

Love a Golden Rescue

Golden News

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Also available "on-line" in FULL COLOR at www.loveagolden.com/newsletter.htm

Fall 2013

Volume 13 Issue 3

DOGS JUST GOTTA HAVE FUN

Dogs do want to have fun but getting trained and going to classes...is that fun? Well, for many dogs it *is*. Many of our rescued dogs seem to flourish and really blossom after going through classes. There are a number of LAGR dogs that are transformed once the dog-owner team goes through training. There are other dogs in our group that get into mischief when at home, but once they are in their therapy harness, or they're in "performance mode," they are all business. If you are interested in taking your dog to classes, there are several different options. In this article, Dale Mara will focus on obedience training, Michele Swanson will speak to the merits of CGC training, and Hillary Hershey will "rock on" about rally obedience training.

Obedience Training

Little did I know when I signed up for my very first obedience class, that my relationship with my dogs would change forever. I had just lost the first dog I had all by myself, and needless to say, I was devastated. My decision to get a twelve-week old Basset Hound right away was 100% emotional and not very well thought-out. The weeks that followed were up and down... mostly down. I was still grieving for the first dog and not truly ready to accept my new little Beverly. We just had a hard time connecting to each other.

A friend of mine suggested going to an obedience class. It seemed to me growing up with family dogs was much easier. There just never was a need for an obedience class. I did sign up; what did I have to lose? Not only did I love the classes, it was just fun and funny to watch the other handlers and dogs. I really enjoyed our daily training time together. Being a first time rookie, I was learning new skills along with Beverly. When our eight weeks were over, not only had I trained the Valedictorian of the class, but after seeing Beverly try so hard to please me, our relationship 100% cemented for the next 13 years. We both had grown and learned so much from our class. I now had a dog devoted to me, a dog that listened to me while feeling self-assured around other dogs and people. Most importantly, I had learned to communicate and connect with Beverly. I believe confident dogs are happy dogs just like people.



After the class was over, I actually missed the daily training sessions. I loved having a happy balanced confident dog, but I looked forward to training dog number two.

Now, five dogs later, obedience classes have become a constant in my life. Each dog has been a different journey. My rescue dogs are always the most challenging but also the most rewarding. The first basic bond that happens is when you finally get them to look at you and hold their attention before you even ask them to do a command. Just the attention alone is a special connection and always results in a treat. Lots of patient work together is so worth it when they become sure enough to rely on you and are more than happy to complete their tasks. They become relaxed, comfortable and confident in you and their surroundings.

I will always see the huge advantage of working obedience skills with your dog. The end result is a strong happy relationship. Rescue dogs probably benefit the most, as it is usually hard for them to trust without having had the advantage of consistency in their lives.

I take my dog Doug, who was rescued by LAGR, to visit Siteman Cancer Treatment Center. He is a Touch Therapy dog with Support Dogs. His job is to make people smile and to sit quietly while they pet and love him. It is so wonderful to see that a "canine fix" takes their minds off their cancer. I love to tell the people Doug's story. I tell them Doug is a true rescue, that he was in a shelter 20 minutes away from being put down, and not only is he still here, but now he has a job. Was Doug lots of work? Yes, from day one. Has he come a long way? Yes. Is he making a lot of people happy? Yes. Was the journey worth it? Yes, yes! Would it have happened without obedience classes? Most definitely not.

If you are looking to have the best possible connection with your canine friend, give obedience classes a try. I promise you will have no regrets.

---Dale Mara



We learned to "STAY" in school

Have Fun continued next page

Have Fun - continued

The American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen

A fun activity to do with your dog is the Canine Good Citizen achievement (CGC). This program was started in 1989 and was designed to reward dogs who have good manners at home and in the community. Your dog is trained and conditioned to act mannerly in your home and in public places and in the presence of other dogs. This program is open to all dogs. This is not a competitive obedience program and does not require precise exercises. It is a certification program involving everyday situations in a relaxed atmosphere and is a great way to work with your dog and train him/her at the same time.



The following are the ten steps your dog must be able to accomplish in order to get the CGC “stamp of approval”:

1. Accept a friendly stranger -- allowing the person to approach, speak to you and shake hands.
2. Sit politely for petting -- allowing the stranger to approach and pet your dog.
3. Appearance and grooming -- showing that your dog can be groomed and examined. The evaluator will have hands on your dog in a gentle manner, i.e. ears, feet.
4. Out for a walk -- using a loose leash you will demonstrate your dog is under control and will do right turns, left turns, about turns and stops.
5. Walking through a crowd -- this is the ability to walk your dog on a loose leash, under your control, while walking through a crowd of people.
6. Sit/down on command and staying in place -- this will demonstrate that the dog responds to and obeys commands.
7. Coming when called -- you give your dog the “stay” or “wait” command, walk 10 feet away, and then call your dog to you after a few seconds.
8. Reaction to another dog -- this demonstrates your dog can behave politely around another dog.
9. Reaction to a distraction -- this will demonstrate that the dog is confident. The testing person may drop a book or have someone run by, creating a diversion. Your dog may show interest but should not panic, etc.
10. Supervised separation -- this demonstrates that your dog can be left in the care of a trusted person and maintain its training and good manners while you are out of sight for three minutes. Your dog should not bark, whine or pace unnecessarily.

If you are interested in having your dog in this type of program, check your local training facilities to see when it is offered. Generally, training classes are only four weeks, but that would depend on where you go for training and their protocol. If you would like to learn more about this program, you can go online to www.akc.org/events/cgc - you will find all the information you need. Have fun and keep training! Note: There is now an AKC S.T.A.R Puppy Test. This is for puppies and owners who attend at least 6 classes taught by an approved AKC CGC Evaluator. At the end of 6 weeks, the evaluator observes and checks off 20 items that the puppy has mastered. Here is a link for more information http://www.akc.org/starpuppy/test_items_pledge.cfm

---Michele Swanson

Rally Obedience

Rally really rocks! If you are looking for an AKC titling event which is fun for both you and your dog, Rally Obedience is the sport for you. This sport combines aspects of agility as well as traditional obedience. It is set up with a course that is much like agility, where each station is a different obedience exercise.

The course has from ten to twenty different stations which vary at every different show. For instance, at the first station the dog may have to sit/down/sit, and at the second station, he may have to come front/ finish left. Although it is obedience exercises, Rally is not as strict as traditional obedience where you cannot talk to your dog after you have given him or her the initial command. You can not only talk to your dog during the exercises, you can pour on the praise as well, making it enjoyable. Young dogs especially tend to respond well to this positive reinforcement, making Rally Obedience a good stepping-stone for a non-experienced dog and handler from CGC (Canine Good Citizen) to traditional obedience.

Rally events are held in the same venues as obedience events. Rally Novice (RA) is the first title, then progresses through Rally Advanced (RA), Rally Excellent (RE) and Rally Advanced Excellent.

Rally is a win-win for the dog and trainer. The dog is getting used to being shown, as well as the trainer is getting used to the show ring. It is very rewarding to have your dog complete the different “legs” (stages) to advance and earn titles. Give Rally Obedience a try.

---Hillary Hershey

President's Message

Hi,

We are in the last part of 2013, and this has been a good year for Love a Golden Rescue. Our trivia night was a great success, and everyone had a lot of fun while helping our Goldenes.

September 21st was the day of our Reunion picnic. What a wonderful sight—71 Goldenes and their non-golden friends. Most of the dogs attending were rescued from us and now have wonderful, caring homes.

As of September 30, 2013 we have taken 62 dogs into our rescue. However, we are limited by the number of foster homes we have. With more foster homes, we could far exceed this number. If you are not currently a foster parent, consider the dogs we have to put in boarding or the dogs we have to say "no" to. There are some dogs that are not good candidates for boarding (like seniors—we don't like to put seniors in boarding for more than a few days).

Since our last newsletter, I feel Loren is by far the saddest story. She was a stray that we took in, and she went to boarding. The next day, her eyeball ruptured. It was horrible. She was in great pain, but our wonderful vets at Heritage Veterinary Hospital did emergency surgery to remove her eye. We later found she had a tumor and glaucoma. The pressure of the two pushing against each other resulted in her eye rupturing. She is so lucky that she was in rescue when that happened. If she had still been a stray, I do not know what she would have done due to the excruciating pain. Loren is looking for her forever home. This golden girl is a great dog but hates the vet's office and gets very stressed. She has no idea she only has one eye—it doesn't hinder her in the least.

During the last few months, we have helped breeder girls start a new life. We have also taken in several puppies which were likely to become breeder dogs. Mr. Chips has been treated for heartworms and will be ready for adoption in a few weeks. He is a gentle giant—one wonderful dog.

Thank you to all who have adopted our dogs. They are all very lucky to have special homes. Thanks also to our volunteers, especially our foster homes. Without everyone helping, things just would not fall into place.

Golden thoughts,

Jan

Ask Elsa



Dear Elsa,

I am trying to learn how to be a good dog, but it is a little overwhelming. Do you have any tips for me?

Sometimes-Naughty,
Nick

Dear Nick,

I have learned many things, but there are three commands I feel are important for you to learn for your own safety.

The first crucial word to add to your vocabulary is "Come." This simple word can be a life saver for you. You never know when you could be in a perilous situation, and when your human calls you to come, you need to obey. There is possibly a danger which your person is aware of, and you may be clueless. If you slip out of your collar on a walk, when called to come, you should respond and not go running off. This is just one example.

My second favorite phrase is, "Leave it." This can be invaluable to keep you safe. Imagine being in the yard and a frog or a toad comes hopping by. Of course, there is no reptile or amphibian that is as cool as a Golden. Nonetheless, you really want to play with it, but your person says, "Leave it," and you do. This could well save you from unpleasant consequences. If you had grabbed the frog or toad, it might have secreted some very horrible-tasting stuff. This could cause you to foam at the mouth and get sick. This happened to my brother who refused to listen. He will never do that again. Also, what if your person drops something on the floor? Let's say they drop meds or cleaning supplies or something toxic to a dog—like macadamia nuts, raisins or avocado? Listening to a simple "leave it", could save you from a trip to the vet.

My third favorite word is "Sit." It is a simple word but has a big impact. People are impressed when you greet them and sit. "Sit" is also good in other situations, such as when crossing the street. You sit patiently, while your person makes sure it is safe to cross. When there is someone at your door, instead of acting crazy, you sit and wait—that impresses human beings.

I also wanted to mention my mom says "ah ah" and that seems to be her universal word to listen.

Good luck. Evolving into a "good dog" doesn't happen overnight, but with hard work and the love of a caring owner, you'll make it.

Ever-helpful,
Elsa

Happy Endings



Lucy Louise enjoying time at the pool.

Amelia, formerly Marley, continues to do well at our home and with our family. She is so SWEET! Our vet fell in love with her too. :)



Shelby, formerly Echo, has taken her dad's genes for sure and is becoming a beautiful GSD (German Shepherd Dog) nothing like her mom, Daisy Jane, who is also featured in the happy endings section.



Essex, formally Brita, playing with her favorite toy.



Jovie, formerly Butters, has recently moved to live in Florida and is adjusting well--lucky girl.



Bailey, formerly Corie, is adjusting in her new home very well. She has settled down a lot since coming to rescue.

Duke, formerly Gabe, with his shirt on, dancing with his best friend. He needed a pair of sun glasses, but I could not find them. He has shirts of different colors, and he picked the gray one. SPOILED DOG!



Sahara has come so far and has really relaxed. After two years with her foster family, we all agreed that this is where she belongs!!

Hunter is enjoying his favorite spot in front of the fan. He looks so happy.



Leo (on the right) with his new younger brother, Stanley. He has really been mentoring Stanley and acts as a buffer for Emily when she has had enough play time.



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Happy Endings^{-continued}

Ike is doing wonderfully. If possible, he has gotten more loveable and loyal. He is in love with everybody who walks in our door (a watch dog he is not.)



Greta here: Just wanted to drop you a line to let you know that I'm doing great. My new brother, sister and I get along great. The cats are pretty cool too. The big cat thinks he's a dog, and the little cat talks to me when I check her out. Luv ya, Greta.

Big Tillie and her sister little Tillie, enjoying a western party at Kennelwood day camp.



She continues to do well and the two "Tillies" have become best friends.



Hank, formerly Frack, is a handsome boy! He is doing very well in his new home.



Ranger is doing GREAT! He is so sweet, so loving and such a cuddler. He follows me around everywhere all the time. Poor pup gets worn out on laundry days when I'm up and down the stairs a dozen times!

Daisy, formerly Dazee, enjoying a paddle boat ride at Forest Park.



Duke, formerly Mr. Duke, is lying with his ball, another favorite thing to do. Loving him is easy, he is a real sweetheart!

Brody, formerly Tugs, at 7 months. He looks so happy.



Continued next page

Happy Endings^{-continued}

Miss Maggie, formerly Daisy Jane, is doing very well. She is very sweet. When she came to rescue, she had a litter of very young puppies, which she raised with the help of her foster home.



Rosie, formerly Eliza, has had such a fun summer in Canada. She now barks to go out and barks to come in the cabin, a “real” dog for sure. All of the neighbors love her and bring her treats when they come to visit. Even the border guards give her treats. They know her by name!



Emma is the sweetest dog. She has settled in from day one here in our home and is great with our older golden Jazz. She loves to be outside and walks right next to

us all around our large yard. Emma wants to know we are always around, so she never wanders off - won't even go off the porch until we walk off with her. She has her favorite nap areas, one of which is a small couch in our bedroom. We find her snoozing there sometimes. She's just adorable and a joy. Thank you, Love A Golden!



Sarge is doing great. He is such a fun and fun loving happy dog – he runs and jumps and plays – does not act like a dog who had hip surgery.

PIC ME! - Goldens currently available for adoption.

All of our adoptable Goldens can be found on our web site at: www.loveagolden.com

Loren

I am a sweet girl who was a stray. The day after I came to rescue, my eye ruptured, and the vet removed it. Now I am no longer in pain. I am a fun girl. I look like I am winking at you. A lady never tells her age, but the humans estimate me to be 7 or 8 years.



Josh

I was found as a stray in rural Missouri. I do believe I may be a Golden mix, but I do not know for sure. Not to worry because my little body makes me the perfect couch buddy, and I love snuggling next to humans. I'm certainly not a lazy pup though. In fact, I'm still a young guy, maybe just over 1 year, so I have a lot of energy to burn. My foster home has a nice fenced in yard, which I need because I love to chase things including cars.



Recent Events

Trivia Night

Our annual trivia night was held on August 17. This fundraising event is always lots of fun. Good food, drinks, great silent auction and raffle items. We all learned a few new things that we didn't know before from the questions that were asked. This is one of our biggest fund raisers each year, and we look forward to it every year.

LAGR 2013 Reunion Picnic

Fiesta in the Park

"It is truly wonderful that all these dogs have been saved." This was the sentiment echoed by one of the 120 human attendees at LAGR's Reunion Picnic. 76 beautiful, cherished, adored golden-hearted dogs frolicked at Vago Park on a beautiful day in September. Games, photos, caricatures, a silent auction, a costume contest and great food made this annual event "the best ever."

Having fun playing games



Winner of the costume contest



Paddle for Puppies



In July, "Doc" Savage paddled from Kansas City to St Charles, in his kayak (see the photo). This annual race is named "Missouri MR340" and is a total of 340 miles. People donated money through Facebook and half of the proceeds were donated to LAGR; the other half went to a rescue in his home town in the Dakotas. The race started on Tuesday July 23rd, and they traveled the entire distance by early Thursday evening. Several Love a Golden Rescue volunteers and their Golden Retrievers were there to greet Doc and his wife Donna. That evening, Doc and Donna headed to a motel for a much deserved hot shower and a comfortable bed.

For more information on the race, go to <http://rivermiles.com/mr340/>



Love A Golden Rescue - supporters

Love a Golden Rescue would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters who, since the publication of our last newsletter, have given new "forever homes" to our homeless Golden Retrievers and who have generously helped our Golden Retrievers with their financial support, gifts in kind and donated services.

Adoptions

Edward & Carol Fann	Atlas
LeAnn & Phil Mercier	Bradie
Alexander & Elaine Watson	Brita
Name held on request	Clair
Tom & Beth Bauman	Cleo
Randy & Vickie Myers	Corie
Kevin & Janine Zeldin	Dazee
Jodi Urhahn & Ryan Martin	Frick
Name held on request	Gatsby
Joe & Floria Brown	Greta
Alan & Melanie Huster	Griffey
Name held on request	Keeper
Cathy & Mike Braun	Kory
Ed & Shelly Gamon	Leo
Alexander Birney	Linos
Hannah & Hunter Johnson	Lisha
Brad & Julie Hough	Marley
Richard & Angie Lippa	Maximilian
Name held on request	Meri
Linda & Larry Carr	Nick
Wendy & Fred Ehrlich	Ranger
Tammy Carson	Rugby
Bob & Sandy Kleberger	Sahara
Name held on request	Scout
Jim & Becky Bingham	Shelbi Ann
Name held on request	Sonnie
Michele Budde	Tillie
Carrie & John Hank	Tugs
Michele Bailey	Zoey Mae

Foster Buddies

Mari Graham	Greta
Paws Care	Greta
Pam Bogle	Keeper
April Fund	Keeper
Kathy Buxton	Levi Strauss
April Fund	Levi Strauss
April Fund	Saige
April Fund	Sasha
Fred & Alison Bauer	Zoey Mae

Donations

Angie Borgman
 Brian Matti
 Christi McGinness
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 Colleen Nolan
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 Imo's Pizza
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 Richard & Mary Ann Morris
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 Ronda Cramer
 Ruby & Joe Blair
 Russell & Barbara Crowder
 Sandy & Doug Turmail
 Shirley Lausted
 Stacey Peterson
 Westinn Kennels

In Memory and Honor

Dan & Cindy Lock	In fond memory of Buddy Lock
Betty Humhrey	In honor of Alex Van Der Linden
Patricia Rushing	In honor of Alex Van Der Linden
Ron Edwards	In memory of Beau Webb
Barbara Benkin	In memory of Casey Ellis
Kathy Rizzo	In memory of Dolly
Rebecca Rivers	In memory of River
Rita Lippert & Lois Koenen	In memory of Russ Kroeger
Janet & Ray Knoche	In memory Winston

The Golden Retrievers Thank You

In Loving Memory

Our LAGR adopted boy Buddy, formerly Diego (our first adoption from LAGR, but our second Golden), affectionately nicknamed "Sugar" ... because he was as sweet as sugar ... peacefully passed away on Wednesday, August 28, 2013. He was 13 years old and had a wonderful life snuggling with his owners, fetching the ball, swimming in the pond and attaching cockleburs to his fur as he roamed our timber ground...only to thoroughly enjoy a bath to remove the pond scum or a brush down to remove the burs! He gave us 8 years of loving and devoted companionship.



Buddy was exceptionally in tune with his surroundings and the emotions of the people in his life. He enjoyed sharing his wonderful personality as a therapy dog through Therapy Dogs International in a "Reading Books to Buddy" program that his owner and the school librarian developed for children at a local grade school. He also visited nursing homes, other schools and hospitals. He never ceased to amaze those around him with his special skill to gently approach and attend to all people, especially those with disabilities or illness. He was a unique dog with a genuine talent to intuitively know what

he needed to do with and for the people around him.

Jake who we adopted in June of 2011 has gone on to the Rainbow Bridge. He developed bone cancer in February 2013. By taking medicines, we were able to have him about three more months. He passed away on June 18th, 2013.



Dolly passed away in early June. She was perhaps the sweetest thing on earth, and she will be loved forever. We only had her for a short time in dog years, but we want to thank her for gracing our lives. Butterfly kisses and a wagging tail were Dolly's trademarks along with helping herself to pizza, one of her favorite things. She will be missed greatly....
Godspeed Dolly and forever run free!

Brando went to the bridge July 2013. He was 12 years old and had developed Grade III Mast Cell Tumors. He received four courses of chemo and seemed to be doing well until the last 24 hours... when he crashed. Brando was an amazing trained therapy dog who visited hospitals and nursing homes for years and brought much joy to lots of people. He had a huge heart and was a great companion of ours.



It saddens me to be writing you to inform you that we had to send our beloved Teddy to the "Bridge". He was as active as a 9 year old, or so we thought. Sadly a cancerous tumor was growing on his spleen which ruptured and has since devastated our family beyond belief.

Continued next page

In Loving Memory-Continued

Just wanted to let you know that we decided to let Baylee go to the Bridge during surgery after discovering she had extensive stomach, pancreas, and spleen cancer. Baylee was a living endorsement for the senior program of Love a Golden Rescue. She came to us at 9 years of age and was the sweetest, most laid back, gentle dog we have had the privilege to have in our lives. We would not trade our 3 years with her and will miss her terribly.

Gracie passed on the morning of September 27th. She was adopted in 2004. She gave us many years of unconditional and wonderful love. Thank you for bringing her into our lives.

Bree was flown from an Atlanta rescue in 2003. That rescue did not have the resources to take care of her hips, and LAGR raised money to help her. She was adopted by a wonderful family. She loved tennis balls. Sadly, she went to the bridge April 13, 2013.

Luke was adopted in 2004 as a high energy Golden. After a wonderful life, he went to the bridge on June 22, 2013. It was very sudden, he declined so rapidly.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Pattonville High School Craft Fair - December 7th, 9am - 3pm

2497 Creve Coeur Mill Road
Maryland Heights, Missouri

Pet-acular Holiday Bazaar- Purina Events Center

Saturday, December 14th Sunday, December 15th 11:00am - 4:00pm

Gray Summit, Missouri

Coming Soon

Watch our web page for "Photos with Santa"

Adoption Days

Come see our available Golden Retrievers.

Adoption Days are held at the following locations and times:

Second Sunday of each month - Noon until 3:00 PM
PETCO in St. Charles located near Zumbuhl and Hwy 70.

Last Sunday of each month - Noon until 3:00 PM
PETCO located at Clarkson and Baxter Roads.

See the LAGR calendar on the web site for details on all the events: www.loveagolden.com/events.htm

For information on any of these events, please email adoption@loveagolden.com.



They started out life caged up in a puppy mill. Here are Kory, Nick and Gatsby on the day of their intake. They are soooo cute, all fluffy and clean after baths. They are now in wonderful homes and doing well.

Love A Golden Rescue
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St. Louis MO 63146-0621



address correction requested



About our newsletter...

The Love a Golden Rescue newsletter is published three times each year, in the months of February, June, and October. The deadline for submitting stories, photos, announcements etc. is the 1st of the month in which the newsletter is published.

We reserve the right to edit any submissions for publication.

The newsletter is published in full color in Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format on our web site and can be accessed at:

www.loveagolden.com/newsletter.htm

To have the newsletter mailed to you, please drop a note to one of our addresses listed below.

Interested in volunteering with Love a Golden Rescue?

Then fill out a volunteer application form on-line at: www.loveagolden.com/volunteerform.htm

or send an e-mail to volunteer@loveagolden.com

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