

GRREAT FOSTER HOME NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

THE GRREAT FOSTER HOME TEAM

- Mary Collings
- Louise Davidson
- Kathryn Eszeki
- Lucinda Twining
- Jessie Robinson
- Julie Palais
- Linda Hunt

Welcome to the first GRREAT Foster Home Newsletter. The purpose of this periodic newsletter is to share with foster homes useful bits of information and provide reminders about procedures that must be followed when you have a GRREAT foster dog in your care. In this first edition we want to solicit your ideas as well as introduce you to our foster home team and briefly explain what we do. We also would like to welcome any new members of the GRREAT family to join our team. There is always a need for more help. By spread-



Buddy a GRREAT dog.

ing the work around everyone's job is made easier.

By way of introduction we thought it would be appropriate to introduce you to the Foster Home team so that you will know who we are when

you see our names on e-mail or if you are contacted by one of us. The important thing to remember is that we are all volunteers and we are all doing this because we love Golden Retrievers.

The Foster Home Team & the POC's

Many of you may have wondered what is a POC. It stands for "Point of Contact". We are meant to be the first responders to your questions and if you are having problems with your foster dog we are there to help. We try to keep in touch and to let you know that we are there should

you need advice about medical or behavioral issues. We are also there to remind you of the policies and procedures that GRREAT would like you to follow. In future editions of the newsletter we plan to review items from the GRREAT SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) and the Fos-

ter Home Refresher Card that is sent out every time you get a new foster dog. We will also include articles about issues that you may have encountered such as what to do if your foster dog escapes and whether or not you can change your foster dog's name. So, stay tuned!

THE FOSTER HOME TEAM MARY COLLINGS

I've been doing intakes since 2003 and in 2005, I became the Intake Coordinator. When the Foster Home Coordinator job became vacant, I volunteered to find foster homes for the dogs needing to come into GRREAT, in addition to my role as Intake Coordinator. Doing both jobs is

time consuming, but knowing I'm a piece of the puzzle that helps these Golden Retrievers find their way to their forever home makes every moment worth it. I enjoy working with the foster homes and every day, I'm inspired by their willingness to open up their hearts and homes to Golden Retrievers in need.



Rocky Collings, one of my GRREAT dogs.

THE FOSTER HOME TEAM LOUISE DAVIDSON

"I am happy to share my home with 2 dogs and 4 cats."

I started volunteering with GRREAT in 1999 by doing home visits to families wanting to foster or adopt Golden Retrievers, and by working at Adoption Days. Then three years ago I joined the Intake Team to help bring in dogs in need of new homes. While working on the Intake Team, I

developed an interest in the welfare of our rescued dogs that led me to become the POC for dogs in boarding for non-medical reasons. Fortunately that job is nearly obsolete since we've been able to find Foster Homes for all our rescued dogs. This year I became the secretary for GRREAT, and

have enjoyed the deeper involvement with the organization that this position brings. I still do home visits, transports, and intakes, and I hope to continue helping Golden Retrievers for many more years. I am happy to share my home with 2 dogs and 4 cats.

THE FOSTER HOME TEAM KATHRYN ESZEKI

I have been a volunteer with GRREAT for a little over one year. I began by helping out at Adoption Days and doing occasional transporting. Last winter I began fostering. This Spring I found that I wanted to become more involved in the wonderful

work that GRREAT does and I became a POC. I am the point of contact for fosters who have had some experience being fosters and whose Golden Retrievers are not under a vet's care. In my personal life, I grew up and still live in Silver Spring. My husband,

Basco and I have two daughters (20 and 16 years old). We live with our golden, Alex, two cats and a bird. We also foster and currently are fostering Katie 07-038. I am a Spanish teacher at Robert Frost Middle School in Rockville, Maryland,



where I find that the skills I hone while working with Golden Retrievers helps me at work!

THE FOSTER HOME TEAM LUCINDA TWINING

I grew up with Golden Retrievers and started as a foster home with GRREAT in 2001. I'm a twice-failed foster who now has 4 Golden Retrievers and who finally realized that I'd have a houseful of dogs if I didn't find some other way to contribute to GRREAT!! I became a POC in 2003 and have loved every minute of it!

Getting to work with such a devoted group of people and hear such wonderful stories about our foster dogs makes my day! As I have told my husband, being a POC allows me to adopt every single foster in my heart -- but not increase the population in my home!



The Twining pack

THE FOSTER HOME TEAM JESSIE ROBINSON

I adopted my first Golden in 1996 from the Sooner Golden Retriever Rescue in Oklahoma. I quickly became enamored of the Rescue experience and became the SGRR Adoption Coordinator that same year. I moved to Maryland in 1999 with Annie and my 8th (1st failed) foster Broccoli, and became the Adoption Coordinator for GRREAT in 2000. My first Rescue and Heart Dog Annie is still with me, she'll be 12 this year,

Broccoli will be 9, and I am also most fortunate to care for two wonderful Long Term Fosters, 5 yr old Bailey 04-092 and 4 yr old Peaches 05-140. I love working with Golden Retrievers and the people that care for them, and enjoy helping interested families adopt our Golden Retrievers-in-need. Currently I am also handling foster dog medical issues and am looking forward to working with each of you.

I am also most fortunate to care for two wonderful Long Term Fosters

THE FOSTER HOME TEAM JULIE PALAIS

I make yearly month-long trips to Antarctica

I joined GRREAT in 1995 when Rick (my husband) and I began fostering after losing my first Golden to cancer. We have fostered 18 dogs, 4 of whom we have adopted. Currently we have 3 Golden Retrievers, 2 from GRREAT and another who we got as a puppy in New Zealand. I work as a Program Manager with the U.S. Antarctic Program at the National Science Foun-

dation in Arlington, VA. I make yearly month-long trips to Antarctica and travel out of town frequently for meetings. I have done transports, owner give-ups and helped out at numerous GRREAT events. Our Golden Bailey who is registered with Therapy Dogs International takes me to do pet therapy 3-4 times a month.

GRREAT.ORG

NEWSLETTER NAME?

Finally, while we can continue to call it the "GRREAT Foster Home Newsletter" we thought that it might be good to think of a catchy title. Therefore, we have come up with a few possibilities. Please let us know what you think of this newsletter, share with us things that you want to hear about and tell

us what you think we should call this periodical.

Let us know if you like any of them or if you have other ideas.

Here are a few possibilities:

Foster News Flash

Foster Home News

Foster Home Headlines

Fostering Tips

Foster Home Helper

Foster Home Tips and Trends

THE FOSTER HOME TEAM LINDA HUNT

I became involved with GRREAT around 1993 or so when I adopted a "Two for One Special," Shadow and Roxy, who were found together as strays. The two Golden Retrievers who had been with me for over 12 years had just died and, of course, who can live without furballs draped across your feet and following you from room to room. After Shadow and Roxy each died, my husband and I decided to foster, and have had a number of long-term elderly GRREAT fosters. Currently I have two adopted GRREAT Golden Retrievers, Quincy (a blonde mischief-maker squirrel chaser) and Yeager (a red sweet velcro dog) who teases Quincy mercilessly. I have done a lot of home visits and

helped sporadically at adoption days and at other events. When Sandy asked if I would be interested in the long term foster position, I said yes, thinking I would have lots of time since I recently retired from school counseling. I thought I would have time to pursue my gardening and sewing and work with GRREAT, but the days do seem to fill up. Right now I'm helping my husband renovate houses for sale that he buys at auction and am working more than ever. I hope to get more involved with GRREAT in my current role. I feel that our long term foster parents are truly special, taking the sick, wounded and elderly and giving them tons of time and energy to make the lives of these special Golden Retrievers the best they can be.

Upcoming Newsletters

Please send your ideas of topics for future newsletters to Julie Palais, the FH Newsletter editor at palais-stevens@comcast.net. If you would like to contribute something to a future newsletter we welcome any and all contributions. Hopefully you will enjoy our future offerings.

