less fortunate. It is this premise that motivates us to volunteer at hospitals, nursing homes, detention centers, adult day care and other numerous types of facilities.

There are so many wonderful volunteers who give their big hearts and plenty of love to every life they touch. It is almost impossible for us to comprehend that anyone would not want an animal assisted therapy visit.

However, clients can exercise the right to accept or reject seeing you. The clients you see are people in stressful circumstances, and they have the right to make choices. In many health care settings, all of the daily routines are prescheduled and controlled. People who are ambulatory, cognitive, and independent are likely to have more choices than those with more serious issues.

There are a limited number of choices that can be made by clients in a controlled environment, and the choices become minimized by the severity of health issues. Often times, patients in healthcare settings may have lost friends and family members, and probably their spouse, and have no one; therefore they must completely rely on the facility. This is the setting for feelings of isolation and being unloved. Some of these people will reject anything that reminds them of their former home, children, and pets. And, therefore they may reject the animal assisted therapy team, and your gorgeous Golden desperately wanting to visit.

Continued.

ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY, continued

Regardless of who the client is, they all have the basic privilege of rejecting an animal assisted therapy visit or accepting it. Sometimes, the elderly may scream at you to leave. And, if that occurs, you should do so. You may attempt to try to resume your visit after visiting others, or just omit it and move on.

Even juveniles may not want to be involved in a therapy program. And, their wishes are to be honored. However, usually if they see a team interacting with someone who likes animals, they may very often come around eventually. If not, you still have to respect their wishes.

Working with our Golden, they feel it's their job to make everyone love them! It's difficult for us to take the rejection, especially when we try so desperately to have everyone enjoy our visits. However, giving a client the freedom of choice is a gift of dignity. When team members accept rejection graciously, we learn a deeper lesson of preserving respect for the client's personal choices, and it helps keep us in tune with the fragile feelings of others.

NOTE: Recently a research study was conducted regarding short term exposure to dogs in hospitalized cardiac patient areas. The study sought to see if any positive measurable results were noticed regarding lower levels of anxiety, stress, and lung and pulmonary pressure with the presence of a therapy dog in their hospital setting.

"Dogs make people happier, calmer, and feel more loved. That is a huge benefit when you are scared and not feeling well", said Katie Cole, RN, author of this study.

76 heart attack patients each had a twelve minute visit from a therapy team. Patient's physiological responses were closely monitored prior, during and after such visits. Cole noticed a 24% drop in anxiety levels of patients, while levels of the stress hormone epinephrine were reduced by 17 %!

Additionally, a local hospital's staff indicated that the hospital gives all patients a survey concerning their hospital stay, shortly before they are released. Patients who had daily visits from therapy teams scored all areas of the surveys higher than the group of patients without therapy visits. Even areas such as satisfaction of food, staff, hospital environment, etc produced remarkably increased scores. Conclusion, the therapy teams' visits invoked a greater amount of acceptance/pleasure of the hospital experience.



2012 HEALTH CLINIC

Pat Covek reported that the Health Clinic will be held on April 1, 2012. She and Randy Johnson get notices out. Members suggested that the event be publicized through postings on the CERF, GRCA, and other online sites.

A DOG'S PERSPECTIVE



Hello, Blazin Blue here,

Well it's a New Year and hoping for new and happy things to come our way as well as yours.

We ended 2011 with the CCA event. Mommy and Auntie Patti and Cathy Williams had been planning this event since February. Oh, my goodness. Getting Evaluators/judges was the hardest part. Trying to find three Evaluators who would be able to come at the same time was quite a feat for Auntie Patti. But in the end she got it done and they moved on to getting a facility. Nancy E told Mommy about this wonderful facility called Car-Dun-Al in Huntley. Mommy went and spoke with a really nice lady and they made a piece of paper that said we could have our event there. Mommy sent the application in to GRCA, our parent organization, to ask permission and it was approved. Yippii!

Once the CCA event was approved for GRCI to host, the "real" work began. We had to let everyone know that it was scheduled. We contacted every Golden Retriever Club of the surrounding states and a few on-line magazines to advertise for us. We, of course, posted it on our GRCIllinois.org website and on our Golden Retriever Club of Illinois Facebook page. We put the application there and then WAITED for responses. Since this was our first event...AND...because one of the judges came all the way from California and had to get on a plane to go home, we allowed 21 Golden Retrievers to enter. Mommy says next year that we should go for 24 Goldens. And yes, ONLY GOLDENS are allowed--because this is a Breed event.

Mommy was on the computer and on the phone A-LOT! She checked the mail every day also. During one of the GRCI Club Meetings, Cathy W and Nancy E and Mommy and I gave a presentation on what everyone could expect at the event. We had a great time and everyone learned a lot and wanted to come. During the meeting Mommy made a chart and asked people to volunteer to help. OMG goodness, everyone got up and put their names on the board and it was just wonderful. Only two people two signed up ended up having something come up that they couldn't help...we know that happens, and they'll probably help next year.

For the applications...we had to return one entry application because the dog was too young...but NEXT YEAR!!! There is always NEXT YEAR. My Girl—Diamond will go next year too. And one dog went to another event and got the CCA there so we ended up with one "slot" unfilled. We had 20 of the 21 slots. That is good for us—our first year. Some people even had two dogs...it was just so exciting.

A DOG'S PERSPECTIVE, continued

Auntie Patti and her sister, Sandy were in charge of the food, Cathy Williams was in charge of the Evaluator's gifts and Mommy was in charge of the paperwork...which is right up her alley...Mommy is the paperwork person...she has 13 drawers of filing cabinets at home for our health records, awards, and papers...so like I said, Mommy is the paperwork person. She was making folders for the Evaluators, for the Participants (dogs) and for the GRCA. She said that next year she has a better plan—if chosen to do it, that is.

We had Jeff Simmons as our photographer—what a hard job he had. Seems simple, right...just take a couple of pictures. Well, you try to get us goofy, waggy tail, happy Goldens to sit or stand still long enough to get a good shot—it's not that easy. Then he took the group picture. What a wonderful job!

Everyone who volunteered did a great job. We had folks who helped the Evaluators, folks to measure us to see if we were too tall or not tall enough (everyone was perfectly within the limits). We had time keepers, and people to add the scores and ... and --- well—all I can say is there were a lot of folks and they did a wonderful job. An event like this takes more than just the people who are the Chairperson or Secretary...it took everyone!

Well, folks found the building....Mommy and Auntie Patti showed up at 0530—that is 5:30 am—it was dark outside. Others started showing up around 6am. The Evaluators came, the Goldens came...it was a great party. Folks got to sit and chit chat, we got to mingle... But FIRST, they came to the PAPERWORK table, then got measured, then got pictures taken, then had to wait their turn to see the Evaluators (Judges). Each Evaluator spent about 10-15 minutes with each of us. They told our Moms and Dads things like we had nice ears, or nice spring to our ribs, or nice round feet. They also told our Moms and Dads things like we were too long in the chest or our necks were too short or our ears were a little too close together. But in the end our Moms and Dads took home a piece of paper that said we met the standard of the Golden Retriever. We got a Rosette from each Evaluator then when we got three of them we got a bigger Rosette for making enough points from every Evaluator. Every Golden that came got a Purple Ribbon for participation. Every Volunteer got a very nice gift. IT WAS WONDERFUL!!!! EVERYONE, yes EVERYONE, left with a big smile on their face...and you know us Goldens—we have big smiles all the time.

It was an EDUCATIONAL event. Mommy said they spent too much money, but felt that next year they would know now to keep costs down...that is a big deal, you know...they talk about the ECONOMY on the TV all the time ☺

Mommy said to thank everyone that has volunteered to help with ALL of the GRCI events. It takes YOU to make our CLUB a success. Thank You!

Continued on Page 4,

Continued,

A DOG'S PERSPECTIVE, continued

I know that Diamond is writing an ARR-TEA-KLE about Daddy coming home for a visit, but I want to add my two cents worth. Thank you all who have sent kind words to him and for the snack boxes he shares with others...they mean a lot to him to know that you are thinking of him while he is so far from home. Thank You!

So until the next time.... Thanks for listening. Keep giving hugs and kisses...the love goes both ways.

Blazin Blue



THE OBEDIENCE CORNER

By Jane L. Coen

Applying Some Old Adages to Dog Training

It Is Better to Be Safe Than Sorry

At the time I wrote my last column, I was looking forward to attending some December obedience trials with my Golden Retriever, "Tiera," with the goal of earning her Utility Dog (U.D.) title. As it turned out, a week before her first trial, we attended a practice match where Tiera balked the bar jump during her Utility Class run through. The ring surface at the match was a bit slick, and it appeared Tiera was afraid to take off on such a surface. At her first Open obedience trial a number of years ago, Tiera experienced a very bad jumping accident during the Retriever Over the High Jump exercise, and has had a fear of jumping on slick surfaces ever since.

I made the decision to pull Tiera from the December shows and make it a point to train her at a number of indoor locations over the next couple of months to help her regain her confidence in jumping indoors on various surfaces. I did not want to take the chance of having her stutter step her way up to the bar jump at the December trials and then try to jump over the bar jump when her timing would be off. Her safety is far more important than attending any particular obedience trial. Besides, I do not believe in taking my dogs to a trial until I am confident that they are ready to deliver qualifying performances. I have never been a gambler—with my money or when it comes to competing at obedience trials.

The decision to pull Tiera from the December trials ended up being providential, in a sense, since I discovered a growth on one of her back legs early in December that has since been surgically removed. Thankfully, the growth was benign, the leg has healed and Tiera is back in training.

Continued,

THE OBEDIENCE CORNER, continued

Patience is a Virtue

You may recall from reading one of my prior columns that I ran into some challenges with the Scent Discrimination exercise with my Golden Retriever "Tripper." When I went from the training mat that had the scent articles securely affixed to the mat with Velcro strips to a training mat where the articles were tied down with 12 inch pieces of fishing line, I ran into a major problem. On a particular retrieve, Tripper raced out, grabbed the incorrect article from the mat, and began to race back to me. Since the incorrect article was tied to the mat with the long string, it was ripped out of Trip's mouth, which scared the daylight out of him.

To address our problem, I went to an office supply store and purchased skinny plastic ties that are used to hold together stacks of paper. I used the ties to make a new training mat. The ties allowed a slight amount of movement if Tripper attempted to pick up a wrong article, but not enough movement to scare him. It took weeks to get his confidence back so he was willing to retrieve an article out of the pile of articles.

We took our time, and used the new mat for a couple of months. Once Tripper was working the articles consistently, without attempting to retrieve any incorrect articles, I began working Tripper with a pile of loose articles (no training mat). At the writing of this column, Tripper is performing the Scent Discrimination exercise with consistency, rarely making a mistake. Equally importantly, he is performing the exercise with eagerness and enthusiasm. It has been a long time in coming, but the positive outcome we have achieved speaks to the merit of the slow, steady and methodical approach we took to get to this point. Patience was the key to our success.

On the rare occasion Tripper retrieves an incorrect article, I simply take it from him, and resend him out to the pile. Invariably, he retrieves the correct article the second time.

Although I have had dogs where I could correct them if they picked up a wrong article by simply taking a step toward them, saying nothing; I have found that I am better off not making any kind of a correction with Tripper. I am confident that he will continue to get even steadier on the exercise as he gains more experience.

Give Them an Inch and They Will Take a Mile

As a dog obedience class instructor, it has been my great pleasure to work with hundreds, if not thousands of dogs and their owners over my lifetime. Many of my obedience students have gone on to compete with their dogs at obedience trials. Not surprisingly, the students who set high standards for their dogs and consistently required their dogs to work to those standards have had the greatest success at the trials.

Continued,

THE OBEDIENCE CORNER, continued

Have you ever noticed that some dogs do not perform as well at a trial as they do at home or in a familiar training setting? If we were to compare those dogs to dogs that consistently perform well at trials, I think we would find a difference in how the dogs are trained. I think we would find that the sharp, attentive working dogs are trained by trainers who have set high standards for their dogs and train to those standards. Such trainers do not allow their dogs to get away with "little" imperfections in training because they know that little imperfections tend to be amplified at obedience trials.

If a trainer does not correct a dog for looking away while heeling during training, the trainer should not be surprised to find the dog wandering around the ring—at times aimlessly—during the Off Leash Heeling exercise. If a trainer does not insist that the dog snatch up the dumbbell and drive back to the trainer immediately on the Retrieve on the Flat Exercise, the trainer should not be surprised if the dog stops and sniffs around on the mat before picking up the dumbbell at a trial. If the trainer allows the dog to take a step or two forward on the Directed Jumping exercise when the dog is told to "Sit!" at the far end of the ring on the go-back portion of the exercise, the trainer should not be surprised when the dog travels in so far on the go-back exercise at a trial that it receives a non-qualifying score because the dog is no longer 10 feet beyond the jumps.

If we allow little mistakes or imperfections during training, our dogs will not be clear on what we expect from them, and when they encounter a greater degree of distraction at trials, we are likely to see deterioration in their performance.

The Moral: Safety, Patience and High Standards are keys to success in training.

Until next time, Happy Heeling!



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GOOD AS GOLD CLUB BRINGS TOGETHER LOCAL LOVERS OF GOLDEN RETRIEVERS

By DENISE FLEISCHER
Lifestyle Editor

The Golden Retriever Club of Illinois (GRCI) focuses on promoting the breed of dog through public education and programs for its members.

"The club was founded in the late 50's-early 60's and is open to membership throughout the state." said club President Judy Bush of Mt. Prospect "However, the bulk of members are from this area."

A great deal of early emphasis in the program was placed on fieldwork, conformation, obedience, and other forms of activities that goldens excel in.

Continued.

GOOD AS GOLD, continued

According to Bush, general meetings are held on even-numbered months, usually on the third Wednesday at different locations throughout the area. Various speakers have discussed breed information regarding rally, conformation, nutrition, animal assisted therapy, and dock diving.

"In addition to the general meeting we hold an annual specialty awards ceremony to recognize our talented goldens, an annual picnic, Santa holiday party, agility test, hunt test and tracking test," Bush said.

Membership is open to those owning a golden retriever, interested in enhancing their participation with the breed through club activities. There are annual membership dues. The club publishes a "Golden Moments" newsletter every two months to inform members about current topics of interest.

Bush has been a member of GRCI since 2001. She learned about the club through a pet store "meet and greet" with therapy dogs.

"Personally, goldens have been a powerful component in my life for more than 20 years. Allison, April, Amber and Chance [Chase] are my wonderful goldens throughout the years," Bush said.

During the last 15 years, Bush has been involved working with goldens on a series of cable television programs promoting the human bond, twice addressed the American Correctional Association and provided counseling and behavior modification for animal abusers.

Elk Grove Village resident Kathy Hansen has been a member of the club for 18 years. Her sweetheart goldens are Tyler and Chaser. Both are therapy dogs.

Hansen said by joining the club you can expect a lot of fun things.

"We welcome people who want to learn," Hansen said. "We have field trials, different levels of obedience: come, signals, sit, lay, behave and walk all the way to figure 8s. To get into the higher levels, the dogs have to find things and take different jumps."

She mentioned that the first level of obedience is "novice"; when the dog walks next to you it's "open" [*sic*] and the most advanced level is "utility."

Michelle Kolb lives in Palatine with her golden and her Shelties.

"My golden, Destiny, has competed in a couple of the conformation shows hosted by the GRCI. She has participated in the Certification of Conformation Assessment, an event where three judges evaluate your dog letting you know how your dog meets the breed standards. Very informative."

Destiny competes regularly in agility and one of Kolb's shelties has become a master agility champion. Kolb has also done some obedience and rally with some of her dogs.

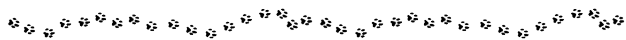
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Good As Gold, continued

Kaye Dahlquist of Palatine sees goldens to be great companions. Twenty-eight years ago, with three small children she needed an easy dog that wouldn't escape when a door was opened.

"My instincts were right. I found out the best and worst things about a golden is that they always want to be with you...like under your feet close. Running off never was a consideration for my dogs. Indoors or outdoors on land or water they are happy to do what you like.

"While on vacation, at our lakeside cottage, my mom dog, Rally, made it a point to play lifeguard. She would always make sure she swam on the deep side of the slope and kept the kids herded on the shore side"



PUBLIC EDUCATION

By Pat Alberts

Here is an article that came to my attention, and I think we all would like to be aware of this seeing that we travel all over with our dogs. Please be aware of this FluH3N8. The article is copied below with the link to see more information.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/veterinarians-recommend-flu-shots-dogs/story?id=14958498>

By **KIM CAROLLO (@kimcarollo)**
Good Morning America
Nov. 16, 2011

Dog owners may be vigilant when it comes to protecting their pooches from rabies and heartworm disease, but veterinarians in certain parts of the country are sounding the alarm about canine influenza, which is on the rise in some areas.

There are outbreaks of dog flu right now in the New York metropolitan area and near San Antonio, Texas, and other states have reported epidemics throughout the year. Since the virus, known as H3N8, was first identified in 2004, thousands of dogs in 38 states have become sick with the flu, and veterinarians say that number continues to climb.

"We're seeing an increasing number of dogs being affected by this virus," said Dr. Cynda Crawford, clinical assistant professor in shelter medicine at the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Canine influenza is endemic in several states, including New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Colorado. But like the virus that causes the flu in humans, the dog flu virus is very easily spread and highly contagious.

The American Veterinary Medical Association recommends that dogs that are in frequent contact with other dogs be vaccinated against canine influenza to help prevent the spread.

Continued,

PUBLIC EDUCATION, continued

"This is a very mobile virus, and we live in a highly mobile society that contributes to the spread of influenza, which means it can go from one community to another simply by travel of infected dogs that are still contagious," said Crawford.

As with the human form of the illness, dogs who have the flu will experience coughing, nasal discharge, a low-grade fever and sneezing.

"The problem you face with dogs is secondary bacterial pneumonia," said Edward Dubovi, director of the virology laboratory at the Animal Health Diagnostic Center at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Certain Dogs Are High Risk

"There's increased risk for dogs that board, go to day care, are in shelters or that travel to areas of the country where canine influenza is circulating," said Crawford.

She added that people who work with dogs, such as veterinary and animal shelter staff, may unknowingly transmit the virus to their own dogs.

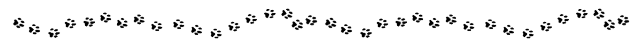
"People are one of the biggest transmitters of canine influenza. They may handle an infected dog, and the virus is shed and it gets all over their hands and their clothing."

So far, the canine influenza virus hasn't transformed into any other strains, unlike the human flu virus.

"We've been isolating the virus and doing genetic sequences to see if it's changing," said Dubovi. "In the New York City area and in Colorado, it's had only minor changes, but it has the potential to mutate into something much more serious."

Although the virus hasn't changed much in the seven years it's been in existence, it is still very unpredictable.

"If you want to have a proactive strategy to protect against the unpredictability of canine influenza virus, the best preventive strategy is vaccination," said Crawford.



CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

It's time already to start thinking about the nominating slate of Board Members for the 2012-2013 year. We will need volunteers not only for Board positions, but also the nominating committee. Being a part of the nominating committee does not exclude you from being considered for a board position. We would love to see all Board positions filled for the coming year, so if you have an interest in any or a particular position, please contact Cathy Williams at 847-540-0394 or cwilliams0727@gmail.com, who will be leading the Nominating Committee.

FROM A BITCH'S PERSPECTIVE...



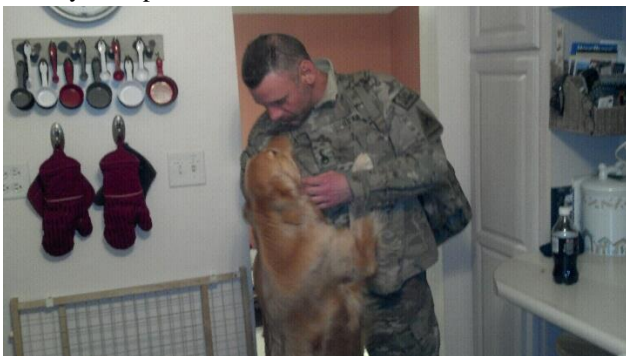
Hello, Diamond here

Yippii Dippi, Yippii Dippii, Daddy's Home!

Mommy has been talking about it for awhile—Daddy's Coming Home, Daddy's Coming Home. But she kept saying she wasn't going to get excited until Daddy was on U.S. soil. He called from a few stops along the way, like Ireland. When he called from Atlanta, Mommy was telling us that he was coming. She said "Daddy's home" and Honey Bear would run to the back door all excited. You see when Daddy was home in July, I didn't really get to play with him because remember I was in "jail" with my hurt leg. So although I saw him, he didn't stay long and we didn't get to play.

Daddy's plane got stuck in Atlanta and he would call and give updates but it was soooo stuck. Mommy said the plane was broken. Now I know I didn't do it because I have never been to Atlanta—teehe! So they switched planes for him and he was on his way to Chicago—yippii dippii. Mommy was on the computer looking for delays and times when she could go and get him. When she did go she took Honey Bear with her. Honey Bear told me that she and Mommy drove around and around the airport not knowing exactly when Daddy was arriving. He didn't have his cell phone so he couldn't call Mommy. But on their third trip around the airport, Honey Bear – with her head sticking out the window—spotted Daddy and started whining and telling Daddy—"here we are, here we are." Mommy pulled from the far lane into the "pick me up" lane. Mommy jumped out of the Tahoe and gave Daddy a big hug and they drove home.

As soon as Daddy walked in the house, I stood on my tippy toes and stretched my neck up as far as I could as he leaned down to hug me. I gave him a big old smoochie kiss—Mommy took pictures.



Continued,

FROM A BITCHES' PERSPECTIVE, continued

I let the others greet Daddy too.

As I said I didn't know him, but boy, do I like him. I stayed next to him as much as I could. Daddy had been traveling for six (6), yes, six (6) days and he was very tired. Daddy was home on leave from the Army, stationed in Afghanistan. The leave is called R and R, which stands for Rest and Recuperation. And I will tell you he rested a lot the first two days.



Daddy was talking about the bombs that were going off almost every day where he "works" in Afghanistan—during the night when he tries to sleep and again in the day when he is working. So he doesn't get much sleep and was very, very, very tired. Daddy laid down on the sofa and Mommy told us to be quiet so he could sleep. She said it was very important that Daddy get his rest, so I laid down next to him and watched over him so he would not have to worry any while he was sleeping. Mommy said I was on GUARD DUTY and took pictures. I sat next to him, I lay next to him, I put my nose next to his...I just watched over him so he could rest!



When Daddy woke up, I brought him toys. My favorite toys! I brought him my big fish I got for my birthday. I brought him "the heart"...it is really not my toy, but I like to play with it. It is a soft velvety red heart and when I bite it, it says "I LOVE YOU, TEE HE HE HE HE HE". ʘ But my very favorite toy is my HAMBURGER, which Mommy pronounces HUM-BUG-GER. I would hold it right next to Daddy's mouth and talk to Daddy. Coo, Coo, Coo. And wag my tail so hard that my butt would wiggle. "Hi Daddy, I will give you my toys to play with."

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FROM A BITCHES' PERSPECTIVE, continued

I love my Daddy. I follow him everywhere. When he sits on the sofa, I sit on the sofa and squeeze up really close to him and lay my head on his shoulder (Mommy took pictures).



I would reach up and give him kisses. When he would go outside, I would go outside with him. When we would go to bed, I would lay on his pillow—he didn't like that too much—Mommy made me move. I just wanted to be next to him ALLLLLLL the time.

Mommy said she was jealous and that Daddy “stole” me from her. When they would go to the store or out to visit a friend, I would run to the door and greet DADDY! After he hugged me, I would go back to Mommy and give her a hug too. But I had to make sure my Daddy was okay first. Mommy doesn't need to be jealous. You see Daddy has to get all the hugs and kisses he can while he is home because he returns to the noisy bombs on January 6 and will be there until October. We won't get to see him and I want him to know how much I love him and for him to come home to a happy home with lots of kisses, hugs and waggy tails.

Daddy says I am such a spit fire...I'm not sure what that means—I know I drool all over when the “cookies” come out, but I don't spit. And as far as being on fire—I think that means I'm fast. I love to run fast...so that must be it. Next time Daddy comes home, maybe I can take him swimming with me in the lake. And I can show off with Blaze and Mama Honey Bear and Uncle Tank as we find the toys that float in the water.

Yippii Dippi, Yippii, Dippi, Yippii Dippi, zowie, wowie, I'm a happy happy, happy-- golden girl. And Daddy said to tell everyone again, thank you for sending the packages of “snacky food and treats” to him.

He shares them with the other Soldiers and it reminds them that they are loved and not forgotten as they are so far away from home. THANKS FOR THINKING OF HIM AND WISHING HIM WELL.

Love to everyone. Hugs and Kisses.

Princess Diamond —

Forever in Fashion Blue Jeans Lady (whew!)

GOLDEN NOTES

By Karin Boullion

Over the years, much of my writing has been about experiences I have had showing my dogs. I have had the pleasure of co-owning dogs with my good friend Peggy. She had a wonderful boy Rhapsody who was a challenge to show in the breed ring. He was one of those “rare” Golden who was not food or toy motivated. He was convinced any bait was poison and would refuse it or daintily take it and spit on the floor. While we were showing him to obtain his bench championship, many times he would lose to a lesser dog because he wouldn't “give ears” or a perked expression for a judge. It wasn't until he was with a junior handler working with a professional handler for a long weekend, that he learned to be a bit animated. After earning his championship, he started his next career in the obedience ring. Often during their training, Peggy had to keep an eye on Rhaps as he was known to hop the ring gates to join the puppy class, especially if there was a golden puppy in it. Although they had trained through Utility, they only competed and earned a CDX, as family issues took precedence over training and competing for a while. Rhapsody competed in every National he attended.

Highlights of his National “career” include making a cut in Best of Breed judging and placements in his last 4 years in the Veterans classes. Of course in those last years, his bait of choice became steak – age does have certain privileges. The night before Rhapsody was to compete, we had to find a local steakhouse so that our boy would have the proper bait. 2010 was the last year we showed Rhapsody at the National.

He was just shy of his 13th birthday, but finished his career by earning 2nd places in both sweeps & the regular veterans classes. Sadly, Rhapsody passed in the early morning hours of his 14th birthday. Now he is able to play with the puppies to his heart's content.

On another sad note, it appears our club will not be hosting a June specialty this year. Without people willing to take charge of these various events, we cannot have them. Some think it is not a big deal, since they are not always a “money-maker” for the club, but they may fall under the umbrella of public education, which is something the club is chartered to provide. I'm sure there are many clubs that have a similar issue, but others always seem to come through and have a good event. Many though, seem to be lacking the special quality that specialties used to have. There used to be events where breeders would bring out their best and the bred-by classes would showcase their breeding programs.



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GOLDEN NOTES, continued

Now they just seem to be another show that will hopefully have a large enough entry to award major points and for a professional handler to finish yet another client's dog.

Last year when I was working with others on our June specialty, we started talking about doing a "Goldens only" specialty type event where it was not only conformation, obedience & rally, but to also do agility as Goldens only as well, all on the same day. Of course this would require extra planning and a good workable team. Now would be the time for people to step up to try and make this a reality. This would be a doable possibility. Volunteers & suggestions are welcome!



THE POWER OF A MICRO-CHIP

By Randy Johnson

Dear "Golden Friends",

The story I'm about to tell could have easily been titled: "Saving Uncle Charlie". This old dog was truly saved due to his micro-chip information. My account of his rescue reaffirms the importance of micro-chipping your dog.

This July morning started out as a regular day. Well, at least "regular" for me lately. My dogs always wake me up early in the morning just as the summer sun starts to peek over the horizon. It's strange, but their wake up time is the same no matter what the season. I don't know how they do it, but my dogs are more reliable and demanding than any alarm clock I've ever owned. Now with the stress of having my wife deathly ill in the hospital, and of trying to squeeze as much time as possible to be with her day and night, this morning was a sleepy blur of chores being done by rote memory. I was just about to pour myself a second cup of coffee and head out the door to see my wife at the hospital when the phone rang. It was a call from an animal shelter in Elgin. Now Elgin is at least 30 miles from my home, so why would they be calling me? I wondered... The caller began by saying: "We have this dog turned in by Animal Control and the micro-chip information lists your name..." My mind started racing with all kinds of wild thoughts. For me, this kind of call is like a call from a Hospital emergency room.....my heart skipped a beat.

I immediately looked away from the phone and started to count dog faces. I have always been so careful to make sure all doors to the house, the dog kennels, and the fenced yard are closed and locked because I have a few "escape artists" who know how to open doors in their attempt to make a break for the great outdoors. Sure, I am more stressed now than usual because of my wife's illness but how could I have been so distracted to let my guard down? And just who is missing?

Continued,

THE POWER OF A MICRO-CHIP, continued

"ALL HANDS ON DECK!" They all look up at me in astonishment as I yell out their names. Their innocent looking faces show a look of puzzlement as to why I am suddenly so "on guard" and why I am urgently calling their names. They have facial expressions as if to say "What's wrong Dad?" or "Hey, I thought the emergency was over... I had breakfast already." Oh, and one of them gives me that look as if to say: "Well Dad, if there's a poop in the house, I sure didn't do it!" "There's always a comedian in the crowd," I muttered to myself.

Whew! I did roll call, and all my dogs are present and accounted for! So who is this Golden Retriever that is supposed to belong to me? I began questioning the caller.

It turns out the Golden Retriever they rescued is alive, unhurt, and in good health. Maybe a little too well fed, but in good spirits, and well behaved. "She" was found wandering around lost, in a neighborhood in Elgin. Like I said before, Elgin is a long way from my home. They said a Good Samaritan turned the dog in to their local Animal Control before the dog got hurt or hit by a car.

I asked the Animal shelter to wait a minute until I could get my Dog Records Book. I then asked them not to tell me the ID number but to describe the dog as best they could. Then I would read off some of my recorded micro-chip numbers to confirm a match. The second micro-chip number I read off to them was the chip number they had scanned in the dog. Whether the dog was male or female was of little concern to me at this point. Maybe I had made a mistake in my recording of the number to the correct dog in my record book or maybe they had not really checked the sex of this dog. At any rate, my Dog Record book and the micro-chip numbers I recorded at the time I "chipped" my pups before they went to their new homes matched their scan and confirmed that this dog was one of my pups from a litter whelped back in 2002!



This dog is now 9 years old!

Continued on Page 10,

THE POWER OF A MICRO-CHIP, continued

I referred back to my records and gave the animal shelter the names and phone numbers of the people who bought that puppy from me back in July of 2002. Unfortunately I never did get the name they gave the dog. When they picked up the dog they had not decided on a name and later that information slipped through the cracks. It is one of only three dog entries in my many years of dog records where a pup's name is missing. The animal shelter said they would try to contact the dog's owners and they would have the police department assist in finding the owners through their new address and phone numbers if needed.

I concluded that the people never updated the Avid chip information after they bought the dog from me. BUT, Avid did have my address and phone number, and luckily the dog is alive and unhurt. Most, if not all Veterinary clinics and animal shelters will run a scan for micro-chip information on lost dogs which are brought in to them. I asked them to keep me informed of the progress in finding this dog's owners. I also said that I would take the dog if it turned out that the people did not want this dog any longer. I told them that I will be following up on this little girl. She is no longer lost, and she will be coming home. She will either go back to her owner's home, or to live with her Dad, brother, niece and nephew at my house. My attitude as a dog breeder is that if I am going to bring a dog into this world, I will try to give it the best that I possibly can with solid genetic planning, as well as shots, a micro-chip, a myriad of information for the new pet owner, an obedience class voucher for the pup and its master, and my personal guarantee to that puppy that I will be there for it, if need be. I have always felt that a good ethical breeder is there for the life of the dog.

As the weeks went by, I kept in touch with the animal shelter. They had no luck with the phone numbers or the addresses that I had given them. The people had moved with no known or recorded forwarding address on record. I asked the shelter contact person what their next step would be. They replied that they would involve the local police in trying to track down a current address for these people. If the letters sent to that current address came back "undeliverable" then the dog would be set up for adoption. Again I said that I would take the dog back if its owners could not be found. Those 7 days seemed to fly by, and sure enough, all the search letters were returned as undeliverable.

In the interim of those seven days I had a previously scheduled surgical procedure for cancer. I was so sure that the dog's owners would be found and reunited that I never gave it much thought that I would have to pick up the dog. Now I was in a dilemma. Here I was, the dog was up for adoption and I was on Doctor's orders not to drive. I couldn't manage my pain to drive for this long of a trip to pick up the dog anyway. I was so bugged up that I was not able to even go the short distance to visit my wife in the hospital for a few of those days.

Continued,

THE POWER OF A MICRO-CHIP, continued

But a friend of mine said he would be working near Elgin and would pick up the dog for me. When "My Dog" was delivered right to my doorstep by my friend on a sunny Friday afternoon I knew at first sight that the dog was unmistakably from one of my litters. I was so very glad to finally see him again and to have him back home after 9 years of being "out there". After all, his first home was supposed to be his forever home and I felt that they had let him down and forsaken him in his old age. I was still tired, sore, and barely able to walk from my recent surgery, but the dog seemed to be at ease, calm, and happy to see me. He reeked of urine and feces from the shelter kennel, his hair looked like it had never seen a comb or any grooming, he had huge clumps of matted fur all over him, and he was overweight... I gave him a big hug. We must have been quite a sight to my friend as he was backing out of the driveway. I grinned at my friend with a wave of my hand and a "thumbs up" as the two of us slowly walked, waddled and limped through the garden gate and into my back yard. The first thing I did was to show the dog around his "new digs". I spent some time with him trying out different names but to no avail, he did not respond to any name I could think of. As the afternoon sunlight filtered through the oak leaves and cast contrasts of shadows and slivers of sun rays onto us, I looked at his face and into his eyes for an answer. His sweet almond colored Golden Retriever eyes were clear and bright and were a surprising contrast to his graying face and muzzle. He was starting to show the weariness of age. He was no longer a puppy. I smiled a sort of wry smile to myself. Here I was trying to give him a puppy name and he was already an "old man". Suddenly a name came to mind. He is an Uncle to my younger Golden Retrievers and he looked like my own Uncle Charlie. Well, not really like my Uncle Charlie, but he kinda reminded me of him, with that wide grin, the twinkling eyes, and the graying weather worn face. When I tried out the name on him, his tail started to wag. The name "Uncle Charlie" fit!

"Now to see if Uncle Charlie knows anything" I muttered to myself. "Sit," I commanded. He sat down immediately like a little soldier. I extended my hand and said, "Shake." At that very moment I could see a warmth spread across his face. He smiled and gave me his paw. Then he leaned into me and gave me his heart. It was as if the whole world opened up for him as he realized that we were both able to talk with each other and he had found a friend. His tail wagged frantically. Finally after weeks in a kennel and who knows how much time on his own, he felt the bond of human kindness.

Now on to grooming. What a job! As I cut off all the clumps of fur I reached around to see if Uncle Charlie was a neutered male. I had already found out that the "she-dog" described at the shelter really was a "he-dog" when he peed in my back yard, but little did I know I was in for another big surprise! I was cautious in my exploration because I didn't want him to get worried or panicked and bite me. As I felt into the gobs of fur under his tail, I felt a hard metallic object.

Continued on Page 11

THE POWER OF A MICRO-CHIP, continued

It turned out to be a fish hook! A 1/4 ounce lead weighted "jig head" walleye fish hook with a sharp barbed hook! Luckily the hook was surrounded by a tangle of fur and had not penetrated his skin. Remember how he sat so well for me when I commanded "Sit"? And to think how he survived in the shelter kennel for all those weeks with the barbed hook in his butt fur without injury. My mind could only imagine how and where he came across this fish hook in his travels. "Oh the stories he must have if only he could talk!" I thought.

"And as for storytelling, just how am I going to break the news of a "new puppy" in our household to my wife?!" I said out loud. Uncle Charlie just looked at me. He didn't have an answer for that question either.

Well, as it turned out, I had several more weeks to work on that problem. My wife finally got better and was released from the hospital. She spent a total of 7 weeks in the hospital this summer and was still recovering when she returned home. It was on the fourth day of her recovery at home when I knew my wife was really on the mend. She discovered "Uncle Charlie" in her kitchen. But that is another story...

Uncle Charlie is a very well behaved old man in our little "pack" of Golden Retrievers. He has found a niche in our family of pets, and in our hearts, that we didn't even know we had room for.

This story has a very happy ending, and it's all due to the power of a simple little micro-chip. Without that micro-chip information, I would have never known that this dog was abandoned or lost. He would have certainly been euthanized due to his age, his appearance with his dirty matted hair, and for the large number of younger more adoptable dogs at this animal shelter.

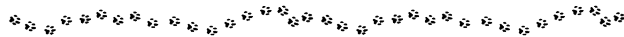


Please micro-chip your dog and be sure to renew the Avid or Home Again contact information.

You just never know when it may save your dog's life.
12735 187th Street, Mokena, IL 60448
815-485-4411 lottierandy@comcast.net

WEBSITE UPDATES

Beth Gerdes has kindly volunteered to maintain the updates related to the GRCI website. If you have brags, announcements, event postings or pictures, please send them to Beth Gerdes at gerdes2@maxwire.net.



MORE PUBLIC EDUCATION

By Pat Alberts

Remember the IKC Show is Feb 24-26.

An email will be sent out shortly for the IKC volunteers as soon as I get the needed information.

The 2012 IKC Dog Show will be held
February 24, 25 and 26 at
McCormick Place-Lakeside
2301 S. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60616

I am working on a presentation for our Club featuring our beloved dogs. If you haven't sent me your pictures please do so now.

Mark your Calendars for the Chicagoland Family Pet Expo Which is March 16-18. We have coupons for everyone to share with family and friends so they can get \$1.00 off of admission. Also, for every coupon that is tuned in at the Expo our club will receive \$1.00 back. So please print out the coupon below and pass as many out as you can to your friends, neighbors and your vet's office, your bank and anywhere you think someone might be interested in taking one.

See Us in Booth 235

Help Golden Retriever Club of Illinois by using this \$1 Off Coupon. For every coupon turned in with its name on it, the Chicagoland Family Pet Expo will donate \$1.

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Cannot be combined with Friday Night 2 for 1.
Please leave your area pet at home. Only attendees who are pre-registered for a contest are allowed to bring their pet.

For more information visit
www.PetChicago.com

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.

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

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.

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TO:



Next Meeting: February 15, 2012 at 7:00 PM