



CAMP GONE TO THE DOGS

NEWSWIRE

Volume 4, Issue 5



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The Editor Barks Out



News and Views

In this issue of the Camp Gone to the Dogs Newswire, “Honey’s Corner” focuses on breeding and the rut into which many breeders have fallen. Common sense has been overtaken by a sense of establishing a pedigree line resulting in in-breeding. The article shows how breeding for type produces a much better animal.

In her “Tips,” Mary T. educates us on ways to select dog foods to avoid contamination. After reading Mary’s column, I jumped onto www.solidgoldhealth.com to ensure my new bag of Solid Gold dog food would not be a problem. Once on the site, I clicked on the news icon for statements on dog and cat food products. The company states no problems exist with their foods. For those of you who feed Solid Gold, reading the company’s statements should ease any anxieties you have.

“True Tails” leads you to a site describing the transformation of a cemetery to a dog friendly space. “Tall Tails” is only partially tall this issue. The author uses Dr. Seuss to model innovative training methods. Bow wow – enamored with the English language? “Bow Wow” reveals a multitude of words with canine origins – a very interesting read. And finally thanks to Barb Mattes for sending in her haiku for the newsletter. I hope more campers follow her lead.

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 Founder



Breeding – Dogs or Pedigrees?

By Dr. Catherine Marley

Reprinted with permission from the author and the Canine Diversity
Website (www.canine-genetics.com) in the ACK Delegate

All dogs carry defective genes. These defective genes are usually “recessive” – that is, their expression can be covered up by the presence of a normal gene for that function. It is estimated that the average dog carries four to seven defective genes in its DNA (the human estimate is ten to 12). Since genes are always carried in pairs, *most of these abnormal genes are carried in only a single dose* so that their presence is completely concealed by the other normal gene.

What is a gene? A useful analogy is that a gene is like a set of instructions given to a particular workman doing a small job on a very big construction site. Each workman gets two sets of plans. If one set is damaged, he still has

one good set, and the job can proceed. But if both sets are damaged, the job will not be finished, or it will be done wrong. A gene is a large molecule, a long double strand of DNA, composed of a backbone of two long sugar molecules linked by pairs of smaller molecules called “bases” or “nucleotides.” It is the sequence of these nucleotides that encodes the information contained in the gene.



How does a gene become defective? During normal cell division, an exact copy is made of each and every gene in the cell, and then it divides into two daughter cells which are each an exact copy of the original cell. Defective genes are caused by a “mutation.” If something happens to disrupt the exact replication of the DNA during cell division, a defective gene results.



Only a few changes in the base sequence can render the

information in that gene useless. The process of aging is undoubtedly the effect of accumulated random defects of this sort, as are most types of cancer.

In the formation of egg and sperm, a special type of division takes place. Instead of replicating the genetic material, so that both the daughter cells have a full complement of genes (two genes of each type), the genetic material is divided, so that each reproductive cell has only one gene of each type. When sperm and egg finally meet, the full complement of genes is restored, and a new individual, carrying half of its mother’s genes and half of its father’s genes, is created.

Selective breeding. Nearly all breeding of domestic animals is selective as opposed to random. Years ago, before the era of scientific genetics, breeding was done more by phenotype than by pedigree. Race horses tended to be bred by the stopwatch. That was where the money was. Dairy cattle were bred by the volume and quality of their milk, meat animals by the speed of maturation and ratio of feed to meat, and so on. Later it was recognized that breeding together closely related animals tended to speed up the process of “fixing” the desired traits within a few generations.

Breeding by pedigree is the type of selective breeding most often practiced today. *It nearly always involves some degree of inbreeding.* The logic is simple. We know that an animal’s traits are genetically controlled. We can even calculate the percentage of a particular animal’s genes residing in the cells of one of its descendants. When we mate closely related animals whose family shows (has the phenotype of) the desired trait, we are reasonably sure it will appear in the offspring. Some breeders have carried this practice to remarkable extremes, failing to realize there is a “catch” to the pedigree method.

What about those defective genes? The ones you can't see because they are "covered up" by intact ones. When we breed closely related animals (let us say because they have super rears), we can see the desired trait.



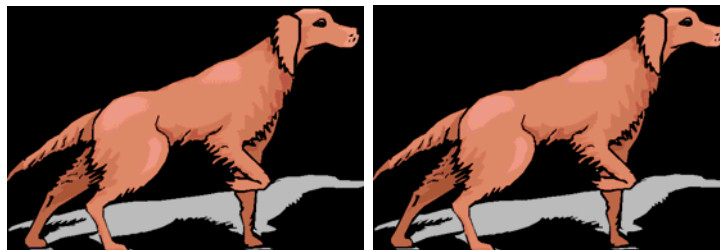
This trait is genetically controlled like all traits. These two closely related animals share the genes for their super rears as a result of their close genetic relationship. What we can't see is the PRS gene or the kidney disease gene that these two animals also share

as a result of their close genetic relationship. When we double up on the good rears, we are also doubling up on the particular hidden defects they share.

We can see the results of this type of concentration of mutations in some human populations which have been relatively inbred by reason of isolation due to status, geography, or religion. Some examples that come to mind are Tay-Sachs disease in eastern European Jews and hemophilia in some royal families.

Phenotype breeding has been largely neglected in recent years. It has fallen into undeserved disrepute as the more popular inbreeding has produced faster and more dramatic changes. I say undeservedly because it has much to recommend it and avoids some of the serious pitfalls of inbreeding.

Again we look at the phenotype of two relatively unrelated animals. They both have good rears, which we want. Why do they share this trait? For the same reason that the two related ones did: they both have the set of genes which produce good rears. But what about hidden, bad genes? Since these animals could not have been selected for unseen characteristics (after all, if you can't see it, you can't consciously select for it), they probably do not share many of these defective genes. To be sure, they still carry their load of defects in their own private collections, but they most likely each carry a different set. This being the case, it is very unlikely that any one offspring will inherit two copies of the same defective gene. It is very likely, however, that they will all have good rears.



Phenotype breeding is still selective breeding. We are selecting those animals which show the desired traits while minimizing the probability of doubling up on hidden, undesired ones. Inbreeding and line breeding, on the other hand, select for both the phenotypic and genotypic traits and dramatically increase the probability of producing animals homozygous for defects.

The lesson in all of this is that we should pay less attention to pedigrees, particularly in terms of looking for similarities on paper when we breed, and more attention to the dogs themselves.



All too many breeders make their breeding decisions on paper and not in the flesh. We need to consider the pedigrees as they relate to the qualities of the parent animal – did his mom and dad have good rears – rather than to insist he be related to our prospective brood bitch. We can get the results we want by breeding unrelated “like to like” without the tragic byproducts of inbreeding.



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/Staff



Tainted Dog Food

With all the news channels letting everyone know about the tainted dog food, why write more about it? IF the rat poison (which is NOT used in North America) is in the wheat gluten, I would like to believe that it is held to just the canned and moist foods and treats, but I know that wheat gluten is in A LOT of dry dog foods. If your dog has symptoms, they would include vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, and possibly drinking more water. IF your animal exhibits any symptoms that are NOT normal for that animal, seek veterinarian care.

Now may be a good time to consider changing to another brand of food or making your own food. This problem hit so many brands as most dog foods are NOT made in their own plants. Wysong, Bil Jac, Wellness/Old Mother Hubbard, California Natural, Innova, Evo, Purina, Royale Canin, and Eagle

are the ones off the top of my head that I know have their own manufacturing plants. Purina used to let other dog food companies use its plant, but I believe that stopped when Purina moved and built its new plant. Science Diet (when it was Hill's/Morris) used to have its own plant, but when they sold out to Colgate Palmolive, they moved the production. Iams and Eukanuba sold out to Hines.





What you want to look for on the bag is the name of the manufacturer. It should not be a major supplier to household products. I may be wrong (I have been before!), but I doubt if Dick Van Patten has his own manufacturing plant for his Natural Balance dog and cat foods. If there is more than one brand of food made at a plant, there is a bigger chance of contamination occurring. I also know that brands like Sensible Choice and Dick Van Patten's use A LOT of salt as preservatives.

When I have the time when I am shopping, I will turn over the dog food bags in a grocery store or

pet store and see how many companies are from the same city. Try it sometime. I have finally changed from Bil Jac (older dogs not doing as well on it as they have) to TimberWolf Organics. I don't believe that it has its own manufacturing plant, but I am only using about ¼ of the amount of dry; my dogs get the rest of their meals from our leftovers. Mashed potatoes, carrots, green beans, rice, meatloaf, pasta, etc., make up the rest of their meals. Finn (three-year-old IWS) does NOT care for chicken, salmon, or even cooked hamburger meat, thank you very much! When I have the time, I still make their food from scratch. My husband (the only one in the family who likes leftovers) has 36 hours to use any of the food up or I give it to the dogs. This way the dogs are used to the cooked food, and he will feed them leftovers when I am not home.

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### Bragging Rights, Woo Hoo

Onto a lighter note and a late brag. If anyone can remember the Irish Water Spaniel in the Sporting Group at Westminster, I have one set of

the grandparents to him! My old dogs, Morgan and Ten, produced a litter of six females and one male (named Captain). Captain is the father of Torin, the winner of the breed at Westminster.



No matter how upset you may be with your dog, give him a hug

Dogs just don't live long enough, and they add so much to our lives!

Mary T.



## ***TRUE TAILS***

### Cemetery to Dog Park



The link below is a wonderful video of the Dog Group that I belong to on Capitol Hill in Washington DC. This is a great video to save because this dog group has been responsible for the renovation and transformation of this public space. So I encourage you to share it with public officials in your efforts to establish a dog park in your community. Through their work, donations, dues, networking for grant money, etc, the Historic Congressional Cemetery has changed from a run down, unsafe, scary place, to one of Capitol Hill's most enjoyable peaceful spaces (My annual dues for two dogs to use the cemetery are \$205.).

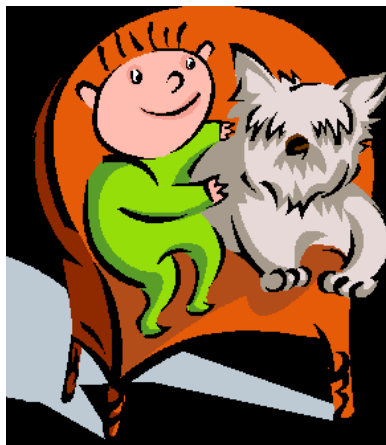
<http://www.dccompass.com/arounddc/20060704dogpark.html>

The secret of the success of this collaboration is twofold. First, the space is BIG enough to be safe and for dogs to have plenty of space and keep out of each other's faces if necessary. Second, it is not a public dog park. Membership is required, rules for membership must be followed, and individual dogs with behavior found to be not appropriate can be excluded.

Bonnie Peregoy, Contributor  
CGTTD Staff



### Attention All Dog Lovers



You will love this site: [www.BringFido.com](http://www.BringFido.com)

It tells you where every pet friendly hotel is. I love this!!!!

Pamela Levy, Contributor  
CGTTD Camper



# ***CREATIVE TAILS***

## Canine Haiku

### *Hunting*

By Barb Mattes  
CGTTD Camper



Bird in the distance  
I smell, I point it, you shoot  
At last, I fetch it!



# ***“DIVINE” TAILS***

## The Many Faces of Therapy

By Kathleen M. Dorry

It is interesting how a simple conversation can affect a person’s thoughts and memories. I was waiting for a car repair recently and observed the owner’s display of Hindu gods. Not being knowledgeable on Hinduism, I inquired about the picture, and he explained that as

a Hindu, he believed there is one god, although he is portrayed in many faces/forms. He described these as attributes. We all have different sides to ourselves – times when we treat others as we would like to be treated, times when we are not so kind, and

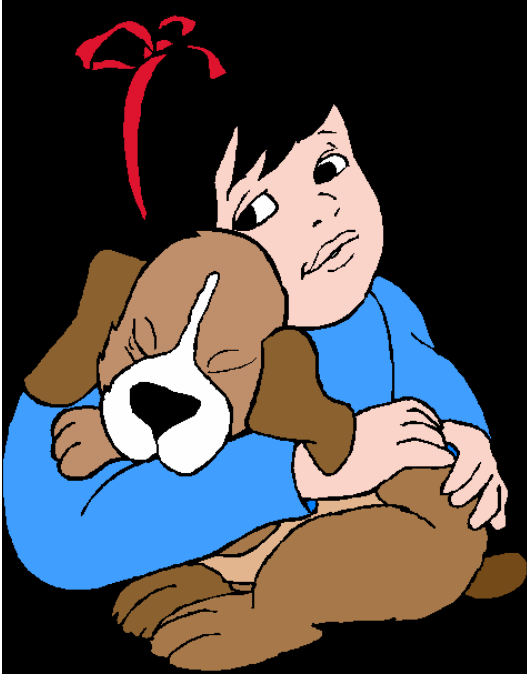
times when we try to balance between our two natures. I remembered several recent occurrences from our pet therapy visits.

My little dog Kelsie and I visit a hospital and nursing home as part of pet therapy. During one of our visits, we noticed a resident who was unable to move his twisted body and did not appear to be communicative at all. According to our training, certainly I could not ask about his condition, but during one visit, I took Kelsie over and asked if he would like to meet Kelsie. No response. So I bent down and Kelsie kissed his hand. Suddenly a broad smile came over his face and his eyes lit up! Kelsie had broken through where I could not.

Another visit brought us to meet a wife and son of a man who was comatose with the end appearing not far off. We were invited to visit the room and the wife explained how much her husband loved dogs. I wondered what could we do for this man and his family at such a devastating time. I asked if she would like to have Kelsie kiss her husband's face. She would indeed! Kelsie, a gentle companion, seemed to sense the gravity of her husband's condition. Very gently he stood on the husband's bed and kissed his cheek. There was a response from him. We will never know what it meant to the man, but it was a gift Kelsie could give to his wife and son.



While on another visit, a patient was excited about Kelsie and told us all about her dog and how much she missed him. Her roommate was very quiet. I looked over and saw a small woman; the poor soul must have had cancer/surgery and only had one half of her face and very little hair left. I asked if she would like to meet Kelsie, and she timidly said "yes." Kelsie greeted her and kissed her as if she were an old friend. It made her day. I could only think how difficult life was for her – how people must stare at her, avoid her. Kelsie didn't see her deformity – just saw her as a new friend.



The explanation of Hinduism reminded me of the many faces we all have and show to people depending upon the circumstances. We have to work

at it, yet Kelsie does not. He accepts people as he meets them – whatever situation, deformity or wherever he is on his journey.

Any of you thinking about exposing your canine companion to pet therapy or looking for a volunteer opportunity, consider canine good citizen and pet therapy training. You just cannot imagine how much you can do as a team for so many people – one dog at a time – one person at a time.

Kelsie, the miniature pinscher, received his CGC training at Camp Gone to the Dogs in June 2005 and thrives as a Pet Therapy Dog.

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TALL TAILS *(partially)*

GREEN EGGS & HAM and DOG TRAINING?

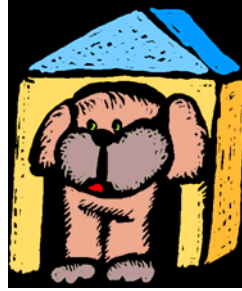
by Suzanne Clothier

For most dog owners, Dr. Seuss's classic tale *Green Eggs & Ham* seems an odd place to look for inspiration. But as a Greek mathematician soaking in his tub found out centuries ago, inspiration can be found in the most unlikely places.

Trying to make it perfectly clear that he absolutely hates green eggs and ham, Sam I Am's friend describes where and how he *still* would refuse to taste this dish:

- in a house
- with a mouse

- in a box
- with a fox
- with a goat
- on a boat and so on. . .



Looked at from a slightly different viewpoint, *Green Eggs & Ham* might also be an accurate reflection of how many dogs view responding to a command. Here's a little spoof on what a dog might say:

I do not always heed commands
 My dear but often silly man
 I might not sit if near a goat
 How could I lay down on a boat?
 Perhaps I'd lay down in the house
 But not if I have seen a mouse
 Don't tell me "heel" when I've smelled fox
 Or found the biscuits in the box
 I'd find it odd to hear words said
 If you were standing on your head
 And wonder if "stay" means "do come here"
 If you said it to me from a chair
 I cannot always just obey
 Whatever silly words you say
 'Cause if I'm staring at the cat
 I will not hear you - that is that!

It is easy to forget that we, just like our dogs, are creatures of habit. And while this is sometimes a good and helpful thing, it can also backfire – especially in a training situation. If we are using our bodies and/or voices in certain habitual ways while giving a command, the dog may depend upon ALL of those clues, even if we are not aware of them.



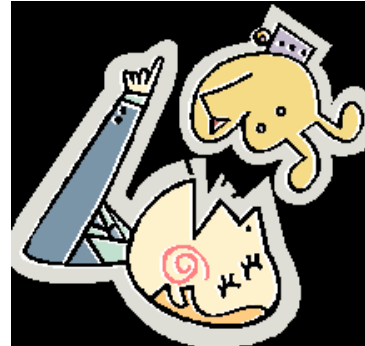
One simple and fun approach to improve your dog's response to

your commands – no matter what's going on around him! – is

to borrow ideas from *Green Eggs & Ham*. Ask your dog to sit here and there or everywhere! While you're in a chair, while you do your hair, at the store or on the shore. For each skill your dog has, try to find new and interesting ways and places for him to practice. Be patient – this may be news to him! Step back as needed to helping and rewarding, and take note of how much your dog may be leaning on in the cues you've provided unawares.

Very often, when we think a dog “knows” something, we forget that this knowledge may be very contextual – he only knows it at home or in familiar settings or

when you're standing in a certain way. Take the time to lay down on some grass, stare up at the clouds, and put your dog through his paces. It's an eye opener to realize how patterned we are – and thus how patterned our dogs can become.



Kaitlyn Hart, Contributor
CGTDD Camper



BOW WOW

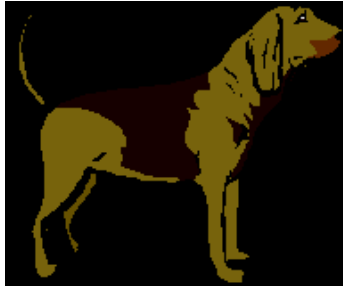
Dog-tionary

Those of us lucky enough to share our lives with dogs may be more sensitive than most to canine turns of phrase. For dog-lovers, a page that's dog-eared instantly calls to mind the pleasure of scratching behind a floppy one. If someone warns us that a path is about to dogleg, we have no trouble imagining the crooked shape that lies ahead. And watching puppies chase

each other around to the point of exhaustion gives a whole new meaning to the expression dog-tired.

But dogs also go padding about the English language in other surprising places, for they inhabit the histories of several familiar words. To find these hidden images of dogs, however, takes a little etymological sleuthing.

The word sleuth, in fact, is a perfect example: A few hundred years ago, speakers of English used the term sleuthhound as a synonym for “Bloodhound”—a breed distinguished, of course, by its keen sense of smell and intense focus when sniffing out quarry. By the 1800s, people had begun shortening sleuthhound to sleuth and applying it equally to dogged human investigators (The sleuth in sleuthhound, by the way, derives from a similar-sounding Old Norse term that means “track” or “trail.”).



When we tell someone we plan to muse about a topic, we’re also invoking canine behavior. As a noun, the word muse means “a source of inspiration”—an allusion to the nine Muses of Greek mythology, who presided over the arts. But the verb to muse apparently comes from a completely different source. Etymologists suspect that this type of muse arose from the Middle French verb *muser* (a relative of the English *muzzle*), which originally specified the way a hunting dog stares distractedly and sniffs when unsure about a scent. Over time, this sense of “staring while lost in thought” came to be applied to the way humans ponder as well.

The name of the bird we call a canary also has canine roots: Around 40 B.C., explorers landing on an island off the coast of northwest Africa were struck by the number of large dogs

roaming there. According to the Roman naturalist Pliny the Elder, the explorers therefore called the island *Canaria*, from the Latin word *canis*, or “dog.” Today this archipelago is known as the Canary Islands—and it was only later that the brilliant native songbirds acquired their name.

Not everyone appreciates dogs, though—as the roots of our word *feisty* clearly demonstrate. The linguistic forerunner of *feisty* is the word *feist*, an antiquated English term for “a small, mixed-breed dog.” The noun *feist*, in turn, arose from an even older verb, *to fist*, which literally means “to pass gas.” In Merrie Olde England, in fact, it was once common to express contempt for a dog considered annoying, referring to it as a *fisting hound* or a *fisting cur*.



Eventually, non-dog-lovers shortened these phrases to either *fist* or *feist*—epithets still occasionally applied in parts of the United States today to small, mixed-breed dogs, particularly if they’re belligerent or persistent barkers. As often happens when words are passed down from one generation to the next, the term *feisty* came to be applied more generally, not just to gassy little dogs but to anyone similarly spunky or pugnacious.

A happier image—one that every doggy devotee knows well—lies at the heart of our word adulation: When the ancient Romans used the verb *adulari*, they were alluding specifically to the enthusiastic wiggle of an eager-to-please puppy. In its earliest sense, the Latin word *adulari* meant “to fawn over someone like a dog wagging its tail.” Over time, this word’s meaning expanded to include the more general sense of “to flatter,” and by the 18th century, its English descendant, *adulation*, had come to mean “effusive admiration or praise.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson once observed: “The etymologist finds the deadest word to have once been a brilliant picture. Language is fossil poetry.” Indeed, when you open up a dictionary and dust off those fossils, you just might uncover the tracks of a dog or detect a faint trace of canine behavior.

In any case, the next time you and yours are out for a walk, it’s something worth musing about.



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By Martha Barnette
Published by St. Martins Press

Kaitlyn Hart, Contributor
CGTDD Camper

UNTIL TAILS UP

(As of March 31, 2007)



CAMP

TIME TO WAIT

Summer

June 3-9, 2007

2 Months

Fall

September 2-8, 2007

5 Months

September 9-15, 2007



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