



## BREED COLUMNS

### SPORTING GROUP

#### Curly-Coated Retrievers

##### A NEW LIFESTYLE

Many dog owners think that once we reach retirement age, or feel less independent, we may have to give up our dogs. This is not always true. I researched multiple retirement situations in Florida and found a very nice apartment in a retirement community near Jacksonville.

Some retirement communities restrict dog ownership to small dogs or disallow dogs altogether. But my community allows me to have my Curly-Coated Retriever Fame here with me, and we are adjusting to a completely different way of life than we had before.

Obedience training has been easy to accomplish, because my three rooms connect to one another. Fame is able to trot quickly through all the rooms when we train, and she seems to really enjoy it!

As well as concentrating on “take it,” running to retrieve the item I’ve thrown,



*Curly-Coated Retriever*

Fame is getting some exercise. Sit- and down-stays are easy to accomplish, as we have two large outdoor areas and four small areas I can use for out-of-sight stays.

For a bit of additional training, when we are outside the apartment in the corridors, I will have Fame perform her exercises in a relaxed manner. We do this during quieter times in the building. Fame is always on lead.

Since Fame is the largest dog in our community, I am

aware that she needs to be an especially well-behaved citizen. Most of the other dogs are small, and some of their owners might have difficulty managing if the dogs took exception to one another. Obedience training keeps us ready to respond politely to surprises in the halls or outdoors.

I plan to continue obedience and other activities with Fame as our future progresses. Moving into a new lifestyle has not interrupted our relationship and

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our joy in working together!

—Ann Shinkle, 649

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### Golden Retrievers

#### VETERINARY BLOOD BANKS

Six years ago, my senior Golden, Geronimo, had a fierce reaction to a particular vaccine. In less than two weeks, he lost his appetite and became weak and lethargic.

The University of Missouri Veterinary Hospital Internal Medicine Service diagnosed his condition as immune mediated thrombocytopenia (ITP, a real mouthful!), resulting in the destruction of his red blood cells as well as a decrease in platelet count. He received a blood transfusion at that time.

As his condition deteriorated, he required more blood transfusions. (As a side note, he was an exceptionally happy patient, and



Golden Retrievers

the hospital staff really enjoyed him.)

Which, in a roundabout way, brings us to the topic of this column: Where did Geronimo's lifesaving blood come from?

Few people know about veterinary blood banks, the vital lifeline that helps ensure the survival of countless pets like Geronimo. Most of the blood supply comes from commercial blood banks, like Hemopet, and universities involved in some type of canine research. All such facilities are closely monitored by the U.S.

Department of Agriculture and their state counterparts to ensure they are in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act and any local requirements.

Just as in our human world, these blood banks are supplied by donors, with the majority from institutions described above, and a smaller number from dogs who have been volunteered by their owners to donate blood.

All donor dogs are carefully screened to ensure they are in good health.

Dogs have a surprising 13 different blood types, with