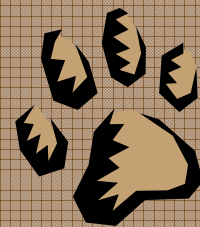


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GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND

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April 2010

Organic Lawn & Garden Care to Protect our Pets and Children

By Valerie Mackrell

Our goldens run, roll and play on the lawn. They eat grass and other plants and may lick their paws. This can cause your dog to ingest the fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides that are on the lawn. Most chemical fertilizers and weed killers are toxic, so we need to find alternatives that are pet safe. Fortunately, there are organic alternatives, as well as easy homemade options made from natural, common ingredients.

Organic, Pet-Safe Fertilizing

To fertilize and nourish the soil organically, use compost, grass clippings, and manure (available at garden stores).

Composting is easy and cheap to do at home. It is a process where biodegradable items (kitchen food scraps, dead leaves, grass clippings) are decomposed to form organic rich material. Once the material is fully decomposed, you can use it as lawn fertilizer throughout the season, and apply it around the base of garden plants. (It also improves water drainage for Southern Maryland's clay soil.)

Be sure not to put foods that are dangerous to dogs in your compost bin, including coffee



Harry and Maddie playing tug-o-war with yard-clippings.

grounds, chocolate, grapes, raisins, avocados, onions, garlic, and chives.

For everything you need to know about home composting go to <http://www.thegardenofoz.org/composting101.asp>.

Organic, Pet-Safe Weed Control

Homemade weed killers are the safest option for our goldens. Simple, inexpensive, and effective ingredients include boiling water, vinegar, salt, and sugar. "Recipes" and information on how these ingre-

dients work can be found at <http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/organic/homemade-pet-friendly-weed-killer.htm>.

Commercial Products

To be truly organic, a product must be approved by the Organic Materials Review Institute, the National Organic Program, or be USDA Certified Organic. Approved brands include Burnout, Weed-Aside, WOW! and Safer-Brand.

Many commercial products that

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"EVERY PUPPY
SHOULD HAVE A
BOY."

-- EMMA
BOMBECK



"Not-my-Golden" digging a hole in the yard.

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claim to be pet-safe or pet-friendly may really be highly toxic. The "inert" ingredients might not even be listed on the label, but are sometimes more toxic than the active ingredients.

Another option for organic weed control (and fertilizing) is corn gluten meal. It serves as a natural pre-emergent weed killer, but will not work on existing weeds. Information can be found at http://www.eartheasy.com/article_corn_gluten.htm.

An excellent online store for organic products is <http://www.gardensalive.com>.

Toxic Plants & Mulch

The ASPCA lists 392 plants toxic to dogs, and can cause symptoms from vomiting to difficulty breathing, seizures, and sudden death from heart failure. Ingesting just a few leaves can sometimes be lethal. Common plants include azalea, hydrangea, begonia, yew red maple tree leaves, English ivy, and daffodils. Also, cocoa shell mulch, like chocolate, is highly attractive to dogs, yet highly toxic.

Check out the ASPCA guide to toxic plants at <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/> and guide to safe gardening at <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/pet-care-tips/pet-safe-gardening.html>.

Top 10 Places to Walk with Your Dog in Southern Md.

By Barb Davis

1. **Myrtle Point** has many trails plus a place for swimming. Many of the trails are very wide and flat. Located off Rt 4. (<http://www.myrtlepoint.org/maps.html>)
2. **St. Mary's River Park** has two long trails. One is flat and one more difficult with some obstacles like tree roots and holes. Off Rt 5. (<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/outdooradventures/hikestmarypark.html>)
3. **Point Lookout** has specific dog trails and swimming places.
4. **Elms Beach** – Trails along the bay. Off Rt 5 south of NAS PAX RIVER. (<http://www.co.saint-marys.md.us/recreate/facilities/elmsbeach.asp>)
5. **Greenwell State Park** charges a minimal fee to enter and has trails along the water. Located in Hollywood off of Sotterly Road. (<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southern/greenwell.html>).
6. **Dorsey, Chancellor's Run** and **Chaptico** parks in St Mary' have trails.
7. **Flag Ponds** in Calvert County has good flat trails down to the bay. (<http://www.calvertparks.org/Parks/FlagPonds/FPhome.htm>)
8. **Calvert Cliffs** has a more challenging long trail down to the bay. (<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southern/calvertcliffs.html>)
9. **Jefferson Patterson Park** in Calvert County has trails. (<http://www.jefpat.org>)
10. **AnnMarie Gardens** has paved trails through the woods in a very pretty spot. (<http://www.annmariegarden.org>)

Please be a responsible pet owner and bring your poopy bags along on your walks. Check the rules for each park as many are different. Charles County folks where are good places to hike? If you have a favorite place to walk please share with us on our blog. Happy hiking!

Why do Golden Retrievers Roll in Stinky Stuff?

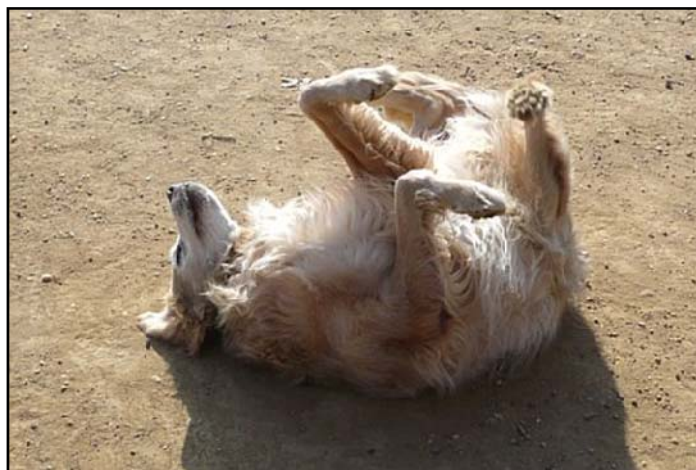
You take your freshly bathed golden out for a walk and the next thing you know they're rolling in goose, deer, possum poo or some other vile substance that you can't even see, but you sure can smell!

There are a couple of theories why dogs seem to delight in being smelly. One theory is that covering themselves in stench is a way to mask their scent from prey species – not that the typical golden has to roam the neighborhood hunting or being hunted for supper, but the behavior is encoded in their genes.

Another theory is that it's a

way for dogs to keep a record of their travels. Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, who wrote *The Hidden Life of Dogs*, says a

dog smeared with stinky goo is viewed by its peers as a great storyteller who is held in high esteem.



Steve enjoying a good roll on something dead.



Congratulations!

We're so happy for the following pups who have been adopted since our last newsletter:

- Buddy Jr., fostered by the Cochran family and adopted by Gary and Jude Biedencapp.
- Brody fostered by Barb and Tony Baretta and adopted by Ed and Lisa Hynes.
- Sam who was fostered and adopted by John and Lori Ennis.
- Ginger who was fostered by Bonnie and Coleman Hampton and adopted by Debbie and Steven Bertolaccini.
- Bailey who was fostered and adopted by Kevin and Beth Daly.
- Penny who was fostered and adopted by Richard and Susan Holden.



Bubba enjoys an afternoon at the Davis' puppy-spa.

"WHOEVER SAID
YOU CAN'T BUY
HAPPINESS
FORGOT LITTLE
PUPPIES."

-- GENE HILL

Other good news:

Max, who is being fostered by Tom and Glenda Spragg, has a family coming to meet him, as does Bubba who is being fostered by Betty and Lloyd Davis.

Miss Cheyenne turned 11 years-young and continues to be hospice fostered by Gail and Norm Bleakley.



Buddy Jr. with his brother Ozzie.

Helping Your Golden Cross the Rainbow Bridge

By Pat and Joe Johnson

Less than a year ago we had to make the decision to euthanize our golden boy, "Steve". Like most, (90%) we had to help him cross the rainbow bridge; and for Steve, it was quite suddenly. We had always been told that "you'll know when the time is right", but that was not the case; and even to this day, our head's say we did the right thing and our hearts miss him terribly.

Joe and I had, in theory, agreed that we would never let our dogs suffer unless the prognosis for treatment was very, very good, but the actuality of having to make the decision within hours was not easy. Our regular vet was no help. She offered us treatment options and hope, but the reality of our boy's situation was very grim as the vet at the emergency hospital and the internet outlined. The following factors to consider when helping you make the decision if it's "time" are from the March 2010 issue of *The Whole Dog Journal*:

- Pain level and the ability to manage it. Are you even able to recognize if your dog is suffering? Fast pulse rate and respiration may be indicators.
- Hydration – is your dog drinking? Ideally your dog's mouth and gums should be wet; not sticky.
- Happiness and responsiveness to their environment. Is your dog able to enjoy the things he or she has always enjoyed such as special treats, car rides or walks? Keep your dog in the room with your family as much as possible if they are bedridden so they won't be isolated and get depressed.
- Mobility – get your dog up and help them move about as much as possible. Ramps and rear end slings can help them as they get older.
- Hygiene is important to preventing infections or sores especially for dogs who are incontinent. Use doggie diapers and special beds if necessary. Keep eyes, ears and teeth clean. Trim mats and brush and massage daily. Wipe with a warm, damp cloth using long strokes mimicking a mother dog grooming her pup.
- Not eating is often the first sign our golden is ill. It's hard to watch your golden baby turn up their nose at their favorite foods. This is NOT the time to worry about WHAT you're feeding. Just try to get them to eat SOMETHING. Baby food, boiled rice and ground beef, turkey, deli meat – try everything. We had NO indication our guy was ill until he wouldn't eat on Sunday morning. By Tuesday afternoon he was gone.

In contrast, a few weeks earlier, we had helped our rescue golden Cappuccino cross the rainbow bridge after a long battle with cancer where he took daily pain medication and was allowed to eat anything he would. Mr. Cap could eat like no dog we'd ever seen. We're embarrassed to admit, but Cap recognized the red Milkbone box, like preschoolers recognize the golden arches. The day Cap did not want his Milkbone we knew it was time.

Life is a balance. We want our pups to have more good days than bad. When the time comes we must put the needs of our precious pups ahead of our sadness and grief and care for them until the very end.

Both of our boys died in our arms with us telling them how much we loved them.



SIT. STAY. READ!

Your Financial Support is Appreciated

Vet care for our golden pups is the primary rescue expense. Last year vet expenses were four times greater than the previous year at close to \$25,000. Why? We took in more dogs with more serious medical needs as five had cancer, six were treated for heartworms and three had major surgery in addition to routine spay/neuter surgery. This year we've taken in 8 goldens thus far with only one needing heartworm treatment. Those of you who have been to the vet recently know how expensive vet care can be even though we get a 20 – 25% discount from the vets we use.

In addition to vet care, the rescue provides flea/tick and heartworm prevention, food, a collar, leash and a tag to each of our rescue dogs. Roxanne and Harry Burgers purchase dog beds and toys to send home with our rescue pups so they have some things of their own (Thanks Harry and Roxanne who are the parents of goldens Ritchie and adopted rescue golden Heidi).

So...if you ever have any loose change or get the urge to shop for dog supplies and are wondering what you should do with it send it to:

Golden Rescue
Box 6
Great Mills, MD 20634

2011 Golden Retriever Calendar Pics Wanted

We're creating our first rescue calendar for 2011. Now is the time to take photos for possible enclosure in the calendar. The cover and each month will feature a golden retriever rescued by Golden Retriever Rescue of Southern Maryland.

But, you say, MY golden is calendar-worthy! And you're right! There's room throughout the calendar for pictures of all goldens in Southern Maryland.

High quality photos are a must. Picture should be of the highest resolution (at least 300 dpi) without a lot of background clutter and no people included.

Send photos to contact@goldenretrieverrescueofsouthernmaryland.org or load onto a CD/thumb drive and snail mail to:

GRRSM
Box 6
Great Mills, MD 20634.

There is no guarantee your photo will be used, but bribes in the form of donations to the rescue are encouraged!

We expect to have calendars available for sale beginning in July.

Or contact any board member:

- Pat and Joe Johnson, President and Vice President – 301.994.0132
- Gail and Norm Bleakley, Secretary and Board Member – 301.994.9332
- Jean and Al Huey, Events Chair and Web Wizard- 301.862.4752
- Barb Saylor, Treasurer – 301.994.2474
- Barb and Bob Davis – Board Members – 301.475.7022
- Valerie MacKrell, Adoption Coordinator - 410-586-0411
- Kristi Baker, Publicity – 301.373.8469
- Kelly Martin – Fundraising Chair - 301.290.1255

Remember, donations are tax deductible.



Millie, aka "Bucket Girl."

Giardia—It is Not the Name of an American Idol Judge

Your golden has diarrhea, is listless, and has lost weight...

These symptoms are typical of several diseases, but if your golden has had contact with dirty (or potentially contaminated) water or with dogs showing similar signs, Giardiasis should at least be suspected.

Giardia are protozoans, tiny, one-celled parasitic life forms with the potential to cause serious illness.

Some dogs are carriers who show no symptoms, but others get sick and need treatment.

Like many disease organisms, Giardia mature in stages. Unlike many others, no time elapses between infestation with the dormant phase and activation of the disease.

The cysts (the inactive form) are found in contaminated water and feces. Once ingested by your dog, the cysts open and discharge the mobile form known as the trophozoite, a pear-shaped critter with whip-like flagella that propel it through the intestine.

If your dog is healthy, the trophozoites may live in the lower digestive tract for years.

If your dog has an immature or overburdened immune system, the trophozoites continue to multiply by dividing and can cause illness.

Giardia infects several species of animals, including humans.

Giardia can interfere with the absorption of food and produce feces that are soft, light-colored, and greasy. Mucus from the large intestine may also indicate that the large intestine is irritated even though the colony of active protozoa remains in the small intestine. Blood tests appear normal with the possible exception of an increase in a type of white blood cells and mild anemia.

Since diarrhea is a common symptom of intestinal infection, causes such as Salmonella and Campylobacter are generally ruled out before testing for Giardia is done. Direct microscopic inspection of feces is necessary to determine the presence of the protozoan.

The number of cysts can vary from day to day, so best chances of detecting this form of Giardia lies in collecting samples over three days for a fecal flotation test or conducting individual tests every two or three days until at least three tests have been done.

A quicker test does exist, but it is more expensive and requires an experienced technician to run.

Treatment options include:

- Flagyl (Metronidazole) is an old stand-by treatment for bacterial infestations that cause diarrhea and is about 60-70 percent effective in curing giardi-

asis. However, Flagyl has potentially serious side-effects in some animals, including vomiting, anorexia, liver toxicity, and some neurological signs, and it cannot be used in pregnant dogs.

- Panacur (Fenbendazole), which is approved for use in treating dogs with roundworm, hookworm, and whipworm, has been shown to be effective in treating canine giardiasis.

Mark Your Calendar

Spring is a wonderful time to do things with your golden. Here are some activities that are already scheduled. Check the blog for more information and other events as added:

April 10 - Info Booth at Prince Frederick PETCO 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

April 17 - Dog Park in Calvert County at 10 a.m.

May 1 – Dog Park St Mary's County 10 a.m.

May 8 – St Mary's Animal Welfare League Animal Fair, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.

May 15 – Dog Park Charles County (White Plains) 10 a.m.

May 16 – Tupperware Fundraiser (dogs welcome if weather is nice) 1 p.m.

St Mary's County call 301.994.0132 for more info

May 23 – Beach Blast 1 p.m. St Mary's County call 301.994.0061

June 12 – Picnic St Mary's County 530 p.m. call 301.994.0132





Golden Retriever Rescue of Southern Maryland's mission is to find homes for golden retrievers in need in St. Mary's, Calvert and Charles counties.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND

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Fax: 301.994.0132

E-mail:

contact@goldenretrieverrescueofsouthernmaryland.org

Talk with Other Golden Lovers via the Blog

By Al Huey

Share information and ask questions of other golden lovers via the rescue's blog

www.goldenretrieverrescueofsouthernmaryland.org/blog.

The first time you use the blog on the bottom right side of the page you'll see *Register*. Once you are registered the links change to *Post & Site Admin*. Selecting *Post & Site Admin* will display the WordPress Dashboard. Use the dashboard to add posts and upload photos.

There are two ways to add a post. The first way allows you to add more detail and categorize your post.

Select *Post* and then *Add New*. This will display the Add New Post form. The cursor will appear in the title edit box. After entering the post title left click in the *post message block* and enter the message. To insert media click the appropriate icon to the right of *Upload/Insert* this will display the appropriate form. For example to add a photo left click the *Add Image* icon. Once the *Add Image* form is displayed select the source, *From Computer*, *From URL*, or *Media Library*. To use a photo stored on your computer select *From Computer* (default) then, *Browse...* and navigate to where the photo of interest is and select *Upload*.

Once the file is uploaded edit the title if the filename was not descriptive and optionally add a *Caption & Description*. Typically the *Alignment* should be *Center* and the size should be limited to 445 pixels wide so the image doesn't overflow the center column. Then select *Insert into Post*. Keep in mind that photos on the web page are 445 pixels wide X 315 pixels high so by sizing your photos similarly they can also be used on the web page. Optionally you can add a *Tag* and/or select a *Category*, new or existing, which are used to sort posts.

The other way to post is to use the right hand side of the page called *Quick Post*. Simply:

- Type in a title.
- Move to the *Content* box and type in your content.
- Upload a photo no larger than 445 pixels wide by 315 pixels high.
- Hit *Publish*.

You may also add items to the calendar page. Select *RSS Feed* and you can have new comments sent directly to your email. If you have questions, please contact Al at jahuey@md.metrocast.net.



We're on the Web

www.goldenretrieverrescueofsouthernmaryland.org/
