

KA LEO KULA

"Golden Voice" of the Golden Retriever Club of Hawaii, Inc.

Fall Issue, October, 2005

Board of Directors

Moke Strassberg

President

Steve Anderson

Vice President

Robin Anderson

Recording Secretary

Jackie Kupau

Corresponding Secretary

Debbie Williams

Treasurer

Barbara Germann

Director

Jody Gilbert

Director

Peggy Ketcham

Director



The Kapiolani Hospital visit is always heart-warming. Back row left to right: Moke, Barbara K, Melvia, Gayle, Brook, Kurt, Barbara G, Rose and Stan. Front row: the truly important ones...our critters. Not shown but in attendance: Russ & Jackie B, Del (Jackie's hubby), Peggy, Stacie and John.

Editor's Report

When there's an absence of shows, trials and club activities, it's pretty hard to come up with a newsletter. But we did have just enough activity this past three months to report on and there's more to come in the remaining few months of the year. Of course, we had our Halloween party at Waena Park and the visit to Kapiolani Women's and Children's Hospital for Halloween. And the Xmas visit is being planned.

We've also been in the process of soliciting people to run for the board for 2006 and it will be interesting to see who decides to come forward to help the club. I've always said that your Board members don't have an entitlement to their positions. If you think you don't know what to do on the board, think *help the members*. Some obedience and show experience is obviously an asset because, as a licensed AKC club, we have to put on shows and trials and it's nice to know what that's all about. But we welcome anyone to run for any position. We have meetings every odd month at one of our board member's home. Can you help the club by making it to six meetings a year? By the time you get this newsletter, nominations will be closed. But I do hope more people will consider it next year.

And are you ready for our year-end Xmas party? We're changing the venue this year. Instead of **Ted and Peggy's** house in Kapolei, it will take place at **Linda Jenks'** home in Enchanted Lakes. And no, it isn't because I spilled red wine on the Ketcham's white carpet!!! Invitations have gone out and I send a big THANK YOU to Linda. Gosh! I hope she doesn't have to work that night.

We welcome several new members to our club, some of whom attended our beach party in Waimanalo. Welcome to **Russ and Jackie Bachman, Brooke and Del Hernandez, Marie Anderson and Alika and William Sheldon, and Cheryl and Melanie Paiwa.**

(Continued on Page 3)

Inside this issue...

Golden Goblins

Golden suffers PRA...

Help wanted...

Writers needed...

Show & Trial Results

And more...

KA LEO KULA

Is a Quarterly Newsletter

Published by GRCH

Printed in Hawaii by Frank & Michael Suchomel

Edited by Moke Strassberg

Design & Layout by Charlene Smoyer

Left side top to bottom: At the Halloween Hospital visit, Stan and Barbara's Maile, Melvia and Kellan, Stan and Max. Right side top to bottom: At the June specialty, Charlotte's Broker was Best Veteran, Lei's Gabel took WB (shown by Pam Mizuno) and, Lei's other girl, Angie, took RWB. Gayle's Annie got her CD at the May OTCH trial.



Editor's Report *(Continued from Page 1)*

Since this is the last newsletter of the year, I'd like to thank all the members who have come out and helped with all of our activities. We can't do these things without you and we appreciate all that you've done.

Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) in Goldens

(submitted by Barbara Germann)

PRA is just one of a number of inherited eye disorders in today's Golden Retriever. We had never heard of this eye disorder until it turned up in one of our rescued dogs.

We rescued Roscoe at 2 years old from an abusive home. He was from "backyard" breeders in Aiea. When we went to see him we immediately fell in love with him. He was very timid, skinny, and ended up having heartworm. We felt all he needed was some medical rehab and lots of love, so we took him. He loved tennis balls, but didn't seem to have much "eye-hand" coordination. You would bounce the ball to him and he would jump to get it, but many times miss it. We thought that he maybe was just "slow" and was not very coordinated at the time. As he got older we started to notice that not only could he not catch the ball, but you could roll it right under him and he didn't even notice. In addition, he started walking into things at night and we now clearly knew there was something seriously wrong with his vision.

Off to the vet we went. Our vet verified that he did have a vision problem but sent us to the canine Ophthalmologist, Dr Yamagata, for further testing and diagnosis. It only took Dr Yamagata a few seconds to let us know that Roscoe had "PRA".

PRA is an inherited eye disorder. With PRA the cells of the retina gradually deteriorate. Over time the vision continues to worsen, which is why it is called *progressive* retinal atrophy. PRA is not a painful condition for the dog. In fact, Dr Yamagata explained that blindness in a dog is not as disabling as it is seen for a human; the dog's vision deteriorates over time, the loss is not abrupt. The dog can learn to adapt and get around unaided as long as there is no change to his usual surroundings. Roscoe had learned to navigate our house and yard by memorizing the layout, and is also more aware of other things like scent and sound.

PRA causes the pupil to dilate in an attempt to let in light so that the iris (colored portion) of the eye is barely visible. In most cases the owner first notices a vision loss in low light situations, especially at night. With time, the entire retina is affected and will affect daytime vision as well. Your golden may bump into things or misjudge distances to an object. For example, when we go to give Roscoe a treat he opens his mouth way before it's near him – and sometimes does this even when we are handing the treat to the other dog next to him. He is also reluctant to go up the ramp to the car and when we do walk him in the evening we have to be aware of what's on the ground because he can easily trip over things. He is still able to maneuver the doggy door from the house to the back yard but I have had to go out and get him at night sometimes if he goes out and gets "lost"

Regardless of the form of this disease, it does eventually progress to complete vision loss. This is not an illness related to age and can occur in a dog as early as 6 weeks in early onset PRA. In some cases though the vision loss may not be noticed until 2- 6 years of age (late onset PRA). By the time you may notice behavioral changes the condition is already advanced. With some cases the owner does not even know that there is vision loss until the dog is taken to unfamiliar surroundings.

There is no cure for PRA. The only form of "treatment" is prevention. Prevention means that the affected dog and all littermates should be neutered and not allowed to breed. Siblings from the litter of a dog that has been diagnosed as having PRA may not be affected but can still carry the gene and any offspring could reproduce the disease. Early forms of the illness can be identified by the ophthalmologist.

Roscoe is now 11 and still getting around. In fact we brought him to the club functions on several occasion although less now as it does not seem fair to take him out of his comfortable surroundings. He still walks on the leash 1-1/2 miles twice a day. I know that this disease exists in goldens in Hawaii because I have one that has it! I also know that he is from a litter of 7 and was at least the second litter of puppies that the bitch and dog had produced. Be vigilant and encourage all golden owners to spay and neuter all pets that could have a questionable background and discourage back yard breeding.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Tom Selleck couldn't make it

On September 25th, several of our members made it to **Eve Anderson's** estate where the old Magnum P.I. series was filmed. Many thanks go to **Peggy** for her tireless work in setting up a terrific outing and for picking up the sinful desserts.

The Anderson estate was built in the 1930's and has a bit of a Spanish look to it. There's a huge yard with lots of trees, tennis courts (which we didn't use) and access to that famous beach pond right in front of the property in which **Tom Selleck** was holding a lovely young lass during the opening credits of the old show. **Eve** has been very kind to dog clubs by letting them use the facility for well-mannered dogs and people.

After a quick meeting, **Peggy, Melvia** and yours truly demonstrated basic grooming for those who didn't know how to clean up their Goldens. There's a big

difference between getting them ready for the show ring and just cleaning them up and the latter is what we wanted to teach people. Let's face it! An ungroomed Golden can look pretty shaggy.

After the grooming class and lunch (we brown bagged it), we all went into the pond with our dogs. It was obvious that many of the dogs were used to it but some, like mine, had never been in the water and didn't know what to make of the current and waves. My thanks goes out to **Lynn Barefoot** for her tremendous patience with my girl **Cassie** who had a terrific time for her first water adventure. All the dogs had a blast. It was the first time all three of mine fell asleep in the back of the van on the way home.

For those who missed out, you really did miss out. But have no fear. We're setting it up again for next year in August. Stay tuned.

Kapiolani Hospital Halloween Visit

It was the day before Halloween when several of our members found their way to Kapiolani Hospital for our yearly Halloween visit with our lovely Goldens all decked out in costumes. It seems that the rooms aren't as full as they used to be which is actually a good thing. **Kurt** did a good job (as always) coordinating with our contact **Kai Nakaima**. For those of you who haven't done these hospital visits, Kai sets up guides who take us from floor to floor. It's quite organized.

Joining us this year with their Goldens were yours truly along with **Kurt and Stacey, Barb Germann, John and Gayle, Rose Chang, Barb and Stan, Melvia**, and new members **Brook and Del Hernandez. Peggy and Russ and Jackie Bachman** came without dogs and seemed to enjoy the visit. **Stacey** was sporting a new expensive looking digital camera with a view screen the size of a '55 Buick. And **Russ** had the same thing with about 100 mega pixels. If you see any great photos of the visit, chances are it was from one of them.

One of the nice things we did this year was take a Polaroid picture of the medical staff on each floor with our dogs. We have **Peggy** to thank for the Polaroids as she also took them of patients to give as gifts (we're not allowed to take photos with our cameras of patients due to privacy laws). Our next visit to the hospital will be mid-December. **Kurt** will keep you all informed.

Changes being considered

It seems as though everywhere you look nowadays, the trend is towards electronic. *(Continued on Page 4)*

Changes being considered

(Continued from Page 3) When we change anything that deals with our membership, I always want to know what the members think about it. There are a few items that I've been considering going electronic with and would very much appreciate some input from everyone.

The first item is our newsletter. We've been printing hard copies for five years now and mailing them out to everyone. And we really need to thank **Frank and Michael Suchomel** for their generosity in publishing our newsletter for us. But five years ago we didn't have a website and we only started including the newsletter on the website a year ago.

We only have one member family who doesn't have access to our website (but their daughter does). I would like to know what everyone thinks about going strictly electronic. Everyone would be able to use their own computers to view the newsletter on our website and, if they wanted to, print the pages themselves on legal size paper.

The second item concerns membership renewals. One of our past Treasurers, **Darryl Segawa**, was ahead of his time as far as our club went. He had a renewal form in Acrobat that everyone could fill out on the screen and then print out. A lot of people just couldn't figure it out. But I think more or us are getting better nowadays. So what if we had a special section on our website where members could fill it out, print it, and mail it in. **Casie**, our Webmaster, said she could create one that only our members could access for the yearly renewals. All you need to do is type the pertinent data, click on the type of membership, type in the amounts you wish to contribute to funds, and click the right year. The computer would calculate the totals.

And lastly, our By-Laws indicate that we should include the highlights of the minutes in our newsletter. If we are putting the newsletter on a website, perhaps the minutes should be sent separately to the membership rather than having "highlights" included within the newsletter. Since they come electronically from our Corresponding Secretary, why don't we think about sending it to all our members the same way? That way, the members could decide for themselves what they consider a "highlight".

Anyway, those are my thoughts. I'm trying to simplify things a bit without causing too much complication. Please let me know what your thoughts are on these suggestions.

Call for Help

Unfortunately, I'm not at all the shows or trials and don't see everyone as much as I'd like. So please send me show and trial photos with your dogs call and registered names and placements so I can post them on our website and within our newsletter. Also (and this is a big one), honor your dog's accomplishments by letting me know if they have received a new title that we can put in our newsletter. Thanks.

Can you write?

Anyone who has subscribed to GR News knows that **Lei Taft** (bless her heart) has been writing articles on behalf of our club for many years. It's not easy to come up with interesting articles every other month. Fortunately, Lei possesses a wealth of knowledge and was able to keep writing (did you know she's now a provisional breed judge for Golden's?)

A few years ago Lei asked for a bit of help and actually got some from Betty Brask, Susie Saunders, Sally Ropert and me. I don't know about the others but, personally, I'm tapped out for ideas. Lei has asked if someone else could take over the member column for GR News and I think after all these years of writing, she is certainly deserving of retirement from the writing.

Whoever takes over must have breed and show knowledge. Basically, that's what these articles are about. And GR News wants provocative (but not insulting) articles. If someone would like to step forward and take over, I'm sure Lei would be more than grateful. If not, we might just have to discontinue participating in member articles for our national magazine.

Also, after five years of serving as your editor for our newsletter, I'd be very happy to turn it over to someone. It could certainly be done little by little until the new editor gets the hang of it. Please let me know if you're interested in taking over any of these publications. And please keep in mind that we might get to a point where nobody does it because everybody thinks that somebody other than them is going to do it.

Show and Trial Results

After the Sporting Dog Specialties in June, there isn't a whole lot happening in Hawaii's dog world until August when OTCH holds its' obedience trial. How did our member's dogs do since June? If you look below, you'll notice that Rally was a very popular event for many of our members and I've taken the liberty of including those scores in the Show and Trial results. Those who took points, placements or received titles in Show, Obedience or Rally are to be congratulated. Unfortunately, I have not been made aware of any in particular. So the reporting below will have to be generic. Sorry about that.

Obedience Training Club of Hawaii, August 28, 2005

Novice B Kalaniakea Kobe Bryant, CD, 2nd place, 197.5 (Kupau)
Graceken Blitz'n All The Way, 4th place, 195.5 (Ketcham)

Rally Nov B OTCH Kalaniakea's Hit Da Road Jack, UDX, 4th place, 99 pts.
(W Kupau)
Ch Graceken Kalikimaka Hoku, CD, 99 pts. (G Thom)
Ualenakeahiahi O Haiku, CD, 98 pts. (Chang)
Joylet's Here Comes The Bride, CD, 96 pts. (G Thom)
Joylet's First Toast, CDX, 96 pts. (J Thom)
Ch Kelson Sunshine's Lucky Guess, CD, 95 pts. (M & J Kupau)
Golden Annie-Versary, 93 pts. (J Williams)
Joylet's Bridesmaid, 93 pts. (G Thom)

West Oahu Kennel Club, Saturday, August 20, 2005

RWD Larwenz Out Of The Blue (Harada)
WD, BOW Kalaniakea Kobe Bryant, CD (Kupau)
WB Joylet's Here Comes The Bride, CD (G Thom)
BOB, Gr.4 Ch Larwenz One Of The Boys (Brask & Larsen)

West Oahu Kennel Club, Saturday, August 21, 2005

RWD Kalaniakea Kobe Bryant, CD (Kupau)
WB/BOW Trowsnest Surprise Legacy (Taft)
BOB, Gr.4 Ch Larwenz One Of The Boys (Brask & Larsen)
BOS Kalaniakea Rose Of Sharon (Suchomel & Kupau)

Hawaiian Kennel Club, Saturday, September 3, 2005

WD/BOW Suntory N Shardust Sweetest Taboo (Perreira)
RWD Sand Dollar's Seaside Treasure (Saunders)
WB/BOS Larwenz Who's The Boss (Larsen)
RWB Joylet's Here Comes The Bride, CD (G Thom)

(Continued on Page 5)

Show & Trial Results *(Continued from Page 4)*

Hawaiian Kennel Club, Saturday, September 4, 2005

WD/BOW Suntory N Shardust Sweetest Taboo (Perreira)
 RWD Sand Dollar's Seaside Treasure (Saunders)
 RWB Kalaniakeas Happy Camper (Kupau & Adachi)

Windward Hawaiian Dog Fancier's Club, October 1, 2005

WD Sanddollar's Seaside Treasure (Saunders)
 RWD Kalaniakea Kobe Bryant, CD (Kupau)
 RWB Joylets Here Comes The Bride, CD (G. Thom)
 BOB, GR. 2 Ch Abelard's Boy Wonder (J. Kupau)

Windward Hawaiian Dog Fancier's Club, October 2, 2005

RWD Larwenz Out Of The Blue (Harada)

Orchid Isle Dog Fanciers Club, October 8, 2005

WB, BOW, BOS Kalaniakeas Happy Camper (Kupau & Adachi)
 BOB, Gr. 4 Ch Larwenz One Of The Boys (Brask & Larsen)

Kona Coast Kennel Club, October 9, 2005

WB Kalaniakeas Happy Camper (Kupau & Adachi)
 BOB, Gr. 2 Ch Larwenz One Of The Boys (Brask & Larsen)
 BOS Ch Kalaniakea Rose of Sharon (Suchomel & Kupau)

Obedience

Novice B Ch Larwenz Frosted Flakes, CD, RN, 3rd place, 187.5 (Brask)

Leeward Training Club of Hawaii, October 16, 2005

Novice B Kalaniakea Kobe Bryant, CD, 2nd place, 195.0 (W&J Kupau)
 Open B OTCH Kalaniakeas Hit Da Road Jack, UDX, 3rd Place, 194 (W Kupau)

Valley Isle Kennel Club of Maui, November 12, 2005

Novice B Ch Larwenz Luck Charms, 1st place, 191.5 (Larsen)
 Open B OTCH Kalaniakea's Hit Da Road Jack, UDX, 1st Place, 197 (W. Kupau) **HIT, HC**
 Utility B OTCH Kalaniakea's Hit Da Road Jack, UDX, 1st Place, 193.5 (W. Kupau)
 Rally B Ch Larwenz Lucky Charms, 1st Place, 100, (Larsen)
 OTCH Kalaniakea's Hit Da Road Jack, UDX 3rd Place, 99 (W. Kupau)
 Kalaniakea Kobe Bryant, CD, 4th place, 99 (W. Kupau)

It's been said...

"I want to go out!" "I want something to eat!" "Pet me, scratch me, rub my ears now!" Dogs go in for exclamation points." Arthur Yorinks

"Kindergarten Puppy Training is as important for our two-to-five months old puppies as is nursery school and kindergarten for our three-to-six year old children." Margaret E. Pearsall

"Won't be long" means nothing to a dog. All he know is that you are GONE." Jane Swan

"Dogs make excellent therapists because they are not judgmental and give unconditional love. Dogs love people regardless of their appearance, problems or social status." Mary R. Burch, PhD

"My dog can bark like a Congressman, fetch like an aide, beg like a press secretary, and play dead like a receptionist when the phone rings." Gerald Solomon

"Doggies, the most faithful and trustie companions of all others to a man." Pliny

"Dogs never judge us and never compete with us." Marjorie Gilbert

"Dogs possess something very like conscience." Charles Darwin

Just an Old Golden Retriever

By Audrey Thomasson *(submitted by Susie Saunders)*

She was just an old golden retriever. Her name was Brandy, and for eleven years she was the sole companion of an elderly woman who lived in a bungalow colony in the country. Neighbors often saw the two of them together in the garden. The woman would be hunched over picking flowers and there was that old dog, close at her heels or lying in the middle of the grass watching her pull weeds. When the woman died, some relatives came and collected anything they thought was valuable and put a "For Sale" sign on the front lawn. Then they locked the dog out and drove away.

Some of the neighbors left food out for Brandy, but mostly the dog stayed near the house that she knew and waited for her owner to come back. A young mother who lived next door noticed the old retriever, but she had never been around animals before and while she thought the dog was friendly enough, she didn't feel it was any of her concern.

However, when the dog wandered into her yard and began playing with eighteen-month-old Adam, she wanted to shoo the dirty thing away. Adam was her only child and the light of her life. But he was having so much fun feeding Brandy cookies she decided to let her stay. After that, whenever Adam had cookies Brandy came by to visit.

One afternoon, the boy's mother left Adam in the soft grassy yard to play while she answered the phone. When she returned he was gone. Just gone. The mother was frantic. Neighbors came over to help in the search. Police arrived and looked for three hours before calling in the state police and helicopters to do an extensive aerial search. But no one could find the child, and as the sun set over the horizon, whispers of abduction, injury or even death crept into conversations.

The search had been going on for six hours when a neighbor, who'd just returned home, wondered where Brandy was. Adam's mother, hysterical with worry, didn't understand why anyone was asking about the old dog at a time like this.

When someone suggested she might be with Adam, a trooper recalled hearing a dog barking deep in the woods when they were doing a foot search. Suddenly, everybody started calling for Brandy.

They heard faint barking and followed the sound until they found the toddler, standing up fast asleep, pressed against the trunk of a tree. That old dog was holding him there with one shoulder as one of her own legs dangled over a thirty-five-foot drop to a stream below.

Brandy had followed Adam when he wandered off. When she saw danger, she'd pushed him out of harm's way and held him safe for all those hours, even as the child struggled to get free.

As soon as the rescue team picked up Adam, the old dog collapsed. A trooper carried Adam back home, while his mother, sobbing with relief, carried Brandy. She was so grateful to the old golden retriever that Brandy spent the rest of her days with them. Brandy lived to the ripe old age of seventeen.

But this story doesn't end with just one life saved. In Brandy's honor, Adam's mother, Sara Whalen, founded Pets Alive, a rescue sanctuary in New York that takes in unwanted animals, including those designated to be euthanized because they are old, blind, incontinent or perhaps not cute enough to be adopted. While she can't save them all, Sara feels comforted that she can help at least some of them. She knows that if someone had put that old retriever to sleep, she could have easily lost the light of her life: her son.

Today, thirty years later, there are more than three hundred animals in her care, including birds, potbellied pigs, old horses retired from the carriage business and unadoptable pets from rescue groups across the country. The woman who used to think an old, abandoned dog wasn't any of her concern found that every life has value and has become a beacon for thousands of animals in need.