

May/June 2013

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The Golden Reporter

Est. 1967 Serving the Interest of the Greater Twin Cities Golden Retriever Club



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President's Letter

Hi GTCGRC Members

Happy Spring ...(sort of). Let's hope spring is finally here and the weather will start getting better.

I would like to thank everyone who attended our Annual Awards Banquet in March. A good time was had by all. A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped make the banquet successful. Our raffle this year was "over the top" and helped defray the normal expenses.

We have a very busy spring and summer planned for the club. As always, the club needs help from the membership to make our club events a success. We need help at each and every event the club holds. So, please consider volunteering when you are able. We are always glad to help train any novice for any job at any event! Please check the website for all upcoming meetings and events.

In the March/April issue of the Golden Report the editor shared her recipe for pumpkin peanut butter dog treats. I hope everyone tried the recipe. I tried it and it is great and the dog loved them!

Please feel free to contact any board member if you have any ideas or suggestions for future general meetings or activities. I hope to see you all of you on May 18 at the next club meeting. Remember to check the website for any changes!!!

LuAnn

Upcoming Events

May 18th, 2013

Board meeting 5:30pm

General meeting 6:30pm

Location: Ridgedale Lund's (13081 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55305)

Our speaker, Dr. Katrina Gustafson, will be talking about vaccinations. Questions, comments and discussion are welcome.

May 19th, 2013

Field Seminar 10-4pm

Location: Kelley Farms

Must register beforehand.

June 16th, 2013

Picnic will start at 3:00pm

Location Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park
(9750 Egret Blvd, Coon Rapids, MN)

We will be at Pacillion #1.

There is a \$5 charge to enter the park.

June 23rd, 2013

Field Seminar 10-4pm

Location: Kelley Farms

Must register beforehand.

July 13th, 2013

Duluth KC Sponsered Entry

July 21st, 2013

Field Seminar 10-4pm

Location: Kelley Farms

Must register beforehand.

July 28th, 2013

CCA (Certificate of Conformation Assessment)

Location: Animal Inn

Evaluators: Maureen Shaughnessy, Ellen Hardin, Marcia Schlehr

Premium and entry form are located on the club's website.

Field Seminars



When:

May 19th

June 23rd

July 21st

August 11th

September 8th

Where:

Kelley Farms

(11425 115th St. N., Marine on St. Croix,
MN)

Time:

10am – 4pm

Cost:

\$40 (per dog) for Handlers

\$30 Auditors

Registration forms can be found on the
club's website.

Participation will be limited to 20
dogs/handlers with no limitation on auditors.

If you have any questions, please contact
Kathy Carroll at kcarroll4irish@q.com



Greater Twin Cities Golden Retriever Club Summer Picnic

When: June 16th, 2013

Where: Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park
(9750 Egret Blvd, Coon Rapids, MN)

Picnic will start at 3:00pm. We will be at Pavilion #1. The club will provide burgers, brats, pop, and water. Please bring a dish to share.

Dogs must be on a leash. There is a small lake and walking paths at the park.

There is a \$5 charge per vehicle to enter the park or Anoka County Park. Annual passes are available. Washington and Carver County park passes are honored at the park.

Hope to see
you there!



January Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at Edina Lunds Store at 5:40PM by LuAnn Runkle. Minutes of December 2, 2012 meeting were read and approved with corrections.

Report of the President LuAnn offered special thanks to Barb and Laurie for their work on the January show and to Paula Ellis and Sharon Sullivan for a very successful raffle. We have a new newsletter editor Alyssa Taylor and her first newsletter has gone out and was wonderful. We will revisit puppy referral and litter listing issues. Please provide input to the board.

Report of the Secretary None

Report of the Treasurer The club is in good financial condition with over \$6000 in income from the agility trial.

Conformation January 2013 specialty went well. Thank you to all volunteers for their work.

August plans are coming together. Conformation judges are not set. The obedience judge is hired but not yet approved. We are looking for an August show chair. Barb Westergard will mentor. Please call her if you are willing.

We are approved for sweeps at the DKC show.

Field Kelly Farms is reserved for September 21-22 for WC/WCX. Dates are tentative. Judges are in the works. Seminars are starting in April, weather permitting. The goal is to prepare dogs for WC/WCX in September. There were only 4 volunteers for Game Fair so we won't be going forward with it. The June CCA date doesn't work for judges. Alternative dates are being explored.

Performance Agility went well last weekend at On the Run.

Membership March 9 is renewal deadline.

Old Business Banquet RSVP is due by March 1. Raffle donations are needed. Event chairs are asked to please get updated information to Dave Dalby for the website. Legislation regarding dog breeders is pending in Minnesota. We can put AKC link on website and note this in newsletter. The next meeting is the Banquet on March 9.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Submitted by Mary Witzel, Secretary.

Why join the Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA)?

Recently, leaders of several breed clubs were discussing the value their national club provided. I have been pondering a similar question and would like to share my perspective on why the Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA) is important and why all local golden retriever club members should join.

First, unabashedly, I believe the Golden Retriever Club of America is the best breed club by far. We are the biggest, the best organized, have the most talented members and the best dogs. We have about 5,000 members, many in different countries, one of the best Foundations and our affiliated 100 rescue clubs provide ten to twelve thousand “for-ever homes” each year. If we were a football team, we would be the super bowl champion. People want to be with a winner; you would be joining a winning team.

GRCA is the primary guardian of the Golden Retriever breed. GRCA members determine the breed standard, code of ethics and performance awards. No other organization cares more for the Golden Retriever or tries harder to protect the breed and performance standard across the country. GRCA provides educational information to pet owners to help them obtain healthy dogs from reputable breeders.

GRCA is the link to the American Kennel Club (AKC). We are the largest parent club in AKC and with a committed membership base we can be more influential in policies affecting our interests. For example, GRCA was instrumental in lowering obedience jump heights. GRCA has an excellent reputation within the AKC and with other breed clubs.

GRCA believes education is important and never ending. GRCA members receive the bi-monthly *Golden Retriever News*, a highly informative magazine filled with articles about our history, training tips from experienced experts, news from different clubs, pictures of recent member and dog accomplishments, etc. And, of course, my highly anticipated President’s column.

GRCA members can compete for Club recognition, awards and trophies in many different areas. GRCA, through local host clubs, sponsors a rotating National Specialty each year which brings together top competitors from across the country and beyond our borders. This prestigious event typically includes competition in conformation, obedience, agility, tracking and field events. In addition, educational seminars, welcoming dinners and banquets and the Golden Retriever Foundation’s (GRF) Gala make this a fun filled event.

In 1997 GRCA created the GRF, our tax exempt operation to fund and support veterinary health research, support for Golden Retriever rescue operations and to provide education on responsible dog ownership. To date, more than two million dollars have been dedicated to these goals. The GRF is recognized as one of the largest supporters of the AKC Canine Health Foundation and the Morris Animal Foundation health research programs. And the GRF is actively involved with the Morris Animal Foundation in the ground breaking Golden Retriever Lifetime Health Study.

GRCA has many volunteer opportunities for members to make the organization and our breed better and stronger. The standing committees and task forces are important contributors to GRCA success.

For example, the Legal Legislative Committee follows and provides advice on the many anti-dog legislative proposals across the country. The Health and Genetics committee provides guidance on research projects. Our Archives task force is working to identify and preserve our early history. But equally important are the many education committees, technical committees and writers who work to make the organization the best it can be.

We are continually thinking of ways to make membership more valuable. For example, members receive priority entry in the popular CCA at the National Specialty and Regionals. The website, GRCA.org, has a “members only” section which provides additional educational information and also permits on-line renewal. And other ideas are being considered.

And one of the best advantages of being a GRCA member is the opportunity to meet other Golden people from different parts of the country and to develop lasting friendships.

The wonderful world of Golden Retrievers would not be what it is today without the establishment and continued evolution of the Golden Retriever Club of America. GRCA is the linchpin that connects the past, manages the present and plans for the future. Whether members actively compete in dog trials or just want a quality dog, GRCA helps provide those opportunities. If you are not currently a member, I invite you to join GRCA. How to join? Simply go to the bottom of GRCA.org and click on JOIN GRCA and follow the process. You, and I, will be glad you did!

And remember to kiss your dog today.

John Cotter

President

Golden Retriever Club of America

7 symptoms of allergies in pets and steps you can take to alleviate them

I have seen red ears and itchy feet almost every day in my practice. Allergies are frustrating to treat and can't be cured. However, you may be able to avoid expensive and potentially dangerous drug treatments by learning to recognize these 7 signs of allergies, and treat them before they become worse. And remember – avoidance of allergens is the most effective treatment of all. This isn't so easy with environmental molds, pollens, and dander, but changing foods to eliminate an ingredient your dog is sensitive to can be very effective.

Runny eyes: Like “hay fever” in people, dogs' eyes may tear during allergy season due to pollens and molds. Keep the eyes clean, and try a folk remedy – use dilute tea – black or green tea just like you may be drinking now – as eye drops 3 times daily. Make them fresh daily to ensure they don't introduce bacteria into the eyes.

Red ears: Red, painful ears may be associated with both food and environmental allergies. Unfortunately, most people catch the problem only after a secondary infection has set in, causing pain severe enough for your dog to shake his head in distress. See your vet, but consider changing your dog's diet as well. It's important that the main ingredients (such as chicken or beef) be changed to a different main ingredients (such as fish). Even changing to a grain-free food should be considered.

Itchy skin: Allergies can cause itchy skin as environmental allergens (molds and pollens) get stuck next to the skin, held there by the coat. Unfortunately, if your dog scratches for a long enough time, secondary infections can develop (which are also itchy), and you'll need your vet's help to control those. If you catch the problem early, rinse the allergens off your dog's coat daily to reduce the itching.

Continue...

Licking feet: Most dogs with environmental allergies lick their feet because pollens and molds stick to the skin and are held there by the fur. A very effective treatment is to rinse those feet every time your dog comes in from the outdoors.

Scooting: there are many possible reasons for scooting, including worms, full anal glands, or dried feces in the area. Allergies cause scooting if the anus or skins around it are itchy. Try changing the ingredients in your dog's diet, in case food allergies are cause.

Stomach gurgling and gas: Noisy stomachs and smelly gas are caused when the bacteria in the gut are out of balance and producing gas from your dog's food. If your dog's diet contains a large amount of fiber or starch, find one that is lower in both. Allergies can also cause gas – it may help to find a diet with completely different meat ingredients as well.

Vomiting and Diarrhea: Dogs and cats with food allergy often have these gastrointestinal signs. Vomiting is more common in cats than in dogs, but both may exhibit loose stool or diarrhea. An allergy to an ingredient in the food is possible – most dogs and cats with food allergies react to chicken, beef, lamb, wheat, egg, dairy, fish and rabbit. It isn't necessary to find a food that eliminates all of these ingredients – just find one with ingredients that are entirely different from the usual diet.

Susan G. Wynn, DVM, CVA, CVCH
Nutrition and Integrative Medicine
Georgia Veterinary Specialists
Atlanta, GA

Sugar-free gum and dogs

Most sugar-free gums contain a 5-carbon sugar alcohol called xylitol. This ingredient is used as a sweetener. This ingredient causes a rapid release of the hormone insulin which causes a sudden decrease in the dog's blood glucose in ingested.

When this is consumed by dogs, it can cause vomiting, loss of coordination, seizures, and liver failure. Most of these symptoms will develop 15 to 30 minutes after being swallowed. The dog's gums can be affected by the development of ecchymoses (dark red splotches on the gums) and petechiae (dark red specks on the gums).

As for treatment, your veterinarian may suggest inducing vomiting, but this does not always improve the dog's condition. If the dog has low blood sugar or serum potassium, the veterinarian will place the dog on a fluid therapy treatment. Frequent blood tests would be performed to assess the progression of the toxin and to determine the liver function.

Dogs that suffer from low blood sugar alone tend to recover. If liver damage occurs, blood glucose levels would be monitored for at least 24 hours.

(Information found from www.petmd.com)



Wins & Brags

Jackson (Harborplace Diamond In The Ruff CD OA OAJ AJP NF RAE CGC CL2-H CL2-R CL2-F) received his AJP agility title on March 29th with a 1st place at the German Shepherd Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul trial! ~**Alyssa Taylor**

Tara (Int'l CH Docmar's Leapin' To Gnu Heights OA OAJ BN WC CCA) earned her OA and OAJ titles with two 1st places and perfect scores on the same day at the Norwegian Elkhound agility trial. ~**Joanne Dalby**



Maddie (Int'l CH Argo's Go For Your Dreams OA OAJ CCA) got her OA and OAJ titles in the month of April. ~**Jen Holmquist**

Jacob got his GN title on April 7th and Willow got her BN title on April 27th. ~**Kathy Carroll**

Matthew (GCH CH Westmarch I Beelieve CD BN JH WC VC) earned his CD title at the Badger KC Obedience trial with 2 firsts that weekend, scores of 198, 198.5 and a HIT. This also completed his GRCA VC title. ~**Judy Super**



Cross (Dal-Rhe Hunts Point Double Cross CD JH CGC) got 2 first places in Novice B, a score of 198, and a HIT at the Fargo-Moorhead KC trial on April 13th. ~**Jim Wills**

***Congratulations on
your achievements!***

Grain-Freed Dog Treat Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1 medium banana, mashed
- 3 tablespoons creamy (natural) peanut butter
- 1 large egg
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups garbanzo bean flour
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup rolled oats

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 300°F. In a small bowl, mix together the banana, peanut butter and egg. In a medium bowl, add flour and rolled oats; mix. Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and combine until the dough comes together.
- Transfer the dough to a piece of heavily floured wax paper. Note: the dough will be sticky so flouring everything is important. Roll the dough to a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thickness and cut out the cookies using your favorite cookie cutter. Place cookies to a parchment lined cookie sheet.
- Bake for 30-40 minutes or until golden brown. Allow cookies to cool to room temperature.

