



THE GOLDEN GAIT

Vol. 43, No.1

January 2017

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Board Meeting	Jan 12
General Meeting	none in Jan
Valentine Party	Feb 11

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New Awards and Titles
Outstanding Achievements
Valentine Party
Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia



.....next General Meeting will be in February – see you there!



New Awards and Titles

EXCELLENT AGILITY JUMPER, AXJ

**GCH Brianne's Springtime Rock N Roll
OA
"DeeJay"
Gina Arch**

WORKING CERTIFICATE, WC

**Ch Harvorview's She's All That CD, JH,
BISS, RN, BVSS, THD, TT, DSR, TDIA
"Molly"
Sheri McCormick**

WORKING CERTIFICATE, WC

**Infinite Blessed Hope BISS, BPSS, WC,
CAC, THDA
"Hope"
Sheri McCormick and Gretchen McDonell**

CHAMPION, CH

**Infinite Blessed Hope BISS, BPSS, WC,
CAC, THDA
"Hope"
Sheri McCormick and Gretchen McDonell**

RAT HUNT OPEN, RATO

**PACH Hillock's Little Missy's Party UD,
GO, RAE2
"Missy"
Linda Bowman**

UTILITY DOG EXCELLENT, UDX

**PACH Hillock's Little Missy's Party UD,
GO, RAE2
"Missy"
Linda Bowman**

COMPANION DOG, CD

**Hillock's Ace of Hearts CD, BN, RE, OA,
OAJ
"Ace"
Linda Bowman**

AGILITY FAST OPEN PREFERRED, OFP

**PACH Hillock's Little Missy's Party UD,
GO, RAE2
"Missy"
Linda Bowman**

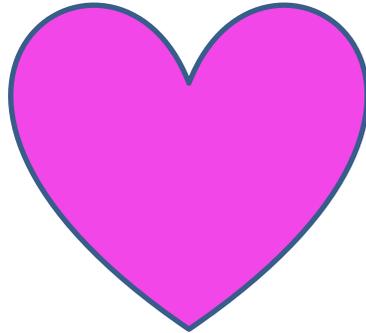
Valentine's Day Party

At the 2017 annual Valentine's Day Party for the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, we will be presenting each resident with party favors, which will include candy and other snacks! This event is an opportunity to brighten the lives of the residents. If you have never had the opportunity to attend this event, we strongly encourage you to do so.

This event is also a way for the club to thank them for the use of their facility as our monthly meeting site.

Kaitlynn and I are so excited to plan this event and would appreciate any and all cash donations to make this event a success.

Donations can be sent to Darlene McGowan 481 Eastview Drive, North Huntingdon, Pa 15642.





10th Annual Valentine's Day Party

When: February 11th 2017
10:30- 11:30 – Visiting
11:45 Lunch and Gifts!

Where: Holy Family Manor

301

Bellevue Road Pittsburgh PA

All are welcome at this event; dogs need to be
friendly and controlled

RSVP by February 3rd to Darlene McGowan
Lunch reservations are required- payable in cash at
the event (5 dollars per person)

Contacts: Darlene and Kaitlynn McGowan
dgm5861@msn.com

Kaitlynnmcgowan@icloud.com

(412-825-4088)

Outstanding Achievements

∞ The first Cancer Detection Dog in the country

Feather, Happytails Blue's Golden Feather of Dragongreen, is the first Cancer Detection Dog in America. Not only is she a Golden, but she is owned and trained by one of our very own members, Sheryle Long. Sheryle and Feather passed the certification test with the American Working Dog Association early in December. Hats off to them for this enormous distinction.



∞ Vern Bower Humanitarian Award

In 1989, the GRCA Board of Directors approved the Vern Bower Humanitarian Award for the purpose of recognizing those who have made exemplary contributions to the Golden Retriever, with the prerequisite being a selfless devotion to our breed.

The 2016 recipient of the award is Ann Hubbs.

Ann is a DVM (Texas A&M) and is the Veterinary Medical Officer in the Health Effects Lab Division, COC, NIOSH and is board certified in Veterinary Pathology and has published widely. She chairs the GRCA Health and Genetics Committee and has helped direct the work of the Golden Retriever Foundation. Ann has been involved with Golden Retrievers for many years and is active in breeding, conformation, obedience and agility. She has been a member of the GPGRC for 14 years. There is a further article on Ann in the Nov./Dec 2016 GR News, page 8.

Congratulations to Ann on this prestigious recognition and thank you for your devotion to our breed in a time when it is so needed.



Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia

Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia:

An Overview: The tricuspid valve is a valve of the heart. It is located between the right atrium and the right ventricle. Normal blood flow travels from the right atrium into the right ventricle, over to the lungs to be oxygenated, back to the left atrium then into the left ventricle, and out to the rest of the body. The purpose of the tricuspid valve is to prevent the backflow of blood from the right ventricle to the right atrium. The valve consists of 3 irregular shaped flaps. During fetal development these flaps are attached to the septum. As the fetus matures these bonds, which hold the flaps open, degrade leading to a functioning valve which closes tightly when the right ventricle contracts. Failure of these bonds to degrade is commonly causes tricuspid valve dysplasia to occur.

Valve dysplasia causes the heart to work less efficiently; this can lead to an enlargement of the right side of the heart and eventually congestive heart failure. Any breed of dog may be affected by tricuspid valve dysplasia but there are certain breeds in which the condition is more prevalent. These breeds include the Labrador Retriever, German Shepherd, Borzoi, Great Dane, and Weimaraner. Causes of Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia Tricuspid valve dysplasia is inherited meaning it is passed down from parent to offspring. It is not uncommon for there to be multiple puppies in a litter affected by this condition. The mode of inheritance has not yet been determined.

Symptoms of Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia As with most diseases, the symptoms of tricuspid valve dysplasia can vary depending on the severity of the condition. Some signs which may be seen are fluid retention (usually noticed as unexplained weight gain), cool extremities, and exercise intolerance. Commonly a heart murmur can be heard on the right side of the heart. Many dogs however, will exhibit no signs until congestive heart failure occurs.

Diagnosing Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia There are different ways in which tricuspid valve dysplasia can be diagnosed. One method is auscultation, or listening to the heart with a stethoscope. When this is done a heart murmur can usually be heard on the right side of the heart. Another method is a chest x-ray. The radiograph can show the size and shape of the heart which can indicate problems. The most definitive method of diagnosis is an echocardiogram. An echocardiogram is an ultrasound of the heart. A cardiac specialist can see in real time the blood flow of the heart and determine if tricuspid valve dysplasia is present.

Treating Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia There is currently no cure for tricuspid valve dysplasia. Treatment will depend on the severity of the case. In mild cases the heart can compensate and overcome the valve dysplasia and no treatment may be necessary. For more severe cases the prescribed treatment normally consists of managing the symptoms as they arise. This normally includes diuretics, which help remove excess water from the body, and digitalis, which strengthens the contractions of the heart. A low sodium diet and activity restrictions may also be prescribed by your veterinarian. Replacement of the tricuspid valve has not proven to be a good option based on the cost of the surgery and the rates at which the surgery is successful.

Care for Dogs with Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia When caring for a dog with tricuspid valve dysplasia it is important to remember that their heart must work harder than normal to supply blood to the body. This means that during exercise or playing you must know when to stop so you do not overwork the dog's heart. Any instructions given by your veterinarian should be followed strictly as this will keep your dog healthier longer. The AKC Canine Health Foundation and Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia The AKC Canine Health Foundation is currently funding a grant focused on identifying the genetic mutation responsible for tricuspid valve dysplasia in the Labrador. If this gene is found it will be helpful not only to Labradors but to all breeds that have been known to have this condition.

Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA)

All Golden lovers are encouraged to join our Parent Club, GRCA. The *GR News* is published bi-monthly by the GRCA and contains educational articles, provides a forum for issues of interest to Golden owners, highlights Golden accomplishments and contains correspondent columns from the Member Clubs across the country. Contact the Editor for more information.

GREATER PITTSBURGH GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB (GPGRC)

- Member club of the Golden retriever Club of America, Inc. (GRCA)
Master National Retriever Club (MNRC)
Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs, Inc. (PFDC)
- Licensed by the American Kennel Club (AKC) for Conformation Shows and Obedience, Rally and Agility Trials and Hunt Tests.

General Membership Meeting is held the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Membership applications are available from the Membership Chairperson. Attendance at two Club functions (one being a General Membership Meeting) and endorsement of two Club Members is required before an application can be accepted. Dues are: Regular Membership (individual) - \$25.00, a second adult – an additional \$13.00. Associate Membership (individual) - \$15.00, a second adult – an additional \$8.00. Junior Membership - \$1.00. Completed applications and dues are to be submitted to the Membership Chair.

Newsletter is posted monthly on the Club's Website at www.gpgrc.org. Club members may request printed, mailed copies of the *Golden Gait* for a fee of \$20 per year. Litter advertisements are accepted from Club Members only on a space available basis. (Fees are full page - \$10; half page - \$5; quarter page - \$2.50.) Refer to the Puppy Referral Policy and Breeder Code of Ethics for required clearances.

In summary, puppy referral is a service provided to GPGRC Members only. (1) Both sire and dam must be two years of age or older at the time of breeding; (2) copies of eye clearances within one year of breeding must be supplied; and (3) an OFA numbers for hips and elbows must be submitted. Also hearts must be evaluated by an approved veterinary cardiologist.

Acceptance and use of the information provided by GPGRC constitutes an acknowledgment that the user hereby releases and indemnifies the GPGRC and its Officers, Directors, Members and Agents from any and all liability and damages sustained by the user as a result of any information obtained from this organization.

Title/Award Record Form should be filled out and sent to the Accomplishments Recorder for all Conformation, Obedience, Tracking, Agility, Rally, Field Events or Community Service Events before they can be reported in the Newsletter.

If you have any matters you would like the Board to consider, contact the President, John Osheka, at 412-977-3870.

Monthly Meeting

The monthly meetings are held at the Sisters of Holy Family of Nazareth, 301 Bellevue Rd 15229. Meeting begins at 7:30 P.M. Guests are Welcome!

Directions from I-279: Take exit 12 toward US 19/Perrysville Ave. At Perrysville Avenue, turn left. Go approximately .8 mile and turn left onto Bellevue Road (Sunoco Station on corner). Go approximately .5 mile and turn right to stay on Bellevue Road. End at 301 Bellevue Road. Entrance to complex is one way. Sign will direct you to building. Yellow brick building behind large red brick building is the meeting place. There is an open parking lot or 2 deck parking garage available.

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Please email me pictures of your dogs which I can use in future issues. sallydines4120@gmail.com

GOLDEN GAIT - Greater Pittsburgh Golden Retriever Club, Inc.- Sally Dines, Editor