



**GOLDEN  
RETRIEVER  
CLUB OF  
ILLINOIS**

# Golden Moments

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**MARCH/APRIL 2012**

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## **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

*By Judy Bush*

Dear Golden Members and Friends,

We have some wonderful events coming up and of course would really like to see you and your Goldens participating.

Thanks to Pat Alberts for the wonderful artistic contribution of giving our educational booth a fresh new look. The formal debut will be at the Chicagoland Pet Show.

Thanks to Cathy Williams for the outstanding work on the IKC show.

Right around the corner is the **Chicagoland Pet Show**. GRCI has a strong presence there and welcomes our volunteers. The dates are March 16, 17, 18. More details on the inside of the Golden Moments.

Pat Covek is heading the **Health Clinic** again this year, on April 1; it affords us a wonderful opportunity to check out of Goldens' eyes, heart and microchip (if needed) at very reasonable prices. Forms are available on our web site.

Ruth Smith is organizing another **Fun Day** on April 28 for all those who want an intro to try out field work. See our web site for more information and join us.

GRCI nominating committee is headed by Cathy Williams, and information is forthcoming.

These are just the most current events that anyone can participate in.....please join us in all activities.

Next meeting will be at Ruff and Ready in Schaumburg.

Have a wonderful Spring, and get out and join us, you will enjoy yourself, and your Golden will thank you too.

Warm regards,

Judy and Chase

## **GRCI Board of Directors**

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**1-Year Director** – Open

## **Upcoming Meetings:**

**General Meeting**

**7:00 PM, April 18, 2012**

**Location: Ruff and Ready**

**339 W Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL**

**PHONE: 847-519-9140**

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## **Upcoming Events:**

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## **ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY**

By Judith C. Bush, MS, CJ

### **What can influence a session?**

While all of us who enjoy visiting and engaging in therapy activities with our golden team mate, we may notice that our clients seem "off" in some way.

There are three areas that may be factors that influence our clients' responses to our visits that are noteworthy:

#### **1. What are the physical conditions that can cause challenging issues?**

- a. Vision or hearing deficits
- b. Is there a present illness that is causing some problem
- c. Is the patient experiencing pain
- d. Sleep deprivation will in some instances cause fatigue, or the inability to focus
- e. Medication could cause side effects that interfere with therapy programs

#### **2. Patients can be challenged by some casual factors also, such as:**

- a. Present health condition: physical health can be responsible for less than desired results
- b. Ability to communicate presents problems to fulfilling tasks
- c. Emotional status at the time can distract clients from giving their complete self to the process
- d. Are the tasks appropriate to the age, mental well being, and physical condition of the client
- e. Environmental components can cause clients to become easily distracted: i.e., very cold rooms, crowded atmosphere, etc

#### **3. Emotional Issues Are Strong Components That Can Influence Behaviors**

- a. Is the client suffering from depression
- b. Is there a fear component apparent in the session
- c. Anxiety is a stumbling block to successful sessions
- d. What is the patient's security level
- e. Is there paranoia present
- f. A lack of concentration may result from the tempo of the session, or a combination of any of the above components

If we are aware of any issues that may present itself during the time you spend with your therapy dog and client, it is best to decide how to proceed.

More serious client issues should be addressed with the social worker. Some of the issues may be temporary, and perhaps cleared up by the next session. Yet others of a long lasting nature may be more difficult to work with, and require staff support.

Thank you for all you do to help others with your therapy dog.

## **THE OBEDIENCE CORNER**

By Jane L. Coen

### **“The Use of Gimmicks in Obedience Training”**

As I have noted in prior columns, my obedience training mentors were Bob Self Sr. and Jack Godsil. I attended my first Self/Godsil clinic in 1971, and was hooked. Over the years, I attended two dozen or more clinics put on by these exceptional trainers. I spent many enjoyable summer vacations at Bob's Summer School for Dog Trainers in Galesburg, Illinois.

My own training methods largely reflect what I learned from Bob and Jack. Their methods, when applied properly, produced excellent dog attention, enthusiasm and accuracy. A hallmark of dogs trained by the Self/Godsil method was instant responses to training commands, reflecting the use of fair, well-timed, motivational corrections, combined with lots of enthusiastic praise.

Bob and Jack's training methods were straight-forward, and did not involve a lot of gimmicks—or food. That being the case, you might find it interesting that, in this column, I am going to focus on a couple of gimmicks that I have found to be helpful in addressing two specific problems.

#### **Kicking the Dumbbell on the Retrieve**

**Problem:** When sent on a retrieve, the dog slams into the dumbbell with its feet, sending the dumbbell flying.

**Solution:** First of all, I want to stress that this problem typically does not occur if a dog has been taught to retrieve using a step-by-step force retrieve method that teaches the dog how to: 1) grab the dumbbell off of the ground by the bit, and 2) drive back to the handler instantly after picking up the dumbbell. Occasionally, however, a hard-driving, force-broken dog will develop the bad habit of hitting the dumbbell with its feet when it charges out to retrieve the dumbbell.

When this occurs, my first course of action is to back up in the training by putting the dog back on leash, sending the dog for the dumbbell and then giving a quick snap on the leash a moment before the dog reaches the dumbbell. If timed properly, this leash correction teaches the dog to snatch up the dumbbell quickly, and instantly drive back to the handler—without kicking the dumbbell with its feet. If the dog has been force-broken, the leash correction will not cause the dog to refuse to go out the next time it is sent for the dumbbell.

After using this leash correction for several training sessions, I test the dog by doing a full-length, off leash retrieve. If the dog reverts back to kicking the dumbbell with its feet, I go to Plan B, which involves having an assistant place a small (2 by 4 inches in size) mousetrap that has been set about eight inches beyond where the dumbbell lands when it is thrown for the retrieve. If the dog races out and slams into the dumbbell with its feet, the dumbbell will slide into the mousetrap, causing it to snap.

*Continued on Page 3,*

*THE OBEDIENCE CORNER, continued*

With most dogs, it is a one-time learning experience. The next time the dog is sent out for the dumbbell, the dog collects itself before reaching the dumbbell, and snatches the dumbbell up by the bit without touching the dumbbell with its feet.

If the dog runs out to the dumbbell, sees the mousetrap and goes over to investigate it, the mousetrap typically is set off by the dog's sniffing, which also tends to be a one-time learning experience. I've used small size mousetraps over the years to teach dogs to stay off of kitchen counters and out of garbage cans, and have never had a dog hurt by the traps. Now, keep in mind I'm talking about very small mousetraps and not large rat traps—there is a big difference between the two! My fingers have been snapped several times when setting the small traps, and have never been hurt in the process. It is the sound of the mousetrap snapping—more than anything else—that makes the traps effective at eliminating undesirable behaviors.

I'm working with a Golden right now that was sent up from Texas for training. The dog had already been force-broken on the dumbbell by its owner before being sent to me. This dog is an avid, hard-driving retriever. Unfortunately, the dog is one of those rare exceptions that, in spite of being force-broken, still developed the bad habit of slamming into the dumbbell with its feet when sent on a retrieve. Since I started using the mousetrap, the problem has all but disappeared. At this stage in the dog's training, when I train in new locations, the first time I send the dog out for the dumbbell, I have someone place the set mousetrap a few inches behind the dumbbell. Eventually, I will not need to do that, but for now, I'm not taking any chances of having the dog revert back to kicking the dumbbell with its feet.

#### Directed Jumping "Go Back"

**Problem:** The dog breaks down and begins to turn and sit before reaching the far end of the ring on the "Go Back" portion of the Utility "Directed Jumping" Exercise.

I tend to teach my dogs the Directed Jumping exercise when they are puppies, with the jumps set very low (e.g., eight inches with a young puppy). On the "Go Back" portion of the exercise, I start out by placing the Agility pause table at the end of the ring, and teach the puppy to go out to the pause table on which I've placed a small metal dog bowl with a biscuit in it. I begin very close to the table, and slowly increase the distance from the table over a few training sessions to where I can send the puppy out 40 feet onto the table where the puppy grabs the treat out of the bowl and then turns around to sit on the table. This is a very easy way to teach the "Go back."

My next step is to remove the table and place a dowel rod parallel to and about three feet from the wall or ring gate. This helps the dog understand exactly where you want it to sit when sent on the "Go Back." The dog must go all the way out to the wall or gate and sit behind the dowel rod.

*Continued,*

*THE OBEDIENCE CORNER, continued*

If the dog runs out to the end of the ring, but then turns on the "Sit" command and steps over the dowel rod, I go out to the dog and make it back up so that it ends up sitting on the side of the dowel rod closest to the wall or gate. I tell the dog "Back!" as I make the dog back up behind the dowel rod.

During a particular training session, if the dog fails to go all the way out to the wall or gate or if the dog goes out too slowly, I will bring the dog out to the end of the ring and have the dog watch me press a small white marshmallow against the wall or gate at the dog's eye level. I let the dog approach and grab the marshmallow off of the wall or gate and eat it. I then replace the marshmallow, while the dog is watching. [NOTE: To make the marshmallow stick to the wall or gate, I tear the marshmallow in half and press the sticky side of the marshmallow against the wall or gate.] In the past, I would stick a small piece of cheese against the wall or gate, but I have found the marshmallow works much better. I got the marshmallow idea from my friend whose dog I am currently training, and it works like a charm!

After replacing the marshmallow, I take the dog back to the other end of the ring and then send the dog out to the far end of the ring where the marshmallow is stuck to the wall or gate. As soon as the dog grabs the marshmallow, I give the "Sit!" command.

Over the course of several training sessions, I discontinue the use of both the dowel rod and the marshmallows. I then use them only when I train in new locations—until the dog is thoroughly proof trained—at which time I eliminate them altogether. If the dog ever reverts to breaking down too early on the "Go Back," beginning to turn and sit before being commanded to do so, I temporarily go back to using the dowel rod and/or marshmallow to reinforce that the dog must go out all the way to the wall or gate.

I eliminate the use of the marshmallow (or any other treat) prior to entering the dog in obedience trials because I do not want the dog running out on the "Go Back" and then begin sniffing the wall or gate at a trial. Such behavior would result in point deductions, negatively affecting the dog's score.

#### Conclusion

Although I do not typically use gimmicks as a first resort in training, they can be useful in certain circumstances if properly used. As trainers, we can tell whether a gimmick is effective if it delivers the result we are seeking. Like any other training technique, if the gimmick is not producing the desired result within a reasonable amount of time, it should be discontinued.

If chosen carefully and used effectively, gimmicks should enhance the training experience and contribute to our training success.

Until next time, Happy Heeling!

*Continued on Page 4,*

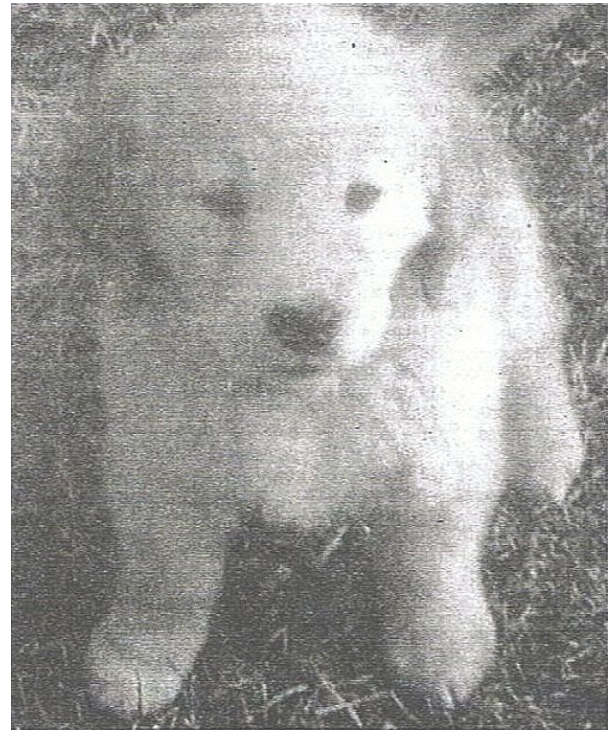
While this item was printed in the last issue, I thought I'd print it again as a reminder.  
Lynn Mines

**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](mailto:cwilliams0727@gmail.com), who will be leading the Nominating Committee.



The following photos are from the article, **GOOD AS GOLD, CLUB BRINGS TOGETHER LOCAL LOVERS OF GOLDEN RETRIEVERS**, that was printed in the January/February issue. I must apologize for the poor quality of the photos as they were scanned off of the article that had been also scanned,



*Michele Kolb's golden "Desitiny" as a puppy.*



*Kaye Dahlquist's dog, "Rolly", jumping the high jump at an agility trial.*



*Kaye Dahlquist's dog, "Tango", snoozing.*

*Photos continued.*



## 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](mailto: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](http://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: April 18, 2012 at 7:00 PM**