GRREAT FOSTER HOMES

SUMMER EDITION 2009

Adoption Day	Wags 'N' Whiskers	Adoption Day	Adoption Day
July 11th Noon - 2pm	*July 26th Noon - 3pm*	*August 1st Noon-2pm*	*September 5th Noon - 2pm*
PetCo	Barracks Road Shopping Center	Weber's Pet Supermarket	PetCo
12960 Middlebrook Road #520A	1117 Emmet St.	14508G Lee Road	615 Bel Air Rd, Suite P
Germantown, MD	Charlottesville, VA	Chantilly, VA	Bel Air, MD

www.grreat.org/fosters/

Boating Safety Tips

by Miranda Craige & Wesley

- **Life Jacket**: Pets can easily become tired and need rest, a life jacket makes it easy to pull your pet back into the boat if they were to fall overboard.
- **Leash:** Waves and the motion could cause your pet to slip or hurt themselves, a leash or harness will secure your pet until he becomes comfortable with the motion.
- **First Aid Kits:** A few things to help build up your Pet First Aid Kit are their medical records, water, towel, gauze, isopropyl alcohol and scissors.
- **Shade:** Heat exhaustion can quickly overcome a pet when out on a boat all day. Remember to bring shade and allow your pet to cool off with a dip in the water.
- **Nature Calls:** Go to shore often for potty breaks.

CAR SAFETY & YOUR GOLDEN

By Louise Davidson

Car rides are a fun activity for most dogs, and with the warmer weather you might be on the road with your canine friends more often. Here are a few tips to help keep you and your doggie passengers safe in the car:

- ☑ Keep your dog leashed when entering and exiting the car, and always do so from the pavement side. Train your dog to always "wait" when the car door is opened, even when you've arrived home, so that he is not tempted to jump out of the car on a busy street.
- ☑ Restrain your dog in the car so that he does not interfere with your driving or become a projectile, harming himself or you and your other passengers. Use a seat harness or crate your dog for his protection. Crating is an excellent option as it will protect your dog in the event of an accident - your dog will be secure on impact and will not exit the car and wander into traffic, or be a deterrent to medical personal tending to you if you are injured. Be sure to secure the crate. Another option is to install a pet barrier to keep your dog in the back seat.
- ☑ NEVER allow your dog to ride in the front seat of a car, even with a harness. Sudden stops and the deployment of air bags could cause serious injury, or worse, to your dog.
- ☑ NEVER allow your dog to ride in the bed of a pickup truck; temptations could cause him to jump out, and even if tied the attempt to jump out could cause the dog to be choked or dragged.
- ☑ Do not allow your dog to put his head out of the window. Dust and debris could cause an eye or ear injury, and your dog could escape through an open window, even one that seems too small for him to fit through.
- ☑ The danger of leaving an unattended dog in the car can not be overstated. With an outside temperature of only 78 degrees, a closed car will reach 90 degree in only 5 minutes, and 110 degrees in 25 minutes. On hotter summer days, the interior temperature of a car can reach almost 150°F within a very short amount of time. Our canine friends do not sweat so they are unable to cool themselves like humans do. It's against the law in MD to leave your dog unattended in a car, and also against the law to leave your ignition on while unattended, so please just leave him at home where he is safe and cool.
- ☑ Please do not leave your dog in your car with the air conditioning on as it could fail and lead to tragedy.

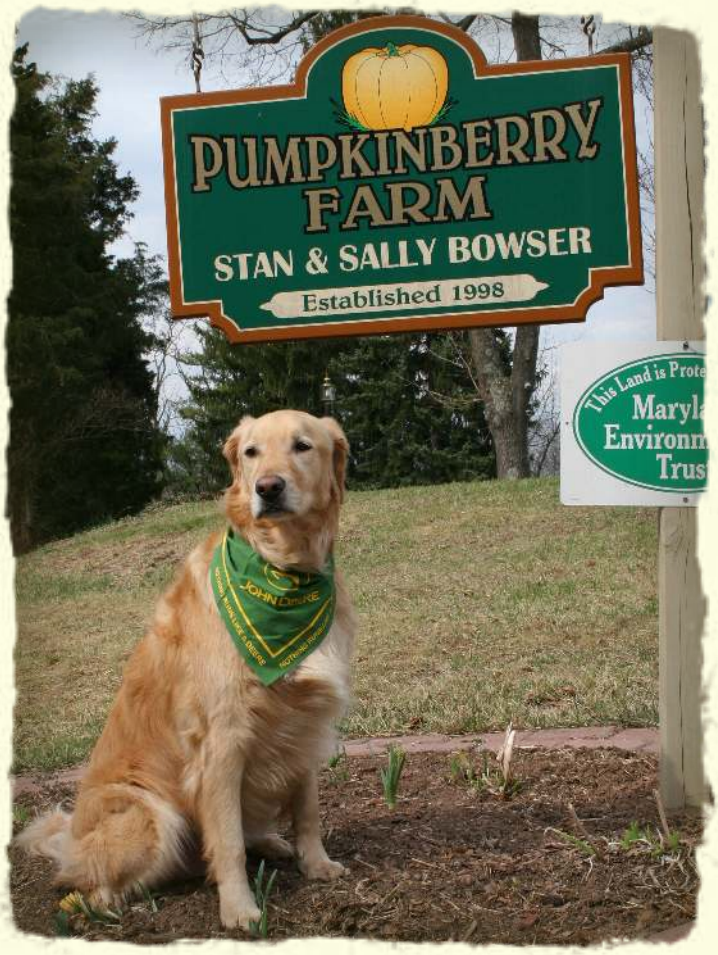
WINSTON'S STORY BY SALLY BOWSER

Stan and I adopted Winston (08-182) and like most of you who have adopted Goldens, we wondered about his life before coming to live with us at Pumpkinberry Farm. His previous years are a mystery, but his behavior gave us some clues. We thought perhaps he was owned by *city folk*. At times the wide open spaces in the mountains of Western Maryland seemed foreign to him. Sights, sounds and smells were fascinating and at the same time just a little bit scary. I labeled him a *Condo Dog* because often he sought refuge in the house when the great outdoors overwhelmed him.

He arrived at our farm two weeks before rifle season and the distant sound of gunfire would send him high tailing it back to the house. I remember a full moon one night soon after we brought him home. Winston just stared and stared at the moon for the longest time trying to figure out what that glowing ball in the night sky was. Sometimes he would sniff the air as if there was some scent he couldn't quite put his paw on. Then there was the deer poop he found especially delectable to his Golden palate. Those little round nuggets were just too irresistible!

As time went on, he settled into life on the farm and he started to take the job as "Farm Boss" seriously. He entertained the cats, Anna and Meadow. He was always on hand to welcome friends and family who came to visit. On trail patrol he would scatter a flock of loitering turkeys or chase deer just to let them know who was in charge. He made sure the pond was stirred up on a regular basis so there was no chance of it becoming stagnant.

This February, while keeping Stan company on a morning jog, a peculiar animal crossed his path. He thought it looked a little like Meadow the cat, so he went closer to investigate (maybe it wanted to play?). He realized as he got closer that it didn't smell quite right. He heard Stan say "LEAVE IT" but it was just too unusual to "leave it" without a good sniff. Of course "leave it" would have been the thing to do, but hindsight is 20/20. Winston learned the hard way that the black and white "cats" are best left alone.



WINSTON 08-182
THE FARM BOSS

PUMPKINBERRY FARM'S DESKUNKING SHAMPOO

1 QT 3% HYDROGEN PEROXIDE
¼ CUP BAKING SODA
¼ TEASPOON DETERGENT

First: wash the dog with regular dog shampoo
Second: wash with hydrogen peroxide mixture
Third: douse with tomato juice
Fourth: rinse and shampoo one last time.

Winston is not the first in the Bowser family to be bested by a skunk. Our first Golden Retriever Olga, who is known around Pumpkinberry Farm as Saint Olga and was practically perfect in every way, took a very long time to figure out that skunks are not very tolerant of curious Retrievers. I believe Olga's record is four direct hits, and two of those were in the same week! The record holder is my brother's Collie, Casey, her personal best was seven. Then again, in her case the skunk lived under the front porch so that was hardly fair.

Lucky for Winston, we are experienced at deskunking dogs. Armed with the right ingredients we soon had him smelling sweet. Here is our arsenal for combating Pepe le Pew's perfume. (see recipe, left)

So just in case, tuck this recipe away in a safe place for future reference. After all, skunks are not exclusive to the mountains of Western Maryland!

LIVING ROOM AGILITY

BY JESSIE ROBINSON

You aren't the only one tired of all the rain! One of the most common reasons for behavior problems in our foster dogs is boredom and excess energy. Not every Golden loves to play fetch so here are a few ideas to keep your Golden engaged both mentally and physically, particularly for those rainy days.

Rainy Day Obstacle Course

- **Collapsed Tunnel Adventure:** Place a blanket over a chair or coffee table so that it hangs down on opposite sides, and make sure the blanket is "attached" so it doesn't fall off. Have your dog wait on one side of the tunnel. Go to the other end, pick up the blanket, and catch your dog's eye. Call him and reward him when he comes to you. Do this a few more times, each time lowering the blanket a little so that he gets used to pushing through to the exit. Keep the degree of difficulty low in the beginning. Tip: Don't be stingy with the praise and treats, reward even for small successes!

- **Jumps:** Use a rolled up blanket, broomstick, narrow shelf, etc. Make it very easy to start and encourage your dog to step/jump over the object using treats and lots of praise. Once he gets the hang of it, start using a verbal cue like "jump." Once he is doing it consistently, then try adding a few more hurdles of varying heights (don't make them more than a foot or so high) and take him over those; praising him and giving him treats when he does them. Tip: Be sure that the flooring is NOT slippery!

- **Easter Egg Hunt:** First, teach him the "find it" command – not difficult to do when there is a treat involved. Start by holding a treat in one fist and then tell the dog to "find it." As soon as he sniffs the hand with the treat, tell him he is a good boy and give him the treat. Repeat this a few times. Then, hide the treat under your leg or foot and tell him to "find it". After a few sessions of the easy stuff, hide the treat nearby - maybe under a toy or next to a chair leg and tell him to "find it". The trick here is to make it easy enough for him to find it that you don't have to show him where it is – that defeats the purpose of engaging him mentally. Gradually, hide the treat further and further away, and in slightly more challenging locations. Once he clearly understands the "find it" game you are ready to go. Tip: Be sure to note the location of each hidden treat so you can make sure your dog finds them all!

- **Outside Easter Egg Hunt:** In a safe (fenced in) area, toss a handful of quality treats into the yard away from you. Let the dog see you do this (you can do this with multiple dogs as long as none of them will resource guard food or treats.). While your dog runs off to find them, toss another handful in a different direction. The dog will have a blast using his or her nose to try to find where those precious morsels might have landed. Do this no more than once a week so he doesn't get bored with it and so he doesn't wind up gaining weight. Tip: To help control the calories, you can decrease your dog's dinner portion in proportion to the amount of treats you give.

For more ideas, check out: *Playtime for Your Dog: Keep Him Busy Throughout the Day*, by Christina Sondermann

KEEPING IT SAFE IN THE SUMMERTIME

BY LOUISE DAVIDSON

Heat Dangers in the GRREAT Outdoors

Now that summer is here, we're likely to be spending more time outdoors with our dogs. While outdoor activities are always fun for our canine friends, they also pose the threat of heat-related dangers, including heat distress or heat stroke, dehydration, and sunburn. Because dogs do not sweat, they are unable to release heat from their bodies as efficiently as humans, and heat can seriously harm your dog or even cause death. In this article, we'll share some important information with you: how to preventing a horrible heat-related condition, what the signs of canine heat distress are, and what to do if your dog should exhibit signs of a heat problem.

Preventing Heat Related Harm to your Dog

- Keep in mind that humidity can be as much of a danger to your dog as the high temperatures of summer.
- **Don't shave your dog**, but keep him well-groomed. His coat acts as an insulator against the summer's heat and prevents sunburn.
- Acclimate your dog to higher temperatures, initially allowing him to spend time outdoors early or late in the day and then gradually spending more time outdoors during the hotter hours of the day. If you run with your dog, do it early or late in the day.
- Try to keep your dog's outdoor activities in cooler shaded places, or in locations near bodies of water. Many dogs enjoy the coolness of a simple wading pool in your own back yard.
- Always provide lots of drinking water, and cold water is best. Adding ice cubes to your dog's water bowl will help to keep it cold throughout the day.
- NEVER leave your dog unattended in a car, even with the windows open. Temperatures in a car rise rapidly and can cause serious harm or death to your dog.

Signs of Heat Distress or Heat Stroke in your Dog

- He's panting and salivating excessively
- His tongue and gums are deep red or blue
- His skin is warm and dry, or his nose and foot pads are warm
- His eyes are glazed
- He is distressed and/or agitated
- He is unusually fatigued, weak, or exhausted
- He is experiencing vomiting or diarrhea
- His temperature is 105 degrees or higher. A dog's normal temperature is about 101 degrees, and is best taken with a rectal thermometer.
- His pulse is fast. In a small dog, normal is from about 120 to 150 beats per minute; in a medium dog, normal is from about 80 to 120 beats per minute; and in a large dog, normal is from about 60 to 80 beats per minute. Your dog's pulse can be taken by having him lie on his side and pressing your index and middle fingers against the blood vessel in the "V" formed where underside of his top hind leg attaches to his body.
- He is immobile, has collapsed, or has lost consciousness

What to do if your dog is suffering from Heat Stroke

- Provide immediate first aid and get him to a veterinarian as soon as possible. Even if you are able to get his temperature and behavior back to normal, his body temperature could rise again.
- Move him to a cool, shady area
- Gradually immerse him in cool water, or wet him thoroughly with a continuous flow of cool water to his head and extremities. If this is not possible, apply wet towels to his head and neck, groin and legs, and his abdomen.
- Apply ice packs to his head and neck and between his thighs
- Give him small amounts of water or crushed ice to replace fluids

Let's All have a GRREAT Summer and CHILL!