

SEASON'S GREETINGS

(Thanks to Gill Grinstead for this photo of Woody)



Yes Father Christmas really does come down the chimney!

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

***From the Trustees and Co-ordinators
of***

SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE

*(Registered Charity Number 1098769)
PO Box 112, Cranbrook, Kent. TN17 3RB*

GOLDEN MOMENTS ISSUE 9

Another busy year is coming to an end and we hope you and your dogs enjoy the festive season. Remember to keep the rich food to a minimum for your dogs, and keep them away from the dangers of Christmas trees and decorations, which they seem to find particularly chewable!

We hope those of you who came to our Fun Days enjoyed themselves. It's always a great reward for us to see you and your dogs in the Parade. Those who were invited to the Hampshire day had the opportunity to enter a photographic competition, and this will be extended to the eastern contingent in the summer, when the categories will again be "Christmas Time" and "Summer Fun". The competition was judged by the Chairman of the Southern Golden Retriever Society, Mrs Sue Pounds-Longhurst, and the photo and full details will appear in the summer Newsletter, but the winners were Mr & Mrs Leggatt with their delightful photo of "Meg and Kym", so congratulations to them. As all the entries were in the "Summer Fun" category we hope you get your cameras out over the Christmas period so we have more variety for Sue to judge.

Please go on sending us your stories about your dogs, and let us know if they gain any awards. We always love to hear about them.

Amazing Peppy

(From Linda and Bob Crowley)

Hi, we thought it was time we introduced you to our dear Peppy. Although why I say dear Peppy I don't know. She's lively, runs at a hundred miles an hour anywhere she chooses, rolls in anything disgusting and comes back wagging her tail as though she's just found some Chanel No 5. She's perfect in the house, so loving and obedient and will sit or lie for hours if you're rubbing her belly or under her chin.

We rescued her 18 months ago because the family had to take in the Mother, (Peppy's owner), as she had had an accident and had broken both her legs and couldn't cope with Peppy on her own. The family refused to take Peppy in as well so she was left outside the house until Wendy Mercer could find her a home.



We had lost our beloved Sophie that week. We rescued her at the age of 13 years, two years previously through Wendy, but when she phoned and told us about Peppy we agreed to keep her for the weekend. That was 18 months ago and she is still with us! We have another Golden Retriever called Hoby who we had when he was 8 weeks old, and he's just turned 13 years. He and Peppy get on so well, they often rough and tumble together. We live near the beach so they have their walks there everyday. Peppy can run there till her hearts content and Hoby trots along at his own pace.

We've enclosed a picture of Peppy. She's about 7 years old now, but if you look closely at the picture you will see (as we mentioned all the running) she only has three legs. She lost her left back leg, we don't know how, but we believe it was when she was a pup. We mention this as an afterthought because we keep forgetting her lost limb as she copes so well without it and doesn't seem to miss it.

In closing we would just like to say we've had retrievers from puppies, we had Sophie who was old, and now Peppy who is disabled, and we can say they have all been very special to us in their own way. We've loved them all equally and in return have had joy and love from them.

Julius (otherwise known as Jules to my friends)

(Julius was adopted by Anne & David Attfield when his first owner became very ill)

Well it was my 2nd birthday on 22nd May and I have been with my family since I was 5 months old. I was only supposed to stay for 1 week until my new home was ready to receive me. My previous owner offered my kennel to my new family but luckily they refused, saying that they did not think that they would use it as they liked their dogs to be indoors with them. This was music to my ears, as being so young I craved company and warmth.

I was not very well the first night I arrived, I was sick and had diarrhoea, not a good first impression, but the lady did not scold me, in fact she gave me lots of cuddles, and kind words. But the next morning she put me in her car and I thought oh oh! Where am I going now? She took me to another stranger who prodded, poked, and looked in every conceivable orifice, and then stuck a needle in me (not very friendly). But a couple of days later I felt so much better, and decided to explore my new surroundings, such as the nice bouncy things humans call armchairs and sofas.

I realised that I was not the only 4-legged animal in this family, there was another Retriever called Bailey, much bigger than me, but very soft natured, and he kindly let me have all his toys (well I don't think he had much choice really, I am quite dominant). There are also 2 horses in a lovely big field that we visit every day, and sometimes go out for walks with them. But a funny thing happens, the humans sit on them (thank goodness they do not do that to us smaller ones!)

Anyway, feeling so much better I then wanted to show these people how much fun I could be, so I charged around the house picking up toys, socks, hankies, shoes, anything in my reach. The post was favourite, it made lovely noises as it fell apart in my mouth.

The family thought that I was quite a handful, and may be a problem with a different family, so asked Retriever Rescue if I could possibly stay with them, and luckily they said yes. I have calmed down a bit, but would not like to be too boring, you have to keep these humans on their toes. But in return I take my place in bed at night with Bailey and my friend Anne, who sometimes is not well, so I keep her company then, giving her cuddles and love. My man friend David has to sleep in the other room, because he will not fit in the bed as well. I give lots of love, and in return get lots back. So thank you Retriever Rescue from both Jules and his family.



Update on Diseases of Travelling Pets

One of our readers who emigrated to Spain in January 2003 has sent us some further information on this subject, as the advice she had from her English vet. was not the same as their local one in Spain. She is willing to recommend her vet for anyone visiting the Costa del Sol, (contact details can be obtained from Gillian Robinson on 01580 752210) and gives the following advice:

“We use the following: a scalibor collar changed every three months to help give some protection against Leishmania (making sure they have a brand new collar in May for the start of the bad mosquito season); Stronghold administered every month; and most importantly the dogs must be kept indoor during the dusk and darkness hours. This means no open windows or doors during that time. Mosquitoes must be eliminated from the house and the dogs are only allowed out for a short time then to relieve themselves if necessary. It goes without saying that we give the dogs their normal booster vaccinations plus the rabies booster.”

Monty

(Monty was re-homed when his first owner died and her husband had Parkinsons Disease and couldn't cope)



Monty was in a very poor state and filthy. When he was last seen by a Vet two years ago, he had wet eczema caused by a flea infestation which had been untreated. By the time he came into Rescue he had a bald patch on his shoulder so it was suspected he had mange, and he had been wearing a plastic head collar for over a year. When this was taken off he was in a terrible state underneath where it had been.

Monty was fostered and treatment for his skin problems was started, and he was then re-homed to a family who love him dearly. He will probably always have trouble with his skin, but at least now it is treated when necessary.



Grief in Dogs

(Handy Hints from the Cinnamon Trust Magazine)

Pets do grieve- in our experience sometimes more for an animal friend than a human. We always give the Bach Flower Remedy for grief, Star of Bethlehem and the homoeopathic remedy Ignatia to all residents (dogs and cats) when they first arrive for about three weeks – even if they seem to be absolutely fine. We also give to “best friends”. When we know in advance the time is coming for one of them, we start the remedies for the one who’ll be left. And for a sudden death, we start them right away, of course, and always continue for 3-4 weeks. It works!

News of Katie
(From Ann & Michael Coker)

Given that it is a bit of a milestone we thought you might like to see photos of Katie taken at the time of her 14th birthday!

She came to us as a tearaway of the age of 15 months nearly 13 years ago, and terrorised dear old Ben and most of the local canine population, especially black Labradors. Now look at the docile elderly lady, in close proximity to our daughter's black Labrador Max – mind you it has taken a fair chunk of his 4 years to reach this stage!



Anyway, we are pleased to report that despite her advancing years her general health remains fine. A couple of years ago she needed some teeth removed, and her back legs are rather stiff, and sometimes fail her. But otherwise her appetite is as good as ever and she still looks for her morning and evening walks, even though they are now at a sedate pace and for limited length.

More from Manu



Manu was mentioned in Issue 7 of our Newsletter, when he had changed from being the destructive, very insecure dog he was when Sarah and Graham Smith first adopted him, to a happy confident dog starting to work in competitive obedience. He continues to work well but, in view of his love of showing off his retrieve, has yet to be in the cards. However, he thoroughly enjoys working with Sarah, as this photo, taken by Stuart Weller at the SGRS show in March, shows.

This story about Manu is interesting because it illustrates how important it is to get the right dog into the right home. He is obviously a bright dog and was in a home where he had no socialisation or stimulation, so became very withdrawn. Sarah gave him plenty of attention and something to occupy his brain and he has become a completely different dog.

Moving House

Moving house can be a very stressful time for our pets as well as ourselves! There is a leaflet on this subject which was put together jointly by Bishop's Move and the Blue Cross, and can be downloaded from www.bishopsmove.com but following the tips below before you move may be useful.

- Keep your routine as normal as possible and give your dog extra attention to reassure him
- Don't forget to change the address on your dog's collar tag and microchip database
- Ask your vendors or new neighbours to recommend a Vet
- Check your new garden to make sure there are no gaps in the fencing
- If your dog is travel sick don't feed it for 12 hours prior to the journey, but take water and some bland food with you, and make sure the car is well ventilated
- On moving day keep your dogs in one room or leave them with a friend while the furniture is being taken out of the house
- Keep your dog on a lead for at least two weeks in a new area unless it is extremely well trained
- Consider buying a British Standards approved dog harness for safety in the car
- Introduce your dog to the neighbours and postman etc. as soon as possible after moving

Sad Goodbye

(Shirley Midgley writes)

Sorry to let you know that we had to let Paddy go. The vet put him on steroids but didn't hold out any hope. He lost control of his bowels and finally collapsed outside the back door. It was the hardest decision I have ever had to make. Paddy really got under my skin – he was very demanding and always by my side. He was my “sweet P”.

It didn't matter that we only had him a short time – he was one of the family and we felt as much for him as we would have done if we had had him as a puppy. So thank you for giving us the pleasure of his company.

