



CAMP GONE TO THE DOGS

NEWSWIRE

Volume 2, Issue 5

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The Editor Barks Out

WORD OF THE *NEWSWIRE* IS SPREADING!



I'd like to thank all of the campers, past and present, who have provided stories, articles, and jokes to fill the pages of the *NewsWire*. Thanks also to Honey, who provides a variety of dog-related topics, and Mary, who writes on the state of canine health care and other topics dear to her heart – and ours. Every other month, thanks to all of you, we get educated, we get informed, and we get to laugh.

Due to the quality of the editorial content, the popularity of the *NewsWire* continues to grow – thanks readers, campers and dog people. When I became editor back in June-July, I sent the first issue to about 400 email inboxes. This issue will cross the magic airwaves to over 600. Every month, I add new addresses to the distribution list. And because Honey respects her campers' privacy, the *NewsWire* is sent to each mailbox as a blind copy, so spammers can't "borrow" your email address.

Through the *NewsWire*, we reach out to each other. With our communicating, the editorial well should never run dry. New and unusual things occur daily, and some items just never grow old. Recycling keeps things fresh in our minds. With the vastness of the canine universe, there appears to be no end in sight.

CAMPERS: if you have written or read dog-related stories, jokes, recipes, etc. and feel they would be appropriate for the *Camp Gone to the Dogs NewsWire*, please forward your material to campnewswire@hotmail.com. In the subject line of your email, please type the word, **newswire**, so we can easily identify your material. Also, please identify the true author/source when possible to avoid plagiarism. You must be a current or past camper to submit information for inclusion in the *NewsWire*.

Happy tails to you!

— Valerie Steinman
CGTTD Camper

HONEY'S CORNER

Honey Loring, CGTTD Pack Leader



Your Perfect Dance Partner A Winning Team—You Lead, Your Dog Follows

Originally titled: THE SECRET PACK LEADER—
How to be the Boss Without Ever Lifting a Finger (or a Paw)

The latest research in wolves has moved away from the dominance/alpha-wolf view. Still, somebody needs to be in charge in your household pack, and it sure works a lot better for all if that's you and NOT your dog.

Chasing squirrels, rolling in the worst smelling thing in the woods, digging holes, raiding the kitty litter box...These are all behaviors that came with your dog. They are instinctual, hard-wired, part of his or her inherent nature...call them what you will, this is part of the package you got when you got a dog.

Also in that “doggie package” is your dog's nature as a pack animal. (This goes back to the not-too-distant past of being a wild canid who needed a pack to survive.) Being a pack animal

means your dog is also hard-wired to determine who's the leader. He or she does this by observing who eats first, who gets the best place to sleep, who “owns” the goodies, who “owns the road.” If it's you, the owner, you're the leader; if it's your dog, he or she gets the message he's in charge. Not coming when called, running away, training difficulties, dominance problems, aggression—these are all impacted by having the wrong relationship between you and your dog.

Here's how this computes into the dog's human pack:

1. Food

Food is more important to your dog than most of us realize. After all, we can just go to the fridge, pantry, store or a

restaurant and get food whenever we want it. Not so for our dogs. By controlling when and how food arrives, you become much more important to your dog.

Folks who report behavior problems to dog trainers often have had the practice of leaving food out all the time, thus diminishing their status with their dog, without even knowing it. The solution is easy. Just feed (once or twice a day) for 10 minutes or so and then put the food away. If your dog walks away from the food, pick it up immediately. You will not believe how quickly your dog will change his opinion of you. If you want to up the ante, and many of the Camp Gone to the Dogs trainers do this when they first get a new dog, hand feed your dog his meals. All food comes from you.



You are now the big kahuna on campus! (Incidentally, dogs who are picky eaters will actually become better eaters if food is not out all the time, as counter-intuitive as this seems to us Jewish mother dog owners.) Feeding the dog before you eat can also give the wrong impression. Top dogs usually eat first.

2. Sleeping

If your dog sleeps on the bed and allows you to join him or her, your dog will again get the message that he or she is the boss! My dogs sleep on my bed, but it's by invitation. If I say get off, they get off. If you are having training and/or dominance problems, don't even let the dog on the bed.



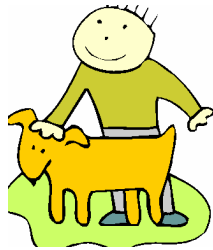
3. Doors

Whoever goes through first is the leader. Tell your dog to sit and stay when you open a door in your house, a building, a gate or the car (in or out). Use a leash if you can't do this off-lead. You go through first and then give the dog the release command so it can go through. This has the VERY important extra advantage of keeping your dog from being run over by bolting out of the house or the car. Eventually, the dog learns it cannot go through a door, gate or get out of the car without an okay from you. And guess who's now in charge—you!



4. Freedom of Movement

When the President of the United States, the Pope or the Chairperson of the Board comes into a room, the waters part. When you walk around your house, if your dog stands in your way and doesn't move, he or she gets the idea, again, that he or she is the boss. Walk into your dog if it doesn't move (not when they're sleeping). You don't have to do this in football-player fashion; just proceed at normal speed and gently walk into your dog. He will learn quickly to get out of your way AND will again get the message that you, not he or she, are the leader.



5. Voice Tone

Low tones, like a growl, communicate you need to be taken seriously. High, whiney tones, such as those used by juveniles, don't carry much weight. If you command or discipline your dog in a high, whiney tone, don't be surprised if you get no results. Lower your voice, making it sound like a growl if you can, and grumble something like "Quit It", to stop a behavior. Watch your dog sit up and take notice of YOU! Even if you have a naturally high voice,

as I have, you can still get that respect by lowering it.



6. Toys and Play

Ownership of toys is by the leader. You become the keeper of the toys, giving them out when you are ready to play. Take them back when you are done playing. If your dog solicits play by insistently bringing you toys such as balls and pawing at you to be petted, he's actually giving you a command— "Human, play" or "Human, pet me NOW." Ignore this demand or say in a low tone, "Enough." If you give in, your dog gets a big boost to his ego.

Also, tug-of-war is a BAD game to play if you are having dominance, training or good manners problems as it teaches the dog to relate to you as an equal, staring you in the face and growling. (Just think of the name itself...tug of "WAR".) Try fetch or hide-and-seek instead.



7. Grooming

The person doing the grooming to the groomee is the leader, as in mother dog grooming her pups. Put your dog on a table of some sorts and groom your dog for a few minutes. Reward your dog with a small treat and then pick up your dog and put it on the floor. Do not let it jump off the table. (Grooming off the floor really helps to put you in the leadership position.) This is how groomers groom all those dogs that the owners cannot even get a brush through. If you are having grooming problems, only groom for a short time; quit while you're ahead. You can lengthen the time as the dog learns to tolerate (and maybe even enjoy) grooming.



When do you do this? All the time. This is not dog training a few hours a week. It actually takes NO extra time. It's how you relate to your dog on a continuous daily basis. If you're not having a lot of problems, you won't need to do all the above (I do play tug-of-war with my dogs), but try a few and see the amazing results. They work because the dog understands this form of communicating on a basic, instinctual level. Just as if

you'd get along better in France if you spoke French, so you'll get along better with your dog if you talk "dog." It makes you a lovely leader in the dog/human partnership, one that your dog can trust and follow happily. It's the kind way of talking dog.



Why do you want to do all this? Why, because you love your dog and want it to be happy, calm and secure. A dog with a good leader, one who consistently does the above, will be all of these things. Your dog will also become well-mannered, easy-to-train, a joy-to-live-with and welcomed anywhere--a companion that makes you proud to say, "That's my dog." Your dog will also have a great life with the most freedom to enjoy being a dog. If being in charge is not your natural bent, then do it for your dog's sake.

For further information on the subject, here are some books that are written with a dog's view of the world in mind—*Making Friends* by Linda Colflesh, *The Culture Clash* by Jean Donaldson, *Pooches and Problems* by Job Michael Evans, *The Other End of the Leash* by Patricia McConnell, any book by Leslie Nelson, *Successful Dog Adoption* by Sue Sternberg, and

Off to a Good Start by Mary Thompson.

Thank you to all my trainers through the years—the late John Harris, wolfman-extraordinaire; my staff at Camp Gone to the Dogs, in particular Bev Blanchard, Beth Duman and Sue Sternberg, for their editorial

comments; and all the wolves and dogs who have taught me, up front and personal, about this leader business.

Honey Loring, Fool-for-Dogs Founder, Camp Gone to the Dogs, Putney, VT 05346
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Cool Mist Humidifier – Problem Solver

Barb Rushman writes: “Here’s a solution to **skin issues** that has worked for me. Sunchi gets hot spots. She’s had a problem forever and we’ve tried antihistamines and prednazole. Since I don’t like using drugs, she went through many a winter wearing an Elizabethan collar. Quite by accident I discovered that a cool mist humidifier helps tremendously. I was using it for a bad sore throat and noticed she wasn’t itchy. This is the third winter I am using the humidifier and she is itch/hot spot free. I run it only at night in the

bedroom and keep it on low. My skin is a lot better too.”



Cool mist humidifiers can solve many winter problems. Valerie Steinman began using one for Mozart who used to develop a **hoarse, dry throat** every winter. Valerie runs her dehumidifier in the kitchen during the day, and Mozart has not suffered since.



Hope you are enjoying your dogs as much as I've been enjoying mine.

*All for now,
Honey*

Mary's TIPS

Mary Thompson
CGTTD Instructor



Is Your Dog A Diabetic?

There are some telltale signs, but as my husband is fond of saying, "Animals don't read the textbooks so sometimes the signs they exhibit are not textbook symptoms but still should be investigated." So please keep in mind your animal may exhibit symptoms similar to those mentioned in this article but that does not mean you have to panic and rush the dog to the vet's for tests. You should, however, continue to observe your dog for a day or two (providing he/she is NOT in critical condition!) and then take your dog to the vet's. By then, you will have more details to share about your dog's behavior. That will help the vet narrow what might be wrong with your dog.

Signs of an animal being diabetic are increased water drinking, increased urinating, diminished activity, not wanting to eat, weakness, vomiting, lethargy and

depression, muscle wasting, unkempt hair coat, dehydration, thin body condition, hypothermia, and/or dandruff. Remember, your animal does NOT have to have all of these symptoms to be a diabetic!

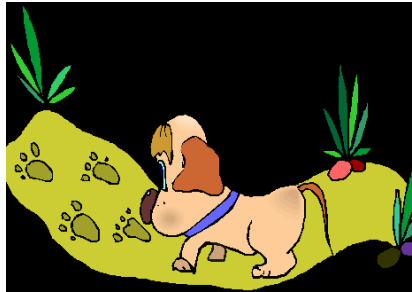
The average age for a dog to become a diabetic is eight years old and females are more prone to becoming diabetic than males. Diabetes can be diagnosed by testing a urine sample. If positive, the vet will want to take a blood sample, which will tell him/her how much insulin your dog will need to be treated. The first few weeks will be the toughest for you as you will have to measure precisely how much food your dog eats daily. You will have to limit treats. How much daily exercise your dog gets will also influence how much insulin he/she receives. You will need to check your dog's urine daily. Some vets want blood work done

every six months to make sure the dog is still doing fine with the amount of insulin he/she is getting. Your dog will be a diabetic for the rest of his/her life. In cats, some of them “outgrow” it (their body chemistry corrects itself) and are able to be taken off of insulin.

What causes an animal to become a diabetic? Infections, such as skin, respiratory, urinary tract and prostate gland; concurrent disease such as heart failure, renal failure and pancreatitis; and stress and/or surgery can trigger an animal into becoming a diabetic.



Go Tracking!



Tracking can be done year round so hopefully those of you who have done tracking at camp are doing some tracking now. It is a great way to have your dog do something constructive, burn off some energy, learn while doing it, and have fun. It does not have to be a complicated track; just a chance to get out and do something different is enough for

your dog. So get off the couch, take a walk without your dog, come home and get your dog, and go tracking. Exercise is healthy for us too!

Snow can complicate tracking. If you have over a foot of snow, you cannot be sure if your dog is following the steps or the scent.



Pill Time

If you have a difficult time getting a pill into your dog, try coating it with either cheese or peanut butter. I use a cheese log like you find at Christmas time as it has sliced nuts on the outside.

When the dog bites into it, the thick cheese disguises the taste of the pill and the nuts fool the dog into thinking he is biting into a nut and not the pill. Same with peanut butter, I use the

chunky style to hide a pill inside a small "meatball." I always make up three to four meatballs whether I use cheese or peanut butter. The dog may get the one with the pill in the first one, second one, or third one, but the

last one is always pill free. It keeps the dog guessing, and if you have the next one ready at his nose, he will swallow the one in his mouth faster to get the next one.



Correction

In the last newsletter, I talked about having a Quantitative C6 Antibody test done if your dog has a low positive for Lyme

Disease and said that Antech Labs could do it. Sorry, I was wrong! It is done through IDEXX.



TRUE TAILS

Beware of Icy Waterways

In February 2005, a nine-month-old Labrador Retriever was lost when he fell under the ice at the Mill River down by the Northampton Community Gardens in Massachusetts. What makes this worse is that the Lab was with a dog walker when this happened. The owner is left without her dog's body to grieve over this incident.

This is actually the second time in as many months that this has happened at the Mill River. A young Chesapeake Bay Retriever was also lost under the ice. Both

incidents are sad and devastating. The owners wanted us to make you aware of the possibility of this happening. Please keep your dog leashed around waterways now through the end of spring. If you own a water-loving dog, this is especially important. Never take your eyes off your dog when you are walking. We can't imagine losing one of our dogs this way—we really would hate to see this happen to anyone else. Please be aware.

Honey Loring, Contributor

CREATIVE TAILS

The Crufts Winner

By Ann Bulke

He trudged along the road,
An old and weary tramp –
Then stumbled in surprise
On a golden shiny lamp.

He rubbed it hard with glee
Imagine his surprise –
When a Genie who would grant his
wish
Stood there before his eyes.

“I want my dog beside me
To win Best In Show at Crufts –
Even though he has one eye
And his hair is all in tufts”.



The Genie looked in wonder
At the mutt with half a tail
No ear, three legs, a limp
And very, very frail.

“It can't be done cried the Genie
It is a definite 'no',
I'm sorry poor old man,
You'll have to have another go”.

The old tramp looked thoughtful
As he made his second wish –
His eyes alight he said with glee
“I want Seagulls to win the
Premiership”.

The Genie's mouth flew open,
His eyes were all agog –
“My God you must be joking
Gi'z another look at that bloody
dog!”

Note from Ann: “Seagulls at the time was
our bottom of the ladder football team”

Ann Bulke, Gold Coast, Australia
CGTTD Assistant Obedience Instructor



“DIVINE” TAILS

Furry Words of Wisdom

The reason a dog has so many
friends is that he wags his tail
instead of his tongue. Unknown

Don't accept your dog's
admiration as conclusive

evidence that you are wonderful.
Ann Landers

If there are no dogs in heaven,
then when I die I want to go
where they went. Will Rodgers

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself. Josh Billings

A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down. Robert Benchley

We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare, and love we can spare. And in return dogs give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made. M. Acklam

Dogs love their friends and bite their enemies, quite unlike people who are incapable of pure love and always have to mix love and hate. Sigmund Freud

There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face. Ben Williams

The average dog is a nicer person than the average person. Andy Rooney

I wonder if other dogs think poodles are members of a weird religious cult. Rita Rudner



Dogs need to sniff the ground; it's how they keep abreast of

current events. The ground is a giant dog newspaper, containing all kinds of late breaking dog news items, which, if they are especially urgent, are often continued in the next yard. Dave Barry



If I have any beliefs about mortality, it is that certain dogs I have known will go to heaven, and very, very few people. James Thurber

Anybody who doesn't know what soap tastes like never washed a dog. Franklin P. Jones

If your dog is fat, you aren't getting enough exercise. Unknown

My dog is worried about the economy because Alpo is up to \$3 a can. That's almost \$21 in dog money. Joe Weinstein

Ever consider what our dogs must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul – chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth! Anne Tyler

Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole. Roger Caras

If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you; that is the principal difference between a dog and a man. Mark Twain

If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then giving Fido only two of them. Phil Pastoret

You can say anything foolish to a dog, and the dog will give you a look that says, "Wow, you're

right! I never would have thought of that!"
Dave Barry

My goal in life is to be a person as good as my dog already thinks I am. Unknown

Outside of a dog, a book is probably man's best friend; inside of a dog, it's too dark to read. Groucho Marx

Janet Doerer et al, Contributors
CGTTD Camper



TALL TAILS

Doggie Decorating Tips
(Or Unique Opportunities To Express
Your Own Personal Style And Taste)



Bare floors, without carpet or throw rugs, can give a nice open feeling to a room. It can provide a soothing balance when you have many art objects that reflect your love of animals.

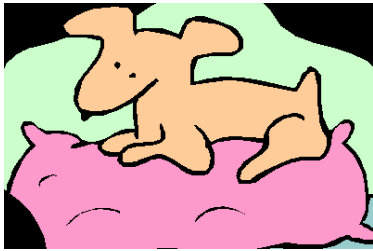
Paw prints and nose smudges on glass doors and windows break

up glare and soften the light in a room.

Dog crates, when stacked three high, can add height to a room and pull the eye up. If fastened securely to the wall, the top can provide a safe and dramatic place for exotic plants or statuary that

otherwise might be molested by your pets. An up light can make it a real focal point. Cats love to inhabit the upper crates, leaving the lower ones for the dogs.

Old towels and blankets thrown casually on upholstered furniture can add a wonderful homey, country-quilt look to an otherwise bland room.



Doggie beds, randomly placed around a room, can add color and texture, much as throw pillows do.

Vari-kennels, placed end to end and topped with plate glass can create an unusual coffee table, one your friends will really remember.

Common smooth upholstery fabrics can look almost velvety



Talking Dog for Sale

While a guy is driving around, he sees a sign in front of a house: "Talking Dog For Sale." He rings the bell, and the owner tells him the dog is in the backyard. The guy goes into the backyard and sees a Labrador Retriever sitting there.

"You talk?" he asks.

when lightly textured with pet hair.

Dog crates can make versatile end tables and can be slip covered to match any room decor.

There is absolutely nothing that makes a guest feel as welcome as three friendly dogs hopping in his lap as soon as he sits down.

Shredded or chewed books and magazines send a message to guests that they are free to relax and feel at home.



So throw away those videos by Martha and others, and express your own unique tastes. Your home should reflect what YOU like!

Jeanne Richter, Contributor
CGTTD Staff

"Yep," the Lab replies.

"So, what's your story?"

The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young, and I wanted to help the government. So I told the CIA about my gift,

and in no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, to sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running. But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger so I wanted to settle down. I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security work, mostly wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals. I got married, had a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired."



The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog.

"Ten dollars."

The guy says, "This dog is amazing. Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"

"Because he's a liar. He didn't do any of that stuff."

Bonnie Peregoy, Contributor
Camp Staff



TASTY TREATS

Barley Dog

Do your dogs love to graze? If so, they will love *Barley Dog*. I've been mixing it with my dogs' kibble for about four years. I serve it two ways: (1) sprinkle it lightly over the food or (2) place a wee bit of water in the bottom of their dishes, sprinkle in the *Barley Dog*, mix well, then add their kibble. They bounce all over the place while I'm *mixing* their meals.

From the container: "BARLEY DOG IS THE ORIGINAL "GREEN" SUPPLEMENT MADE FROM BARLEY GRASS JUICE WITH A BACON-LIKE FLAVOR. BARLEY GRASS PROVIDES ACTIVE ENZYMES, VITAMINS C AND E, BETA-CAROTENE, AMINO ACIDS, CHLOROPHYLL, PROTEINS, AND ESSENTIAL TRACE MINERALS. REGULAR USE PROMOTES HEALTHY SKIN AND COAT, FRESHENS BREATH, IMPROVES DIGESTION, AND RESTORES ENERGY LEVELS – ESPECIALLY AMONG SENIOR DOGS."

You can purchase an 11-ounce container for \$19.35 from Valley Vet Supply Direct Pet Superstore: www.valleyvet.com or 800-360-4838.

Valerie Steinman, Contributor
CGTTD Camper

UNTIL TAILS UP

(As of March 31, 2005)

CAMP

TIME TO WAIT

Summer

June 5-11, 2005

2 Months

Fall

September 4-10, 2005

5 Months

September 11-17, 2005



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