

Mainely Golden Times

Published by *Ireigold Golden Retrievers* for Golden Retriever Owners/Admirers

Welcome to the first edition of Mainely Golden Times, a newsletter developed with our golden retriever owners in mind. The newsletter invites you to share the warm, zany experience of living with a golden, revel in the idea that your dog is part of a very large family of handsome golden retrievers and actually meet many of those family members, learn some practical strategies for maintaining your golden, and stay informed with current research and trends in golden retriever health. My goal is to publish a newsletter quarterly and highlight different litters along the way, so March 2008 and April 2006 litters are next. I am looking for photos of /anecdotes about/ major achievements of all Ireigold/Rosewood dogs in addition to birthday pups for inclusion in each issue!

This particular newsletter is dedicated in celebration to the Ireigold litter of December 2004 that recently had their 5th birthday! All families have contributed photos and/or articles, yielding an overview of how this litter grew up and the adventures those young puppies took their new families on along the way.

Introducing the 2004 Litter



Jack



Jinny Sue



Murphy



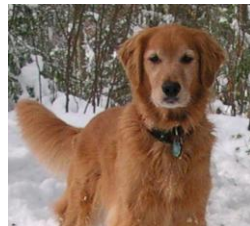
Lucy



Emory



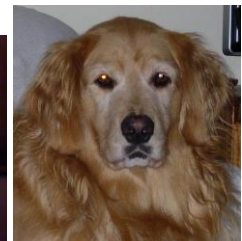
Jake



Addie



Jesse



Sadie

Five dogs hail from Maine, two from Mass., one from New Hampshire and one from Wisconsin with a family that hopes to relocate to Maine again in the future. Four reside with children, one dwells with lots of horses (it is speculated that she thinks she is equine), one lives in my somewhat civilized pack with 5 other goldens, two have the company of a younger Ireigold buddy, one is from a family who owned and loved a beautiful Ireigold (then Rosewood) dog from the 1995 litter, one had a stunning buddy who had been an Ireigold show dog and earned championship points at age 6 months, one is an agility competitor, one is named for a star /is an accomplished therapy dog/ is learning about agility, another is named for a flamboyant and deliriously funny redhead, and all are exponentially loved by their two leggeds.

≈The following stories are anecdotes that ring true for anyone who has ever owned and loved a golden≈

Submitted by Jinny Sue Trafton who lives with her golden retriever parents on an equestrian facility.

From "A Day In My Life"

A ball? Thank-you! Oh boy!
Run-retrieve. Run-retrieve. Run-retrieve.
Come on! Throw the ball again!
No?
Here, I'll put it in the wheelbarrow.

What?
Where's my ball?
You emptied the wheel barrow?
My ball is in the manure pile!!
Dig, dig, dig.
Ah! I found it!
Okay, I'm Back!
Throw my ball!"

Editors note: Seems to me that when my Lucy no longer had access to a horse manure wheelbarrow that she readily substituted the dog poop pick up cart for the same game!

Jesse

The following story was submitted with the above photo and is written by the Macioici Dad:

Dogs have never been allowed up on our beds. That is until one day when I let Jessie jump up into our bed. Over the years, despite all attempts to break the habit, she still loves to jump up and sleep on our bed. Our kids took it one step further. They taught Jessie how to sleep on MY side of the bed and even how to rest her head on MY pillow. Of all places in the house, Jessie loves to sleep on my side of the bed and on my pillow. We love her !!

Sadie Savilonis

Sadie is most certainly the "Princess" in this house. She has given us hours of love, pleasure and loads of laughs. I often think about her littermates and where they all ended up.

One of Sadie's favorite things to do is raid the laundry basket at the most inopportune time....many times she has happily trotted out to our guests with a pair of underwear or one of my bras dangling from her mouth!! Very proud to show off her prize. No matter how hard I try and stop her....she loves stealing kitchen towels from their hooks, laundry, slippers, socks, cat toys walking around and around like she has just found the most amazing thing in her world. She is our perfect Golden Girl and such a character !!

Murray Stevens



Murray with his feline friend, Cosmo

We adopted a kitten in August. The kitten, Cosmo, immediately connected with Murray. The kitten grooms Murray and they snuggle on the couch frequently. They both greet me at the door when we come home too. They are the best of buddies. Initially Murray didn't know what to do with the extra attention, but now he enjoys it. They are quite a pair. It is an endearing site to see the kitten groom Murray and in turn Murray groom the kitten. I had never seen anything like it.

Emory



Emory's little (??) brother is Riley, an Ireigold pup from the 2006 litter.

Emory and Riley are best friends. One cannot be without the other or at least know where the other one is. They take care of each other, scolding each other if they are doing something they think is not right (when Emory climbs up in a lap while someone is working on the computer, Riley will grab her arm and try to get her down) They have to go out together, or for a ride together (they cry for one another or wait by the door if one has to leave alone) Both of them are so excited when their kids(our kids) come home. They bring all their toys to them and talk to them about all that has gone on,(or leave again, but Riley goes into a funk. He tries to block the door or anything they are trying to move out to their car. If that doesn't work, he lays in his crate and looks pitiful. It takes him a while to come out even for a treat.

Both of them love the snow, running, rolling, jumping into drifts and chasing each other around. Emory loves jumping off the dock in the summer, but Riley just likes swimming around. Both love taking boat rides. Both of them greet visitors with a toy in their mouth, but if Riley doesn't have one he takes it from Emory as if she brought it there for him. She just goes and gets another toy. They both play tag with the cat. He will hide behind a bush and chase them when they run by, then they chase him. They always check on where their people are and are never far away from them. They are very smart and have trained us well, whether it is time to eat, get a treat, play or go

outside.

Can't think of any special story, every day they do something to make us smile or brighten our day.

Editors note: so the special story here is that daily life with these two characters is a hoot!

Addie



Addie has her Canine Good Citizens Certificate and is also certified as a therapy dog. She is seen above working in a senior center where the residents LOVE to spend time with her! In her spare moments Addie trains in agility – her Mom reports that she is a star on all of the equipment and is learning the teeter.

Lucy



Lucy is in the sky most of her time, training and competing in agility. Of all the canine performance activities I have experienced, agility is by far THE MOST FUN! We both need to keep in shape and the bond that develops between a working dog and a handler is very special. Communication occurs primarily through body language so even folks who can't run fast (like me!) can participate. And it isn't necessary to compete to enjoy - I recommend agility to people who are interested in exploring a new level of connection with their dog. Lucy has earned her Canine Good Citizen Certificate, an AKC Novice Agility Jumpers title, and her Canine Performance Events Level 2 title. In her spare time she finds people who will engage in her obsession with tennis balls – any warm body will do.

Notes from Ireigold: *We are pleased to report that Uno, our 16 year old golden, is doing well in her 112th canine year. She is being maintained on a grain free diet and Chinese herbs prescribed by Dr. Laura Edelbaum of the Brunswick Veterinary Clinic. In the next issue I'll be talking more about developing a canine health plan for longevity.*

It will be litter time again soon – Irei will be bred for the last time to AKC Champion Tangleloft Endless Love, OS (outstanding sire). Pups of the same breeding from 2006-2009 may be seen at the website. We are taking a very limited number of deposits now for this summer litter.



Bella (2009 litter)co-owned with Stephanie Lewis Moet (our puppy from the 2008 litter)

~~~~~ *Christmas Photos* ~~~~~

**Zeke and his buddy, Buddy Young** ( 2008 litter). These two take the adorable quotient right off the chart!

Buddy is co-owned with the Young family.



**Reilly Findlen** (not to be confused with the other large Riley fellow who is his brother from the 2006 litter) and **Mully, Audrey, and Doc Fred.**



**Emily and Tess**, esteemed dam of the 2004 litter. Tess is ten years old and has won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Veteran Sporting Dog Group ( that's the best dog age 8 -12 out of all the sporting breeds).



**Takoda** is a full brother of Moet's from the 2007 litter. He spends much of his time at the beach! Here he is posng regally with the Kirstein family.





### Veteran (senior) Dogs

**George and Gracie were puppies from the 1997 and 1994 litters respectively . Gracie was Uno’s full sister. We are proud to offer stories of veteran dogs and their families. We encourage our families to submit their very special memories of Rosewood/Ireigold pups past and present and will include this column in future issues. Our deepest thanks to Patti Parisien for sharing some of her precious Golden moments.**

**George**



**George and Gracie**



George became a very special member of our family in the spring of 1997. His sister Grace had been with us for three years when we brought home this rambunctious little fellow. They quickly became fast friends, always at each other's side. Each morning they walked the property together until Grace decided she needed to smell all the flowers at the neighbor's perennial farm. George would sit patiently under the cherry tree, watching the horizon for Grace's return. She never dallied too long and upon her return George would greet her with his wagging tail and crazy antics. George and Grace were inseparable.

Grace succumbed to a tumor in 2005. For nearly a year after her passing, George would walk the perimeter of our three acre property each morning, searching for Grace. He would return to sit under the cherry tree where he had watched for Grace's return on so many mornings over the years. Watching George mourn for Grace was incredibly sad because there was nothing we could do to help him understand what had happened. George eventually adjusted to life without his sister and best friend, although his ears will still perk up when he hears us speak of Grace.

George is thirteen years old now. Although he can no longer run along side a snowmobile, he still loves to roll in the snow and make snow angels, followed by coming in and laying on his bed next to the fire. Let's not forget to mention one of is favorite things is to eat carrots, freshly picked from the garden.

If I were asked to describe the traits of a Golden Retriever the words that come to mind are loving, loyal and devoted. George personifies each of these characteristics each and every day.



## Golden Grooming Tips

**Got the Shedding Blues?**

It's that time of year when your golden's coat is shedding by the handful and you just can't seem to keep the floors fuzz free! An extra bath here and there will help to loosen the old coat - it is possible to bathe your golden every week as long as you use a canine PH balanced shampoo and conditioner ( I recommend Isle of Dog Royal Jelly shampoo and conditioner which dilute 10 to 1 and as such are a great value. Available on line at [www.iodogs.com](http://www.iodogs.com)). Using a blow dryer after a bath also helps . the heavier duty the better.

To remove undercoat easily and effectively ... Invest in an Undercoat Rake. Once you use one of these very handy grooming tools (cost: approximately \$20) you'll wonder how you've ever done without one! It makes very quick work of brushing, particularly when the goal is to remove lots of undercoat. They're available at most pet supply stores, and through pet supply catalogues and web sites. Buy or order one today! Your Golden will thank you!!  
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## **And in Anticipation of Summer... Don't Shave Your Golden!**

Many people mistakenly believe that shaving or severely clipping their Golden is a wonderful way to keep the dog cool and comfortable in warm weather. What they don't realize is that they're actually putting the dog at greater risk of health problems like skin cancer. Here's why:

A Golden's coat is made up of two parts -- the long and smooth outercoat and the soft and fuzzy undercoat -- which work together throughout the seasons to protect the skin from sun, heat, cold and moisture. To understand how the two coats work together, consider what naturally occurs in a Golden's coat as the seasons progress ...The undercoat thickens in cold weather to keep the Golden warmer and dryer. It also begins to come out in big clumps in warm weather, when the Golden no longer needs as much of it. But the outercoat remains the same year round ... offering not only the beauty we've come to love in this breed, but more importantly, protection from the harmful effects of UV rays on the Golden's skin. That's why the keys to keeping your Golden not only cool but safe in warm weather are to keep the protective outercoat intact -- something shaving or severe clipping DOES NOT allow you to do -- and to remove the undercoat on a regular, weekly basis.



**Vaccination protocols are a hot topic in the world of veterinary medicine. I will be providing readers with current developments and also information about vaccination alternatives. This issue's article is written by World-renown vaccine research scientist, pet vaccine disclosure advocate and practicing veterinarian, Dr. W. Jean Dodds of California.,Dr. Jean Dodds, is founder of HEMOPET, the non-profit animal blood bank and a friend to animal lovers the world over. HEMOPET is where blood tests may be done to check for vaccine antibodies instead of unnecessarily re-vaccinating our companion animals. Dr. W. Jean Dodd's vaccination protocol is now being adopted by ALL 27 North American veterinary schools.**

**CHANGING VACCINE PROTOCOLS** by *W. Jean Dodds, DVM*  
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The challenge to produce effective and safe vaccines for the prevalent infectious diseases of humans and animals has become increasingly difficult. In veterinary medicine, evidence implicating vaccines in triggering immune-mediated and other chronic disorders (vaccinosis) is compelling. While some of these problems have been traced to contaminated or poorly attenuated batches of vaccine that revert to virulence, others apparently reflect the host's genetic predisposition to react adversely upon receiving the single (monovalent) or multiple antigen "combo" (polyvalent) products given routinely to animals. Animals of certain susceptible breeds or families appear to be at increased risk for severe and lingering adverse reactions to vaccines.

The onset of adverse reactions to conventional vaccinations (or other inciting drugs, chemicals, or infectious agents) can be an immediate hypersensitivity or anaphylactic reaction, or can occur acutely (24-48 hours afterwards), or later on (10-45 days) in a delayed type immune response often caused by immune-complex

formation. Typical signs of adverse immune reactions include fever, stiffness, sore joints and abdominal tenderness, susceptibility to infections, central and peripheral nervous system disorders or inflammation, collapse with autoagglutinated red blood cells and jaundice, or generalized pinpoint hemorrhages or bruises. Liver enzymes may be markedly elevated, and liver or kidney failure may accompany bone marrow suppression. Furthermore, recent vaccination of genetically susceptible breeds has been associated with transient seizures in puppies and adult dogs, as well as a variety of autoimmune diseases including those affecting the blood, endocrine organs, joints, skin and mucosa, central nervous system, eyes, muscles, liver, kidneys, and bowel. It is postulated that an underlying genetic predisposition to these conditions places other littermates and close relatives at increased risk. Vaccination of pet and research dogs with polyvalent vaccines containing rabies virus or rabies vaccine alone was recently shown to induce production of antithyroglobulin autoantibodies, a provocative and important finding with implications for the subsequent development of hypothyroidism (Scott-Moncrieff et al, 2002).

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Vaccination also can overwhelm the immunocompromised or even healthy host that is repeatedly challenged with other environmental stimuli and is genetically predisposed to react adversely upon viral exposure. The recently weaned young puppy or kitten entering a new environment is at greater risk here, as its relatively immature immune system can be temporarily or more permanently harmed. Consequences in later life may be the increased susceptibility to chronic debilitating diseases.

As combination vaccines contain antigens other than those of the clinically important infectious disease agents, some may be unnecessary; and their use may increase the risk of adverse reactions. With the exception of a recently introduced multivalent *Leptospira* spp. vaccine, the other leptospirosis vaccines afford little protection against the clinically important field strains of leptospirosis, and the antibodies they elicit typically last only a few months. Other vaccines, such as for Lyme disease, may not be needed, because the disease is limited to certain geographical areas. Annual revaccination for rabies is required by some states even though there are USDA licensed rabies vaccine with a 3-year duration. Thus, the overall risk-benefit ratio of using certain vaccines or multiple antigen vaccines given simultaneously and repeatedly should be reexamined. It must be recognized, however, that we have the luxury of asking such questions today only because the risk of disease has been effectively reduced by the widespread use of vaccination programs.

Given this troublesome situation, what are the experts saying about these issues? In 1995, a landmark review commentary focused the attention of the veterinary profession on the advisability of current vaccine practices. Are we over vaccinating companion animals, and if so, what is the appropriate periodicity of booster vaccines? Discussion of this provocative topic has generally lead to other questions about the duration of immunity conferred by the currently licensed vaccine components.

In response to questions posed in the first part of this article, veterinary vaccinologists have recommended new protocols for dogs and cats. These include: 1) giving the puppy or kitten vaccine series followed by a booster at one year of age; 2) administering further boosters in a combination vaccine every three years or as split components alternating every other year until; 3) the pet reaches geriatric age, at which time booster vaccination is likely to be unnecessary and may be unadvisable for those with aging or immunologic disorders. In the intervening years between booster vaccinations, and in the case of geriatric pets, circulating humoral immunity can be evaluated by measuring serum vaccine antibody titers as an indication of the presence of immune memory. Titers do not distinguish between immunity generated by vaccination and/or exposure to the disease, although the magnitude of immunity produced just by vaccination is usually lower (see Tables).

Except where vaccination is required by law, all animals, but especially those dogs or close relatives that previously experienced an adverse reaction to vaccination can have serum antibody titers measured annually instead of revaccination. If adequate titers are found, the animal should not need revaccination until some future date. Rechecking antibody titers can be performed annually, thereafter, or can be offered as an alternative to pet owners who prefer not to follow the conventional practice of annual boosters. Reliable serologic vaccine titering is available from several university and commercial laboratories and the cost is reasonable (Twark and Dodds, 2000; Lappin et al, 2002; Paul et al, 2003; Moore and Glickman, 2004).

Relatively little has been published about the duration of immunity following vaccination, although new data are



beginning to appear for both dogs and cats.

Our recent study (Twark and Dodds, 2000), evaluated 1441 dogs for CPV antibody titer and 1379 dogs for CDV antibody titer. Of these, 95.1 % were judged to have adequate CPV titers, and nearly all (97.6 %) had adequate CDV titers. Vaccine histories were available for 444 dogs (CPV) and 433 dogs (CDV). Only 43 dogs had been vaccinated within the previous year, with the majority of dogs (268 or 60%) having received a booster vaccination 1-2 years beforehand. On the basis of our data, we concluded that annual revaccination is unnecessary. Similar findings and conclusions have been published recently for dogs in New Zealand (Kyle et al, 2002), and cats (Scott and Geissinger, 1999; Lappin et al, 2002). Comprehensive studies of the duration of serologic response to five viral vaccine antigens in dogs and three viral vaccine antigens in cats were recently published by researchers at Pfizer Animal Health ( Mouzin et al, 2004).

When an adequate immune memory has already been established, there is little reason to introduce unnecessary antigen, adjuvant, and preservatives by administering booster vaccines. By titering annually, one can assess whether a given animal's humoral immune response has fallen below levels of adequate immune memory. In that event, an appropriate vaccine booster can be administered.

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