

## SPORTING GROUP

### Curly-Coated Retrievers

Sheila Callahan-Young is in charge of our Curly Rescue and Referral Committee and shares with us the following.

#### CURLY-COATED RETRIEVER RESCUE AND REFERRAL

The Curly-Coated Retriever Rescue and Referral Program has been active for many years. The following “Priorities” section included here is taken directly from the CCRCA rescue documents.

*Priorities:* Available Rescue CCRs will always take priority over Referral CCRs. Dogs that an owner or breeder has made available for adoption on a “free to a good home” basis are eligible for Referral status.

*1st priority: Rescue CCRs*—Dogs in immediate danger, dogs in shelters, displaced, abandoned or stray dogs, dogs in temporary foster homes, personal emergency situations, any dogs that cannot stay in their present homes, or any dogs that are victims of inhumane treatment.

*2nd priority: Referral CCRs*—unwanted dogs living with their owners in non-emergency settings, dogs returned to their breeders, and all other free-of-charge referrals.

How do we find these Rescue CCRs in order to help them? Some dogs are advertised through shelters or agencies. We are often contacted directly when owners are ill and no



Curly-Coated Retriever

longer able to care for their dog. The owner may die, or may be moving or divorcing. Or perhaps the owner is in the military and being deployed overseas, or a family is taking a job in another country. CCRCA Rescue has experienced all of these situations over the years.

Once we learn all we can about the Rescue CCR and its immediate needs, we refer to our list of homes applying for adoption to find the most suitable match for the dog. If a foster home is required, we contact club members who live closest to where the dog is located. Our devoted members are most generous and always willing and able to help our breed in any way.

A CCRCA Rescue and Referral application can be found at the parent-club website, [ccrca.org](http://ccrca.org). —Sheila Callahan-Young

Thank you very much, Sheila, for a fine explanation of our CCRCA Rescue and Referral Program. Now Jenny Dickinson will describe her experiences with two re-homed Curlies.

“I have had two re-homed senior Curlies, both of whom were marvelous dogs. My first was Dese’s Sweet Georgia Brown. Don and Sonia Evans, longtime Curly breeders, discovered that a pair of owners had dumped their 13-year-old Curly at a shelter because she had become inconvenient. Don and Sonia drove

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## SPORTING GROUP

down to the shelter and got the dog, and another friend brought her up to me in Rhode Island.

“Georgia was covered with tumors and had a number of other problems, but she clearly had plenty of life left. My veterinarian removed the tumors and gave her an ‘overhaul.’ Sonia insisted that the previous owners pay the vet bill, which I greatly appreciated. Georgia lived another three years, making me laugh every day. She was Phyllis Diller reincarnate. I will never understand how anyone could give up this bitch.

“My second re-homed Curly came from Stephanie Ayers in Texas. Fortunately, a dog handler was delivering a dog to New England for some dog shows, and she was able to bring Sidney to Boston, where I picked him up. This lovely dog, 10 years old, was given up because the family had too many children. He was a perfect gentleman. I took him with me to my obedience club and to dog shows to socialize and ‘hang out together.’ I was devastated when he bloated and subsequently died after only three months with me. Again, I cannot understand why anyone would give up such a lovely, easygoing dog.

“Never hesitate to take an older Curly who has been underappreciated by his first owners. These two brought me immeasurable joy, and that is not an exaggeration.” —Jenny Dickinson  
Thanks so much, Sheila and Jenny, for

sharing such interesting information. I have known many other club members over the years who have shared their homes with a variety of rescued or referred Curlies, all who ended up in wonderful homes.

—Ann Shinkle,  
[annshinkle@aol.com](mailto:annshinkle@aol.com)  
Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America

## Golden Retrievers

### THE GREAT SPAY/NEUTER DEBATE

**I**n the United States, spay/neuter surgery of male and female dogs has, for decades, become routine during their first year after birth. That includes most male and female Golden Retrievers, with the exception of those Goldens who compete in various canine competitions. And until very recently, most veterinarians recommended the procedures be completed prior to sexual maturity. Today, thanks to new health data, many are rethinking the timing of that surgery.

In 2013, the Golden Retriever Foundation published a study from the University of California–Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, revealing that neutered (referring to both male and female) Golden Retrievers had a higher risk of joint disorders and certain cancers when compared to intact or late-neutered Goldens.



Golden Retrievers

COURTESY MELISSA HAMPTON