

SEASON'S GREETINGS



Archie in the snow

*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 23

Our wonderful summer has come to an end at last, and we are back to dirty wet dogs once again. I said the other day that my next one will be a Mexican Hairless, but did I mean it - of course not!

It has again been a strange year, with some parts of our area being quite busy but others very quiet. We do worry what is happening to all the dogs we are not getting, but just hope they are not falling into the wrong hands. There are some pretty nasty people out there, and we do know of at least one that was used as bait for training fighting dogs! The thought is just unbearable.

We have had several cases where dogs have had to be removed from their homes the day we are contacted, which makes life more than a little hectic! We usually have to place them in foster homes until a new home can be found.

The Kent Fun Day was less busy than usual, perhaps because it was a bit earlier in the year. There was a cold wind, which meant the gazebos couldn't be erected and most of the stalls had to be in the hall. However, the rain held off, the games were great fun and we had 27 dogs and their owners in the Parade. *Competition in the scurry was exciting!*



The Holly Trophy for the oldest Rescue dog present was awarded to Wobble Quinn, aged 15 years, and here is a photo of her with the Trophy.

Unfortunately the Hampshire Fun Day had to be cancelled this year due to illness. I hope you weren't too disappointed, and we certainly hope it will go ahead next year.

In November we sadly said goodbye to John and Eileen Richardson, who have reluctantly decided to move nearer to their daughter in Suffolk. They have given 15 years dedicated service to Rescue in the mid and south Sussex area, for which we are immensely grateful. We shall miss them a lot, but wish them all the best for their new life. Joan Coppin has kindly offered to cover

this area in future.

I hope you and your dogs have a safe and happy Christmas. If your dog has a nervous disposition try to keep him away from all the festivities. Watch out for all those decorations – they are very tempting to our four-legged friends – and don't be tempted to give them too many treats of rich food.

A happy New Year to you all.

Next year's Kent Fun Day will be on Sunday 24th May, so make a date in your diary now! It doesn't matter how many times you've been before, we are always delighted to see you and your dog again!



Lottie Arrives

Lottie came to live with us in November 2011. In July of that year our lovely Goldie “Pip” had to be put to sleep following a stroke. She was the runt of the litter from our first Goldie Chloe and was consequently named “Pipsqueek”. We had owned Goldies for twenty years, so after a few weeks of loneliness we decided to contact Rachel Clark to see if it was possible to take care of another. Our criteria were quite demanding. Our daughter had a year old daughter at the time, so we needed a dog that was excellent with children but we also didn’t want to go through the “pooing and



chewing” puppy stages and asked if we could be considered for an older dog. We heard nothing for a month or so and then in October we went to visit family and friends in New Zealand for four weeks. When we got home the message light on our phone was blinking – it was a voicemail from Rachel to say that an eighteen-month-old Goldie bitch was available. Did we want to meet her? We rang straight back and fell in love with Lottie right from the moment we met her, although I’m not sure that she was too enamoured with us to begin with. She was quite wilful but we put that down to the recent upheavals in her life and we took her to puppy training classes once a week. She was the oldest and biggest dog in the class and she loved meeting all the other pups every week. After twelve weeks she passed the Bronze Award and her certificate is proudly displayed in our kitchen. She is now perfectly calm and has settled into life with us completely.

She was quickly integrated into the dog-walking clan in our local park and she loves one particular dog, another Goldie called Alfie. She can spot him hundreds of yards away and gallops over to greet and play with him. She loves walking in the woods behind our house and the first thing she does when I open the back gate is to rush out and check the trees for squirrels. Another of her favourite pastimes is sunbathing. On any sunny day she can be found on our lawn basking in the sun – usually on her back. A sight to behold!



One thing that she doesn’t like much though is water. She will paddle in the lake in our park but she will not venture in far enough to swim. And running water is a definite no no. She just will not cross a stream. Lottie loves people almost as much as she does other dogs. Quite often she will approach an owner for a stroke and pat before making friends with their dog. Needless to say she is wonderful with children. Our two grandchildren love her, especially our four year-old granddaughter Lydia, who has virtually grown up with her. We take Lottie to meet Lydia

from school, which she loves as she is made a fuss of by many of the other children and their parents. Not many are afraid of her, they seem to know how calm and gentle she is. She is

always the first to the front door to greet visitors and welcome them in and she is a firm favourite with all of our friends.

Lottie very rarely barks, the only exceptions being when she wants to come in and when she wants to play with another dog. If she wants anything – usually when it's feeding time - she will come and sit beside you and give you “the look” - an intense stare with such a sad expression that eventually wears down all resistance.

Lottie loves her toys, especially a fluffy mallard that quacks when she squeezes it in her mouth. We ask her “where's your duck?” and she rushes off to find it and bring it back to us triumphantly. During the winter evenings she enjoyed nothing more than stretching out in front of our open fire and dozing off, dreaming of her exploits during the day.

It was very painful to lose such a good friend and companion that Pip was to us for 15 years, but Lottie has brought much pleasure and entertainment to us. Hopefully she will continue to do so for many years and we can only thank Rachel for allowing us to share and enjoy Lottie's life.

Helen & Stuart Miller

News from Pebbles

Pebbles is well and happy and continues to be an absolute delight every single day. She and Timber have never ever fallen out, and are pretty much joined at the hip. We have had two dogs for many years, and they have always got on well, but we have never had two as close as these are. If they are lying down, they're usually touching; when one comes into the room, the other is immediately behind. They still enjoy mad games together and just love being together all the time.



We have just been for a walk up on the Downs, and met a family with several children. Timber and Pebbles love



children, and made a beeline for them - cue a big cuddle session, hugely enjoyed by all! They are great canine ambassadors, and we have had several parents thank us for giving their nervous children a positive and enjoyable doggy experience! It is such a joy to

have dogs with such wonderful loving and friendly natures. They love people, love other dogs and are impeccably behaved with sheep and cattle. Mind you, they are both rather prone to a good roll in the smelliest thing available, but we've got a bucket!

When we first had Pebbles, she thought toys had to be destroyed, but Timber has taught her to love her 'snuggies'. The photo shows her with her Christmas “snuggly” - she often cuddles it, and shows it to all our visitors. The trouble is, we are disappearing under a pile of cuddly dog toys! Another picture of the two of them I made into a card for Roy's aunt's 100th birthday. She said she much preferred it to the one from the Queen!

Debbie, Roy, Timber and Pebbles

Tribute to Chloe

Chloe came into my life on Saturday 3rd January 2008. We live by the coast and she quickly gained many doggie friends (and their owners). She was cute, cunning, loveable and highly intelligent, but of course this describes all Golden Retrievers.



She loved the car, and was most reluctant to share her back seat with even the smallest of bags. She had her own settee but NO! her greatest achievement was if she could remove the cushions from the forbidden leather furniture and snuggle down to nap.

I think Chloe enjoyed our winter 3 mile daily walks to the beach café, most of all on our return the ritual was “treat time”. I cannot exactly say what this treat was for fear of being accused of encouraging “under-age drinking” – just 1 teaspoon!

Sadly I lost Chloe on 8th January 2014 – aged 15 years and 3 months. She has left a void in all Chloe came into my life on Saturday 3rd January 2008. We live by the coast and she quickly our lives; a house is not a home without a dog, it is far too quiet, too bare of beds and toys and bits of unchewed doggie chews.

I thank you Chloe for 6 years and 5 days of sheer joy and happiness.

I LOVED YOU SO VERY MUCH.

Pat Bishenden



Easyfundraising.org.uk
TheGivingMachine.com

When shopping online please consider supporting the fundraising efforts of SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE by registering with one or both of the above websites. The great thing is it won't cost you a penny more. You can shop with over 2,000 well known stores and each will donate a percentage of what you spend.

It's really easy to support a cause: first go on to either of the above websites and then -

- 1 Click on “Find a cause” and select the cause you wish to support
- 2 Fill out the quick form to register your details
- 3 Find the retailer you want to shop with
- 4 Click to visit the retailer; then shop as you normally would
- 5 Your donation will be shown in your easyfundraising or TheGivingMachine account within 30 days



News from Ben

We thought that you would like a Christmas update on Ben. He is our 5th Goldie, probably the most docile, and we love him to bits. He is quiet and calm and no trouble around the house. He is pretty good on the lead unless he sees a cat or a squirrel. It took us a while to pluck up courage to let him off the lead, Paul did it first and I followed rather nervously. He loves to explore the undergrowth in the nature reserve near our house where we usually walk him but always returned to us until last



Sunday when he escaped from the reserve, we think that he saw a rabbit or a cat and dived through a gap in the fence and could not get back so he went missing for about two hours. We searched for him for about an hour or so and then reported his loss to the police and it was a great relief when someone phoned to say that they had found him in their garden. He was about half a mile away and filthy dirty but it was a great relief to get him back. His walks will be a little different from now on. When you first offered us an eight year old

dog we hesitated feeling he was a bit old but, being 70+ ourselves, we decided that perhaps an older dog was right for us and do not regret our decision. He is wonderful and we thank you for bringing us together.

Ann and Paul Kennedy.

Bilbo

Bilbo was on his way from Scotland back to Spain in the back of a small car. At Portsmouth his pet passport had to be checked and when he was taken out of the car he collapsed with dehydration. The vet was called and he was put on a drip and later taken to the RSPCA at Fareham.

We had lost our last two rescue goldies last year and had been looking to rescue another oldie goldie for some time. We were lucky enough to hear about Bilbo (now Beau) and collected him in early April.

He is a very laid back boy and very energetic for a 10year old. He loves playing ball (especially other dogs' balls) and has a great sense of fun. In every respect he is a pure delight.

He comes with me to visit the old folk in the local nursing home where he is much loved. We consider ourselves very fortunate to be looking after him in his latter years.



Warm regards Christine Faro

About Fozzie



Or the highs and lows of adopting a 'Goldie', once the hue from the rose tinted glasses has worn off

In January this year Arlene and I lost our 14 year-old 'Drummer'.... who was perfect. In March this year, with the great help of Pat Marchant, we adopted Fozzie. We met the 4 year old at his owner's home and we were greeted by a very excited, very handsome dog jumping up at the garden fence and barking. By the time we were inside the house, Fozzie (not his name then), was rushing around saying hello to everybody. A short walk with him indicated his strength and ability to pull. However, the rose tinted glasses worked and we fell in love with him. Pat cautioned us, and stated that Fozzie would need, at least, 12 months of hard training... I ignored this thinking that, within a few months, we would have another Drummer in the family.

Wrong..... we have now reached 6 months and there is still a long way to go. Not knowing a great deal about his previous life and treatment, we were not prepared for his strange behaviour. We noted in the questionnaire that he was biddable and laid back (must be a different dog), he did not pinch ball (he does and destroys them!), Does he dig holes in the garden and prune bushes?.... He has modified our garden (I think his previous owner also had rose tinted glasses).

He was very excited at first meeting people, when he wanted to jump up at them in greeting, not attack, and he also greeted everybody with a great deal of barking. He still gets very excited when people come to the house, he still barks but we have curbed his jumping up at people and he has calmed down. At our home, with our garden door left open, he does not stay outside unless one of us is with him. Even now, he is reluctant to just lie on the lawn on his own. It would suggest that he was kept outside when his previous owners were not at home, or maybe even when they were.

Unlike our past retrievers, Fozzie did not come to you if you held out your hand. When he did come to you, he would stand sideways and move his head away from you, if you went to stroke him. We would suspect that he may have frequently been knocked down for being so boisterous. After 6 months he likes being stroked, but still tends not to face you.

Fozzie was over-weight at 39kg in March. After 3 months of regular walking on a lead, we progressed to a long tether to check his joy of freedom. We soon realised that he had rarely, if ever, been walked off a lead as, after 50yds of running, he had to lie down and rest. Six

months on, he loves his walks, runs like the wind and has brought his weight down to 36.8kg. The problem with not having been walked off a lead is his lack of interest in recall. As for walking to heel, no chance! I do not expect, or want my dog to just walk at my heel. I like him to have the freedom to run and track through the woods. I use a whistle to call him back, which Fozzie will now react to this command, not always immediately, but he does come back. He likes to know where I am, as much as I like to know where he is, but he does not come back to my heel, even with the tempt of a treat. He will come within yards of me, which is enough for me to put a lead on him if necessary. One big problem, when out walking, is when he hears or sees people, particularly children, when he will rush off to investigate. We are convinced that he rarely met other people or dogs, let alone children. When he takes off, no amount of calling or use of the whistle will check his run. He is not usually a problem with other people, children or other dogs, he just ignores me! When I do catch up with him, he does not run from me when I put a lead on him, it just means that I have to collect him from places like the local sailing club clubhouse, private gardens and sports centres, to name a few! When we are out walking I have to always be aware of places that he might choose to investigate and place him on a lead until we are well past them.... very well past!

You might ask, why did we take him on? Those rose tinted glasses worked so well. Would we have taken him on if we had known all of his ‘hang ups’ and faults? Most likely not..... now we know his problems, how much hard work he is, the fact that he is not so much affectionate as needy, would we have any other dog? He is asleep at my feet in my office, if we leave the house, for even a few minutes, he will position himself on the stairs, where he can view the driveway, and wait for our return... and what a greeting. I believe it is important that I am retired, as it allows me to be with him most of the time. He is ‘number one super dog’ (as all our previous retrieves have been), and no, we would not change him. He is a permanent, much loved member of our family.

P.S. Request from Arlene:

Any tips on how to teach Fozzie to “win friends and influence” cats!Our two resident cats are now the fastest in the County!!

Arlene and Peter Lendon

Word Search

You will need to locate the missing word of this competition in the text of the Editorial!

Just for fun Word Search ...
“Dog Sports/Working”

Trial	Cue	G	Y	T	I	L	I	G	A
Gun	Comp (etition)	N	U	G	S	I	G	N	C
Team	Obed (ience)	I	E	A	D	L	E	I	F
Scurry	Field	K	U	P	M	O	C	T	O
Agility	Ring	C	C	Y	L	L	A	R	L
Sign	Heel	A	K	D	E	B	O	I	E
Tracking	Rally	R	P	G	N	I	R	A	E
		T	E	A	M	M	T	L	H

Missing Word

Care when waking a dog (Based on an article in "Sporting Shooter")

"Let sleeping dogs lie" is very true,



and so many people get bitten, especially youngsters, from ignoring this. A dog should be able to sleep in peace, free from fear of disturbance of animal or human origins. If you must rouse a sleeping dog, and sometimes it is necessary, do not touch the dog but speak to it until it awakens. If the dog's hearing is not so good, gently tap on the floor so that the vibrations disturb it. Some dogs sleep more deeply than others so allow for this and do not take any risks, for the nicest of dogs goes to another place in its sleep, and may react aggressively if it is woken

suddenly, as it may think it is being attacked.

Sasha Arrives

Sasha is one of those we had to get out of its home the day we were contacted. She had not been exercised for seven years, having had her hind legs smashed at the age of two when she ran into the road. Her right leg had several pins in it and she was suffering badly from



arthritis, but had been given no pain relief for this. She also had pretty awful ears and several broken teeth. We were fortunate to be able to get her into a foster home immediately, where she was given pain killers and her vaccinations brought up to date. Despite not having been exercised for so long she was surprisingly sociable and confident, and settled into her foster home with three other dogs of various breeds very quickly. A wonderful permanent home was found and she was taken there three days later. She now

lives with chickens and has a large garden where she can build up her muscles which had not been used for so long.

Who?

(Origin unknown)

Who nuzzles up to us when we are sad?

Who comforts us and makes us glad?

When we are lonely who is always near to lick our hands and give us cheer?

Who keeps us company upon a walk and always listens when we talk?

Who treats our mood so sympathetically?

Whose thoughts revolve around us?

Whose shining eyes will love us to the end?

Our dog, of course, our trusty friend