

GOLDEN MOMENTS ISSUE 3

NEWSLETTER OF

SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE

(Registered Charity Number 1098769)

Dear friends of Rescue Dogs,

A very Happy Christmas from all of us in Rescue

We are glad that you enjoyed our last Newsletter enough to ask to receive future copies. We do need your contributions so if you have a story about your own Rescue Dog do let us have it, so we can share it with our other readers. Also, let us know if your dog has achieved any success, for instance with the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme, or in general obedience, agility or gundog training, or perhaps he or she is a PAT dog.

Our Rescue Scheme was started in 1979 when Brenda Lowe and Marigold Timson, who had been operating on their own initiative, persuaded the Southern Golden Retriever Society Committee to form a sub-committee for this purpose, and this was named the SGRS Welfare & Rescue Scheme. Brenda and Marigold were joined by Sheila Richards and myself, and following Marigold's decision that she could not cope with Rescue as well as being the Society's Secretary, Hilary Gibbs made up the foursome. We continued like this for many years, and about 100 dogs were re-homed each year. Sadly, Marigold, Sheila and Hilary are no longer with us, and Brenda decided a few years ago that she could no longer give the time, but we are very lucky to have a good team of co-ordinators, and are busier than ever! A few years ago it was decided that it would be beneficial to seek registration as a Charity, and this was finally achieved in July 2003. This meant a change of name, as Charity Commission rules required us to separate from the Society, but of course we continue our close links with the members who give us so much support.

Gillian Robinson



Keep your Golden happy and safe at Christmas

Christmas is a busy time for everybody, and can be quite stressful for our dogs, with its hustle and bustle, extra visitors and maybe noisy excited children, so try to have a quiet area where your dog can escape for some peace and quiet, away from exploding crackers and party poppers. Try to keep to his normal routine for feeding and exercise, and ration the treats to avoid tummy upsets.

There are also some possible dangers at this time so here are a few things to consider:

- Christmas decorations such as tree baubles, tinsel and streamers can be quickly chewed and swallowed with disastrous results, and trees can be knocked over, so don't leave your dog unattended where he can get at these things.
- Chocolate of the human variety can be fatal to dogs if enough is eaten, as it contains Theobromine (see the article on cocoa mulch). Doggie chocs are the safest option.
- Never let your dog have the bones from the turkey, as these could splinter and pierce his stomach or intestines.
- It is a good idea to keep pets out of the kitchen when you are cooking or baking for the festivities ahead. When you are dashing around they can easily be burnt, scalded or trodden on.

- At Christmas we have many plants in our homes that we don't usually have, such as mistletoe, holly, poinsettias, Christmas cherry etc. The berries from these are poisonous so make sure you pick them up when they drop.
- Finally, have your Vet's emergency number available, as well as their holiday cover arrangements, as these may be quite different from what you are used to.



“Golf Balls - A Cautionary Tale” from Colin Chapman

Jack is an extremely fit and active 2½ year old Retriever, full of energy, lean and apparently without a care. However for the past seven months Jack had been vomiting. Not just occasionally but frequently enough and without warning.

He had been seen by two vets numerous times who had examined him thoroughly. They concentrated on manual examination of his stomach, various medications, a blood test and several dietary plans. Nothing seemed to work until finally in desperation even though they doubted it would show anything they took an x-ray.

Surprise surprise as clear as day, four golf balls! All tucked high up under Jack's ribs so that their manual examinations could not reveal them. An immediate operation and a 9 inch scar appeared to have solved the problem.

However, the real lesson is to avoid golf balls. They live next to the Golf course and Jack has always enjoyed rooting around to find the lost balls. Colin says he has found enough balls for him never to have to buy any even with his record for losing them!

What they didn't realise was that Jack was capable of swallowing not just one but four. They wish they had never let Jack play with golf balls.



A Warning to Gardeners

Cocoa Mulch, which is sold by many garden supply centres, contains a lethal ingredient called “Theobromine”. It is lethal to dogs and cats, and smelling of chocolate it particularly attracts dogs. They will ingest this stuff and die. Several deaths have occurred as a result of this commonly found product being left where dogs can find it so check what you are using in your garden. Theobromine is the ingredient used to produce all chocolate, especially dark, or bakers' chocolate, which is also toxic to dogs.

Many common garden plants are poisonous to dogs, some of them lethal. A complete list (so you can thoroughly frighten yourself) is available from **Dogs Trust** (formerly the National Canine Defence League), 17 Wakley Street, London, EC1V 7RQ or www.dogstrust.org.uk



HELLO I'M BUNTY

Dear Wendy brought me to Ringwood
To meet my new Mum and Dad.
When I first set eyes on them
I was very, very glad.

I was about 7 and very confused
And as they spoke about me I was too scared to intrude.
They were told my name was Punchy
Which didn't really suit.
So I became Bunty and in time became quite cute.

They took me home to rest a while
For about an hour I think.
I walked around then settled myself
And then had some food and drink.

Then off we went to Blandford
To meet Mum and Dad 2
They made a big fuss of me
And gave me nice things to chew.

Now we go every week to see them
And while there I'm allowed to roam
All around the house and garden
So you can see it's now my second home.

I'm braver now and growl at Rex
The big German Shepherd next door
Who pretends he's frightened and backs away
Then he comes back and gives me his paw.

I'm nearly 10 now but still full of fun.
I love playing games and also to run.
I've toys by the score but always like more,
So I'm happy as Larry and can't wish for more.

(By Poet Laughalot Bunty)



A "Dog" Quiz For Fun (Answers at end of Newsletter)

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1 | Wild hedgerow flower | 6 | Short nautical watches |
| 2 | Crumpled leaves in a book | 7 | A drudge |
| 3 | Worn by a clergyman | 8 | Very weary |
| 4 | Kind of small shark | 9 | Sirius |
| 5 | Two-wheeled driving vehicle | 10 | Unpoetic verse |



Paws in Winter

Most goldens love playing in the snow, and it's a joy to see them enjoying themselves. However, because of all the hairs they grow on their feet the snow tends to collect and form balls of ice which can be very painful for the dog. Trim the hair round the foot and underneath level with the pads, and draw up the long hair that grows between the claws and trim it off. If ice balls do form they can be melted using a hair drier on **low** heat. Keep it moving about six inches away from the pad until all the ice has melted.

If it has been icy and your dog has to walk on areas that have been salted, wash his feet with warm water when you get home to remove any salt that may have been picked up. Check to see if ice has cut or scraped the pads. If it has, apply a little antiseptic ointment to help prevent infection. Then rub on a little hand lotion or aloe vera to keep the pads soft.



Alfie and Jake

(Letters like this make those stressful days worthwhile)



Dear Pat and Peter,

I thought I would drop you a few lines as we were unable to attend the fun day. Alfie and Jake are great and I have enclosed a couple of photos. Jake is very loving but lively and harder to train than Alfie. Fred calls him Mr MacNaughty but he makes us all laugh and gives us plenty of exercise! Alfie is wonderful and adores Jake, everyone thinks they are related as they are so close to each other. I feel so lucky to have them both!

Things have changed at home as sadly my Dad died on New Years Eve. He was very ill the last few days but was able to stay at home. I think I told you Jake and my Dad were great friends and towards the end Jake stayed with him in his room and as he died Jake sat with his head resting on the end of the bed quietly watching. It was a very sad moment but just how my Dad would have chosen to go, at home with his children and pets. Both dogs got on the bed afterwards and it seemed they were

saying goodbye too.

Both the dogs got a mention at the funeral service as although we have not had them long they gave him so much pleasure and made his last months of ill health easier as he always had someone to talk to and they gave him something to talk about when people visited. It always amazed us that such young lively dogs behaved so well around him and gave him so much love. They were both quiet for a while after and would go in to his room every time I made a cup of tea expecting a biscuit off him! We all benefited from lots of long walks in the weeks that followed and are now planning the future. We are looking to move as we want a big garden for the dogs and are trying to find a house with a cottage to run as a dog friendly holiday let. We are looking in Cornwall and the Isle of Wight. It would be great to be near the sea as they both love being on the beach and running in the waves. I am terrible as I worry more about the dogs having a great place to live than practical things like is there a shop near by!

I hope you are both well and not too busy. Thanks again with your help in getting Alfie and Jake as they have brought us much fun and love over the last year as well as several holes in the garden!

Love from Sara Ellis

PS: I have just returned from walking them and after saying how good Alfie was he has just pinched and eaten someone's sandwiches in the park and Jake sat there looking the perfect behaved dog as Alfie totally ignored me as he ran off to eat the remains of his sandwich!



Move to the Country



Jed was re-homed with Mollie and Geoffrey Hearne as a result of a marriage break-up. He is now 6½ years old.

We first met Jed when he was fourteen months old and living in Streatham. He came to live with us in Earlswood and learnt all the joys of muddy ditches, rabbits and such like. His rare glimpse of a horse on Reigate Heath would cause him to leap about and bark madly.

Now we have moved to Hailsham and Jed still enjoys rabbits and ditches but he has found a new

delight, namely cows, and best of all fresh cow pats. He will roll in one and then run towards us with a look of absolute pleasure on his face. Horses on the other hand have become commonplace and he passes them now with hardly a glance. Each evening before we go to bed Jed has a routine trip into the garden. Often when we came to let him in we found the back door open and Jed in the kitchen. At first we thought it was because we had not closed the door properly, but we soon realised that he had learnt to jump up and hit the door handle and let himself in. Now he has perfected the technique, and given time he can open most doors in the house.

We have only been here for one year, so Jed is doing well, but we do wonder what he will learn next! A recently acquired feature of his life is that, every morning, he is served with weak warm tea, heavily laced with milk, in his habitual feeding bowl! He loves it!!



Winston

Winston had to be re-homed at the age of 12 as his elderly owners had to go into a home. He was grossly overweight, and was fostered for a while, and eventually re-homed to Mr & Mrs Derrick. With a sensible diet and games in the park they managed to get some weight off him, and gave him much love and care for nearly three years, during which time they describe him as displaying a lust for life, eating and sleeping well, enjoying being groomed and made a fuss of.

On the down side, he struggled at times to get up from lying down, was easily knocked off his balance, and couldn't negotiate steps, so Mr. Derrick made him a ramp so he could go in and out of the garden at will.

Sadly, Winston died last month, but the Derricks describe him as being a loveable old gentleman who was very much part of the family. They just wish they had had him longer.



Answers to the quiz

1) Dog Rose. (2) Dog Eared. (3) Dog Collar. (4) Dog Fish. (5) Dog Cart. (6) Dog Watch. (7) Dog's Body. (8) Dog Tired. (9) Dog Star. (10) Doggerel.

