

Golden Retriever Rescue Education and Training

GRREAT Foster Homes

GRREAT Beginnings Fall 2009 Edition

www.GRREAT.org/fosters

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“Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all.” - Stanley Horowitz

You can get a head start on your holiday shopping and help GRREAT Goldens by checking out the GRREAT Store

GRREAT AUTUMN UPDATES

ORDERING FOSTER DOG SUPPLIES

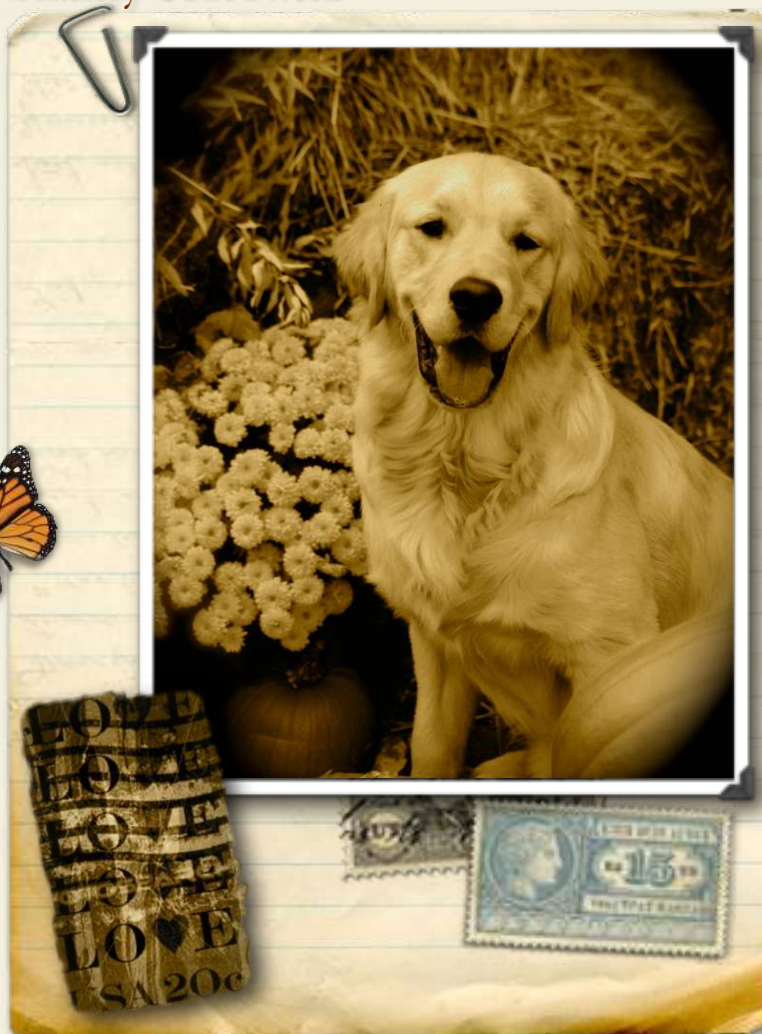
Jeremy Ledbetter has become our Supplies Coordinator due to the recent passing of Sue Rose. Please continue to order supplies using the Supplies@grreat.org e-mail address. Remember to **always** copy your POC, Mary Collings, Jessie Robinson and Erin Ledbetter on all e-mail correspondence regarding your Foster Golden.

FALL EVENTS: FUN FOR GOLDEN FAMILIES

Fall is the time of year where just about every weekend has a fun event lined up for you and your Golden. Check the Calendar of Events on the GRREAT website to find an event that interests you.

ADOPTION DAYS FOR THE FALL

- Oct 3rd: PetCo in Alexandria, VA
- Nov 7th: PetCo in Annapolis, MD
- Dec 5th: PetCo in Dale City, VA



GRREAT BEGINNINGS LEAD TO HAPPY ENDINGS

Acupuncture is Not Just for Pain Relief

by Mary Collings, Intake Coordinator and POC Team Lead

In Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), animals and humans are considered small parts of an infinite universe. Every animal and human has what is called a life force, or Qi (pronounced "chee") and TCM views any disease or pain as an imbalance of Qi in the body. Acupuncture is used to open up channels (also called meridians) in the body, which results in balance, restoration of health, and harmony. Many acupuncturists also recommend using herbs, massage, and good nutrition as compliments to acupuncture.

There are a lot of people who think that acupuncture is used only to get relief from pain, primarily the pain associated with hip dysplasia or arthritis. However, acupuncture can also be used to treat respiratory conditions, skin conditions, gastrointestinal disorders, neurological disorders, anxiety disorders, and numerous other conditions and/or diseases.

I have to admit I was a skeptic about the effectiveness of acupuncture. I'd heard what can best be described as "miracles" in dogs who had received acupuncture treatment and frankly, I wasn't buying any of it. However, when my girl Shelby was diagnosed with cancer, I was more than willing to try anything to help her. I was already doing everything I knew to do with her diet and supplements and since I knew acupuncture couldn't hurt her, I decided to try it. Shelby's cancer was not treatable so I wasn't expecting acupuncture to cure her, but my hope was to be able to provide her with some relief from the pain she was beginning to have. A day or two after her first acupuncture treatment, Shelby became much more active, energetic, and seemingly pain-free. She ran and played in the back yard with the enthusiasm of a dog much younger than her almost 12 years.

A couple of months after Shelby's passing, one of my other dogs started having some pain in his right front leg and he would limp off/on. X-rays confirmed that Rocky has arthritis in his leg. I chose not to go the route of standard pain medications, so Rocky started getting acupuncture treatments. The acupuncture was initially designed to treat the arthritis, but the vet inserted additional needles to treat his hip dysplasia, Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) and fear of thunderstorms. During the third treatment, she attached several of the needles to



ROCKY DURING HIS ACUPUNCTURE TREATMENT

electrodes to provide additional stimulation to assist in opening up the channels. I already have Rocky's IBD pretty well under control through a good diet and his hips have never bothered him, so I wasn't expecting to notice any changes in those two areas. However, I've seen some pretty impressive results from the treatment in that he has not limped on his front leg one time since getting acupuncture, which classifies this as being pretty close to a miracle in my eyes. The huge change in Rocky and what I'll readily call a miracle, is that Rocky doesn't get fearful and panicky during thunderstorms anymore. After going through a few treatments, we had a pretty bad thunderstorm and Rocky paced around for a few minutes, climbed up on the loveseat next to me, and went to sleep. The rest of the Summer provided numerous thunderstorms and Rocky calmly slept through each of them, after just a few moments of pacing.

I've seen what it can do and while I know that not all dogs benefit from it, from what I've been told and what I've read, most dogs do. After my experiences with Shelby and Rocky getting acupuncture, I am definitely not a skeptic anymore!

"I've seen some pretty impressive results from the treatment in that he has not limped on his front leg one time since getting acupuncture"



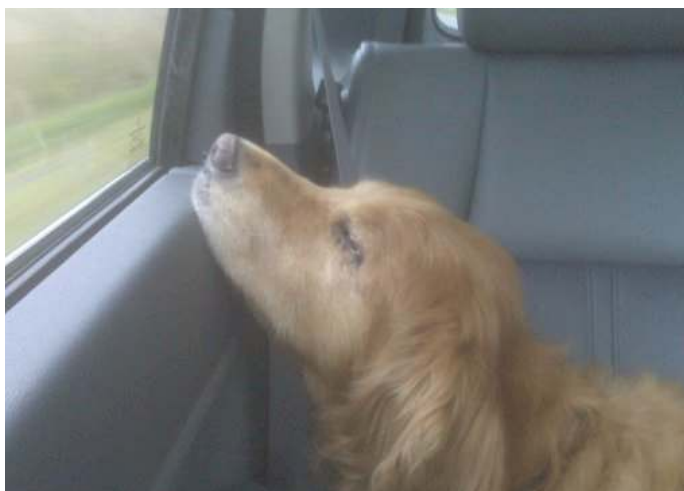
Sponsor Me!

A New Program for GRREAT's Special Needs Dogs

by Louise Davidson, Secretary, Intake Assistant and Long Term Foster POC



GRREAT has implemented a new Sponsor Me! program to help our Special Needs Dogs. As you probably know, some of our foster dogs are not adoptable because of illness and/or old age, but GRREAT has provided a way for them to live their happy Golden lives in their Forever Homes. These special dogs are called Long Term Fosters, and they live with a permanent foster family who takes care of their everyday needs and provides them with the loving environment they so need and deserve.



TONY 09-134 ON HIS WAY TO THE VET

For most of these dogs their medical treatment costs are covered by GRREAT, but now the Sponsor Me! Program gives donors the opportunity to help provide for the care of one or

more of these dogs. We are adding write-ups about our Long Term Fosters to the Special Needs Dogs page (www.grreat.org/dogs/doglist_special.htm) so that people can read about them and then select which dog(s) they would like to sponsor. Donors may choose to make a one-time contribution, or to join the Monthly Donation Club to receive a monthly reminder email for making their contribution. You might be surprised at how many Long Term Fosters remain GRREAT's responsibility for the rest of their lives. We hope you'll read their heart-warming stories, and maybe even consider contributing towards their care.



PEACHES 05-140



CHARLIE 08-150



STEVIE 08-208

LOUISE DAVIDSON, LONG TERM FOSTER POC

I love the Golden Oldies and have always been drawn to the critters needing special care, so it seems I was destined to become the new POC for Long Term Fosters. I started volunteering with GRREAT in 1999 by doing home visits and working at Adoption Days. Then I joined the Intake Team five years ago, started doing transports, and became the Secretary for GRREAT three years ago.

My first GRREAT foster dog was Sadie 00-108, an older mix, who was adopted after a few months. Then came Hannah 02-134, a sick old girl who came to me as a Long Term Foster and was not expected to live more than a few weeks or maybe a few months at best. A year later I adopted Hannah, and she stayed with me for another 2½ years before she made her way to the Rainbow Bridge at age 15. In 2007 I fostered and adopted two GRREAT dogs - Penny 07-024 and then Ruby Dee 07-086 just a few months later. Penny and Ruby Dee are little girls so I call them my "Golden Munchkins." I have two other rescued dogs - Cooper, a Golden/Irish Setter mix, and Kate, a Golden who was a courtesy listing on the GRREAT web site. You can see my dogs on the March page of the 2010 GRREAT calendar. My three rescued kitty cats - Romeo, Isabel, and Ruby - live peacefully and happily with the big dogs that are so gentle with them.

My volunteer activities with GRREAT have helped to make my retirement happy and productive, something I had always hoped would happen in what are now my real "Golden" years.



PENNY 07-024, RUBY DEE 07-086, LOUISE, KATE & COOPER

MARY COLLINGS, INTAKE COORDINATOR & POC TEAM LEAD



KEONA AND ROCKY 05-200

I started volunteering for GRREAT in 2003, doing home visits and helping with transports. After several months, I wanted to become more involved and I became an Intake Assistant. After the Intake Coordinator resigned from GRREAT, I became the Intake Coordinator. In 2007 after the Foster Home Coordinator resigned, I did that job for 14 months, in addition to being the Intake Coordinator. I recently started helping out with the Foster Home side of GRREAT by becoming the POC Team Leader and by being a POC for several of the foster homes. I feel like I have the perfect balance of jobs in GRREAT - in my job as Intake Coordinator, I'm involved in getting the dogs into GRREAT and by being the POC Team Leader and a POC, I'm able to follow their progress in foster care.

My husband Ken and I have 2 Golden Retrievers, Reno and Rocky (he's a GRREAT dog who we fostered/adopted in 2005). We also have a wolf-dog (she's 80% wolf) named Keona. We brought Keona home at the age of 5 weeks old and Reno wasn't quite a year old at the time. Over the years, Keona has picked up some Golden traits, like pawing for attention and playing with woobies and Reno has learned to join in and howl right along with her to greet us when we come home from running errands. Rocky seems to know that Golden Retrievers aren't supposed to howl like a wolf, so he just barks!