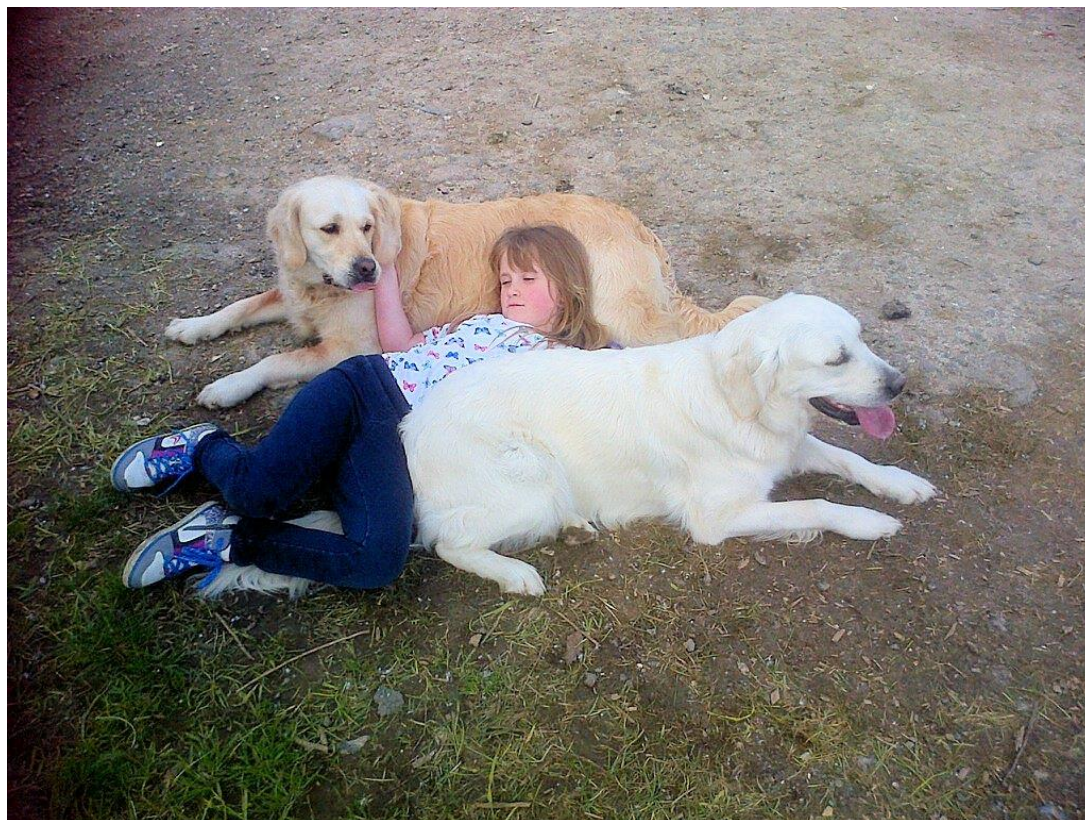


GOLDEN MOMENTS ISSUE 24

Newsletter of

SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE

Registered Charity Number 1098769
PO Box 112 Cranbrook Kent TN17 4RB



Riley (at the back) with Rosalind and Sophie

Welcome to the Spring edition of our Newsletter, and thank you to those who have sent us their stories. Please keep them coming – without them there will be no Newsletter!

2014 saw quite a reduction in the number of dogs coming into our Charity. A total of 55 dogs were signed over to us, of which 27 originated from breeders, 9 from dealers and 19 came without any papers, so their source was unknown.

We have completely revised our website, so please have a look at it. It gives details of various events happening this year, including an educational event. This should prove to be very interesting so please support it if you can. It may enable you to save your dog's life one day.

The Kent Fun Day is on Sunday 24th May, and as there is a different person organising it this year there will no doubt be some different events happening. However, the Parade of rescue dogs will still be a very important part of it, so we hope lots of you will be able to join us and tell us about your dogs.

We are still not certain whether we will be able to hold the Hampshire Fun Day but as soon as we know it will go up on the website, and of course those who live in that area will receive an invitation as usual.

A Rescuer's Tale

On the 18th of June 2014 my beautiful Golden boy Louis died very suddenly and without warning aged 12.5. Louis had found his way to me via Pat Marchant on the 5th September 2010, my second Golden rescue via SGRR. The hole this loveable, laid back boy left was immeasurable. I let Pat know immediately, one to say Louis had crossed the Bridge and two that there was room for another rescue. My other Golden rescue, organised by Pat, (a cream female) Beatrice went into meltdown. Never let it be said dogs don't grieve because little 'B' was bereft without her friend Louis, as was I.



A full six weeks passed and very unexpectedly I received a 'phone call from Pat to say there was a Golden in distress who needed rescuing ASAP. The following day 30th July 2014 we set off, Pat with B stretched across her lap and me at the wheel. Two hours later we arrived to collect Harvey, who at nearly 55kg, with a moth eaten leg and tail being the result of his stressful situation, was a big fellow. We said our hellos and goodbyes and departed, post haste, with a large 6 year old (By coincidence another cream) male Golden Retriever on board, a bit bewildered but coping well.



Here I need to backtrack to January 2010. I was contacted by SGRR to see if I could give a home to a very elderly and extremely unwell Golden, co-incidentally called Harvey. At the time I had a Golden Female, Harriet, that I'd rescued when she was only 6 months, now heading for her 13th birthday.

Harvey (Mk1) arrived with more pills and potions than most pharmacies. A truly majestic boy, in his prime he was a PAT dog. A gentle giant, now a bit wobbly on his pins but nothing wrong with his appetite or what was between his ears!!

To my absolute delight Harriet and Harvey MK1 took to each other immediately. Sad to say we lost Harvey on the 3rd of September 2010 at 14 years and 4 months; he made a lasting impression in the very short time that I was privileged to give him a home. Within two days (a phone call from Pat) we set off to rescue Louis.



Louis settled, then aged 8 years 9 months, as though he'd always been here but he would have nothing to do with Harriet. She tried so hard to be Louis's friend but he remained resolutely aloof to her. The years passed and as Harriet became more and more frail, Louis was more tolerant with her advances and they would occasionally lie back to back!! Harriet's condition worsened, just her age had finally caught up I'm sad to say. The evening before she crossed the Bridge 13 March 2013, Louis allowed her to fall asleep across his front legs and under his chin, I'm convinced he knew.

So here we were back to a single Golden again. Well not for long. 10th April 2013, a 'phone call from Pat, there is a 5 year old Golden female who needs a home. Louis and I whizzed off to meet her and within a couple of hours 'B' was on her way back with us. Louis was in love!!! This young blonde bird was exactly what rocked his boat. To say they hit it off was to understate the situation. This is the point where all of these beautiful dogs, who may have suffered emotionally at some point in their lives to which we are not privy, will demonstrate they are individuals. My first morning walk with Louis and Beatrice nearly ended in disaster. Everything happened so quickly it seems like slow motion. I drove Louis and B to where I have

always started my dog walks. Louis jumped out of the car first and stood and waited while I attached the lead to B's collar; in a split second she jumped from the car to the pavement, twisted her head and I was left with the lead and collar (to this day I don't know how she got her head out of the collar).... 2 seconds as the full horror started to dawn on me, I said as calmly as I could muster, 'sit B'. Not a chance, she ran straight for the main road, now rush hour, 8.30 in the morning. I panicked and ran after her. I've only had her 12 hours, no collar, strange area, and she's running flat out in the middle of the road. Breathless I 'phoned Pat who went into emergency mode, alerting Councils/Dog wardens/Police etc. It was at this point where my faith in human nature was definitely restored; so many people on their morning commute stopped to help. Not least one of my dog walking friends who found Louis looking very bewildered and rang me to say he was with the local vet who'd scanned him for my 'phone number, so he was safe. The Veterinary Practice also sent out a search party for the errant Beatrice!! Four and a half hours had passed, I'd lost sight of her and was feeling increasingly desperate. Then a builder whom I'd spoken to earlier 'phoned me to say he thought he could see her in a local playing field from his perch, high up on the scaffolding where he was working. Mentally and physically exhausted Louis and I made our way to the playing field. It was B. I didn't want to spook her so I said to Louis "who's that over there"? Without a second glance he was off at the gallop towards her with a few friendly woofs too. I walked slowly towards them both, Louis was making such a fuss of her that she stayed put long enough for me to put her collar and lead on and head for home. A 'phone call to Pat and so many others who'd helped that morning to say all was well. May I never experience anything like that again B slept soundly for 24 hours!!

So my two Golden Retrievers were getting on famously like soulmates, out of the blue June 2014 Louis is gone..... very tough time indeed.....



So scroll forward to July 2014, and Harvey MK11 is back with us and I can see an immediate lifting of the dark cloud B has been under. Six months on and Harvey is 15 kg lighter, so what do we have, a happy, no very happy Beatrice acting like a schoolgirl, and a Mummy's boy...Yes he really is very wimpy!!!... Harvey is a delight, gentle, funny unless you happen to be one of my neighbours cats that is!! A mischievous, not so little, so and so at times, but a joy to have.

I count myself as being incredibly lucky to have the companionship of two beautiful dogs with terrific personalities. Beatrice will be 8 in March and Harvey will be 7 in July so many happy Golden years ahead. Thank you to Southern Golden Retriever Rescue for the hard work you all do in looking after these magnificent dogs.

Regards, Tom Whiter

Well done Riley

Our cover picture is of Riley and his companions. He is a dog we placed with Carl and Fiona Dyer when he was 9 months old. He had had two homes before and was so thin when he came into rescue.

He has just been accepted by the Charity Sussex Caring Pets to work as a therapy dog as part of their "Reading with Roland" programme - in his case it will be Reading with Riley! He passed quite a tough "interview" when the assessors did all they could to get him excited, but could only manage to generate a couple of woofs. So he will now be sitting patiently once a week while children with learning difficulties practise reading to him. Which is quite a journey for a dog who didn't recognise his name when they got him...



Pebbles' Tale



Our adventure began when we picked up our 8 week old dream puppy, Timber. What an adventure it was! He was a loving, cocky, confident little chap from the start and stole our hearts immediately and completely. Those early months and years were such a joy and went so quickly. All of a sudden, our little roly poly pup was a big, handsome, wonderful dog. He absolutely loved his walks, adored his cuddles, loved people - especially children, got on brilliantly with other dogs. He was just full of love, intelligence and empathy. To us, the best dog in the world.

4, we sadly lost Benji and Timber was clearly missing his companion. We called Southern Retriever Rescue and were told that they had a bitch who might be available and her name was Pebbles. I commented that it was a coincidence, as his Mum was called Pebbles. Yes, you've guessed it, she was his Mum and they were reunited after exactly 4 years apart. Their relationship was



wonderful - they were inseparable. They played all the time, cuddled up together, walked in and out of a room side by side., and never ever fell out. It was the closest canine relationship I have ever seen.



Tragically our world was torn apart last August when Timber was diagnosed with lymphoma. A week after diagnosis he was put to sleep and we were heartbroken. Painful though it was and is, we are still grateful for those seven glorious years with Timber, and later Pebbles, at the centre of our lives. Pebbles has been grieving too. She rarely plays with other dogs, although she loves to meet them. We are so grateful to Southern Retriever Rescue that the two of them had those 3 happy years together, and hope that soon we will find Peps a new companion.

Best Wishes, Debbie



Dog Theft

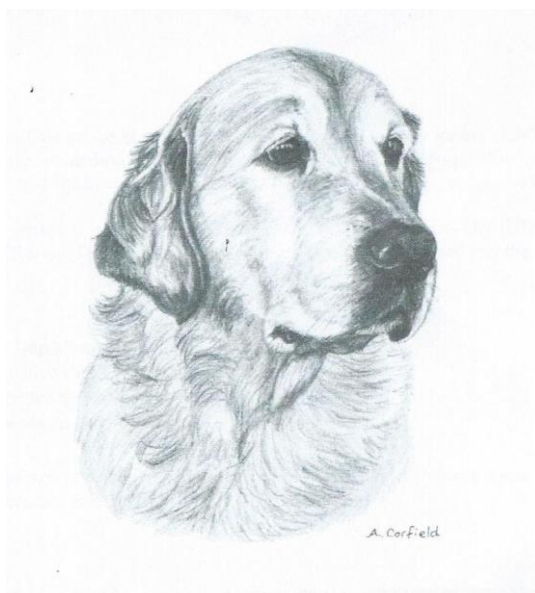
Dogs are still being stolen in large numbers, and we know some of them end up as training bait for fighting dogs – a terrible thought. Please keep your dogs safe, they rely on you for that. Never leave them unattended in your garden if it is accessible to other people, try not to leave them alone in your car and never tie them up outside a shop, or anywhere else for that matter.



In Memory of Joan Lavender
THE SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER
RESCUE TRUST AND
THE SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER SOCIETY
INVITE YOU TO ATTEND AN
EDUCATIONAL EVENING
ON THURSDAY 30TH JULY
AT THE HAZELWOOD SCHOOL THEATRE

Wolfs Hill, Limpsfield, OXTED, Surrey, RH8 0QU

ABOUT 5 MINUTES FROM JUNC 6 OF THE M25 GODSTONE



Gill Arney will speak on Bloat Awareness and will together with her vet, James McCourt, attempt to answer your questions

Rory Davies will speak on First Aid for your dog, including Resuscitation.

**Advance Booking for the Evening is now available with Mandy Pett
mandy.pett@uwclub.net 01795 844864**

7.00 for a prompt 7.30 start

tickets are £2.50 each which in-cludes light refreshments

No tickets available on the door unless pre-booked. SGRS members and owners of SGR Rescue dogs will take priority until 1st June. Tickets will be on sale at all Society events.

OWNERS OF ANY BREED OF DOG WELCOME

Bramble's Story

We adopted Bramble just over eight years ago. He was then almost 2 years old, had had five different homes in that time and was not easy to handle. Understandably he had no reason to trust us. We don't think he had ever been out for a walk on a lead and regularly slipped his head out of a collar, so we found a harness much safer. He did not know any words of command and would actually bite if you tried to handle him. Poor Bramble just did not know how to behave. He was, and is, a beautiful dog and as dog owners for 40 years we were not about to be beaten.



We enrolled on a puppy course and so started from scratch. It was hard work and we did two 10 week courses, and taking on board what we learned gradually Bramble calmed down and became a trusting and loveable dog. He still has a few hang-ups; we have great difficulty getting him into a car. He is a big, heavy dog and we have to pick him up. He also does not like traffic. We now live 50 yards from the South Downs, a dog-walker's paradise, so no traffic worries any more. He can dig holes to his heart's content – rather there than the garden! He loves all other dogs and is happy to run with them. Despite his size and weight he is pretty fit and active for his age; he still thinks he's 2 years old.

Bramble is our first golden. We previously had German Shepherds and a terrier, but we think he is probably the most obedient dog we have ever had. He just likes to be with you, though he is quite happy to be left at home as long as he has a little treat. He goes into kennels twice a year which, believe it or not, he loves. We have to chase him round a table to put a lead on him to bring him home. Even at the kennels he's a great favourite; he just loves everybody.



We have loved all our dogs but Bramble is special. Most of our dogs were rescued and deserved a good home, but Bramble needed so much more and has rewarded us with his trust and devotion. We never regretted taking him on even during the difficult days. We love him to bits, as do our family

We send our best wishes to all rescue Golden owners – it's a shame any even need rescuing.

Pauline and John Vimpany.

Nasty Nettles

The new spring growths of stinging nettles and thistles can cause problems for dogs. They can suffer a very nasty allergic reaction in various areas, such as feet, mouths, ears etc. resulting in considerable distress. It is a good idea to take a Piriton tablet on walks to give immediately if this problem occurs. When you get home bathe with cold water laced with a drop of lavender oil, or apply Aloe Vera Jelly.



Ellie

Ellie ‘discovered’ us when we visited Pat & Peter Marchant in early September 2014. We had lost our lovely 13½ year old Golden Retriever a couple of months before and we wanted another dog to fill the terrible void that Maggie left behind.

We were very lucky to be told that a one year old Golden Retriever was available and to come over and see how we got on with her. My daughter thought that it must be the ugliest dog around as she had heard that this breed is hardly ever available for adoption, never mind a very young one.



We were bowled over when we were first greeted by this gorgeous and very friendly girl – who seemed to take to us with the same enthusiasm.



After playing with her and taking her for a walk, at the age of one year and two days she came home with us. She is extremely affectionate, very demanding and incredibly mischievous, but we were advised of this at the time.

Unlike our last dog, she has a passion for water. She wades through puddles, even lying down in the muddy depths and tries

‘eating’ the water coming from the hose in the back garden. Back in the summer she loved hurling herself into the paddling pool we set up for her, grinning from ear to ear (pictures).

She never chases her own tennis balls, but will steal other dogs’ balls all the time. She even took one from the mouth of a surprised dog!

She is a delight and people always comment on how beautiful she is... they do not know the other half of it though! She has eaten her way through two pairs of shoes, two pairs of slippers and a pair of flip flops! She also disembowels all her toys or eats their faces – it gives ‘face off’ a whole new meaning! She loves going to school, but it is not having much effect at the moment! She is great fun to have around.

No one needs an alarm clock here as we get woken up by her anytime from 4am prancing all over the beds, but we wouldn’t be without her.



Pat Scorer & her daughter Jenny
February 2015



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Don’t forget to let us know if your dog achieves any successes, either by gaining a Kennel Club Good Citizen award or in a competition of some kind. Please email the editor at gc.robinson47@btinternet.com



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



Happy News from Sasha

The Christmas edition of the Newsletter printed a disturbing photograph of a very distressed Golden Retriever who had been rescued from an uncertain future. The ever-diligent SGRR had been told about an advertisement on the internet for a Golden, so a helper went to the house, to be told "take it away – now". This "it" was Sasha who, when only two years old, was involved in a road accident in which both rear legs were fractured and many teeth either broken or missing.

Her immediate veterinary treatment was good, with her legs re-set and wired. Subsequent to this, however, she had no further medical treatment for her injuries and subsequent problems, neither did she have any exercise for the next seven years, and no pain relief for the arthritis which had set in.

Following re-homing her recovery is remarkable. Love, care and confidence was the priority, with short strolls progressing to freedom of the whole garden and it was fascinating to witness her joy when seeing the chickens and then sheep in the neighbouring field through the garden fence – she whistled and whined and wagged her tail but the sheep just looked and took no further notice.



Having mastered a ramp to get in and out of the car she has twice daily walks on near-by downs, strictly limited to 30 minutes. She is wonderfully sociable and readily makes friends with the many dogs she meets, and their owners, and wants to play with them all, but her poor legs restrict her, but oh, how she tries!

Progress may be slow and her pain controlled under veterinary guidance but it is a happier Golden with a future and this must give satisfaction and pleasure to all those who helped to save her, but how we wish we could find her some false teeth!

Sasha is most affectionate and wonderful company and we are more than happy and grateful to have her, for she has made our home alive again, having suffered the loss of two cherished Goldens (both rescues) within just a few months of each other, who will never be forgotten.

Pat and Vic Stewart