



Puma, an eight-year-old female, **Tripper**, a five-year old-male, and **Griffen** (l to r), a three-year-old male, wait for a command. The Golden Retrievers belong to Robert and Barbara Tinney of LeRoy. They are certified therapy dogs and champion show dogs.

A trio of Goldens visit Brockport

text and photos by D.M. Flynn

Robert and Barbara Tinney of LeRoy brought their three Golden Retrievers to Royal Gardens Apartments in Brockport on February 13. Their 40 minute performance began with the dogs and their handlers greeting each member of the audience. Highlights of their show are shown.



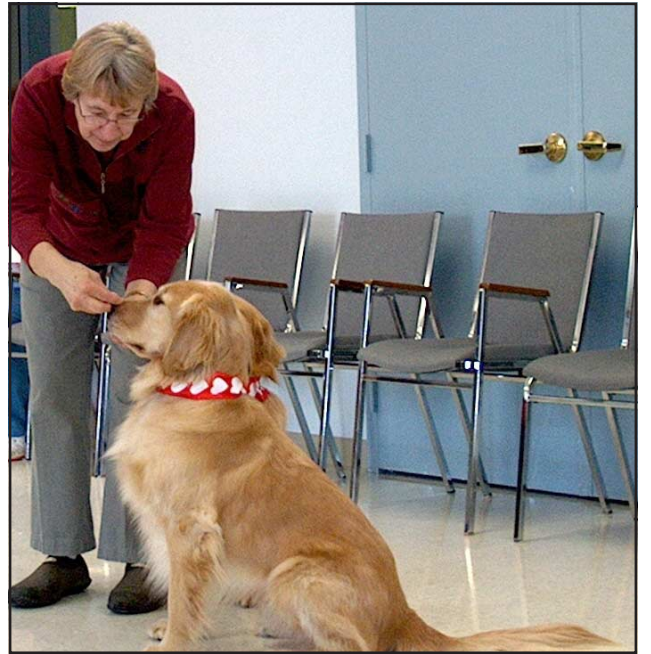
Puma jumps through a hoop held by **Barb** while **Bob** and **Tripper** watch. Barb frequently competes in dog shows with Puma and Griffen. The retired couple enjoys traveling to shows and visiting area gatherings.



Tripper uses his paw to press the bone (on the left side of the machine) to release some treats. **Griffen** (standing) and **Puma** wait their turn. The Tinneys said the dogs learned this trick very quickly. At the end of the show, Puma delivered a Valentine card to each person in the room. Then the dogs again visited the audience members who enjoyed petting their soft fur. When the Tinneys and their furry companions made their exit, they left behind a roomful of smiling faces.



Barb (center) steadies **Puma** while **Griffen** jumps over her. Looking on are **Hazel Holland**, left, and **Susan DiPasquale**, property manager of Royal Gardens. Griffen and Puma are certified by Therapy Dogs International.



Puma is quick to flip the dog treat into the air and into his mouth.



After spreading some numbered blocks on the floor, **Barb** asks **Puma**, "What is three times four?" Puma searches the blocks, finds the 12, and brings it to Barb.



Barb is lucky to have a helpful dog during cold and flu season. When she sneezes, **Puma** runs across the room, picks up a handkerchief, and brings it to Barb.

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Tripper weaves through **Bob's** legs. Tripper is a Delta Society certified therapy dog. He and Bob often visit the Crestwood Children's Center. On one visit, Bob lined up 20 children and asked them to spread their legs. Tripper then walked through the tunnel of legs to the delight of the youngsters. Bob and Tripper also visit the Rochester Psychiatric Center and area nursing homes on a regular basis.

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