

GOLDEN MOMENTS ISSUE 4

Newsletter of

SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE (Registered Charity Number 1098769)

Welcome to our first issue of 2005. We hope you find it both enjoyable and informative.

We had another busy year in 2004 (nothing new there then!), with 102 dogs being re-homed. Sadly, we seem to be getting more and more elderly and infirm dogs - it seems the "throw-away society" is growing more widespread. We are so lucky to have people who are willing to take them into their homes and love them in their later years. We have also had several less than a year old, and these can be difficult to rehome as they have often been given very little training.

We were happy to welcome many Rescue owners at the two Fun Days, despite the fact that the weather in Hampshire decided to let us down! The Parade of Rescue Dogs always brings a tear to many an eye, and we hope you all will always enjoy taking part. We are grateful to the Southern Golden Retriever Society for giving us part of the proceeds of their Fun Day, and to Farlington Dog Training Club for the proceeds of theirs, and also for the money they raised for us at their Companion Animal Show which they have done for us for many years, and for the proceeds of their coffee morning. Indeed, we are indebted to all those who raise money for us.

Don't forget to let us have your stories about your dogs, so we can all read about them in future Newsletters.

Gillian Robinson



Dogs in Cars

We hope you and your dogs have a happy summer, and remember, NEVER leave your dog in the car on a sunny day - the temperature inside the car very quickly becomes unbearable. This can also happen if you are stuck in a traffic jam, so make sure you have plenty of water with you, and some wet towels to cool your dog off if he or she becomes distressed. Putting wet towels in a plastic bag in the freezer overnight before you set off is a very good idea.



Dates for your Diary

12th June 2005 SGRS Fun Day, Potters Mede Centre, Borough Green, Kent

11th September 2005 Farlington Fun Day, Denmead Community Centre, Hampshire



Bonny's News

Dear Pat & Peter

It's time for my monthly letter. Joan and Les took me to the "Vets" this morning for my "Booster" and a healthcheck. The Vet said that I'm doing very well, even though I've put on a bit of weight. She recommended some pills so I'm now on "Rimadyl" which should help my arthritis (1 twice a day). I've got a week's trial and Joan will get some more if there is any improvement. I struggle a bit to roll over and sometimes when I get up, but with all the love and attention I get from both of them, I still think I'm in Heaven on Earth. Les says that I have helped him with the walking since he had his hip replacement. His doctor says he is doing very well as he doesn't even limp. The weather is getting better and it's very nice here today. Joan has had the kitchen door open all the time.

I'll close for now, hoping that you are both well. By the way we are going to Norfolk for a few days next month.

All my thanks, Bonny.

(Bonny was 13 on 1st January. Her owner died in December and a neighbour took her in for a short while, then we found her a foster home, who decided she was so loveable they would keep her!)



Beware the Dog Nappers

You may already be aware that Kent is one of the worst affected areas in the country for dog theft, although it does occur all over the country. Sometimes they are stolen from cars, sometimes they are lured away from their owners in public areas by tasty treats, sometimes they are stolen when tied up outside shops.

They may be stolen for breeding, or often they are snatched in order to hold their owners to ransom for their safe return. Try not to leave them unattended in a car, and never tie them up outside a shop.

It is a good idea to have your dog permanently identified by tattooing or micro-chipping, so you can be traced if they are recovered. For more information on this subject visit:-

www.doglost.co.uk

www.MissingPetsBureau.com



News from Amber

I thought you would like a photo of me with my new family. I have settled in so well. Mum says I have so many mannerisms of my predecessor Abby, it's uncanny. I now have all Abby's soft toys and I'm hardly ever without one in my mouth. My new sister, Sherry, doesn't bother with toys any more, so I don't pester her too much as she sleeps a lot now she's very old. Nobody believes I'm 5 - they all say how puppyish I am. I have lots of mad moments, especially with my balls. Trouble is I keep losing them!

My Vet has fallen in love with me and calls me his "sweetie". We've been on holiday this last week in our caravan. I love it here, especially in the river but I'm very frightened of the sea so we haven't been to the beach this week. I've learned to eat "dog" food - tinned and dried and don't need the grated cheese any more (but I still get it sometimes for a treat if I'm good). I've just started to sleep on my dog duvet which is much better than the door mat!

Lots of love from Amber xx



Pet Passports

If you are planning to take your dog abroad with you, you need to plan well ahead. In order to qualify for the Pet Travel Scheme, your pet must be permanently identified with a microchip and be vaccinated against rabies. However, you must allow at least 7 months from the date of the initial rabies vaccination before he or she can re-enter the UK under the Scheme and not have to go into quarantine.

Whilst travelling in foreign countries your pet may be exposed to certain diseases, which it would not normally expect to meet in this country. The most common of these are diseases caused by or transmitted by parasites such as heartworm, sandflies and ticks. Seek advice from your vet, as to what measures can be taken before, during and after travel to reduce the risk from these often fatal diseases.



Q What do you get when you cross a gundog with a telephone?

A A "Golden Receiver"



News from Fosters & Sandy

Dear Pat, I thought it about time you have another update on Fosters and Sandy. All is going well, with only minor hiccups. Both dogs are wonderfully well trained and obedient (except for Sandy when she is off the lead!). They are a joy to have in the house and absolutely no trouble at all.

They are both now fully vaccinated and “Chipped”. Our local vet is a Labrador man (he has 3) and declared them both “bomb-proof”. I’m not quite sure what that means, but I think he meant they were very healthy. He says that Fosters is absolutely fine, but Sandy needs to lose a little weight. I’ve cut her feed back a little to achieve this. They are walked twice a day round a big local field where the local “dog club” exercise their hounds. They have both made many new friends and have enjoyed chasing them for miles.

They have also discovered rabbits. Fosters in particular likes nothing better than running after them. He still cannot understand where they go to when they come to the holes in the ground. Sandy, on the other hand, is more cunning. She sits by the rabbit burrow and waits for them to come to her. She tried to dig one out yesterday and had to be hauled away covered in mud, much to her disgust.

Both have been bathed recently having come home covered in mud. This necessitated setting up a warm water hose from the kitchen sink. They both loved the water, but tried to roll in the mud immediately afterwards!

They love riding in the car. This is just as well as they are off to Yorkshire on Friday for the weekend, staying with relatives. I have no doubt that they will be a hit and enjoy trekking round the Yorkshire dales.

I enclose some more pictures. Thank you once again for arranging for us to look after “the Muppits”. My poor old Lab. “Ceri” would have loved having them around. Yours, David and Caroline

(Fosters and Sandy were re-homed due to a partnership break-up. They were well loved and well adjusted, and this photo was taken on the day they arrived in their new home. It looks as if they rather liked it!)



Woody Grinstead

(Gill Grinstead writes)

I had Woody at nine months old and he has just had his seventh birthday. Taming him was quite a task initially but he has now settled down into a helpful companion. On a typical day he will gently rouse me in the morning, usually with a mouthful of any scattered clothing and then, check garden, find breakfast which I hide all over the bungalow while he is out. His next job is to lie in wait by the bathroom to pinch my pyjamas while I get dressed. Once dressed he thinks I am ready for action so I have to hide his toys to seek and find. After that he waits for the postman in the hall. We are alerted and the chap next door moves towards his letter box in anticipation. Little do they know that Woody runs to me, tail between legs, to guide me to the post! After that he helps with feeding other pets and wild birds and clears up anything that he thinks they have abandoned. Garden jobs are frequent here and he is ever ready to mulch

anything I cut down for the compost heap.

As a recycle expert he is a dab hand at turning cardboard into confetti to fit in the bin. Walks are geared to tracking, finding and retrieving a ball on a rope.. a bonus for me as he does all the exercise. He has a good nose for fox and thinks he fits into their blackberry bush escape, leaving me to tweezer the thorns from the inside of his ear flaps. It is his idea to settle down after finding his evening meal scattered around and further games and tricks. He thinks bedtime should be around nine and I work much later.

I have been thrilled with his progress over the years. He will now walk on lead with the youngest grandchild, under supervision, far removed from the days when I was clutching at lampposts to teach him heelwork. His demolition and destruction in the house and garden changed to recycling. He has a box full of soft toys which he takes care of now and an unchewed bed. His digging is confined to a bean bag and molehills and his food manners are impeccable from the days when he took my fingers and the toast from the toaster. He is now more reliable around other dogs but still dislikes eye contact with friendly ones he does not know. He is happy for me to sort that out for him now. As a very athletic boy he has suffered many foot injuries with his fast twists and turns but it has been a year since he has cut feet or pads, just suffered strained tendons! Touch wood everyone!

Lately he has won awards. It is not his thing to share his skills in public though he is the most obedient dog at home. He got his Kennel Club Good Citizen Gold award in August 2003 and won the Beckenham Dog Training Club silver salver for progress that Christmas. I had hopes of him in the annual competitions this year teaching him to do a formal retrieve with the aid of a clicker. (He prefers more fun with a ball on a rope or a softy, squeaky and retrieves all day long here). Lie sought attention from judge and steward and he came bottom of the class. We were set two fun tricks this year which he learned quickly at home but refused to demonstrate in the hail. For the first time I dared to put him in the novelty ring at the PDSA show. His first attempt in Rescue made him more aware of a waving plastic sack ringside than other dogs and he learned the steward had a box of biscuits and came 6th. He got 2nd best dog in Kent through his anticipation of a biscuit and showed well next time! An ongoing problem is his phobia with walking on wooden floors which is proving difficult with friends and family homes, not to mention a training hall. Woody is used to carpet in his luxury home!



Sorry, but due to technical reasons we were not able to include the photographs in this version, but we will be able to do this in a day or two, so check back soon to see Bonny, Woody and chums!