



CAMP GONE TO THE DOGS

NEWSWIRE

Volume 3, Issue 4



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THE EDITOR BARKS OUT



Wanted:

Amusing or Interesting Dog Stories

With over 700 people reading the Newswire and more than half of them current or past campers, many stories about Camp Gone to the Dogs remain untold. The Newswire provides the perfect platform for those stories. It also provides the perfect audience: 700+ dog lovers.

With all the excitement that whirls around camp, things just happen – some comic, some uplifting. Everyone who has ever attended camp has a story, and we would like to read it. Just in my dorm alone at summer camp, my dorm mates always have stories at the end of the day –

stories that would make for good reading. If you have an amusing or interesting canine story that didn't take place at camp – like the time Zeppelin mistook a hot tub for a swimming pool (He couldn't get out of that tub fast enough!) – we'd like to read those too.

So please send us your stories. Try to limit the number of words to 500. Of note, 500 words approximate one single-spaced typewritten page. If you're like I am and prefer to write stories in poetical form, please feel free to do so.

And keep those tails wagging!

— Valerie Steinman
Newswire Editor
CGTDD Camper

CAMPERS: please send us your dog-related stories, jokes, recipes, etc., so we can share them with all who read the *Camp Gone to the Dogs* Newswire. Forward your material via e-mail to campnewswire@hotmail.com. In the subject line of your e-mail, please type the word, **newswire**. If you are submitting another person's story, please tell us the author's name or where you got the story (e.g., internet/e-mail). We reserve the right to edit your stories for content, grammar, space, etc. You must be a current or past camper to contribute to the Newswire. Thank you for your cooperation.

HONEY'S CORNER

Honey Loring, CGTTD Pack Leader



Photo Opportunity

The AKC Museum will feature a gallery FULL of candid canine photos in 4x6 inch snapshot format from February 25 – May 14, 2006. To have your dog's photo displayed, send a photo with name of dog, owner, copyright information, and SASE

(self-addressed, stamped envelope) for return of the photo to the following address:

AKC Museum of the Dog
1721 South Mason Road
St. Louis, MO 63131



Ask the Red Cross to Update Shelter and Evacuation Transportation

<http://www.redcross.org/where/chapts.asp>

By Phyllis DeGioia



I have written an open letter asking the American Red Cross to consider altering its policy regarding pets in shelters and evacuation transportation, and I am asking you to join this grass roots campaign. Look up your

local chapter at the above link, and either copy and paste the following letter into e-mail or send a hard copy of this letter *[with your signature]* to the director of a local chapter and/or to the following:

Marsha J. Evans,
President and CEO
American Red Cross National
Headquarters
2025 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

The Red Cross says decisions about pets in shelters are left to the individual chapters. If you

prefer, just tell your chapter to “please find a way to allow pets to be sheltered and transported during natural disasters so that people will not have to choose between their own safety and that of their pets.” If you wish, add “I will no longer donate to the Red Cross unless this policy is changed.”



-- SAMPLE LETTER --

Subject: The Snowball Effect

Dear President Evans:

I'm hoping that the American Red Cross will consider updating the policy regarding animals in shelters and evacuation transportation. Many Americans watching the televised coverage of Hurricane Katrina were upset to see that young boy on a shelter-bound bus separated from his dog, Snowball. Knowing that scenario was multiplied thousands of times over makes me wonder what we can do to improve it.

More and more Americans are willing to risk their lives to assure the safety of their pets. As pets are not usually welcome at shelters, many people choose to remain with their pets. Unfortunately, their refusal to leave without pets snowballs into more problems, increasing the workload of the search/recovery and healthcare personnel and causing preventable deaths.

Given the attachment Americans have for their pets, I hope you will reconsider your policy about animals and allow pets on evacuee transportation and in some shelters. Perhaps people and pets could be rescued together, and then the animals taken to the local animal rescue

effort or shelter. Red Cross and FEMA personnel could be trained to deal with sheltering animals as part of their regular training.

I understand that the original policy is based on factors such as allergies, potential bites, and fear of animals. People who don't want to be near animals shouldn't have to be, but people whose pets mean everything to them should not have their pets taken away. I am not suggesting animals be in all shelters, but if some shelters allowed pets, or a portion of each shelter, it would speed up the rescue process by eliminating the lengthy discussion rescuers have with people who refuse to be rescued without their pets. If separated, they may not be reunited. For people who have lost absolutely everything, their pets may be the only comfort they have left.

In Milwaukee, busloads of people displaced from Katrina were allowed to bring their pets and were housed together at the State Fair grounds. In Florida, the shelters that accept pets filled up first. A volunteer for Emergency Response in Britain says one of their first plans of action is to make sure that pets are kept with their owners.

I am so grateful that you offer this type of assistance, but please understand that I would no sooner leave my pets behind than I would my child. Surely we can work to find a way to accommodate the needs of all evacuees.

Sincerely,



Colorado and Delaware
Pass AKC Canine Good Citizenship Resolutions
-- Importance of Responsible Dog Ownership
Now Recognized by 20 States --



The AKC applauds the state legislatures of Colorado and

Delaware for recently passing AKC Canine Good Citizenship

resolutions. The two states join 18 others and the U.S. Senate in recognizing the importance of responsible dog ownership and the fact that dog-related problems are most often caused by irresponsible owners, not the dogs or particular breeds.

With the additions of Colorado and Delaware, in total 20 states have adopted CGCTM resolutions including Massachusetts, Maine, Florida, Kansas, Alaska, Utah, Illinois, Louisiana, Georgia, New York, Alabama, Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Michigan, Washington, New Hampshire, and the U.S. Senate.



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



Tracking Tips

With the winter that most of us in the North have been having (I am assuming that the rest of the country is having their typical "winter" weather), tracking could

be continued almost daily. Please remember that even for a TD, there will be an article at the start flag. A dog who has only been trained for the old TD (with

an article at the end), passes it, and goes on to TDX, has a harder time learning to continue after finding an article at the start flag. I've seen quite a few dogs, just being taught TDX, go up to the start flag, find the article and think that they are done! And in their minds, they are right: they found the article, end of track. So using multiple articles not only keeps the dog motivated and encouraged but also helps him when he enters TDX or VST tests as there will be four articles in each of those tests. One at the start, one at the end, and two others placed at different places along the track.



With the snow that we have had over the past few weeks, I've enjoyed watching my dogs "hunt" for the tennis ball. This really teaches them to search for the article also! I hit a tennis ball with a racket, and it lands in the snow. The dogs will search and search for it and finally dig it out. Now that they have been playing this game for a few days, most of the snow is packed down. The

ball will bounce and usually land in enough snow that hides it. When I know they are in the right area, I will encourage them by saying, "Yes, that's it; look for it," and they will narrow their search until they find it.

When playing with a litter of puppies, I will toss a stick into the woods a few yards away. I will watch which puppy will search the longest and bring back the correct stick. THAT puppy will be a good field dog (if a sporting breed) but also for me, a good tracking dog. The pup knew which stick had the human scent on it and had the determination to search until he found it.

In the beginning, I don't try to throw the stick so it will be really hard to find, just along the edge of the woods. After a few retrieves though, I will toss it where a pup will really have to search for more than 30 seconds to find it. With pups, if you make it too difficult, they learn to give up. You want to keep them working but not to the point of losing interest or giving up. You can do this with adult dogs; they just may need a little more verbal encouragement.

Remember, if it is not fun for the dog to do, why should he continue to do it? Also, why would you continue to do it?!



Tricky Diagnosis

I've recently seen a few dogs in my husband's practice that have made me want to share their experiences with you. They have come in with high temps, swollen joints, being reluctant to move and difficulty in getting on their feet. Lyme's Disease, right? Maybe, maybe not. Of course, blood was drawn and the snap test was done to see if the dogs had been exposed to Lyme. They all had and the color was very bright blue (meaning a strong reading at that time). The unfortunate thing is that the strong color does NOT always relate to how strong the symptoms are. We've seen dogs at the practice that have the same strong blue reading on the test and have NO symptoms at all. Other times, we've seen dogs with a blue dot barely showing and the dog will have the same symptoms as the dogs I first mentioned. What do you do? What we recommend is that you treat the dog for Lyme's. IF it is Lyme Disease, the dog will be more than 50% better by the second day on medication, whether the dog is on Doxycycline or Amoxicillin.

Doxycycline will help with a dog who has potentially been exposed to other tick-borne diseases. It may cause the dog to have an upset stomach, even when given with food. When we send the animal home with either one of the antibiotics mentioned, we tell

the owner that if the dog is not much improved by 48 hours, we want to see the dog again and will need to run more tests. What else could be wrong with the dogs?

While rare, it does happen; the dog may have a bacterial infection in the joints. While either Doxy or Amoxi may slightly improve that dog, he will not show the "almost back to normal" as he would if he had Lyme. Taking fluid from the swollen joints will allow the vet (or maybe an independent laboratory) to know if it is a bacterial infection or polyarthritis.



This is why we ask the owners to treat the dog for Lyme at first. If the dog is "almost back to normal" within 48 hours, then we know it is Lyme and have the owner continue medicating the dog for three to four weeks. If the dog is not much better, then we know that we have to investigate more. A bacterial infection will need strong antibiotics. Polyarthritis will need some form of cortisone.

Polyarthrititis is not all that common either, but it can affect any age of dog as it is not age related. Instead it is an autoimmune problem. The dog's immune system is not functioning properly.

If you put a dog with a bacterial infection on cortisone, you will make matters very much worse in a short time. That is why you have to have fluid taken out of the joints and analyzed.



Obesity



Another problem I am seeing is overweight dogs. With the mild weather we have been having, the owners have been out walking the dogs and they are coming into the practice as they are lame. Reason: too long a walk. With puppies, older dogs and overweight dogs, you want to walk them a shorter distance two to three times a day. Going on just one long walk may cause more joint damage.

While the pup may sleep for an extra 20-30 minutes, the one long walk may affect the growth plates and/or joints, causing the dog to be more arthritic in his later years. With the older dog or overweight dog, one long walk will definitely burn calories and tire him out, but he will be sorer.

Therefore, he will be reluctant to move much for the rest of the day.

Going for two to three shorter walks will keep those muscles and joints from becoming too sore and actually burn more calories. It is amazing what little extra weight an animal has to gain to affect his quality of life. With a dog 15 pounds or under, just gaining half a pound is a lot. Gaining five pounds on a large breed is a lot also. Getting that weight off will add years to your dog's life and give him a better quality of life at the same time. Being in shape also lessens the dog's chances of spraining a muscle or having an injury. Sounds good for the humans as well!

TRUE TAILS

After Recall of Food, Veterinarians at Cornell University Rush to Save Poisoned Dogs

By Michelle York

Published January 9, 2006, New York Times



ITHACA, N.Y., Jan. 7 – On Friday Morning, when their 4-year-old golden retriever, Minnie, was near death, Robert and Janice Lugo called in sick to their jobs, carried Minnie to their car and drove her to a top animal hospital four hours away. They were in such a rush that Mr. Lugo left his winter coat back at their home in Catskill, N.Y. But he took his credit cards, which he figured he would need to pay for what could be thousands of dollars in veterinary bills.

It is the Lugos' last-ditch effort to save Minnie from liver disease brought on, veterinarians said, by pet food contaminated with a stealthy toxin. "She trusted us, and we fed her poison," Mrs. Lugo said, crying.

On December 20, Diamond Pet Food, a Missouri company that sells its products internationally, voluntarily recalled 800,000 bags of pet food under several labels after an investigation. Based on lab tests, company officials believe that 1 to 3 percent of those bags contain dangerous amounts of aflatoxin, a poisonous byproduct of a fungus that grows on corn and other crops. When ingested in high amounts, aflatoxin causes potentially fatal liver disease. The recall included both cat and dog food, though dogs seem to be particularly susceptible.



"I'm hoping and praying that we got those bags back," said Mark Brinkmann, the company's chief operating officer.

But veterinarians at Cornell University Hospital for Animals, which has become a Northeast hub for dogs believed to be poisoned by the food, including

Minnie, are worried. In the three weeks since the recall, veterinarians at the hospital in Ithaca have increased their estimate of dog fatalities so far to 100 nationwide from a handful.

Some pet owners may not have heard of the recall because it was announced just before the holidays. And aflatoxin poisoning does not always take effect quickly and can be mistaken for less serious illnesses, so they have adapted a human protein test to detect the toxin quickly. Veterinarians fear the number of fatalities could grow to several hundred in the coming months.



“I’ve never in my life seen anything like this,” said Dr. Sharon Center, a professor of veterinary medicine at Cornell.

The chain of events that led to the poisoning began with poor weather. A drought in the South left cornfields vulnerable to *Aspergillus flavus*, a colorless, odorless fungus that spawns aflatoxin. The contaminated corn came from one of Diamond’s

main suppliers in Hilton Head, S.C., Mr. Brinkmann said. According to Mr. Brinkmann, Diamond routinely tests for aflatoxin, and an average of one truckload of corn has been rejected nearly every week because it tested positive for aflatoxin.

But the industry’s testing methods are not foolproof, experts said. The fungus does not grow uniformly throughout the crop, so it may exist in some parts of the truckload of corn and not others.

On Oct. 11, a contaminated truckload slipped through, Mr. Brinkmann said. The pet food was processed at a company plant in Gaston, S.C., and sent to a distributor in Buffalo. From there, the contaminated food was put on store shelves east of Ohio.

Nearly two months later, several young Labradors at Kresland Kennel, near Rochester, began showing signs of liver failure, which include fatigue, vomiting and internal bleeding. Within about a week, three had died. “I had no idea why,” said Susan Patrick, a breeder for 35 years.

Ms. Patrick’s veterinarian, Dr. Stuart Gluckman, suggested post-mortem testing by pathologists at Cornell. In the meantime, an associate at his practice, Dr. Sara Sanders, was investigating the illness of two golden retrievers, one of whom later died. The veterinarians

realized that both groups of dogs were being fed Diamond products. A receptionist at the practice overheard and was concerned because she was also using that brand, though her dog seemed healthy.

They alerted the state veterinary diagnostic center at Cornell, which tested the food and found aflatoxin. About two weeks later, the receptionist's dog died. Ms. Patrick has lost 7 of her 25 dogs and all of the others are still sick.

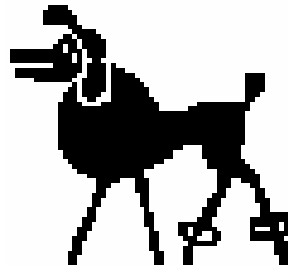
"They were dying in my lap," she said. Once the problem was realized, Cornell experts prepared for the onslaught of cases. Many cut short holiday plans and are still working long shifts trying to figure out how to stave off death in the dogs.

There is no antidote. If a human contracted aflatoxin poisoning, which sometimes occurs in Third World countries, that person would need a liver transplant. Dr. Center is giving the dogs drugs to sustain them until their livers can regain some function.

Still, the fatality rate at Cornell is about 70 percent. The dogs that survive could face lifelong liver complications and a greatly increased risk of liver cancer.

Dr. Center is fielding calls from concerned veterinarians from the East Coast, and she fears that many other pets have died at their local animal hospital or at home without the disease being

diagnosed. The hardest calls, she said, are from older pet owners, who have lost their main companion. "They're anguished," she said.



In some cases, it is the owners, not the medicine, who bring comfort to the dogs. Jane-Marie Law crawled into the large cage that held her standard poodle, Tavi, to comfort her during her more difficult moments. After three weeks and nearly \$7,500 in bills, Tavi is recovering. Now Ms. Law is helping the Lugo family. After meeting them on Friday at Cornell, Ms. Law took in Robert and Janice Lugo.

Diamond, which has never had a similar problem, is also trying to cope, Mr. Brinkmann said. After the company confirmed the contamination, it set up a call center and hired 12 veterinarians to answer questions. About 1,000 people a day call in. "They're getting hammered," said Dr. Stan Casteel, a veterinary professor who is working at the call center.

Diamond has also created an additional level of testing for aflatoxin and it will reimburse people for their veterinary bills

and the cost of their lost animal in confirmed cases, Mr. Brinkmann said. “If we do the right thing, we can recover,” he said.

On Saturday, Minnie lay in her cage, awake but motionless

except for a tail wag when she saw her owners. “Once in a while, she’ll just look at us like the old Minnie,” Mr. Lugo said. “We just want her back.”

Toni Bailey, Contributor
CGTTD Camper



Valuable information and links can be found at www.vet.cornell.edu.

The list of affected foods can be found at <http://www.diamondpet.com> (Diamond Pet Food website); also accessible from the Cornell website.

Diagnostic Testing for suspect Aflatoxicosis can be found at <http://diaglab.vet.cornell.edu/news.asp>



CREATIVE TAILS

Lament of a Lady “Gone to the Dogs”



There was a time, there really was,
When I was young and tender,
When “show dog” meant a Disney star
And “bitch” was not a gender.

I went to bed at half-past ten,
I went to church on Sunday,
On Saturday, I baked the beans
And did the wash on Monday.

But then, I got a certain pup,
An erstwhile friend said, “Show!”
And, so I did, and so I do.
Oh, what I didn’t know!

Once I dressed with flair and style,
That was the life – don’t knock it!
Now every dress from bed to ball
Must have a good bait pocket.

I used to have a certain air,
I wallowed in perfume.
I used to smell like Nuit d’Amour,
Now I smell like Mr. Groom!

My furniture was a haute décor,
My pets, a tank of guppies.
Now I’ve furniture that is unstuffed
And well-adjusted puppies.

I used to long for furs and jewels,
And a figure classed as “super”
But now the thing I long for most
Is a nice new pooper-scooper!

I was taught to be well-groomed
No matter where I went.
Now all the grooming that I do
Is in the handler’s tent.

While once I spoke in pristine prose,
In dulcet tones and frail,
I now am using language
That would turn a sailor pale.

I adored a man who murmured verse
Through intimate little dinners
But now the words I thrill to hear
Are just three – “Best-of-Winners!”

I really love my doggy life;
I wouldn’t care to change it
But when I get that Best-in-Show,
I could maybe rearrange it.

And when my days on earth are done
I’ll go without much nudging;
Just give me three weeks’ closing time,
And let me know who’s judging.

– Anonymous

Toni Bailey, Contributor
CGTTD Camper



"DIVINE" TAILS

*Dog. A kind of additional or subsidiary
Deity designed to catch the overflow
and surplus of the world's worship.*

— Ambrose Bierce

A Letter to the Dogs

Dear Dogs,

When I say to move, it means go someplace else, not switch positions with each other so there are still two dogs in the way. The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note – placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king size bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I shall continue to sleep on the couch to ensure your comfort. Look at videos of dogs sleeping – they can actually curl up in a ball. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space used is nothing but doggy sarcasm.



My compact discs are not miniature Frisbees. For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, turn the knob, or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. I have been using bathrooms for years; canine attendance is not mandatory.

The proper order is kiss me, then go smell the other dog's butt. I cannot stress this enough. It would be such a simple change for you.

Sincerely,
Your Caretakers



TALL TAILS

Let sleeping dogs lie –
Who wants to rouse 'em?

— Charles Dickens



Canine Security Quotes

The liquid on the inside of a fire hydrant is H₂O
The liquid on the outside of a fire hydrant is K9P

— T. Joiner

Sign at vet's office: Be Back in 5 Minutes. SIT! STAY!

Sign on chain-linked fence:
Salesmen Welcome.... Dog food is expensive.

www.llewellynsecurity.com



WANTED:

Doggie Jokes and Canine Humor
for Next Issue of Newswire



BOW WOW

Snoopy Rules St. Paul



During 1999 in St. Paul, Minneapolis, home of the late Charles Schulz, the *Peanuts* cartoonist, local artists painted 101 polyurethane likenesses of Snoopy in various colors and styles. The famous Beagle stood throughout St. Paul in a tribute to Schulz. Proceeds from the sale of some of the statues funded a bronze *Peanuts* sculpture in St. Paul, an endowed chair at the St. Paul College of Visual Arts, and a scholarship at the Minneapolis Art Instruction School. During 2000, 40 five-foot-tall Snoopy statues were auctioned for a total of \$823,000. One statue sold for \$35,000 – Jolly Golfer Snoopy. See website: www.snoopy.com.

UNTIL TAILS UP

(As of January 31, 2006)

CAMP

TIME TO WAIT

Summer

June 4-10, 2006

4 Months

Fall

September 3-9, 2006
September 10-16, 2006

7 Months



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