



Conformation · Field · Obedience

Golden Tales

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April 2011

GRCCNY Specialty Sees Perfect Score in Obedience

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Yvonne Piefer and Tanbark's Ready Set Go

The GRCCNY Specialty on April 2, 2011 resulted in a first for the Club – High Scoring Golden was awarded for a perfect score of 200. Yvonne Piefer of Neosho, Wisconsin showed her five year old male Golden, “Sprint” (Tanbark’s Ready Set Go) in Novice B under judge Stephanie Podjeko to garner the perfect score. This was the first time Ms. Podjeko had ever awarded a score of 200 to a competitor. Sprint went on to receive High in Trial for the day as well.

Saturday’s win was only part of a successful weekend for the pair. Yvonne and Sprint took first in Novice B on Friday with a score of 198.5 under judge Phyllis Broderick, and repeated that performance on Sunday under judge Jean Nocilly.

For more Specialty coverage, please turn to page 6.

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A message that I constantly have to remind myself of when I'm working with my dogs, is to first and foremost, be a teacher, then a coach and lastly tester. Whether we are working with our dogs to be well behaved pets or training for the highest levels of obedience, agility or field, our role as handler is, most likely, 85% teacher, 14% coach and 1% tester. When I reflect on the best teachers and coaches that I have had, some of the descriptors that come to mind are patience, progressions and drills to take me to a higher level, entertaining, having high expectations of me and nurturing those good talents and qualities in me that I hadn't discovered yet. Are w that same teacher with our dogs?

It is very tempting to take the dog right to the "test". By testing, I am referring to doing an entire task or exercise either in practice or competition. Although we want to see where our dogs are at or if they can do a particular task, what often happens is that we take them there before they are ready. This often results in confusion on the part of the dog and does not build the confidence that dogs need, especially at the higher levels of competition. It can also lead to bad habits that end up needing to be corrected later in a dog's training. When we were in school, we were not tested every lesson. While on a team, we only had a few scrimmages



during a season. We should not be testing too often with our dog's training either. It is important that whatever we teach our dog (even a silly trick) that the dog's learning is taught in a progression that helps the dog to understand and gain confidence. There are so many resources out there that can help us to understand correct progressions.

I also used the word "entertaining" to describe my best teachers and coaches. How does that relate to training a dog? Susan Garrett, a well known trainer, states that we need to be the dog's "cookie". They should be just as happy to work with us as work for a treat, a toy or a romp with another dog. That's a tough act! It can be done though. Watch the best trainers. They play with their dogs and praise their dogs and their dogs love to work. Even that "entertainment" factor though, happened with purpose and progression.

It's the journey with our dogs that we treasure, not the destination.

Kathy

Where to Send It ... For

Golden Tales - Web Site - *Golden Retriever News*

Photos - Brags - Memorials - Letters - Stories

All members are encouraged to contribute. To save time and avoid confusion, all submissions are to be directed to Janis Tyler. Material will be published, as appropriate, to *Golden Tales*, the Web Site, and/or *Golden Retriever News*. Send via U.S. Mail or Email. Photos returned on request.

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Membership Information

GRCCNY invites as new members, anyone with an interest in Golden Retrievers! Applications are available from the Club secretary, or at www.grccny.org/memb_app.pdf.

Membership Options:

Individual- \$25, Household - \$30, Associate (non-voting) - \$25.

We encourage membership in the Golden Retriever Club of America. Applications and further information may be obtained from Deborah Ascher, P.O. Box 69, Berthoud, CO 80513-0069, (970) 532-3124 or from the GRCA website at www.grca.org/grca-app.htm.

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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Inquiries, submissions and correspondence should be directed to: Judi Questel, Editor, 426 Lee Road, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or e-mail bonefeathers@yahoo.com

Back Issues of Golden Tales are on the Web at
<http://www.grccny.org/Newsletter.htm>

Club News & Events

Meeting Highlights

- The Following Is An Unofficial Summary -

GRCCNY meeting 3/24/11

Submitted by Beth Shelmidine

Meeting called to order by President Kathy McCloskey. Attendance included 19 members and 2 guests. Minutes from December meeting were read and accepted. A sheet for recording brags was circulated.

Reports:

President:

Two guests in attendance were introduced, Bobbie Vassallo and Diane Hunter.

Website has been updated, suggestions encouraged. Mini-seminars proposed prior to meeting, sheet circulated for topic requests.

IRS filing has been submitted, thank you to Ray Blaskiewicz for handling the details.

At the June meeting we will be voting on a wording change to the present Constitution that will make mention of agility, which AKC requires before we might be allowed to host an agility event of any sort.

CERF registrations for Goldens 8 years or older will be paid for by the GR Foundation. Info at <http://www.goldenretrieverfoundation.org>

A survey was circulated regarding member agility experience.

Secretary: Brags were reported.

Treasurer: Balance given for three accounts. Summary of membership mailing given.

Specialty: Beth Greenfield reports all is ready for an 8:30 AM ring assignment. Carol Allen will be setting up public information handouts as always. Trophy pledge certificates are printed. Carol Allen would very much like to relinquish the position as Trophy Chair for next year's Specialty.

CCA: The CCA is cancelled this year. If we are to host one in April 2012, Beth Greenfield will have a panel of evaluators in place in October 2011.

Field: a) Training dates for this year are on website. b) WC/WCX application has been filed. Ray Blaskiewicz to do birds, Martha Sturtz will be in charge of lunch menu, Sallie Lennox to Marshall. Other volunteers will be needed for the day for various jobs.

Hunt Test: Date set for 9/11/11. Judging panel complete, application ready to be sent out. Several jobs were delegated. Volunteers needed for the day for various jobs.

Golden Tales: Judi Questel requests submissions ASAP, mailing after the Specialty so photos may be included.

Rescue/Public Education: Carol Allen states that financial difficulties are more frequently leading to rescue dog surrenders.

Eye Clinic: Motion made by Suzi McDonald to keep same October date, seconded by Sallie Lennox, all in favor.

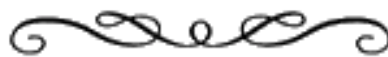
New Members: Applications received from Diane Hunter and Bobbie Vassallo.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Ad request for SOTC spring obedience trial catalog at a cost of \$30 which is shared equally with rescue. Ad request from GRITS National Specialty for a total of \$60, also shared equally with rescue. Both requests approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM. Next meeting June 2, 2011.



Golden Tales is available
DIGITALLY

Delivered right to you via e-mail

*Contact Judi Questel at bonefeathers@yahoo.com
and sign up today!*

From Your Best Friend

Please don't mourn for me today
 My love was strong, but I couldn't stay
 The Rainbow Bridge, they call this place
 And God has blessed it with his grace
 In His hands I am safe and sound
 And you won't believe who all I've found
 If some days seem too much to bear
 Just close your eyes - You'll find me there

*By Permission from Sandy Rolling
 Iowa City Golden Retriever Club*



Goldens Remembered
Image ©Debrah Muska, Animal Images - Modified from original

"Leo"
 OTCH Sunfire Leo the Leg Breaker UDX4 OM1 SH WCX
 CGC Can CD WCI
Bruce and Audrey Coleman

"Julie"
 GRRCNY #04-26
Sallie Lennox and Carol Allen



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THANKS!
Specialty Trophy Pledges
 by Carol Allen

Hats off to our members who pledged and contributed to the Trophy Fund for our April 2, 2011 Specialty. As a result, \$900 was sent to the Golden Retriever Foundation. As one year moves quickly toward another, mid-summer we'll again be asking for pledges for the April 2012 Specialty. It does seem early but the Trophy List for the Catalog must be submitted by mid-November.

I am pleased to announce that during this year Connie Craig will be working with me on this project with the intent of assuming the Trophy Chair role after that. Thanks, Connie, for stepping up.

WELCOME
New Members

Peter and Bobbie Vassallo, Clay
Household

Diane Hunter, Parish
Individual

Benjamin and Sherradyn Augustine, Syracuse
Rescue Honorary

* Election Required for Individual or Household Applicants

Come One, Come All!

GRCCNY will be holding field training days throughout the summer – come join the fun!

All training days will be held at Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area in the town of Lysander. For more information, contact Maxine Clark at maxdoglady @ aol.com.

Training dates are scheduled for:

- Saturday, May 7
- Sunday, June 12
- Saturday, July 2
- Sunday, July 31
- Saturday, August 13
- Saturday, August 20



Canine Athlete’s Academy with Chris Zink, DVM, PhD

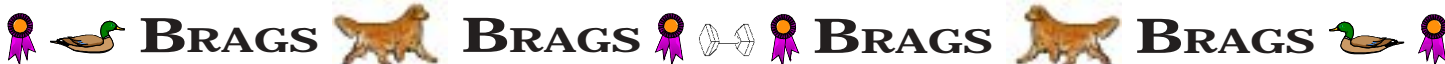
**Saturday, August 6, 2011
Top Dog Obedience School
Flanders, New Jersey**

Keep your canine athlete at peak; learn body work for your teammate’s fitness and nutrition. Recognize common athletic injuries your vet might not know about and get the best treatment. You will learn complementary and alternative therapies for healing and improving performance, as well as canine rehabilitation – what it is and how to do some of it yourself.

Support this workshop and help Canine Health Events (CHE) raise money for health research. CHE (www.caninehealthevents.org) is a 501(c)(3) charity that has donated over \$150,000 to fund major health research studies.

Canine Health Events wholeheartedly thanks Betsy Scapicchio for generously donating her facility and Chris Zink for making this fundraiser possible.

For more information and enter on line go to www.DogMatchShows.com and click on Seminars.



Beth Greenfield’s youngster, Brees (Westbrook’s Heart of Bramisole) placed second in the 6-9 month bitch class at LIGRC.

Lynn Mickinkle was busy at the Salt City Cluster earlier this month, showing three dogs in obedience. Comet (Topflite Shooting Star) completed her CDX title, Blaze now has CD after his name, and Tugger placed third in Open to pick up a CDX leg.

Kelly Mueller reported JT (Waynewood’s You’ve Got A Friend) recently earned two Beginner Novice legs.

Bruce and Audrey Coleman report that Fanny (Blue Ribbon’s Funny Girl SH WC CGC) has completed her CD title in two weekends of showing. Her first two legs came at the SOTC trials in January, picking up a High in Trial the second day with a score of 197. Her title was completed the following weekend in Buffalo, along with two more “bumper legs.” Her qualifying

scores included three first place and one second place finishes.



Photo courtesy of Bruce Coleman

Stephanie Podjeko, Bruce Coleman with Fanny, Jean Nocilly

GRCCNY Specialty

The Golden Retriever Club of Central New York's ninth annual Specialty was held in conjunction with the Finger Lakes Kennel Club on April 2, 2011. The Highest Scoring Golden Golden Retriever award came from the Novice B class and went on to win High in Trial with a perfect score of 200 – Tanbark's Ready Set Go, owned by Yvonne Piefer of Wisconsin. This was a first for our club and a first for judge Stephanie Podjeko. According to club member Sallie Lennox, Yvonne has been working with "Sprint" for quite some time and had almost given up on him.



Best of Breed – GCH Gold-Rush Troubadour (Johnson)

Judge Sue Petermann awarded Best of Breed to GCH Gold-Rush Troubadour. "Tru" has several BOB wins, including a couple of Specialties.

Winners Bitch and Best Opposite Sex was awarded to Wochica Picasso My Bronx Bomber, owned by Karin Fisher. She finished her championship from the Bred By class. Winners Dog and Best of Winners went to Xanthos The Beat Goes On, owned by breeder/owner Heidi Greefkes and Stephen Sadowski.



Best Puppy – Waynewood's Don't Let Me Down (Bessey/Trombley)



Best Veteran in Sweeps – CH Cobrador Rustic Didyouhearthat (Durand)



Winners Bitch/Best Opposite Sex – Wochica Picasso My Bronx Bomber (Fisher)

- April 2, 2011

Best Veteran went to Dalane Painting Teen Angel, owned by club member Lee Painting.

Sweepstakes judge Shirley Petko awarded Best Puppy in Sweepstakes to Waynewood's Don't Let Me Down owned by Lynda Bessey/Kristen Trombley, who also won Best Puppy in the regular classes.

Best Veteran in Sweepstakes was CH Cobrador Rustic Didyouhearthat UD RE NFP GN, owned by Beth Durand.

Also, for the first time in our Specialty history, Slect Dog was awarded to GCH Shoreline Jetoca High Seas Adventure JH RA, owned by Cynthia Binder. Select Bitch was awarded to CH Numoon Yukon Anticipation, owned by Charlene and John Devens.

In lieu of trophies, all wins were a donation to the April Fund for Golden Retriever Rescue, part of the Golden Retriever Foundation.

Photos courtesy of Ashbey Photography



Best Veteran – Dalane Painting Teen Angel (Painting)



Winners Dog/Best of Winners – Xanthos The Beat Goes On (Greefkes/Sadowski)



Best Puppy in Sweeps – Waynewood's Don't Let Me Down (Bessey/Trombley)



Select Dog – GCH Shoreline Jetoca High Seas Adventure (Binder)

Dog Toxic Xylitol in Gums, Mints, Desserts... and Now Drugs

by Patty Khuly, VMD, MBA

I've written about the dog-toxicity of the popular sugar substitute xylitol so often and so fervently that a Google search for "xylitol and dogs" digs up my past posts on the subject among the first several findings. And that's cool. But it's not nearly enough. Indeed, the fact that I'm up there tells me precious few people are getting the news. Which is why I keep trying...

Yes, xylitol is still killing dogs... more dogs than ever before. This, despite my efforts and those of like-minded big mouths who seek to inform *all* U.S. Consumers that xylitol is a menace to dogdom.

How menacing? A few sugar-free breath fresheners, a pack of gum, a spilled tin of mints, a sugar-free dessert cup. It takes only a little of this toxin to send a dog into hypoglycemia-induced seizures, and just a little bit more to bring on liver failure.

And what's worse is not so much its extreme toxicity – but its *insidiousness*.

Let me explain:

Xylitol is a great product. It's a natural extract from the birch tree, and it takes only a little bit of this stuff to sweeten a whole lot. It's therefore less expensive than other sugar substitutes. And it happens to taste better than most of them. Diabetics everywhere can rejoice! The tooth fairy, too.

All of which is why consumer product manufacturers have been

slowly and quietly replacing other sweeteners with xylitol... in everything, not just products that are labeled sugar-free.

And that's the trouble. When I first started writing about xylitol three or four years ago the number of consumer products containing xylitol numbered less than a hundred in the U.S. Moreover, they were largely restricted to the arena of sugar-free gums and foods. Fast-forward to today and the list is way longer and much more diverse. You can find xylitol in everything from Flintstones vitamins to commonly prescribed drugs.

These latter products pose more of a problem for dog owners and veterinarians for a variety of reasons.

These products never used to contain xylitol. In fact, I used to recommend Flintstones vitamins for my patients. Now I have to caution my clients to stick to pet-only brands *and* to be very diligent about reading labels. But it took months before I became aware of the change in this brand's ingredients. (So you know, xylitol is included in only a few of the Flintstones formulations, not all.)

What's worse – and even more stressful for veterinarians – is that it's not just common consumer products anymore that we have to watch for. The human versions of drugs, especially the children's elixirs, are now being formulated with xylitol for greater pediatric palatability. Unfortunately, the



lower doses in the kids' meds are exactly what some of our smaller animal patients require.

Got a little dog who needs hycodan syrup for a cough, or the bronchodilator theophylline for breathing? Even if you've been getting a drug for months or years as an elixir from the same exact pharmacy, beware. Preparations of these drugs may soon change to reflect the widening market for xylitol as a sweetener.

Case in point: This week I sought to relieve a client's small dog of back pain associated with recurrent episodes of intervertebral disc disease. In so doing, I prescribed a dog-only non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, and the smallest dosage of gabapentin (used for both seizures and neurogenic pain) currently formulated. But the pharmacy had run out of the 100 mg capsules, which is why I received a call from the pharmacist to see if I would OK the liquid (elixir) version instead.

Now, I'd *like* to say I'm always up on every single drug and all the

Continued on Pg. 14 ➔

Battling the Bulge

Healthy diet advice for overweight dogs

by Caroline Coile, PhD

Recent surveys suggest that 25 to 40 percent of dogs visiting veterinary clinics are overweight or even obese. Although dog competitors may have a lower level of weight problems compared to the average pet owner, even seasoned breeders often have a dog or two they can't seem to get the weight off of.

Certain breeds – such as Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Beagles, Dachshunds, Cocker Spaniels, Collies, Cairn Terriers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Shetland Sheepdogs, and Basset Hounds – seem to be more prone to obesity, suggesting a genetic aspect to weight gain. Spaying or neutering has been assumed to lead to increased chance of obesity: A relationship has been demonstrated in cats, but so far no definitive study is available for dogs. Some owners blame obesity on endocrine problems such as hypothyroidism, but in reality, probably less than 5 percent of obesity cases are caused by any kind of disease or drugs.

As in humans, obesity has serious health implications. It's associated with increased incidence of arthritis, diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular problems, urinary incontinence in spayed bitches, dermatitis, and increased surgery and anesthesia risk, among other problems. Even longevity is reduced with obesity: A well-known study that paired free-fed Labrador Retrievers with littermates allowed to eat only 75 percent of what the free-fed dogs

ate showed that the free-fed dogs lived on average two years less than the restricted dogs.

It seems it should be easy to diet a dog. And in fact, for kennel dogs, it is. Simply provide less food and don't look into their pleading eyes. And even for house dogs, just don't let them do the grocery shopping or take trips to fast-food places. But for most house pets, it's not that easy. Most owners find that feeding their dog is a bonding experience, and they derive pleasure from seeing their dogs enjoy a tasty meal or special treat. They find it uncomfortable to ignore begging behavior, and tend to add a little more or give a handout "just this once." Nonetheless, you can help your dog lose weight without being an ogre about it. And no, liposuction and bypass surgeries are not an option. Losing weight mainly depends on consuming fewer calories than are expended, which means controlling diet and exercise, and maybe drugs.

Simply feeding less of the current diet is not the optimal solution for a couple of reasons. First, your dog is going to be hungry because he's not getting as much food as he's used to. Second, by feeding less you're also feeding fewer vital nutrients. Feeding a lower-than-normal amount of an average maintenance diet can lead to deficiencies in protein, vitamins, minerals, and essential fatty acids. The same is true when supplementing with large volumes of low-calorie fillers, such as the

Diet Tips

Metabolizing food takes energy, and eating several small meals a day uses more energy than eating a single large meal.

Feed low-calorie snacks such as carrots, other vegetables, fruit, rice, or even ice cubes. Include treats in the daily allotted calories, and limit treats to less than 10 percent of daily caloric intake.

Make sure everyone in the family follows the diet rules.

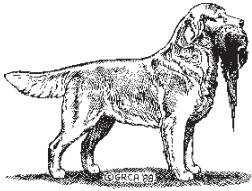
Remove the dog from food-preparation areas or from rooms where people are eating, both of which tend to increase the tendency to beg and to receive tidbits.

Exercise also plays a role in weight loss, but it must be tailored to the dog's body state. For obese dogs, suitable low-impact exercise includes leash walking, swimming, treadmills, and underwater treadmills.

Prevent obesity by not overfeeding puppies, which increases the number of fat cells throughout life.

often-suggested can of green beans. It may be a short-term method to get weight off while filling the dog's stomach, but long-term, it may lead to nutritional deficiencies. Also note that green beans directly from the can are often extremely high in salt, which may be bad for some dogs.

Continued on Pg. 13 ➔



Our Club's Column in *Golden Retriever News*

By Carol Lantiegne, Club Correspondent

Carol's submissions to Golden Retriever Club of America for publication

in Golden Retriever News appear here for the benefit of members who have not yet joined GRCA.

STEVE LOW

Steve first entered our circle with a call to GRCCNY during his quest for a sporting golden like his old buddy, "Murphy". As he described his needs, Carol Allen and Sally Lennox, our puppy referral gals told him, "there is only one place you need to go...Adirondac Golden". It's hard to believe this was only 10 short years ago, so much living has occurred since then.

I first met Steve in the spring of 2000 when he and his wife came to visit ADIRONDAC PATENT PENDING CD MH WCX OD and her 5 week old puppies, sired by CFTCH/CAFTCH MIOAK'S REAL MCCOY. They were just looking for a companion, but once they met Penny, they recognized the old-fashioned quality they'd been seeking.

There were five males and two female pups in the litter, and as usual, a few told me early on that they intended to become precocious and assertive boss dogs. Naturally, Steve and his wife gravitated toward one of those...a stocky, red, curly boy. I was dismayed and wouldn't commit to selling them THAT one...attempting to stall until after the health exam and temperament test. In the end, I caved in, but helped pick his name as a bit of warning of what to expect! ADIRONDAC CODE RED MH WCX *** totally fulfilled the prophecy, developing into a formidable competitor in the field while maintaining true ambassador status in his off-duty life.

Steve and Cody came to visit in the summer of 2001 and I invited him to join in a field training session. Bob Reckart from Ohio was here and once Steve enjoyed the instant success of Cody's first retrieve, the die was cast. Steve learned much from Bob, and sponged up training tips from other people wherever he went. He participated in a training seminar with our member, Joe Martin. The team sailed through Junior and Senior Hunter and thoroughly enjoyed competing at the Master level. The skinny old guy with the huge smile and the big, red, curly golden headed across America like Johnny Appleseed, making friends and collecting orange ribbons. When Master Hunter became too "easy", they moved on into field trials

where they came oh-so-close to the blue numerous times. Steve would never put Cody with a pro trainer, even though he realized the team had a weak link...himself! Both Steve and Cody had severe health issues off and on, but they were both fighters.

Now that the trail has ended for both of them, it's with love and appreciation that I remember Steve for taking my unknown puppy and showing him to the world. Steve was always my finest cheerleader and anyone who had the pleasure of watching him and Cody on the line probably went home with a memory.

Steve would be proud of his club for the advances we've made this year into the field. He recognized and sought the traits of a traditional golden...primarily a sporting dog... and GRCCNY has raised it's sights to the challenge of offering education and competitive opportunities in the right direction. Vice President Maxine Clark with the help of Suzanne McDonald and President Kathy McCloskey have been instrumental in organizing and chairing training days, our WC/WCX test AND our first ever licensed AKC hunt test. Hopefully, as more of our members get hooked on ducks, we'll see some new names in the head-honcho positions.

Our competition season has been good to many of us and titles are racking up. We are most proud of our resident breed judge - turned-performance-person, Beth Greenfield who earned an RA on BIRCH RUN HEART OF WESTBROOK RA (Greenfield). RIVERMATE'S ICE DANCER RN MX MXJ OF (Cox) adds her MX MXJ and OF titles. ADIRONDAC TEA PARTY JH (Lantiegne) earned that JH at 8.5 months of age. GAYLAN'S RODDENBERRY A LA MODE SH WC CCA (Lynn) put on that SH. ADIRONDAC MIDAS TOUCH CD MH WCX CCA VC (Lantiegne) earned the prestigious Master Hunter. TOPFLITE SHOOTING STAR CD RE NA NAJ NF SH VC WCX CCA (Mickinkle) adds her NA. BLUE RIBBON FUNNY GIRL SH WC WCX (Coleman) completed WCX since my last column. BONEFEATHERS SIDRA CALIENTE CD RE NAJ CCA (Questel) earned her CD. Congrats to all!

Movement: The Long and Short of It

by Jeffrey Pepper

The original function of the Golden Retriever, as his name implies, was to retrieve shot game on land and in water. The terrain of his native Scotland was rugged and hilly, and the water was cold. From the onset, the Golden was meant to have good insulating coat and good length of leg. Early photos of the breed show this clearly. Though the breed standard does not specifically mention it, generally the distance from elbow to ground should be about half the distance from withers to ground. In the past decade or so, however, the relative length of leg from elbow to ground is shorter in a number of dogs seen in the conformation ring.

Short legs directly affect the dog's ability to perform his function. Short legs will not cover ground as well as legs of correct length will. (It takes more strides to cover the same amount of ground, and more strides mean more energy is expended to cover the same distance.) Equally, shorter legs are not as efficient when the dog is swimming and thus are not desirable. The same is true for dogs who need to jump over obstacles. Dogs with shorter legs have to put more effort into clearing the same height as a dog with correct length of leg. This has a direct effect on the abilities of the dog in the obedience or agility ring or at the field trial. These are faults under the breed standard, which says: *Any departure from the described ideal shall be considered faulty to the degree to which it interferes with the breed's purpose.*

Short legs have another significant effect on the dogs; they change the overall proportion of the body, making it longer than desired. Think about it: If the length of the body from withers to onset of tail remains constant,

the shorter the legs are, the more length of body the dog has in relation to his height. The proportions deviate from the 12:11 required in the breed standard, and thus the dog is incorrect.

So the question could be asked, why are some breeders selecting for shorter legs? Of course, I can't know the answer for sure, but I can make a guess. Many people incorrectly equate good movement with the speed with which the dog's legs move. The faster the legs are going, the feeling goes, the better the dog's movement appears to them. Dogs with shorter legs must make more strides to cover the same amount of ground when compared to dogs with longer legs and stride. A short stride makes for inefficient movement, but some breeders think it helps their dogs look flashy going around the ring and thus win on the day.

Racing at top speed around the ring, with legs flying in the air, is actually poor movement. All the energy expended in raising the legs high is wasted. Good movement is when the foot ends its forward or rearward travel and pulls or pushes off (thus propelling the dog forward) as close to the ground as possible. True, we look for good forward reach and rear drive, but it is the *endpoint* of the forward reach or rear drive where the foot hits the ground that counts. Feet that continue past this point offer no usable propulsion, so the "flying feet" represent wasted energy and are faulty.

This article first appeared as the Golden Retriever breed column in the January 2011 issue of AKC Gazette and is reprinted with permission.

What You Missed...

If You Don't Subscribe* to *Golden Retriever News!*

March - April '11 (140 pgs.) Highlights: Spotlight on Rescue - ... but what will happen to the small dogs? (C.Allen). In the Winners Circle with Tanbark Golden Retrievers (R.Amen). He Made a Difference (E.Glennon). Book Review: Basic Residential Obedience (E.Schaefer). Passion, Commitment, Mastery and Elegance (T.Shih). 2010 Canadian National Open Retriever Championship Stake (A.Everett). The Beginning of the Non-Competitive Hunt Test Program and the Master National (J.Peters). The Dual Purpose Dog - A Breeder's Viewpoint (N.Bissell). Movement: The Long and Short of It (J.Pepper). Blastomycosis in Dogs and Humans (Drs.Foster and Smith Educational Staff). Obedience - What Can You Control? (C.Cleveland). Tracking - Tracking Training is Just Dog Training (R.Janoch). Plus other additional features and reports!

** Subscription to GRNews is included with membership in The Golden Retriever Club of America
See pg. 2 or consult your Club Member Handbook-Directory for contact information.*



Rescue Reporter - By Carol Allen

Your Club endorses and promotes the work of Golden Retriever Rescue of Central NY and encourages your individual support through membership, donations and volunteered assistance. For more information contact Carol Allen at 315-469-7926.

It has been my experience that readers of this newsletter care deeply about our breed – not just our own dogs (that is a given) – but the welfare of the breed in general. Our members who breed do so ethically, our members are informed about selecting a breeder carefully, and our dogs are trained well (a work in progress, to be sure). But we also care about the less fortunate of our breed – those that were born into less than optimal circumstances, usually bought and brought into circumstances less than ideal, and then rejected and turned over to a shelter or rescue program – or increasingly craigslist – for rehoming.

I frequently hear “I sleep better knowing there is a Golden Retriever Rescue safety net out there”. I hear this from some of the most well-known in the “Golden Retriever world” including most recognizable breeders, GRCA Officers and Board of Directors members, Golden Retriever Foundation Directors, etc. Fortunately for the Goldens, these people are major supporters of rescue work, financially and morally. In addition to caring about the breed generally, they know that on any one day one of their dogs could find its way to a Rescue program – I don’t have to go further than the story of my Sassy to be reminded of that. The safety net is there to catch both the fortunate and the unfortunate.

In 2002, it was proposed to the GRCA membership and soon passed overwhelmingly, that to be added to the GRCA Bylaws will be: to encourage and assist rescue operations that involve the Golden Retriever. Explanation given: the purpose of this amendment is to confirm that rescue of the Golden Retriever is a significant object of this Club and is a humane and charitable endeavor. The passing of this amendment was a huge milestone event for rescue work.

A Task Force comprised of many very well known names among the GRCA membership compiled a

very comprehensive report that led to the formation of the National Rescue Committee. The Task Force wisely assigned to the NRC coordination and support roles while leaving the role of financial support to the Golden Retriever Foundation. This separation of functions is important and valuable and, in my view, has contributed to the success of both the NRC and GRF as the “politics” are kept out of financial considerations.

It has been my privilege since 2002 to Chair the National Rescue Committee. This work has defined this latter stage of my life, that which some people call “retirement”. While the hands-on rescue work I do is local and for Golden Retriever Rescue of Central New York, the national coordination work has provided for me the opportunity to learn and contribute to discussions of best practices, both organizationally and in the care of Goldens. And to come to know some of the most committed and dedicated people imaginable. For these reasons I freely use the words “privilege” and “honor”.

Our network is large with 98 locally-formed and managed GR rescue programs and is geographically spread over the country, from New England to Alaska, from Minnesota to Louisiana. The NRC maintains six E-lists by function (leadership, fundraising, intake, etc.) where volunteers with similar functions within their programs can communicate with each other. On any one day conversations can occur about policy, recruitment and retention of volunteers, sales of merchandise, forms, etc, but the most frequent is about a dog in need that perhaps one program cannot help but another can. Our network and the organizational model is the envy of every other breed, and in 2009 the Pedigree Foundation recognized this network as the “AKC Parent Club Breed Rescue Program of Distinction”. And a recent presentation by the GRCA President at the AKC Parent Club Presidents’ meeting stunned the audience

While 2010 data is currently being accumulated, in 2009 there were 12,000 Goldens rescued.

Continued on Pg. 15 ⇨

⇒ Battling (Cont from Pg. 9)

Most canine nutritionists advocate feeding low-calorie diets designed for weight loss rather than feeding less of the dog's normal diet. These diets are usually low in fat, high in protein, and high in micronutrients. They have increased levels of essential fatty acids, vitamins, and minerals relative to calories to avoid nutritional deficiencies when dieting.

High protein is important because it minimizes the amount of the dog's own lean tissue metabolized when the energy ingested falls below energy expended. Many weight-loss diets are supplemented with L-carnitine, which has been shown to cause preferential loss of fat over lean tissue during weight loss. Some diets also contain conjugated linoleic acid, which may limit the production of long-chain fatty acids.

Increasing levels of dietary fiber is often promoted to bulk the food up and thus increase satiety. This would seem to make sense, but several studies have found the addition of either soluble or insoluble fiber, at moderate or high levels, has no effect on satiety or feeding behavior in dogs. In fact, certain negative aspects are associated with high fiber levels, such as poor palatability, poor compliance with dogs eating the food, reduced nutrient availability, and increased stool volume. When dogs don't want to eat these foods, owners are more likely to give in and abandon the diet. The question of whether high fiber levels are beneficial in weight-loss foods is still controversial, so you'll see diet foods with both increased and normal fiber levels on the market.

When dieting your dog, follow these steps:

- Have a veterinary examination to eliminate medical causes of obesity (or its appearance), such as endocrine disorders or ascites from heart disease.
- Set a target weight that should be at least 85 percent of initial body weight.
- Calculate the calories to be fed per day as " $= 55 \times [\text{initial body weight (kg)}^{0.75}]$ ".
- Feed a low-calorie, high protein food with increased levels of micronutrients. Note that calories per cup of even diet dog foods can vary greatly, so compare calories.
- Determine how many calories are in a cup of your chosen food, and determine the amount to be fed accordingly.
- Weigh the dog weekly and graph results. Report the results to a third party, which tends to increase owner compliance.

Dieting your dog is challenging, but even without reaching a *Baywatch* figure, your dog's quality of life can be improved. The trick may require reaching a compromise between the quality (and length) of life afforded by a healthier weight with the quality of life afforded by a satisfying meal.

This article first appeared in the February 2011 issue of AKC Gazette and is reprinted with permission.

Doggy Diet Pills

As with humans, various diet pills have been evaluated for their ability to decrease appetite or caloric absorption. These include herbal products containing guarana and ma huang, as well as other products commonly tried in humans. Only the drug dirlotapide, which was developed specifically for dogs, has been shown to be safe and effective. Dirlotapide acts by inhibiting an intestinal enzyme (MTP, or microsomal triglyceride transfer protein), which normally aids in the absorption of fats in the intestinal cells. As the ingested but unabsorbed fat accumulates in the intestinal cell, it triggers a hormonal response that signals the brain to stop eating. In other words, it tricks the brain into feeling the dog is full after a smaller meal. The dog eats his normal maintenance food, although you must make sure he eats enough to obtain adequate levels of protein and other nutrients.

A high-quality commercial diet is recommended, and home diets are not recommended because of the possibility of inadequate intake of some nutrients, especially the fat-soluble vitamins A, E, and K. Dosing is calibrated so that the dog optimally loses about 3 percent of his body weight a month. After the target weight is reached, the dog is maintained on dirlotapide for another three months. Once the drug is discontinued, the dog's appetite will return, and there's a potential for weight gain unless the dog's diet and exercise are controlled. Side effects, if any, tend to be mild but can include vomiting, diarrhea and lethargy. Dirlotapide is not recommended for dogs with liver disease, Cushing's disease, or those receiving corticosteroids, or for growing, pregnant, or nursing dogs.

⇒ Xylitol (Cont from Pg. 8)

new formulations, but I'm not. It's just too damn much info to consume on a regular basis. I had, however, just read through *Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook* on this exact point: available formulations of gabapentin. And guess what? Some commercially prepared versions of liquid gabapentin have xylitol in them – and it was one of these very versions my pharmacist was offering.

The same drug I was offering my patient might have killed her had I not known about the change!

Now, I don't know how much of the elixir it would've taken to send her into seizures, but rest assured, this little dog was already getting the high end of the drug's dose, so I think I'm justified in fearing the worst for other dogs all over the country whose pharmacists don't make the call (it happens all the time), or whose veterinarians haven't yet heard of the dangers pediatric elixirs now pose to animals.

Does this shock you?

It should. It *terrifies* me.

Patty Khuly, VMD, MBA is a small animal veterinarian in Miami, Florida, where she practices medicine at Sunset Animal Clinic and serves on the board of the South Florida Veterinary Medical Association. She is a graduate of Wellesley College, the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Wharton School of Business. Dr. Khuly writes a daily blog for PetMD's Fully Vetted, as well as weekly pet health columns for USA Today and the Miami Herald. She also writes a popular monthly column for Veterinary Practice News and serves as a regular contributor to Veterinary Economics, The Bark, and the Veterinary News Network. The above article appeared on PetMD's Fully Vetted website at www.petmd.com/blogs/fullyvetted/2011/feb/xylitol_now_in_drugs and is reprinted with permission of both PetMD and Dr. Khuly.



Golden Retriever Club of America 2011 National Specialty Conyers, Georgia

Hosted by Atlanta Golden Retriever Club
September 25 – October 1

The Atlanta Golden Retriever Club will be hosting the 2011 GRCA National Specialty in Conyers, GA over the week of September 25 through October 1, 2011. Events will include agility, conformation, obedience, rally, tracking, field trial and WC/WCX competitions as well as CCA, Parade of Titleholders and Rescue Parade events. A full schedule of events may be found on line at atlantagoldens.org/National/Schedule-Events.htm. Premiums will also be posted on the website when available.

A National Specialty is much more than just competition, however. Several seminars will be offered as well as meetings, health clinics and educational events. Social events range from a golf tournament to benefit the Golden Retriever Foundation to the annual GRF Top 20 Gala.

Of course, lots of National themed merchandise is available as well. Kudos go to those who designed the tee shirts – there are several gorgeous designs covering a variety of events from tracking and agility to the GRITS logo itself.

Being a Purina Pro Club member has its perks at the National, too. Purina is offering free dog food to Platinum level members for their stay in Georgia. For those who are not Platinum level but have submitted weight circles for at least 500 pounds of Purina food in the past year, one eight-pound bag of dog food may be ordered without charge.



Views from the Doghouse

By Judi Questel, Editor

*Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of "management."
This column is the price y'all have to pay for stickin' me with this job.*

What's In a Name?

Shakespeare wrote –
Juliet:

“What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet.”
(Romeo and Juliet – II, ii, 1-2)

This was the central theme of the entire play. Even though the two lovers attempted to say that a name really didn't matter and the subject was more important, in the end the reality was quite different.

So what is in a name? In short – everything.

A name is what memorializes something for all time. What sets something apart from the rest of those who may be similar and makes that something unique. Even in the world of roses, each variety is christened with a name of its own to distinguish it from all others.

I love asking people how they came to pick a name for their dog, especially when I run across something unusual. I find foreign words with special meaning, names that commemorate special events, or even favorite sports teams.

Conformation people are notorious for dreaming up catchy names, funky spellings and “play on words” names. Of course, these efforts are an attempt to have their dog stand out from the crowd and be remembered.

Call names are just as important, if not more so, than a registered name. Call names are what we use every day in addressing our dogs. Something catchy but rolls off the tongue easily are primary requisites for most people, myself included. I also prefer a name that can be shortened even further as an attention-grabber for my dog, a single syllable that I can use with my dog to refocus them to a task at hand. Being an agility competitor, a unique call name helps my dog stand out when a gate steward is calling dogs to the start line. You rarely see a dog with a generic name in agility!

I caution myself to pick wisely when naming a dog, as over the years I have found my dogs often “live up” to the name they are given. My girl Diva (Bonefeathers Its All About Me) is a perfect example – she is definitely a little diva who wants to be the center of attention. I chose “Lexicon” for one of my girls, which prompted the comment “You named your dog after a dictionary?” from a grade school teacher. My reply was “It fits – she's full of words!” Lex has always been a notorious “talker”, a trait she has passed on to her kids and grandkids.

While I have no idea how long it will be before I am challenged with this task again, there is nothing stopping me from thinking up future name combinations and enjoying the history behind memorable names I come across. So I ask you, why did you choose your dog's name? I would love to know!

⇒ Rescue (Cont from Pg. 12)

as he described rescue activities for Golden Retrievers, not only about the need but the dedication and commitment of its volunteers.

While 2010 data is currently being accumulated, in 2009 there were 12,000 Goldens rescued. This number is by far the largest of any breed for which documentation exists. Although the number of Labs rescued may be higher, the coordination of the effort nationally isn't such that the numbers can be reliably

accumulated.

12,000 reasons to sleep better tonight. In my opinion there is no greater dedication to one's breed of choice than that of volunteers who take care of someone else's dog until that dog goes home. So pat a rescuer on the back and, at the same time, reach around and pat yourself, too..... the majority of members of this Club contribute financially to GR rescue and that makes you a rescuer too.

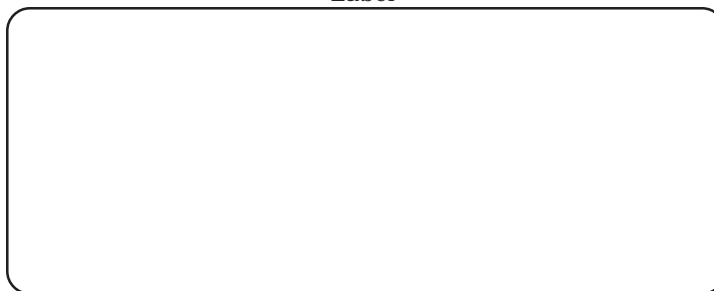


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Meetings

All meetings at Gander Mountain's Community Room, 5864 Carmenica Drive, Cicero unless otherwise indicated. Exit #30 from I-81 (next to Cracker Barrel Restaurant).

June 2 (Thurs)
7:00^{PM} General Meeting

August 4 (Thurs)
7:00^{PM} General Meeting

September 15 (Thurs)
7:00^{PM} General Meeting

October 20 (Thurs)
7:00^{PM} General Meeting

Activities

WC/WCX - August 6
Echoewood - Mexico

Field Trials - Sept 10/11
3 Rivers WMA - Baldwinsville

Eye Clinic - October 16
Village Veterinary Clinic - Wampsville

Awards Dinner - December 12
TBA

Field Training Days
See schedule on page 5

In case of inclement weather, information regarding meeting or event cancellations may be obtained by calling Kathy McCloskey - 315-233-9571