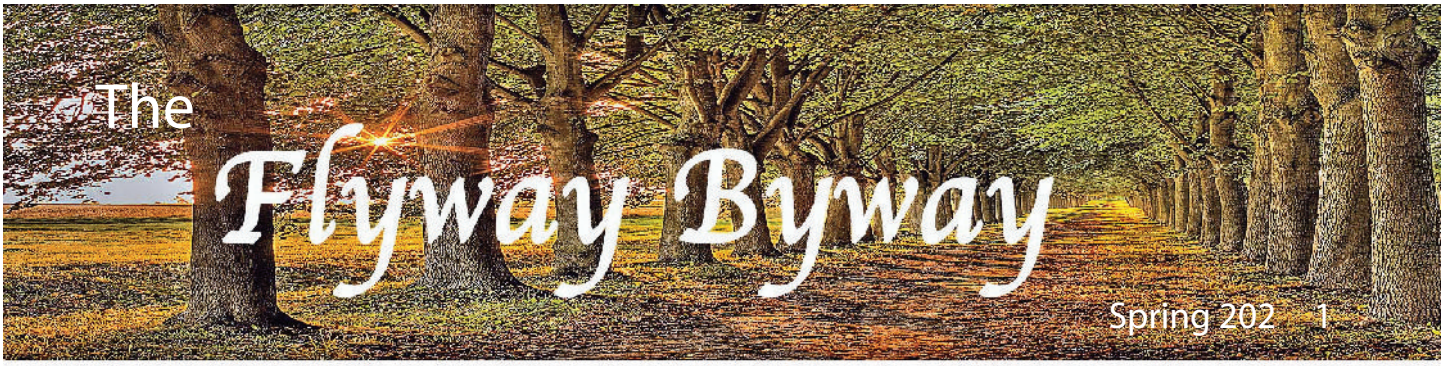


Upcoming Events

Fri, Sat, Sun, May 14 -16 NFGRC All-Breed Agi li ty Trial s
Oshkos h Kenn el Club, Os hkosh,WI
FMI: Dana Bourassa at bourassa 0253@gmail .com or 920.77 8.0104

Sun da y, June 27 Annual Aw ards Ce lebration/ Fu n Fi el d Da y/ Me mber sh ip Meetin g
Webshi re Kennels, La rsen , WI
FMI: Cathi Kanous e at ckanouse10@gmail.com or 920.946.2640
Deb Seline at dselin e@ fr ontiernet.net or 920. 737.8793

Friday, July 2 In de pendent Sp ec ialty Show
Kettle Moraine Kennel Club, Washington County Fairgrounds
FMI: Deb Krebsbach at highfieldgoldens@gmai l.com or 262 .271.82 27

Saturday , July 3 Concurrent Specialty Sh ow (held late afternoon)
Kettle Moraine Kennel Club, Washington County Fairgrounds
FMI: Deb Krebsbach at highfieldgoldens@gmai l.com or 262 .271.82 27

Fri – Su n, A ugust 27 - 29 **NFGRC "Q for a Cure" Benefit Agility Trial**
Oshkos h Kenn el Club, Os hkosh, WI
FMI: Sionag Blac k at golddogs@charter.ne t or 920.948.884 5

Sun da y, Septem be r 12 NFGRC WC /W CX Te st
Webshi re Kennels, La rsen , WI
FMI: Deb Krebsbach at highfieldgoldens@gmai l.com or 262 .271.82 27

Sunday, Octo be r 10 Possible TD/TDX Test
Hartman Creek, Waupaca, WI
FMI: Ellen Hardin at ariell@wi- net.com or 715.498.461 8

October date pending * Possible General Member sh ip Me et in g
Winnegamie Dog Club , Me nasha, WI
FMI: Deb Krebsbach at highfieldgoldens@gmail.co m or 262.271.8227

Saturday, December 4 * Possible Annu al Meeting and Potl uc k/Bu ck et Raffle
Comfort Suites, A ppleton, WI
FMI: Suze Walker at suze.walker@yahoo.co m or 920. 858.2171

* denotes Genera l Me mb ersh ip Meet ing – new me mb ers always we lc ome!

Dogs & Allergies

by Deb Seline

Golden retrievers and allergies. What can I say? The licking. The chewing. The scratching. The torture.

Those of you whose dogs have been afflicted will know what I mean, and, may I say it? I feel your discomfort, your frustration, and the drain on your wallet because I am there too. My youngest golden is the fifth I have owned in the last 28 years. She is smart and loves to play, but Darcy's days have been filled with the distraction of allergies for the last ten months, and she is only 2.5 years old.

I offer this article in the hope that someone may benefit from what we have been through, that someone may find an idea that helps.

Trying to decide what was causing Darcy to lick wrists raw and chew on her feet has been a difficult endeavor that has taken time and much attentive observation to come to conclusions.

Darcy and I live in Arkansas on ten acres a block away from the White River. We have many, many oak trees that shed their leaves on more land than we can possibly rake. The acorns are legion. The grass is often wet even when it hasn't rained because water in the White River is pulled off the bottom of Lake Bull Shoals, and it's cold so fog forms almost daily, condensing on the grass. The water table in the soil is often high as well. Bottom line: it's wet here.

Last February 2020, we experienced extensive, flooding rains that brought the lakes up close to thirty feet high. It rained for days and days at a time. Darcy likes to do her business in the leaves, and they were sodden masses because it had not been dry enough to mulch them with the mower. Darcy's feet were often wet, and she began licking and chewing.

I tried everything: topical sprays, baby wipes to clean her feet, shampoos, bitter apple spray, and Benadryl. Nothing seemed to work so we went to the vet in the middle of April. Darcy's allergies were deemed "not so bad," and we were given Apoquel. Darcy is about 57 pounds and started off taking one Apoquel in the morning and one in the evening. This brought instant relief. She even seemed to relax as if the allergies had been making her anxious.

But I rebelled at the thought of giving her daily medication for her lifetime. I was told by my vet that I could see how little medication she could take and how often. So we played with it. By this time spring rains continued winter's deluge. I guessed we were waiting for summer when things would become drier. Darcy was taking one-half to one-quarter Apoquel tablet every few days. The slowest frequency was about two to three times a week.

During this adjustment of Apoquel dosage, I changed Darcy's food to Purina Pro Plan Sensitive Stomach with salmon and rice. The food is good for her digestion which has always been touchy. She can't eat acorns or chew on oak bark without getting diarrhea. (Maybe you can see where this is going.) To her food, I also added Nordic Naturals Omega 3 capsules and organic turmeric paste that I cook.

However, I don't think her allergies are to food but rather to environmental causes because she has reactions to what she touches. She's never had any ear infections or even the first hot spot, just raw feet.

So about this time, I contacted Darcy's breeder, Deb Seline, for advice. A few pictures of Darcy's feet helped illustrate the problem. Deb sent me a link to a video in which a holistic vet named Dr. Becker recommended making foot baths for itchy feet. Betadine is added to water until the solution is the color of strong tea. Then the dog stands in the mixture for thirty seconds. We bathed her feet daily for three months. This was the second big breakthrough for Darcy. Her feet really began to heal, and the dry summer heat helped as well.

Darcy eventually went two months without any Apoquel, only a very rare Benadryl. I think she had two.

Now we are in the fall again, and it's clear that oak leaves are a problem. I can say that wet leaves and possibly grasses are culprits. Fungus and yeast may also be contributing to the aggravation. So I began looking for a set of boots for Darcy's feet. I found some on Amazon that have two sets of adjustable Velcro closures for each boot. The closures have reflective tape, and the boots also have soles with tread. These have eliminated the need for daily foot baths if I put them on her in the morning for walks when leaves and grass are wet or if we have had a rain. When it is raining for days, I use some rubber boots which don't last long and are incredibly difficult to put on, but in the rain, they are the answer.

I feel that food change, Omega 3, turmeric, foot baths, and boots have removed the need for daily Apoquel. I won't say we will never use it, but I do feel that as long as I am willing to follow the protocols outlined here, Darcy will be able to live comfortably without medicine.

The Tale of Jimmy

by Mary Schulz

I felt it was important to tell you the story of Jimmy.
Jimmy was born the end of June in Florida and at 8 weeks of age he moved to Wisconsin to live with us. What a cute little boy. The winter (2020) we had planned to vacation in Mississippi, then move on to Florida. Well before we left, we decided to do one local dog show Winnegamie Dog Club, so we got Jimmy ready, Jimmy won Winners Dog! Wow he was only about 6 mos. and a week, so it was very exciting for him and for us, his very 1st point (1). The following week we headed out of the cold heading south towards Biloxi Mississippi, we ended up stopping just over the border into the state of Mississippi. We checked into the Hotel and drove around to the side entrance to unpack the dogs and take our luggage into the hotel. Chilly and I went into the room with our luggage and Tom and Jimmy were getting the other luggage and following behind. Well, it seemed like it was taking them forever to come into the room. I finally checked my phone and there were several messages from Tom to come help him. Jimmy had pulled the leash right out of his hand and took off running for some reason when he saw his reflection in the glass door it scared him causing him to bolt and then you know having that scary leash chasing you can be even more scary for a puppy. I went running out the door, no Tom, no Jimmy, no Key, to get back into the room or no Chilly, it was panicked time. I saw a group of men outside and asked it by chance they saw Tom and they told me he headed across the highway (6 lanes) to try to find the dog that was hit by a car, running that way. Deep breath I said thanks and asked if by chance they could let me in the hotel which they did and I also grabbed the suitcase and cooler that was just left on the sidewalk. Next problem no room key, so I quickly left everything at my door and head to the front desk and ask for a key and a phone book and to call the police to help the front desk of course want some id which I have non (it's all in the room) so they escort me to the room. I grabbed the car keys, room key and chilly and we head across the highway towards the shopping mall area where everyone had said Tom had headed. Long story short, I finally find Tom and by now it was getting very dark out and neither has seen him. There was a big open field between a few stores and Tom asked me to drive over there to add some light thinking perhaps he's hiding in the woods behind the mall area. I slowly pulled in to the field to shine the truck lights into the wooded area ,slowing going in further and further, not a good idea, I sunk the truck right down to the running boards. Ughhh what else could happen. I called a wrecker to come and two me out and Tom kept searching for Jimmy, stepping in a big hole which the next day finding out it was next to a 45-foot drop! Tom also found a tent city, where the homeless of that area lived, running into a homeless person asking him what he was doing in that area, and warning him of the danger's snakes, alligators, etc. and telling him NOT to go into the swamp area he would not come out of it nor would a dog come out if he had gone in. Meanwhile the wrecker showed up and pulled me out and was telling me about all the rain they had had all week long… after a bit Tom and I connected again and we headed over to the local Walmart to get some strong spotter lights to hopefully find Jimmy.
Driving and looking in the area we started. about 4 am we decided if he was out there he was bedded down someplace and we could not really see well enough that perhaps we should try to get some sleep and just start again at dawn (right like we were going to sleep)so first break of light Tom was out the door looking for Jimmy and I was making a poster to take and have copies made and calling the local vets and rechecking with the police department and answering phone calls from friends trying to help long distance, around 2pm the next day I received a call from a friend in Winneconne that someone had called her and offered to come help us search and they were going to call, I hung up the phone and my phone rang and this nice man (Bo) said he was coming over to meet up with us and wanted to help us. Within 10 min of meeting up with him and working on a search plan with him my phone rang again and this time it was (Amanda) another local person also coming to help. At this time I was not sure how these local people even knew our dog was missing.
Well, we asked Amanda to go over towards the hotel there was another swampy wood's over that way and one of Jimmy's breeders said they always try to get back to where they had started setting out in case he returned towards the hotel. I continued to return calls and post posters, within about 30 min I received a call from Amanda that she thought she spotted him but looked nervous and we should come to where she was right away and also call Bo to come, we could cover the 3 open sides to this small wooded area. When we arrived, she went to the side of the woods on the left Bo went on the Right, I stayed in the center area and Tom and Chilly went into the wood to search for him with Chilly leading the way, these woods backed up to a cliff so it would have been very difficult for him to go out that way.

Jimmy continued…

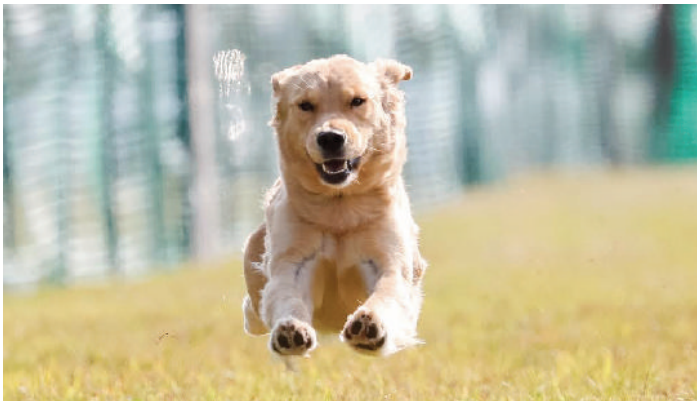
Well, it was not very long and Tom came out carrying Jimmy and Chilly coming along they had found him in the woods and he was so excited to see them he jumped into his arms and Tom was not going to let him go. Big hugs and kisses for all and then baths for all three of them that all were smelling like a swamp. So, we spend another night in Southaven, Mississippi. In the morning at breakfast, we talked about just going home but after thinking about it, we decided that was not the best idea. Get in the truck get lost go home. or get in the truck get lost then go on a vacation … with fun other dogs to play with newer adventures… so off we went.

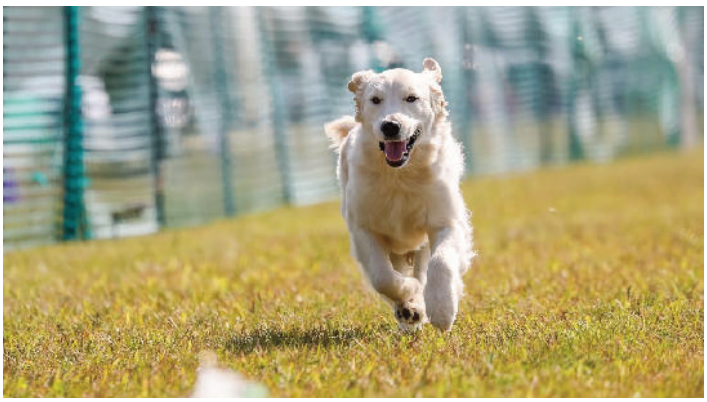
The rest of the vacation went well Jimmy got to stay at the Casino in Biloxi where he got a lot of pets and attention when he was out for a walk in the warm weather and but he was always checking to see where the truck was and then when we got to Ocala, he got to meet lots of new friends. Badger, Bru and Ready, and Chilly of course were there to play. He always came to check on us and never went to far way from us for the whole time we were there and also learned to go swimming in the pool which he thought was pretty much fun… As the weeks went on, we wondered how he would do at a dog show. So, I saw that Potomac Valley was having a specialty with the Maryland sporting dogs. I decided to enter and then we could make that decision as to go or not go later on. We were not on a time schedule so maybe Maryland /DC Area is kind of on the way to Wisconsin. We could avoid Atlanta then. So on our way home we headed up toward the shows, it was nice to see old friends that I normally only see at a National every year. Well first we have sweeps. yup in the ring he went but was a little nervous, oh first thing he did was vomit up his whole breakfast right there in the ring and the first dog in line…but he did ok and managed to win his class 6-9 mos. (could have been the judge felt sorry for this little boy (LOL). Well now its regular classes and hoping we would not have a repeat from sweeps he went into the ring and did very well, again won his class of 5-6 puppy, now its time for winners' dog and there he goes as happy as can be showing like he's been doing this forever. WD/BW and Best Puppy 5pt Major for this boy! Woo Hoo! Now it's time to head back home back to the end Winter. We had entered Louisville but opted to not go, we would have got home on Tuesday and would have had to leave on Wed/Thursday. COVID pretty much ended everything for all us, we pretty much stayed home stayed safe for the next several months and then we saw the Des Moines specialties outside shows and thought perhaps we could maybe try them, but where do you stay, eat etc. well, we decided if used our friend's camper we could camp, not too far away and bring our own food etc. and social distance and wear our masks. so maybe we should give it a try so we entered, well off we went to Iowa, the show had been moved inside due to very hot weather but everyone was good about staying 6 feet or more away from each other and wearing masks Well Jimmy was WD/BW at both specialties a 4pt and 5 pt. major to become a new Champion. We did one more show in 2020 in Minnesota where he went select dog to get his first GCH major now he's been home maturing so he does not look like the baby in the ring to complete for that Grand title hopefully in 2021/2022. So, for now He is CH Toasty's Riders on the Storm at Cedar … AKA Jimmy!

All we can say is we hope no one ever loses one of your believed pets, it was one of the hardest times we have ever gone through knowing he was out there with snakes' alligators' swamps and a strange area It is one of the scariest things to ever go through. I will never be able to Thank the two people that came out to help, (our tow truck company dispatch person who I did not know had posted his missing message on her dog club website). The friends here in Wisconsin and other states that did all they could do from a far. His breeders were so supportive with ideas and suggestions. What a great team of friends and family to help us!

NFGRC Members haven't let a pandemic get them down! Following are a few stories of how our members kept busy in 2020

Two of our dogs have been having fun this summer in Fast Cat
Gussie - Ch Cima's All Gussied Up RI, TKN, CGC, BCAT, BN earned her BCAT at Oshkosh KC in August
and Patience - Cima's Show Me The Way earned her BCAT at Oshkosh KC in October.
They both love chasing that plastic bag!
Cindy Pischke





You asked what we do in the winter… well, we run the dogs on Pewaukee Lake, following the snowmobile trails… We walk and walk and the dogs run and run. A few weeks ago, a little boy broke away from one of the houses on the lake, and asked if he could pet the dogs… now he watches for us. The Goldens wish we could take him home with us!!!
Deb Krebsbach

SHR Ariell's Tillandsia on Air CDX JH WC
During the pandemic, Tallie and I had some time to train and earn a few titles at outdoor events and indoors in the fall. We are continuing on in 2021!
Ellen Hardin