



# CAMP GONE TO THE DOGS

NEWSWIRE  
VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3



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[HTTP://CAMPGONETOTHEDOGS.COM](http://campgonetothedogs.com)

CAMP GONE TO THE DOGS  
114 READINGTON ROAD  
PO BOX 25  
READINGTON, NJ 08870  
1-888/DOG-DAZE



## *The Editor Barks Out*



### Seasons Greetings!

In our holiday edition of the *Newsire*, Jeanne in Richter's *Ramblings* provides us with a really nice tribute to the older dog; *True Tails* warns of the dangers of raisins and grapes; *Divine Tails* tells us about one of the richest dogs in the world; and *Bow Wow* advises how you can rent a dog (rent a dog?).

You can read this and much more in between your seasonal errands. It's that time of the year when we drape the lights and hang the wreaths. My dogs enjoy when I tie red and green biscuits on the wreath for my front door (*actually they enjoy it more when*

*I take the wreath down and feed them all those stale red and green biscuits!*). They also enjoy tearing open packages – whether they're theirs or not. It's a wonderful time of year with colorful lights shimmering on freshly fallen snow. Whether your celebration is sacred or secular or a combination thereof, it affects everyone. People just seem more pleasant. It's my favorite time of the year. I know my dogs feel my enthusiasm because they eagerly join in. So please enjoy the season, and for those of you who celebrate it, Merry Christmas. And I'd also like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year!

NURTURE THOSE WAGGING TAILS

— Valerie Steinman  
Newsire Editor  
CGTTD 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* Newsire. Forward your material via e-mail to [campnewsire@hotmail.com](mailto:campnewsire@hotmail.com). In the subject line of your e-mail, please type the word, **newsire**. 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 Newsire. Thank you for your cooperation.

# RICHTER'S RAMBLINGS

JEANNE RICHTER  
CGTTD DIRECTOR



Hi Campers!

I hope everyone had a very enjoyable Thanksgiving. Please check out the Camp Web site for photos from the three 2007 Camps. I am working away on the Holiday Newsletter, and you should be receiving your purple envelopes the first week of December. The 2008 brochure is included with the Holiday Mailing. If you would like additional brochures, please call me or send me an email. Zorro and Zeta are having a great

time rolling in the leaves outside and bringing them into the house. Zeta will be starting Therapy work shortly. Our first visit will be to a nursing home where my Uncle lives, and it will be the first time he meets Zeta.

Following is a letter I received via email that I thought would be important to share. It really made me think to take a little extra time every day to share with my canine pals.



## I Am Your Dog

Author Unknown

I am your dog, and I have a little something I'd like to whisper in your ear. I know that you humans lead busy lives. Some have to work; some have children to raise. It always seems like you are running here and running there, often much too fast, often age. Gray hair is beginning to ring my soft muzzle. You smile at me; I see love in your eyes.

never noticing the truly grand things in life.

Look down at me now while you sit there at your computer. See the way my dark brown eyes look at yours? They are slightly cloudy now. That comes with What do you see in mine? Do you see a spirit? A soul inside who loves you as no other could

in the world? A spirit that would forgive all trespasses of prior wrongdoing for just a simple moment of your time? That is all I ask – to slow down, if even for a few minutes, to be with me.

So many times you have been saddened by the words you read on that screen of others of my kind passing. Sometimes we die young and oh so quickly; sometimes so suddenly it wrenches your heart out of your throat; sometimes we age so slowly before your eyes that you may not even seem to know until the very end when we look at you with grizzled muzzles and cataract-clouded eyes.

Still the love is always there even when we must take that long sleep to run free in a distant land. I may not be here tomorrow; I may not be here next week. Some day you will shed the water from your eyes that humans have when deep grief fills their souls, and you will be angry at yourself that you did not have just “one more day” with me. Because I love you so, your sorrow touches my spirit and grieves me.

We have NOW together. So come, sit down here next to me on the floor and look deeply into someone very different from you. And here I am; I am a dog, but I



my eyes. What do you see? If you look hard and deep enough, we will talk, you and I, heart to heart. Come to me not as “alpha” or as “trainer” or even “Mom or Dad”; come to me as a living soul and stroke my fur and let us look deeply into one another’s eyes and talk. I may tell you something about the fun of chasing a tennis ball, or I may tell you something profound about myself or even life in general.

You decided to have me in your life because you wanted a soul to share such things with – am alive. I feel emotion, I feel physical senses, and I can revel

in the differences of our spirits and souls. I do not think of you as a “dog on two feet” – I know what you are and who you are. You are human in all your quirks, and I love you still.

Now come, sit with me on the floor. Enter my world and let time slow down, if only for 15 minutes. Look deeply into my eyes and whisper into my ears. Speak with your heart, with your joy, and I will know your true self. We may not have tomorrow, but we do have today, and life is oh so very short. So please, come sit with me now and let us share these precious moments we have together.

Love, on behalf of canines everywhere,



Your dog



HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

WARMEST REGARDS,  
JEANNE



## The Older Dog (reprinted from Volume 3 Issue 3)



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*

### Raisins and Dogs – A Big No No

By Laurinda Morris, DVM

Danville Veterinary Clinic

Danville, Ohio

This week I had the first case of raisin toxicity ever seen at MedVet. My patient was a 56-pound, five-year-old male neutered Lab mix that ate half a canister of raisins sometime between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday. He started with vomiting, diarrhea and shaking about 1 a.m. on Wednesday, but

the owner didn't call my emergency service until 7 a.m.

I had heard somewhere about raisins AND grapes causing acute renal failure but hadn't seen any formal paper on the subject. We had her [the owner] bring the dog in immediately.

In the meantime, I called the ER service at MedVet, and the doctor there was like me – had heard something about it, but.... Anyway, we contacted the ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center, and they said to give IV fluids at 1 1/2 times maintenance and watch the kidney values for the next 48-72 hours.



The dog's BUN (blood urea nitrogen level) was already at 32 (normal less than 27) and creatinine over 5 (1.9 is the high end of normal). Both are monitors of kidney function in the bloodstream. We placed an IV catheter and started the fluids. Rechecked the renal values at 5 p.m., and the BUN was over 40 and creatinine over 7 with no urine production after a liter of fluids. At this point I felt the dog was in acute renal failure and sent him on to MedVet for a urinary catheter to monitor urine output overnight as well as overnight care.

He started vomiting again overnight at MedVet, and his renal values continued to increase daily. He produced urine when given lasix as a diuretic. He was on three different anti-vomiting

medications, and they still couldn't control his vomiting. Today his urine output decreased again, his BUN was over 120, his creatinine was at 10, his phosphorus was very elevated and his blood pressure, which had been staying around 150, skyrocketed to 220. He continued to vomit and the owners elected to euthanize.

This is a very sad case – a great dog, great owners who had no idea raisins could be a toxin. Please alert everyone you know who has a dog of this very serious risk. *Poison control said as few as SEVEN raisins or grapes could be toxic.* Many people I know give their dogs grapes or raisins as treats, including our ex-handler. Any exposure should give rise to immediate concern.

~~~~~

Confirmation from [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com) regarding the above –  
<http://www.snopes.com/critters/crusader/raisins.asp>

Beth Abrams, Contributor  
CGTTD Camper

# CREATIVE TAILS

## The Twelve Dogs of Christmas

By 7-year-old Emma Kragen

Nashville: Thomas Nelson Inc., 1998



This book should top the list for all dog lovers. Its canine rendition of the traditional holiday song, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, starts off with:

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...  
A poodle in a dog house.

From there it rattles off a multitude of breeds including Labs a laughing, Dalmatians dancing, Chihuahuas chomping, Sheepdogs snoring, Huskies howling, Boxers boxing, Golden Retrievers, Basset Hounds, Cocker Spaniels, and St. Bernards. The ending will tickle your funny bone as will the included compact disc. Here the dogs “sing” background for the human vocalists.

“This book had me howling!”  
Fred, Basset Hound

“I was sitting up and begging for more!”  
Brandy, Cocker Spaniel

“Smells like a best-seller.. and the pages taste great, too!”  
Thelma, Border Collie

The young author lives with two Boxers to whom she dedicated the book.

## "DINNE" TAILS

### TROUBLE, The \$12 Million Dog

She already lives in a penthouse. Now, with the fortune left to her by late owner Leona Helmsley, this very pampered pooch can go on a spree.

When it came to her beloved Maltese Trouble, the Queen of Mean was all heart. Real estate mogul Leona Helmsley, who died August 20, left \$12 million of her estimated \$8 billion estate for the upkeep of her eight-year-old dog, even as two of her four grandchildren got *nada*.

The canine, bought as a puppy for Helmsley by a friend, has had a colorful past. She starred in ads for Helmsley's hotels and was accused of biting a former Helmsley housekeeper, who tried and failed to sue for damages in 2005.

Helmsley named her Trouble because of the dog's feisty personality.



A fan of cream cheese, steamed vegetables, and grilled chicken and fish, always served by hand, the dog – and control of the pup's money – are now in the hands of Helmsley's 80-year-old brother Alvin Rosenthal.

Helmsley wished her dog to be buried at the Helmsley vault, but state law prohibits it.



## What \$12 Million Will Buy Her

1,044,386 *Organic, 3-Lb. Free-Range Chickens*, which Helmsley served her pet grilled and on a silver platter with steamed vegetables.

138,823 *Cashmere Dog Sweaters* from Saks Fifth Avenue. Trouble would have enough left to buy a diamond-studded collar – Leona once dressed her in one – from Bark Avenue Jewelers, at \$200,000.

At current New York City rates, the posh pet could afford uninterrupted *Private Dog Walking* for 52 years.

All 16,000 *Seats* to the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show for six years running.

Lots of company: Trouble’s new riches could buy her at least 1,000 *Maltese Playmates*.



## Richest Dog in the World?



Trouble is rich but not as rich as Gunther. In 1991 German countess Carlotta Liebenstein left her \$80 million estate to her German shepherd Gunther III. After the dog died a few years later, the riches passed to his heir, Gunther IV.



“Trouble” tidbits from  
PEOPLE, September 17, 2007

## *BOW WOW*

### Doggie Time

By Blair S. Walker

*AARP Bulletin*, November 2007

[www.aarp.org/bulletin](http://www.aarp.org/bulletin)



Aside from raising a child, few things devour time and energy like a dog. Now it's possible to enjoy Fido's companionship without owning him, thanks to a new rent-a-pooch company.

Started by behavioral therapist Marlena Cervantes, Flex-Petz is doing brisk business in San Diego and Los Angeles. Clients pay \$299.90 at registration

(which includes the \$99.95 annual fee) plus \$49.95 monthly and \$24.95 per 24-hour visit (\$39.95 on weekend days).

Cervantes says roughly 40 percent of her clients are empty-nesters. "The demand is so big I'm considering creating a division that will cater to retirement communities," she says.



Editor's note: What next?

## *The Rainbow Bridge*

*Because of its many colors, the bridge connecting Heaven and Earth has come to be known as the Rainbow Bridge.*

*Just this side of the Bridge, there is a land of meadows, hills and lush green valleys. When a Beloved pet dies, this wonderful place serves as their home. There is always an abundance of food and water and warm sunshine. Old and frail animals are young again, and those who have been maimed are made whole. They make new friends and play all day.*

*There is one thing missing from these carefree surroundings though, the*

*companionship of their loving masters. Time passes and soon another day comes when one of them is distracted by a familiar scent. With nose twitching, ears at attention and eyes staring in delight, this one runs from the group....*

*You have been seen.*

*As you embrace, your face is kissed again and again and again, and once more you look into the eyes of your loyal companion. You cross the Rainbow Bridge together, never again to be separated.*



During the past year, the following campers' dogs have crossed the Rainbow Bridge:

**Sadie**, Maribeth Hook's beloved Treeing Walker Coonhound

**Patches**, Mary Jo Repasky's beloved "now happily romping" dog

**Molly Newland**, Barb Hoopers' beloved 14- year-old rescued Border Collie mix



### *New Additions*

No new additions reported as of publication date.



*UNTIL TAILS UP*  
(AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2007)



*CAMP*

*TIME TO WAIT*

***SUMMER***

JUNE 1-7, 2008

6 MONTHS

***FALL***

AUG. 31-SEPT. 6, 2008  
SEPTEMBER 7-13, 2008

9 MONTHS



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