

## **GOLDEN MOMENTS ISSUE 22**

*Newsletter of*

### **SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE**

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



My goodness what a winter we've had! I thought last winter was wet enough but this has just been dreadful. I do hope you have all been spared the flooding – it must be absolutely soul-destroying, and so difficult for those with animals. We can only hope for better things as the year progresses.

During 2013 we had 70 dogs signed over to us, which is 4 fewer than the previous year. Of these 45 originated from breeders, 8 from dealers and 17 were from unknown sources as they came without any paperwork. Unfortunately we had to have 3 put to sleep, 1 because of poor health and 2 due to temperament problems.

The Kent Fun Day is earlier this year, on 11<sup>th</sup> May. We hope to see lots of you there, and keep our fingers crossed for good weather. It will be a good opportunity to meet our new Co-ordinators. The date for the Hampshire day is 13<sup>th</sup> September.

We hope you and your dogs have a happy and healthy summer.

Throughout this Newsletter there are some hints and tips issued by the Kennel Club.

### News from Cleo

*(Cleo's photo appears on the front of this Issue)*

Cleo came to us on March 26<sup>th</sup> 2013 through Rachel Clark. She was 7 years old and immediately settled in with our 12 year old Golden Labrador, Rusty. He was feeling very lonely as we had sadly lost our Golden Retriever, Freda, aged 11 six months previously.

Cleo made herself at home straight away. All the toys were taken out of the toy box and she permanently has a stuffed toy in her mouth! We don't need an alarm clock, as at exactly the time it is due to go off I get a stuffed toy in my face!

Last month she passed her assessment to become a Pets as Therapy dog. We now visit 2 Rest Homes and a Hospice. The minute I put her yellow Pets as Therapy jacket on her she seems to know she is "working" and behaves beautifully, loving all the attention and cuddles.

She is very loving and affectionate, lots of fun and a wonderful companion and we cannot thank Rachel enough for re-homing her with us.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fun Day in May.

Gay Holmes

### Tribute to Cassie



We are so sad and sorry to have to tell you that our beautiful "Goldie" Retriever Cassie has left a huge space in our lives, after adopting us over 7 years ago. She passed away peacefully at home on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

The pleasure and loyalty she gave us, and the love and trust, cannot be expressed, but a memorial verselet has been written by a family member. It is in her honour and for all "Goldies" past and present. Thank you for letting us have a special delight in our family.

Caring for everyone you ever knew  
Alert and dedicated to just a few  
Serene and proud you nobly stood  
Special, unforgettable, loyal and good,  
Impeccable, yet all the while  
Exceptional bravery made us smile.

Eric N Pearce

### Pinch an Inch

After the winter we have had your dog may have had less exercise than usual and gradually put on weight. Keep an eye on this as excess weight can cause a range of problems including heart disease, diabetes and can significantly worsen arthritis. You should be able to feel your dog's ribs, and see a "waistline" from above. If you can't pinch an inch of loose flesh cut down on the food until you can.

## Farewell to Billy “Bonkers”

(Michael White writes -)



We were very sad to have lost Billy “Bonkers” to acute leukaemia in April 2013, aged 10 years. He was a great, loveable naughty boy.

I hope you will include the poem I came across which to my mind says it all, and is my dedication to his memory.....

### A Dog’s Will

Before humans die, they write their last Will and Testament, give their home and all they have, to those they leave behind. If, with my paws, I could do the same, this is what I’d ask.....

To a poor and lonely stray I’d give:

My happy home,  
My bowl & cosy bed, soft pillows and all my toys.  
The lap, which I loved so much,  
The hand that stroked my fur and the sweet voice which spoke my name.

I’d Will to the sad, scared shelter dog, the place I had in my human’s loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds.

So, when I die, please do not say, “I will never have a pet again,  
For the lost and pain is more than I can stand”.

Instead, go find an unloved dog, one whose life has held  
no joy or hope and give MY place to HIM.

This is the only thing I can give.....      The love I left behind.

Author unknown

[Easyfundraising.org.uk](http://Easyfundraising.org.uk)

[TheGivingMachine.com](http://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

## Summer Hazards

*(Advice from the Kennel Club)*

**Cliff Tops** – dogs do fall off and die each year, so keep them well away from the edge

**Heatstroke** – ensure your dog can drink clean water during walks, especially on hot days

**Adders** – if your dog is bitten, keep it calm and call your vet. Leave the wound alone

**Sticks** – dogs are killed and seriously injured when catching sticks; throw a safe dog toy instead

**Ticks** – check your dog daily for these pea-sized parasites that spread serious diseases, especially where sheep and deer live. Your vet will show you how to remove them safely

*(To find a vet when away from home, visit: [www.rcvs.org.uk](http://www.rcvs.org.uk))*

## Down on the Farm

*(Advice from the Kennel Club)*

Every year a few walkers and their dogs are killed or seriously injured by cattle. Every year too, sheep and other farm animals suffer painful deaths and injuries from pet dogs.

Minimise danger and injury by:

- Always keeping your dog on a short lead when farm animals are present
- Not walking between cows and their calves; go around them if you can
- Being aware of where cattle are; they are naturally inquisitive and may follow you
- Walking steadily and quietly past cattle; do not run
- Finding a different route around cattle if you can
- Reporting problems to the local council

**If you think you are about to be injured by cattle, unclip the lead so you and your dog can get away separately.**

## Bilbo

Bilbo continues to prosper and delight us. He has become fully integrated into our lives and we can't imagine being without him. He goes to a hydrotherapy session as often as we can manage. In the heated pool he is escorted up and down for half an hour and has a massage on his arthritic legs at the end of each length. At the end of the session he has a shower and shampoo, the result of which makes him smell and look highly glamorous. He's not overly keen on the whole business but he puts up with it and obviously benefits as his mobility has vastly improved. He also has Easy Flex cubes of New Zealand green mussel – one a day – which adds to his general wellbeing.



We used a CD programme to condition him to firework noises plus the valerian tablets. He was upset by the fireworks but not nearly to the same extent as before. We had taken the precaution of gathering in the small dining room with the heavy curtains tightly drawn – the TV volume up – there's the table he could hide under and I find it helps to keep him on a short lead. We'll do the same for New Year.

He's vastly improved on the walks. I'm more than ever convinced that his previous pulling derived from his need to find somewhere "to go" after being confined in the house. We made a bed for him by putting two well-filled pillows at an angle and filled in with an old duvet which he makes into his own nest where he looks relaxed and comfortable.

Colin and Andreas

## Yellow Dog Project

This project, which has been mentioned in some of the glossy dog magazines, was created to bring awareness of dogs who need space while training, recovering from surgery, or being rehabilitated. If you see a dog with a YELLOW ribbon, bandana or similar on the lead or on the dog, it means the dog needs some space. Please do not approach this dog or its people with your dog. It is an indication that the dog cannot be close to other dogs, so maintain distance and give them time to move out of your way.

There are many reasons why a dog may need space:

- It may have health issues
- It may be another rescue dog being rehabilitated and lacking confidence
- It may have had a bad experience with another dog, or just not be very friendly
- It may be a bitch on heat
- It may be in training
- It may be very old and arthritic
- It may be very shy or nervous

You can read about the project on [www.YELLOWDOGUK.co.uk](http://www.YELLOWDOGUK.co.uk)

### Freddie

Freddie is nine now and when we registered him at his new vets near our new home they thought he was very good for his age, particularly his joint mobility which is quite unusual in our experience of “goldies”. We still adore him of course, although still a bit of a “barker” which we’ve never been able to sort and also suffers a bit (not much really) from separation anxiety.

When we moved last July, we decided to stay with our own church in Herford which is only 20 minutes away from our new home, but did mean leaving him for longer on a Sunday morning than previously. So with the church’s permission we asked if he could come with us until he settled in our new house. Well, he has now settled very well so we could leave him but everyone at church loves him so much – he’s such a good boy and lies down quietly next to us – that they are quite disappointed if he doesn’t come! He even gets treats brought along for him. What is quite funny though is when it’s very quiet during the service, during the sermon or prayers, that seems to be the moment he wants a drink and everyone can hear him quite clearly “slurping” away at his water bowl!



David says that as we’re getting older, when Freddie goes to the kennel in the sky, we won’t have any more dogs, but I’m working on that as I can’t imagine not having such a wonderful companion in our lives. I’m sure I’ll wear David down when the time comes and maybe we’ll opt for an older “goldie” that’s a bit more sedate than Freddie, who’s still very lively.

Anyway, keep up the good work and we look forward to the next issue of the Newsletter.

Best wishes,

Jan and David Carter

## Seasonal Canine Illness (SCI)

The Animal Health Trust has been investigating this disease since September 2010. The symptoms are diarrhoea, vomiting and lethargy. The cases usually occur between the months of August and October. If your dog develops any of these signs following a woodland walk during that time seek immediate veterinary advice.

For more information visit [www.aht.org.uk/sci](http://www.aht.org.uk/sci)

### Portia

It was such a pleasure to read Shirley Murphy's article about Beema in the last issue (Issue 21) that I felt I must report on the progress of Portia - Beema's 'sister'.

Portia is the third golden retriever we have owned. Our first was Jo who we had from a puppy and she passed away one evening, aged 15, whilst wandering in the garden. I survived without a dog for around 6 weeks and having contacted Wendy Mercer at the Golden Retriever Rescue Society, I adopted Skye. I think she was around 6/7 years old and was a wonderfully gentle dog who settled in immediately. She finally passed away in March 2012, aged about 16.

Having once again survived a few weeks without a dog I contacted the Society and on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012 I was introduced to Portia. Skye was quite a small dog so Portia was a bit of a shock but I immediately fell in love with her and there was no way I was going home without her!



With a bit of careful feeding and more exercise the weight just fell off her. She has gone from just under 50kg to a very fit and active 33kg. She nags to be taken out for her walk for around an hour first thing in the morning and there is nothing she likes more, other than perhaps a few biscuits, than meeting some of the other dogs at the recreation ground and generally going mad. She comes home filthy dirty, soaking wet and ready for her meal! It is sometimes easy at night to hear her snoring like a train!

We wondered how our two young grandchildren would take to her seeing as she was so much bigger than Skye. They are here two days a week and, after the initial surprise of her size, they took her into their hearts as well. They christened her Rosie as they didn't really like the name Portia, and Portia is quite happy with the change of name on the days the kids are here.

Richard and Helen Green

### Charlie and Fosters

I thought it high time to update you with news of Charlie and Fosters.



Charlie has settled in superbly after the early hiccups. I decided that her aggression towards other dogs was down to jealousy. Once she realised that she was always MY dog first and foremost and all other dogs were only 'visitors' she has been fine and now gets on well with all other dogs on our patch. Not cats, though!

She hounds all the neighbourhood cats mercilessly and chases them whenever she gets free. She does like to eat their poo, however.

She certainly is not a boring dog at all as she is full of mischief and life. She also looks really fit and well as her coat is now fully recovered and thick and healthy .... and she has learned to play with toys.

Fosters is going downhill, I'm afraid. The vet has had him on steroids to combat the arthritis in his back hips, but to little avail. He also has a major eye infection which results in his left eye weeping puss on a regular basis. The vet has had him on antibiotics, but they made no difference as the infection is too deeply seated behind the eyeball. We considered removing his eyeball completely, but the vet was concerned that Fosters was too weak to get over a major operation and decided that it was best left alone as he was in no discomfort. I'm afraid the end is approaching.

Caroline and I hope that you and Peter are well and that the building work you had done last summer is all finished!

Best wishes.

David and Caroline

### News of George

George is doing absolutely fine. He has really settled in, and we all love him dearly. He still sleeps in our bedroom, but in



the corner, in his own bed. He is very good about not coming on our bed. He is allowed everywhere in the house, but not in the two clinic rooms where we work. He found it a bit hard to understand, that he wasn't allowed in there, to begin with. We had some advice from a dog trainer, and very quickly he learned to be happy sleeping in his bed in the dining room while we are on the other side of the door seeing patients. As soon as we have a break we are in the house with George. He occasionally might pick up one of the boys' plastic toys and have a little chew at it, but that is becoming quite rare.

George has 3-4 walks a day, of varying lengths. We go places where he can bounce about off the lead. He loves playing with other dogs, and he is always friendly to them. He is very good at coming to us when we call him.

He has been to the vets twice as he had an ear infection and an upset tummy, but that settled down.

So altogether, George seems very relaxed and happy, and we all adore him. We will continue to work with him, as he pulls strongly on the lead, but is getting better.

We feel very lucky that George has come to our family.

The Carrington Family



Scenes from Kent Fun Day

