



CAMP GONE TO THE DOGS

NEWSWIRE

Volume 3, Issue 3



Happy Thanksgiving



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Seasons Greetings



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The Editor Barks Out



2006 New Year's Resolutions

Working away from home can really cut into the time you would like to spend with your dogs. But these amazing creatures don't seem to mind as long as you spend some time with them each day. It's a little different if you own a super hyper dog like my Zeppelin. Thanks to Zep, I spend more time outside playing with my dogs than if only Mozart lived with me. Mozart is very content to spend quiet time with me. Quiet time to Zeppelin is bedtime. In his mind, you're either moving or you're asleep; and he's not shy about reminding you that waking time is action time.

But not everyone has a Zeppelin living with him/her. It can be quite a chore spending lengthy quality time with your dogs with everything going on in this high-speed world in which we live. A 40-hour workweek limits the amount of time left for leisure.

Many of us try to cram into that limited time as many activities as we can. For those with families, it's even worse.

When I retired a few years ago, I thought the amount of playtime I could share with my dogs would increase tenfold. It did increase but not to the extent I had hoped. So for this coming year, I decided I would make a New Year's resolution to spend not only more time playing with my dogs but also more time with each one individually. Then maybe Zeppelin will cut me a break. If you need to spend more time with your dogs, maybe this resolution will work for you too.



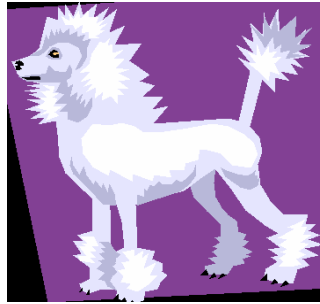
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your dogs!

— Valerie Steinman
NewsWire Editor
CGTTD Camper

CAMPERS: please send your dog-related stories, jokes, recipes, etc., so we can share them with everybody who reads 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 when possible, please identify the source (e.g., internet, book title) so to avoid plagiarism. You must be a current or past camper to submit information for inclusion in the Newswire. Thank you for your cooperation.

HONEY'S CORNER

Honey Loring, CGTTD Pack Leader



I have been reading a book that is *BLOWING MY MIND*. It is answering so many questions I've had - such as "Why is it so difficult for me to be more dog-like in the ways I admire my dogs — living in the moment, less ego, finding joy in simple things, etc.?" "Why do we like to pet animals so much, and why do they want to be petted?" "Why does such a big, strong animal such as a horse, let us put this dinky thing in his mouth and control him?"

This book, based on sound sciences of brain anatomy, physiology, and chemistry, is answering these questions. Temple Grandin is such a good teacher that these complicated scientific concepts are making sense and are understandable. She is an autistic woman who is highly functional and has a Ph.D. She teaches at Colorado State University and is well known for her work: in what sounds gruesome, but is actually a blessing to cattle, she has devised ways for the slaughtering process to be humane.

At the bottom of all she does is a great love of animals, so this is NOT an arms-length, cold scientific look at animals. Dr. Grandin is very open about her autistic brain not being "normal" and how she sees things and understands them more as our animals do. I was reading the chapter on vision when I was at Fall Camp. Gucci, who LOVES tunnels, really didn't want to go into a yellow tunnel during class that took place late morning, i.e., high sun. This is highly unusual for him. Because I was reading about the role of contrast in animals' vision, I was able to understand why he wouldn't go into that tunnel – he was fine at a later hour when it wasn't high noon, with less contrast. Fascinating.

I sound like a Temple Grandin groupie lately and am actually traveling four hours to hear her at St. Hubert's. I cannot say enough about this book as a mind opener. Here are some excerpts:

People constantly underestimate domestic animals' need for companionship. A good way to understand just how social these animals are is to ask yourself how horses, cows, pigs, sheep, dogs, and, to a lesser degree, cats, came to be domesticated in the first place. Why did wild horses decide it was okay to have people sitting in a saddle on their backs holding a pair of reins? It's pretty incredible.

Most experts believe that the reason these animals became domesticated was that they were highly social. Their innate sociability led them to associate with humans and eventually to accept human ownership and direction. That's a high degree of sociability, and it's still there in all of our domestic animals. Even cats are much more social than people realize; sister cats even help each other give birth. All domestic animals need companionship. It is as much a core requirement as food and water....

A dog's oxytocin levels rise when his owner pets him, and petting his dog raises the owner's

oxytocin, too. I'm sure that's one reason why so many people have dogs in the first place. I don't think anyone has researched this yet, but I expect we'll find that dogs make humans into nicer people and better parents.



Oxytocin is definitely important in humans. When women have babies their oxytocin levels shoot up right before the birth, and research shows that those high levels spark maternal warmth and care. Oxytocin produces caring "maternal" behavior in men, too. So for parents, owning and petting a dog is probably like getting a "good parent" shot every day. Dogs are probably good for marriages for the same reason.

(Grandin, Animals in Translation, "Animal Feelings")



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

Cancer of the Spleen



Lately, I have known of more than eight dogs being put to sleep due to cancerous tumors on their spleens (this just since Fall Camp). The youngest dog was just four years old. Golden Retrievers seem to be the major breed for this condition right now, but ANY breed can have this. If your dog has a waistline and then it appears to have a paunch, you might want to have the dog examined. Your vet may be able to palpate the spleen and declare it okay, or he/she may not and recommend an x-ray or ultrasound. You want to check your dog's gums on a regular basis. What is normal "pink" for your dog, how fast does the color

come back after you take your thumb off the gum? I remember working for a vet who operated on an eight-year-old Lab who had a splenic mass the size of a basketball and weighed 12 pounds. The dog lived another two years. Right now board certified internists only give dogs with splenic masses three to six months of life WITH Chemo. The odds don't sound very good but better to know what you are dealing with than to wake up and find out your dog died during the night. It is not a pain-free way to go. I'm sorry to share this, but I still feel knowledge makes better decisions. And I want you all to be informed.



The Older Dog



One of my hardest talks at camp used to be on the older dog. When you live with creatures that don't live as long as you do, you end up having your heart broken with each loss. I used to focus on that: now I focus on their quality of life more than I used to; I focus on giving them more individual attention than I used to; I focus more on making their lives a little brighter than I used to. They have taught me A LOT! It is soooo easy when a younger dog comes into the house to ignore the older one(s). But just remember – they were there for you before the new one came along. Giving the older dog a shorter walk several times a day in place of one long walk is more beneficial. A long walk may make him more sore and less inclined to move around much for the rest of the day. Several shorter walks make the dog get up and get going more. The muscles and joints won't ache as much. They will move their bowels better! Nothing worse than a constipated dog (unless it is one with diarrhea) trying to go in pouring rain or snow while you wait for it!

I have been walking our 12½ year old IWS Ten 2/10's of a mile each way two to three times a day. He so looks forward to his walk with me as he has me all to himself. He prances and barks and tries to grab the leash and acts like he did when he was five. One of the new items I am trying on him is a product called "Oxyfresh Pet Antioxidant" by Oxyfresh Worldwide, Inc., 800-333-7374. It worked fantastically on my old Lab Storm; her last six months were the easiest for her to move around (more than the previous 4 years)! But it did not help my old Lab, Rain. Oxyfresh Worldwide sells to dealers, but they might be able to help you locate a dealer near you. We all should be taking antioxidants, animals included, as sometimes they are a tremendous help. In just three days, Ten is moving easier, he is not tripping over his hind legs as often, he can walk briskly for a longer stretch, and he does the stairs easier. Speaking of stairs, our little Norwich Terrier Erin fell down the stairs a few months ago. I got her to go down them on her

own again, but then she had difficulty going up them. Once she started walking several times a day (she is 13 years old), she now charges up the stairs and comes down just fine on her

own. She is also making sure the dogs remember that she is still in charge! Being in shape does give you (and the dogs) more confidence for what life brings our way.



*Have a GREAT CHRISTMAS and MAY ALL OF YOU STAY HEALTHY!
Mary T.*



TRUE TAILS

CAMP GONE TO THE DOGS STOWE, VERMONT, U.S.A.

(Ann Bulke wrote this article for her National Dog magazine in Australia.)

This was my fourth trip to Camp where I spent a wonderful two weeks as an Obedience Instructor. High in the ski fields, Camp is held at the Mountaineer Inn, which is used in winter as a ski resort – just down the road is the Von Trapp Family Lodge. There were 120 people and over 250 dogs having over 30 activities a day to choose from

including agility, obedience, show handling, tracking, Frisbee, flyball, heelwork to music, lure coursing, tricks, jumping, ring run-outs, games, weight pulling, and dozens of lectures and discussions. Rings and working areas are set up on the ten acres and next door there is a huge agility field and also room for lure coursing, Frisbee and tracking

onto neighboring properties. There is a river which runs along the back of the Inn and this was well used this year as the weather was quite hot for that time of year (autumn) with temperatures in the high 70's F. The thing I like best about Camp is that the dogs are all allowed in the motel style rooms – either in crates or in/on the beds! I shared a room with two other instructors and five Golden Retrievers, two of which were only 11 weeks old.

Each morning started with a cooked breakfast served in the dining room, or campers could eat outside with their dogs. Taffy and her team prepared all of the meals – she has Irish connections so the food is to die for! Our classes start with basic obedience, and we had about 30 in the class, most had already done some training and wow there was lots of potential. The next class was novice with about 15 where we included the exercises for the Therapy Dog International and Canine Good Citizens tests which were held at the end of the week (27 out of the 30 handlers ended up passing). It is the only place I know of where you can train for a week and walk away with 2 titles! The last class before lunch was for Open and Utility handlers. After a delicious buffet lunch, campers have a quiet time where there are

lectures to attend or a trip into town or just a quick snooze with their dogs. Late afternoon classes start again and run until dinnertime. Handlers can rotate from classes or try new things therefore breeds get to try out new dog sports and some excel at things they never thought they could. Evenings are spent at lectures – however most people get to bed early ready for the next big day!



Other fun activities were leash making, “pawtraits” (where the dog got to paint his own picture with his feet), games afternoon with fancy dress parade, vendors stalls and the New York garden party hosted by two snazzy girls and their dogs. There were auctions of hand made quilts one evening and the proceeds (thousands of dollars) were sent to the New Orleans animal relief after Hurricane Katrina.

A fabulous two weeks with doggy people. I am looking forward to going back again next year. You can read about camp on the web, www.campgonetothedogs

Ann Bulke, Contributor
CGTTD Instructor

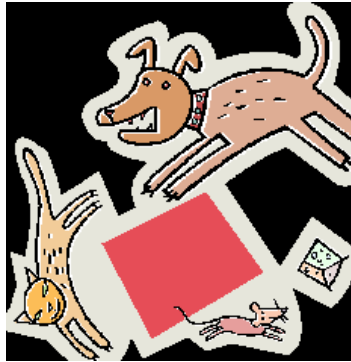


CREATIVE TAILS

Do Not Let SkeeziX Go in There:

Winslow's Villanelle

By Winslow, dog of writer Ron Hansen



Do not let SkeeziX go in there.
Alpo's expensive; food isn't free.
Wise dogs do not like to share.

I'll kill the cat if you don't dare.
I haven't been full since I was three.
Do not let SkeeziX go in there.

You got him first but I don't care.
Homes need just one pet, and that's me.
Wise dogs do not like to share.

Lazy? Dull? All he does is stare.
Hairball's his name; his brain is a pea.
Do not let SkeeziX go in there.

Won't chase; won't bark; won't play; isn't fair.
Hates rides and walks. Why not let him be?
Wise dogs do not like to share.

The kitchen's mine; I'll lick it bare.
And leftovers? Even they're for me.
Do not let SkeeziX go in there.
Winslow does not like to share.

From *Unleashed*,
"Poems By Writers' Dogs"



"DIVINE" TAILS

You're Almost As Good
As Your Dog



1. If you can start the day without caffeine ...
2. If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles ...
3. If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it ...
4. If you can take criticism and blame without resentment ...
5. If you can resist treating a rich friend better than a poor friend ...
6. If you can conquer tension without medical help ...
7. If you can face the world without lies and deceit ...
8. If you can relax without liquor ...
9. If you can ignore a friend's limited education and never correct him ...
10. If you can honestly say that you have no prejudices ...

Then you're almost as good as your dog.

Dog Fancy
December 2000 Issue



TALL TAILS

TOP TEN REASONS DOGS DON'T USE COMPUTERS



10. Too hard to type (too hard to type with paws)
9. "Sit" and "stay" were hard enough; "delete" and "save" are out of the question
8. Saliva-coated floppy disks refuse to work
7. Carpal Paw Syndrome
6. Involuntary tail wagging is a dead giveaway your dog is browsing WEB sites for homemade biscuits
5. Fire hydrant icon simply frustrating
4. Can't help attacking the screen when your dog hears "you've got mail"
3. Too messy to mark every WEB site your dog visits
2. Fetch command not available on all platforms

And the number one reason why dogs don't use computers:

1. Can't stick their heads out of Windows 98

Karen Hurd, Contributor
CGTTD Camper



BOW WOW

Fruitcake Recipe for your Human



Ingredients

1 cup water
4 large eggs
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup brown sugar
nuts

1 cup sugar
2 cups dried fruit
1 teaspoon salt
lemon juice
1 gallon whiskey

Sample the whiskey to check for quality.

Take a large bowl.

Check the whiskey again to be sure it is of the highest quality.

Pour one level cup and drink.

Repeat.

Turn on the electric mixer; beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl.

Add one teaspoon of sugar and beat again.

Make sure the whiskey is still OK.

Cry another tup. Turn off mixer.

Break two lags and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruil.

Mix on the turner.

If the fried druit gets stuck in the beaterers, pry it loose with a drewscriver.

Sample the whiskey to check for tonsisticity.

Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something. Who cares?

Check the whiskey.

Now sift the lemon juice and strain the nuts.

Add one stable. Spoooon. Or something. Whatever you can find.

Grease the oven.

Turn the cake tin to 350 degrees.

Don't forget to beat off the turner.

Throw the bowl out the window.

Check the whiskey again.

Go to bed.

Who likes fruitcake anyway?

Found on the Internet



UNTIL TAILS UP

(As of November 30, 2005)

CAMP

TIME TO WAIT

Summer

June 4-10, 2006

6 Months

Fall

September 3-9, 2006

9 Months

September 10-16, 2006



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