

Golden Tales

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April 2018



Jerzee

Making a Spalsh!

2018 Officers & Board

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Beth Greenfield

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Welcome New members!

Mary Tatem

Robert and Toni Brinster

JoAnn Campbell and Craig Watkins

Joshua and Tara McKee

Lohanne and Jeff Messenger

Dot Rafferty and Stuart Joseph

Nancy Lindberg

ON THE COVER

Our cover dog this issue is Jerzee!

Jerzee is owned and loved by Bobbie and Peter Vassallo

He is 2 1/2 years old and loves dock diving.

He also does rally, agility and conformation

He has a big sister Golden, Martha who is 9

What's Inside?

Welcome New members	pg 2
Activity and Event Leaders	pg 3
Calendar of Events	pg 3
President's Message	pg 4
Meet the Breeder	pg 5
New Arrivals	pg 6
Braggs	pg 7
Grooming Seminar	pg 8
In Case You Missed	pg 8
In the Ring	pg 8
Toxic Natural Beauties	pg 9
Tracking	pg 10
My Story	pg 11
Its So Hard to Say Goodbye	pg 12
Rainbow Bridge	pg 13
Silly, Funny Goldens	pg 14
Rescue Reprorter	pg 14
Lifetime Study Update	pg 15
Canine Influenza	pg 16

On the internet:
www.grccny.org

On Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/GRCCNY/>

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Golden Tales will be July 2018.
Deadline for submission of articles is July 10, 2018

Where to Send It ... For

Golden Tales - Website -Golden Retriever News

All members are encouraged to contribute and submit material.

Send to Lynn Mickinkle, lmickinkle@gmail.com, or 200 Cobb Drive, Lacona, NY 13083:

ALL braggs, all material you'd like to see on our website (www.grccny.org)

and articles for the Golden Retriever News Member Club Columns.

GRCA deadline: the 1st of every uneven month

Send Kelly Mueller,kidquilter@aol.com: all other material for Golden Tales.

Activity and Event Leaders

Puppy Referral

Sallie Lennox goldengalsal@twcny.rr.com

Specialty Show/Trial Chair

Beth Greenfield gmelzb@aol.com

Trophy Chair

Kelly Mueller kidquilter@aol.com

Eye Clinic

Patti Gambier zeropctdown@yahoo.com

Website

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Member Records/Database

Lynn Mickinkle Lmickinkle@gmail.com

Newsletter – Golden Tales

Content: Kelly Mueller kidquilter@aol.com

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Lynn Mickinkle

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Field coordinator

Pam Fuller saddlesoarsfarm@gmail.com

Plaques

Dave Tyler lok4fantom@aol.com

Social Media

Kari Mickinkle kmickinkle@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

June

10 – Meeting and Golden Fun Day @1:30pm

(guests:GRRONY) – Over Rover in Cato

July

10 – Golden Tales deadline

11-Dog Massage Worskshop

spaces limited - Contact Carol Krehel
to reserve a spot

August

9 – General meeting @ 7pm

Dewitt Library

Speaker topic: Animal Dentistry

Activity topic: Therapy Dogs

September

13-General meeting and nominations @7pm

Liverpool Library

Special Topic: Ask the Vet Panel

Nationals in St. Louis (September 30- Oct 11)

15 – WC/WCX

Echoewood

October

10 – Golden Tales deadline

18 – General meeting and elections

Storybrook Wags n Whiskers

Speaker topic: Behavior Modification

Activity topic: TBA

TBA - Eye Clinic @ Village Vet

November

**1- Deadline for Title applications
and Award nominations**

December

9 – Annual Awards dinner

& brief general meeting – Barbagallos 1:00

2018 Field Training schedule

Contact Pam Fuller if you are interested
in Field Training days.

Dates will be posted on the website

CCA - 2019



President's Message

Hello Golden Friends,

We have had a wonderful start to our new year and hopefully we will be seeing beautiful spring flowers and green trees soon.

Thanks to so many of you, welcome to our new members and I look forward to seeing more of you in 2018. This year should be a lot of fun. Please don't forget about our club meetings with featured speakers, activity education, club business and a great bunch of Golden owners.

We have already had a Grooming your Golden seminar, our first meeting with featured speaker Dr. Frank Capella and activity speaker Pam Fuller and shared in the huge Open House at Cornell with the Golden Retriever Rescue and Lifetime Study. Our next big event is Fun Day, which the Rescue will also attend. You will not want to miss it! Be sure to watch our calendar, read your newsletters and emails, and check out our website and Facebook page.

I am going to take a minute to go over our memberships, since I have received several questions about this. There are basically three categories, with two sub-categories, for membership: 1) Regular, which includes individual or household 2) Associate, which includes a special subcategory of associate field and 3) Honorary

Regular membership entitles each active member (up to 2 under household) the right to vote and to hold an office as long as he/she is 18 or older. Regular members are voted in after attending two meetings.

Associate members may participate in all club events and attend meetings, but may not vote or hold office.

A sub-group, associate field members are non-Golden owners who want to participate in GRCCNY field training days. They may also attend meetings, however, in addition they are required to volunteer at a GRCCNY event.

Honorary membership is given at the discretion of the Board. Most often these are recent adopters of GRCCNY rescue dogs who receive a one year unpaid membership. Honorary members do not have voting privileges and may not hold an office.

All memberships are renewed on an annual basis and members can choose to change categories.

Membership in the Golden Retriever Club and the Golden Retriever Rescue are separate, although dual membership is encouraged. Each group has its own website, newsletter and Board with the mission of the Club being broader than that of the Rescue. The two sister clubs welcome all to the meetings and this year will also share in two events - Open House and Fun Day.

Hope that clears up any confusion. Keep your feedback coming and remember this is your club.

Well, as I sign off, Murphy and Duffy are wagging their tails and can't wait for the chance to get back in the water.

Happy Spring!
Best to all,
Carol (and the boys)



Duffy and Murphy

Meet the Breeder

1) *How long have you been breeding Golden Retrievers and what is your official kennel name?*

Our Kennel name is RiverMate's Golden Retrievers. Have been breeding for around 30 yrs.

2) *Why did you decide to become a breeder?*

I fell in love with the breed after my first golden and just wanted to help produce happy and healthy dogs.

3) *How many litters have you bred and how often do you breed?*

Over the 30 years I have bred 7 litters. We maybe have 1 litter a year.

4) *What qualities do you look for in the sire and dam?*

We look for good breeding, structure, health, temperament, longevity and working ability.

5) *Do you provide health certifications/clearances for the sire and dam to the owners?*

Yes.

6) *How many generations of pedigree so you consider for each litter?*

When I breed I will look as far back as 12 to 15 generations. We do test breeding with k-9 data and COI's before we even think of breeding. All my puppy clients will get a link to the k9data and also a ten generation hard copy.

7) *How do you socialize your puppies?*

We do several things. We introduce them to different sounds, toys, take them to different places, have people and kids over, have objects they crawl on, teeter, tunnel etc. We do a lot of things by Ian Dunbar and a few other breeder ideas too.

8) *What indicators do you look for in each puppy in matching to an owner?*

It depends on the puppy clients and the pedigree of the litter. If I have a pedigree with strong working abilities I would not place them with a first time dog owner or older couple or very small children. We use Wendy Volhard testing and a few other test from other breeders.

9) *Are your puppies examined by a vet before they go to their forever homes and typically what vaccinations and/or checks have been done when they leave with their new owner?*

All our puppies are seen by a vet and receive their first Distemper/Parvo, fecal and worming and health check.

10) *Do you have an opinion or recommendation regarding spay/neuter?*

That's a hard question. Most of my pups are sold on spay/neuter contracts. I recommend waiting at least a year, but I also leave it up to the owner. Some owners don't want to deal with the bleeding or if the male starts marking. They are not to spay/neuter until 8 months at the earliest.

11) *Are you a member of GRCA and GRCCNY?*

Yes. We are also a member of SOTC, FLRC and in the past with Inter Bark (which is no longer)



Sally Baritell

continued on page 6

12) *What do you look for in your selections of a responsible owner?*

I look for people who have had dogs in the past, who are willing to ask questions and seem excited about their dogs, also who are willing to come and meet my dogs. Those are the people I find will stay in touch with you.

13) *Do you provide a detailed sales contract with the purchase of each puppy?*

Yes

14) *Do you provide ongoing communication with your owners?*

Yes, I encourage it.

15) *Do any of your dogs participate in activities and/or competitions?*

Yes. We do obedience, field agility, barn hunt, lure coursing and know therapy dog.



Good Dog TIPS

Breeders:

We give pregnant bitches a hard-boiled egg in their food throughout their pregnancy. (Mary Tatem)

New arrivals:

Cindy Berry and Becky Byrns announce their new arrivals! Our puppies will be 5 months old on May 16th.

Cindy Berry's puppy is **Lycinan's Go With the Flow**, "River". Becky's puppy is **Lycinan's Can't Stop The Rayne**, call name "Rayne". River is laying down, Rayne is sitting



River and Rayne



Good Dog TIPS

Puppy:

Keep training fun and short for puppies (Bobbie Vassallo)

Adirondac Miss Scarlett earned her fourth Master Hunter at Palmetto Club hunt test on 3/31/18; owned by Carol Lantiegne.

Sunkissed Topaz Triple Tee “Tripp” finished his Grad Novice title at SOTC in January with a 1961/2 and 1st place. He finished his CDX at the Syracuse shows with a 1st place and his RN with 100 and a 1st place. He also finished his ASCA GN and CDX. Tripp is owned by Cindy Berry.

WestBrook’s Silence is Golden “Jerzee”, owned by Bobbie and Peter Vassallo, earned his CGC and a leg toward his BN with a 1st place. Jerzee has also completed his TKN, TKI, TKA and TKP.

Painting&Storybook Serenity Duffy R earned his CGC and trick titles and earned several 1st place finishes and a second in best in show at conformation matches, owned by Carol Krehel.

Storybook’s Serenity Murphy M earned his TKN,TKI, TKA and TKP, owned by Carol Krehel.

Lucy, owned by Sallie Lennox earned her RI at the Syracuse show.

Dalane Painting’s want Back to the Future “Journey” placed 2nd at the special and 3rd the three other days in conformation at the Syracuse Shows. Journey is owned by Lee Painting.



Lee Painting and Journey

Q & A

Q) My dog jumps up on people, what do I do?

A) If your dog tends to jump on people to greet them, it may help to have them hold something in their mouth. My dog grabs a toy in the house and her leash in public. (thank you to Kathy McCloskey)

Grooming Seminar

Grooming your everyday Golden was a seminar that took place in February. Professional groomer, David Tyler, led a fun and informative day with lecture, demo and hands on time. We did ears, tails, feet and general grooming and brushing. It was a great group and a lot of fun. If you have grooming questions, Dave is a longtime member of the club and one of the owners of Storybook Wags n Whiskers. Thanks Dave!



Dave and Janice Tyler

In case you missed our first meeting

It was a great one! Our featured speaker was Dr. Frank Capella. We learned lots about fleas, tick and Lyme disease. For instance, there has been a huge surge in ticks and their diseases in NYS over the last 15 years.

Most ticks attach on the head and shoulders. Remove ASAP and use gloves in case you crush the tick. Remove with a steady motion then wash the area with soap and water. Vaccines and topical or oral tick products are recommended.

With fleas, prevention is the key! Start early. A dog with 5 fleas can end up seeding a home with 2,500 eggs due to the lifecycle of the flea.

Dr. Capella also had various flea removers and Dave and Janis Tyler had some shirts to distribute on our topic.

Pam Fuller gave a talk on the activity of Tracking – a summary is attached. She also offered her farm for a special trial lesson for members who want to try it.

Check out the minutes for more..

In the Ring

by Carol Krehel

Have some non-competitive fun with your dog and earn some titles at the same time. These titles are done individually. Fun Day is a perfect opportunity to earn a CGC and/or a Trick dog title(s).

CGC (Canine Good Citizen) is part of a family of titles that also includes STAR Puppy, AKC Community Canine (CGCA) and AKC Urban CGC (CGCU). It consists of a 10 step test of skills that you and your dog must pass. When you do you will earn the title of CGC for your dog. Go to AKC.org or Google AKC CGC test to learn the details of each test item.

AKC Trick titles are new and a lot of fun. Titles include TKN (Trick Dog Novice), TKI (Trick Dog Intermediate), TKA (Advanced Trick Dog) and TKP (Trick Dog Performer). Novice can be earned by performing 5 tricks with a CGC or 10 tricks without. Intermediate requires 10 tricks and Advanced 5. Performer can be a combination of previous tricks and new tricks set to a routine or the performance of 10 tricks according to the trick dog rules. Go to AKC.org or Google AKC trick dog tests to learn the specifics for each level.

You can get started at Fun Day!

Toxic Natural Beauties

by Dr. Deanna Rodriguez

April showers bring May flowers but some of these flowers and plants can be toxic to our pets. Here is a list of the most common toxic natural beauties:

1) Dieffenbachia or Philodendron

Biting or chewing into the plant releases crystals that cause significant oral pain. Pawing at the mouth, excessive salivation, decrease in appetite, and vomiting are some of the clinical signs seen. In severe cases, lip swelling and difficulties breathing can be noted.

2) Rhubarb

Eating the leaves can be quite toxic resulting in dangerously low calcium levels. This decrease in calcium can result in tremors, seizures, and muscle weakness. If left untreated, it can lead to kidney failure.

3) Lilies

Easter, tiger, Japanese show, stargazer, rubrum, and day lilies are all beautiful but deadly. All parts of the plant, including the pollen and water in the vase, are toxic to cats resulting in kidney failure.

4) Blue-green algae

Dogs that enjoy swimming and playing in lakes on hot summer days may become exposed to this algae. The clinical signs noted are dependent on the toxin involved. Microcystins results in liver damage or failure. Anatoxins result in excessive salivation and neurologic signs such as tremors, rigidity, or paralysis. Prognosis is poor once symptoms are noted.

5) Tulips and Daffodils

The most toxic part of these plants is the bulb. Ingestion of these bulbs can result in gastrointestinal signs (vomiting, diarrhea, excessive drooling), neurologic signs (tremors, seizures), and heart problems (increased heart rate, abnormal heart rhythms).

6) Foxglove, Oleander, Lily of the Valley, Kalanchoe

These plants contain a toxin that is very dangerous to the heart. The degree of toxicity depends on what part of the plant was ingested and the amount consumed. Abnormal heart rhythms and sometimes cardiac arrest can occur.

7) Mushrooms

One of the most deadly mushrooms, Amanita, contains a toxin called amanitin. Severe gastrointestinal signs can be seen within 6 to 24 hours. Liver and kidney failure occurs within 36 to 48 hours post ingestion.

Other mushrooms can cause profuse drooling, tearing, urination, and diarrhea.

8) Sago Palm

All parts of the palm are poisonous with the seeds being the most toxic part. This plant contains a toxin called cycasin, which results in liver failure within 2 to 3 days post-ingestion.



TRACKING

by Pam Fuller

WHY (do we do this)? The dogs love it! It is a very natural activity for them – it makes “scents” to them. If you get hooked you will find it fascinating!

WHO (is in charge here)? The pup! We must learn and take our cues from the dog. A reversal of what most activities require.

WHAT (do we accomplish / do we need)? Info on titles _ TD, TDU, TDX, VST CT, VCD, VCCH - on AKC website (see below). Simple supplies – harness, 40’ line, cloth, leather, plastic and metal articles (old socks, old gloves etc.)

WHERE (do we do this)? Fields, woods, parks, lawns, neighborhoods, campuses, business parks, shopping centers – you can find tracking opportunities everywhere.

When (do we track)? All year ‘round – except when too hot, too cold, too much salt on pavement, snow too deep.

HOW (do we get started / learn more)? Start with a tracking friend, SOTC has a program, I am glad to help. Our club will sponsor a “get your dog started” day at my place. There are many good books.

SOME RESOURCES

Equipment

<http://www.palominelines.com/id47.html>

<https://www.pawmark.com/>

Books on tracking

http://www.thelabradorclub.com/subpages/show_contents.php?page=Tracking+Training

AKC Info

<http://akc.org/events/tracking>

Versatility Title

<http://www.akc.org/events/vcd-titles/>



Good Dog TIPS

Training:

Never call your dog to you for something unpleasant; always go get them or you will teach them not to come. (Anonymous member)

Household:

Use fabric softener and dryer sheets to help remove dog hair. (Kelly Mueller)

My story of being a Golden Retriever owner

by Julie Wing

I remember the day in April 2001 that I called the phone number from the Syracuse paper under the Golden Retriever breed section. It stated, "Buyer beware" and gave me Carol Allen's phone number to call for breed referral. After speaking with Carol and having a wonderful conversation about this breed, my husband and I decided to reach out to a breeder for our next puppy. At the time, we had our 6 year old English Setter, Abby.

When Molly came into our lives the instant love and joy she brought us was stamped on our hearts forever. Our Abby passed away not even one year prior to losing our Molly. So I found myself, for the very first time in my life, without a dog. I struggled with the decision to immediately get another Golden. Not that I did not want this breed again, but it was the guilt I was feeling over Molly just passing. I sorted those feelings out and called Carol Allen for a referral to a breeder within GRCCNY. I was now a member since getting Molly in 2001.

So on December 21, 2008, Murphy came into our life. Grace, our only child, was 4 years old and loving her new puppy Murphy. At the time, we lived on our farm of 95 acres and had 3 horses. Murphy had a lot of land to run and play on and entertainment from his human girl, Grace. At 4 years old, Grace got to pick out Murphy's full registered name. His full official name was Murphy Smurphey Taxton Wing.

Murphy was the first male dog we had ever owned; we always chose females. Murphy opened a whole new experience to me in regards to raising a puppy. I say this with total love, but he was the MOST challenging puppy I have ever owned. I had never experienced a dog who would try to ingest toys. So began a new experience for my husband and me. Nothing was left in reach of Murphy's mouth.

As we always do with our dogs, we enrolled in obedience classes and also puppy kindergarten class to ensure good socialization behavior. Murphy did awesome in both of these classes, as well as learning the boundaries of going outside off leash. Our home was 200 feet from the road and barn where yummy horse turds existed. So we were diligent in our training him about the boundaries behind the house. When Murphy was 5 years old, we added another animal baby to our family. Rascal the kitten came to live with us in February 2013. Murphy was an instant "Nanny", as you can see in the picture below. Murphy was gentle and loving to his new "kitty brother".

By September 2014, when our next animal baby came home, Murphy and Rascal had quite the bond. We really had no worries as to how Murphy would accept the new baby. Charlie, a purebred English Setter, came home. Yet again, he became a "Nanny" to another baby. Murphy was such a good "older brother" and guided Charlie, especially with how to be careful with the kitty brother Rascal.

People who came to visit us would comment on how the 3 brothers reminded them of the movie *Homeward Bound* (with the exception that Rascal is a boy rather than a female like Sassy in the movie). We always left the crate doors open and they would all just go in there and nap together.

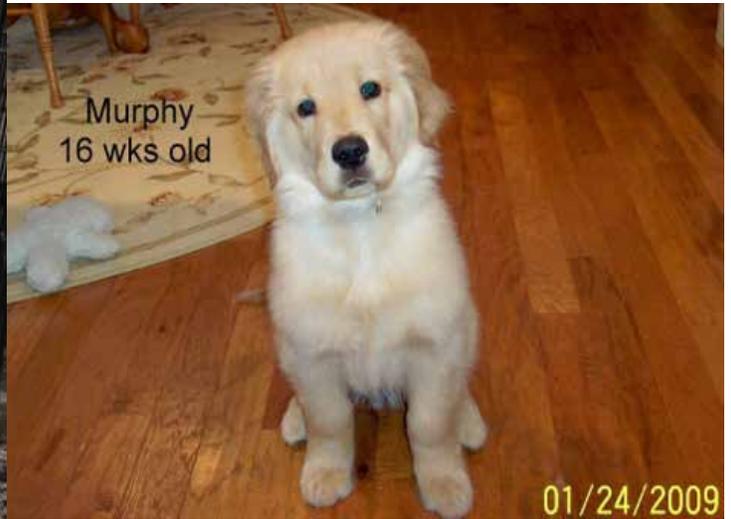
Well, it has been 6 months since our Sweet Murphy passed away from cancer. He was our second Golden Retriever that we owned from puppyhood. Our first, Molly, born in July 2001, passed away in December 2008 at just 7 years old from cancer. My husband, Mike and I were just devastated at the loss of our Sweet Molly girl at such a young age. The very surprising news to us and our longtime vet, Dr. David Brooks of North Country Vets, was that Murphy's cancer was the same as what Molly had hemangiosarcoma. This is a very aggressive cancer that literally comes out of nowhere.

Now with Murphy gone and the big life change that we made as a family, selling our farm and moving into a new home within the city limits, I find myself still grieving and missing my Murphy boy. We're in a quiet development with a huge fenced backyard. My husband and I have always enjoyed having 2 dogs. Now I find myself struggling about getting another Golden puppy to add to our family. It is not that I am unsure about Golden Retrievers. I so love this special breed! But, can our hearts take another loss of a Golden at such a young age like Molly & Murphy? That seems to be the question we face at this point.

continued on page 12



Charley, Rascal and Murphy



It's So Hard To Say Goodbye

by Carol Krehel

One of the hardest parts of owning our dogs is the realization that they are just not here long enough. Saying goodbye is so sad and you feel like a piece of you is taken with them. But remember a big piece of them stays with us always as well. I always say that this profound loss is so hard because the time they are here is so great. The love they give is truly unconditional. They bring smiles to our faces, laughter to our days and they comfort us when we need it.

Our grief is for a beloved family member, for me it is like losing a child, and it is for the best friend you could ever have. Sometimes we have to also face people who do not understand this loss and our grief. Those poor unfortunate people have missed out on the incredible experience and honor of owning these furry kids. There are many more around you that do understand, some wishing they had a bond that deep.

So, how do we know when it is the end? It is a very hard question and one fraught with doubts. I consider the quality of life and wellbeing of my pet and ask would I want this if it was me? I also think about their favorite things and sometimes writing it down helps. Do they still enjoy their favorite things? Do they still greet you? And, for me, I watch their eyes. The eyes tell so much. Of course there are other things our vets look for: are they still eating and drinking, is their breathing normal or labored, are they able to get up, are they incontinent, vomiting and what about fatigue or confusion. My vet always starts with eating and drinking. With the last dog I lost, surprisingly, I kept a sort of journal of how he was each day, his medications, reactions etc. This allowed me to look a little more objectively at good and bad days and the progression of his disease. Someone recently suggested that photos of their healthier dog as compared with their ill dog helped them accept the deterioration.

There is no right or wrong way. Just consider them and their comfort and your intuition – you know them, even though you do not want to know or accept when the end is here. There is also a Quality of Life Scale that has been developed by a veterinary oncologist, Alice Villalobos that may be helpful. It is sometimes called HHHHHMM or 5H2M (for hurt, hunger, hydration, hygiene, happiness, mobility and more good days than bad).

Unfortunately, most dogs do not go in their sleep as we wish for this natural passing so we would not have to make an unbearable decision. I think it's important to let them know how loved they are and that it is ok to go. They hang on for us and know that our hearts are breaking and they will be missed. Think of them and of the rainbow bridge. They will be ok

continued on page13

and one day you will too.

Hold onto your memories, keep photos, make a scrapbook, plant a tree, have special mementos or whatever you choose. Love and honor them just as they have you; look at this as a final gift. And, when they go talk with your dog friends who have been there, your vet and even support networks if you choose.

Making decisions ahead of time such as burial or cremation can also be helpful. These are tough decisions and can be harder at one of your most emotional times. Talk to others about how they handled it or to your vet or to people at a pet cemetery or crematory if you are unsure. These are personal decisions and people vary in their choices.

Most importantly, be kind to yourself. It is normal to doubt and wonder and have second thoughts. You do the best you can with what you know at the time. I, myself have looked back and thought what if or if I had known such and such, but the fact is I did the best I could for my dog at that point in time and I feel comforted knowing we will one day be together again and thankful that this was a part of my life.

Finally, the question of another dog. People feel so much heartbreak that just rips you apart or guilty about a “replacement”. Time does help with the deep loss and you will never forget. Each dog is different with their own personality; I have not had two alike and that is ok. They each make their mark and bring a new joy and they will never be a replacement just a new love and experience. And, those that have passed will look down from the Rainbow Bridge happy that you are sharing your life with another and waiting for the day you arrive to hug them and play with them again.

It is so very hard to say good bye and no magic solutions. Peace.

The Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of Heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing: they each miss someone very special, someone who was left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; his eager body begins to quiver. Suddenly, he breaks from the group, flying over the green grass, faster and faster. You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again.

The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into those trusting eyes, so long gone from your life, but never absent from your heart. Then you cross the Rainbow Bridge together. -
Author Unknown



Those Silly Goldenes

Jerzee went to his first dock diving lesson and put on a show. You start by working off a ramp and going into the water. Well, Jerzee decided he would skip the water and jump over the side onto the ground not just once, but twice. Once he began going into the water he loved it and has completed titles. However, no one will forget his out of the pool antics when we first started.

by Bobbie Vassallo

Rescue Reporter

by Janet Gray

GRRRCNY had an exciting spring. In March we were able to present to the Cortlandville Fire Department Pet O2 masks for their station on Rt. 13. It was also training day for area fire departments and made a great photo op. Cortlandville graciously provides a meeting place for our rescue meetings and events. We plan to donate another set to their other station in the area.



April 10th we participated in the Cornell Vet School Open House. We were joined by our friends and family (canine and humans) from the club as well as heroes from the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study. The Open House gets over 7,000 visitors. This was the first year using the newly renovated Vet College's large and spacious Vet Student Center. We represented the rescue, the club and the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study. We were busy until closing.



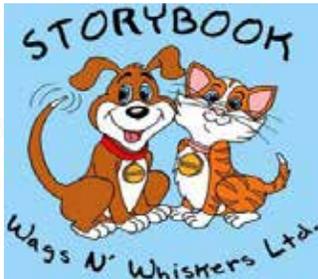
Sisters Ellie, Willow and Rynnie. Willow and Rynnie were adopted through GRRRCNY.



Lifetime Study Update

According to a recent update, “A recent surge in the number of golden retrievers diagnosed with taurine deficiency and dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) has many golden owners and breeders concerned”. However, “researchers are getting closer to understanding dietary taurine and heart disease in dogs”. The thought is that diet plays a role in the problem. Dr. Josh Stern, at the Morris foundation says “home-cooked diets have been implicated in this problem, as well as small batch, boutique dog foods”.

**Special thanks to our door prize sponsor Storybook Wags n Whiskers pet store and bakery -
Home of the doggie birthday cakes**



Did you know we are now on Facebook? You can access us from your facebook page (just search for Golden Retriever Club of Central New York) or press the facebook link on our club website: WWW.GRCCNY.ORG. You don't need to have a Facebook account to see our facebook page, but you will need a facebook account if you would want to “like” our page or post a picture of your pooch.



Golden Tales is the official quarterly member newsletter of The Golden Retriever Club of Central New York, Inc. a Member club of The Golden Retriever Club of America and Licensed by The American Kennel Club.

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Much “Aahhh-choo” about Something: Canine Influenza

by Dr. Deanna Rodriquez

Face masks, Tamiflu, and lots of rest...that is what many of us experienced during the winter time. Just like people, our dogs can also become susceptible to the highly contagious respiratory infection that is influenza. Although canine flu is not transmissible to humans, let's learn the facts on this current disease outbreak.

Influenza is a virus that is transmitted from one infected dog to another via saliva or nose secretions. One of two things can happen after exposure: 1) the dog will not develop symptoms because antibodies fight the infection or 2) the dog will become symptomatic. Dogs suffering from mild symptoms develop fatigue, a moist cough, a decrease in appetite, and a fever. They may also start to sneeze and have a runny nose and eyes. Dogs suffering from severe symptoms develop high fevers and pneumonia. In some cases, the pneumonia can be fatal.

There is no simple test for diagnosing canine influenza. Depending on the severity of clinical signs, your veterinarian may recommend bloodwork and chest x-rays. The doctor may also collect samples of the nose discharge and even swab the mouth in order to isolate and/or test for the virus. These swabs are most important in the beginning stages of the disease as viral shedding is generally early and brief. Bloodwork to check for viral antibodies can be performed in later stages of the disease.

Treatment is dependent upon the severity of clinical signs. Dogs with mild infections are treated with fluids under the skin, cough suppressants, or anti-virals. Dogs with severe disease and pneumonia often require hospitalization. These dogs are treated with intravenous fluids, intravenous antibiotics, and sometimes oxygen therapy.

There are 2 strains of canine influenza: H3N8 and H3N2. H3N8 first appeared in Florida in 2004 but it continues to disease. The milder strain, H3N2, was first seen in Chicago in 2015 but within months expanded to several other states including New York.

There exist several vaccinations for canine influenza; however, vaccinating for one strain does not provide cross-protection for the other strain. In other words, if your pet received the H3N2 vaccine, he/she is still vulnerable to the H3N8 strain. The best vaccination is the bivalent vaccine, which provides protection against both strains. It is a series of two vaccines given 3 to 4 weeks apart. It is also important that the vaccine series be completed at least 3 weeks prior your pet travelling or boarding.

If you have suffered from the flu this season, remember how crummy you felt. Our dog companions feel the same way. Astute observation, early intervention, and prevention will keep your pet safe from this nasty infection.





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**Morris Animal
FOUNDATION**
Golden Retriever Lifetime Study

Upcoming Events



June 10 – Meeting and Golden Fun Day @1:30pm
(guests:GRRRCNY) – Over Rover in Cato

July 11 – Dog Massage Workshop
spaces limited - Contact Carol Krehel to reserve a spot

August 9 General Meeting @ 7pm
Dewitt Library
Speaker topic: Animal Dentistry Activity topic: Therapy Dogs



Field Training Days - Contact Pam Fuller