

*Reaching out to you with...*



# *The Golden Paw*

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Healthy  
Dog  
Issue



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Masthead photo by Connie McCabe of **17-035 Cocobean** now called **Katana**

Cover Design featuring **13-010 Charlie Joyce** by Connie McCabe

Thanks to the following for proofreading the draft: Debbie Ball, Teri Guilbault, Connie McCabe, Larry Orwig and Liz Tataseo

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## Editor's Assistants' Notes



Dolly, Vin, Duffy and Mufasa Orwig

Training and the exercise it entails are good for us canines and for you humans, too. It makes us more alert, tunes us in to what's important (our trainer/handler), helps us learn to ignore things that aren't (all kinds of distractions) and tones up our muscles. New routines cause us to think and to adapt – good exercise for our brains – all of which lead to better health for all of us. Remember, if you have a fat dog, you aren't getting enough exercise (and you're feeding the dog too much)!

Speaking of training, we want you to know that our "brother" **Mufasa** was promoted from Level 2 to Level 3 Obedience at **Partners Dog Training School**. He did very well, even on the dog-dog interaction exercise. He will continue with the training at this excellent facility. The November issue of *The Golden Paw* will focus on training. If you have done dog training at a facility in the Valley or if you have had a private trainer work with you and your dog, please send our mom, the editor, a critique: [dorwigaz@cox.net](mailto:dorwigaz@cox.net).

We want to discuss one of our favorite subjects: food. **AGR** Rescue volunteers, especially the ones who do home evaluations, transports, and Meet-and-Greets, frequently get asked, "What should I feed my dog?" They always recommend using a good quality food. We know that grocery store dog food is usually not very good quality, but there are so many different foods at the pet supply stores these days. How do you choose one?

For a new dog, **AGR** usually recommends using one of the no-grain foods. The best advice we can give you is to feed your dog something he or she will eat and that does not give him or her the itches or the runs. Surprisingly, research has shown that the most common allergy offenders (in order) are beef, dairy products, chicken, lamb, fish, chicken eggs, corn, wheat, and soy.

When our transporters deliver a dog to a new family, they give the family a copy of **AGR's** *Your New Dog* manual. In that publication, which is now available on **AGR's** website, is a page entitled

"How to Grade Your Dog's Food." Using that rating system, you can decide for yourself if the food you are using or intend to use is a good one. Any food rating 90 or better is considered a really good quality food. For the health of your dog, do your dog a favor and rate the food you are using. You might be surprised to find that some of the really good foods are not the most expensive ones.

Treats are important for us, too! Don't forget to look at the ingredients in those, as well. If your dog is sensitive or allergic to something in dog foods, be sure that ingredient is not included in the dog biscuits and cookies you buy or make.

## Wags and Woofs

By Deb Orwig, President

[dorwigaz@cox.net](mailto:dorwigaz@cox.net)



"Health" is the theme of this issue of *The Golden Paw*. The word has many ramifications when it comes to Rescue and all that the organization encompasses. As a nonprofit animal rescue group, **Arizona Golden Rescue's** health is dependent upon the quality of the organization, the strength of its volunteer force and the organization's financial well being.

We have a very well-run organization. I am frequently told "**AGR** really has its act together" by people who contact us to ask questions or to adopt a dog. Every member who does home evaluations, transports, or Meet-and-Greets is well trained. We provide that training through our mentoring program. We require new evaluators and transporters to do at least two ride-alongs with experienced members. We encourage "newbies" to come to Meet-and-Greets with their newly-adopted dogs and position themselves next to an experienced member to listen to the responses when the public asks questions. We also give them copies of our informational brochure to read, and, of course, they have already read our *Your New Dog* manual. A well-informed representative will always make a good impression.

Most of the health-related articles that are presented in this issue have been published in various previous issues of *The Golden Paw*, so some may be familiar to you. I have included them so they are all in one place – in your hands – hoping this issue will be a good resource for you. For those of you who are reading these articles for the first time, I want to say that they are included not to intimidate you or make you paranoid about a disease or condition your dog might develop, but to inform you enough so that you high-tail it to your vet if you suspect anything going amiss with your dog's health. In this case, a little knowledge is NOT a dangerous thing and may help you save your dog's life. My thanks to Liz Tataseo, who has been **AGR's** Health Care Manager for the past three years, to Linda Knight Gage before Liz and to Teri Guilbault, who held the position before Linda, for researching and

writing such informative articles.

Is your dog healthy? Do you wish your dog could live forever, or at least as long as you do? I certainly do. However, it is a sad fact that their lifespans do not even begin to last as long as ours. Of the 17 dogs who have been my companions during the past 38 years, 13 have passed away, with an average age at demise of 12¼. That average is skewed, however, because one of them left me at age 5½. At **AGR** events and during home evaluations I have done, there have been many occasions when I have told someone who says they want a young dog that there are no guarantees as to how long any one dog will live. Not counting the puppies born into Rescue in January 2016 that did not survive very long after whelping, **AGR** has lost dogs as young as 5 weeks of age (**15-010 Fiah**) and 3½ years (**13-120 Bella-Holly-Eureka-Rooter**). However, **09-002 Goldie**, lived for over 17 years, and many of our rescued dogs have lived to 13, 14, 15 or 16.

Basically, a dog's genetics determine the length of its lifespan. But, we can help our dogs live as long as their genetics dictate. How do we do that? We give them a high-quality food. We provide them with a nice bed and toys to keep them entertained. We see to it that they get exercise. We walk them on leash (and not on an extendable one that gives us no control) so that they cannot bolt and run out into traffic. We ensure that they have a safe environment in which to live, with no toxic chemicals, poisonous plants or cacti within reach. We train them to stay off counters and people, not to chew up things, and to otherwise be well-behaved. If we live near a preserve or an undeveloped desert area, we get the dog snake-trained. We see to it that our dogs have an annual check-up by our veterinarian, vaccines when they are due, tests for valley fever and heartworm, and, here in Arizona, we keep them on Heartgard® or another heartworm preventative year round. It is a big job – and can be an expensive one – to be a responsible dog owner. Hopefully, some of the information presented in this issue of *The Golden Paw* will help you take good care of your dog so that he or she lives as long and healthy a life as possible.

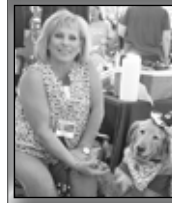
### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Regular Meet-and-Greets at *Petco* and *PetSmart* stores  
Check website calendar for dates,  
times and locations: [www.arizonagoldenrescue.org](http://www.arizonagoldenrescue.org)

SAVE THE DATES...

**Sir Bark A. Lot's Fashion Paw-Tea**  
Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM - 2 PM  
Monterra at WestWorld

**Paws & Pasta Dinner**  
Sunday, November 12, 11 AM - 4 PM  
Little Bite of Italy, Sun City



### *It's a Ruff Life!*

By Cindy Pavero  
Director of Activities

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We are in need of volunteers. You may ask yourself, "Where do I fit in?" We NEED you to help us spread the word about our vision. Volunteering at our events allows the public to see the face of **AGR** – YOURS!

As a volunteer, you have the opportunity to come to our public events, bringing your precious Golden with you. You have the chance to interact with the public by selling merchandise to other dog owners to fund the vision of **AGR**. You and your pooch get to walk the venue educating the other visitors on the sweet temperament of the Golden. Plus, you have the opportunity to ask them to help us support emotional and medical rehabilitation and medications for surrendered Golden's prior to adoption. So, join us!

Some of the upcoming events are the *Fashion Paw-Tea* in September (do you have your ticket yet if you are not volunteering to help at this event?), *Paws & Pasta Dinner* in November, **PACC911** events in October and November, Meet-and-Greets at various *PetSmart* and *Petco* stores, and, of course all the holiday season activities we usually do (*Holiday Pet Festival* and gift wrapping at *Barnes & Noble* bookstores).

Looking forward to seeing you at these events!

### *Squeaky Toys*

The excitement your dog feels when he plays with a squeaky toy is instinctual. It goes back to a time when dogs had to hunt and kill prey to survive. The squeaky noises of prey animals would help dogs locate their prey, and the noises the prey animals made during the kill were very satisfying to a hungry dog. "Hunting" a squeaky toy gives your dog the same type of satisfaction. And the more the toy squeaks, the more excited your dog becomes. That's why so many dogs will try to "kill" the toy by destroying it and pulling out the squeaker. When you purchase a squeaky toy for your pet, be sure to put safety first. Finding the right squeaky toy can be hard work. First, examine the toy and confirm that it does not have a lot of pieces that can be chewed off and swallowed. Next, look for features (eyes, nose, etc.) that are embroidered onto the toy, not attached. Check the seams and fabric to determine how easily your dog might chew through them. Swallowing squeakers or stuffing can be life-threatening and can happen very quickly. For this reason, it is very important to always supervise your dog's play. From Dr. Jon's petplace.com column

*Paws Forward*

By Sue Vallie, Director of Dog Care

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*The Information Highway*By Adam Cardinal,  
Director of Information Management

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My husband and I recently adopted a senior dog from *AGR*. It was one of those “please just keep her for the weekend” requests – we were permanently hooked within an hour of her arrival. These Golden kids are amazing that way. She came with several lumps and bumps, all of which were checked out, removed if necessary, and were, fortunately, found to be benign. We found a new one in a suspicious location some mere months after her adoption was final. Do I assume it too is benign, or get it checked out? We got it checked – another benign lump.

Adopting an older dog has special concerns. You know you are not going to have another 10-12 years with them. They may be a bit creaky in the joints, requiring medication and consideration when you plan your walks and hikes. With a senior, you also get calmer and more content to just be with you without having to play all of the time. If you feel you can’t consider an older dog because you can’t face saying goodbye so soon, understand that adopting a young dog is no guarantee of many years together either. All kinds of issues can come up quickly that may curtail a young dog’s life, and they are more apt to get themselves in trouble with injuries or ingesting any number of things.

Vigilance is key, no matter the age. Just as with people, when a problem is caught early, there is a much better chance for effective treatment. Are there new lumps or bumps? Are they drinking excessively (although at this time of year, that is really hard to evaluate) or not enough? Are they lethargic? Are they not eating well? Are their gums pale? Have they developed a limp? While the heat takes its toll on all of us, making both man and beast less energetic and possibly reducing our appetite, being aware of what “normal” is can let you know how far off the current behavior is.

Our suggestion is know what is normal for your dog, and check out things that are unusual. In the case of our senior girl, the news was good, all her lumps were benign. Peace of mind is worth the cost of a vet visit.

*Toxic Plants*

The May 2016 issue of *The Golden Paw*, which is archived on our website, has an extensive section on toxic and nontoxic plants. Descriptions and photos are included, along with explanations of the toxic effects. That article is not reprinted in this issue because it is very long. However, if you are interested and you do not already have it, you can download that issue from our website: <http://www.arizonagoldenrescue.org/information/archive-golden-paw/245-golden-paw-may-2016.html>

Greetings to all of you readers of *The Golden Paw* – and, by extension, supporters and friends of *Arizona Golden Rescue*. This is my first article for the newsletter and I wanted to think about what might be content that would be most beneficial for you readers. In thinking about that, I decided to first focus on how I see my role in service to *AGR* and its core mission.

I have worked with computers and computing resources for most of my life. Some people love computers and see owning a computer as a means unto itself. They love tinkering and tuning their computers – trying new extensions, applications and services. They try to extend the capabilities of computers and computing. I am not one of those computer guys.

My interest in computers has always been focused on what they can do for me and how they help me do things I want to do or need to do – only better – more efficiently, with fewer errors, and with better access to records and reference material than I had in non-electronic form. I try to do the same – to help *AGR* achieve its primary mission – to support the rescue and effective re-homing of adoptable Golden Retrievers and Golden mixes, to update the members and supporters of the organization, and to maintain essential records for the ongoing operations of the organization. The best parallel I can provide is to point to my dad.

Some of you may have met my dad at some *AGR* events. For most of my life, he owned and operated an auto repair shop. He knows more about cars than I ever will. But not knowing what he knows about cars has never prevented me from being a qualified and capable car owner. I use my car daily to run errands, get where I need to go and support me in doing what I need to do. I just know that I need to perform regular maintenance and upkeep to keep my car running well – and when I do detect problems I bring it to a qualified service technician to diagnose and treat the problem.

I see computers the same way. The majority of users should treat computers as they do their cars. Use your computer in a way that makes the most sense for you and don’t worry about all the things you don’t know or understand. Stick to the key things you need to do for regular maintenance – and that means setting the computer to automatically apply and install security updates. Make sure your anti-virus application is configured to regularly download definition files and updates, to periodically scan automatically for viruses and malware. And every time you sit down to your computer take a quick look at your system tray. For most of you Windows users it’ll be a small box within the toolbar at the lower right

of your computer screen. Look to see if any of the utilities running are generating an error. It'll show as an exclamation point, a red dot or some other "alert" indicator. These alerts are your first sign that something may be wrong – that updates aren't taking place or there's something that's not running properly.

One area I believe you may be interested in is how to support your animal companion when away from home. While rare, nothing can be more unsettling than to have something happen and not have direct access to your familiar hometown vet. With a little advanced planning you can support your companion almost as well as you could were you at home. My recommendation is to use cloud-based storage for copies of your veterinary records.

There are lots of cloud-based storage solution options. Some of the largest, and most commonly known, are Microsoft OneDrive, Google Drive/Google Docs, Apple iCloud Drive and Dropbox. Which service/solution you chose is pretty much up to you. My recommendation is stick with larger, well-known service providers. Protecting their reputation as a technology provider will be the best security service you can anticipate for your data. If you use a smartphone it will also be important to select a service that has developed and maintained an application for your smartphone brand /operating system.

Once you've subscribed to the cloud storage service, install it on the personal computers you use most regularly and on your smart phones/tablets. Create a folder for your companion animals and save scans of all relevant record information to your folder. Recommendations would include veterinary treatment / invoices, license information, microchip data, prescription information, and so on. If you are traveling and can't easily reach your vet, you'll have important information you may need to deliver necessary care to your companion in the event of injury, lost medication, or if your companion should get lost while on travel.

You may be thinking, "If I'm doing this for my companion animal, should I be doing it for myself and my family?" I think the answer there will likely be "maybe". Personal medical information contains a great deal of sensitive personal data. If your personal medical data were lost or stolen there may be potential negative impacts for you in terms of your privacy and potential risk of identity theft. If you believe the benefits outweigh the risks it may be worth it to you to create a personal health information file. The risk of your veterinarian records being used for malicious purposes is low to nonexistent – which is why I recommend without reservation using a cloud-based storage solution for those.

Many *AGR* members support our organization each time they shop by using their *Fry's* VIP card and linking it to *Arizona Golden Rescue* as a community support organization. The linking of the *Fry's* VIP card to the community charity of your choice must be renewed by re-enrollment on an annual basis during August/September. Current supporters will receive an e-mail from *Fry's* prior



to the renewal date with instructions on how to renew your supporting organization link. If you have a *Fry's* VIP card and have not yet linked it to *AGR* as your supporting organization beneficiary of the *Fry's* Community Rewards Program, now is an excellent time to do it. Each time you shop at a *Fry's Food and Drug*, *Fry's Marketplace* or a *Fry's Signature Store*,

present your VIP card and *AGR* will receive a check every quarter based on the number of participants who've designated *AGR* as the beneficiary of the Community Rewards program and their associated shopping volume. Participation in this program does not cost you anything, nor does it affect your personal rewards points that can be used for gasoline discounts and other in-store rewards programs. For more information on how to sign up for *Fry's* Community Rewards Program, check out the *Fry's* Community Rewards link on the home page of *AGR's* website.

*Arizona Golden Rescue* is a *bona fide* beneficiary of donations from



AmazonSmile. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the *AmazonSmile Foundation* will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. If you already have an Amazon.com account, you can use the same account on AmazonSmile. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Your selection will be remembered, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. (NOTE: purchases of e-books for e-readers such as Kindle and Kindle Fire are not eligible.) AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization – *AGR!* – every time you shop, at no extra cost to you. Please register before the upcoming holiday season, so that *AGR* will get some benefit from your purchases.

#### *Treats for Allergy Dogs or Dogs on Special-Food Diets*

Recommended by a vet tech at *Academy West Animal Hospital*: Take dry kibble, add water and stir it up into a dough, shape into balls, flatten and bake for 15 minutes at 350° to make treats out of whatever special food your dog is on.



### The Human Connection

By **Connie McCabe,**  
Human Resources Director

photocraf@aol.com

“It’s all about the dogs.”

We say that a lot, because that is why we are all part of this wonderful group. You would not be reading this if it were not for your love for the dogs. But as much as that is true, it takes a lot of hard work from a lot of people to keep this organization, and therefore the dogs, alive and thriving.

Since this is the “Human Connection” column, in every issue I am going to continue to mention a few interesting facts and stories about some of the people you might know. Hopefully, you will learn something new about them and gain more insight into how they got here. If you are interested in getting to know some of the members I have featured in this column and you have not received previous issues of this newsletter, you can download them from the Information tab on our website.

In this issue, let’s meet Jeff and Carla Sager, sharing number 97.



Jeff and Carla Sager with  
AGR dogs Orion and Dakota

In Jeff’s own words, “I got my first Golden in 1988, a cute little purebred girl from a local responsible breeder. We named her **Corona** after the ring around the sun (NOT the beer – that has always been my story, and I stand by it today). I was doing computer consulting work from home at the time, so I was able to spend a couple hours a day working with her. She was so smart and so eager to learn! Of course she figured out retrieving

immediately. Then we worked on all the standard commands: sit, stay, down. And some silly dog tricks: shake, roll over, play dead.

“She loved to walk, and I spent a lot of time with leash training. She would walk right next to me, never ahead, never behind, and would sit as soon as I stopped. She learned she was not allowed to cross a street by herself, and would stop, sit and wait for the command to go. After a while, she would do all of this without a leash. As she got older, we worked on more silly dog tricks. I could put out a ball, a squeaker, a frisbee, and a bone and tell her which one to go get. I could ‘shoot’ her with my finger, and she would play dead.

“She learned to speak and whisper, and when I saw a commercial of a dog saying “I love you!” I knew I had to teach her that, too. She picked it up very quickly, and just as quickly learned this was

a huge hit with everyone that saw it. She was so eager to please people that I started to regret teaching her this one! She would say it to everyone she met, hoping for a pet or a snack. She would come to the side of the bed at all hours and say it. If I did not respond, she just said it louder.

“I also took her out dove hunting, and she became a top-notch gun dog. She would retrieve everyone’s birds, so I had to explain to the other hunters that she was not stealing, just doing her job. If they called her over, she would bring them their bird, so she was very popular in the places I would go. I took her everywhere with me, because she was so good at staying with me even off leash. She loved going into stores with me because everyone wanted to pet her. She was clearly my dog, and I got custody of her when I got divorced. She was the bright spot in a rough time, and I could not have asked for a better friend.

“**Corona** lived to be 15¾. She had a cancerous growth on her lower jaw that finally reduced her quality of life to the point we had to do the right thing and let her go to the Rainbow Bridge.

“Before we lost her, my new wife, Carla, and I got another Golden puppy, not quite purebred but pretty close. We named her **Aurora** (continuing the sun theme). I did not spend nearly as much time training her, but she was a great dog anyway. Unfortunately, she developed bone cancer in her front leg, and only lived to be 6 years old. We were devastated, but decided we would not get another purebred, and would rescue instead.

“We put in an application to **AGR** with no specific requirements, and waited to see what fate would bring us. We got a call that a 1-year-old male dog had just been taken in after spending his whole life in a back yard. He had been covered in fleas and ticks and needed a foster home ASAP. We took **Choco** in, and knew right away we were going to keep him. Once our fostering was officially a failure, we renamed him **Orion** (constellation/sun/star theme). We still have this rambunctious guy. He is a relentless retriever in the pool, to the point of obsession. The older I have gotten, the less time I have spent doing dog training. **Orion** knows basic commands, but that is about it. He is just a big loveable goof of a boy dog!

“Carla thought we still had room for another dog, so we agreed to apply for another foster with **AGR** several years ago. We got a call during my mother-in-law’s 75th birthday party that **AGR** had a sweet young girl dog that needed a foster family. That same day, we took in **Zsu Zsu**, a super sweet 8-month-old. Once again, failed fostering was inevitable! We renamed her **Astra** (we stick with a theme!). We had her for 3 years, but she really wanted to be the top dog and did not always get along with our other female dog, a Great Pyrenees name **Shelby**.

“My dad was diagnosed with cancer, and had been wanting to get another dog after losing his last one a couple of years earlier.

So we worked with **AGR** to transfer **Astra** to him and my mom. My parents absolutely loved her, and she thrived as an only dog. She was a great distraction for my dad during chemo therapy and stayed by his side until he passed a year later.

“After that, **Astra** gave my mom company and someone to take care of. Last year, my mom turned 85 and was needing more care than was practical at home. We found a very nice assisted living facility for her, but unfortunately they only allowed dogs up to 25 pounds, so a Golden was not going to work. We knew **Astra** really needed to be an only dog, so taking her back with us would not have been good for her. So with a very heavy heart, we surrendered her back to **AGR** so she could find a new forever home that suited her personality. She found that home almost immediately, and we have been told she is doing great. We miss her, but feel good that we did the right thing with **AGR**’s help.

“Last year, we again put in an application with **AGR**. I really wanted another girl, because **Orion** is such a handful sometimes. We got a call that they had a special needs boy that they thought we would be perfect for. We met **Dakota** a few days later, and realized he was going to need a lot of care, but we were up for the job. The people that were fostering him were thrilled that we accepted the challenge.

“**Dakota** has a severe case of valley fever and had issues with his eyes being sunken in, as well as swallowing problems. Most people would describe him as a bit odd looking, but we find him charming. He ended up needing surgery to remove part of his lower eye lids so they would not rub on his eyes. When we picked him up after the surgery, we learned that they had to sew his eye lids together to allow them to heal properly. He looked like something out of *Silence of the Lambs!* He still had a tiny slit open on each eye, and somehow managed to get around pretty well for the two weeks before the stitches came out. His eyes are so much better now! He still has issues swallowing water and some wet foods, but he manages to work through it. His valley fever has only improved slightly, but he takes his meds and carries on.

“We also have 5 cats, all rescues, and for some reason they all love **Dakota**. But that is a whole ‘nother story....

“Last year I also started walking the Eastside dog shelter every Thursday looking for Golden Retrievers in need of rescue. It is sad to see all the dogs that are ‘in jail’, but rewarding when I find one that we can help. We will continue to help the dogs whenever we can, and are so grateful to all the wonderful people who volunteer so many hours to **AGR!**”

Now please meet Dave and Jackie Englehardt (number 107). Their daughter, Keri, is also an **AGR** member (number 1201) who has adopted the beautiful **Aiofe** from us. In their words, “We became acquainted with **AGR** in 2009 when we went to the website in search of a Golden to replace two that had just crossed ‘The

Rainbow Bridge’. We were informed that the Tucson pound had a little Golden that if not rescued within the next twelve hours would be put to sleep. Our daughter Keri immediately got in touch with the Tucson people and made arrangements to get little **Sunny**. We adopted **Sunny** and changed her name to **Dutch**.

**Dutch** then led us to old **Ted**, a large deaf-and-nearly-blind Golden who was wobbly on his paws but lived with us for six months before crossing the Bridge. Following **Ted**’s departure, we again went for two and adopted big **Jake** and a week later big **Rex** from **AGR**. At the Meet-and-Greets **Jake** would sing and **Rex** would schmooze the humans into donating. **Rex** probably loved the Meet-and-Greets the best of all of our adopted Golden. After having been to the many events, it never failed to bring a smile to our faces and a warm feeling inside that we had done something so very special again for the beloved Golden and the people of the communities we visited.



Jackie and Dave Engelhardt with Abbie and Keri Engelhardt with Aiofe



AGR dogs Maggie, Jake, Rex and Sage Engelhardt

“In total, the Engelhardt family has adopted 17 Golden over the past 25 years, most of which have been seniors. The Golden Age of Golden for us was when we had FOUR at the same time: **Jake**, **Rex**, **Sage** and little

**Maggie**. Our last beloved friends were **Abbie** and currently **Effie**, who visits regularly when Keri flies for her job. When Jackie and I eventually down-size we will be knocking at your door to again adopt a senior. *A Home Is Not A Real Home Without A Golden.*”

And now, one more couple who have been very active and supportive of **AGR** – Sherry and Gary Landwehr (number 410). They have moved to California, but will still be doing whatever they can to support the group.

Gary and Sherry Landwehr were both born and raised in San Francisco. They met in Humanities class in college, and have been married going on 39 years. Gary worked as an electrician for 30+ years, and Sherry retired as Office Manager for one of the county offices of the





**American Red Cross**, Bay Area Chapter. Besides managing the office and its volunteers, she also coordinated many fundraisers for the chapter. Prior to the **Red Cross**, she worked for a physician and a computer company. They moved to Surprise in 2005.

Sherry started volunteering for **AGR** in 2011. That year their sons were visiting and Dusty needed to buy something at **Barnes & Noble**. Sherry drove him to the Peoria location. She saw perhaps a dozen of the beautiful dogs with their donation vests parading or milling about in front of the store. Dusty went inside to make his purchase, while Sherry met and spoke with Deb Orwig about possibly volunteering. Before you knew it, she was filling out an application. As she was doing this, Dusty came out and saw what was going on, laughing at the sight and prospect of his mom doing this. They had a Golden who lived for nearly 14 years, and Dusty knew mom had fallen in love with the breed, which she called the best dog in the entire world. He called his younger brother, Shaun, who was at the house and said, "You won't believe what Mom is doing right now." It was so hard losing **Sparkington T. (Teddy) Bear** that getting another dog was questionable. What better way than to volunteer for an organization like **AGR** just to be around the Golden, if not actually adopting one?



Sherry and Sparky

Sherry's first volunteer job was a little bit of a mix-up. She was told by someone at **AGR** that gift wrapping at **Barnes & Noble** would begin at 9 AM on the day she was to come volunteer. Off she went, introducing herself to others who were at the shift and helping to set up and start wrapping. She then thought something was not right, as the name of the organization was not the one she had signed up for. It was **Rescue A Golden of Arizona** that was there, not **Arizona Golden Rescue**. It turned out that **AGR** wasn't scheduled until that afternoon. Sherry decided to stay anyway and help them that morning and continued on when the **AGR** volunteers came later.

She has volunteered by soliciting donations for raffle and silent auction prizes for the Golf Tournaments, Casino Night (and day), annual meeting and picnics; attending Grand Canyon College for students to de-stress during finals week, serving at the spaghetti dinners, participating in a pets day at a local park, gift wrapping at **Barnes & Noble** locations, and selling raffle tickets at events. Most of all, she loved walking the dogs and just being with them and the many dedicated and loving volunteers of **AGR**. Her favorite dogs were **Hayden** and **Mufasa** (you've had some winners, Deb!).

Sherry roped Gary into volunteering by BBQing at some of the annual meetings/picnics, and helping to load and unload equipment and donation prizes for the Golf Tournaments from Deb's house and transporting them to the venue.

After living in AZ for ten years, Shaun got married in 2015, and Sherry and Gary's granddaughter Amy was born the following year. Sherry and Gary then decided to move back to the Bay Area to be closer to the family. Although no longer living in Surprise, Sherry loves and misses **AGR** and the volunteers she's met. She continues to assist in writing solicitation letters remotely from California for **AGR** fundraisers.

### Follow the Lead

By Sharon McKenzie  
AGR Behavior Consultant

isimplywild2002@gmail.com



### Take the "Bite" out of Barking

Cows moo. Cats meow. Dogs bark. Sometimes dogs bark way too much, and that can become a problem. But it is not as difficult a problem to solve as a lot of people think.

I don't think anyone wants their dog to never bark. A little barking at the right time can be very useful, whether it's to alert you to someone or something approaching your home, or to scare away threats when you're not there. The trick is to find that "Goldilocks zone" of healthy barking – not too little, not too much, but just right. You might be surprised to hear it, but getting to "just right" is probably a lot easier than you imagine.

### Why do dogs bark?

Before you can get to the fix for any problem, you have to understand the causes. In the case of barking, it can be either wanted or unwanted, so the first question to answer is why dogs even bark in the first place. Simply put, they bark to communicate, particularly in situations where they cannot immediately see the rest of the pack, or when they want to get a message to the entire pack. In the wild, the message can be a warning of danger or a call to the hunt. When it comes from the dogs at the front of the pack, it can be a way to scare off a threat. In the wild, though, dogs don't bark all the time. In fact, they don't bark a lot. They save it for when they really need it. But when your dogs bark constantly at home, what is it they need?

When a domesticated dog barks all day, what are they trying to communicate? Generally, if they do it when no one is home, it's a sign of boredom or frustration. It can also be their way of trying to call you back, especially if the dog is experiencing separation anxiety. The other causes, whether there are people at home or not, can be excess energy, which a dog will try to burn off through excitement and hyperactivity; or it can be due to anxiety, which leads to the dog perceiving every little noise as a possible threat to be scared away. It may seem like something that's impossible to control, but you have to remember why dogs bark in the first

place: communication. And what is it that one dog will try to communicate to another, or to its human pack leader? Needs. Meet the underlying needs of your dog and the excess barking will stop.

### Stopping the Barking

Maybe that sounds easier said than done. In reality, it actually is done fairly easily. It just requires focus, commitment, and consistency on your part. Ask our Dachshund, **Woody**. I consistently rode his barking tail for a month, everyday working with him until he understood that I did not want him barking at every leaf, bird and airwave he saw or heard under the sun. Dachshunds are known to be little barkers. It begins with correcting the unwanted barking when it happens with whatever method works for your dog, whether it's a touch, a calm, confident and firm one-word command, or something else. The commitment and consistency means that you have to be ready and willing to continue the corrections every time until the behavior stops, and you have to always correct it when your dog barks inappropriately and you're there. If the barking is always at a specific thing, like a particular door or window, or when people come in the house, then you can break the cycle by claiming that thing. That's pretty much exactly what it sounds like. Using your body language and calm, assertive energy, create an invisible barrier between your dog and the stimulus. This sends the signal that it's nothing they need to be concerned with or worried about, because it "belongs" to you. I always tell our pack when they cross over the healthy-barking boundary line, "Hey guys, I got this – don't need your help." I communicate this to them through my own body language and calm confident energy. If all 4 dogs are at the front door or window barking too much, I will walk over to where they are and do the correcting. You never want to yell at a dog while he is barking – to him, you are just joining in on the reindeer games of barking. As with any correction, you have to remain calm and assertive. If you get angry or impatient, this will just amp up your dog's energy and make barking more likely.

You may be thinking, "Giving a correction is great if I'm there, but my problem is that my dog barks when I'm not home." In that case, you need to challenge your dog, mentally and physically, in order to leave them in a state that's directed away from unnecessary barking. The physical challenge means exercise. Take your dog on a long walk before you leave to drain all of that excess energy and leave him/her in a calm, submissive state. To challenge him/her mentally, you can leave the dog with something to do, like a favorite chewy, or a "find the treat" toy that will keep her engaged until you get back. A Kong® containing peanut butter and frozen makes a great diversion. If they bark at people or cars passing by the front window when you are away, remove the motivation. Closing curtains or blinds or putting your dog in another room will help. And, if outside, bring him inside when unsupervised.

A dog's normal body temperature is 100° - 102.5° F.

Crate training or creating a space for your dog to go to that she'll associate with calm and relaxation can also help. Of course, make sure that whatever you leave your dog with or in is safe for her without human supervision.

And don't forget the power of asking. If you can't solve the problem, there's nothing wrong with consulting a behaviorist or trainer to help you in a more specific manner.

When your dog barks, s/he is trying to tell you something. By making it a two-way communication, you can give them the calmness and confidence to know that they don't have to tell you everything.

Stay calm, and stop the barking!



### Service Paws

By Wendy Enos

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*Editor's Note: Wendy originally wrote this column for our November 2012 issue when she had a service dog named **Sophie**. We are sorry to say that **Sophie** passed away in 2015. Although some of the dogs **AGR** has rescued have become service dogs, **AGR** does not provide service-dog training – that is left up to the adoptive family. If a family needing a service dog acquires a dog from a Rescue or another source, there is a terrific local organization that can help the family learn how to train the dog as a service dog: **Happy Tails Service Dogs** (<http://happytailsservicedogs.com/>) Their services are free for the handler – the only thing necessary is a commitment to pursue the training until it has been completed, which may take anywhere from nine months to two years.*

### Cancer ... Not Fair!

In exchange for years of selfless love and devotion in a career of retrieving, balancing, bracing, and guiding, a service dog should be exempt from any serious illness or discomfort. That would be fair, right?

But whoever said life is fair? On July 13<sup>th</sup>, **Sophie** went in for her annual vaccines and once-over by her veterinarian. She had a couple of little lumps and bumps I wanted checked out, since I'm obsessive about keeping her in shape and well-toned. Well, the two little bumps I noticed a week earlier were gone but, in looking for them, I discovered another on her side. With my hands constantly on her with grooming, tummy rubs and petting, I would have noticed it if it had been there very long. The vet didn't like it either, so she biopsied it, and four days later we were hit with that six-letter obscenity... cancer. The next day **Sophie** went in for blood work, and the following morning she had surgery to remove the Grade 2 mast cell tumor.

Post-op, **Sophie** was amazing. Though a little more gingerly than usual, she was back to fun and playtime after only three days, and

her vet cleared her to resume her work [as a service dog] as soon as she had her staples removed in ten days. I gave her a little more time than that, but she was ready to roll in no time at all. The tumor was removed completely, and now all is well.

The moral of the story could apply to any dog and owner... know your dog well enough to instantly recognize something new or different and get it checked by your vet. Dogs love to be petted and scratched and rubbed, so have at it! S/he'll love it and, ultimately, it could save your dog's life.

## Health Tips

### ***Be Prepared for a Poison Emergency***

In spite of your best efforts to secure your home, your animal may become poisoned, so you need to be prepared. Your animal companion should regularly be seen by a local veterinarian to maintain overall health. Know the veterinarian's procedures for emergency situations, especially ones that occur after usual business hours. Keep the telephone numbers for the veterinarian, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435), and a local emergency veterinary service in a convenient location.

#### **Poison Safety Kit**

Keep a pet safety kit on hand for emergencies. Such a kit should contain at least:

- A fresh bottle of hydrogen peroxide 3% (USP)
- Can of soft dog or cat food, as appropriate
- Turkey baster, bulb syringe or large medical syringe
- Saline eye solution to flush out eye contaminants
- Artificial tear gel to lubricate eyes after flushing
- Mild grease-cutting dishwashing liquid to wash animal after skin contamination
- Rubber gloves
- Forceps to remove stingers or plant thorns/spines
- Muzzle – an animal that is excited or in pain may unintentionally (or intentionally) try to harm you even if you are trying to help it
- Pet carrier or crate

#### ***Poison Ingestion***

If you suspect that your dog has ingested a poison, call the National Poison Control Hotline at 1-800-222-1222 or ASPCA's Poison Control at 1-888-426-4435 as soon as possible. 1-800-222-1222 is the telephone number for every poison center in the United States. Call this number 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to talk to a poison expert. Call right away if you have a poison emergency. Also call if you have a question about a poison or about poison prevention.

Although there is still a network of 57 poison centers around the

country, there is now one single telephone number for poison emergencies. When you call 1-800-222-1222 you will still talk to your local poison center experts. It is worth the price of the call (have your credit card ready for a potential \$65 charge), because certain poisons will cause further damage to the dog if the dog is made to vomit up the substance.

If you witness your pet consuming material that you suspect might be toxic, do not hesitate to seek emergency assistance, even if you do not notice any adverse effects.

#### ***Inducing Vomiting with Hydrogen Peroxide***

Call your veterinarian immediately once you've determined that your dog has eaten something dangerous. Call a veterinarian emergency clinic if your vet is not available. Take their professional advice first before you make a dog vomit using hydrogen peroxide.

Trap your dog in a secure area, such as a bathroom, patio or kitchen to avoid having to chase it and having to clean up vomit from carpet. If possible, ask someone to help you with restraint to make a dog vomit using hydrogen peroxide, since the job isn't as easy for one person (unless your dog is small).

Give a small dog only about a capful of hydrogen peroxide. Use the cap of a regular-sized bottle of hydrogen peroxide – about a teaspoonful. Administer more – around 2 tablespoons – to a large dog. If you have a syringe, use it to inject the liquid down into your dog's throat.

Wait patiently and quietly until your dog vomits. Know that it occurs soon after you administer hydrogen peroxide, but it can take up to five minutes. Look for foreign objects in the vomit and make sure your dog has expelled the dangerous items it swallowed. Repeat the procedure if nothing substantial comes up. Realize there may be nothing obvious to see if you are trying to help your dog eliminate a poison.

If you suspect that your dog has ingested some kind of chemical substance, call the **Poison Control Hotline** for advice. Some chemicals can cause more damage if they are brought back up by the dog. Poison Control may advise using activated charcoal or something else to denature the chemical, so best to make that phone call before using hydrogen peroxide.

#### ***Are Your Dog's Bowls Toxic?***

Do you eat off the same plate or out of the same bowl or drink out of the same glass every day without washing those items between uses? Of course not! Do you wash your dog's food and water bowls after every use or at least once a day? If not, why not? Bacteria can grow on minute food particles left in the bowls; mold can grow in water bowls not washed frequently. To keep your dog safe, please wash your dog's bowls every day either by hand or in your dishwasher.

## The Financial Picture

By Deb Orwig

### Reporting period: January 1, 2017- June 30, 2017

Total Assets as of July 17, 2017: \$216,409.26

	Income	Expenses
Adoption Application Fees	\$ 2,500.00	
Adoption Income	12,575.00	
Adoption Fee Refunds		\$590.00
Bank Charges (PayPal)		214.71
Calendars – Sales & Sponsorships	1,570.00	
Celebration Auction	75.00	
Credit Card Expense		124.77
Donation Income <sup>1</sup>	16,552.04	
Honorary	6,241.00	
Memorials	3,321.00	
Dues and Subscriptions	16.00	273.88
Event Expense		374.56
Fashion Paw-Tea	2,750.00	425.00
Grants <sup>2</sup>	4,450.00	384.70
Insurance		665.00
Interest	19.96	
Legal and Professional Fees		10.00
Membership Income	10,025.00	
Merchandise	2,426.00	939.96
Paws At The Park 2017 <sup>3</sup>	1,491.00	490.97
Office Expenses & Supplies		67.90
Postage		594.44
Rent or Lease		1,405.62
Stationery and Printing		2,360.29
Telephone and Website		94.47
Dog-related Expenses		
Behavior Training		2,673.75
Boarding		1,345.00
Leashes and Collars		517.35
Microchip and Heartgard <sup>®</sup> Expenses		605.17
Veterinary Services		68,475.48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$64,012.00</b>	<b>\$ 82,633.02</b>
<b>NET INCOME: - \$18,621.02</b>		
<b>Checking Account on 07-17-17:</b>	<b>\$105,047.02</b>	
<b>Savings Account on 07-17-17:</b>	<b>\$100,212.89</b>	
<b>Debbe Begley Memorial Fund as of 07-17-17:</b>	<b>\$11,149.35</b>	
<b>Outstanding Credit Card Balance on 07-17-17:</b>	<b>\$16,905.87</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Donations made in support of *Paws At The Park* before and during the event are included here

<sup>2</sup> Grant expense was for Martingale collars we donated to *Arizona Humane Society*

<sup>3</sup> Income for an event does not include merchandise sales – that income is included in Merchandise Sales; nor does it include donations in support of the event before or during the event

*A wise Arizona dog owner will get his/her dog(s) tested for valley fever annually.*

### Summer Fundraiser for Special Needs Dogs

If you are an **AGR** adopter, you will notice that most of the descriptions in the *Diamonds in the Ruff* column are familiar. In July, all **AGR** adopters received a mailing with a plea for donations to support our 2016-17 Special Needs Dogs, including most of those mentioned in *Diamonds in the Ruff* columns in the last year. Years ago in August, **PACC911** held an annual Bowl-a-Rama for Animal Rescue. Every dollar given to **AGR** as a pledge in support of our bowling team stayed with **AGR**. None of our volunteers ever gets paid for anything they do – all donations always go to support the dogs. All Bowl-a-Rama donations were deposited in the *Debbe Begley Memorial Fund*. The money in this account has been used for dogs coming into Rescue with cancer (we have had several) or to help with medical bills that amount to over \$5,000 for any one dog (again, several dogs are in this category). **PACC911** no longer hosts a Bowl-a-Rama, so we no longer have that event as a source of revenue at this time of year.

During the summer, we take in more dogs than in any other 3-month period, but we have no significant fundraisers between May and September. Even most Meet-and-Greets are cancelled due to the extreme heat. With a few of our rescues, the amount of money we need to spend to ensure that the dog is healthy is less than the dog's adoption fee. However, for the majority of dogs we have placed in new forever homes, our costs have been more than the adoption fee, and in some cases thousands of dollars more.

We do not for a moment begrudge any amount of money we have spent improving the health of our rescued dogs. But the money we have spent above and beyond what was covered by the adoption fees has to be recovered by other means, and those means are our fundraisers.

You do not have to be an adopter of an **AGR** dog to help us raise some needed funds at this time of year when nothing much is coming in and will not until the Fashion Paw-Tea on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>.

If you can help **AGR** financially, please send your check to **AGR**, 5350 W Bell Rd, Ste C122-158, Glendale, AZ 85308. Or, you can call Deb Orwig at 623-693-0589 with your credit card information – for all such donations, the normal 3% convenience fee will be waived (**AGR** is still charged that fee). All donations are tax deductible. If you have already sent in a donation by the time you receive this newsletter, we sincerely thank you!

## Diamonds in the Ruff

By Deb Orwig

*Diamonds in the Ruff* are dogs on whom *AGR* has had to spend at least \$1,000 during one quarter of the year. In this column in the May issue, we featured **16-043 Sandi**, **16-079 Molly**, **17-002 Belle**, **17-003 Jessie**, **17-004 Emma**, **17-005 Autumn**, **17-012 Burt** and **17-023 Axel**. As **Sandi** is in our *Gentle Paws Hospice Adoption* program, we are still paying for the treatment of her medical issues -- more on those below. The other *Diamonds in the Ruff* dogs are all recovered and doing well.



**16-034 Astro** is one of our *Gentle Paws Hospice Adoption* program dogs. He was 10 years old when we rescued him from an elderly woman who was residing in an assisted living facility and could no longer care for him. He had diabetes, had developed cataracts due to that disease, had some skin issues and had a large fatty tumor (lipoma). His diabetes was out of control and took many months with many vet visits to get him stabilized with the proper insulin dosage. He

was having some really serious trouble with his eyes, so we sent him to an eye care specialist. This doctor, along with his regular vet (Dr. Cohen at *Stetson Hills Animal Hospital*), recommended the removal of his right eye. It was blind and chronically irritated and infected. Now that the eye is no longer causing problems, his diabetes is under much better control. During this quarter, we spent **\$1,614** on **Astro**.



**16-043 Sandi** is another one of our *Gentle Paws Hospice Adoption* program dogs. She originally came to us from the *Humane Society*, who judged her to be 12, but our vet said 8, so that's what we used as her age. She had such terrible ear infections due to untreated allergies that she had to have her ear canals rebuilt -- that was in 2015. She was adopted, but the family did not take proper care of her and she was a medical mess when she came back to us a year later in June 2016. Since then, it has

been a constant battle to keep on top of her medical problems. In January, a nasty looking growth developed. It was determined to be a melanoma. The vet determined there had been no metastasis, so the growth was removed and she was started on a series of four melanoma vaccines. She seemed to be doing well. Then one evening at the end of May, she woke up her adopters when she went into a full-blown grand mal seizure. Sharon rushed her to the emergency vet, where she spent 24 hours and was started on anti-seizure medication. She now seems to be back to her normal, happy self -- at least until the next problem crops up! *AGR's* cost for **Sandi** during the second quarter was **\$2,918**.

**16-082 Rudy** is still in foster care, now with Rebecca and Dustin. His former foster, Sharon, took excellent care of him for 8 months but had to transfer him to another foster due to a family medical emergency. **Rudy** endured treatment for tick fever, then heartworm, and then valley fever.

He came into Rescue testing positive for all three diseases, but we had to treat one at a time. The valley fever is still a problem; he may have it for the rest of his life, as it is the disseminated form and had invaded his joints. He was also not neutered yet; we had to wait until after the heartworm treatment to have that surgery done. Then the poor little boy, whose immune system must just be totally messed up, developed pancreatitis and then an infection



in his scrotum. Although **Rudy** takes several medications every day, he seems to finally be on the road to recovery. Since he was a shelter save and was very, very sick, we applied to *PACC 911's Lulu's Angel Fund* for financial assistance with his medical expenses and they very generously sent us \$1,000. We thank them tremendously! **Rudy's** total expenses for the second quarter were **\$1,163**.



**17-025 Gypsy** was a return to Rescue. Her original adopters were being sent on a Church mission for the next two years and could not take her. She is now 12 and came in rather overweight due to lack of exercise. So, we recommended the green bean diet to her adopter, Teresa, in Payson. It turned out that **Gypsy** has low thyroid and was prescribed meds for treatment, but the green bean diet will also help her lose the excess weight. The vet did a dental, which included

four extractions and gave **Gypsy** Rimadyl for her hips, which were rather weak. She developed pancreatitis, not an unusual condition in old dogs. The treatment for that is no food for 24 hours then a bland diet (boiled chicken or hamburger and boiled potatoes) until the stools return to normal, which could take several weeks. Teresa very generously paid for the pancreatitis diagnosis and treatment medication, and we thank her for that donation. The expenses we paid for for **Gypsy** amounted to **\$1,886**.

**17-027 Kate**, renamed **Dusty**, was also a save from a shelter, this one in Tucson. She was picked up with two 8-10-month-old pups that everyone felt might be hers. Connie and Nick made the trip to get them and named them after the three Charlie's Angels characters; all have since had their names changed. **Dusty** had been spayed at the shelter, but she developed an infection and a temperature of 106° that we had to treat. We also discovered she had tick fever



and started her on a month of doxycycline. She may have had a urinary tract infection, too, and definitely has some skin issues due to allergies. All in all, she was a sick little girl for a while but is now doing well and putting on a little weight. **Dusty's** medical issues cost *AGR* **\$1,410**. We sincerely thank her adopters, Lenni and Steve in Scottsdale, who made a generous donation to help with her expenses.

**17-035 Cocobean**, a Golden mix about 6 years old, was originally picked up as a stray in Tucson and taken to the shelter down there. Volunteers with *Team Up For Tucson* who work at the shelter really liked him, eventually asked us to take him, and even drove him up to Phoenix (thank you!).

One of their volunteers even sent us a donation to help with his vet expenses (thank you, again!). He had all the standard vet work done, and then we placed him with a single woman who had no other dogs. The first night he was with her, he bit her when she was trying to pull "a burr" out of his fur. As it turns out, that "burr" was not a burr at all, but an external cyst that was attached to his chest wall. Yes, it must have hurt when she tried to pull it off! Legally, because she had to go to an Urgent Care facility to get the bite treated, we had to have him quarantined at the vet's for 10 days. During that time, he was evaluated by the vet's staff and by our behaviorist, Sharon McKenzie. All concluded he was a great dog and deserving of being given a second chance. He did not walk well on leash, so we decided to enroll him in the "3-week Boot Camp" at *Partners Dog Training School*. He was actually there for 31 days before we found a FWITA who was willing and able to take him to the follow-up lessons and classes, so that she, herself, can learn and enforce the techniques taught to him by the school trainers (our requirement for adoption of this dog). I went to *Partners* every week to observe his progress and to watch the follow-up lessons. He is doing phenomenally well, and his new FWITA is delighted with him. For dogs we rescue, we believe in doing everything we can to help them become as healthy and happy as possible. The same goes for behavior modification. If a dog demonstrates a need for such, we provide it. Even though they give Rescue a very nice discount, *Partners* training is not inexpensive. The training program and the vetting for **Cocobean**, who has been renamed **Katana**, cost **AGR \$3,180**.



**17-036 Brewster** is a 7-year-old Golden mix who was found as a stray by a Good Samaritan who kept him for two months but then had to surrender him because she was leaving town. He is a big, strong dog, too much so for the first person we chose as a FWITA, plus he went after the FWITA's good friend's cat, so he had to come back after only one day. Then we found another family who had just lost an old Golden, and they were excited to add him to their household. He seemed to check out well at the vet, except that he had a lick granuloma and a suspicious lump. Unfortunately, a biopsy showed that the lump was a low-grade mast cell tumor. We had it removed. Shortly thereafter, the FWITA discovered another lump on his pinna (ear flap). We had that lump removed as well, but Brewster had a bad reaction to the anesthesia this time and needed a trip to the emergency vet. An ultrasound and x-rays were done to determine if there were any internal tumor cells, but he is clear. The oncologist who has been consulted recommends that the entire pinna be removed to make sure all tumor cells will be gone. So, we will have that done and hope for many more years of quality life for this boy. Up til now, **Brewster's** expenses have amounted to **\$1,097**, but the pinna-removal surgery will add at least another \$1,000.



**17-037 Sugar** was a return to Rescue at age 10, because her original adopters were moving to Panama for a job there. Before they surrendered **Sugar** to us, the owners took her to their vet because she had been

limping for several months and having some incontinence in her sleep. The vet thought maybe they were feeding her too much protein, as they were feeding her just chicken, so they have gone back to kibble. Also vet told them not to give her jerky treats because of too much sodium. An exam by our vet revealed that **Sugar** had hip dysplasia and a torn cruciate ligament. She was put on Proin for the incontinence and scheduled for TPLO surgery for the ruptured ligament. Her FWITAs recently reported that **Sugar** is doing well physically, but she has developed an unpleasant barking habit, so our behavior consultant, Sharon McKenzie, will be working with them. **Sugar's** surgery and other medical expenses cost **AGR \$4,675**.



**17-041 Rhett**, now called **Barrett**, was only a year old when surrendered by a family who said they did not have enough time for him and, in addition, their child seemed to have developed allergies to the dog. **Barrett** seemed very healthy but needed to be neutered and given the standard vet exam with vaccines. We thought the medical was done. However, within a week of placement, he was brought to *Four Legged Friends* because he had been vomiting, had yellow diarrhea and white gums – not good! X-rays showed a rather enlarged spleen and somewhat small heart, but nothing else. So, he was given IV fluids, watched for the rest of the day, then transferred to *Animal Medical & Surgical Center* in Scottsdale, where he could be monitored overnight. The vet at *AMSC* diagnosed him with anaphylactic shock that most likely resulted from an insect or spider bite or scorpion sting, as she had seen such symptoms before. He seems to have recovered and has no permanent damage to his liver or any other body system. We are happy about that, even though this emergency treatment along with his regular vet work cost us **\$1,217**.

In the second quarter of 2017, **AGR** spent over **\$18,655** on just these nine dogs. Expenses for at least **Astro**, **Rudy** and **Sandi** have not ended because **Rudy** is still in foster care and the other two are in **AGR's Gentle Paws Hospice Adoption** program, which means we will be paying for any medical expenses until they pass away. We would greatly appreciate your assistance with any amount of a donation for any of these dogs. Should you make a donation, you will be listed as a Diamond Donor in the November issue of this newsletter. Thanks in advance for your support!

### Online Pet Meds

Online ordering of pet meds can get you expired meds, counterfeiting, incorrect prescriptions, etc. Companies that are legitimate and safe are registered with VIPPS. When you have multiple dogs, it is much cheaper to buy Frontline®, Heartgard® and other prescriptions online, unless your vet is willing to match prices (never hurts to ask). Link for safe online pet med ordering: <http://www.nabp.net/programs/accreditation/vet-vipps/find-a-vet-vipps-online-pharmacy/>

## MAGIC MOMENTS

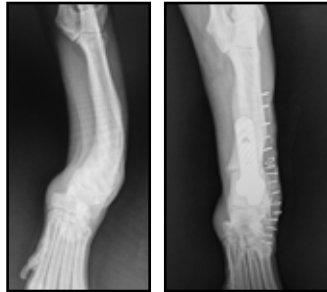
By Mary Engstrom

*Magic Moments... when a stray Golden Retriever or Golden mix is spotted in a shelter kennel and does a happy dance when taken out; when a neglected backyard dog is surrendered by its owner to a member of our Transport Team and is delivered to a foster family that shows the dog love, comfort, toys and good-quality food for; perhaps, the first time in the dog's life; and the most magical of all... when a rescued dog meets his or her forever family and we see the dog's excitement and the sparkle in the family's eyes. As rescuers, we are privileged to share in these Magic Moments. Below are stories of Arizona Golden Rescue's Magic Moments from April 11 through July 7, 2017. All adoptions finalized after July 8 will be in the next issue.*



**17-003 Juggy** (rhymes with chewy), now Jessie, was a Golden mix about 5 months old when she was surrendered to **AGR**. The owner claimed that her child was allergic to this adorable bundle of love and joy. However, when sweet **Juggy** came into Rescue, it was obvious there was something very wrong with her left front leg. Little **Juggy** was off to **Animal Medical & Surgical Center** in Scottsdale for an

evaluation. The orthopedic vet determined her deformity was most likely caused by trauma which resulted in the growth plate fusing on one side but not the other – one bone but not the other continued to grow, which was causing the leg to bow. **Juggy** required a very complicated surgery in which a plate was installed in her precious little leg. The surgery was a success! **Juggy** did require a soft cast/splint on her leg during the healing process. Also, her foster family would need to make sure to harness her puppy enthusiasm while she was healing! Now it was time to find



Jessie's leg bone before and after surgery

a family who would be able to commit to **Juggy's** follow-up appointments in Scottsdale and be home often to watch over her while she was recuperating. **Juggy** was to call home with Ebby and David in Scottsdale; they renamed her **Jessie**. Ebby reported: *We were up in Pinetop enjoying the cooler weather. **Jessie** has been loving the outdoors up here. We ended up doing almost 5 miles and **Jessie** was such a trooper. It thundered a little and **Jessie** freaked out a bit! And then she stayed directly by our*



Jessie and David resting during 5-mile walk in Pinetop

*side as we walked the rest of the way. Anyway, we just love her and thank you for choosing us as her parents. Sounds like **Jessie** has completely healed. Thank you to **Arizona Golden Rescue** for making this possible!*



**17-004 Emma** is a beautiful black Goldenoodle who was a mere 13 months old. She was limping and in pain. Her owner surrendered her due to the lack of finances that would be required for her medical issues. Naturally, **AGR** and a wonderful foster mom opened their arms to this sweet girl! **Emma** was evaluated at **Animal Medical & Surgical Center** in Scottsdale where it was determined she

had a fracture of the femoral neck. In fact, the cap of the ball of the femur was fractured off! The first step on **Emma's** journey was to surgically insert pins in the femur for stabilization and for **Emma** to be in a sling. **Emma's** foster mom assisted her with physical therapy and everyone hoped FHO surgery would not be required. **Emma** was a trooper with walking, swimming and climbing, as was her foster mom with the follow-up appointments and implementing the therapy. Unfortunately, the doctors determined that **Emma** was still going to require FHO surgery. **Emma** continued to be a trooper through the surgery and continues to require exercises at home to regain muscle strength and range of motion. Speaking of home? **Emma** found her forever home with her foster mom, Liz, who fell in love with her! Liz stated: ***Emma** is a wonderful girl who fit right in with the Gang of Four. She loves people, other dogs, going for walks and swimming. She and **Reba** are buddies and follow **Augie** everywhere he goes. After two surgeries on her left leg, it has taken a few months but she is gaining muscle mass and using the leg consistently. Kudos to Dr. Jarvis, her rehab vet, who is overseeing her recovery. She might be the smallest dog, weight-wise in the family but turns out her bark is the loudest. Who knew! **Emma** found an angel in her life. Thank you, **AGR**, for helping **Emma**!*

**17-015 Sadie** is a 9-year-old Golden mix who came into Rescue because her owner had passed away. **Sadie** was grieving deeply for her mom and was confused as to the changes that were transpiring in her life. One of **AGR's** kind foster families



took **Sadie** in to help her transition before moving on to her forever home. **Sadie** did have some medical issues that needed to be addressed. She had a large lump on her head that required surgical removal. Thankfully, it was a benign cyst. She also had several hot spots requiring a regimen of steroids. Just prior to intake, **Sadie** had a dental cleaning and extractions that followed with a course of antibiotics. If that wasn't enough for sweet **Sadie**, her lab work revealed abnormal kidney function and she was placed on a k/d (kidney) diet. This little lady was also suffering from osteoarthritis and was prescribed pain medication. **Sadie** was a trooper through everything as was her foster family who gave her the love and affection she needed to build her self-confidence. Now it was time to find the perfect family for **Sadie**. The kind people who had been **Sadie's** foster family met with her potential new family to make sure it was a perfect fit. Everyone agreed that Cara, John and resident canine, **Suri** (who unfortunately just passed away), in Buckeye WERE a perfect fit! **Sadie** is flourishing in her new environment, and they all are living happily ever after!



**17-016 Wrangler**, now called **Fezik**, is a 4-5-year-old Golden boy whose caregiver unfortunately passed away. The children of the home were going away to college and there was no one with the time to take care of this lovely boy. He received the usual health exam, including being brought up to date on vaccinations, testing for valley fever and heartworm. Who would

be the lucky family for a Golden full of love? It was Sara, John and their two daughters of Phoenix, along with **Droid**, a seven-year-old Shepherd mix and their three cats. We wish all of them much happiness!



**17-018 Beauty**, now called **Barney**, is a 4-year-old Golden mix whose owner was going to take this sweetie to the pound because he had begun to urinate inside. A kind lady suggested rescue instead and, of course, **Arizona Golden Rescue** came to the rescue! This poor boy was nervous when he left his home, however the transport team quickly eased his fears. He was taken to Chandler to

meet his new family of Ellen, Ron and their resident canine, **Lucy**. They just fell in love with "**Beauty Boy**". He did require neuter surgery, the usual vetting and was checked for a urinary tract infection. This "**Beauty**" is thankful for a second chance!

**17-020 Red Prince**, renamed **Cooper**, is a handsome 3-year-old Golden male whose owner felt he deserved a home with a yard. He was somewhat underweight when he came to us and his albumin level was a little low. The vet prescribed adding an egg to

his food every day. He is now in the normal range for weight and also albumin. Before his adoption was finalized, he was out walking with his FWITAs and went lame. The emergency vet treated **Cooper** for a scorpion sting, and within a couple of days, he was acting normal again. **Cooper** did not like to be left alone and had separation anxiety which resulted in unwanted chewing. **Cooper** would require a home where his family could be with him often and provide him with confidence and reassurance. Dawn and David of Chandler welcomed him into their home and this is exactly what **Cooper** needed. Also, **AGR's** outstanding behaviorist, Sharon, assisted Dawn and David with **Cooper's** separation anxiety. **Cooper** did require neuter surgery and microchip placement, also. Thank you, **AGR**, for finding a great forever home for **Cooper**!



**17-021 Trixie** is an almost 12-year-old senior Golden sweetheart whose surrendering owner was also an advanced senior. Dear **Trixie** had been spending her days outside and nights in a garage. No place for a dog, especially a senior! **AGR's** transport team quickly picked her up before the temperatures began to escalate. She was evaluated at **Four Legged Friends** in Phoenix for vetting.

It was discovered she had five lumps, and everyone was elated they were all benign! However, she did have bilateral ear infections that were easily treated with medications. She received the leptospirosis vaccine and the usual lab work including a senior panel. Next order of business was a spa service that felt "ahhhh so good"! Then it was time to relax in a foster home that would be low energy for a senior girl. Sue related: *We received a call one Friday evening at that time when all is quiet and we were on our way to slumber. Intake had a dilemma. An older dog that was living in unfortunate circumstances following the death of her owner was due to be ferried to the Valley the next day. If a foster home couldn't be located immediately, the travel arrangements would have to be sacked, as the family did not want the dog to go to a kennel and no home could be identified. Could Trixie come to our house "for the weekend"? When she was delivered the next day, we could hardly believe she was as old as she was reported to be. We were faced with a sprightly, stunning Golden girl that moved far better than anticipated. Within an hour, I found myself contacting the Placement team, suggesting that they not spend further efforts trying to find her another home – it was very likely she already had one. She has proven to be an absolute love, thoroughly enjoying romping and playing keep-away with her canine brother. With increased exercise and resulting strength, she further betrays her double-digit age. Being a typical food-motivated Golden, she has found her ability to sit up a wonderful tool in beg-*



ging extra cookies from the morning dog walkers in our nearby park. For however long we may have her, we shall cherish the time with this classic Golden lady. **Trixie** is very happily residing with Sue, Roger and Oliver in Goodyear and really enjoying her new life indoors!



**17-023 Paddy**, now **Axel**, is a 4-year-old Golden mix who was rescued from the shelter. Unfortunately, this boy was apparently hit by a car. One of **AGR's** angels came to the rescue and was heartbroken when she first saw **Paddy** limping and despondent. He had an injured right rear leg and several abrasions. He was quickly taken to **Animal**

**Medical & Surgical Center** in Scottsdale for a complete evaluation. He was diagnosed with a hip luxation that would require FHO surgery, pneumothorax (collapsed lung), and damaged ears with infections and various abrasions. He also would need neuter surgery and required a microchip so he would never be lost again. The wonderful team at **AMSC** brought **Paddy** on the road to recovery so he could move forward to his new forever home. Jen stated: *On Friday March 10, I saw his eyes and something told me he needed to be part of our family. With the help of some amazing people, it became possible. On Saturday, April 18, he came to us with the name of **Paddy**. He had just had FHO surgery and had some recovering to do! After he was settled, I could not wait to hug him and when I did I just knew this was meant to be. I called him **Axel**. If you could have seen his eyes, it was like he knew his name before I said it! We were all so excited to have him with us and just wanted him to get better. His new furry siblings lay by him most of the day and night wanting him to be able to play! His recovery went well and quite quickly compared to what we were expecting. Soon he was able to interact with his new family. Now when you see him, you would not know that he ever had anything wrong with him (unless you see him hop which he will do when he gets a bit tired or is in a real big hurry). He really is the most beautiful guy, his markings are like nothing I have ever seen and his tail well... it looks like it belongs on a fox and when he wags it, it lets off quite a breeze I guess because he spins in a circle! He is very smart and knows how to do many things that are asked of him. He wants to be with someone at all times, loves to be hugged, play with his new furry friends, go on walks, go to the park to meet new friends and give kisses! After only a few months he has become more comfortable and is like he has been with us since the day he was born. On June 5, we were very excited to hear the news that he was officially **Axel Paddy**! We couldn't imagine our lives without our sweet boy and are thankful for all the people that made it possible! **Axel** is living happily in Gilbert with Jen, Nick, Nicholas, Marlie, Peyton and Stewie.*

**17-024 Sloan**, now **Ducky**, is a petite 2-year-old Golden mix who

was found in a parking lot playing with children. A Good Samaritan took **Sloan** in and started the process of finding his owner. She did the usual postings; however, no one came forward to claim this little guy. **Sloan** was in luck because his rescuer worked for a vet so he was taken there for a checkup. Unfortunately, the rescuer's dog wasn't too happy about **Sloan** joining the family, so a call was placed to **AGR**. As he was found as a stray, **Ducky** did require a complete set of vaccinations along with lab work and neuter surgery. His new forever home would be with Christina and Sue in Avondale, along with resident canine, **Maya**, and the cats. I'm sure **Ducky** is enjoying the pool this summer!



**17-025 Gypsy** is a 12-year-old senior Golden who was in search of a new home due to her family moving out of the country. Unfortunately, her family was unable to take this sweet girl with them. **Gypsy** appeared to be in good health for a senior gal, except for some pesky arthritis and a few extra pounds that needed to be shed.

She was up to date on vaccines and testing; however, she would have a senior lab work panel done through **AGR**. **Gypsy** found her new home in Payson with Teresa, Talula, Rudi and Horton. **Gypsy** had a dental done with four extractions. She also developed some intestinal distress that was diagnosed as pancreatitis. A special diet, antibiotics and probiotics sent her on the road to recovery. Teresa related: *I heard the story of a Golden with the name **Gypsy**, going up for adoption again due to no fault of her own. Having volunteered in our local animal shelter back home for 30 years, I knew the heartbreak of a senior cat or dog coming into the system. It hit a chord for me, and I became determined she was not going to spend her "golden years" in limbo. When I got her, she needed dental work and developed pancreatitis. With the financial help of **AGR**, she is now a healthy pooch. I am forever grateful to the Rescue for that help! She now walks every day with **Talula** and me and has lost eight pounds! She acts like a younger dog and seems totally happy and content. I love this girl! **Gypsy** and I both agree, she saved the BEST for last!"* Yes, we agree, too!

**17-026 Chief** is a 2-3-year-old Golden mix who was given to a coworker. However, the coworker lived in an apartment and was going to college in two weeks and felt **Chief** deserved a home with ample space and a family who could provide him with the time and attention he so rightly deserved.



He asked *Arizona Golden Rescue* to find this boy the perfect home. **Chief** needed to be brought up to date on vaccinations and receive a microchip. It was discovered he had an ear infection that was easily treated. His lab work was normal. Yeah! **Chief's** forever home was to be with Lori, Mike and 1-year-old Lab mix, **Tucker**, in Chandler. **Chief** is enjoying his new life with his new family!

**17-027 Kate**, now called **Dusty**, is a 3-year-old Golden mix who was sprung from *Pima Animal Care and Control*. **Kate** is part of Charlie's Angels and is believed to be the mom to **17-028 Farrah** and **17-029 Jaclyn**. **Kate** is a petite girl who had her spay surgery at the shelter and embarked on her journey to the Valley by the transport angels. She received her vetting at *Four Legged Friends Animal Hospital* in Phoenix. Her lab work reported the unfortunate diagnosis of tick fever that required a month-long regimen of doxycycline. Thankfully, the valley fever titre was negative! Lenni and Steve wrote: *We lost both of our Goldens (ages 11½ and 15) within 6 weeks of each other last year. Although the silence was deafening, we decided to take a break and see what it was like to be empty nesters... we were miserable. We had always gone through a breeder to get our pups but both of our children have adopted their dogs and convinced us to give it a try. We went to an adoption event, talked with Deb, got information and sent in our application. Before we knew it, we got the call on Easter! A three-year old mom with two 8-month old pups had been brought up from Tucson. Would we be interested? The next day we met Dusty (formerly Kate) in Glendale and were greeted with kisses and a face so sweet we couldn't possibly say, "No." Little did we know Dusty was very sick. Within a few days she quit eating (we tried 12 different types of dog food—seriously!) and was quite lethargic. We took her to Four Legged Friends at Connie's suggestion and were horrified to find out she had a temperature of 106°! They iced her down, gave her tons of fluids and got her back down to normal. This was the first of four visits during the next month. Blood work eventually showed she had tick fever. With stronger medication, she recovered and is no longer acting like a geriatric dog. She loves praise, obeys commands (most of the time) and provides warm kisses throughout the day. We feel she needed us as much as we needed her and can't imagine our household without her. Thank you so much, Arizona Golden Rescue! Dusty has recovered and is receiving much tender loving care from Lenni and Steve in Scottsdale.*



**17-028 Farrah**, renamed **Bailey**, is a 10-month-old Golden mix who is part of Charlie's Angels from *Pima Animal*



**17-029 Jaclyn**, also now renamed **Bailey** (the two FWITA families never communicated with each other but both liked the name) is a 10-month-old Golden mix who is also part of Charlie's Angels from *Pima Animal Care and Control* in Tucson. **Bailey** received her standard vetting, including heartworm, fecal and cocci testing. She had been brought up to date on vaccines at *PACC*. She received the initial leptospirosis vaccine and was scheduled for spay surgery. Now **Bailey** was ready to settle down with her new family. She became a lucky dog when she moved to Buckeye with Heidi, Noah, resident Golden **Cooper** and their cat. **Bailey** is enjoying the many parks and, of course, lots of love!

**Care and Control**. **Bailey** received her usual vetting, including all appropriate vaccines, microchip, spay surgery and usual testing. She was, thankfully, a picture of health. Then it was in the cards for **Bailey** to return in the direction from which she had come. Her forever home is with Karen, John and resident Golden, **Dani**, in Green Valley. **Bailey** is enjoying her new life and having a Golden to show her the way!

**17-031 Brando** is a 13-year-old Golden mix who appears to have been neglected most, if not all, of his years. He was an owner surrender



Furry but very matted Brando at intake



Brando much more comfortable after his haircut and grooming

to *Pima Animal Care and Control* in Tucson. The wonderful, kind hearted people on the *Arizona Golden Rescue* Board voted unanimously to provide this boy with a caring home for the remainder of his life. His coat was very matted, teeth in poor condition, and he had infected ears and bad hips. He was suffering from severe arthritis. Kind Tucson shelter volunteers drove **Brando** to *Academy West Animal Hospital* in Glendale, where he was brought up to date on vaccinations, tested for heartworm, valley fever and parasites. He did require major grooming to remove the matting. He was also started on meloxicam for pain control related to the arthritis. Now it was time for **Brando** to be treated with love and kindness. Adam and Bo of Peoria, along with their resident canines **Rhys** and **Matilda**, quickly opened their home and hearts to **Brando**. Adam wrote: *I was away on business travel when I saw Brando's story and I was immediately interested in making room in my home for him. The thought of a senior dog sitting in a shelter hoping to be adopted was something I couldn't bear. Welcoming*

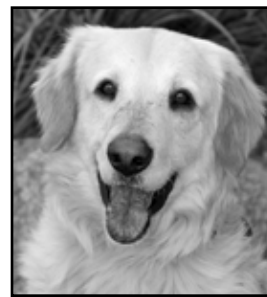
**Brando** into the family has been even more rewarding and satisfying than I could have imagined. One of the first things that struck me about him in his photos was his expressive face – he seems to have a smile inside that is hard to hide. As he's gotten more and more comfortable in his new home, I see that smile more and more. He issues an excited whimper when he's looking forward to an activity that takes place at that time – whether it be treat time, play-in-the yard time, or just resting his head on my lap for scratches time. **Brando** and I bonded very quickly – now, he won't go anywhere without me. He also has an endearing habit of licking the inside of my forearm when I'm doing normal daily tasks such as keeping water bowls filled, picking up toys and grooming. Being an older boy, **Brando** had some weakness in his hindquarters. It became apparent quickly that the kitchen floor was going to be a hazard for **Brando**. He frequently slipped and fell, and he was not yet comfortable in allowing me to help him get back on his feet. So, I installed rubberized mats all along the kitchen island, near his feeding area, and along the major traffic areas and **Brando** is now much more confident. **Brando** has developed a good amount of muscle mass in his back legs and is doing better than I could have imagined. He's excited to go on our daily walk, despite having to wait until after sundown to avoid the triple-digit heat. He still loses his balance occasionally, but he can quickly get back up on his own – smiling and ready to continue his adventure. **Brando** has successfully learned to use a ramp to make it easier for him to get out of my truck. He patiently waits on the back seat until my other golden **Rhys** has left the truck, and any bags and packages are removed. When I come back with the ramp he looks at me seeming to say, "I'm comfortable – whenever you're ready we can go. I jokingly call **Brando** "Dobby" because he has a habit of stealing one of my socks and taking it to his favorite sleeping spot – the master bedroom closet. **Brando** has an amazing spirit and he's a wonderful companion. I'm thrilled to share my home with **Brando** and I'm so happy to have him in my life. Our thanks to the numerous volunteers in Tucson who became so fond of **Brando** during his month-long stay at the shelter and so grateful to us for rescuing him that they sent donations to help us with his medical expenses.



**17-033 Coco**, now **Rosie**, is a darling 3-year-old Golden female. Unfortunately, there was a change in the dynamics of her family that caused **Coco** to be left by herself for extended periods of time, and she was becoming very lonely. Her family made the difficult decision to ask **AGR** to find her a home where she would get the time and attention she deserved. **Rosie** was brought up to date on her vaccines

including the series for leptospirosis, now part of our standard vetting. **Rosie** also received the usual checkup at **Kennel Care** in Chandler to make sure she was in tip-top shape! **Rosie** is now calling home with Maggie and Joe in Gilbert and is happy she is no longer lonely!

**17-034 Nala** is a 1-year-old Golden mix. A puppy! A bottle rocket! **Nala** had a change in family situation, and the people she was staying with were keeping her outside or in the garage. **AGR** to the rescue to find the perfect home for this youngster quickly! However, first she paid a visit to **Academy West Animal Hospital** in Glendale for a wellness check and to be brought current on vaccinations. Now the perfect home: **Nala** was off to Surprise to live with Craig and Joshua. They are fortunate to have a friend who is a dog trainer to assist them with the trials and joys of a puppy. **Nala** is enjoying her new life and the family is enjoying her enthusiasm!



**17-039 Deeks** is a 6-year-old Golden mix who is a return to Rescue. **Deeks'** mom had passed away and dad travels with his job, so there was no one to watch over poor **Deeks**. It saddened **Deeks'** dad to relinquish him, but he loved him so much he felt it was in **Deeks'** best interest. **Deeks** is a large boy, too much so that he needed to be put on the green bean diet. He also

needed to be brought up to date on his vaccines. He was taken to **Academy West Animal Hospital** in Glendale for vetting where he also required dental extractions and the surgical removal of a few lipomas that were benign. After he was finished with his medical procedures he was off to his new home. **Deeks** was happy to land in Phoenix with Rebecca and Dennis. Thank you, **AGR**, for bringing this family together!

### **Possible Remedy for Storm Anxiety**

Pat Hastings, a respected AKC dog show judge, breeder and handler, swears by this remedy for dogs with storm anxiety. Get a bottle of peppermint oil from the health food store. When a storm is approaching, put a drop or two of the oil on the bottom of each foot of the dog, right on the pad. While no one knows why this works, once the oil is on for a bit, the dog seems to no longer care about the thunderstorm. And the dog will smell very nice! Others besides Ms. Hastings have testified that this home remedy works. Surely, it is worth a try!

Support our major fundraiser, the *Fashion Paw-Tea* coming up on September 9<sup>th</sup>? Purchase tickets before the event is sold out: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fashion-paw-tea-tickets-36224465351>? Or send a donation to **AGR** at the address on the back cover.

# OVER THE RAINBOW

We honor the memory of our human and animal companions who have passed on...



Bella Anderson



Luke Blue (11-066)



Mocha Carson



Abby Ensminger /  
Durgan  
(17-011)



Miller Fannin



Teddy Greff



Sadie Harrington



Suri Holland / Craven



Roxy Janes (16-063)



Tessa Joyce  
(10-031)

## The Rainbow Bridge

There is a bridge connecting Heaven and Earth. It is called the Rainbow Bridge because of its many colors.

Just this side of the Rainbow Bridge there is a land of meadows, hills and valleys with lush green grass.

When a beloved pet dies, the pet goes to this place. There is always food and water and warm spring weather. The old and frail animals are young again. Those who are maimed are made whole again. They play all day with each other.

There is only one thing missing. They are not with their special person who loved them on Earth.

So each day they run and play until the day comes when one suddenly stops playing and looks up! The nose twitches! The ears are up! The eyes are staring! And this one suddenly runs from the group!

You have been seen, and when you and your special friend meet, you take him or her in your arms and embrace.

Your face is kissed again and again and again, and you look once more into the eyes of your trusting pet.

Then you cross the Rainbow Bridge together, never again to be separated.

Sammy McCabe / Dodson (13-006)



Rocky Pulis



Nugget Spehar



Sadie Stolcis (14-022)

And

Ron Lagerman

Beloved husband of AGR Member Ellen Lagerman

Grief never ends... But it changes. It's a passage, not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of faith... it is the price of LOVE. ~Author Unknown

**Goal: Keeping Pets Safe**  
**An Ounce of Prevention is Worth**  
**a Pound of Cure**

Be mindful of exposing your furry friends to substances and other items that may prove harmful. Every year thousands of animals are hurt or seriously injured by poisonous items, many as seemingly innocent as a plant. To help pet owners identify potentially dangerous objects, the *ASPCA* has the following tips. Visit <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control> for more information.

1) Dogs can eat most foods that humans can eat. However, there are several foods you should NEVER give to dogs, because they are toxic. Toxic foods include ALCOHOL, AVOCADOS, CHIVES, CHOCOLATE (including Baker's, semi-sweet, milk, and dark), COFFEE (grounds, beans, chocolate-covered espresso beans), GARLIC, GRAPES (as few as seven grapes have been reported to cause death in some dogs), HOPS (used in home beer brewing), MACADAMIA NUTS, MOLDY OR SPOILED FOODS, ONIONS (including dried onion flakes, onion powder and onion salt), RAISINS, RHUBARB leaves, TEA (caffeine), SALT, TOMATO LEAVES AND STEMS (green parts) XYLITOL (a sweetener used in gum, candy, baked goods and toothpaste) and YEAST DOUGH. You should not give your dog turkey except in small quantities ("just a taste" is OK). Also, dogs do not produce significant amounts of lactase, the enzyme that breaks down milk sugar (lactose), so limit milk products. In addition, keep salt intake to a minimum (i.e., keep those salty chips and fries to yourself!).

2) Keep all medications out of your dog's reach, preferably in closed cabinets. Pain killers, cold medicines, anti-cancer drugs, antidepressants, vitamins and diet pills are human medications that can be lethal to animals even in small doses.

NEVER give your dog any medication without first consulting your veterinarian. Medications that should NOT BE GIVEN to dogs include aspirin (except coated), acetaminophen, and ibuprofen. Aspirin toxicity may cause gastrointestinal problems, respiratory difficulties, neurological problems, bleeding disorders and kidney failure. Ibuprofen also causes bleeding ulcers, and in increasing doses eventually leads to kidney failure that is fatal if not treated early. Symptoms include poor appetite, vomiting, black tarry stools, vomiting blood, abdominal pain, weakness and lethargy. Dogs are less sensitive to acetaminophen than cats are. A 50-pound dog would need to ingest more than seven 500 mg tablets to suffer toxic effects. If you ever suspect that your dog has ingested any amount of these medications (or any other human meds), please contact your family veterinarian or local veterinary emergency facility immediately. To ensure the safety of your dog, give him only medications prescribed by your veterinarian and only in the dosage prescribed.

3) Be aware of the plants you have in your home and yard. Some plants, such as Sago Palm, Oleander and Rhododendron, can be toxic to pets if ingested. Lilies can be especially toxic to cats.

4) Do not allow your pets to have access to the areas in which cleaning agents are being used or stored. Cleaning agents have a variety of properties. Some may only cause mild stomach upset, but others can cause severe burns of the tongue, mouth and stomach.

5) Be careful when using rat and mouse baits. The most common active ingredients found in rat and mouse baits are anticoagulants, which interfere with blood clotting processes. Ingredients of this type include warfarin, brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difacinone and difethialone. Other formulations can contain bromethalin, cholecalciferol, zinc phosphide or strychnine, which are designed to kill rodents by affecting various other critical body systems. Some baits also contain inactive ingredients meant to attract rodents, and these ingredients can sometimes be attractive to pets as well.

6) Always read the label *first* before using flea products on or around your pets. Some flea products for dogs can be deadly if given to cats.

7) Common household items can be lethal to animals. Many liquid potpourri formulations contain ingredients such as essential oils and detergents that could be quite hazardous to pets. Due to the risk for serious illness, pet owners should place potpourri simmer pots and unused liquid in rooms where pets cannot gain access. Also consider using relatively safer alternatives, such as plug-in or solid air fresheners used in out-of-reach locations, not in close proximity to pets with sensitive respiratory tracts such as birds. Other items potentially dangerous to pets include mothballs, pennies, tobacco products, homemade play dough, fabric softener sheets, dishwashing detergent, and batteries.

8) Automotive products such as gasoline, oil and antifreeze should be stored in areas that are inaccessible to your pets: As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly to a cat. Less than one tablespoon can be lethal to a 20-pound dog.

9) Be sure your pets do not walk on lawns or in gardens treated with fertilizers, herbicides or insecticides until these have dried completely. Always store such products in areas that are inaccessible to your pets. If you are uncertain about the usage of any product, contact the manufacturer for clarification before using it.

**Health Tip: Play Dough**

At all costs, keep homemade play dough, the kind made with flour and salt, away from your dog. The salt content is so high that it will cause severe dehydration, which can lead to brain hemorrhage and death if your pet eats it.

### Pet First-aid Kit

Creating a pet first-aid kit is a smart idea that will prepare you to act quickly in case of emergency. Put everything related to your pet's health issues in an easily-accessible bag. A clear plastic tote is ideal, as that will allow you to readily find whatever you need, and you can place a card with emergency numbers on the inside facing out so they are easily read. On your Emergency Numbers card, be sure to include:

- Phone number of your veterinarian
- National Animal Poison Control Center – open 24/7/365; charges a consultation fee 1-900-680-0000
- Closest Veterinary Emergency Animal Hospital phone number and address

Include a folder with copies of all your pet's medical records. These records will be most important if you have to take your pet to an Emergency Animal Hospital or to a veterinarian who is not your regular vet; for example, if you have need of a vet while on a trip out of your home area. If you leave your pet home with a pet sitter, leave copies of these records, as well as a letter signed by you giving the pet sitter permission to have your pet treated by a vet.

A very handy item is a book on pet health care; there are several good ones available. Be sure to read it before you have to use it!

Keep a list of substances which might be found in and around your home that are toxic to pets. Such a list is available under the Education tab on our website, [www.arizonagoldenrescue.org](http://www.arizonagoldenrescue.org) and in this newsletter.

Carry a blanket or large towel in your vehicle. These can be used to wrap a cold animal or to carry an animal that is injured or bleeding.

First-Aid Kit contents should include:

- Tweezers
- Dog nail trimmer
- Styptic powder – to stop bleeding if you cut a nail too short
- Scissors
- Bandages and gauze
- Betadine sponges – for cleaning cuts and wounds
- Eyedropper
- Peroxide – use to induce vomiting upon ingestion of non-food object or if pet eats something toxic; can also be used for cleaning wounds
- Rubber gloves
- Saline solution – regular human contact lens saline solution can be used to flush out dirt, sand, or other eye irritants

- Sterile Vaseline – applied around eyes, will prevent soap and water from getting into pet's eyes while bathing pet
- Sterile telfa pads (non-stick) to put on a wound before applying bandage
- Triple antibiotic ointment

After applying what first-aid you can, be sure to seek veterinary care as soon as possible to assure the best outcome for your pet.

### CareCredit®

Most of us live on a budget; some even live paycheck to paycheck with little in reserve. So, what options do you have if your pet becomes seriously ill or has to have emergency surgery? You surely do not want your pet to die unless he or she is diagnosed to be terminal and nothing can be done to save or prolong the animal's life. If your pet does get into something toxic or develops a serious illness that requires extraordinary veterinary intervention and leaves you with incredibly large bills to pay, consider asking your vet if he/she supports Care Credit®. It is basically a **no-interest** credit card that is somewhat controlled by the specific doctor or veterinarian who participates. The amount that you charge determines how long they will give you to pay off the bill *interest free!* It can be 3, 6, 12 or 18 months. CareCredit® can really help – you won't have to take the entire amount you owe out of your bank account or put it on an interest-bearing credit card. This company's roster of participating vets also includes many specialists, such as canine dentists, canine ophthalmologists and canine oncologists. If you access the CareCredit® website, you can determine if your vet or the specialist you intend to consult is a participating vet. CareCredit® is also available for human medical needs, such as Lasik and vision issues, cosmetic surgery, dentistry, hearing problems, and other specialties. Check out their website and keep it handy – you never know when you might need it: [www.carecredit.com/vetmed](http://www.carecredit.com/vetmed) Several of our members/adopters have taken advantage of CareCredit® and have been very appreciative to know about it. All of AGR's main veterinarians offer it.

### Apples

Apples, in general, are good for dogs, as are other fruits and vegetables. However, apple seeds are NOT good for any animals. The seeds of members of the apple family contain cyanogenic glycosides. If the seed hull is broken, such as by chewing on the seed, a cyanide compound will be released. If consumed in large enough quantity, such seeds can be fatal. If you want to give your dog apples, great! But take the seeds out first!

## Morbid Obesity

By Deb Orwig

Originally published in the November 2012 issue of *The Golden Paw*

One of our heartaches as rescuers is to have a dog come in that is morbidly obese. Synonyms for “morbid” are “gruesome”, “sickly” and “horrible.” When a dog weighs 1½ to 2 times more than it should, we use all those adjectives. We have all seen morbidly obese humans – have you ever watched *The Biggest Loser* on TV? We all know that being so overweight is not healthy. Morbid obesity will lead to a shorter life and, most likely, a myriad of health problems along the way. You have heard people blame their weight on their metabolism. Yes, a slow metabolism, such as one that might be caused by hypothyroidism, can certainly be a factor. But, the bottom line is that people and dogs gain weight because they consume more calories than their bodies burn up.

Unless a dog is a stray and hangs out by the back door of a restaurant where leftovers are tossed within easy reach, the only way a dog is going to weigh more than it should is if his or her providers – i.e., humans – allow it to eat more than it should. Part of the problem comes from the pet food industry. Do you follow the instructions on the bag regarding how much kibble to give your dog? Don't. More often than not, the food manufacturer will indicate quantities that are considerably more than a healthful amount for your dog. Why? Because they want to sell more food.

Our Intake, Placement, and Health Care Teams and Board members have recently had an online discussion about morbid obesity, as four of the dogs we have taken in during just this past quarter have been in this category: three females (**Missy**, **Christy Love**, and **Trisha**) and one male (**Todd**). There have been others in the past, too. We are concerned for the dogs' long-term health. We are concerned because we know these dogs will have a shortened life span. We are concerned about placing these dogs with families and then having them die within a relatively short time. Not good.

Two comments have been particularly apropos... Kathy Blue pointed out: *It is not easy to change one's habits when it comes to spoiling our canine companions. It takes education, understanding and commitment. That's why we spend so much time at home visits educating on proper diet and how to determine an appropriate quality dog food... After taking over Dallas's care (my dad's dog) 18 months ago, and working with Dr. Harbo at **Four Legged Friends**, I have really had my eyes opened. You can literally spoil your pet into an early grave. There are alternative snacks like dehydrated sweet potato chips, green beans etc. It is not being mean, it is being a good and responsible guardian.* And Judy Petitto said, *I think it goes back to [people] equating food with love. We just need to love them with the right food so we*

*can keep them with us as long as possible.*

If you have read through *Magic Moments*, you may have noticed that the term “green bean diet” is used when a dog is significantly overweight. What is the green bean diet?

Green beans – fresh, canned or frozen – will add bulk but no calories to your dog's meal. If your dog is overweight, we recommend substituting an amount of green beans for part of the kibble that is normally used. For example, if you are currently feeding 1½ cups of kibble twice a day and your dog is overweight, cut the kibble to 1 cup and add ½ can of green beans, preferably the no-added-salt variety, with the liquid.

Before starting your dog on a diet, take him or her to your vet for a check-up and weigh the dog. Once the dog has been put on a reduced-calorie regimen, weigh the dog once a month on the same scale to determine the rate of weight loss. The larger the dog, the more it will lose at first; then you will most likely see a decrease or even a plateau in weight loss for a while before the scale registers more loss. During these plateaus, increase the amount of exercise you are giving your dog, and the plateau will not last as long. The ideal weight loss for a large dog is ½ lb to 1 lb a week. So, with **Missy**, for example, who weighed in at 131 pounds, it could easily take over a year for her to lose half her body weight, which she needs to do. If a dog loses weight too fast, there can be complications involving internal organ damage.

How much should your dog weigh? That is a discussion you should have with your vet. A normal-size female Golden Retriever should weigh 50 - 60 pounds, depending on her frame; a normal-size male should weigh 65 - 75 pounds. If you have a Golden mix, the ideal weight range may vary a lot more, depending on what breed or breeds contributed to the mix.

One thing many of us have noticed is that it is a rare Golden who will regulate its own food intake. Given the opportunity to eat at any time (i.e. being “free fed”), a Golden will eat and eat and eat... and gain and gain and gain! If you are free-feeding at your house, please consider changing to a twice-a-day feeding schedule. Leave the food down for no more than 10 minutes. If your dog is used to eating anytime it wants to, it may not eat much at first when changed to a twice-a-day routine. But within a few days to a week, it will be eating its entire meal in just a couple minutes.

Also, no snack in between meals unless it is one or two small treats. Of course dogs like treats, but they don't need them. We recommend purchasing small-dog-size treats, even for a Golden. If you buy the large-dog-size biscuits, break them in half or even in fourths and give your dog only one piece.

And remember... If you have a fat dog, *you* aren't getting enough exercise!

## Emergency Preparedness

In August 2010, Liz Tataseo represented *AGR* at a conference on *Emergency Preparedness for Animal Safety*. She brought back a 16-page handout containing some excellent information that had been collated from several different agencies including the *American Red Cross* and the *Humane Society of the U.S.* There isn't room in this newsletter to print all of it, so we will put the entire handout up on our website; you can access it there and take what you want from it. I will reprint only a small part here.

In the Phoenix area, we experience "disasters" only rarely – dust storms, flooding, damaging winds and microbursts and, most recently, large hail stones are about it. However, many of our readers live in areas where there are tornadoes, hurricanes, heavy snow, forest fires, mudslides or raging rivers that breach their confines. Regardless of the type of disaster you might experience, as the Scouts say, "Be Prepared!"

### Be Prepared with a Disaster Plan

The best way to protect your family from the effects of a disaster is to have a disaster plan. [As] a pet owner, that plan must include your pets. Being prepared can save their lives.

Different disasters require different responses. But whether the disaster is a hurricane or a hazardous spill, you may have to evacuate your home.

In the event of a disaster, if you must evacuate, the most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to evacuate them, too. Leaving pets behind, even if you try to create a safe place for them, is likely to result in their being injured, lost, or worse. So, prepare now for the day when you and your pets may have to leave your home.

#### 1. Have a safe place to take your pets.

Red Cross disaster shelters cannot accept pets because of states' health and safety regulations and other considerations. Service animals who assist people with disabilities are the **only** animals allowed in Red Cross shelters. It may be difficult, if not impossible, to find shelter for your animals in the midst of a disaster, so plan ahead. Do not wait until disaster strikes to do your research.

Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size, and species. Ask if "no pet" policies could be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of "pet friendly" places, including phone numbers, with other disaster information and supplies. If you have notice of an impending disaster, call ahead for reservations.

Ask friends, relatives, or others outside the affected area whether they could shelter your animals. If you have more than one pet, they may be more comfortable if kept together, but be prepared to house them separately.

Prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency; include 24-hour phone numbers.

Ask local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets in a disaster. Animal shelters may be overburdened caring for the animals they already have, as well as those displaced by a disaster, so this should be your last resort.

**2. Assemble a portable pet disaster supplies kit.** Whether you are away from home for a day or a week, you'll need essential supplies. Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy containers that can be carried easily (duffle bags, covered trash containers, etc.). Your pet disaster supplies kit should include:

- Medications and medical records, especially of vaccinations (stored in a waterproof container) and a first aid kit.
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that your animals can't escape.
- Current photos of your pets in case they get lost.
- Food, potable water, bowls, cat litter/pan, and can opener.
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets.
- Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable.

**3. Know what to do as a disaster approaches.** Often, warnings are issued hours, even days, in advance. At the first hint of disaster, act to protect your pets.

- Call ahead to confirm emergency shelter arrangements for you and your pets.
- Check to be sure your pet disaster supplies are ready to take at a moment's notice.
- Bring all pets into the house so that you won't have to search for them if you have to leave in a hurry.
- Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing collars and securely fastened, up-to-date identification. Attach the phone number and address of your temporary shelter, if you know it, or of a friend or relative outside the disaster area. You can buy temporary tags or put adhesive tape on the back of your pet's ID tag, adding information with an indelible pen.

You may not be home when the evacuation order comes. Find out if a trusted neighbor would be willing to take your pets and meet



you at a prearranged location. This person should be comfortable with your pets, know where your animals are likely to be, know where your pet disaster supplies kit is kept, and have a key to your home. If you use a pet sitting service, they may be available to help, but discuss the possibility well in advance.

Planning and preparation will enable you to evacuate with your pets quickly and safely. But bear in mind that animals react differently under stress. Outside your home and in the car, keep dogs securely leashed. Transport cats in carriers. Don't leave animals unattended anywhere they can run off. The most trustworthy pets may panic, hide, try to escape, or even bite or scratch. And, when you return home, give your pets time to settle back into their routines. Consult your veterinarian if any behavior problems persist.

The following are organizations and resources that you can contact or access to help you plan how to protect your pets.

Local Government Animal Control Maricopa County website: <http://www.maricopa.gov/Pets/> Additional educational materials at <http://www.maricopa.gov/Pets/Education.aspx>

If you don't have a plan and need information quickly, contact <http://www.maricopa.gov/emerg.mgt/>

Local Animal Shelters: Because most emergency shelters do not admit pets, local animal shelters may be able to offer advice, such as what to do with your pets if you are asked to evacuate your home.

You can search for local shelters on the Pets 911 website <http://www.pets911.com/organizations/organizations.php>

Other resources:

<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/>

<http://www.avma.org/disaster/>

<http://www.uan.org/>

<http://www.ready.gov/>

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/pdf/petprotect.pdf>

<http://vetmedicine.about.com/od/veterinaryqa/f/FirstAidKits.htm>

<http://www.fda.gov/cvm/disaster.htm>

In emergency situations, pets could be poisoned by exposure to harmful chemicals, products, or foods. For information on protecting your pets, visit the **Animal Poison Control Center's** website: <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/> If you suspect that your pet has been poisoned, call toll-free 1-888-426-4435 (calls are answered 24/7; credit card needed for consultation fee).

### ***Is Your Peanut Butter Safe to Give to Your Dog?***

If you have peanut butter in your pantry, check the label for **xylitol**. If it contains that chemical, do not use that brand with your dog -- xylitol is highly toxic. Jif®, Skippy®, Peter Pan®, and the Kroger® brand are all safe to use.

### ***Pet Insurance***

Pet insurance, like all insurance, is something you pay for but might never use. However, in the event of a catastrophic accident or illness, pet insurance could mean the difference between treating your pet or having it euthanized. Some plans cover all types of medical expenses including annual checkups and vaccinations; others cover only accidents and illnesses. Plan premiums run from \$10 to \$100 per month per pet, annually from \$120 to \$1200 per pet depending on the coverage. Some plans have copays; some have deductibles; some have payout limits. With some, you have to pay up front then apply for reimbursement. With some, pre-approval for treatment is necessary. There are numerous companies that provide such insurance. Compare rates and coverages at: <http://www.petinsurance.com/compare-vpi/pet-insurance-comparison.aspx> When considering the purchase of a policy, read the fine print, understand the limitations, and look for exemptions.

Quite a few **AGR** members carry pet insurance. If you are considering purchasing such, please do your homework. Research the various companies available and make the best choice for your personal financial picture and your resident animals. You can get comparative quotes from the top five pet insurance companies by visiting [www.trupanionpetinsurance.com](http://www.trupanionpetinsurance.com). **Pets Best** ([www.petsbest.com](http://www.petsbest.com)) and **VPI** ([www.petinsurance.com](http://www.petinsurance.com)) are two companies that several of our members use.

Before you buy a policy, try to get answers to the following:

- 1) Can I choose my own veterinarian?
- 2) What are the policy's conditions and exclusions?
- 3) What are the waiting periods?
- 4) Are congenital (present at birth) or pre-existing conditions covered?
- 5) Does the company offer multiple-pet discounts on their premiums?
- 6) How long does it take for a claim to be processed?
- 7) Is the company licensed in my state?
- 8) Have any consumer complaints about the company been registered with the state's Department of Insurance?

Note: it may be especially important to consider purchasing health insurance if you have adopted a dog that has come from a shelter or was picked up as a stray by a Good Samaritan. The main reason is that the Rescue has no health history for the dog – its history begins with its rescue, so there is no way to predict what health conditions you may face in the future.

## 21 Symptoms You Should Never Ignore in Your Dog

Submitted by Shelly Culver, Vet Tech at Four Legged Friends Animal Hospital  
reprinted with permission

*There are serious symptoms that should never be ignored in your dog. A symptom is defined as "any problem that can indicate an underlying disease" and may be the first clue to the presence of a life-threatening problem in your dog. Here is a list of 21 symptoms that should never be ignored if you see them from your dog.*

**1. Pacing and Restlessness.** In dogs, pacing and restlessness can indicate pain, discomfort and distress. Restlessness can be associated with a condition called "bloat" (gastric torsion), which is a serious condition caused by the abnormal dilation and twisting of the stomach. Bloat commonly occurs in large breed and deep-chested dogs and can quickly become fatal.

**2. Unproductive Retching.** Attempting to vomit but being unable to bring anything up is also a common sign of bloat in dogs. Contact your veterinarian immediately.

**3. Collapse or Fainting.** Acute collapse is a sudden loss of strength causing your dog to fall and be unable to rise. Some dogs that collapse will also lose consciousness – this is called fainting or syncope. Some dogs recover quickly and look essentially normal seconds to minutes after collapsing, while others stay in a collapsed state until helped. All reasons for collapse and fainting are serious and should not be ignored.

**4. Not Eating or Loss of Appetite.** Anorexia is a term used when an animal loses his appetite and does not want to eat or is unable to eat. There are many causes for "loss of appetite"; it is often the first indication of illness. Regardless of the cause, loss of appetite can have a serious impact on an animal's health if it lasts 24 hours or more. Young dogs 6 months of age or less and toy breeds are particularly prone to the problems brought on by loss of appetite.

**5. Weight Loss.** Weight loss is a physical condition that results from a negative caloric balance. This usually occurs when the body uses and/or excretes essential nutrients faster than it can consume them. Weight loss is considered clinically important when it exceeds 10% of the normal body weight and is not associated with fluid loss. There are several causes for this, some of which are very serious.

**6. Breathing Problems.** Respiratory distress, called dyspnea, is labored breathing, difficult breathing and shortness of breath. This can occur any time during the breathing process, during inspiration (breathing in) or expiration (breathing out). When your dog is having trouble breathing, he may not be able to get enough oxygen to his tissues. Additionally, if he has heart failure, he may not be able to pump sufficient amounts of blood to muscles and other organs. Dyspnea is often associated with accumulation of fluid (edema) in the lungs or chest cavity (pleural effusion). Pleural ef-

fusion can lead to shortness of breath and coughing and should be evaluated immediately.

**7. Red Eye.** A red eye is a non-specific sign of inflammation or infection. It may be seen with several diseases involving parts of the eye, including the external eyelids, third eyelid, conjunctiva, cornea and sclera. It may also occur with inflammation of the structures inside the eye, with glaucoma (high pressure within the eye), or with certain diseases of the orbit (eye socket). Either one or both eyes can become red depending on the cause of the problem. Some of the possible causes can be serious and ultimately cause blindness.

**8. Jaundice.** Jaundice, also referred to as icterus, describes the yellow color taken on by tissues throughout the body due to elevated levels of bilirubin, a substance that comes from the breakdown of red blood cells. There are several causes for jaundice, and regardless of the cause, jaundice is considered abnormal and serious in dogs.

**9. Trouble Urinating.** Trouble urinating can include straining to urinate, frequent attempts to urinate, and discomfort when urinating. Discomfort may be demonstrated as crying out during urination, excessive licking at the urogenital areas or turning and looking at the area. There are several underlying causes. Some of the causes if left untreated can result in death in as little as 36 hours.

**10. Drinking and Urinating Excessively.** These signs are often early signs of disease including kidney failure, diabetes mellitus, thyroid gland problems, and uterine infection (pyometra), as well as other causes. Dogs normally take in 20 to 40 ml per lb of body weight a day (237 ml = 1 cup). If you determine your dog is drinking excessively, make an appointment with your veterinarian.

**11. Fever.** A fever is defined as an abnormally high body temperature resulting from internal controls. It is believed that fever is a method of fighting infection. The body resets the temperature control center of the brain to increase the body's temperature in response to an invasion of foreign matter such as bacteria or a virus. Normal body temperature for a dog is 101.5° - 102.5° F. If your pet's temperature is high, call your veterinarian.

**12. Seizure.** A seizure or convulsion is a sudden firing of nerves in the brain. The severity of a seizure can vary from a far-away look or twitching in one part of the face to your dog falling on his side, barking, gnashing his teeth, urinating, defecating and paddling his limbs. A seizure can last from seconds to minutes. Seizures are a symptom of a neurological disorder – they are not in themselves a disease. They can be caused by several disorders such as epilepsy, trauma, toxins and tumors.

13. **Bruising and Bleeding.** Abnormal bruising and bleeding arise with disorders of hemostasis (clotting). Clotting abnormalities are also called coagulopathies, because they reflect the inability of the blood to coagulate or clot. Bleeding from clotting disturbances may occur in the skin, mucus membranes and various internal organs, tissues or body cavities. The impact of internal bleeding on the individual may be mild to severe depending on the amount of blood lost.

14. **Coughing.** Coughing is a common reflex that clears secretions and foreign matter from the throat, voice box and/or airways, and protects the lungs against aspiration. It affects the respiratory system by hindering the ability to breathe properly. Common causes include obstruction in the windpipe, bronchitis, pneumonia, heartworm disease, lung tumors, kennel cough (*Bordetella bronchiseptica*), valley fever and heart failure. Some of the causes are life threatening and should be evaluated by your vet.

15. **Bloated or Distended Abdomen.** Abdominal distension is an abnormal enlargement of the abdominal cavity. This term is usually reserved for abdominal enlargement due to causes other than simple obesity. One cause is fluid accumulation. Another cause is enlargement of any abdominal organ such as liver, kidneys or spleen. Distension of the stomach with air (bloat), or fluid or distension of the uterus during pregnancy can result in abdominal distension. Pressure from the abdomen pushing in to the chest can make breathing more difficult and pressure in the abdomen may decrease appetite. It is important to recognize abdominal distension; it can be a symptom of a life threatening disease and should be investigated thoroughly.

16. **Bloody Diarrhea.** Blood in feces can appear as “melena” which makes the stool appear black and tarry; this suggests digested blood in the feces. Melena is different from fresh blood in the stool (hematochezia). Bleeding into colon and rectum appears as fresh blood in the stool. Bloody diarrhea should always be evaluated by your veterinarian as soon as possible.

17. **Bloody Urine.** Hematuria is the presence of red blood cells in urine. It may be visible to the naked eye (gross examination) or microscopic. There are several possible causes – some are bacterial infection, stones in the bladder, and cancer.

18. **Bite Wounds.** Bite wounds are the result when two animals engage in a fight or aggressive play. Bite wounds, which may only appear as a small puncture in the skin, can be quite extensive. Once a tooth penetrates the skin, severe damage can occur to the underlying tissues without major skin damage. Some wounds may appear deceptively minor but may have the potential to become life-threatening, depending on the area of the body bitten. All bite wounds should receive veterinary attention.

19. **Bloody Vomit.** Vomited blood can be fresh blood, which is bright red, or partially digested blood, which appears as brown coffee grounds. There are a variety of causes for vomiting blood and the effects on the animal are also variable. Some are subtle

and minor ailments and others are severe and life threatening.

20. **Lethargy and Weakness.** Lethargy is a state of drowsiness, inactivity, or indifference in which there is a delayed response to stimuli such as sound, sight, and touch. Lethargy is a non-specific sign associated with many underlying systemic disorders and should not be ignored if it persists for more than 24 hours.

21. **Pale gums.** Pale gums can indicate blood loss or “shock”. The possible causes of blood loss and shock are life-threatening and should be evaluated immediately.

**Please do not hesitate to contact your veterinarian if you observe your dog exhibiting any of these symptoms!**



### *What is Normal?*

If you know what normal body temperature, heart rate and respiratory rate are for a dog, you will more likely be able to tell when your dog is in distress and know that it is time to call your vet.

Body temperature should be taken rectally. Normal body temperature for a dog is 100° - 102.5° F. Call your vet if your dog has a body temperature of more than 104° or less than 99°.

The larger the dog, the slower the normal heart rate. You can check your dog’s “resting” heart rate by rolling the dog onto his right side and placing your hand over the left side of his chest where a raised elbow will touch the chest. You can also try to find the pulse of the femoral artery high on the inside of your dog’s thigh. Count the number of heartbeats in 15 seconds and multiply by 4. The normal rate for a dog over 30 pounds is 60-120 beats per minute.

Normal gum color, i.e. mucous membrane color, is pink. If gums are pale, white, yellow, blue or bright red, call your vet. If your dog has pigmented gums, pull down the lower eyelid to check mucous membrane color.

Determine normal breathing rate when your pet is at rest. Count the number of breaths (one rise-and-fall) per minute, and if it is between 10 and 30, no worries; dogs can breathe up to 200 times per minute when panting. If you notice your dog using his abdominal muscles to breathe, is gasping, making loud noises, taking shallow breaths, panting excessively or exhalation seems to be difficult, consult your veterinarian immediately. If you are not sure your dog is still breathing, place a mirror by the nose and mouth; if the mirror fogs, then the dog is still breathing.

## Items To Avoid For Your Dogs

*You name it, and dogs can get into it. Some dogs actually seek out things to chew, eat or destroy. Some of these items are generally nontoxic while other items (including foods) can be highly toxic.*

According to a list published online by Dr. Jon, items below marked with superscript numbers are the top ten most toxic items that dogs ingest.

**Alcoholic beverages** – can cause intoxication, coma, and death

**Apple seeds** – contain cyanide; remove core if feeding apple pieces as a snack

**Baby food** – can contain onion powder, which can be toxic to dogs; can also result in nutritional deficiencies if fed in large amounts

**Bones from fish, poultry or other meat sources** – can cause obstruction or laceration of the digestive system

**Cat food** – generally too high in protein and fats for dogs

<sup>1</sup> **Chocolate, coffee, tea and other caffeine-containing products** – contain caffeine, theobromine, or theophylline, which can be toxic and affect the heart and nervous system

<sup>2</sup> **Cigarettes and cigarette butts** – nicotine is as bad for your dogs as it is for a smoker; the fibers in the cigarette butts can get impacted in the intestine; see **Tobacco**

**Citrus oil extracts** – can cause vomiting

<sup>1</sup> **Cocoa bean mulch** – smells enticing like chocolate but is extremely toxic

**Fat trimmings** – can cause pancreatitis

<sup>6</sup> **Grapes and raisins** – contain an unknown toxin which can damage the kidneys

**Hops** – unknown compound causes panting, increased heart rate, elevated temperature, seizures, and death

**Human vitamin supplements containing iron** – can damage the lining of the digestive system and be toxic to the other organs including the liver and kidneys

**Large amounts of liver** – can cause Vitamin A toxicity, which affects muscles and bones

**Macadamia nuts** – contain an unknown toxin which can affect the digestive and nervous systems and muscle

**Marijuana** – can depress the nervous system, cause vomiting, and cause changes in the heart rate

**Milk and other dairy products** – some adult dogs and cats do not have sufficient amounts of the enzyme lactase, which breaks down the lactose in milk; this can result in diarrhea. Lactose-free milk products are available for pets

**Moldy or spoiled food, garbage** – can contain multiple toxins causing vomiting and diarrhea, and can also affect internal organs

<sup>3</sup> **Mushrooms** – can contain toxins, which may affect multiple systems in the body, cause shock, and result in death

**Onions and garlic** (raw, cooked or powder) – contain sulfoxides and disulfides, which can damage red blood cells and cause anemia; cats are more susceptible than dogs; garlic is less toxic than onions

<sup>4</sup> **Paint balls** – paint type is toxic

<sup>9</sup> **Pennies** – copper is toxic to dogs; can get caught in throat

**Persimmons** – seeds can cause intestinal obstruction and enteritis

**Pits from peaches, plums and apricots** – can cause obstruction of the digestive tract

**Potato, rhubarb and tomato leaves; potato and tomato stems** – contain oxalates, which can affect the digestive, nervous, and urinary systems

<sup>5</sup> **Potpourri** – often has some toxic plant materials mixed in

**Raw eggs** – contain an enzyme called avidin, which decreases the absorption of biotin (a B vitamin); this can lead to skin and hair coat problems; raw eggs may also contain *Salmonella* bacteria

**Raw fish** – can result in a thiamine (a B vitamin) deficiency leading to loss of appetite, seizures, and in severe cases, death; more common if raw fish, especially salmon, is fed regularly

**Salt** – if eaten in large quantities it may lead to electrolyte imbalances

<sup>7</sup> **Slug bait** – extremely toxic to dogs

<sup>10</sup> **String, yarn, ribbon, cassette tape and other similar items** – can get caught in throat or become trapped in the digestive system and require surgery for removal; called a “string foreign body”

**Sugary foods** – can lead to obesity, dental problems and possibly diabetes mellitus

**Table scraps** (in large amounts) – table scraps are not nutritionally balanced; they should never be more than 10% of the diet; fat should be trimmed from meat; bones should not be fed

**Tobacco** – contains nicotine, which affects the digestive and nervous systems; can result in rapid heart beat, collapse, coma and death; if you smoke, keep your cigarettes put away

**Yeast dough** – can expand and produce gas in the digestive system, causing pain and possible rupture of the stomach or intestines

<sup>8</sup> **Xylitol** – a sweetener used in some chewing gums and candies; highly toxic to dogs

*If your dog eats something and you have any doubt about whether it is dangerous or toxic, always call your veterinarian or local emergency clinic.*

## Over-The-Counter Drugs

Many of us use over-the-counter drugs to help our dogs when they become sick or uncomfortable. Numerous over-the-counter medications and supplements are safe to use with our pets. The following chart includes a lot of “safe” drugs and the dosages that are weight-appropriate. Adult Golden Retrievers can receive the recommended adult human dose of many of the medications in the following list. We do not encourage anyone to self-medicate an animal without your veterinarian’s knowledge. **Please always check dosage with your vet.**

This list is not exhaustive, but it does contain many of the more commonly used substances. The information in this chart was compiled in 2007 by Deb Rising, then a veterinary technician and always a friend of Golden Retrievers. She has given us permission to reprint it. Since ten years have elapsed since Deb produced this chart, I asked Dr. Valerie Ferguson, owner of *Four Legged Friends Animal Hospital* (3131 E. Thunderbird Rd, Phoenix) to review it for accuracy and make any necessary updates. She said the information was great but added Pepcid, an antacid, and Zyrtec, an antihistamine. Before using any of these over-the-counter preparations, please always check with your veterinarian to determine if their use is warranted and safe for *your* dog. Our thanks to both Deb Rising and Dr. Ferguson for this information!

Name of Drug	Description	Dosages	Additional Info
<b>Activated charcoal suspension</b> (also known as micronized charcoal)	Absorbs toxins; used to treat ingestion of poisons	3 to 6 ml per pound given orally; repeat dose in 1 hour (5 ml equals 1 tsp)	
<b>Aspirin (baby) or Bufferin (Ascriptin)</b>	Pain reliever	5 to 12 mg per pound given orally every 8 to 12 hours	Never use in conjunction with cortisone (steroids) or if a bleeding disorder is present; should not be used post-surgically due to anticlotting effects; long-term use can lead to gastric irritation, ulceration, and bleeding
<b>Benedryl</b>	Antihistamine	1 to 2 mg per pound given orally every 6 to 8 hours	
<b>Beta-carotene</b>	A precursor to Vitamin A; it is converted to Vitamin A by the dog's body and is not toxic, so it can be given safely in place of Vitamin A, which can be toxic in high doses	A 20-lb dog can be given daily a dose of beta-carotene equivalent to 10,000 IU of Vitamin A for <i>short-term use</i> ; a 20-lb dog can be given daily a dose of beta-carotene equivalent to 1,000 IU of Vitamin A. Never exceed the recommended adult human dosage.	
<b>Chlorpheniramine</b>	Antihistamine	A 20-lb dog can be given 2 mg orally every 8 to 12 hours; at no time should the dose exceed 12 mg	A good brand name to look for is Chlor-Trimeton
<b>Chondroitin sulfate</b>	A naturally-occurring compound made up of a combination of protein and carbohydrates; protects joints and can be used to treat arthritis	A 50-lb dog can be given 1,000 mg daily	Often used in combination with glucosamine sulfate; if using both, give your dog half doses of each
<b>Cod liver oil</b>	Used to treat corneal ulcers and/or erosions	1 drop in affected eye daily	Before treating, check with your vet; corneal ulcers and erosions can be quite dangerous, so it is best to use this treatment with veterinary supervision
<b>Colloidal silver</b>	A suspension of tiny silver particles in water	For topical use on burns and wounds; use as a flushing preparation 3 times a day	Sometimes used in valley fever treatments
<b>Cranberry</b>	Herb used to treat urinary-tract problems	A 20-lb dog can be given ¼ of the recommended adult human dose	Best used in tablet form

Name of Drug	Description	Dosages	Additional Info
<b>Dandelion</b>	Herb with diuretic properties used to help reduce pulmonary congestion	A 20-lb dog can be given $\frac{1}{4}$ the recommended adult human dose	Best used in tablet form
<b>Dimethylglycine</b>	Vitamin-like supplement that can be used as an immune stimulant	A dog under 25 lbs can get 50 mg; between 26-50 lbs, can get 100 mg; between 51-90 lbs, can get 150 mg; over 90 lbs, can get 200 mg	Because different companies use different concentrations of dimethylglycine in their solutions, you must check the concentration of milligrams per milliliter listed on the bottle and calculate the number of milliliters to give your dog
<b>Echinacea</b>	Herb used to promote healing of wounds and improve immune system	A 20-lb dog should be given $\frac{1}{8}$ of the recommended adult human dose; use for 10-day intervals separated by a 7-day rest; stop use after three 10-day trials	Obtain organic freeze-dried sources when possible
<b>Flaxseed oil</b>	Herbal oil that encourages healthy skin and a full hair coat; a natural anti-inflammatory agent and immune modulator	A 20-lb dog can be given the equivalent of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the recommended adult human dose; Golden can receive the recommended adult human dose	Keep refrigerated so that the oil does not become rancid; purchase a human-grade, organic, cold-pressed form of the oil
<b>Gatorade</b>	Sugar and electrolyte drink; can be used to prevent dehydration when treating repetitive vomiting and diarrhea	Put $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in bowl in place of water; when dog empties bowl, wait 20 minutes, then place another $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in bowl; repeat until vomiting subsides	
<b>Glucosamine sulfate</b>	A naturally-occurring compound made up of a combination of protein and carbohydrates; protects joints and can be used to treat arthritis	A 50-lb dog can be given 1,000 mg daily. Golden with hip dysplasia can get a minimum of 1,500 mg daily	Often used in combination with chondroitin sulfate; if using both, give the dog half-doses of each
<b>Iodine</b>	Mineral that prevents goiter (enlargement of the thyroid gland)	A 20-lb dog can be given $\frac{1}{8}$ of the recommended adult human dose	Give in the form of kelp tablets
<b>Kaopectate</b>	Absorbent used to treat diarrhea and vomiting	0.5 to 1.0 ml per pound given orally every 2 to 6 hours	
<b>Lactobacillus</b>	The "good" bacteria naturally present in the intestines of healthy animals that controls the "bad" bacteria and yeast; synthesizes B vitamins and provides the cells of the intestinal lining with fatty acids	A 20-lb dog can be given $\frac{1}{4}$ of the recommended adult human dose	When purchasing, opt for high-quality brand-name products that are stored in refrigerated areas of the store in order to ensure that the viability of the live bacteria is maintained
<b>Lecithin</b>	A fat found in animal and plant tissue; used to help strengthen the sphincter muscle of the bladder; also aids in promoting mental alertness in old animals	A 20-lb dog can be given $\frac{1}{4}$ of the recommended adult dose of soy lecithin oil daily	Buy fresh bottles of lecithin sold in refrigerated areas; it is important to keep it refrigerated to avoid it getting rancid
<b>Licorice root</b>	Herb that acts as a natural cortisone; helpful in reducing throat swelling and inflammation of stomach	A 20-lb dog can be given $\frac{1}{8}$ of the recommended adult human dose	Do not use for longer than 10 days

Name of Drug	Description	Dosages	Additional Info
Metamucil (psyllium husks, not seed)	Natural source of fiber that acts as a bulk cathartic and prevents and treats constipation	A 20-lb dog can be given $\frac{1}{4}$ of the recommended adult human dose	It is very important to increase your pet's water consumption when supplying psyllium; if no bowel movement is produced in 48 hours, see your veterinarian
Milk Thistle	Herb that contains antioxidants important for maintaining a healthy liver	A 20-lb dog can be given $\frac{1}{4}$ of the recommended adult human dose	Used to protect the liver when dog is taking fluconazole for valley fever or other drugs that affect liver health
Parsley	Diuretic herb that can help reduce pulmonary congestion	A 20-lb dog can be given $\frac{1}{4}$ of the recommended adult human dose	Best to get in tablet form
Pedialyte	Pediatric electrolyte solution that can help to treat eclampsia and vomiting	A 20-lb dog can be given $\frac{1}{2}$ the recommended children's dose	
Pepcid	Antacid; stomach-soothing agent	10 mg twice a day for a dog 40 lbs or less; 20 mg twice a day for dog over 45 lbs	
Pepto-Bismol	Antidiarrheal agent that also soothes the stomach	0.5 to 1.5 ml per pound given orally every 2 to 6 hours for short-term use (1 or 2 days)	Use only for 1 or 2 days; if symptoms continue, seek veterinarian's advice; it may cause the dog's stool to turn black, which is often confused with blood in the stool
Plant-derived digestive-enzyme supplements	A source of enzymes that helps the body to digest its food	A 20-lb dog can be given $\frac{1}{4}$ of the recommended adult human dose; dose should be sprinkled over lightly-dampened food 10 minutes before it is served	Buy a brand name for humans unless a pet supplement is available; the supplement should contain amylase, protease, lipase and cellulose
Proteolytic enzyme supplement	A specific type of digestive enzyme supplement that contains only protease	A 20-lb dog can be given $\frac{1}{2}$ the recommended adult human dose	For most effective results, give apart from meals; bromelain or papain tablets are recommended
Robitussin DM	Cough suppressant	0.25 to 1 ml per pound given orally every 6 to 8 hours	Because it merely subdues symptoms and makes the animal more comfortable, do not use for more than 4 days without a veterinarian's advice; you could be covering up a more serious problem
Selenium	Mineral used for protecting the immune system; helpful for maintaining healthy heart, joints, and muscles	A 20-lb dog can be given no more than 30 mcg daily without a veterinarian's recommendation	Because it is toxic in high doses, be sure that you are not also providing selenium with any other supplements (or <i>only</i> give in a combination tablet)
Shark cartilage	Natural anti-inflammatory for arthritis treatment	A 40-lb dog can be given $\frac{1}{3}$ of the recommended adult human dose	Available in tablet or powder form
Sulfur	Mineral required for synthesis of body proteins; can also act as an antioxidant	500 mg in the form of methylsulfonyl methane (MSM) per 30 pound daily	Purchase in form of methylsulfonyl methane
Trace mineral supplements	Essential minerals that keep the body functioning properly	A 20-lb dog can be given $\frac{1}{4}$ of the recommended adult human dose	Best form to purchase is chelated trace mineral tablets that contain as many as 74 different trace minerals
Valerian	Herb used for its sedative properties; reduces anxiety and helps to treat muscle spasms	A 20-lb dog can be given $\frac{1}{8}$ of the recommended adult human dose	If this dose does not produce acceptable results, double the dose and evaluate the effect; valerian has a bad taste, so mix it with your dog's food to mask the taste

Name of Drug	Description	Dosages	Additional Info
Vitamin B complex	Vitamin that helps to maintain healthy nerves, skin, eyes, hair, liver and mouth	Goldens can use the recommended adult human dose	
Vitamin C	Vitamin used for strengthening the immune system; also, an anti-allergic, anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial, anti-viral and detoxicant agent	500 mg per 20 pounds daily; reduce the dose if a soft stool develops	Best purchased in calcium ascorbate or sodium ascorbate forms rather than acetic acid form, which can upset the stomach; try to obtain a brand that includes bioflavonoids
Vitamin E	Essential antioxidant vitamin used for strengthening the immune system	A 20-lb dog can be given 200 IU daily when treating a health problem	Because it is a fat-soluble substance that accumulates in the body, it can become toxic in high doses
Zinc	Essential mineral used for tissue repair and healing, proper immune-system functioning, and healthy skin and coat	A 20-lb dog can be given 10 mg daily; dogs under 20 lbs can be given 5 mg daily; dogs 40 lbs or over can be given 15 to 20 mg daily	Absorbed most efficiently if purchased in its chelated form; potentially toxic in high doses, so be sure you are not supplying in any other supplements; take with a copper supplement, because it may interfere with absorption of naturally-occurring copper
Zyrtec	Antihistamine	0.5 to 1.0 mg/kg once a day; a 20-lb dog can be given ½ to one 10 mg tablet once a day	Sometimes effective when Benadryl is not

**CAUTION:** Do not ever give Tylenol (acetaminophen) or ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin) to a dog without advice from your veterinarian. Administering such medications to dogs can create very dangerous and even life-threatening complications.

**Abbreviations used in table**

- kg – kilogram
- lb – pound
- lbs – pounds
- mg – milligram
- ml – milliliter
- tsp – teaspoon
- Tbsp – tablespoon

**Conversions**

- 1 pound = 2.2 kilograms
- 1 tsp = 5 ml
- 3 tsp = 1 Tbsp
- 4 Tbsp = ¼ cup

IU – International Unit, a unit of measurement for the amount of a substance, based on biological activity or effect

*Does Your Dog Have Bare Elbows?  
Try These Tips*

- Use fresh Aloe Vera, Bag Balm ointment, or Tree Tea Oil on the site
- Use Neosporin ointment and a padded shirt to protect the areas; be sure the shirt has been washed and is free of bleach, laundry detergent and fabric softeners
- Keep your pet off concrete – your dog may have an allergy to something in it, or the concrete may just have rubbed the fur off, as it is very abrasive
- Ask your vet to do a scraping of the elbow and look at it with a microscope to see if there are any embedded foreign bodies
- Consult a Dermatologist – it will save you money in the long run

- Change dog food to a no-grain variety, and do not use Science Diet prescription food as it is full of grains
- Sometimes allergies develop in older dogs
- Be sure the dog hasn't been lying in grass sprayed with insecticides or weed killers

*Does Your Dog Have "Allergy Feet"?*

**Dolly Orwig** has a condition called pododermatitis. Her severe allergies cause blisters and bloody eruptions on and between the pads of her feet. Many medications have been tried including numerous antihistamines and antibiotics, but the most effective treatment has been Preparation H®! The Preparation H®, which contains cortisone, shrinks the swelling and helps close up the blood vessels, promoting healing! She also has cold laser treatments when she has an outbreak, and these also help.



### Antibiotics - 5 Things You Should Know

from *The Pet Place* column online by Dr. Patricia Khuly, 2-23-15

**Antibiotics are for bacterial infections**, and that means they won't work for every kind of infection. For example, colds and flus are caused by viruses and, as such, will NOT respond to antibiotics. Offering them in these cases only exposes a wider range of bacteria to these drugs, thereby increasing the chances for the development of resistant strains of bacteria.

#### **Make sure it's the right antibiotic for your dog's problem.**

This is crucially important when it comes to treating most bacterial infections. But how to tell? Increasingly, veterinarians are testing the site of infection (ears, urine, skin, airways, wounds, etc.) to see what kinds of bacteria are affecting the area and which antibiotics will kill them best. This test is called "culture and sensitivity", and it is by far the best way to know that the right antibiotics are being used and that they are being used judiciously.

**Antibiotics aren't without their risks to dogs.** Historically, both human medical and veterinary professions have been too quick on the draw when it comes to prescribing antibiotics. The misuse of antibiotics can court antibiotic resistance, which can actually exacerbate a patient's illness. As antibiotics are fraught with side effects ranging from mild gastrointestinal upset to deadly autoimmune diseases, it's especially important to take the use of these drugs very seriously and only when absolutely necessary.

#### **Three crucial words: "Take as directed!"**

- DON'T skip doses or fail to use the entire course of antibiotics as prescribed. Giving an antibiotic willy nilly or stopping short of the whole course can prove far worse than not using antibiotics at all.
- DON'T start using an antibiotic you happen to have "left over from the last time." This is a really bad idea not only because of what has already been explained, but also because you should never have any antibiotics ever "left over" to begin with. (That is, unless you have to suddenly stop an antibiotic for a legitimate, doctor-directed reason or your pet dies.)

**Not so sure your veterinarian is on board with these by-now well-accepted tenets of appropriate antibiotic use?** Get a second opinion. It is never OK to live with uncertainty on this crucial issue. And just in case you're the kind that likes to be more self-reliant than most, consider getting even better educated on the subject. For more detailed reading on what's right and not right in the world of antibiotics in animal health, check out The Bella Moss Foundation. This UK group is dedicated to the responsible use of antibiotics worldwide and its comprehensive website always of-

fers the most practical and up-to-date information on the subject.

### ASPCA'S Top Ten Pet Poisons

*AGR's Home Evaluators are trained to look for things that could be hazardous to a Golden in a potential adoptive home. Some of the things they look for are in this list. If any such item is found where a Golden could get at it, the homeowner is alerted and the situation is discussed. Please check your own homes at least once a year for things that might not have been put away properly in a cabinet or on a high shelf where they cannot be reached by a dog or cat.*

**Human Medications, the #1 cause of pet poisonings** – prescription and over-the-counter drugs such as painkillers, cold medications, antidepressants and dietary supplements. Imodium can mask underlying causes of diarrhea, like parasites. Drugs like Pepto Bismol contain aspirin, which can irritate a dog's digestive tract and cause severe damage to cats. Ibuprofen can cause ulcers and bleeding in the intestinal tract and damage the kidneys; high doses can cause fatal renal failure. Acetaminophen, the key ingredient in Tylenol, is toxic to dogs and cats because the liver enzyme responsible for its breakdown works differently in cats and dogs than it does in people – one dose can kill a cat. Pets often snatch pill vials from counters, kitchen islands and nightstands or gobble up medications accidentally dropped on the floor, so it is essential to keep meds tucked away in hard-to-reach cabinets.

**Insecticides** – misuse of flea and tick products, especially, such as applying the wrong topical treatment to the wrong species. Thus, it is always important to talk to your pet's veterinarian before beginning any flea and tick control program.

**People Food** – people food like grapes, raisins, avocado and products containing xylitol (sugarless gum) can seriously disable our fur kids. One of the worst offenders, chocolate, contains large amounts of methylxanthines, which, if ingested in significant amounts, can cause vomiting, diarrhea, panting, excessive thirst, urination, hyperactivity, and in severe cases, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors and seizures.

**House Plants** – many varieties (see list of Toxic Plants on p. 34).

**Veterinary Medications** – non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, heartworm preventatives, dewormers, antibiotics, vaccines and nutritional supplements can be damaging if misused or improperly dispensed. Keep all pet medications out of reach of your pets.

**Rodenticides** – many baits used to attract rodents contain inactive ingredients that are attractive to pets as well. Depending on the type of rodenticide, ingestion can lead to potentially life-threatening problems for pets including bleeding, seizures or kidney damage.

**Household Cleaners** – bleaches, detergents and disinfectants can cause serious gastrointestinal distress and irritation to the respiratory system.

**Heavy Metals** – lead, zinc and mercury, not music! Lead is especially pernicious, and pets are exposed to it through many sources, including consumer products, paint chips, linoleum, and lead dust produced when surfaces in older homes are scraped or sanded.

**Garden Products** – fertilizer exposure can cause severe gastric upset and possibly gastrointestinal obstruction; cocoa mulch smells wonderful (like chocolate) but is especially toxic. Don't use it!

**Chemical Hazards** – chemicals such as ethylene glycol (anti-freeze), paint thinner, drain cleaners and pool/spa chemicals are a substantial danger to pets. Such chemicals can cause gastrointestinal upset, depression, respiratory difficulties and chemical burns.

*Prevention is really key to avoiding accidental exposure, but if you suspect your pet has ingested something toxic, please contact your veterinarian or the **Animal Poison Control Center's 24-hour toll-free hotline at 888-426-4435.***

### *Cancer in Dogs*

The statistics are sobering – 1 in every 3 dogs will suffer from cancer. This makes cancer the #1 killer of dogs over 2 years of age. Cancer does not have to be a death sentence, though. Statistics show that 50% of all dogs with cancer will die from the disease, **but the other half will live!**

When certain canine cancers are discovered early, the probability of a positive outcome is much higher. Routine veterinary care and wellness screenings are the best way to detect these kinds of problems early on, so **make sure that your dog is seen by his/her vet on a regular basis.**

Here are the *American Veterinary Medical Association's* top 10 signs of cancer in small animals:

1. Abnormal swellings that persist or continue to grow
2. Sores that do not heal
3. Weight loss
4. Loss of appetite
5. Bleeding or discharge from any body opening
6. Offensive odor
7. Difficulty eating or swallowing
8. Hesitation to exercise or loss of stamina
9. Persistent lameness or stiffness
10. Difficulty breathing, urinating or defecating

### *Toxic Plants*

*There are many common foods, plants and flowers that can be very toxic to your dog. Below is a list of the most common types. An \* indicates that a substance is especially dangerous and can be fatal. Confirm that you do not keep any of these plants in house or yard.*

Almonds*	Hydrangea*
Amaryllis bulb*	Holly berries
Apricot*	Iris corms
Autumn crocus*	Jack-in-the-pulpit*
Avocado (leaves, seeds, stem, skin)*	Jimson weed*
Azalea (entire rhododendron family)	Kalanchoe*
Begonia*	Lantana*
Bird of Paradise	Larkspur
Bittersweet	Lily (bulbs of most species)
Bleeding Heart*	Lily-of-the-Valley
Boxwood	Lupine species
Bracken fern	Marijuana or hemp*
Buckeye	Milkweed*
Buttercup	Mistletoe berries*
Caladium*	Monkshood*
Calla Lily*	Morning Glory*
Castor bean* (can be fatal if chewed)	Mountain Laurel
Cherry	Narcissus (Daffodil)
Chinese sacred or heavenly bamboo*	Oak* (remove bark for use as a bird perch)
Chokecherry (unripe berries)*	Oleander*
Chrysanthemum (a natural source of pyrethrins)	Onions*
Clematis	Peaches*
Crocus bulb	Pencil cactus plant* (Euphorbia species)
Croton	Philodendron (all species)
Cyclamen bulb	Poinsettia
Daffodil (Narcissus)	Potato (leaves and stem)
Delphinium	Rhubarb leaves*
Dumb cane (Dieffenbachia)*	Rosary Pea* (can be fatal if chewed)
Elderberry (unripe berries)	Schefflera
English ivy	Shamrock (Oxalis species)*
Fig (Ficus)	Spurge (Euphorbia species)*
Four o'clocks	Tomatoes (leaves and stems)
Foxglove (Digitalis)	Umbrella Plant (Schefflera)
Garlic*	Yew*
Hyacinth bulbs	

### *How Often To Bathe a Dog?*

That all depends on your pet. Factors include: his hair coat and hair length, how often he gets dirty, where he lives (if he is indoors or outdoors most of the time), his shedding cycle, and any underlying skin problem. Some dogs need baths only a couple of times a year, while others need weekly grooming. It is beneficial to brush your dog about twice a week. Bathing your dog every month or two is not unreasonable, but some dogs, especially outdoor dogs, will need more frequent cleanings. A good rule of thumb is to bathe your pet when his coat gets dirty or begins to smell "doggy."

### ***Diabetes in Dogs***

Diabetes mellitus is a disease of the pancreas. It is the failure of the pancreatic beta-cells to regulate glucose (blood sugar), which is a vital substance that provides energy and must work inside the cells. Insulin allows glucose to leave the bloodstream and pass inside the cells. Without an adequate amount of insulin, glucose is unable to penetrate the cells. Left untreated, diabetes causes glucose to accumulate in the blood, which can be fatal. Though many diabetic dogs lose a dramatic amount of weight prior to a diagnosis, some become more bloated, which is hard to notice if the dog is overweight already. Fatigue is another warning sign; thirst and constant urinating are also symptoms. Sight loss is a side effect of canine diabetes. Urine and blood tests can confirm the diagnosis of diabetes. A feeding routine is a priority in keeping diabetes in check, since meals and administering insulin must be done every 12 hours. If you feel your dog may be showing signs of the disease, check with your veterinarian right away. The earlier diabetes is identified, the faster you may be able to bring it under control. Canine diabetes is a real and serious disease. But, if treated properly, diabetic dogs can live a happy, normal life. For more information on canine diabetes, visit <http://www.caninediabetes.org>

### ***Homemade Liverwurst Pill Pockets***

*These "pill pocket" treats are really simple to make. When it's time for your dog to take his medicine, simply take a "dough" ball and hide the pill in the center. Then offer it to your dog like a treat.*

- 3/4 cup plain shredded rice cereal
- 3 ounces Liverwurst (room temperature)
- 2 ounces cream cheese (room temperature)

Place shredded wheat in a bag and crush using a rolling pin. Mix liverwurst and cream cheese together until smooth. Mix with shredded wheat. Roll into small balls the size of gum drops. Store in the refrigerator in a resealable plastic bag or container. Will last 7 to 10 days.

### ***Ear Infection Protection***

Mix equal parts white vinegar and vodka and put in a dropper bottle. Be sure your dog's ears are free of infection before using this preparation. Once no infection is present, put a couple of drops in each ear twice a week. The alcohol will keep the ear canal dry and the acidity of the mixture will prevent the growth of yeast and bacteria. Drops are especially important after the dog has been swimming.

### ***The Green Bean Diet***

When **14-033 Dolly** came into Rescue three years ago, she was a little over 8 years old and weighed 113.6 pounds. She was so overweight she had a lot of difficulty getting up off the floor and could barely waddle! She was started on the "green bean diet" right away. This is not a meal plan where you just add green beans to the kibble. You have to reduce the amount of kibble you would normally use by half and add green beans (canned with no salt added, frozen, or fresh are best). The green beans add filler but no calories. If your dog will not eat green beans, try broccoli, cauliflower, zucchini and/or yellow squash. The ideal weight loss should be ½ to 1 pound per week. **Dolly** now weighs a svelte 78 pounds! She gallops out to get the newspaper every morning and can chase the rest of the Orwig pack around the back yard! **14-034 Jaxx** has had similar weight-loss success, and **12-108 Mia** lost 55 pounds on the green bean diet! Way to go, **Dolly, Jaxx** and **Mia**! You will all live longer, healthier lives!

### ***Connie's Wheat-Free Pumpkin Peanut Butter Dog Cookies***

- 5 cups brown rice flour (plus ¼ cup to add if needed and to flour rolling surface)
- 2 tablespoons flax seed
- 1 ½ cups pumpkin puree (not pumpkin pie filling)
- 4 extra large eggs, beaten
- 4 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ cup water as needed to make dough workable

Preheat oven to 350° F.

Mix the "wet" ingredients first: pumpkin puree, eggs, and peanut butter in one bowl. Next mix the dry ingredients: flour, flax seed and cinnamon in a large bowl. Mix the dry with the wet to make crumbly dough. Separate into 3 balls to make easier to roll if you are going to use cookie cutter. Add water or flour as needed to keep dough workable. If you pinch a piece and it crumbles, add a little water; if it is really sticky, it is too wet and you will need to add a little flour. Gather the dough together and form into a ball. Place on a lightly-floured work surface and roll it out to about ¼-inch thickness. You can either use a cookie cutter to cut out cute shapes, or just cut into squares with knife. Gather the scraps together and roll them out again and again until dough is used up. Place the cookies on a baking sheet – they can be crowded pretty close together since they do not expand much. Alternatively, I simply press the dough into a 10" x 15" cookie sheet and spread to edges with my fingers. Then I use a pizza cutter to score the squares. Bake for 30 minutes for hard treats. Let cool and store in freezer.

## **Bloat**

By Teri Guilbault

Bloat is a very serious health risk for many dogs, yet many dog owners know very little about it. Research has shown that it is the second leading killer of dogs after cancer. Golden Retrievers are high on the list for being susceptible to this condition. One of our beloved rescues went to the Bridge as an unfortunate casualty of bloat.

The technical name for bloat is “Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus” (“GDV”). Bloating of the stomach is often related to swallowed air (although food and fluid can also be present). It usually happens when there’s an abnormal accumulation of air, fluid, and/or foam in the stomach (“gastric dilatation”). Stress can be a significant contributing factor also. Bloat can occur with or without the stomach twisting. As the stomach swells, it may rotate 90° to 360°, twisting between its attachments at the esophagus and the upper intestine. The twisting stomach traps air, food, and water in the stomach. The bloated stomach obstructs veins in the abdomen, leading to low blood pressure, shock, and damage to internal organs. The combined effect can quickly kill a dog. Be prepared! Know in advance what you would do if your dog bloated. Unfortunately, from the onset of the first symptoms there is very little time to get immediate medical attention. Best rule of thumb for this, and any other medical condition, is: *know your dog and know when it’s not acting right*. Typical symptoms often include some of the following:

- Attempts to vomit that are unsuccessful
- Dog does not act like its usual self, a very early warning sign and the only sign that almost always occurs
- Significant anxiety and restlessness
- Hunched up appearance
- Lack of normal gurgling and digestive sounds in the tummy
- Bloated abdomen that may feel tight
- Pale or off-color gums
- Excessive drooling
- Coughing
- Foamy mucus around the mouth
- Unproductive efforts to pass stool
- Pacing and whining
- Heavy or rapid panting, or shallow breathing
- Unable to stand, or collapses
- Accelerated heartbeat

If you believe your dog is experiencing bloat, please get your dog to a veterinarian immediately! Bloat can kill in less than an hour, so time is of the essence. Call your vet to alert them you’re on your way with a suspected bloat case. Better to be safe than sorry!

Here is a partial list of things that you can do to reduce the risk of bloat developing in your dog:

- Avoid highly stressful situations or try to minimize stress as much as possible.
- Do not exercise for at least an hour or longer before and especially after eating.
- Discourage rapid eating – if your dog “inhales” his or her food, there are specialized bowls that you can purchase that are compartmentalized to make it harder to consume food as quickly.
- Feed two or three smaller meals a day versus just one larger one.
- Allow access to fresh water at all times except for one hour before or after a meal.
- When switching dog food, do it gradually – over a period of weeks is suggested.
- Do not feed dry food exclusively, but if you do, avoid foods containing fat as one of the first four ingredients, avoid foods that contain citric acid, and select a food that includes rendered meat meal with bone product among the first four ingredients.
- Discourage rapid or excessive drinking.
- Use of an elevated food bowl has been debated by many well-known veterinarians – some recommend only bowls that are elevated, and some say not to use them.

A couple tips which are always good rules of thumb:

- If your regular vet doesn’t have 24-hour emergency service, know which nearby vet you would use – keep the phone number handy.
- Always keep a product with simethicone on hand (Mylanta Gas (not regular Mylanta), Gas-X, etc.) in case your dog has gas. If you can reduce or slow the gas, you’ve probably bought yourself a little more time to get to a vet if your dog is bloating.

There are many very useful articles on the Internet with suggestions on how to help your dog avoid this condition or how to recognize this condition if it happens. Suggestions in this article were adapted from <http://www.globalspan.net/bloat.htm>

## **Dental Care for Dogs**

By Teri Guilbault and Liz Tataseo

Your dog’s teeth should be cleaned regularly, including a good dental cleaning by your vet. Plaque is the beginning of dental disease. Bacteria and calcium in saliva form plaque, which then forms more of a substance that vets call calculus (not the math kind) and, if nothing is done, more plaque continues to form. Too much plaque can cause gingivitis of the gums – inflammation that is red and swollen. If your dog eats hard food or chews on toys

like Kongs® or Nylabones®, this initial soft plaque can be dislodged, keeping your dog's teeth clean, but there are still places in a dog's mouth where this chewing action doesn't reach.

Here are the signs of trouble in your dog's mouth:

- Bad breath: one website, [www.dogbreedinfo.com/teeth.htm](http://www.dogbreedinfo.com/teeth.htm), says that 98% of dogs with bad breath have periodontal disease due to plaque buildup
- Excessive drooling
- Inflamed gums
- Tumors in the gums
- Cysts under the tongue
- Loose teeth

Those last three symptoms are really not good! As with humans, dental disease can lead to other illnesses: heart problems, kidney issues and major infections.

Your regular vet is quite adept at doing dental cleaning and extractions, and at treating gum issues. Vets may want to do X-rays so they can see if there are any hidden issues that need to be treated. Usually, they will want to do blood work prior to a dental, if that hasn't been done before or for a year or more, to make sure your dog is healthy enough for the anesthesia. A vet usually refers a dog to a dental specialist if the scope of the issue is beyond what a regular dental cleaning/extraction/treatment can do. Dental vets also specialize in doing regular dental cleaning for dogs that have chronic health issues and need special care for their dental cleaning.

You can help your dog keep good dental health by brushing his or her teeth regularly. Brushing will help prevent the decay, calcification and infection that could be potentially harmful to your dog down the road, and the gentle massage of the toothbrush will stimulate your dog's gums as well. Some dogs enjoy it and others need to gradually work up to that. You can start by using a piece of gauze wrapped around your finger and rub in a circular motion in one area of the mouth at a time. Most of the buildup occurs on the surface of the outer portion of a tooth because those teeth touch the cheek. The inside surface of a dog's tooth gets little buildup, so if your dog doesn't want you to clean the backside of his teeth, it's not something to worry about. Tooth brushing kits can be purchased at any of your local pet supply stores for a nominal amount. These have toothbrushes with small heads and very soft bristles.

**CAUTION:** Please do not use human toothpaste when brushing your dog's teeth! Dogs do not spit, and human toothpaste is not edible. Ingestion of human toothpaste can lead to digestive upsets. Or, use baking soda and water to make your own paste. Daily brushing is ideal, but even twice a week is better than not at all.

Here are some of the mouth problems and conditions that can oc-

cur without good dental care<sup>1</sup>:

- Periodontal disease is a painful infection between the tooth and the gum that can result in tooth loss and spread infection to the rest of the body. Signs are loose teeth, bad breath, tooth pain, sneezing and nasal discharge.
- Gingivitis is an inflammation of the gums caused mainly by accumulation of plaque, tartar and disease-producing bacteria above and below the gum line. Signs include bleeding, red, swollen gums and bad breath. It is reversible with regular teeth cleanings.
- Halitosis, or bad breath, can be the first sign of a mouth problem when it is caused by bacteria growing from food particles caught between the teeth or by gum infection. Regular tooth-brushings are a great solution.
- Swollen gums develop when tartar builds up and food gets stuck between the teeth. Regularly brushing your dog's teeth at home and getting annual cleanings at the vet can prevent tartar and gingivitis.
- Proliferating gum disease occurs when the gum grows over the teeth and must be treated to avoid gum infection. An inherited condition common to boxers and bull terriers, it can be treated with antibiotics.
- Mouth tumors appear as lumps in the gums. Some are malignant and must be surgically removed.
- Salivary cysts look like large, fluid-filled blisters under the tongue, but can also develop near the corners of the jaw. They require drainage, and the damaged saliva gland must be removed.
- Canine distemper teeth can occur if a dog had distemper as a puppy. Adult teeth can appear eroded and may decay. As damage is permanent, decayed teeth should be removed by a vet.

So, when you brush your teeth, remember to brush your dog's teeth also. It will help your Golden live a healthier life.

<sup>1</sup> List of dental problems from <http://pets.webmd.com>

## *Epilepsy and Seizures*

By Liz Tataseo

Unfortunately for Goldens, seizure activity is one of the more common neurological conditions that exist for these great dogs. But that is not a big number, it is 0.5% - 5.7% of all dogs.<sup>1</sup> Idiopathic epilepsy (repeated seizures over time) is the most common form. It is considered an inherited disorder and usually manifests at a young age. Other causes that can come on late in life include

liver or kidney disease, infectious disease, brain tumors, brain trauma and toxins.

We have experienced dogs with brain trauma (literally shaken-baby syndrome in a very young puppy), infectious disease, a systemic-wide incidence of valley fever that invaded the brain, and older dogs that developed seizures secondary to disease issues. Unfortunately, the puppy had to be euthanized. The valley fever dog has recovered and did not need seizure medication.

A number of epileptic dogs have been surrendered to Rescue. These have mostly been male dogs, all of which after testing show no known cause, so they are considered to have idiopathic epilepsy. Research does indicate that more males than females have seizure activity. Neutering or spaying is not a factor.

Several of the surrendered dogs have come in stable and with continued medication will remain stable. Once started, seizure medication should never be stopped. Stopping can actually cause a rebound effect and cause more seizure activity and at a higher level.

Seizures usually occur at a time of change in brain activity: during excitement, feeding, falling asleep or waking up. While seizures appear traumatic to the owner, seizures are not painful for the dog. However, the dog may feel confusion and disorientation afterwards and take some time to recover. Usually, once recovered, they return to normal behavior. Based on research, dogs do not swallow their tongue during seizures, so don't stick your hand in a dog's mouth!<sup>2</sup>

An individual seizure or one lasting 2 to 3 minutes is not dangerous to the dog. However, if a seizure lasts longer than 5 minutes or there are multiple seizures one right after the other (i.e., cluster seizures), that is a life threatening situation – the dog should be taken to a vet immediately.

Age can be an indicator of what kind of epilepsy is manifested. In dogs up to one year old, it can be a congenital, hereditary, or a toxic or inflammatory disorder. A manifestation between one and five years of age is probably idiopathic epilepsy. A dog older than five may have neoplasia, metabolic or vascular diseases or inflammatory disorders as a cause of seizures. Examples include low blood sugar, brain tumors, fungal infections, distemper, encephalitis, stroke, head trauma, parasites or toxins such as lead, ethylene glycol (anti-freeze), and organophosphates (fertilizers).

Idiopathic epilepsy means no underlying cause can be diagnosed for the seizures. This usually means it is either genetic (inherited) or there is a structural cause. Structural could mean a birth injury which could cause seizures later in life – so hard to diagnose years after the injury. Several breeds have a high incidence of inherited epilepsy, including the Golden Retriever. It may be seen more often in the Golden because of the popularity of the breed. As noted before, males have a higher incidence than females.

The purpose of treatment with various anti-seizure medications is to reduce the frequency and severity of seizures. Epilepsy is not a curable disease. Treatment may fail if pills are forgotten or pills are spit out. Intestinal upset can prevent absorption of the medication and so can interactions with other drugs.<sup>3</sup>

Medications traditionally have been phenobarbital and potassium bromide (KBr). It can take 10 to 14 days for phenobarb to reach therapeutic levels, and often a dog can initially be dozey or slow to respond. Dogs usually become used to the dosage as therapeutic levels are reached and return to normal behavior. KBr is added if seizures are not well controlled by phenobarb alone, but KBr can take weeks to reach therapeutic levels.

Newer anti-seizure drugs include Levetriacetam (Keppra) and Zonisamide (Zonegran), which have fewer side effects than the traditional medications. These drugs appear to act sooner and cause less sedation in a dog. Sometimes they are used in combination with phenobarbital and KBr. Again, once anti-seizure medications are started, they must be given for life. Dogs can live a long and normal life even with epilepsy as long as care is taken to continue treatment.

<sup>1</sup> Bollinger-Schmitz, Kim and Kline, Karen "An Overview of Canine Idiopathic Epilepsy for the Small Animal Practitioner", Iowa State University Veterinarian, Volume 62, Issue 1, Article 14

<sup>2</sup> Ward, Ernest DVM, Client Information Sheet, VCA Animal Hospitals

<sup>3</sup> Child, Georgina, "Seizure Disorders in Dogs", Small Animal Hospital, Richardson Place, NSW

## ***Hypothyroidism***

**By Teri Guilbault**

As we mature, we tend to gain a few more pounds, our skin changes texture (did I mention wrinkles?), our hair tends to thin or just plain fall out, we tire a little more easily, we are more sensitive to cold weather and we tend to get a little crabby. When our beloved furkids get older and show these types of symptoms, we are concerned because that is usually a sign that something is amiss.

Hypothyroidism in dogs, or basically a sluggish or inactive thyroid, is not uncommon as dogs reach their middle or senior years, and can cause many problems in dogs, including those issues that I mentioned above. Untreated hypothyroidism can cause a lower quality of life for your dog, but the good news is that with the right medication, it is easy to treat. Hypothyroidism is thought to be the most common genetic illness in dogs. This disease causes alterations in a dog's cellular metabolism and, as a result, affects the entire body. It can also be a contributing factor to seizures in dogs. But while there is a genetic predisposition for thyroid disorders, environmental factors such as pollutants and allergens can also play a role.

A suggestion for helping to lower a dog's risk for seizures resulting from hypothyroidism is to make sure that your dog is in an environment as free of chemical pollutants as possible, as there are a number of chemicals that can cause seizure activity in dogs. Diet can also help. Dog foods should be as preservative-free as possible, as certain types of preservatives can also cause seizure activity. In addition, there has been discussion over the Internet about switching dogs over to a raw, organic diet to help control and lessen the likelihood of seizures, and that regular preventative vaccinations for your dog can also play a part in lessening seizures.

If you suspect that your dog may have hypothyroidism, please talk to your veterinarian – he/she is always the best resource for your animal's health. Your vet can run a Total T4 or an FT4, which are recommended blood tests to screen for this disease. As always, your veterinarian will best be able to determine a course of treatment. The initial testing to confirm this disease is normally the biggest expense that you would incur. Thyroid replacement medications such as Soloxine (levothyroxine) are a replacement for the hormone that the thyroid gland normally produces to regulate the body's energy and metabolism, and are not very expensive. Online pet pharmacies or retailers such as *Costco* offer medications at very reasonable prices. Depending on the dosage, costs normally run in the \$10 - \$20 per month area. Regular retesting will ensure that your dog's thyroid level numbers are within normal ranges. Once a dog's thyroid level has been stabilized, then normally testing would occur every 6 to 12 months.

Information for this article was taken from the following sources:  
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<http://thyroid.about.com/cs/catsdogspets/a/hypothyroiddogs.htm>  
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## Dogs and Their Eyesight

By Teri Guilbault

Dogs normally have great senses of sight and smell, but like humans, sometimes their eyes aren't always as clear as they used to be. Take some time and look your dogs right in the eyes. Do their eyes still look bright and shiny, or are they starting to cloud over just a bit? Does it look like maybe there's something just not quite right, or is it just maybe you've noticed that there's some unusual eye tearing and extra moisture around them? Dogs, like humans, can develop cataracts as they age and even earlier. High cholesterol can also cloud their eyes, and yes, they can lose their sight entirely if they develop an eye condition and it's left untreated. Inverted eye lashes (entropion) can cause their eyes to water ex-

cessively, and the lashes may need to be removed or surgery done on the eyelid to correct the problem.



**12-112 Bailey** was a wonderful 8-year-old Golden Retriever who was surrendered to us when, due to financial difficulties, her owner had to move. When we picked up this poor girl, we discovered that she had a myriad of health issues, but, most importantly, she had the most horrible-looking eyes that you could ever imagine, particularly her right eye.

We immediately transported her to *Animal Medical & Surgical Center* for a complete health overhaul and evaluation and a big question: What IS going on with those eyes?

Bailey was immediately diagnosed with KCS (keratoconjunctivitis sicca) or Dry Eye Syndrome. A diagnosis is made by measuring the volume of tears in the dog's eyes. A Schirmer tear test which was performed involves placing a filter paper strip into the tear pool at the inner corner of the eye and leaving it for one minute to see how much of the strip gets wet. A normal strip would be wet to a distance of 20 mm. In dogs with Dry Eye, the strip wets less than 10 mm. Bailey's strip was 0. There were no tears at all!

Dry Eye Syndrome in dogs is not much different from dry eyes in humans. It is a tear gland disorder that prevents normal production of tears, and hence, a dry cornea. Dogs with Dry Eye normally have a dull and opaque look as opposed to that bright and glistening sheen you see when you look at your dog's healthy eyes.

There are several causes for KCS in dogs. The most common cause, however, is an ongoing immune-related issue. It can also be caused by injury to facial nerves or to the tear glands themselves or, in rare instances, a genetic absence of tear glands, but that is normally seen in smaller breeds of dogs.

Some of the symptoms of KCS are:

- excessive blinking
- swollen blood vessels and tissue that line the eyelids and eye surfaces
- discharge of mucus or pus from the eyes
- corneal changes in the blood cells with pigmentation and ulceration.

Treatment of this disorder is normally a frequent application of an ophthalmic cyclosporine, which is an immunosuppressive drug that reverses immune-mediated destruction of the glands surrounding the eyes. Once a diagnosis has been made, treatment becomes life long. Treatment can also include the application of artificial tears and topical antibiotics until the tear volume increases and again becomes adequate.

If left untreated, KCS can cause severe eye ulceration and glaucoma. A severe case of KCS can lead to impaired or complete loss of vision. In **Bailey's** case, there were more medical problems than just the poor condition of her eyes. We had to send her to the Bridge only a little over a month after we rescued her.

Please always keep watch over your wonderful furbuddies for any changes in their behavior or appearance that may indicate something amiss. Unfortunately, most issues don't go away on their own but only get worse over time. We all owe it to our babies to keep them as healthy and happy as possible. If you notice anything unusual about your dog's eyes, don't hesitate to ask your veterinarian about it. If there are problems with your animal's eyes, excellent veterinary ophthalmologists are available in the Valley to assist in treating those problems. Your fur kid loves to watch you. Be his hero and keep watching over him.

Information obtained for this article was taken from conversations with Dr. Levine at *AMSC*, [www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/eyes/c\\_dg\\_keratoconjunctivitis\\_sicca](http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/eyes/c_dg_keratoconjunctivitis_sicca) and <http://pets.webmd.com/dogs/dogs-dry-eye-keratoconjunctivitis-sicca-dogs>

### *Eye Problems: Glaucoma*

By Liz Tataseo

Does your Golden hold either eye closed, paw at it, or do you see the third eyelid (red/pink membrane) covering the eye? Your Golden may be experiencing eye pain which could be due to glaucoma. Other symptoms are a red, teary, cloudy eye with a blue hue and squinting. You may also notice that one eye is bigger than the other, or both may appear larger than normal. This is due to the fluid buildup in the eye and is a dangerous situation for your dog. Dogs which have a sudden eye swelling need to go to the vet immediately.

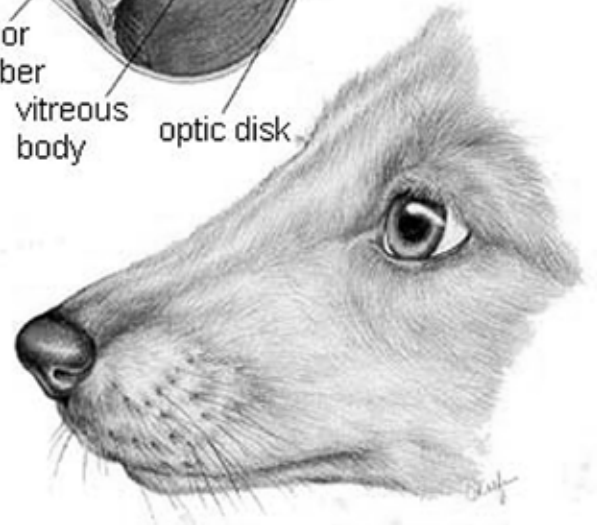
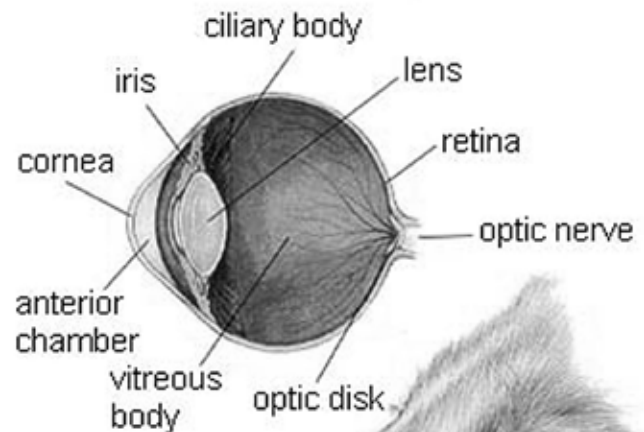
There are two types of glaucoma in dogs: primary glaucoma, which is inherited and comes on very suddenly, and secondary glaucoma, which comes about as a result of an eye injury or infection. Golden Retrievers can have an inheritable inflammatory condition called "Golden Retriever Uveitis," which can cause blindness if untreated, but even if treated this condition can lead to glaucoma. This is what has occurred in my boy Gonzo, who had glaucoma in his left eye for several months as a result of uveitis, was blind in that eye, and underwent a treatment to permanently reduce the pressure in his eye.

Due to the swelling in the eye, the optic nerve can be damaged and vision becomes limited or can progress to blindness in the eye without treatment. Treatment, if in the early stages of glaucoma, is most often eye drops that reduce the pressure in the eye, although the drops can cease to work over time.

You can test your dog's vision by bringing your hand, palm forward, towards the eye from the side of his head slowly so as not to

create air currents. A sighted dog will react by blinking or turning toward your hand, but if the vision is impaired the dog will not react.

Treatments when the pressure cannot be controlled by eye drops include Cyclophoto Coagulation and Ciliary Body Ablation. Both procedures kill the ciliary body cells that produce the aqueous humor (eye fluid) which causes the buildup of pressure in the eye. The first is a surgical laser procedure and the other is an injection of an antibiotic called gentamycin. The laser treatment can be used for dogs that still have eyesight. The ablation procedure causes total blindness so would not be used if the dog has sight in the eye.



Other treatments can include Cyclocryotherapy (freezing the ciliary body) or shunts to drain off the fluid, but both can have post-procedure complications before recovery. Another option: if there is total blindness and the pressure cannot be reduced with other treatments, the eye can be surgically removed with few complications afterward. Also, for those who want a cosmetic solution, the dog can have an intraocular prosthesis implanted inside the eyeball after the eye contents are removed.

Glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness in dogs and is usually detected after damage has occurred to the eye or the eye has literally blown out due to the pressure. Dr. Joanna Norman of Eye Care for Animals suggests all dogs, especially Golden Retrievers, have an eye exam by the time they reach seven years of age, then have



one yearly to detect eye changes, diseases and possibly the early stages of glaucoma.

References: <http://www.eyevet.ca/glaucoma.html>, EyeCare for Animals in Avondale, [http://www.ask.com/wiki/Ciliary\\_body](http://www.ask.com/wiki/Ciliary_body)

### *Eye and Ear Problems: Uveitis and Vasculitis*

By Liz Tataseo



Meet **Gonzo**, who was my medically needy Golden. I called him that because during his 13+ years of life he had many visits to the vet for small and large “incidents” needing treatment. Torn dew claws, stomach surgery for chicken carcass removal (don’t ask), immune-mediated myositis (a painful auto-immune

disease that prevented him from opening his jaws), lymph node aspirations and thrombocytopenia (low platelet count). So, when I saw the small open sores on his inner ear flaps, it was not a big deal especially since his one-year-old fur brother continued to “help” by licking them when he could, which did not help. They went away with cleaning and medication but came back along with some crusty, yellow crud around his ear tips.

Off to the vet for antibiotics, a fungal test and blood work. His blood work was great. The sores went away but not the crusty stuff – now the tip of his ear had black crusty stuff. We went back to the vet for a referral to a dermatologist. Dr. Schick at *Dermatology for Animals* in Avondale examined him all over, said this was probably vasculitis but didn’t like the way his eyes looked and had Dr. Norman, an ophthalmologist, give him a quick check. Sure enough, there was something else. We had a full eye exam by Dr. Norman after our dermatology appointment, and she confirmed uveitis in both eyes, an inflammation of the middle layer of the eye. There is actually a form of this disease called “Golden Retriever Uveitis.” Without treatment, blindness can occur. What are these two conditions and what causes them?

Ear margin vasculitis is a condition of ear margins, (tips, edges) where the tiny vessels on the edges of the ears collapse or become inflamed due to an aberrant immune response, and can lead to blood-starved areas, which can lead to necrotic areas (tissue death). If this is not treated, the ear edges can turn black, hard, and leathery. Once this stage has been reached, cracking and bleeding can occur and the ear tips can die and fall off. Vasculitis can also occur in other parts of the body including feet, nail beds and internally.

There can be different reasons for this type of immune response:

- Extreme cold can constrict the tiny blood vessels and

result in this effect on the edges of natural and cropped ears

- Reactions to rabies vaccine is believed by some to be a cause of this condition. There are ongoing studies on this type of vaccine reaction.
- Tick fever
- Valley fever
- Bacterial, viral or fungal infections
- Lupus
- Cancer

There can also be no known cause. **Gonzo** was negative for tick fever and valley fever and was being treated with a drug called Pentoxifylline that helps increase blood flow by making the blood cells more flexible and by opening up capillaries. It was important to have a complete eye exam, because if a dog has uveitis with hemorrhaging of the retina or a blood clotting problem elsewhere, the Pentoxifylline could not be used.

Uveitis is an inflammation of the middle layer of the eye, the layer under the clear cornea and white sclera. This inner area has a rich blood supply and nourishes the retina and also contains the ciliary body which produces the fluid inside the eye. Nontreatment can lead to corneal ulcers, ocular infections, cataracts, retinal detachment, glaucoma and blindness, just to name a few. Uveitis can be caused by most of the reasons listed above for vasculitis, but according to research, in 75% of the cases the cause is never determined.

**Gonzo** also had a cancer screening with abdominal ultrasound, chest X-rays and urine analysis by an internal medicine specialist. All negative. He fell into the category of no known cause. **Gonzo** was on Pentoxifylline and doxycycline or equivalent for the rest of his life, but his ears healed completely.

Overt signs of uveitis are:

- squinting and rapid blinking or rubbing of the eyes; excessive green or yellow discharge
- swelling of the eye or eyelid
- a change in color of the iris, especially cloudiness or redness

**Gonzo** had to take drops of prednisolone acetate, a corticosteroid, twice a day. In hindsight, I remember some squinting and blinking, but these were not excessive. He eventually did develop glaucoma due to the uveitis and was blind for the last two years of his life, but he continued to go to Meet-and-Greets and enjoy life up to the end. These are not uncommon conditions. Your vet normally will examine the eyes and ears of your dog and can detect unusual changes in both. It is important for the dog parent to be on the lookout for changes in a dog’s physical condition. With **Gonzo**, it was always something, but he lived a good long life (although it could have been longer as far as I was concerned). I am very glad I had canine health insurance for him and my other dogs!

### *Heart Issues: Heart Murmurs in Goldens*

By Teri Guilbault



In 2012, we had the privilege of taking in a very lovely young lady, **12-065 Lucy**, a two-year-old, sweet-as-pie Golden Retriever, who was surrendered to our organization as her owners were downsizing and, unfortunately, could not keep her. When she was turned over to us, we were told that she had a heart murmur. Upon examination by one of our vets, it was

confirmed that there was definitely a murmur, and to conclusively determine exactly the extent of the murmur, we had additional testing done on her. A diagnosis of subaortic stenosis was confirmed, and we were told that **Lucy's** gradient was very severe at 7.7. Normally, dogs with a murmur to this degree do not live to their first birthday. However, Lucy is now seven years old, and we are hoping that she will survive for many more years.

The heart maintains circulation of blood in the body. It is a four-chambered organ containing right and left atria (upper chambers) and ventricles (lower chambers). The right side pumps deoxygenated blood returning from the venous system in the body into the lungs. From the lungs, oxygenated blood enters the left side of the heart where it is pumped out into the tissues of the body through the arteries.

Stenosis means narrowing: subaortic stenosis (SAS) means a narrowing of the area just below the aortic valve, usually due to the presence of an abnormal fibrous band of tissue. This condition can be congenital (present at birth) or develop when the dog is a very young puppy. The narrowing causes pressure overload in the left ventricle. Other types of aortic stenosis exist, but SAS is by far the most common and represents more than 95% of the cases. In **Lucy's** case, it was determined that her SAS was congenital. As with other breeds of dog such as Newfoundlands, Rottweilers, Boxers, German Shepherds, Samoyed and Bulldogs, the Golden Retriever is a breed that has shown to have a high prevalence of this condition.

SAS in dogs is often discovered when a heart murmur is detected during a routine physical examination of an otherwise healthy puppy. In severe cases, the arterial pulse may be weak, but generally puppies appear bright, alert, and happy. In older animals, symptoms such as exercise intolerance, general fatigue, and fainting can occur. In the most unfortunate cases, dogs with SAS can die suddenly following development of severe ventricular arrhythmias.

A definitive diagnosis is made during an echocardiogram to mea-

sure the pressure gradient between the left ventricle and the aorta. In dogs with SAS, the pressure gradient is abnormally increased and correlates with the severity of the stenosis.

The prognosis for SAS depends on the severity of the stenosis and the presence or absence of other cardiac issues. Puppies with mild murmurs (Grade I or II) and low pressure gradients will likely plateau in severity of their SAS by one year of age and often lead normal lives. In general, the louder the murmur, the more severe the condition, but exceptions do exist. Puppies diagnosed with SAS should be reevaluated at one year of age to assess any changes in their cardiovascular status.

Dogs with moderate pressure gradients may remain asymptomatic or rarely progress to congestive heart failure. If congestive heart failure does occur, then the dog would be prescribed medication in order to help prolong the quality and length of life. Surgery is an option, but this procedure is rarely performed on animals, as there are no studies that prove any prolonged life expectancy. Inserting a balloon to dilate the affected area can also sometimes be done, but any positive effects are not long lasting.

**Lucy** found her forever home with a wonderful family. They love her dearly and plan to spend whatever years of life she has spoiling her rotten and getting Lucy's unconditional love in return. They feel they have gotten a lot more years with her than they thought they would.

*Ed. Note:* Some of the information above was taken from a pamphlet published by Penn Veterinary Medicine, Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital Section of Cardiology at the University of Pennsylvania

### *Neurological Problems: Fibrocartilaginous Embolism*

By Teri Guilbault

When we went to bed one evening, all was well with our pack of five, and everyone, as usual, found their favorite spot and went down for the night. We woke up to our usual routine – I normally get up first and let four of the five dogs out to do their business. **Blossom** did not usually come out until the other dogs were in and the treat jar opened calling her name. That morning, **Blossom** did not come as usual, and I figured she had just decided to sleep in, as she seemed to be resting quietly when I stepped over her on my way to the kitchen. Shortly thereafter, I heard my husband yell to me that something had happened to **Blossom** and she could not get up. He carried her out to the Great Room, and when she tried to stand, all that would happen is her left leg would just go limp and her back end would drop down to the floor. When she tried to walk, she would end up dragging herself.

Needless to say, my first call at 7 AM was to one of our vets to see

about getting her in right away for an evaluation. We knew that she had some hip dysplasia, so I initially thought that her hip had finally given out. That turned out to be furthest from the truth.

After running blood work, including a valley fever recheck, doing X-rays and a general examination, the vet told us that there was nothing showing up but they suspected the possibility of a fibrocartilaginous embolism or FCE. A blood clot? A stroke? They recommended taking her to a veterinary neurologist in Phoenix who would be able to diagnose her condition by doing an MRI of her spine. Good thing we have pet insurance! So off we went to *Veterinary Neurology Associates* in Phoenix. I was given three options, none of which were great: 1) an FCE, although he said that in 99% of the cases that would be caused by trauma (jumping, hard play, accident, etc.); 2) a blown disc which would require surgery; or 3) spinal lymphoma.

It turned out that **Blossom** had experienced an FCE, which in common terms is a stroke of the spine. All of us who have been involved in Rescue for a while have dealt with a lot of disorders, diseases, cancers and other conditions, but none of us had ever heard of this, even though the largest number of cases occurs in giant or large breed dogs, with most cases occurring in the age range of 3 to 5 years. **Blossom** was almost nine.

Since the main issue caused by the FCE is swelling around the spine, we were advised that we would have to wait to see how she would be affected once that swelling subsided. We were told she could remain paralyzed or gain control of her back legs by varying degrees. We purchased a brace for her so that we could lift up her back legs to help her walk around. Gradually with each passing day and as the swelling eased, **Blossom** was able to put more and more weight on her back legs, and she gradually gained control so that she could walk unassisted. We also massaged her back and legs daily, which seemed to help. After a couple months, **Blossom** was walking and running again, albeit with a slight limp. She was fortunate to have no further issues with this, other than the limp, for the remainder of her life.

### *Neurological Problems: Myasthenia Gravis*

By Liz Tataseo

We sadly became more aware of myasthenia gravis (MG) when one of our great dogs, young and apparently healthy for months, succumbed to the effects of this rare, neurological disease. There are two forms of the disease: a congenital form in which symptoms can occur at 6-8 weeks, and an acquired form in which symptoms can occur between 1-4 years or 9-13 years. The acquired form is an immune-mediated disease. The congenital or inherited form is most often seen in Jack Russell Terriers, Springer Spaniels and Smooth Fox Terriers. The acquired form can occur in all breeds

but is most often seen in Golden Retrievers, German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, Dachshunds and Scottish Terriers.

Symptoms of MG are exercise-related muscle weakness that improves with rest, regurgitation of food, and megaesophagus (dilated esophagus). Megaesophagus is common with the acquired form of the disease and can lead to aspiration pneumonia from the inhalation of regurgitated food. Hypothyroidism can occur at the same time as acquired MG.

In order for impulses to travel through nerves and from nerves to muscles, a chemical called acetylcholine (ACh) must be present in the nerve endings to transmit the signals. The disease results from the ACh receptors being destroyed by antibodies produced by an immune-mediated response of the dog's own immune system. There are blood tests for the diagnosis of acquired MG that can determine the presence of anti-ACh antibodies.

Dogs with acquired MG and resulting megaesophagus need specific supportive care, since dehydration and lack of nutrients are major factors in the declining health of the dog. Aspiration pneumonia is a primary complication of this disease. Having a dog eat and drink water from chest-high bowls and remain standing for a time following feeding can help prevent regurgitation and aspiration. Special structures called Bailey chairs (*AGR* owns one) are available or can be built to allow elevated eating and drinking.

Treatment often involves a drug that prevents the breakdown of ACh and allows more time for transmission of nerve impulses to occur. Dosages and frequency of drugs must be carefully monitored and evaluated. New treatments are being researched especially for extreme levels of this disease.

There are different levels of acquired MG: mild, moderate and severe. Treatment and management depend on the level of the disease and on owners working closely with their veterinarians for optimum results. One enigma with this disease is that many dogs spontaneously go into remission about 4 months after diagnosis.

Although 19-month-old **15-096** Ford passed away as a result of acquired myasthenia gravis, note that this is a very rare disease and is seldom seen in anyone's lifetime with dogs. All the adopters of **Ford's** five offspring were notified about his illness and passing, as has the vet who has overseen the care of all five puppies whelped in January 2016. Hopefully, if any of the puppies develops acquired MG, it will be detected early enough for them to respond to treatment. The pups are now 17 months old; none have shown any symptoms.

#### References:

Myasthenia Gravis, Dog Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook, Fourth Edition

Myasthenia Gravis, Neurology/Neurosurgery, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis

Myasthenia Gravis, University of Prince Edward Island

### Neurological Problems: Vestibular Syndrome

By Deb Orwig

Vestibular syndrome is often called “old dog disease” since it occurs most often in middle to senior-age dogs. Although it can be caused by an infection in the inner ear canal, the cause is often unknown and is therefore referred to as “idiopathic” vestibular syndrome. The symptoms may be caused by an inflammation in the nerves connecting the inner ear to the cerebellum, which controls balance and spatial orientation.

If an inner ear infection is ruled out by a veterinary exam, then there is really no treatment except time and patience. The onset of symptoms can be really scary for a dog owner, especially because the dog develops the condition very quickly -- something suddenly will appear very wrong with the dog!

You may think the dog has had a stroke or seizure. The dog may appear drunk, with lack of balance, falling, bumping into things, circling and head tilt. Rhythmic eye motion known as nystagmus may be present. The dog may be unable to get up by himself, need assistance walking (a harness or sling may be needed) and may have trouble eating and drinking unless hand fed or given water by hand, because he will have a hard time with the fine motor movements necessary to eat or drink from a bowl.

The condition usually resolves on its own in 7 – 30 days. The vet may want to prescribe anti-nausea and dizziness medication and may want to administer fluids. Some may prescribe steroids to reduce inflammation and may even recommend acupuncture. Once the dog has recovered, it usually will not develop the condition again. By all means, if your dog develops any of these symptoms, take your dog to your vet!

### Parasites and Infections: Heartworm

By Deb Orwig

Although some veterinarians (none of ours included) do not believe heartworm exists in Arizona, it does. I have a dog, **Mufasa**, who proves it. We know he is a bred-and-raised-in-Arizona dog who tested positive for the infestation when we got him at age 1½ in 2011. The next year, another rescue named **Maddy** also tested positive. Recently, **16-082 Rudy**, who was picked up as a stray, did, as well.

The *American Heartworm Society* reports that heartworm has been diagnosed in all 50 states and is spreading to new regions within those states every year. Multiple variables, from climate variations to the presence of wildlife carriers, and stray and ne-

glected dogs cause rates of infections to vary dramatically from year to year and even within communities. The vector for the spread of the disease is the mosquito. Because infected mosquitoes can come inside, both outdoor and indoor pets are at risk.

Heartworm disease is caused by foot-long heartworms that live in the heart, lungs and associated blood vessels of affected pets, causing severe lung damage, heart failure and damage to other organs in the body. Even with treatment, if not detected early heartworms can cause lasting damage and debilitation.

Dogs contract heartworm from the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquito picks up immature heartworms called microfilaria from an infected host, then when it bites your dog it injects the microfilaria into the dog. The microfilaria lodge in the heart and mature into the adult heartworm – this can take up to 6 months, and the adult worms can survive for 5 - 7 years in dogs.

In the early stages of heartworm infestation, the dog likely will show no symptoms. The longer the dog is infected, the more symptoms will appear like one or more of the following:

- mild persistent cough
- reluctance to exercise
- fatigue after moderate activity
- decreased appetite
- weight loss
- swollen belly due to fluid retention
- caval syndrome indicated by sudden onset of labored breathing, pale gums and dark bloody or coffee-colored urine

**AGR** tests all dogs over 6 months of age. If a dog tests positive, we have the treatment done, because if the dog has heartworm and it is not treated, eventually it will be fatal.

Annual testing is necessary, even when dogs are on heartworm prevention year-round, to ensure that the prevention program is working. Heartworm medications are highly effective, but dogs can still become infected. If you miss just one dose of a monthly medication – or give more than 15 days late – it can leave your dog unprotected. Even if you give the medication as recommended, your dog may spit out or vomit a heartworm pill, or rub off a topical medication. If you don't get your dog test, you won't know your dog needs treatment.

The test for heartworm is a simple and relatively inexpensive “snap test” that can be done with a few drops of the dog's blood right in your vet's office. If there are heartworm proteins present, then a more extensive test can be done by a diagnostic lab to determine the level of infestation. Any level needs treatment.

All approved heartworm medications work by eliminating the immature (larval) stages of the heartworm parasite. Preventative medications, whether oral chews or tablets (Heartgard Plus®,

Interceptor®, Iverhart®, Sentinel®, Advantage Multi®, Tri-heart Plus®, Trifexis®, topical (Revolution®) or injectible, must be prescribed by a veterinarian. Except in cases of puppies under 6 months of age, the vet will require the heartworm test before issuing the prescription.

Heartworms are easy to prevent, but difficult and costly to cure. Rudy's treatment, which consisted of injections of Immiticide, cost **AGR** about \$450 with our Rescue discount.

**AGR** strongly recommends to get your dog tested yearly for heartworm and keep the dog on a monthly preventative year round.

### *Parasites and Infections: Leptospirosis*

By Deb Orwig

Earlier this year, **Raintree Pet Resort and Medical Center** asked us for permission and vaccinated **16-081 Ranger** for leptospirosis, as they are in one of the areas, Scottsdale, in which cases have been reported. Now, **Four Legged Friends** is also suggesting vaccinations for it. The protection requires two injections, two to six weeks apart. Several of our dogs who come in with extensive vet records show that they have already had this vaccine, for example **17-008 Sprinkles**.

Since our own dogs go to many places throughout the Valley, it might be appropriate to consider having them vaccinated; check with your own vet. I have also spoken with another one of our regular vets, **Academy West Animal Hospital** in Glendale; they have not been keeping the leptospirosis vaccine on hand, since it is rare to see dogs with this disease in Glendale, but they will now be carrying the vaccine at our request.

“The Department of Public Health has recorded 40-plus dogs testing positive since January 2016,” said Dr. Sarah Bashaw with **El Dorado Animal Hospital** in Fountain Hills. “A lot of the cases started in Scottsdale, but they have been reporting cases as far west as Avondale, some cases in Gilbert, and we’ve had the first cases I know of in Fountain Hills.”

Because it is rare in Arizona (at least right now) and can be passed on to humans, she said she wants dog owners to know what to look for. “Some dogs will have mild symptoms and never show any clinical signs, others can be more severe, start out with vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, tremors, shaking, lethargy, and/or fever,” Bashaw said. “A simple set of vaccination shots can prevent it, and antibiotics can treat it.”

#### **Information about Leptospirosis**

Leptospirosis is transmitted between animals through contact with infected urine, venereal and placental transfer, bite wounds,

or the ingestion of infected tissue. Crowding, as found in a kennel, can increase the spread of infection. Indirect transmission occurs through exposure of susceptible animals to contaminated water sources, food, or even bedding. Stagnant or slow-moving water provides a suitable habitat for *Leptospira*. As a result, disease outbreaks often increase during periods of flooding. In dry areas, infections are more common around water sources. Freezing greatly reduces the survival of the organism in the environment. This explains why infections are more common in summer and fall and why the infection is more prevalent in temperate areas.

#### **Infection**

*Leptospira* bacteria penetrate mucous membranes or abraded skin and multiply rapidly upon entering the blood system. From there, they spread to other tissues including the kidneys, liver, spleen, nervous system, eyes, and genital tract. As the body fights the infection, the organism is cleared from most organs, but it may persist in the kidneys and be shed for weeks or months in the urine. The amount of damage done to the internal organs is variable depending on the serovar and the host it infects. After 7 or 8 days of infection, the animal will begin to recover, if the damage to the kidneys or liver is not too severe.

Infections in dogs with *Leptospira* serovars *canicola* and *gripotyphosa* have been associated with kidney infections with minimal liver involvement. Whereas, the serovars *pomona* and *icterohaemorrhagiae* produce liver disease. Dogs younger than 6 months tend to develop more cases of liver disease regardless of the serovar.

#### **Symptoms**

In acute infections, a fever of 103-104°, shivering, and muscle tenderness are the first signs. Then vomiting and rapid dehydration may develop. Severely infected dogs may develop hypothermia and become depressed and die before kidney or liver failure has a chance to develop.

In subacute infections, the animal usually develops a fever, anorexia, vomiting, dehydration, and increased thirst. The dog may be reluctant to move due to muscle or kidney pain. Animals with liver involvement may develop jaundice. Dogs that develop kidney or liver involvement may begin to show improvement in organ function after 2 to 3 weeks or they may develop chronic renal failure. Despite the possibility of severe infection and death, the majority of leptospiral infections in dogs are chronic or subclinical. Dogs that become chronically infected may show no outward signs, but may intermittently shed bacteria in the urine for months or years.

**Arizona Golden Rescue** has added the leptospirosis vaccination to our standard vetting procedure for all dogs that have been and will be rescued this year. Effective vaccination requires two injec-

tions of the vaccine 2-3 weeks apart. We strongly encourage all our readers to get your own dogs vaccinated, especially those of you who take your dogs to dog parks or other public places.

### *Parasites and Infections: Physaloptera*

By Teri Guilbault

When our organization takes in a new rescue that has been a stray, we have a fecal sample tested to ensure that the dog is not carrying any parasites that can make it sick or be transmitted to other dogs and/or cats in the new household. It is not unusual that we find *Giardia*, roundworms or other common parasites, which we immediately treat. One of our rescued Golden Retrievers tested positive for *Physaloptera*, which is a relatively uncommon nematode parasite that can be contracted by dogs if they eat a beetle (the most common carrier), cricket, grasshopper or other small animal like a mouse that carries the larvae of the *Physaloptera*. Once inside of the dog or cat's stomach, it attaches itself to the stomach lining, and when it has grown to adulthood, its eggs are then passed in the feces. *Physaloptera* look similar to roundworms, although shorter, and can easily be confused with roundworms if they appear in the vomit of a dog. In severe infections, *Physaloptera* can cause stomach bleeding, vomiting, loss of appetite and black, tarry stools. The good news is that it is not infectious to other dogs or to cats or humans. Newer wormers such as Panacur® effectively eradicate this parasite.

Our dogs can pick up parasites at any time. A simple check of your dog's stool by your veterinarian will help to identify any potential problems and keep your dog free of parasites. Please remember to keep this an important part of your dog's annual checkup.

### *Parasites and Infections: Ticks*

By Teri Guilbault, Linda Knight Gage and Deb Orwig

Have you noticed that your dog is constantly scratching or shaking his head or licking his paws? You probably think maybe it's just because there's some dry skin or allergies, but the itching and scratching could also be caused by a tick... or several. Shelter dogs and even some owner-surrenders that **AGR** rescues often have ticks. When **12-117 Buddy** came to us, his ears and much of his body were so infested with ticks we could hardly see his skin! Last year when we got the puppies **16-050 Bertha** and **16-052 Blonde** from a backyard breeder in Tucson, they had so many ticks, there



were hundreds that fell off in the crate in Deb's car and hundreds more that fell off on the floor of the vet's office. Yuk!

Ticks are parasitic arthropods that feed on the blood of their hosts, and are a dreaded enemy of canines and humans alike. Ticks do not fly, jump or blow around with the wind. Not all ticks transmit disease, thankfully, but those that do



American Dog Tick  
Female, left; male right

are a threat. Most tick-borne diseases take several hours to transmit to a host, therefore locating and removing a tick quickly will lower the risk of disease. Dogs can be exposed to ticks in areas of tall grass, meadows and parks, but they can also pick them up in your yard. Ticks can even be transported on birds and easily dropped into your yard, as well. When a tick finds a host, it attaches its mouthparts into the skin, thus beginning the blood meal. They will often attach themselves in crevices and/or areas with little to no hair – between the toes, within skin folds, and in and around the ears are all great hide-outs for ticks.

The life span of a tick can be several months to years, with thousands of eggs being laid by a female at any one given time. There are four life stages of most species of ticks – eggs, larvae, nymphs, and adults. In order for a tick to thrive, it needs to be attached to a host, therefore getting a supply of blood and allowing it to grow to its next life stage. Too much information? I agree – but some of this is crucial to know.

Lyme disease is the most well-known disease transmitted by ticks to humans and canines. Fortunately, however, this disease does not occur in Arizona. Some ticks can also cause a temporary condition called "tick paralysis." Difficulty walking could possibly develop into paralysis in your dog. When a tick is removed, these signs typically begin to resolve. You should always contact your veterinarian as soon as possible if you notice any weakness, lameness, joint swelling and/or anemia. Proper testing is necessary, and treatment should begin immediately.

Tick fever or Ehrlichiosis is a common tick disease found in dogs and humans. A tick ingests the organism *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* when feeding on an infected host and can transmit tick fever to subsequent dogs that it feeds upon. The incubation period is typically 7-21 days after attaching to the host. Symptoms depend upon which phase of the disease is present in your dog. The acute phase is accompanied by rather non-specific symptoms which may include poor appetite, listlessness, fever, cough or discharge from the eyes or nose. The chronic phase may display the acute symptoms as well as nosebleed, other abnormal bleeding, swelling of the legs and weight loss. In both phases, symptoms result from destruction of red blood cells, platelets and occasionally white blood cells. Symptoms of either phase may also include diarrhea, vomiting bile, lameness, paleness of gums, lethargy or increased thirst.

Blood tests determine the diagnosis of tick fever. **AGR** has every adult dog tested for this disease, as sometimes dogs are asymptomatic. Initially a profile indicates anemia, and an Idexx snap test confirms presence of antibodies. At two weeks or more post-therapy, an Ehrlichia PCR test will confirm that the organism has been eradicated. Similar clinical signs that are present may be diagnosed as other diseases including cancer, therefore diagnosis of tick fever is very important. Titers may be negative early in the course of the disease even though the disease is present.

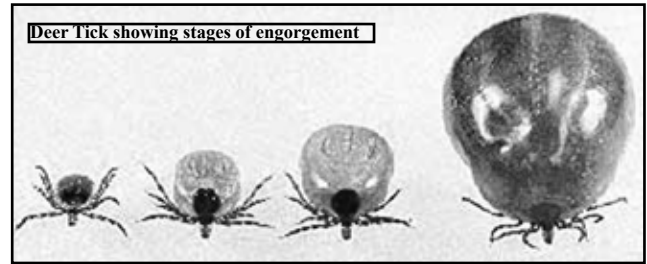
Tick-borne diseases such as tick fever and the uncommon anaplasmosis are carried by the common brown dog tick. These diseases can make your dog sick with fever, lethargy, and other flu-like symptoms. Fortunately, they are curable if treated with the antibiotic doxycycline. Failure to treat a dog for these diseases can cause death, so it is really important to keep a watchful eye out for ticks.

If you have ticks around your home, you're already probably spraying or using something to get rid of them as they can and do multiply quickly. If you have found ticks on your dog or other animals, it's also a good idea to make sure the animals are tested regularly for tick fever. Using a flea and tick preventative such as Frontline® is really the best remedy, as it kills the fleas and ticks before they can breed and cause a problem.

Ticks can be relatively small or can end up being about the size of a lima bean if they've been feeding off your dog and are fully engorged. They need to be removed and disposed of quickly and safely. The following is a quick and easy guide to help you:

- With fine-tipped tweezers, grab the tick by the head or mouth parts right where they enter the skin. Do not grasp the tick by the body – you do not want to crush the tick and force harmful bacteria to leave the tick and enter your pet's bloodstream.
- Without jerking, pull firmly and steadily directly outward. Do not twist the tick as you are pulling.
- Petroleum jelly, a hot match, or alcohol will NOT cause the tick to 'back out.' In fact, these irritants may cause the tick to deposit more disease-carrying saliva in the wound.
- After removing the tick, place it in a jar of alcohol to kill it. Ticks are NOT killed by flushing them down the toilet.
- Clean the bite wound with a disinfectant. If you want to, apply a small amount of triple antibiotic ointment.
- Wash your hands thoroughly.

Once an embedded tick is manually removed, it is not uncommon for a welt and skin reaction to occur. A little hydrocortisone spray or cream will help alleviate the irritation, but it may take a week or more for full healing. In some cases, the tick bite may leave a permanent scar and a hairless area. This skin irritation is due to a



reaction to tick saliva. Do not be worried about the tick head staying in; it rarely happens.

Our vets treat all dogs that stay at least overnight, as well as those on whom they find ticks when they do their exam, with Frontline®, Effitix®, Advantix® or some other tick-killing topical product. Another option is a tick collar, although they are not always reliable. Please be aware that these products contain toxic components and you should always consult your vet before using them. In this case more is not better.

Do you have your ticket for the *Fashion Paw-Tea* coming up on September 9<sup>th</sup>? Register before the event is sold out! Go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fashion-paw-tea-tickets-36224465351?>

### *Parasites and Infections: Transmissible Venereal Tumor*

By Teri Guilbault

As a Rescue with dogs coming in from numerous different sources, **AGR** has gotten some dogs with really unusual diseases!

Imagine a tumor that can be transmitted by touch. For dogs, this is not a matter of imagination. The transmissible venereal tumor is such a tumor and can be found on both male and female dogs. Transmission is by simple physical contact with the tumor and is most commonly spread during mating, but can also be spread during routine sniffing, licking or biting. Most of these tumors are found on the dog's genitals but can also be found on noses, mouths or other areas.

This type of tumor may appear as a fleshy cauliflower-like growth or may simply start with genital bleeding. It is common where there are large numbers of roaming dogs or in shelter situations. In most cases, this tumor is not malignant and simply grows and bleeds and is eventually rejected by the dog's immune system. However, if the dog's immune system is compromised due to young age, poor health, or even after delivering puppies, the tumor can spread in a cancerous fashion. It can be diagnosed either by doing a biopsy or by taking a smear of the tumor's cells and

looking at them under a microscope.

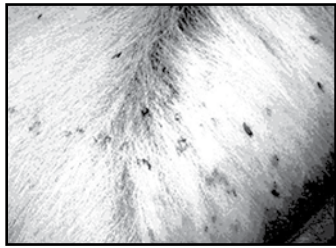
Treatment of these tumors can be done by simple surgical removal, although that is not the most effective means, as they will usually recur within 5 months. Most veterinarians will recommend a series of vincristine injections, which is a chemotherapy treatment delivered intravenously. This is usually done with about eight treatments, and response is normally seen very quickly, even after just one injection. There is still a chance of recurrence, but at a much lower rate. In 2010, *AGR* rescued two dogs that were diagnosed with this type of tumor. Both dogs had excellent results with the vincristine therapy.

### *Skin Conditions: Ichthyosis*

By Teri Guilbault

Dermatology issues, rashes, allergies, etc., are very common in all breeds of dogs. Sometimes they are controlled easily and sometimes not. As with all questionable conditions, however, it is always a good idea to consult your veterinarian or veterinary specialist for a proper diagnosis.

I had the opportunity to learn about an interesting skin condition. My dog **Blossom** was beautiful down to the bone (aren't they all), until you really looked down that far at her skin. From the



time we got her when she was 8 weeks old, she has always had this black, flaky skin condition. The pink Golden Retriever belly that she should have was black, as were her arm pits and hind quarters, and I was constantly brushing out dark flakes. No

matter what I fed her or bathed her with, those flakes were always there. I finally took her to see a dermatologist and found what was going on. She had Ichthyosis.

Ichthyosis is a fairly common skin condition in Golden Retrievers. It is characterized by excessive dry, scaly flakes of skin. Some flakes are very small, but I've seen them the size of quarters, too. During gestation, the dog's skin membrane fails to develop completely, and as a result, there is a constant "shedding" of the skin layers. The skin of the dog is abnormal at birth, with it cracking and peeling off starting when the dog is about two weeks of age. Most of the dog's body is covered with tightly-adhering, tannish-gray scales and feathered "horny" projections, which give a rough texture to the skin. Although some of these projections adhere to the skin, others constantly flake off, riding up hair shafts in large sheets. Large quantities of this scaly debris can also accumulate on the skin surface forming dry, reddened patches. Sometimes, this even causes hair loss, although in **Blossom's** case, she still

had a beautiful Golden coat. We found that frequent brushing helped to some degree.

Unfortunately, there is no cure for this skin condition, and trying to control the scaling is very difficult. However, although it looks terrible, it doesn't cause the dogs any itching or anxiety. Ichthyosis is not contagious to other dogs, to cats or to humans.

### *Skin Conditions: Lumps and Bumps*

By Liz Tataseo

Most dogs, including Golden Retrievers, get lumps as they age, but younger dogs are not exceptions. Most of these lumps are benign cysts, lipomas (fatty tumors) or granulomas, but some are much more serious. It is recommended that a new mass, or one that has suddenly changed in size, be evaluated by a vet and, if deemed necessary, a needle aspiration should be performed to determine the type of cells present.

There are benign masses that should be removed before they lead to ulcerations of the skin or interfere with sight or movement: warts, follicular or sebaceous cysts, benign histiocytomas (often found on young dogs), sebaceous adenomas if they are ulcerated, large lipomas and basal cell tumors that can become malignant.<sup>1</sup>

One lump that looks like many of the ones just mentioned is a malignant tumor which can be treated quickly and without long-lasting issues if found early. However, left to grow and spread it can affect internal organs and lead to death. These are **mast cell tumors**. They are one of the most common skin tumors in dogs and often look like harmless cysts, histiocytomas or lick granulomas.

According to the *National Canine Cancer Foundation*, mast cells are cells that occur in the skin and other tissues, like the intestines and respiratory tract. They are also an integral part of the immune system. They consist of large amounts of histamine, heparin, and proteolytic enzymes (enzymes which break down protein). These have a toxic effect on foreign invaders, like parasites, and are released when the mast cell is triggered by the immune system. A mast cell tumor results from these mast cells. When histamine, heparin, and enzymes are damaged by some external invasion, they pose health hazards. Large amounts of these substances are released into the body and usually have adverse effects on heart rate, blood pressure, and other body functions.

Several *AGR* members have had dogs with mast cell tumors and, fortunately, have been able to catch them early and have them removed. Mast cell tumors can return, so vigilance is necessary for any new lump. A 9-year-old dog surrendered to *AGR* in December 2014 (**14-097 Jake**) had large, untreated mast cell tumors that were beyond anyone's treatment capabilities. Had the dog come



to us a year sooner, we might have been able to save his life, but the cancer was too far advanced and the dog had to be euthanized.

According to *North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine*, treatments for mast cell tumors that are beyond minimally invasive (tumors) involve diagnostic tests... recommended to ensure there is no obvious evidence of spread to other places in the body. These tests include:

- Complete blood count (CBC)
- Serum biochemistry panel
- Urinalysis (U/A)
- Lymph node aspiration cytology
- Abdominal sonogram

If metastasis has occurred, current protocol involves a combination of prednisone, vinblastine, and CCNU, the three drugs with demonstrated effectiveness against mast cell tumors. Chemotherapy can also be used alone if surgery and radiation therapy are not performed.

Sad but true is this statement from an article by Rhonda Hovan in *Understanding Cancer in Golden Retrievers*<sup>2</sup>: "Let's get started with some data of how cancer affects our breed. Approximately 60% of all Goldens will die from cancer. By gender, it's 57% of females and 66% of males. Human cancer is also skewed slightly toward males, so it's not surprising that dogs are too. For comparison, the rate of cancer in Goldens is just slightly less than double the rate of cancer in all dogs, which is estimated to be about one in three (and which actually is about the same as in humans). But even though our cancer rate is nearly double the all-breed average, it's important to keep in mind that the average lifespan of the breed is still within the same 10-11-year range as in all breeds."

While the above information may seem disheartening, many Goldens live long, healthy lives only surrendering to illness (yes, often cancer) in their old age. It is when cancer hits young dogs in the prime of their lives that we ask, why is this happening? And it is why it is important to always check over your dog for lumps, bumps or any small injury that might not be healing quickly and get them evaluated by a vet.

### Papillomatosis

The term papillomatosis is used to describe a benign tumor on the surface of the skin. A virus, known as the papillomavirus, causes the growth. The general appearance is wart-like, raised, with the central surface having an open pore if the wart is inverted.

### Sebaceous Cysts

Sebaceous cysts are common surface tumors found anywhere on the body. These cysts begin when dry secretions block hair follicles, causing an accumulation of hair and sebum (a cheesy material), and the subsequent formation of a cyst.

### Lipomas

A lipoma is a benign growth made up of mature fat cells interlaced with fibrous connective tissue. Lipomas are common in overweight dogs, especially females. A lipoma can be recognized by its oblong or round appearance and smooth, soft, fatlike consistency.

### Histiocytomas

Histiocytomas are rapidly growing tumors found in dogs 1 to 3 years of age. They occur anywhere on the body. These benign tumors are dome-shaped, raised, hairless surface growths that are not painful.

### Sebaceous Adenomas

Sebaceous adenomas arise from the oil-producing sebaceous glands in the skin. They are not dangerous.

### Basal Cell Tumors

This is a common tumor usually found on the head and neck in dogs over 7 years of age. It appears as a firm, solitary nodule with distinct borders that set it apart from the surrounding skin.

**CAUTION:** If you find any lumps or bumps on your dog, please get them checked by your vet.

<sup>1</sup> WebMD ([webmd.com/dogs/dog-papillomas-lipomas-cysts-basal-cell-tumors](http://webmd.com/dogs/dog-papillomas-lipomas-cysts-basal-cell-tumors))

<sup>2</sup> Rhonda Hovan has been a breeder/owner/handler of Golden Retrievers under the "Faera" prefix for over 30 years, producing more than 60 Champions. As a health and genetics writer, she has won the Veterinary Information Network Health Education Award and the Eukanuba Canine Health Award. Rhonda is the Research Facilitator for the *Golden Retriever Club of America*, founded the Starlight Fund at the *AKC Canine Health Foundation* to support Golden Retriever health research, serves on the Advisory Board of the *National Canine Cancer Foundation*, and is an Emeritus Director of the *Orthopedic Foundation for Animals*. She wrote the article, originally published in *Golden Retriever News*, to help answer some common questions from breeders and owners, such as "Why did my dog get cancer?" and "What can I do to help my dog avoid cancer?" She is a frequent speaker on topics of canine health, and lives in Akron, Ohio, with five Goldens and two rescued raccoons. Excerpt from the article was reprinted with permission from the author.



## Skin Conditions: Mange

By Liz Tataseo

*Ed. Note: Since mange is caused by external parasites, I could have put this article under the Parasites heading. However, since the manifestations of mange are poor skin conditions, I am including the article in this section.*

In 2011, we had the opportunity to rescue a Golden from a terrible animal-hoarding situation. When this young lad came to us, we

already knew that he was suffering from mange. Mange? What is mange? This was our first experience with this disease since the incorporation of our organization.

Mange is caused by mites (minute arthropods related to spiders) that live on the skin of animals as parasites and can quickly and easily infest an animal's entire body. There are three types of mange: sarcoptic, which is also called "scabies;" demodectic, or "red mange;" and cheyletiella, or "walking dandruff." Common symptoms of mange include hair loss, itching and inflammation, dry, crusty and thickened skin, and sores or blisters.

Sarcoptic mange is caused by mites burrowing into the skin. Dogs with this type of mange tend to have a moth-eaten appearance as clumps of fur fall out. Eventually, if left untreated, dogs will continue to lose their fur until it is gone. Dogs of all ages and breeds can contract sarcoptic mange, and it is easily transmitted to dogs or people who come in contact with an infected animal. With this type of mange, there is extreme itchiness, rash with irritated and inflamed skin, scabs and hair loss. Areas most affected will be ears, elbows, hocks, abdomen and chest. Dogs that have this disease are likely to develop "hot spots" as they lick the areas that bother them. Treatment for this type of mange is medicated baths which kill the mites, and a systemic pesticide called Revolution®. During an outbreak, the dog's immune system may become depressed, so steroid treatment may not be advisable. Sarcoptic mites are one of the most destructive parasites because they can spread over the dog's entire body, causing life-threatening skin infections.

Demodectic mange is not as severe as sarcoptic mange, and veterinarians say that this disease is most common in puppies aged 3 to 9 months old. It often appears around the eyes or the corners of the mouth, and on the forelimbs and paws of the dog. Left untreated, it can cover the entire surface of the skin. The main difference between demodectic mange and sarcoptic mange is itchiness. Demodectic mange doesn't itch at all. Even though there are no signs of itchiness, however, it still causes discomfort to the dog. Also, unlike sarcoptic mange, demodectic mange is not contagious. Demodectic mange is often treated with medicated shampoos if the dog has minor, localized areas. With this type of mange, infestations often resolve themselves within several weeks in young dogs as their immune system develops and kills off the mites on its own. However, treatment is still advised.

Cheyletiella mange is also called "walking dandruff." The mites causing this type of mange do not burrow into the skin but live on the top layer, and their entire 21-day life cycle is on the one animal they infest. They cannot survive off of a dog for more than 10 days. These mites are highly contagious and transferred by direct contact with an infected animal. Symptoms of this type of mange are regular sneezing and rubbing the face area; there may also be hair loss around the eyes and nose. Treatment is weekly bathing

with a medicated shampoo and dips over regular periods for three weeks.

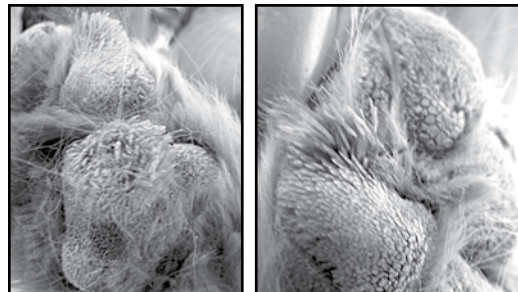
As with any other type of skin issues, it is always best to consult your veterinarian when symptoms appear. Early diagnosis and treatment is always the quickest and easiest way to keep your dog healthy and happy.

### *Treating Lick Granulomas*

Mix 2 parts Bitter Apple with 1 part Icy Hot or Liquid Heat. The itch of a lick granuloma is sort of like phantom limb pain – it itches, but scratching and licking don't soothe it, so the dog just keeps going at it. It makes them so crazy that the Bitter Apple alone isn't enough to deter them. Using the combo above produces a deep tingle that makes it feel a little less irritated so that the Bitter Apple is enough to stop their licking. This works on 70-80% of lick granulomas. You may want to use a cone part of the time, too, until the itch settles down a bit. Lick granulomas occur most frequently when a dog is bored or stressed, so more activity/exercise is beneficial, too.

### *Skin Conditions: "Porcupine Quills"?*

By Deb Orwig



Check your dog's pads. Are there growths on the pads that look like miniature porcupine quills? One of our members noticed such growths on the

bottoms of her dog's feet. As she had never seen anything like this before and was worried about what it might be, she took the dog to see our vet Dr. Ferguson. Dr. F. immediately said "Arthritis." Whaaat? How could that be arthritis? Well, it isn't arthritis *per se*, but it is a result of a combination of things: arthritis in the legs causing the dog to favor her feet and to not want to walk very much, and foot fur and toenails that are allowed to get too long, preventing the normal scouring and wearing away of the footpad material. What happens under these conditions is that the footpad material itself grows. In itself, it is apparently not painful to the dog, but it sure looks ugly and could eventually hamper movement even more. So, check your dog's feet, keep the fur trimmed back and the toenails clipped as short as possible so the dog is walking on the pads, and you won't have to wonder where those "porcupine quills" or that "fungus" came from!

***Skin Conditions: Sebaceous Adenitis***

By Linda Knight Gage



**14-040 Charlie** is a nice 7-year-old male Golden who came in with **14-043 Boomer**, **Charlie's** littermate and best buddy. **Charlie** had a horrible skin condition that had been treated unsuccessfully for years and needed vet attention for a proper diagnosis. Littermate **Boomer** did not have it.

**AGR's** vet suspected **Charlie** had sebaceous adenitis and performed a skin biopsy. The results were positive. Started on a skin care regimen, **Charlie** was on his way to a healthier coat and skin.

Sebaceous adenitis is a perplexing condition in which the sebaceous glands in the skin become inflamed for unknown reasons and are eventually destroyed. Normal sebaceous glands produce sebum, which is a fatty secretion that helps prevent drying of the skin. This rare type of inflammatory skin disease typically affects young adult dogs, 1 to 5 years of age.

This condition can appear differently in different breeds. In long-coated breeds, the dogs have dry scaly skin with patches of hair loss on the top of their head, face, back of the neck, as well as on their back. Silvery scales tightly adhere to tufts of the remaining fur and can easily be seen. Other signs of sebaceous adenitis include hair that is brittle or dull, small areas of matted hair and alopecia (hair loss). Mildly-affected dogs have normal looking coats, but abnormalities can be seen upon microscopic examination of skin biopsies. Some dogs like **Charlie** exhibit a "rat tail" and have bilaterally symmetric hair loss and excessive skin scaling. This condition may also lead to a secondary bacterial infection of the skin with pimples, crusting and an offensive odor. Some dogs have severe, draining ear infections. Sebaceous adenitis may or may not be itchy. The dog's skin may also be blistered or raw, and there might be complete hair loss along with loss of the sebaceous glands during advanced stages of the disease. Short-haired breeds can also have this condition, exhibiting a moth-eaten appearance to their coat, with mild scaling also affecting the head, ears and trunk of the body.

A skin biopsy is needed to determine if this condition exists. This



involves removing small pieces of the affected area (done with local anesthesia) and submitting them to a pathologist.

Dogs can spontaneously improve, but most dogs will need life-long care for this condition, although it is a cosmetic disorder with no internal manifestations of disease. Response to treatments can be highly variable, resulting in frustration for the dog and the owner. Fatty acid dietary supplements are given along with anti-seborrheic shampoos used on a regular basis to remove the scales and dead hair. This treatment might be the answer for a mildly-affected dog. Other cases might need additional treatments including spraying the dog with a propylene glycol and water mixture to help restore lubricants to the skin, as well as oral essential fatty acid supplements.

A dog with sebaceous adenitis should not be bred. Although not genetically proven, it is believed that this condition is inherited as an autosomal trait in some breeds. This is a gene that both parents carry and pass to a litter. Several breeding studies are in progress to determine the exact cause of sebaceous adenitis.

If you suspect your dog has this condition, please see your veterinarian as soon as possible to determine a course of action. This uncomfortable affliction needs to be treated as soon as it is suspected and diagnosed. Treatment will help your dog feel more comfortable and improve his overall well-being.

***Valley Fever***

By Liz Tataseo

*Editor's Note: Since valley fever is such a problem in Arizona and we all need to be educated about it, I am reprinting the following article from November 2014. Few other states' Rescue groups have to deal with this disease, because it rarely occurs in significant frequency anywhere else (see distribution map on page 53). Detecting and treating this insidious disease is necessary but expensive for AGR. We have recently received a grant of \$1,500 from Albertsons/Safeway/Vons specifically for diagnosis and treatment of valley fever. Since we test for valley fever in every rescue over six months of age, and then have to put about 20% of them on fluconazole, this grant money will help tremendously. We sincerely thank the company for its support.*



Five dogs, four different conditions (two were asymptomatic) and all of them with the same disease – valley fever. **Trip** was surrendered in 2011 with a hind limb he could barely walk on and most of the time didn't use. No one had

taken the time to really find out what was wrong and, suspecting the worst, the family surrendered him to **AGR**. After testing, **Trip**

was found to have the disseminated form of valley fever, and the leg could not be saved. Now a tripod (notice no right hind leg in the photo), **Trip** tested clear of the disease, but he will be tested yearly to be sure he remains negative.

**Scout** was surrendered to **AGR** in early September 2014 and had no symptoms of the disease; he looked like a happy and healthy two-year-old. After testing, he was found to be positive for valley fever (with a titer of 1:32) and placed on medication. His littermate brother, **Chip**, who had lived with **Scout** all his life, tested negative.



One other example is **Caesar**, who came into Rescue in early 2013. He had lived in the Prescott area all of his 8+ years, so we did not think he would need testing for valley fever. However, our vet advised us to go ahead with the test even though **Caesar** was not exhibiting any symptoms and even though he had come from the northern part of Arizona where the incidence of valley fever is very low.

We thought we might be wasting our money on the test (at anywhere from \$43 to \$222, it is not inexpensive) until **Caesar's** titer came back positive at 1:32. He was also started on medication.

**PJ** came to **AGR** from Tucson later in September; he was limping on his front legs and in pain. After X-rays and because we did not want to wait until blood test results were back (takes about a week, as the vet sends out the dog's blood sample to an analytical laboratory), **PJ** was placed on medication for valley fever and pain medications. The test results revealed a titer of 1:32.



The worst case we have ever seen in **AGR** was in 2013. **Bonita's** valley fever titer was 1:256, the highest level that can be measured. She exhibited all the classic symptoms such as coughing, limping, lack of appetite and energy, and fever. Her initial blood work confirmed that she had a chronic infection in her system. The vet suspected valley fever and thought that it had invaded **Bonita's** spinal

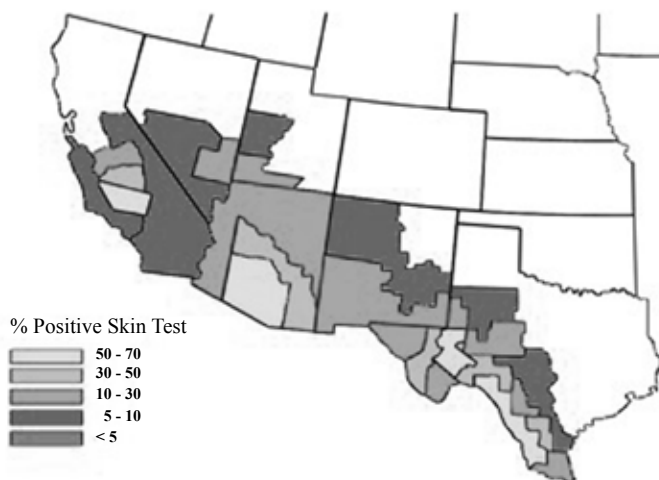


column and brain, as she exhibited a "drunken soldier" swaying walk. She was in extreme pain so was started on high doses of morphine and corticosteroids, as well as on fluconazole. After six months of medication, **Bonita's** titer had dropped to 1:32, and by February 2014, it was even lower at 1:16, excellent progress considering how high it was originally. Although she may be on fluconazole for life, she is now acting like a normal dog.

Because valley fever is most prevalent in Arizona and occurs in other areas of the Southwest, one of the blood tests that **AGR** asks all of our vets to do is the Cocci test. If you look at the map on page 52, you can see the percentage of dogs positive for valley fever in various areas of the Southwest. Arizona is one of those areas that has a high percentage of dogs that have been found positive for the disease. Like **Scout** and **Caesar**, many dogs have no symptoms for the disease, even though positive. Some exhibit classic symptoms like **PJ** and **Bonita**. Valley fever is not contagious and cannot be passed from animal to animal, from animal to person, or from person to person.

**What is valley fever?** Valley fever in dogs (and humans) is caused by the fungus, *Coccidioides sperules*, which grows in the soil and can become airborne during wind, construction or farming. Infection occurs when the individual, whether dog or human, inhales the spores. Valley fever symptoms can occur within three weeks of inhalation, and the first sign can be a lingering cough. About one-third of people who are exposed are able to fight off the respiratory infection caused by the fungus, which often presents as a prolonged case of flu. About 70% of dogs who inhale the fungus do not become sick. In others, it can be a mild case or prolonged, debilitating and potentially lethal. Valley fever incidence is one of the reasons **AGR** requires all dogs adopted to be inside dogs. Dogs left outside for long periods of time are more likely to get valley fever.

**Valley fever titers.** Valley fever levels are determined by a ratio called a titer, which measures the antibody levels in a dog's blood. When a dog has been exposed to the fungus, their immune system begins to produce antibodies to fight the fungus. Dogs that are positive for valley fever at the 1:2 or 1:4 titer levels are considered exposed but not active and usually do not receive medication, but **AGR** does have the dog return for a retest in three months to make sure the titer is still low or negative. Dogs with exposure levels of 1:8, 1:16 and up are given an antifungal drug called fluconazole, which is the generic form of Diflucan. **AGR** recommends giving a dog milk thistle or Sam-E or Denamarin® (combo of both) to offset any liver issues that can be caused by the fluconazole. **Trip**, **Scout**, **PJ** and **Caesar** all had titers of 1:32. Most dogs will have to take the anti-fungal medication for several months up to 1-2 years. Some that have a very high initial titer may have to be on the drug for a longer time, perhaps for the rest of their lives. Dogs with the more common respiratory infection will usually start feeling better in one to two weeks but must remain on the medica-



**Distribution Map of Valley Fever Occurrence from Valley Fever Center for Excellence website**

tion to completely eradicate the fungus. After **Trip's** amputation and being on the medication for only two weeks, there was a visible improvement in his energy level and demeanor.

**Disseminated Form of VF.** Dogs and people can also get the disseminated form of valley fever if left untreated for a long period of time, as in **Trip's** case. Valley fever can most often spread to the bones of an individual and cause lameness or swelling of the legs and, at its worst, bone lesions and calcification. But it can infect almost any organ in the body including the brain, as it did for **Bonita**. Dogs with disseminated valley fever are usually prescribed pain medication to support the time needed for the anti-fungal medication to work. The time needed for a dog to be on medication for the disseminated form is usually a much longer period.

The **Valley Fever Center for Excellence**, located at the **University of Arizona** in Tucson, was established to address the problems caused by the fungus, *Coccidioides*, the cause of coccidioidomycosis (valley fever). Two-thirds of all infections in the United States occur in Arizona, mostly in the urban areas surrounding Phoenix and Tucson. The **Center's** mission is to mobilize resources for the eradication of valley fever through: 1) the development of public awareness and education about valley fever; 2) the promotion of high-quality care for patients with valley fever; and 3) the pursuit and encouragement of research into all aspects of *Coccidioides* species and the diseases that it causes.

A study by the **Valley Fever Center for Excellence** and supported by the **Valley Fever Vaccine Project of the Americas** found that:

- Dogs that spent 80% of their time outside were 5 times as likely to be infected as those who spent their time indoors.
- Dogs that were taken outside for walks had a decreased incidence of the infection if walked on sidewalks.

**AGR** feels that all dogs going to their forever homes should be given the best chance to have a long and healthy life. While we cannot predict or account for health issues that develop after a dog is adopted, by doing blood work (which includes valley fever testing and a snap test for heartworm and tick fever), vaccines, a complete health exam and treatment of any injury or condition a dog initially brings into rescue, **AGR** gives adopted dogs a solid chance for a happy, healthy life.

#### *A Vaccine to Give Hope for the Devastation of Valley Fever*

Each year many dogs are lost or crippled by valley fever (VF). Owners can spend thousands on medication and veterinary care if their dogs contract the disease. Researchers at the **University of Arizona** have already created a vaccine that has given protection to tested mice from lethal doses of valley fever. The next step is to proceed to testing in dogs and develop a usable vaccine just like there are ones for distemper, parvo and rabies.

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, Lisa Shubitz, DVM, presented information on the development of a VF vaccine and also on T-cell testing to determine a dog's own immunity to the disease. The treatment of choice now for VF is fluconazole, an anti-fungal medication that inhibits the growth of the fungus in the dog until the dog's immune system can counteract and destroy it. At that point the dog is immune if the dog's T-cells retain their "memory" for the fungal spores. This is also true for humans – same medicine, same immune response. Unfortunately, dogs are at greater risk for complications due to the disease than are humans: 25% in canines vs 1% - 5% in humans.

Researchers used a live mutant strain of *Coccidioides* (VF spores) that has had a gene removed so the spores are rendered harmless and cannot cause the disease but still can provoke an immune response in the dog. This has been called delta CPS1. Specially-bred mice (\$35/mouse) without immune systems were used for the various tests. These mice were given 10 to 100 times the lethal dose of the vaccine and did not get sick, so the researchers learned that the vaccine will not cause VF. The second part of the research involved vaccinating mice and then infecting them with the virulent form of VF. A comparison was done with a placebo and previous protective substances. The mice with the vaccine had much lower incidences of VF.

More research needs to be done – larger studies with mice and then with dogs. Research must also be done to develop tests to measure the immune response to the vaccine in dogs. Formulation of a vaccine that is shelf stable and easy to administer, licensing, and studies in dogs that receive the vaccine are in the future. Estimates are 12 to 18 months in time and \$2 to \$2.5 million dollars to continue and finish the research. Questions still to be answered: When to vaccinate? How long does the immunity last? Must there be boosters? Will all dogs respond?

The T-cell study is a companion study (small sample size right

now) to see if the immune response is the same in all dogs. The results could be predictive of which dogs must stay on fluconazole long term and which dogs can control the infection on their own. The immune system has two aspects: antibody response and T-cell response. Antibodies fight off bacteria and viruses; T-cells secrete interferon that destroys cells “remembered” by the memory T-cells. The results of this small study have shown that some dogs’ T-cells respond even if the dog did not have VF before, some dogs’ T-cells respond that had VF (they “remembered”) and some dogs who had VF still fail to have T-cell response.

To theorize on what this means: some dogs buoyed by medication have a powerful immune response and fight off the disease and become immune. Other dogs without an appropriate immune response do not seem to get better, or even have higher titer levels when retested. Such dogs may need to remain on medication for the rest of their lives.

The best medication for VF right now is human-grade Diflucan, since FDA regulations ensure the actual manufactured dosage must be within 98% of the stated dosage. Compounded fluconazole has more variability and is not regulated, so it can be 50% to 80% of the stated dosage. Prices for both are extremely high right now, especially for Diflucan.

*Arizona Golden Rescue* tests all rescued dogs for VF. Even if the level is 1:2 (lowest possible exposure titer), a dog is retested 1 to 3 months later to ensure that the titer level does not rise. If the level is still 1:2, the dog’s immune system is working. If the titer goes up, medication is prescribed. Each test costs *AGR*, an average of \$97.

To help support this valuable research, a tax-deductible donation can be made by credit card or check. By credit card, go to [www.vfce.arizona.edu](http://www.vfce.arizona.edu) and click on “give today”. By check, mail to *Valley Fever Center for Excellence*, P.O. Box 245215, Tucson, AZ 85724 (EIN 86-6050388) and make payable to *University of Arizona Foundation*, memo line Canine Vaccine.

The above information is a summary of a lecture given by Lisa Shubitz, DVM, *University of Arizona* Researcher and Veterinarian, that Linda Knight and I attended on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The “Canine Valley Fever Vaccine Lecture” was sponsored by the *Arizona Victims of Valley Fever* and the *Valley fever Center for Excellence*. The *Mustang Public Library* in Scottsdale hosted the event. For more information, email [vfever@email.arizona.edu](mailto:vfever@email.arizona.edu) or [www.arizonavictimsofvalleyfever.org/canine-valley-fever-vaccine.html](http://www.arizonavictimsofvalleyfever.org/canine-valley-fever-vaccine.html).

### Vetting and Vets

By Liz Tataseo, AGR Health Care Manager  
[five.goldens@yahoo.com](mailto:five.goldens@yahoo.com)

When we are out in public collecting donations or doing major fundraising, we always say it is for the dogs! That money does go directly to vet costs to make sure each dog is as healthy as possi-

ble, so that they can be happy and healthy in their forever homes. We are able to work with several great animal hospitals that give us discounts so that we can pursue needed vetting for each dog.

Our veterinarians include *Four-Legged Friends Animal Hospital* in Phoenix – Dr. Valerie Ferguson has worked with us since the beginning; *Kennel Care* in Chandler, which has cared for many of our very sick dogs for almost 8 years; *Animal Medical & Surgical Center* in Scottsdale is a state-of-the-art hospital and their vets have saved many of our dogs; *Raintree Medical Center and Resort* in Scottsdale, which joined us in the last two years; *Stetson Hills Animal Hospital*, which has served our North Valley; and *Academy West Animal Hospital* in Glendale, which has given us the security of both boarding and vetting, especially with emergency intakes. We also occasionally work with vets in Flagstaff, Prescott, Sierra Vista, Tucson and Yuma. If you live in one of these outlying areas and need a recommendation for a vet, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

We also have partnerships with many specialists: *Animal Health Institute – Companion Animal Clinic at Midwestern University*, *Arizona Dental Specialists*, *Arizona Oncology*, *Dermatology for Animals*, *EyeCare for Animals*, *VetCare Internal Medicine*, *VetMed* (internal medicine and emergency services) and *Veterinary Neurological Center*, to name a few.

The basic vetting we do for each dog during the initial three-week foster period is:

- health exam
- valley fever test (normally not done on a puppy under 6 months of age)
- heartworm test (normally not done on a puppy under 6 months of age); heartworm prevention medication provided to adopters for two months
- rabies and distemper/parvo vaccinations if not current
- leptospirosis vaccine series (2 injections 3 weeks apart)
- bordatella vaccine if staying at the vet for more than an appointment, or if beginning obedience training at a facility (*Partners*, *Master’s Kennels*, *PetSmart*, *Petco*)
- spay or neuter (normally we recommend neutering and spaying at about 10 months)
- implantation of an AVID microchip
- fecal if indicated by dog’s history (e.g., shelter dogs or dogs kept outside), appearance of stool, or if dog is a puppy
- senior panel if over 8 yrs of age
- ear infections, lumps, bumps, physical issues and preexisting conditions will also be addressed during the exam

If warranted by the exam, dogs may be referred to a specialist for follow-up and treated for the condition. Financial coverage for follow-up exams and treatments needed for any ongoing illness or condition will be included for three months after finalization of the adoption.

In order for **AGR** to get the basic vetting done for each dog, two different avenues exist. If the dog comes from a shelter or is an emergency intake, the dog will, in the majority of those cases, go to one of our veterinarians first before being placed in their forever home. If an intake is a regular intake from a surrendering owner, the dog will most likely be placed in its new home first and the new family will take the dog to one of our veterinarians through a regular appointment, at their convenience, within the first few days the dog is in their home. **AGR** will be responsible for all vet bills until an adoption is finalized.

Each animal hospital has a dedicated **AGR** volunteer who coordinates vetting between the family and the veterinarian and is available for follow-up and any needed questions the family may have about the health of their dog. The Health Care Manager is also available to do follow-up or to answer questions regardless of the veterinarian being seen.

Health Care Manager: Liz Tataseo

<u>Animal Hospital</u>	<u>AGR Liaison for that vet</u>
<b>Academy West</b>	Liz Tataseo
<b>Animal Medical &amp; Surgical Center</b>	Chris Spiel
<b>Four-Legged Friends</b>	Amy Maynard
<b>Kennel Care</b>	Teri Guilbault
<b>Raintree Pet Resort &amp; Medical Center</b>	Liz Tataseo
<b>Stetson Hills</b>	Liz Tataseo
All specialist & outlying-area vets	Liz Tataseo

We would not be able to do what we do for all our dogs were it not for the sizable discounts these vets give us. They help in a huge way to help us give our dogs a second chance at a great life. We sincerely thank them for their service and encourage you to use one of them as your regular vet.

### *Snake-Avoidance Training*

Every year thousands of dogs are bitten by rattlesnakes. We have already had two reports of **AGR** members' dogs getting bitten right in their back yards. Most dogs will survive, but the pain to your dog and the cost to your wallet are immeasurable. Despite the prevalence of rattlesnakes in Arizona, many vets do not carry the antivenin. If they do carry it, it will cost \$600 or more per vial; usually a dog will need two or more vials, and **AMSC** has related to us that one dog they treated required eight vials! And then, of course, you have additional costs for IV fluids, emergency care and the like. It is expensive to treat a snake bite! Much, much less expensive to get your dog trained to avoid rattlesnakes! Dogs can be vaccinated against snake bites. The vaccine does not cure the dog if it is bitten. Also, the vaccine does not prevent a bite or prevent a reaction to a bite, it only reduces the intensity of the

#### **AGR's Wonderful Veterinarians**

**Academy West Animal Hospital**, 6231 W. Bell Road  
Glendale, AZ 85308 602-938-8650; M - F 8 AM - 5:30 PM,  
Sat 8 AM - 3 PM, closed Sundays; boarding available

**Animal Medical & Surgical Center**, 17477 N. 82nd St.,  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255 480-502-4400; M - Sat 7 AM - 7 PM;  
Sun 8 AM - 5 PM; extended emergency hours daily until 11  
PM; veterinary nurse on duty 24/7/365; boarding available

**Four Legged Friends Animal Hospital**, 3131 E. Thunder-  
bird Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85032 602-787-0015; M, W, F 7 AM  
- 5:30 PM, Tu & Th 8:30 AM - 7 PM, Sat 8 AM - 1 PM,  
closed Sundays

**Kennel Care Veterinary Hospital**, 6277 W. Chandler Blvd  
Chandler, AZ 85226 480-940-0066; M - F 7 AM - 6 PM, Sat  
8 AM - 2 PM, closed Sundays; boarding available

**Stetson Hills Animal Hospital**, 3870 W. Happy Valley Rd.,  
Ste. 126, Glendale, AZ 85310 623-889-7090; M & Th 8 AM  
- 6:30 PM; Tu, W & F, 8 AM - 5:30 PM; Sat 8:30 AM - noon

**Raintree Pet Resort & Medical Center**, 8215 E. Raintree  
Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85260 480-991-3371; M - F 7 AM - 6  
PM, Sat 7 AM - noon; Sun pick-ups only, Med Center closed

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Take your dog to your vet for an annual check-up. A relatively little money will be much better spent on preventative measures than a few thousand on a cure if a problem is discovered!

reaction and slows down the damaging affect of the venom in your dog, thus buying you some time to get your dog to a vet for treatment. Also, treatment for a bite will not be as costly because not as much antivenin will be necessary to counteract the effects of the bite. Dog owners whose property backs up to a preserve or open desert area should seriously consider getting their dog(s) snake-avoidance trained and getting this vaccination.

**Where can you get snake-avoidance training?**

**Partners Dog Training School**, 4640 E Forest Pleasant Place, Cave Creek; cost for a first-time session is \$89 per dog; if you have multiple dogs, the cost would be \$79 for each other dog. If you have snake trained your dog with them before, the cost is \$69 per dog. **480-595-6700 [www.snakeproofing.com](http://www.snakeproofing.com)**

**ViperVoidance**, 43226 N. 7th Ave., New River; \$80 per dog includes 1 retest within 30 days; **480-215-1776 [www.vipervoidance.com](http://www.vipervoidance.com)**

*The Importance of Exercise*

By Peter Wong



Physical exercise is vital for your dog's health. There are far too many dogs suffering not just from being overweight, but from obesity. A dog's health condition is related to the health condition and attitude of its owner. Is the owner health conscious? Does the owner suffer from any health issues such as high blood pressure? Is the owner over-

weight? Does the owner consume a poor diet or just not exercise due to plain laziness? For the sake of your dog's health, please make every effort to set up a daily routine in which your dog is exercised. Walk or run, or better yet, use a bicycle in which the dog is running alongside with the leash attached to the handle bar. Thirty or more minutes twice daily would be excellent. Of course, don't do too much at first – take time to increase the duration



and distance. My dog **Billie** looks forward to our daily exercise sessions. The sessions average up to 2 hours daily. They satisfy her need for exercise. She is not an idle dog, and she would not be happy sitting around with nothing to do – this would be no life for her. She is a high-drive dog that must be active: daily exercise and daily training are what make her happy. Start today to better your dog's health. Exercising with your dog will, in the long run, develop a deep bond between the two of you. Start now!



**Health Tip: Play with Your Dog!**

Canines receive stimulation and exhibit behaviors from different contexts – predation, aggression, reproduction. Neuro-psychologist Stephen Siviy determined that play affects the brain's level of a protein associated with the growth of nerve cells, possibly enhancing creativity. So, play with your dog, and stimulate his brain power!



*Meet-and-Greets at Petco*

By Liz Tataseo

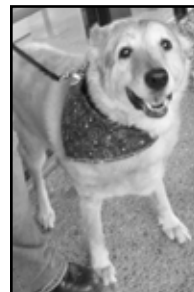
April, May and June, 2017

The first two months this quarter were pretty good donation-wise because we were still set up outside, and we get more traffic in front of the store. In April we collected \$96, and in May we collected \$92. We were inside in June (very, very hot) and pulled in only \$37. But we did have people ask about adoption and pet the dogs. One couple even saw our sign while driving through the parking lot and came into the store especially to see the dogs.



Dean with Missy; Connie with Brando and Grizzly; Liz with Reba and Emma; Patrick Doyle; Rebecca and Dustin with Sadie, Duffy and Vin; and Chris with Jack and Nash

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, we had a great mixture of Golden Retrievers and Golden mixes to entice the public to visit and donate. Join-



Sadie was a little nervous at this event, her first Meet-and-Greet, but she did well

ing **Reba**, **Emma** and me were Patrick Doyle, Rebecca and Dustin Mackerman with foster **Sadie**, Connie McCabe with **Grizzly** for a little while, Dean Mortimore with **Missy**, Deb Orwig with **Duffy** and **Vin**, Chris Spiel with **Jack** and **Nash**, and recently-rescued older boy **Brando** for a brief visit. We were also entertained for a while by Peter Wong and his very-well-trained



Vin greeting Emma

German Shepherd Dog **Nico**. Deb did the set-up, because I had another commitment that kept me away until around 1:30 PM. When I arrived with **Reba** and **Emma**, everyone rushed to greet us!

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, I was joined by my girls **Reba** and **Emma** plus Cassie Barnett, Patrick Doyle, Sheila Joyce with **Charlie** and Deb Orwig with **Vin** and her boarder **Shelby Ball**. A small crew but we did well! **Emma** looked ravishing in her new bright pink donation vest that Deb made for her. She also has since made her a ban-





Emma Tataseo is a black Goldendoodle who will now be sporting a bright pink donation vest at events

danna with her name inside a frilly heart – no one will ever again ask if she is a male dog!

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, we had to go inside due to the high temperatures outside. **Reba** and **Emma** wore their boots to walk on the asphalt, while others just drove up to the

store front and dropped off their dogs so they didn't have to walk on the hot stuff. **Petco** has always been very accommodating and moved displays around so



Reba Tataseo wearing booties



Sandra Hansen took charge of Duffy Orwig during the June Meet-and-Greet; there are usually "extra" dogs brought by one or more volunteers that dogless people can handle

we could be right up front where people could see us when entering the store. Joining my girls and me were Cassie Barnett; Patrick Doyle, who helped meet dogs that were dropped off up front; Sandra Hansen; Sheila Joyce with **Charlie** and **Willow**; and Deb Orwig with **Duffy** and **Vin**. We met several dogs who were participating in a training class at that time, and they wanted to come over and say hello, a good social opportunity for all!



Meet-and-Greets at PetSmart

By Connie McCabe

91<sup>st</sup> Ave., Peoria

For photos from the Meet-and-Greets and all other **AGR** events, go to our website homepage and click on Events, then Gallery. You may also see most of them on the **AGR** Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/124724086406/>

Please consider stopping by a Meet-and-Greet close to you to meet your fellow **AGR** members. Everyone is welcome, and it is a great way to socialize your dogs and meet the public, too! And the more people and dogs that are there, the more foot traffic is drawn to us for even more contact and donations.

It was a beautiful day Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Peoria **PetSmart** Meet-and-Greet. We had a fun time together, even though it was a slow day. The weather



Chris Spiel, Patrick Doyle, Mary Engstrom, Fred and Jill Prose, Karen Davis and Sheila Joyce with Nash, Jack, Autumn, Jasper, Teddy, Caesar, Star, and Charlie



Jack and Nash Spiel

was perfect, which may be why the crowds were off doing something else (maybe participating in Easter egg hunts?). Thank you to Nick for taking everything over and setting it up while I followed up later with **Teddy** in tow. We were joined by Karen Davis with **Caesar** and

**Star**; Patrick Doyle; Mary Engstrom with **Autumn**; Sheila Joyce with **Charlie**; Deb Orwig with



Vin says, Aw Duffy, leave the bunny ears on, they look cute!

**Duffy** and **Vin**; Fred and Jill Prose with **Jasper**; and Chris Spiel with **Jack** and **Nash**. The dogs really seemed to enjoy showing off their Easter ears and socializing.



Jasper: I feel pretty, oh so pretty...

May and June were too hot to hold Meet-and-Greets outside, and we will probably not resume them at this location until September or October. Please check the website, watch your email for **AGR** event reminders, or follow us on Facebook to see the next scheduled event here.

**Coming Soon!**  
**2018**  
**Touch of Gold**  
**Calendar with a**  
**stunning full-**  
**color photo of**  
**17-017 Copper**  
**in Sedona on**  
**the cover.**





## Golden Hearts



We are so grateful to everyone who has given us their support. You all truly have hearts of gold! All donations to **AGR** are tax deductible. The donations shown below were made between May 6, 2017 and July 10, 2017. We sincerely apologize if any donors have been omitted. PLEASE NOTE: All donors who make donations during 2017 will receive an acknowledgment letter in January 2018, unless a receipt for taxes is requested sooner.

*General Donations from the Heart*

John Courtney	Kelly and Jeff Gorski	Geraldine McHugh
Andrea Decker	Marti Joyce	Sharon and Philip Wieser
Mary Dunnill		

*Corporate Donors and Sponsors**AmazonSmile Foundation**American Express Charitable Fund**American Express Company Employee Giving Program**Anchor Promotional, LLC**Bank of America Charitable Foundation**Charitable Adult Rides & Services, Inc.**East Valley Pet Doors, LLC (Hale Pet Door)**Great American Title Agency**Kroger (Fry's Grocery)**The Benevity Causes Portal**Diamond Donors*

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Beverly Host

*Diamond Donors for 17-032 Brando*

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Barbara Lazzaretti

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Judy Petitto

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*Team Up For Tucson – Michele Ochoaski*

*Diamond Donors for 16-082 Rudy*  
**Golden Rescue in Naples, Inc.**

**Phoenix Animal Care Coalition – Lulu's Angel Fund**

*Diamond Donor for 17-015 Sadie*

Cara Holland and Jack Craven

*Diamond Donor for 17-025 Gypsy*

Teresa DuMarce

*Diamond Donor for 17-035 Cocobean*

Christine Simon

*Diamond Donors for 17-037 Sugar*

Cheryl and Stephen Kacy

*Diamond Donor to help Diamonds in the Ruff Dogs*

Karen and Phil Davis

*Fashion Paw-Tea Donors*

Adam Cardinal

April Crow

Patrick Doyle

Mary and Bert Engstrom

Shelly Forstrom

Carol Gora

Teri and Jeff Guilbault

Jodi and Jay Koblick

Deb and Larry Orwig

*Grants**Phoenix Animal Care Coalition (PACC911)**Golden Retriever Foundation's April Fund*

*to help with medical expenses of*  
*16-068 Harvey, 16-079 Molly, and 16-074 Calvin*

*Thank You Donations*

*To Adam Cardinal for setting up my external hard drive*  
Deb Orwig

*To Sharon McKenzie for behavior evaluation and training tips*  
*for 17-027 Dusty*

Lenni and Steve Wilson

*To Deb Orwig for providing vacation dog care for Shelby*  
Debbie and Rick Ball

*To Deb Orwig for providing vacation dog care for Aspen*  
Jackie and Jim Dyer

*Honorary Donations**In Honor of 11-017 Bela*

Hannah Selznick

*In Honor of 12-027 Bentley*

Bruce Bouldin and Nicholas Yale

*In Honor of 15-094 Rosie*

Nancy and Al Ward

*In Honor of 17-042 Jessie*

Jacquelyn and Michael McWatters

*In Honor of 17-027 Dusty and the AGR staff*

Lenni and Steve Wilson

*Memorial Donations**In Memory of All 2nd Quarter Bridge Dogs including:*

<i>10-031 Tessa Joyce</i>	<i>17-001 Abby Ensminger / Durgan</i>	
<i>11-066 Luke Blue</i>	<i>Bella Anderson</i>	
<i>13-006 Sammy</i>	<i>Mocha Carson</i>	<i>Suri Holland / Craven</i>
<i>McCabe / Dodson</i>	<i>Miller Fannin</i>	<i>Jake Link</i>
<i>14-022 Sadie Stolcis</i>	<i>Teddy Greff</i>	<i>Rocky Pulis</i>
<i>16-063 Roxy Janes</i>	<i>Sadie Harrington</i>	<i>Nugget Spehar</i>

Teri and Jeff Guilbault

Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson

Deb and Larry Orwig

Liz Tataseo

*Memberships - New Advanced-Level Supporters***COPPER (\$50)**

Kathy Blue

Nancy and Jeff Harwin

Jo and Rod Lewis

Nancy and Terry Luchi

Amy Maynard and Steve Deshler

Jean and Bernie Quick

Hillary Wilson and Jayson Stephens

Kathi and Bob Youhas

**AMBER (\$100)**

Teddi and Delwin Axne

Darlene Kaminski and

Betsy and Fred Brown

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Joyce and Ron Moser

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Jessica and G. Wayne Neill

Tracie and Richard Freeland

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Shelly Forstrom

Sharon and Philip Wieser

Sandy and Gary Fullington

**TOPAZ (\$250)**

Ben Hartman

**PEARL (\$500)**

Julie and Kory Kosier

*Thanks Also To:**To Deb Orwig for caring for Sky*

Betty Thompson

*To Cindy and Gary Tigges for providing vacation care for Kory*

Leslie Carson

*To those AGR Members who have set up a monthly donation through their bank, payroll deductions or PayPal:*

Stephanie Beard Mary and Ken Richardson

Judy Petitto Liz Tataseo

*To Nicholas Yale and Bruce Bouldin for making a generous donation on behalf of 12-027 Bentley for every real estate closing they do**In Memory of Jake Link*

Margaret and Guy Link

*In Memory of 10-031 Tessa Joyce*

Debbie and Rick Ball

Mary and Bert Engstrom

Teri and Jeff Guilbault

Sheila Joyce

Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson

Patty and Tom Morris

Deb and Larry Orwig

Liz Tataseo

*In Memory of 13-006 Sammy McCabe / Dodson*

Debbie and Rick Ball

Karen and Phil Davis

Teri and Jeff Guilbault

Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson

Deb and Larry Orwig

Jill and Fred Prose

Liz Tataseo

*In Memory of Miles Morrocco*

Cynthia Wenström and Mike Lane

*In Memory of Bella, Orejon and Max*

Shelly Anderson

*In Memory of Mary Jo Courtney*

John Courtney

Other Donors listed in May 2017 issue

Several Anonymous Donors

*In Memory of Ron Lagerman*

Kathy Blue

Teri and Jeff Guilbault

Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson

Deb and Larry Orwig

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