

GRREAT BEGINNINGS

Foster Home Newsletter

www.grreat.org/fosters

But, She Just Doesn't *Look* Like a 'Tootsie' to Me

So, your new foster dog arrives and she comes bounding up to you; cute as a button. You look at her name; you look at her sweet face and you think to yourself, "How in the world could your owners have named you Tootsie? What kind of name is Tootsie for this adorable golden?" The temptation is to change her name to something that you like better.

We ask you to resist that temptation!! Chances are that the adoptive home may change her name again once they adopt her; two name changes in a relatively short period of time can confuse a dog who is already trying to adapt to so many changes in her life.

However, there are occasions when a name change is necessary or a good idea:

1. Many times strays are given a name at the shelter. If the dog arrives and does not respond to that name, the foster home may want to try to find a name that the dog will respond to. One golden came in from a shelter with the name Les. He absolutely did not respond to that name even after several days of using it. When the foster home changed his name to Brody, he suddenly proved how well-behaved and attentive he was; coming immediately when called.

2. Sometimes the give

up owner will choose a name that is demeaning or inappropriate. If the give-up owner had named the dog Dopey or Mr. Stinky, then a name change would most definitely be appropriate.

3. There are also a few dogs that are put in the "dog-protection" program due to give-up circumstances. Jessie or Mary may advise you that their name needs to be changed especially if they are put on the web.

So, swallow hard and call her Tootsie. Hopefully, she'll get a better "forever name" when she gets her forever home!

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Tips From Fellow Fosters

Susan McKelvey has a special collar she uses for her foster dogs. She has FOSTER DOG and her phone number embroidered on the collar, so she is easy to contact if the dog gets loose.



Meet Kornbread 07-188

Thank You and Congratulations to Andrew DiFrancisco for suggesting GRREAT Beginnings as the name for the Foster Home Newsletter.

GRREAT Supplies

For each foster dog that comes into the rescue, GRREAT provides heartworm preventative (Interceptor or HeartGuard), flea/tick preventative (Frontline), and a GRREAT tag

which must be placed on the foster dog's collar as soon as possible. If the dog does not come with a leash and collar, they can be requested. We can also provide gentle

leaders, easy walk harnesses, glucosamine, rescue remedy, ear wash and some other medications if needed. Over the course of a year, these expenses,

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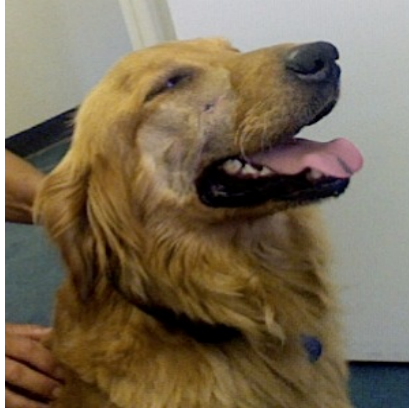
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"The Sun'll Come Out Tomorrow..."

The song from the musical "Annie" expresses the hope we have for our girl Annie 07-111. She's our special Golden who experienced a near tragic incident, but who will surely have all her tomorrows filled with sunshine. Annie is a three year old loving and trustful soul despite someone having inflicted a horrible injury to her face. She came to GRREAT in July 2007 after she had been shot with a copper projectile, probably a bullet or bb shot, and had been found wandering in a rural area. She immediately underwent surgery to correct the damage to her face, which included a hole in her jaw, extensive damage to her nasal cavity, one fractured tooth, and three shattered teeth. Annie was spayed at

the same time. Poor Annie was also found to be heartworm positive, which would require treatment later. Unfortunately Annie's wounds did not heal as well as had been anticipated and more surgery was needed to prevent



continuous infections and complications. A specialist performed her second surgery in early August and it was a complete success. Two weeks later Annie started her heartworm treatment, which continued through mid-September. Through all the procedures and home-care treatments of her wounds, Annie's playful and loving Golden spirit has continued to shine. Her zest for life has seen her through the worst that could befall her and will surely warm the hearts of her new adoptive family. She should be ready to be adopted in mid-December, just in time to celebrate the New Year with her new forever family.

The Scoop on Medical Costs and our Financial Situation

So far this year we have been BLESSED with more than \$96,000 in donations. Many families care deeply about our mission and have been incredibly and reliably supportive both with their money and their time.

So far this year we have been HIT with more than \$157,000 in vet expenses.

For more than 20 years, GRREAT has NEVER had to turn away a Golden-in-need because of medical issues. If you take a look at our Special Needs Page, http://www.grreat.org/doglist_special.htm, you can see just a few of the Golden's we have recently helped. This year we have taken dogs with gun-shot wounds, cancer, hip dysplasia, degenerative myelopathy, heartworms, Lyme disease, and the list goes on.

Some of the dogs we can help to get better and others we can keep comfortable and loved until it's time to let them go.

Some of our costs come from major surgeries and treatments but MOST is

from routine care. Veterinary costs vary widely from one practice to another. Even with our GRREAT discount, a neuter can cost anywhere from \$75 to over \$300! All of these expenses, large and small, add up for the more than 250 dogs we take in each year. Our Treasurer, Kathy Thomas, is currently working on a list to identify the vets that consistently provide quality care for the least total cost and we hope to have that information available soon.

YOU CAN HELP us to keep rescuing Golden's that need us! Please be careful and vigilant when you take your foster to the vet. Keep our costs for routine care as low as possible, even small charges add up.

1. Review the vet letter and the Refresher Card that are included in the paperwork pack and informational emails that you receive for each foster you take in, to be sure you are aware of what tests and procedures are pre-authorized and which require special authorization.

2. Take contact phone numbers with you in case you need to request authorization while at the vet's office (Jessie: 301-503-3963cell, 301-240-4355wk; Mary: 540-720-8588hm)
3. If possible, please consider traveling (or volunteering to help provide transport help) to a vet a little farther away where we can get quality vet care for a smaller cost.
4. Spread the word about GRREAT and encourage the people you meet to become members and to donate their time and their financial support. Along with donations, our income comes from memberships, fundraisers, merchandise sales and events.

Together we can safeguard our finances and ensure that we never have to turn our backs on a Golden-in-need.

Crating—It's a Good Thing

A crate can be a very good tool for training your foster dog, keeping him or her safe, keeping your house in one piece and minimizing housebreaking accidents. Foster homes that have not used a crate before will sometimes have misconceptions that crating is cruel or mean. As much as many of us like to be able to give all of our dogs the run of the house, it is not appropriate for every dog. If used properly, crating can be comforting and kind to your foster dog. Dogs who are crate trained often view their crate as their "safe place" where they can get away from it all.

GRREAT does not recommend leaving your foster dog alone with your other animals until you are sure everyone is going to get along well in your absence. A crate is an excellent tool to use.

A dog undergoing heartworm treatment needs to be kept quiet for at least 4 weeks – no small feat with a golden. A crate can come in very handy. Also, some of our foster dogs require surgery – a spay or neuter or something more serious, and need to be kept quiet for a period of time.

There are a number of rules when using a crate.

1. NEVER use the crate as punishment.
2. DO NOT use a crate if your dog has separation or thunderstorm anxiety – he may seriously injure himself trying to escape.

3. A dog should not be crated for more than 4 to 6 hours without a break. If you are gone all day, you need to make arrangements for someone to let your dog out to stretch his legs and go to the bathroom.

4. The crate should be big enough for the dog to stand up and turn around.

5. You should provide plenty of clean water.

6. If your dog has diarrhea or vomiting, don't crate him – he may not be able to avoid messing in his crate and then will be forced to remain in there with the mess.

7. If your dog's collar could get stuck on the crate, it should be removed while the dog is inside.

8. Do not allow your children in the crate with the dog – it is his safe place.



9. The crate should be placed in an area where the family hangs out – you don't want to isolate your foster dog.

Tips to get your foster dog used to the crate:

1. Do not force your dog into the crate. Instead, offer a special treat or toy to entice him in the crate.

2. Start out with very short periods of time in the crate. Slowly lengthen the amount of time the dog can spend in the crate.

3. If you are using the crate as a housebreaking aid, immediately take the dog outside when you release him from the crate.

4. Teach him a cue (and make sure to reward) when asking him to go in the crate – such as "kennel up" or "go to your house" or "go to bed."

5. When you are home and your dog is out of the crate, leave the door open so he can go in if he likes. Make sure to praise him if he does this.

6. If your dog is reactive towards other dogs while in the crate, do not let them near the crate – teasing him is cruel.

Your POC can give you additional resources, tips and rules on crate training, and we also have a brochure available. GRREAT has crates for loan if you need to borrow one – just ask.

"I am joy in a woolly coat, come to dance in your life, to make you laugh." - Julie Church

Do you have tips for other foster homes? Do you have health or behavior questions? We are looking for items for upcoming issues. Submit articles and/or questions to your POC. If you are interesting in helping to publish the GRREAT Beginnings FH Newsletter, please contact president@grreat.org.

Meet Our New POC's



Erin Ledbetter:

My husband, Jeremy and I rescued our first Golden, Riley, at the SPCA in Stratham, NH back in 2004. She was so out of control at 11 months old we worked with her through several Obedience classes, Rally-O and Agility. We were so proud and amazed when she earned her Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Award. We got our puppy (my heart dog), Eoghan, from a wonderful, responsible breeder that we found through Yankee Golden Rescue in 2005 and rescued Darby, our YGRR boy only 2 months later. They're all such wonderful Golden and get a long better than I ever imagined. We moved to Maryland from New Hampshire back in Dec 2005 and found GRREAT a few months later. Our first foster, Mojo, came to us in December 2006. It was so difficult to not become a "failed" foster home and keep him, but that perfect family found us and that relationship has been so rewarding. I became a "POC" in July 2007 and I've really enjoyed having more of a connection to all of the foster Golden that come through the system. I've learned so much from the POC team, and hope to help my foster homes with what I've learned.

Kathy Dai:

Last Fall I was introduced to GRREAT through a friend who fostered and adopted several GRREAT dogs. I actually wanted to adopt a dog, not foster one! After contacting several foster families, I was talked into opening my home as well as my heart. I fostered Pooh Bear and Herndon who both easily won me over with their smiles, wet kisses and enthusiasm. This summer I received yet another call to foster but wasn't sure I, a twice-failed foster, could foster another Golden without adopting! I knew there had to be another way for me to help, and I became a POC. I am proud to be part of an organization that has brought me and "my girls" together.

Chris Pierce:

My partner Dave and I are "owned" by a goofy Golden Doodle named Emmett. We'd been discussing it for awhile, and this spring decided we were ready to start fostering. Well, we jumped right in and are currently fostering our 5th dog. What a rewarding experience! We also help out another rescue organization that works with all breeds, but Golden have my heart. (Guess you probably know that feeling!) I saw in the newsletter that a POC position was open and knew I could make the time to help a little more. Even though we've been associated with GRREAT only a short time, the dedication, support and professionalism we've seen from every member of this organization is tremendous. I'm so proud to be a part of this group and excited about the opportunity to help these wonderful dogs find their forever homes.

GRREAT Supplies (Cont.)

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paid for through donations, add up to thousands of dollars so we look to you to help us manage our supplies and keep our costs as low as possible.

Supplies can be picked up at any Adoption Day or requested by emailing Sue Rose, our supply coordinator, supplies@grreat.org. Sue will send out a three month supply of heartworm preventative and Frontline, and a leash/collar if needed. When your foster dog is adopted out, you should provide the new family with a ONE MONTH supply. If you have

any left over, it should be used for your next foster, or returned to Sue or Jessie. (Medication prescribed by the vet for your foster dog does go along with him or her.) Also, if you receive glucosamine or rescue remedy, or a gentle leader or harness, these are not usually adopted along with the dog. However, if the family wishes to keep the harness, they can add an extra \$20 to their adoption check. Please let Jessie know if you do this. If the family already has a leash and collar for their new dog, please transfer the GRREAT tag to the new collar and then

