



GOLDEN
RETRIEVER
CLUB OF
CENTRAL
NEW YORK

Conformation · Field · Obedience

Golden Tales

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January 2011

Adirondac Princess Firefly Named 2010 Heart of Gold Winner



Photo courtesy of Tony Zappia

Flyer

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The Golden Retriever Club of Central New York annually recognizes one Golden, owned or co-owned by a Club member, with the Heart of Gold award. The purpose of this award is to acknowledge the close bond between Golden Retrievers and humans, for distinguished but unspecified contributions to the individual or family with which it resides.

The 2010 recipient of the Heart of Gold award is Adirondac Princess Firefly, or Flyer as she is more commonly known. Flyer is owned and loved by Russell and Martha Sturtz.

To read Flyer's nomination submission, along with submissions for the other two nominees, please turn to page 9.

Congratulations to Flyer!

Inside

President's Message	2
Goldens Remembered	3
Welcome New Members	3
Meeting Minutes	4
2010 Title Awards	5
Versatility Award	5
Annual Awards Pictures	6
Member Forum	8
Member Brags	8
Heart of Gold Award	9
Lymphoma	10
Cornell Genomics	11
GRNewsColumn	12
Rescue Reporter	13
Views from the Doghouse ...	19
Events Calendar	Back Cover

Even if you do not compete with your dog in the many venues of the AKC or other organizations, the value of obedience training cannot be understated with any dog. This is true for several reasons.

Safety: First and most important is the safety of your dog. Most every dog owner has had an experience where the dog has darted across a street or chased another animal into an unsafe situation. A solid recall (come), or being able to sit or down your dog from a distance can save your dog's life. Members of this club can attest to this through their own experience. I recall one circumstance in which a dog had darted across the street to chase a squirrel. The owner was still on the other side and was hesitant to call them back because of the traffic. The owner told the dog to "down" which he did and allowed the owner to cross the street safely and retrieve the dog.

Bonding: When you and your dog work together and learn as a team, it creates a special bond between both of you. Most golden retrievers love to work and feel like they have a "job" within the pack. My dogs love to go training in all the venues.



Freedom: An obedient dog actually has more freedom within your world, because you can trust them in a variety of different situations. They can be with you at family and friends gatherings. They can be part of presentations at schools and scouting events. They can be around and play with other dogs. They can go to the pet store with you. They can become therapy dogs. The list goes on and on.

Although I do believe that you can teach an "old dog new tricks," obedience is best taught when a dog is young. Bad habits and behaviors are more difficult to train away. Although it is not "required" that you and your dog take obedience classes, it certainly helps. There's always something new for both the handler and dog to learn. It also helps to be around other dogs in a learning situation. Many members of the club can suggest places where you can go to train with your dog.

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.

Beth Shelmidine, PO Box 4, Lorraine, NY 13659
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Membership Information

GRCCNY invites as new members, anyone with an interest in Goldens! 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

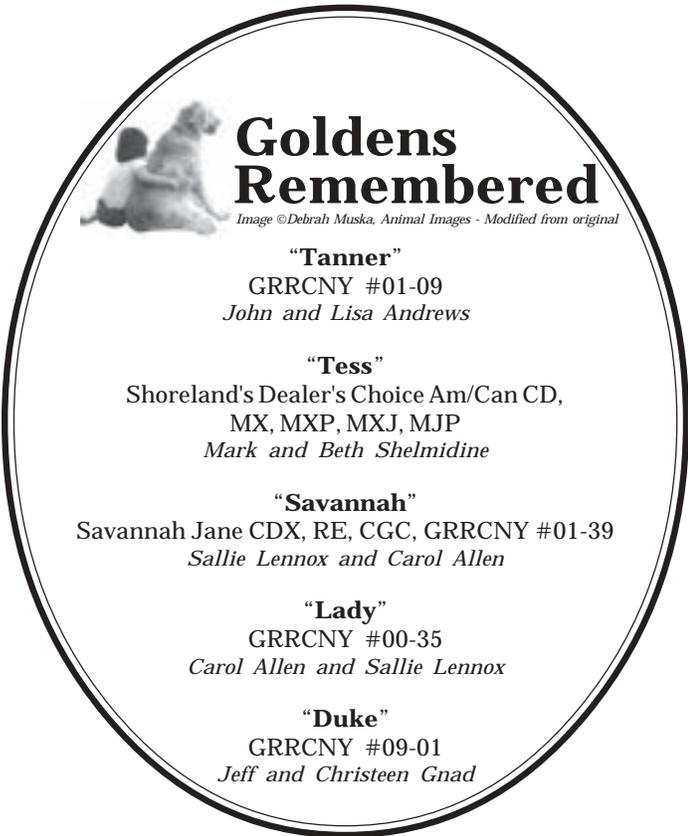
From Your Best Friend

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

"Tanner"
GRRONY #01-09
John and Lisa Andrews

"Tess"
Shoreland's Dealer's Choice Am/Can CD,
MX, MXP, MXJ, MJP
Mark and Beth Shelmidine

"Savannah"
Savannah Jane CDX, RE, CGC, GRRONY #01-39
Sallie Lennox and Carol Allen

"Lady"
GRRONY #00-35
Carol Allen and Sallie Lennox

"Duke"
GRRONY #09-01
Jeff and Christeen Gnad

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Carol Lantiegne
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WELCOME
New Members

Dwight Kanyuck and Barbara Zappia,
Rochester
Rescue Honorary

John and Karen Malinowski, Syracuse
Rescue Honorary

Rev. Gary and Meg Chorpensing, Elmira
Rescue Honorary

* Election Required for Individual or Household Applicants

***Dues are due -
is your GRCCNY membership current?***

Club News & Events

Meeting Highlights

- The Following Is An Unofficial Summary -

GRCCNY meeting 10/21/10

Submitted by Beth Shelmidine, Secretary

Treasurer's Report: Balance for three accounts given by Carol Allen. Carol also reported small profits from the hunt test and eye clinic, and a more substantial profit from the Fun in the Field event.

Correspondence: 1) Carol Allen reported the GRCA Stand Together Challenge earned a total, with match, of \$368,000 for support of GR causes. 2) Several correspondences were received from AKC regarding the 2011 Specialty, these were passed to Beth Greenfield. 3) AKC requested donations in support of their Political Action Committee. 4) Letter received regarding canine legislation from Associated Dog Clubs of NY State.

Membership: Pam Cox present for 2nd reading of her membership application, she was voted into membership and welcomed by all.

Election of Officers: There being no nominations from the floor at the September meeting, a motion was made by Martha Sturtz that the Secretary cast one ballot for the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee. Motion was seconded by Carol Allen with all in favor. The 2011 GRCCNY Officers and Board are: President, Kathy McCloskey; VP, Maxine Clark; Secretary, Beth Shelmidine; Treasurer, Carol Allen; Board Members Ray Blaskiewicz, Beth Greenfield, Sallie Lennox, Suzanne McDonald and Judi Questel.

Reports:

From the President: Maxine's husband, Bob, has had serious heart surgery but is recovering well at home. Maxine has enlisted the help of Lynn and Martha for next year's field training and events. Both will be her apprentices, so to speak. Kathy also reported that the AKC was provided the membership list, as discussed last month.

Database: Liz Moran has relinquished her duties as

Database Manager and a volunteer is needed to carry on those duties.

Website: There has been no forward progress as of yet on the website.

Specialty: Beth Greenfield reports the 2011 Specialty has been finalized in every way.

CCA: Beth Greenfield reports the tentative date is April 9, pending availability of evaluators.

Golden Tales: Judi Questel is commended for the newest issue of Golden Tales. She does a superb job.

Rescue: Sallie Lennox reports that two recent rescues have been graciously fostered by two of our members: Becky and Cindy. Some of the other recent rescues have serious health problems that may be expensive to address.

Awards Dinner: Reservation form is in Golden Tales, as is the title award request form.

New Business:

1. Suzi McDonald reports we are pre-approved for a 2011 Hunt Test on September 10/11. Maxine has agreed to be Chairperson. Suzi will Secretary. Motion made, seconded and passed to hold 2011 Hunt Test.
2. Carol Allen reminds us that the 2011 GRCA National will be in Georgia. This may be the last time it is held on the east coast for several years.
3. Pam Cox was approached by SOTC members in casual conversation about the idea of our club hosting an agility trial at their facility. Discussion followed and the matter tabled for further investigation.
4. Tom Questel reported on "Robin", the 2009 AKC ACE award winner in Law Enforcement, who has just been diagnosed with cancer. He needs 16 radiation treatments and further surgery. Motion made, seconded and passed to donate \$250 toward Robin's expenses.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

*Golden Tales is available
DIGITALLY
Delivered right to you via e-mail
Contact Judi Questel at bonefeathers@yahoo.com
and sign up today!*

2010 Title Awards

The following dogs were recognized at the Annual Awards for new titles earned. Congratulations to all!

Tessahoc Bear Mountain Touch of Gold CD (Wood) RN, CCA	Adirondac Tugs At Your Heart RA, OA, OAJ, OF, VC, CCA (Mickinkle/Blaskiewicz) RE, AX, AXJ
Indian Acre Dusty Road UD, RA, CCA, CGC (Wood) RE	Topflite Skye's Still On Fire (Mickinkle) JH, WC, RN
Birch Run Heart of Westbrook RN, CCA (Greenfield) RA	Adirondac Safari RA, CDX (Clark) RE, OA, NF, VC, CCA
Adirondac Cedar Chest of Gold JH, RN (McDonald) CD	Adirondac Dandelion Whine SH, WCX (Clark) RA, UD
Shor'Line Kickin Back in the Islands CGC (McDonald) WC	Topflite Gone With the Wind JH, WC (Clark) CD, RN, CCA
Quinleigh Blu Rivermate's Diver (Baritell) CCA, WC	One Ash Prime Time Express UDX6, JH, WC (Puzon) VER, OM1
Rivermate's Hail Storm CCA (Baritell) CD	One Ash Daredevil Devon (Puzon) CD, Can CD
Birch Run's Heart-N-Soul (Baritell) CD, CCA, WC	One Ash Brit's True Glory Ale UDX3, JH (Puzon) TD
Shor'Line Cuttin Thru Ruff Seas CD, WC, RN, NJP, CCA (Shelmidine) RA, Can CH	Rivermate's Ice Dancer RN, AX, AXJ, CCA (Cox) CD, MX, MXJ, NF, OF
Topflight Cameo Rose RA, NAJ, NF, WC, CCA (McCloskey) RE, CD, VC, NA, OAJ, OF, OA, CDX	Bonefeathers Its All About Me RE, CDX, NA, NAJ, Can CD (Questel) CCA
Adirondac Mountain Eire VCX, NF, CCA (McCloskey) OF, VER	Bonefeathers Farscape Moya Am/Can CDX, RAE, AX, AXJ, Can Agl, Can AglJ, CCA (Questel) MX, MXJ, NF
Adirondac Lass McKenzie (McCloskey) CCA, VCX	Bonefeathers Sidra Caliente RN (Questel) RA, CCA, RE, NAJ
Topflight Shooting Star RA, NF, SH, WCX, CCA (Mickinkle/Blaskiewicz) RE, NA, NAJ, VC, CD, OAJ, OF	Bonefeathers Best Of Both Worlds (Countryman) CCA

2010 Versatility Award

The GRCCNY Versatility Award is presented annually to a Golden, owned or co-owned by a club member. This award is to acknowledge the versatility of Golden Retrievers by recognizing one dog annually with a distinguished record of title achievement in multiple areas of endeavor, through either the American or Canadian Kennel Clubs, or the Golden Retriever Club of America.

The 2010 Versatility Award was presented to Mark and Beth Shelmidine and Can CH Shor'Line Cuttin Thru Ruff Seas RA, CD, WC, NJP, CCA. Cutter has earned a total of seven titles from conformation, obedience, rally, agility and field. Congratulations to the Shelmidines and Cutter.



Photo courtesy of Tom O'Connell

Cutter

GRCCNY 2010

Borio's Restaurant in Cicero was the setting for the 2010 annual dinner and awards presentation.

Club members once again had Dave Tyler very busy in his woodworking shop. The number of titles earned



Left, top to bottom: Maxine Clark cheers on all the title recipients; Gail Puzon; Kari Mickinkle; Pam Cox. Above, top to bottom: Ray Blaskiewicz; Sally Baritell; Rachel Countryman. Awards presenters for all photos – Marcia Martin and Dave Tyler.

Title Awards

by club members again showed an increase, with 14 owners and 26 dogs earning a total of 68 new titles. Kudos to all who worked so hard with their dogs over the past year! A full list of titles awarded may be found on page 5.



Above, top to bottom: Suzanne McDonald; Beth Greenfield; Anne Wood. Right, top to bottom: Kathy McCloskey; Beth Shelmidine; Maxine Clark; Lynn Mickinkle. Photos courtesy of Kathy McCloskey.

Member Service Acknowledged



Photo courtesy of Kathy McCloskey

At the December Awards Dinner, Lisa Andrews and Janis Tyler were acknowledged with a BIG thank you and a gift from GRCCNY for their ten years of service to the Club as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Both Janis and Lisa served from 1999 to 2009 and provided valuable service for all of those years in their officer capacities.

GRCCNY's Eye Clinic Held

by Patti Gambier

GRCCNY held its annual Eye Clinic on October 17th at the usual place (Village Veterinary Hospital, Canastota) and, once again, with Dr. Tom Kern of Cornell as the examiner. A wonderful "crew" of club members volunteered their day or part of it. While the number examined was lower than in past years – as is the case with most clinics lately – we did have a successful clinic and provided a necessary service to our members and others as well. Thanks to those who volunteered and our host, Dr. Kerry Brown.

We are already looking forward to the 2011 eye clinic, which will be held on October 16. Watch for the flyer to be available in the summer.

GRCCNY Specialty

NYS Fairgrounds - April 2, 2011
Come watch our breed
strut their stuff!

Scout's Ada Mae Cleans Up With WNYRC

At the Western New York Retriever Club's annual meeting and dinner, held on November 5th, Todd Clickner and Ada (MHR Scout's Ada Mae MH WCX) once again made a strong showing in garnering awards. The Ollie Meddaugh Trophy is awarded to the dog with the highest accumulated points from Field Trial, NAHRA, and AKC Hunt Tests. Ada shares the award with two other dogs this year. Ada has now shared this award twice (2007 and 2010) and won it outright twice (2006 and 2009). The Joe Mercer Award goes to the Golden Retriever with the highest accumulated annual point totals from NAHRA and AKC licensed events. This is now the fifth time Ada has received this honor, previously winning it in 2005, 2006 and 2010 as well as sharing it in 2007. The WNYRC Master/Senior High Point Trophy is awarded to the dog with the highest point totals from WNYRC Licensed and Sanctioned events, and other club's Licensed events. Ada has now won this award twice (2009 and 2010) and shared it once (2008). Congratulations to Todd and Ada for their continued demonstration of excellence in field venues.



Carol Lantiegne reports that Echoe (Adirondac Tea Party) earned her Master Hunter (MH) title at the American Chesapeake Club test on October 2, 2010.

Carol also reports that Midas (Adirondac Midas Touch) earned his MH title at the American Chesapeake Club test on October 2, 2010.

Lynn Mickinkle and Comet (Topflite Shooting Star) earned Open and Open FAST agility titles at the SOTC agility trial.

Beth Greenfield and Ada (Birch Run Heart of Westbrook) took second place while earning her Rally Advanced (RA) title at Garden State GRC.

Beth Shelmidine's boy, Cutter (Shor'Line Cuttin' Thru Ruff Seas) earned his Canadian Championship in two weekends with handler Joanne Griffith. Cutter also received one BOB and one BOS as well.

Continued on Pg. 13 ⇨

GRCCNY Heart of Gold Nominations

Each year the Golden Retriever Club of Central New York presents the Heart of Gold Award to a Golden, owned or co-owned by a Club member. The purpose of the award is to acknowledge the close bond between Golden and humans, honoring one dog annually for distinguished but unspecified contributions to the individual or family with which it resides. Below are the 2010 submissions for Adirondac Princess Firefly, Birch Run Heart of Westbrook and Shoreland's Dealer's Choice.



Adirondac Princess Firefly "Flyer" 2010 Heart of Gold Winner

Submitted by Martha Sturtz

Over a year ago Adirondac Princess Firefly, a.k.a. "Flyer," arrived at our Sturtz family beef farm like an unexpected wind storm. Flyer was secretly chauffeured here by Carol Lantiegne. My husband, Russell, along with our sons, Russell and Kenneth, and of course Carol, were all in on the plot to save me from the depths of depression and self-pity. To understand the how and the why of Flyer arriving here in June of 2009, we need to go back to March 2008 and fill in some details.

In March 2008 I was a full time teacher at the Mexico Middle School, and worked part time as a real estate salesperson. So it came as a show stopping surprise when I heard the words, "You have breast cancer."

After the shock, my family and I decided we would do whatever had to be done for me to survive. To make this part of our story short, we'll just say there were many ups and downs. We had to endure first my chemotherapy, then an unexpected hospital stay, several surgeries, more chemo, the hair loss, months of radiation, even more chemo, along with all the permanent damage to my body from the chemo, and finally another whole year of chemo. During all of this I tried to go back to teaching and working in real estate, but was not able to do it because of all the side effects. So, in June 2009, I moved out of my classroom after thirty years. I didn't know what to do. I still had months of chemo treatments to go through. Physically

Continued on Pg. 14 ⇨

Birch Run Heart of Westbrook RA CCA CGC "Ada" 2010 Heart of Gold Nominee

Submitted by Beth Greenfield

I would like to nominate my wild and crazy gal "Ada" - Birch Run Heart of Westbrook RA CCA CGC.

For many years now I would sit and watch our club members get so many awards on their dogs. Since my very painful divorce from my ex, Ted, in 1992, I did not have a dog that I thought I could work in any venue culminating with the death of a promising puppy from anesthesia. In 2005, I finally was able to attend the National in Gettysburg. Sue Birch was there shopping for a male stud dog and I asked her to keep me in mind for a bitch puppy. Later that year AKC field rep Ray Scott gave a talk about the judging process and I realized I already had the ground work laid down, so I started the long application process.

Continued on Pg. 17 ⇨

Shoreland's Dealer's Choice Am/Can CD, MX, MXP, MXJ, MJP "Tess"

2010 Heart of Gold Nominee

Submitted by Beth Sheldine

The dictionary defines the word "nominate" as "to choose or select". It's my turn to "choose" Tess. You see, nearly 14 years ago, I never had that opportunity...

Years ago, within ten months I lost my 8 year old and my 13 year old Golden to cancer. What a blow, a life-altering experience. They had been my instruments of introduction to the world of dog training and competition in obedience, agility, and tracking. I think of all the fun we had and all I learned from them. Suddenly, it was all over. The hole in my heart was immeasurable.

More than a year passed without a dog in our home, no dog to train, no shows to attend, no dog to love.

Continued on Pg. 17 ⇨

Lymphoma:

Death be not proud

by Leslie Crane Rugg and Eva Saks

Signs and treatment of this common cancer

Lymphoma terrifies dog owners – and rightly so. Mona Rosenberg, DVM, chief oncologist of Veterinary Cancer Group at the City of Angels Veterinary Specialty Center, says without treatment, typical survival time is four weeks. Even with treatment, this cancer of the blood kills quickly. Nonetheless, Jaime Modiano, VMD, professor of oncology and comparative medicine at the University of Minnesota's veterinary school and Masonic Cancer Center, says progress is happening. "Lymphoma may become a manageable disease," he says, "maybe even in the next decade."

Ted Valli, DVM, diplomate at the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, says lymphoma (lymphosarcoma) describes more than 30 cancers of the lymphocytes (white blood cells) and lymphatic system. Normally, lymphocytes fight infection; they are "the main effector cells of the immune system. The cancer develops because the lymphocytes are reproducing too rapidly or not dying rapidly enough," Michael Childress, DVM, assistant professor of oncology at Purdue University's School of Veterinary Medicine, says. Excessive lymphocytes cause tumors and disable healthy cells, leading to organ failure and death. The disease affects lymph tissue as well as non-lymphoid organs (spleen, bone marrow) and therefore can occur throughout the body.

One in 15 dogs contracts lymphoma, making it the most common life-threatening cancer, Modiano says. Lymphoma affects some breeds more dramatically than others, says Matthew Breen, Ph.D., professor of genomics at North Carolina State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. It strikes one in four Boxers and one in eight Golden Retrievers. Rosenberg also sees it frequently in Labradors, Saint Bernards, Basset Hounds, Scottish Terriers, Rottweilers, German Shepherd Dogs, and Vizslas.

Causes and Symptoms

Lymphoma's cause is unknown. Valli says, "In general [it] is a disease of aging, with any persistent focus of inflammation a risk factor." Various factors probably

contribute to all cancers; Rosenberg lists "the aging process, genetics, the environment we live in, a deterioration of the immune system, and just plain bad luck." She continues, "Genetics plays an important role. Now that the canine genome has been identified, several research labs are searching for genetic abnormalities and mutations that may be in part responsible for the development of lymphoma. Viral involvement has been hypothesized but never confirmed as a risk factor."

Although Rosenberg says that "environmental factors have not been definitively identified," Jean Dodds, DVM, Hemolife founder, says that "environmental exposures are definitely of concern." Carcinogens lurk in everything from weed killers (herbicides) – in particular, formula 2,4,5-T, and formula 2,4-D, also known as the active ingredient in Agent Orange – to grooming products to food preservatives to plastics.

Veterinary attention should be sought immediately upon discovering symptoms of any of the four types of lymphoma:

- **Multicentric** (most common) forms in the lymph nodes. Note swelling in the neck, front legs, or groin.
- **Gastrointestinal/alimentary** forms in the digestive tract. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, and lack of appetite.
- **Mediastinal** forms in the thymus gland, impairing lung and/or heart function. Affected dogs might show shortness of breath, post-meal vomiting, or abnormal heartbeat.
- **Extranodal** (very rare) usually affects skin and mucus membranes, which are non-lymphoid tissues. Note ulcerations and scratching.

Lymphoma is confirmed by a positive biopsy. A veterinary oncologist will then "stage" the cancer, determining its extent and nature, usually through some combination of blood panels, bone-marrow aspirates, X-rays, and ultrasound. The prognosis is worst for stage five, when disease has spread throughout the body, including bone marrow.

Continued on Pg. 18 ⇨

Donor's \$10 Million Gift will Unleash Canine Genomics Program in Vet College

by Gary E. Frank

The Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine will soon become home to the world's first endowed canine genomics program, thanks to a gift of \$10 million from an anonymous donor.

As the largest single gift in the college's history, it will support investments in three areas: endowed professorships and faculty startups, DNA sequencing, and the DNA Bank, which is an archive of DNA and medical information that defines inherited diseases in dogs.

"To have a university leader step forward with a gift of such magnitude and purpose is an extraordinary statement of support," President David Skorton said in announcing the gift. "At Cornell and throughout higher education, resources to invest in faculty and new programs are scarce, which makes this gift all the more meaningful."

Research conducted through the program will further scientists' understanding of and ability to fight cancer and other diseases that attack animals and humans.

"The intersection of human and animal health is central to the fundamental understanding of the biological base of disease," said Michael I. Kotlikoff, the Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine. "This inspiring gift will have an enormous impact on both canine and human health, particularly through advancing the understanding of the way that our genetic makeup controls cancer susceptibility."

"Canine genomics involves the use of any genetic tool such as markers, mutation or tissue expression data at the molecular level," explained Professor Rory Todhunter, head of the medical genetics program and founder of the DNA Bank. "In our case, it means using all of those tools to uncover the basis of inherited diseases in dogs, and using genetics to diagnose and predict a dog's susceptibility to disease."

Faculty, alumni and stakeholders of the College of Veterinary Medicine identified the advancement of translational research – translating scientific discoveries into practical applications – as a strategic priority for the college in 2009. The initial investment from the gift will be used to conduct a national search for a tenure-track senior faculty member in statistical genomics to propel the canine genomics effort.

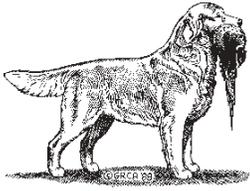
"Many of the diseases dogs are carrying are multigenic, meaning multiple genes are affected. We have the tools... to look at their genomes, to look at the genetic differences between dogs," said John Schimenti, professor of genetics. "The big challenge comes from looking at all that genetic information and asking, 'Where in this huge genome are the specific genes and alterations that are responsible for the disease?' The answer is not straightforward; this requires a lot of statistical analysis."

Once the search for a biostatistician is complete, the college will begin recruiting for a second faculty position in cancer biology.

"With this gift, we will leverage the information embedded in canine genetics – available after hundreds of years of selective breeding – for the benefit of animals and humans," said Kotlikoff. "We know that each breed possesses a unique and highly similar collection of genes, which confer susceptibility to certain diseases and constitute a stunning opportunity for gene association studies that cannot be performed in people. These investigations can be done noninvasively in dogs and will inform our understanding of the specific genes that result in susceptibility to some of our most serious diseases."

This article first appeared in the Fall 2010 issue of Ezra, Cornell University's quarterly magazine, and is reprinted with permission.

***Back Issues of Golden Tales are on the Web at
www.grccny.org***



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.

Re-Thinking Our WC/WCX

These thoughts have been accumulating in my mind for several years, as I wrestle with what is "not working" at our annual WC/WCX events. Discussion with others from different areas of the country have led me to the conclusion that perhaps our beloved WC/WCX is no longer serving us as intended and needs to be modernized.

The Working Certificate test is **not** difficult. The Working Certificate Excellent test poses a lot of meat and potatoes, as it should, but it shouldn't require Master Hunter skills to pass. Our Golden Retrievers are bred to be gun dogs. The first section of the by-laws contains the following: A. To recognize that the Golden Retriever is a gun dog and to encourage the members to perfect, by selective breeding, Golden Retrievers that possess the appearance, soundness, temperament, natural ability and personality that is reflected in the standard of the breed and to do all possible to advance and promote the perfection of these qualities. The Working Certificate, as the name implies, is our vehicle to give our Golden Retrievers the opportunity to prove themselves as gun dogs. The mechanics of the present test, however, no longer provide the challenge in a manner today's Golden Retrievers and handlers can successfully complete.

Before the days of hunt tests (1980's), the only field competition was the field trial, so the WC/WCX was patterned under those guidelines. Today, I expect there are far more hunt test competitors entering WC's than there are field trial handlers. Yet, the WC continues to be a dumbed-down version of a field trial that is completely foreign to the hunt test dogs and handlers. Dogs competing in today's field trials are capable of incredible feats of athleticism and ability. For them to compete at a WC/WCX is also a recipe for failure. Our present WC/WCX test is not appropriate or fair for dogs of either field venue.

At our 2010 event recently held, the disappointing results prompted this column. There were eight entrants in the WCX. One of those dogs won the 2009 Derby at our National Specialty, but badly over-ran the marks at the WCX and was totally confused by the proximity of the gunners. She, two weeks later, took a Reserve JAM in the second Qualifying stake she ever ran..... Something's wrong with this picture! The only two dogs that passed the WCX are running Master in hunt tests, so the triple

was do-able for them. They probably got to the line and thought, "so, what's with the veterinarians out in the field?"

The WC test left even more long faces. Of the 14 entries, only four Golden Retrievers passed, and no Flat Coats. Six of those entrants were hunt test dogs, three were from show lines, one is preparing to run field trial derbies. She could not deal with the short marks AND the nondescript "upland" birds required. All field dogs today train primarily with ducks, so the use of pigeons or chukars is yet another instance of on-the-job training at the test itself. I know some clubs offer specific training classes for the WC/WCX, and I'm sure their success rate is acceptable, but for competitors already committed to either real hunt tests or field trials, the interest just isn't there for spending time preparing for the WC/WCX.

We are all aware of the tremendous gains our breed is making in major field competitions. There are more and more Golden Retrievers sporting Master Hunter titles and going home with colored Field Trial ribbons than the inventors of the WC/WCX ever thought possible. I would like to see our WC/WCX modified to provide a more appropriate test for 21st Century Golden Retrievers and handlers. A few suggestions of what I might change might be considered by the GRCA. I think the WC requirement of simply returning over the line with the bird is very appropriate for this test. I think the sharp "crack" of the starter pistol is not enough sound to help the dogs pinpoint where the throw will be coming from, even with the white coats. I don't know if a duck call is appropriate, but even a hey-hey-hey would be a much better aid. Many WC dogs fail because they switch... I think this problem is caused by the nondescript "upland" birds we've had to use... too small, too dark, and no scent to hold the dog in the area of the fall of the go bird... I would definitely drop the upland bird requirement and use ducks for all retrievers. To get through the triple of the WCX, a dog has to have a lot of discipline and experience. Master dogs that do triples can certainly handle longer distances than the WCX presently requires. Perhaps we should split the difference, putting those three birds at 80, 100 and 120 yards, giving the field trial warriors something that looks a bit more realistic, but using the sound attraction that hunt test dogs key on. Just some food for thought...



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.

Our Club's members are becoming aware of puppy mills and the terrible breeding practices and cruelty therein and the recent prosecution of a Romulus (NY) miller for inhumanely killing 80 of his dogs helped to bring mills in general to people's attention. Regardless of what some may consider his "legitimate" reasons for doing this (brucellosis, a terrible infectious bacteria within his breeding stock), euthanizing is the legal responsibility only of a veterinarian. The man was fined and soon, I suggest, will be back in business under a different name or in a different place. It is just too lucrative a venture not to come back.

Brace yourself, Central New York. The millers are moving into our area at an alarming rate with the Finger Lakes and the western Adirondacks as prime targets. As family farms fail and go up for sale, and as Pennsylvania's laws and regulations tighten, these millers largely from two religious sects are finding safe haven in New York State.

In attempting to legally counter this movement and development, the puppy millers have an unusual ally: some of the good, ethical, reputable breeders who believe that ANY legislation to limit or control breeding practices will eventually come to limit their own rights to own, breed, sell and even to show and compete. Some of the very people who logic may suggest would be most opposed to puppy mills end up, in fact, supporting them. This gives new meaning to "strange bedfellows."

Most rescuers, particularly breed-specific rescuers, detest the puppy millers and their cruel breeding and selling practices. We see the results all too often in

rescue work: the terribly bad hips, the heart defects, the distance between the breed standard and these dogs. Interesting though, the temperaments are usually fairly good and it is thought that a miller could not tolerate in his breeding operation a dog on the far end of the temperament continuum – and bullets are cheap. We also see the results in behavior of lack of time-sensitive socialization and early puppy experiences, those very experiences that lead when well done to confidence, and good interactions with other animals. But we are far from the thinking of the radical Animal Rights organizations (PETA, HSUS, for example) – in fact, breed-specific rescuers have a great deal of breed loyalty. That very breed loyalty is a favorite target of the Animal Rights organizations.

We keep coming back to PUBLIC EDUCATION as the only answer. Members of this Golden Retriever Club should be proud that when we re-wrote the Bylaws about 10 years ago that we included public education as a major purpose of the club. It is the only answer.

Be a part of the solution..... when relatives, friends, co-workers, the man in the grocery store or the woman on the golf course talks about getting a puppy, make sure they know the value of selecting a breeder carefully, where to find this information (every national parent club has this information on its website) and to avoid, always avoid, pet stores. Or to pursue a rescued dog or one from a shelter.

Every one of our voices is needed. This isn't a "rescue issue" only; it affects all we know and love about Golden Retrievers.



⇒ Brags (Cont from Pg. 8)

Ray Blaskiewicz reports that Tugger (Adirondac Tugs at Your Heart) earned her first Exc B Standard leg as well as two Exc B Jumpers legs at the SOTC agility trial.

Judi Questel and Sidra (Bonefeathers Sidra Caliente) completed their Companion Dog (CD) obedience title

at the Syracuse Leatherstocking Cluster in November, in their first weekend of showing in the obedience ring.

Ann Lynn and Kira (Gaylan's Roddenberry a la Mode) earned their Senior Hunter (SH) title at the GRCCNY test.

⇒ Flyer (Cont from Pg. 9)

I was challenged to just sit up, stand, dress myself or even walk without falling down. As you can imagine, I became quite depressed. It was easier to stay in bed than deal with things I couldn't do any more.

Now, zoom back to that fateful day in June 2009. Unknown to me, my husband had been put on a mission by his sons – do something to help mom. Both boys were worried. They knew that while fighting the cancer, I had stayed upbeat and had taken it all in stride. Now they saw their mom getting up, showering, putting on clean pj's and going back to bed for the rest of the day.

As faith would have it, my husband, Russell, happened to be putting in a septic tank for Carol Lantiegne. Carol needed the septic as she had a North Carolina dog trainer planning to camp at her place, so she had hired my husband to do the job. You need to know that my husband has done excavating work for Carol and Ernie Lantiegne for at least ten years, and every time Carol has tried to get Russell to swap work and gravel for a puppy! Now this part is as Russell recounts it: Carol shows up as he is working on the septic tank. He said, "Hey, come over here. You won't believe this..." She sits on the side of the backhoe and he tell her after ten years of you trying to get me to swap gravel for a puppy, I need a dog. Carol says, "I have the perfect dog for you!" The dog is a two year old Golden retriever named "Flyer." Carol says "stay right here" and leaves in her red Chevy dog box truck. She is gone ten minutes and comes back with the red dog. Russell says he realized then the dog was just what the doctor ordered!

So Russell's conspiracy starts. He tells Carol to just stop over at our house with this red dog and ask about the septic job. Carol is game and says OK. Later that day, Carol shows up at our house with the red dog named Flyer and brings her into my bedroom. I am in bed in pj's and the dog comes racing in but then gets spooked over the fan so I got up, put on a bathrobe and went out to talk to Carol. She explains that because the dog didn't pass an elbow test she can't use her for puppies. Carol goes on to tell how well trained she is and does a demo in the driveway. I explain that we had decided not to have any dogs after the boys' beagle had died. Carol explains that the dog would be happy just sitting on the porch as she would be hunting in the woods. I tell her it is a very nice dog but we just had new hardwoods put in

and a new kitchen. She says the dog could be happy living outdoors. I tell Carol there is no dog in our future, not even this nice red dog.

My husband tells this part of the story for I don't remember it. He says that we discussed it – that I was upset that he had asked Carol about a dog. He tells that at 7 AM the next day, I still don't think we need a dog. By 4 PM that day, he says I was dressed, had made supper, and said we should go check on the red dog. He says that I was worried she was going to give it away. We went to Carol's home and stayed until 7:30 PM while she demonstrated how the dog retrieved bumpers. I decide to give the dog a try, but want to wait until we could get a crate, food, etc. The next day at 8 AM I am up and dressed as I had a chemo treatment. When I came back, I had to go to bed because I was sick. At 2 PM, Carol shows up with the red dog, Flyer. The dog comes into my bedroom and puts her head on the bed, and sits there for hours just looking at me. My husband said the dog never left or took her eyes off his redheaded wife. The dog never had an accident or chewed anything. The next day the dog had gained the run of the whole house and still does!

Flyer has been the best thing for helping me get back to my old self. Right from the start, I had to take her outside to do her duty. I would trip and stumble along, and she would wait and just look at me like "what is wrong with you, lady?" A few weeks after Flyer came to stay, I had another chemo treatment and was sick and tired. My sons reminded me that the doctor said you need to get up and keep moving, but I was just tired. The dog needed to go out so I tell the hubby to let her out, I am too tired to do it. That crazy guy lets the dog out the kitchen door loose and alone. The dog goes out in the pasture and rolls in cow pies, so much so that she is now a green and red dog. Flyer thinks she smells great! I was furious with Russell. He says, "You told me to let the dog out!" I got dressed and washed the dog. We realized then that the dog was going to be the best medicine!

On a day to day basis, Flyer was outstanding for me and still is. When I was alone with Flyer, there were so many things she did that helped me physically but more importantly emotionally. As any dog owner knows, I could write chapters on all the things that Flyer has done for me. Listing some of the images that

Continued on Pg. 15 ⇒

⇒ Flyer (Cont from Pg. 14)

come to mind may be the only way to give you a feel for the transformation Flyer has caused in me. Flyer flopping down and giving a big sigh while I'm in bed, Flyer stealing one of my socks because I was too slow getting them on, getting winded just taking Flyer out to do her duty, how on our strolls the wind erased the chemo smell/taste, the wind blowing Flyer's ears back while she waits for me to catch up, numb feet, a cold winter breeze in my hair, falling down and Flyer waiting patiently for me to get up, wind driven rain on my face, dog hair blowing across my new floors, how Flyer looks in the sunlight and that sight taking your breath away, Flyer picking up something I dropped, dog toys all over the house, my kids calling to ask how Flyer is, dog rolling in cow pies, kids not calling to ask how I am, many dog baths outside in the cold, feeling my wet feet, dog getting skunked while out for a walk, zoomies around the whole pasture with Russell's glove, Russell running around after Flyer cursing, my boys laughing as Flyer drags my underwear into the kitchen, Flyer sleeping on the boys' beds, jumping up in front of me but not on me, the constant nudges of her nose against my hand, and on and on. Every day Flyer does something to make us laugh and to make us feel loved. It was so nice when she joined our family as it gave us something to talk about besides cancer. Flyer forced me out of my warm comfy bed every morning. She became my new job. I had to get up, get dressed, go outside, walk, play games, and pet her.

When I decided to accept Flyer into our home, I knew it would be a challenge for me and, as anyone knows, a lot of work for all of us – the feeding, vet visits, grooming, exercise, entertaining. In the back of my mind, I knew I might not live as long as Flyer would. I realized that even if this was the case, Flyer would be there for my family to help them cope.

Flyer has been the best thing for me but just as important she has been a wonderful Godsend for the rest of my family. Russell, my husband, never missed one of my treatments or any appointments, or any of my requests. He was there around the clock. After thirty-three years of marriage, Russell is still my soul mate and my rock. He needed someone to take care of me so he could focus on his business and work. Flyer fit the bill to a tee! He knew I was up and going when he left. Flyer and I would walk toward the gravel bed, a little further every day. We'd go get the mail, we would play fetch games, I taught her tricks like putting soda bottles in the recycling bin, picking up a

paper flat on the floor, carrying dirty clothes to the hamper, and how to talk to me but not with a bark, with just a throaty sound to show how happy and excited she is. My days had meaning and purpose again. The dark clouds of gloom finally started to fade away.

Russell loved that Flyer “watched” me during the day. In the evenings, he rewarded her by petting her soft head and curly haired ears for hours while he watched TV. It helped him relax and took away his worries, at least for that day. My boys love Flyer and she loves them. Though one son is at college and the other has an apartment near where he works, they both come home to visit the dog and, oh yes, to see us – their parents! Flyer goes nuts when either boy comes home. She runs around wildly, gets every toy she has out, nudges and talks and whines until she has their undivided attention. My oldest son spoiled her by letting her up on his bed and the furniture, which she knows is wrong – it is like she knows he lets her do things as she smiles about it!

My youngest son was nervous around Flyer – afraid something would happen to her like she might get lost, get hit by a car, run away, stolen, etc. He was afraid some other bad thing would happen to us. Flyer got him over his fears, and they have bonded so much that when he goes back to college, Flyer keeps going upstairs into his bedroom to find things to bring down and show off. This goes on for days. We end up with a pile of pens, scout patches, parts of magic tricks, a tie, a shoe, etc. It is like she expects him to come back home and chase her around. Flyer knows just what to do to get my youngest son's attention – she steals his flip flops. Well, they do look like bumpers. He chases her around and you can see her laughing about it. Flyer's framed picture sits on the fireplace mantle... even my sons' pictures aren't there! The boys both have her picture on their desks. We knew last Christmas that Flyer was part of the family. The room was full of wrappings and in flies this wild red dog jumping up, over, through, under and into all the wrappings like it was brush with birds in it. What a hoot! We were all laughing so hard that she kept it up, even shredding the papers. What a difference a dog makes!

Flyer has given me a whole new social network of friends. One of the hardest parts of leaving teaching is missing that everyday contact with your peers and

Continued on Pg. 16 ⇒

⇒ Flyer (Cont from Pg. 15)

the students. Several weeks after Flyer came to us, Carol told me she had Flyer already entered in a hunt test at Echoewood and to just bring her over for it. So, I did just that – and the plot started to thicken. I didn't know it then but I do now, I was getting sucked into this whirlwind of hunt tests! Carol says you'll have to run her as I have several other dogs to run. She tells me to borrow a whistle and ask the other handlers what to do! I watched several and then there I was on a line sending Flyer for a duck. To make a long story short, we got a ribbon! I was hooked and had acquired a whole batch of great new friends! This contact with other owners and dogs has stimulated my interests and thoughts into new things for me. Having some things to think about besides your health has helped me promote a sense of well being that I had somehow lost.

Flyer has given me so many psychological benefits. Even now, when I catch myself laughing out loud at her crazy antics – like trying to use her paws as hands, if only she had some thumbs – do I realize how far I have come. In all honesty, I never thought I would laugh that deep-to-the-core laugh ever again, yet with Flyer's help, I am. Just having Flyer in the house causes a calm, relaxing environment. I catch myself whistling a tune. She takes up the void left by having an empty nest. I am more relaxed knowing Flyer is with me and I am not home alone. She helps me deal with the pressure and stress that I often inflict on myself. Flyer is my excuse to not worry about things and to just go play. The attitude toward stress has helped lower my blood pressure, and that will help me live longer!

Hunt test fever is the new illness I have. There is something about gaining and sharing hunt experiences with your dog that pulls you in like a vacuum. I love to watch Flyer, or any dog for that matter, with their nose to the ground, see their speed increase to a finesse, watch that tail start wagging at warp speed... it just takes your breath away, you're hooked, you want to see it again and again! The idea that it is something the dog loves to do is nice, but the big draw for me is that the dog does it for us, to please us, and that has to be the God sent proof of their love for us.

Flyer does have what I honestly believe is some hidden inside power. She looks at you with this all knowing look. She seems to know what you are thinking. It's a bit unnerving, like some sixth sense.

Some say she is reading the air – maybe, but I think she has ESP!

Flyer has given us a breath of fresh air. It is an exciting time for our whole family. We are looking forward to the future with Flyer. Hopefully, we'll finish our senior hunter legs, earn our CDX, and maybe get trained as a therapy dog in 2011. Flyer gives enjoyment to all who greet her. Being with Flyer has made me get physically better and most importantly she has made me feel emotionally better.

The credit for my surviving cancer, I have always given to my "Five F's": family, friends, faith, food and fun. Now I can add one more "F" – that one will be for Flyer. She is my intelligent, comical, beautiful, dark, curly, red dog. Flyer is in my heart forever, I know I owe her my life. My family knows that part of my soul is now part of Flyer, seeing as she brought me out of the depths of darkness.

The real inspiration of the Flyer story is that things happen for a reason. I truly believe in this. We needed a trained dog, not a puppy. Carol Lantiegne had such a dog that failed an elbow test. Russell was working for Carol at the same time I was sinking into a very dark world.

Carol, a cancer survivor herself, knew the therapy a Golden retriever could provide. Carol was my heaven-sent angel. When Flyer and I were getting to know each other, it was Carol who guided us along the way. Flyer quickly learned I didn't know what I was doing. It wasn't until we completed an obedience class that we started to become a team and finally earned our CD this past spring. With every senior hunt test our bond grew stronger; even when we didn't get passes, we learned more about each other. We enjoyed each other no matter what we did together. Flyer is my heart of gold and all my dog owner friends are the chain that holds that heart safe. Thank you, to all our friends, for letting us share the story of our God-given gift, Flyer.



⇒ Tess (Cont from Pg. 9)

We considered other breeds during this time, but only briefly. I knew all along I needed another Golden. I just wasn't ready.

One day, a friend who judged obedience told me of an upcoming judging assignment she was to share with an obedience judge from the Midwest who also bred Golden Retrievers. Did I want her to mention me as a potential puppy buyer? Well, did I? I just wasn't sure.

Sure or not, it happened, and the connection was made: I was on the waiting list for a puppy.

The puppies came on Veteran's Day, which meant that we'd have a mid-winter puppy. A trip to the Midwest that time of year was out of the question, so we let the breeder choose which puppy she felt would make the best performance prospect.

Tess arrived at Hancock Airport in a snowstorm after a much delayed flight from O'Hare. I'm convinced that's the reason my hair is now mostly gray. Turned out all my worry was unnecessary. The pilot suspected delays due to the weather and requested that the only puppy passenger be brought to the cockpit for the duration of the flight!

She has successfully filled that enormous hole in my heart dog for all of her nearly 14 years. It was Tess that got me back into training again, showing again, and brought me back to a life filled with the love of Golden Retrievers that I had so been missing. She and I embarked on a decade-long journey competing earnestly in obedience and agility, earning many title ribbons and making countless friends along the way.

Tess has retired from showing now. She sports a gray muzzle and arthritic feet, hardly sees, and selectively hears, but she carries around her favorite green frog—begging anyone for a short toss, just once. She's the Sheriff of the house, keeping the peace when the youngsters get too rowdy. Mostly, she's my heart dog, my partner, my playmate, my confidante, my best friend, my soul-mate.

I never got to **"choose or select"** her, until now, as I **"nominate"** my Tess, "Shoreland's Dealer's Choice Am/Can CD, MX, MXP, MXJ, MJP, CGC" for the GRCCNY Heart of Gold award.

Turns out, not being able to choose her back then was the best choice of all.

⇒ Ada (Cont from Pg. 9)

In the midst of Jon Birch's heart transplant, Ada's litter was born. The only time she was small was the day she was born, after that she was on a major growth spurt.

The week after she arrived, I got the very last Golden that Ted owned. Chaos and insanity reigned as I juggled a very energetic puppy and a depressed six year old bitch together. I had big plans to show her in Golden specialties. She was way too big to compete in the show ring and did not like to be inside buildings. Her brother, Grizzly, was the outstanding one in the breed ring.

Then Sue pushed me into our Hunt seminar. Now I have written about relearning field, but what I did not mention is that I was very discouraged that Ada was doing so poorly at the hunt test seminars. It seemed so complicated and she was freaking out about it and Todd Clickner scared her and me. We doggedly took out bumpers and dead ducks in all

types of weather, but we were still having all sorts of problems. Plus I had no place to work in water. Things finally opened up when Pam Fuller let me swim Ada at her pond, I got some training in with the Longdens and their super Labs, and Carol Lantiegne gently force fetch trained her one afternoon. It takes a village to train for field. Since field needs a strong foundation in obedience, I enrolled Ada in a basic class at SOTC. It did not go well as I could not get answers to my questions, the teachers were not good at problem solving, the building was way too noisy. We got a provisional pass under very bad conditions. A very long argument ensued – not a good way to score points, Beth... duh! Kathy McCloskey suggested rally and I finally got to train under a very good teacher, Nan Bonnell. We easily got our rally novice title and I finally went back to basics in field and entered Ada at our WC in 2009. Even though she did not pass the water for me it was a sign that we were finally clicking together. I had to stop listening to

Continued on Pg. 19 ⇒

⇒ Lymphoma (Cont from Pg. 10)

Treatment Options

Because most lymphomas are disseminated rather than focal (encapsulated) cancers, they cannot be treated by radiation or surgery. The standard of care is the CHOP (or Wisconsin) protocol, a chemotherapy regimen that combines four drugs: Cyclophosphamide (C), Doxorubicin (H), Vincristine (O), and Prednisone (P). CHOP causes remission in 85 percent of dogs. "It is rare to have a dog with lymphoma that is not a good candidate [for CHOP]," Rosenberg says. "Even the dogs with advanced disease deserve a chance." Unlike people, most dogs suffer few side effects from chemotherapy, other than gastrointestinal upset. Few breeds experience hair loss. Unfortunately, the average remission lasts only 14 months. Incidentally, Rosenberg tailors CHOP specifically for dogs with the multi-drug resistance gene mutation (MDR-1) who sometimes face difficulties with Vincristine and Doxorubicin.

If a dog owner decides against chemotherapy, there are few other options. Some veterinarians may suggest Prednisone, which induces remission in 20 to 50 percent of dogs, Childress says. However, he points out that Prednisone alone possibly precludes a later switch to more aggressive treatment, as North Carolina State University studies suggest that Prednisone may induce resistance to CHOP.

Nicole Schiff, DVM/CVA, performs acupuncture on dogs with lymphoma. "Depending on where the lymphoma is, acupuncture can be quite helpful in relieving unpleasant symptoms both from their illness as well as from chemotherapy," she says. She cites nausea and diarrhea as examples of what acupuncture can treat.

Whether diet is intrinsic to cancer treatment or palliative at best remains controversial. Modiano downplays the role of food, asserting that the only verified nutrition/cancer link is the danger of "overnutrition" (eating too much). "We know obesity leads to deterioration in the immune system, so this is important," Rosenberg says.

Director of Angel Care Cancer Center Gregory Ogilvie, DVM, DCVIM (internal medicine, oncology), points out published data confirming that "nutrition is linked to an increased risk of developing as much as 30

percent of cancer in people and thus, appropriate nutrition may have a huge impact." Ogilvie continues pioneering work in nutrition he began as director of the Medical Oncology Research Laboratory of the Animal Cancer Center at Colorado State University. He recommends his cancer patients eat a diet of "relatively low amounts of simple carbohydrates, moderate quantities of high-quality proteins, increased amounts of omega-3 fatty acids ... and relatively low amounts of omega-6 fatty acids."

On the Horizon

Lymphoma research is widespread, supported by public entities like the National Cancer Institute's Comparative Oncology Trials Consortium and private organizations like the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Hopeful directions include:

- **Targeted therapy**, which improves chemotherapy delivery systems, allowing drugs to attack only lymphoma cells and spare normal cells, thereby permitting stronger drugs to be used.
- **Anti-angiogenic therapy**, which starves tumors by destroying blood vessels that supply tumor nourishment.
- **Immunotherapy**, which harnesses the body's own immune system to destroy cancer. Michael Lawman, Ph.D., director of Basic Research Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in Tampa, Florida, has developed a canine lymphoma vaccine, in collaboration with Morphogenesis, Inc. Lawman points out that his vaccine doesn't immunize healthy dogs against lymphoma but rather provides a way to extend a stricken dog's life span.
- **Induced apoptosis**, which precipitates programmed cell death in cancer cells.
- **Refined classification**, designed by Valli and based on the World Health Organization system for human disease, to enhance diagnostic accuracy and fine-tune treatment depending on lymphoma subtype.

For owners of dogs affected with lymphoma, the excruciating treatment decision is deeply personal. One thing is clear: Cherish your dog and enjoy quality time, whatever you choose.

This article first appeared in the November 2010 issue of AKC Gazette and is reprinted with permission.



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.*

Snow Dogs

Snow – what is it about this stuff that my dogs find so intoxicating?

Snow brings a whole new level of play when chasing tennis balls or having a rousing game of wrestling-and-bitey-face, but then it seems each dog has discovered their own personal ways as well to enjoy the snowy months.

I would think that 12-year-old arthritic Daisy would prefer being inside where it's warm and she has her choice of dog beds, including the couch. No, she would rather play in the snow. Just the other day she was having a blast using a frisbee as a shovel, plowing and scooping it through the snow. I practically have to bribe her with promises of biscuits in order to get her back inside!

Lexi loves being outside when it's snowing, especially the big fat snowflake type of snowfall. She will plead to go out and play – talking, nudging, snorting... she

pulls out all the stops. She is rarely happier than when she is making snow angels.

Sidra has discovered a new trick. She takes a shank bone out into the snowy yard and plays with it until it is packed tight with snow, then she will bring it in and enjoy cleaning the snow out of the bone as if it was marrow. She has been known to repeat this four or five times a day!

Then there is the rodent hunt – listen and locate a rodent tunneling through the snow, pounce and dig the unsuspecting creature out, then send it flying through the air with a toss of a canine head... the dogs must think “what a fun game!”

Is it the cold they enjoy? The feel of the snow grinding against fur as they make snow angels? Or are they really just little kids at heart? I don't really know, but at least I don't have to dress them in snowsuits and mittens!



⇒ Ada (Cont from Pg. 17)

everyone, sort out all the bad advice and strip it back to the basics.

We continued on to rally advanced but Ada and I could not shake our nerves, it was a disaster followed by triumph followed by disaster. Fortunately the heat cycle took us out in time to breed her for the first time. It was disaster followed by triumph. She delivered five pups, chomped the tail off of the first one born and would not settle in to nurse, she sat on one pup the first day despite the guard rails and I lost the very small bitch puppy and the other male the next day. Before the pups came back from the NICU, she had brought all the soft toys into a corner to take care of. It was heartbreaking, but once the remaining two came home she became supermom. I could not have whelped the litter without the loan of the Tyler's whelping box. It takes a village to raise a litter. She is still the best mom to Brees today.

I entered her for the last rally advanced leg at the Garden State Specialty, it all clicked and we passed. We had gained a modicum of confidence and it was starting to be fun. It takes a village to do obedience.

Ada is very much my dog only, she will not go with anyone else like most Golden Retrievers. She gets nervous and shaky before a competition or field training. She is very big and long. She is very strong in body and mind. One rally judge said after a fail, you both did persevere! Most importantly Ada has helped me get back into the swing of things – from judging, to field training, even obedience (Ted said I was not a good obedience trainer). I am no longer on the sidelines. With her I have relearned and reinforced what I do know about Golden Retrievers, but she has opened up more possibilities for me to explore.

What is next? I can lay out all the plans, but with Ada it will always be up to her.



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

YOUR Membership Expiration Date Shown on Address
Label



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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).

March 24 (Thursday)
7:00^{PM} General Meeting

Activities

GRCCNY Specialty - April 2
NYS Fairgrounds, Syracuse

CCA - April 9
SOTC Training Facility, Syracuse

WC/WCX - August 6
Echoewood, Mexico

Eye Clinic - October 16
Village Veterinary Clinic, Canastota

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