

SPOTLIGHT ON RESCUE



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This month the Spotlight is on the Rescue Committee of the Golden Retriever Club of San Diego County and was contributed by Arlene Blouch and Jeannette Poling.

GRC of San Diego County was formed in 1971. In 1980, the members of the club recognized the need for rescue and formed a standing committee as part of their breed club. This standing committee had its first three members in Bobbie Sevier, Jeannette Poling and Jay Darby. The first year the group rescued and placed eight Golden Retrievers. Sometime around 1987, Jay moved, and Susan Burrows filled her spot. Susan continues on the committee with Bobbie and Jeannette today.

The San Diego club feels that "Golden Rescue" is one of its best accomplishments. Since 1980, The GRC of San Diego County Rescue Committee has placed 1,170 Golden Retrievers. In 2001, this rescue was still working hard to find homes for "throw-away Golden Retrievers," and they placed 42 needy dogs into new homes, 23 males and 19 females, ranging in ages from young puppies to senior citizens. The rescue committee takes the financial responsibility to spay/neuter the dogs that come into their care unaltered. They feel that the general public is beginning to understand that all pet dogs need to be sterilized. (As per their policy, all of the Golden Retrievers placed were sterilized before they went to their new home.) They do request an adoption donation from the new adopting owners.

These 42 Golden Retrievers were the dogs that could be placed in new, loving homes. Unfortunately they were contacted about approximately 20 other Golden Retrievers that they were not able to help, either because there was not

a foster home available for temporary care or because the dog was too old, too ill, or because they were not able to find a new home (or foster care) for the Golden before the owner had the dog destroyed and/or took it to the shelter. At this time the club is not able to handle the number of Golden Retrievers their owners routinely relinquish to the pound. Besides the strong support of the breed club, the rescue committee fortunately works with other wonderful rescue organizations that also help Golden Retrievers. BARC or the Benevolent Animal Rescue Committee in Temecula, California, (www.rescuers.com/barc) and the local FOCAS group (Friends of County Animal Shelters) foster out and place many of the Golden Retrievers that are abandoned in the San Diego shelters. The San Diego club is grateful for their assistance.

Like many rescue organizations, San Diego finds its biggest challenge is finding suitable adopters that are willing to make a lifetime commitment to their new family member. They, like most rescues, have many applicants looking for that "perfect two-year-old blonde female with no problems." Also being a small group, they find it difficult at times to meet the immediate demands of relinquishing owners that expect a one-hour response to their calls to turn in a dog.

As GRC of San Diego County moves forward, they realize that rescue will continue because there are still Golden Retrievers in need of an advocate. The club tries to stem the tide of these homeless Golden Retrievers through public education programs and

feels that the Southern California community is finally getting the message that "pregnant pets are passé." They continue to hope for the day rescue will become obsolete. Until that time, they will continue to help homeless Golden Retrievers.

GRC of San Diego has made a strong, long-term commitment to the breed, picking up on the commitment that dog owners fail to make.

Kudos and tail wags to the Golden people of this wonderful club.

Liability Insurance

Thank you to Arlene and Jeannette for this month's spotlight. The National Rescue Committee has been collecting information about alternative companies to provide liability insurance for rescues. Many programs have received a non-renewal notice from Hanover (the agent is Sportsmen) or will as their policy nears expiration. We now have information on at least one company that may provide an alternative. Please contact Carol Allen at easternregion-reps@grca_nrc.org or carosal@twcny.rr.com. Note: The NRC is not endorsing any company, but will pass along information as it becomes available. If you are aware of other companies that will write liability policies for rescue organizations, please contact Carol with the information.

As always, the NRC welcomes input, suggestions and questions. Please keep in touch! (www.GRCA-NRC.org;
E-mail: GRCA_NRC@yahoo.com) ❖