

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

GRREAT

F O S T E R H O M E S

SUMMER 2013 EDITION

GRREAT BEGINNINGS

WWW.GRREAT.ORG/FOSTERS

SUMMER GOLDEN FUN & LEASH SAFETY



Accidents happen and the most conscientious foster home can end up with a missing foster dog.

To help get a lost foster dog back home, it's very important that your foster is always wearing a collar with a GRREAT ID tag, as well as the microchip tag. If you're able to go to PetSmart or PetCo and get an inexpensive ID tag made with your name/phone #, it will make it even easier for anyone finding a foster to get him/her back home.

Should your foster dog get lost, you need to alert us by calling Lucinda Twining (703-754-4379) or Mary Collings, (540-720-8588).

It is GRREAT's firm policy that ALL Foster Dogs be kept on a leash at all times unless they are safe in a physically fenced yard. You may want to attach the leash to a secondary collar or halter, so that the identification tags are never mistakenly removed along with the leash. Please take all precautions while GRREAT entrusts you and your family with the precious life of a foster Golden.



GRREAT BEGINNINGS LEAD TO HAPPY ENDINGS

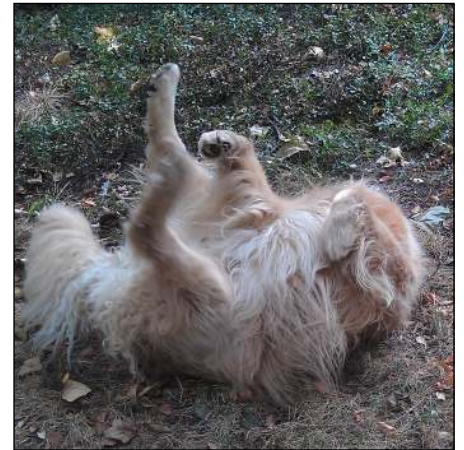
GRREAT BEGINNINGS

Paula Abernethy, POC

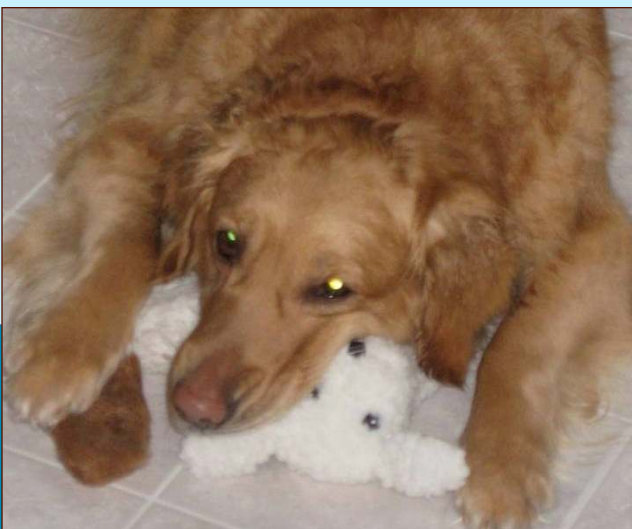
I am Paula Abernethy, and live in Annapolis, MD, with Halsey. He is the silly dog in the picture rolling in the yard. He is 10 years old. (I won't tell you how old I am). Halsey is the 4th golden retriever I have owned. I got hooked on the breed many years ago. My dogs have always been "my kids".

I grew up in suburban Kansas City, but have lived on the East Coast for 36 years. I retired 2 years ago from a career in Financial Aid at various colleges, including Brown University in Providence RI, Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, and St. John's College in Annapolis.

I first became aware of GRREAT about 12 years ago. I had just lost a dog, and was looking for another furry friend. I had heard wonderful things about GRREAT, and was impressed with the organization. I applied and was approved for adoption. At that time, I eventually got a golden puppy from a breeder, but still remained very interested in GRREAT. I have done home visits, reference checking, and now POC. When I read the stories of the dogs coming into the rescue, it makes me want to adopt every one of them. I am happy to make a small contribution to finding them their forever homes.



Jodi Foor, POC



Hello, my name is Jodi Foor and I am a Supervisory Archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration. I've been a POC since January 2012 and have enjoyed seeing these wonderful dogs find their forever homes. After losing our loving golden Buddy at the age of 14, my husband and I decided to research rescues and came across GRREAT. We were impressed with the work that GRREAT does. After submitting the paperwork, searching through the website, and visiting some of the dogs at an Adoption Day, we found our sweet little girl Yoshe. After that I decided that I wanted to help, but wasn't sure what I could do with my busy schedule until a POC position came open last January. Now here I am!!!



GRREAT BEGINNINGS

Ordering Dog Supplies

Supplies Coordinator, *Denise Malczewski*

Many of you recognize my name from when you first contacted GRREAT about fostering. In addition to processing the foster applications, I also have a second job with GRREAT, which is to get supplies to the foster dogs. We have a limited inventory of supplies, and the two main items we send out are heartworm prevention (currently Heartgard Plus) and flea/tick prevention (Frontline Plus). We also supply a leash, collar and GRREAT ID tag to each dog. These are usually on the dog when he or she arrives at the foster home.

We also carry specialty collars for dogs that are difficult to walk, joint supplements, fish oil, and some homeopathic-type remedies for nervous dogs. You should consult with your dog's POC about requesting these items.

We made a decision a few months ago to stop making supplies available at the monthly Adoption Days. This enabled us to consolidate our supplies in one location and reduce the overall inventory.

Requesting supplies is as easy as sending an e-mail to supplies@grreat.org (and please include the Foster Home Support Team on the e-mail). I make it a priority to get the supplies in the mail to the foster homes quickly. My Golden, Tucker, and I usually walk your package to the post office within a day of receiving your request. You can help speed the process by providing all the information I need in your e-mail:

- The foster dog's name and GRREAT ID number in the title of your message.
- Your full name and mailing address where you want the package sent. We don't want to take the chance of sending the package to the wrong address.
- The dog's weight. Most of our Golden retrievers fall into a weight range to receive Heartgard (51-100 pounds) and Frontline (44-88 pounds), but some of our big boys and small girls need other size meds.

And finally to answer some frequently asked questions: We do not send out meds prior to the dog arriving at your house. We do not send heartworm prevention meds until the dog has had a heartworm test. We don't send you the outer wrapping of the package because we share a package of meds among several dogs, and it is cheaper to mail them without the box. Yes, please send back any meds you do not use. Yes, I am always interested in learning about vendors willing to discount their prices to us, or any other ideas you have for improving the supply system. The packages are sent from the Fredericksburg, VA post office. Packages sent on a weekend don't leave the post office until Monday evening.



Water Safety & Your Dog

by AKC

Most dogs enjoy swimming, but some cannot swim, and others may hate the water. Be conscious of your dog's preferences and skills before trying to make him swim.

If you're swimming for the first time with your dog, start in shallow water and coax him in by calling his name. Encourage him with toys or treats. Or, let him follow another experienced dog he is friendly with.

Never throw your dog into the water.

If your dog begins to paddle with his front legs, lift his hind legs and help him float. He should quickly catch on and keep his back end up.

Don't let your dog overdo it; swimming is very hard work and he may tire quickly.

If swimming at the ocean, be careful of strong tides.

If you have your own pool, make sure your dog knows where the stairs or ladder are located. Be sure that pool covers are firmly in place; dogs have been known to slip in under openings in the covers and drown.

Never leave your dog unattended in water.

