



CAMP GONE TO THE DOGS

NEWSWIRE

Volume 6, Issue 3



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The Editor Barks Out



Paws for Reflection

As the holidays approach, we often look back at things that have occurred during the past year to reflect on both the good and the bad. Since July, I didn't think I had much for which to be thankful. Losing Mozart took its toll not only on me but also on Zeppelin. I really didn't feel like looking for another dog, but I saw Zeppelin's pain and knew he needed a canine companion. I knew if I were to get another dog, it had to be a Belgian. But I just couldn't find a litter of boys anywhere close to PA.

Then out of nowhere came a lead for a 10-month-old boy. Zeppelin and I took the 2½ hour drive, yet I was uncertain if I was doing the right thing. Although shy, Beau quickly warmed up to me. Zeppelin wanted him to drop dead. Disillusioned, I

drove home without the big, black boy. After sleeping on it, something told me Beau was the right dog. One week later Zeppelin and I again made the trek, and this time Mojo Beau rode home with us.

Not even 24 hours later, I saw this wonderful dog begin to fill the mighty void left by my beloved Mozart. Zeppelin's tail not only began to wag happily but has continued to wag happily over and over again. I felt my heart begin to melt for this mushy couch potato who loves to cuddle. What a wonderful thing for which to be thankful. I hope you can find similar joy during this holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving! Seasons Greetings! And a Happy New Year!

♥ Love those wagging tails ♥

— Valerie Steinman
Newswire Editor
CGTID Camper

CAMPERS: please send us your dog-related stories, poetry, jokes, 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.

RICHTER'S RAMBLINGS

Jeanne Richter
CGTID Director



Hi Campers!

As you read this edition of Camp Newswire I am flying to Orlando, Florida, to pick up Zuni, the newest addition to the Richter household. She was born on September 29th and is Zeta's half sister. She is six weeks old in the picture above. I am

busy "puppy proofing" the house in anticipation of her coming home. At www.whitestarpons.com, there are lots of pictures of her and her littermates. She will start Puppy Kindergarten in January.



Purple Envelopes

You will be receiving your purple envelopes the first week of December along with the 2009 brochure. If you are not on the

mailing list and would like to receive a brochure or want extra brochures, please email me at campnewswire@hotmail.com.



Economy Hurts Animal Groups

I have been receiving at least two or three requests every day for donations from shelters and rescue groups. Donations have slowed considerably due to the economy. If you can, please drop off a bag of pet food at your local shelter. These organizations really need our

support. Additionally, if you display www.animalrescuesite.com and click on the purple box, the sponsors of the site donate .6 bowls of food for every click every day. I bookmarked the site, and I click first thing every morning seven days a week.



Race No More

Congratulations to the citizens of Massachusetts who passed a question on Election Day to ban Greyhound Racing. The passage of the question will mark the end of 75 years of dog racing in Massachusetts. In the 1980s, there

were more than 50,000 greyhounds bred each year to race at about 60 tracks nationwide. This year, the number of dogs will drop to under 20,000 and the number of tracks has been cut almost in half.



Camp Yahoo

If you are not a member of the Camp Yahoo Group, please join the group. We have lots of informative

chats and very good information is shared.



*I wish everyone a Magical Holiday Season
and a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.
I look forward to seeing you in 2009.
Warmest regards,
Jeanne*



MARY'S TIPS

Mary Thompson
CGTID Instructor/Staff



Are You An Enabler?

You probably immediately said NO, and yet most of us are. We enable every time we make an excuse for our dogs. I usually hear, he's/she's afraid of men wearing sunglasses and wearing ball caps, he's afraid of loud noises, he's afraid of the vacuum cleaner, he's afraid of the crate, he must have been abused before I got him as he cringes when you

try to pat his head, he had a rough time as a puppy, I'm sorry he jumped on you, usually he has better manners, etc. You have all heard them. But what you don't realize is that you are allowing your dog to go through life with a handicap. He doesn't have to stay that way, and yet I have met some people who seem to be almost proud of the fact

that their dog is scared of something. Unfortunately, if a dog stays scared of one thing, he usually becomes frightened of more things and in time could start growling. Then the dog may be placed in a shelter or rescue organization or put to sleep.

Those of you who met Kirby, my Papillon, may know that he was terribly frightened of being in a crate as that is how he arrived at the pet store – in a crate piled on top of another one and several on top of him in a semi trailer. Yes, he WAS scared of crates and now he willingly runs to get in his crate whenever I say "Kennel."

I could have said, "Oh, you poor boy" and let him stay out of crates, but he would not have been safe, nor would my house! It would not be fair to Kirby either never to teach him to overcome his fear as he will have to stay in a crate if he goes to the vet and when he travels in the car. If you make it fun and laugh a lot, you can help your dog overcome any fear.

I will be addressing this issue in my classes of "You and Your Dog" at fall camp. I know it can be difficult, but if you try with your whole heart and don't tense up, shorten or hold your breath or stare, your dog will overcome his fear(s) that much faster. Talk to him and explain how you see him when he is no longer scared of something. Talking and explaining helps you focus on



your dog and helps calm both of you.

I have mentioned Danny, one of our Irish Water Spaniels, before and how the front of his crate was kicked in during a break in. I tried a lot of ways to help him be better about people coming into the house, but I was not always there with a clicker or a reward when one of my son's friends would drop by. It got to the point that neither my husband nor I could trust him. Thanks to Barbara Janelle, I learned to really talk to Danny about how I envisioned our lives without his being so fearful. Due to talking to him and becoming calmer myself, Danny is now able to happily greet people into our home, even new people.

Please, don't be an enabler, help your dog be healthy in body and mind!

I gave my talk "Care of the Older Dog" at camp this year and I said the hardest decision to make was when to put your dog to sleep. I still agree with that, and it is up to each of us to know when that time has arrived. No one else can make that decision for us, no one else lives with our dogs the way we do. BUT the next thought is, how many people wait too long to make the decision and

then have to live with that for the rest of their lives? That is something I NEVER want to think I have done. And for those of you who have contacted me recently, NO, I don't think you waited too long. Yet I do see it at times at my husband's vet practice. Please, don't look back and say, "I should have made the decision sooner." We are able to do for our pets what we can't do for people, to let them go gently and quietly and stop them from being in pain.



Super Dorie



On a lighter note, I can tell you Dorie Viguers is being considered to become a provisional AKC TD judge. She would be the first exception to the requirement of

needing two dogs trained, owned and handled to a TD, to become a TD judge. I know the board of directors is going to vote on her situation soon.



Horse Sense

I had a great time at the Equine Affaire in Springfield, MA with Betty Winnings (June camper), Dorie, and Taffy. I REALLY have a great respect for my riding instructor and even more for my

horse! After listening and seeing so many problem horses, I give thanks for the people I know in the animal world and for my animals.



*May you give thanks also for all that you have.
Best of Holidays to you!
Mary T.*



TRUE TAILS

Dog Danger: Xylitol

www.Snopes.com

Rumor Has It!

Barbara "food for thought" Mikkelson

For a number of years, Xylitol has been known to be toxic to dogs. Xylitol is a sugar alcohol used in candy and chewing gum. It is also found in some pharmaceuticals and oral health products such as chewable vitamins and throat lozenges. It can also be used in home baking.

While Xylitol is safe for humans, it can be harmful to dogs. The compound doesn't affect glucose levels in people, but when ingested by dogs, it can cause a dangerous surge of insulin. At higher doses, Xylitol is believed toxic to the canine liver.

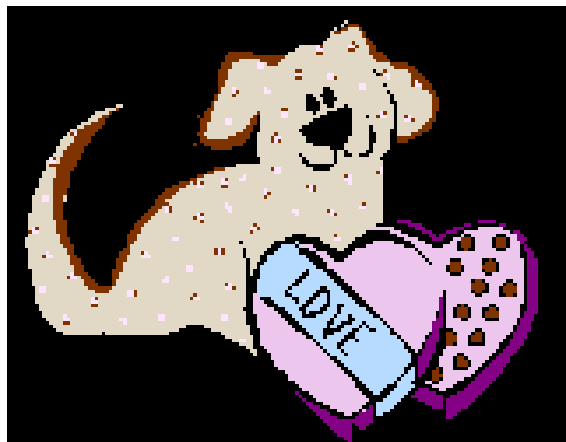
In as little as 15 minutes, the blood sugar of a dog that has eaten gum containing Xylitol may register a marked drop in blood sugar.

Just three grams of Xylitol can kill a 65-pound dog. Because the amount of sweetener used in sugar-free chewing gums varies by manufacturer and product, the number of sticks of gum that would prove fatal to a pooch of that size can't be stated with precision. As a general rule of thumb, between eight and ten pieces of gum might be deadly to a 65-pound canine, but a smaller dog could easily die after ingesting far fewer (perhaps as few as two sticks of gum).

A dog that has eaten an item containing Xylitol can be rapidly hit by a dangerous drop in blood sugar that causes weakness, lethargy, loss of coordination, collapse, and seizures. These symptoms can develop within 30 minutes, and a dog so afflicted will need immediate veterinary treatment to survive. Without help, irreversible brain trauma occurs and the patient dies.

Xylitol also appears to cause severe liver damage in dogs within 24 hours. According to a study published in the 1 October 2006 *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, of eight dogs who had ingested Xylitol, five died of liver failure, and an additional three canine deaths that occurred after the study was completed were also determined to stem from that cause. While more research needs to be done to categorically prove that Xylitol actually causes canine liver failure, at this time indications point that way.

If you think your dog has consumed sugarless gum or any other product containing Xylitol, call your veterinarian immediately. Most likely you will be instructed to bring your pet in to have vomiting induced and IV fluids started, but if you live more than an hour away from a vet, you may have to induce vomiting at home.



Veterinary treatment generally involves 24-hour hospitalization and infusion with intravenous fluids containing glucose. Your dog's blood sugar will be monitored every few hours and the dose of glucose being fed to him by IV adjusted as needed. If liver values are normal after 24 hours, your dog will be sent home.

As to how to prevent such poisonings: recognize that dogs are long on sweet tooth and short on judgment and act accordingly.

Do not leave tasty items lying around. Put sugar-free gums and candies where dogs can't get at them. Keep chewable vitamins out of the way too. If you bake with Xylitol, store the resultant goodies well out of your pets' reach and do not hand-feed bits of Xylitol-laced muffin as a treat no matter how much they beg.

Never rely on the presumption that what is safe for a human to ingest is equally safe for your pets.

Raisins and grapes, for instance, can prove deadly to your pooch.



CREATIVE TAILS

I Rescued a Human Today

Author unknown

I rescued a human today.

Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her. I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid.

As she stopped at my kennel, I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn't want her to know that I hadn't been walked today. Sometimes the shelter keepers get too busy and I didn't want her to think poorly of them.

As she read my kennel card, I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad

about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life.

She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her.

Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship. A tear fell down her cheek, and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well.

Soon my kennel door opened, and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms. I would promise to keep her safe. I would promise to be by her side always. I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes.

I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor. So many more are out there who haven't walked the corridors. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one.

I rescued a human today.



DIVINE TAILS

A Dog's Rules for Christmas



1. Be especially patient with your humans during this time. They may appear to be more stressed-out than usual, so they will appreciate long comforting dog leans.
2. They may come home with large bags of things they call gifts. Do not assume that all the gifts are yours.
3. Be tolerant if your humans put decorations on you. They seem to get some special kind of pleasure out of seeing how you look with fake antlers.
4. They may bring a large tree into the house and set it up in a prominent place and cover it with lights and decorations. Bizarre as this may seem to you, it is an important ritual for your humans, so there are some things you need to know:
 - a. Don't pee on the tree
 - b. Don't drink water in the container that holds the tree
 - c. Mind your tail when you are near the tree
 - d. If there are packages under the tree, even ones that smell interesting or that have your name on them, don't rip them open
 - e. Don't chew on the cord that runs from the funny-looking hole in the wall to the tree
5. Your humans may occasionally invite lots of strangers to come visit during this season. These parties can be lots of fun, but they also call for some

- discretion on your part:
- a. Not all strangers appreciate kisses and leans
 - b. Don't eat off the buffet table
 - c. Beg for goodies subtly
 - d. Be pleasant, even if unknowing strangers sit on your sofa
 - e. Don't drink out of glasses that are left within your reach
6. Likewise, your humans may take you visiting. Here your manners will also be important:
- a. Observe all the rules in #4 for trees that may be in other people's houses (4a is particularly important)
 - b. Respect the territory of other animals that may live in the house
 - c. Tolerate children
 - d. Turn on your charm big time
7. A big man with a white beard and a very loud laugh may emerge from your fireplace in the middle of the night. **DO NOT BITE HIM!!**

Contributor: Karen Hurd
CGTTD Camper



BOW WOW

Activities for the Broken Leg



FROM EDITOR: Zeppelin sliced a paw pad and it's been next to impossible keeping him still. I remembered receiving an email from Happy Valley dormmate Toni asking for some help in identifying activities in which a

dog with a broken leg could partake. I thought some of these would be good for Zeppelin, and they may work for your dogs. Here's how people responded to Toni's request:

Shell game...it's great to teach scent work.

Also anything to take and hold a dumbbell.

Take and hold a glove. I'm sure scent articles aren't too much in a few weeks.

Marla

When Jackson was crated during the day, I would stuff his kong havaball with different goodies. He is now an expert at that. He also loves the new toy which looks like a clear milk bottle with a rope knotted on each end and one end is in the bottle. You insert treats in the bottle that the dog can see and smell. I didn't think the puzzle was even possible to solve, but Jackson worked it out in a very short time. I think his early months learning to solve problems was key to his learning process. I would suggest getting these types of educational doggie toys. I believe Southern Ag carries both of them. I would probably also set the crate where he could watch birds outside or something like that.

Tonya

I use "find it" games, whether it involves finding a treat you've hidden under a blanket or somewhere that is within the dog's space. He could learn "where's your belly?" You could put a piece of meat on a pie pan and tie a piece of string to the pie pan, see if you can get the dog to pull the string to get the pie pan.

Jenny



You can teach him to put his (sound) paw over his face - in the down and/or the sit position (hide your face).

Teach him to speak on command
Play "dead dog" (all 4 paws up in the air)

Teach a "rest" (lie on the side)
Perhaps you can teach the dog to cross over the front paw(s)

Teach "sleep" (close your eyes)
Depending which leg it is and how he is bandaged, you may be able to teach him to "beg" (sit on back legs, front paws in the air).

A wonderful, wonderful game, but it can be quite advanced and may need a fairly competent trainer to teach them "abstract" ideas. Play "match the item" - show an item (say a ball) and the dog needs to find the same one in a line up of things. Dog needs a little mobility for that, but not much.

You can do the same with scent
BTW.

Talking about scent, you can teach the dog to identify a certain scent (think "drug dog" but it works with

anything). I taught my dog to find "tea." Can be a fun game for later on when you can hide the scent anywhere - impresses people and especially children no end :-). Probably most important exercise for obedience is eye contact - what a great time to practice.
Gaby

Of course giving them toys like stuffed kongs, etc., helps keep their minds stimulated. Also, playing clicker games like free shaping ear flicks, tongue flicks, turning head left/right, etc., doesn't cause the dog to have to move.
Bev

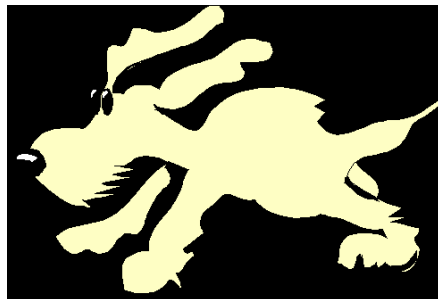
Maybe a home made mobile (like a baby mobile) in his crate, to lay on his back or side and paw at?
Jane

If his front legs are usable, lots of shaping involving feet and head. Teach targeting with chin, cheek, nose and foot. Teach right and left. Use little kongs or something similar to feed ... fill with sticky stuff so eating is a bit challenging. Bone gnawing is always great exercise. Shaping, blinking, and sleepy eyes. Shape retrieve of many objects just lifting up and delivering to hand.
Leslie

Contributor: Toni Bailey
CGTTD Camper



NEW ADDITIONS



We look forward to meeting these dogs at Camp.

Owner	Dog	Breed
Jeanne Richter	Zuni	Polish Lowland Sheepdog
Madelyn Carlin	Dylan	Miniature Schnauzer
Valerie Steinman	Mojo Beau	Belgian Sheepdog

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.



The following campers' dogs have crossed the Rainbow Bridge:

Ruby, Donna Ordille's beloved Doberman

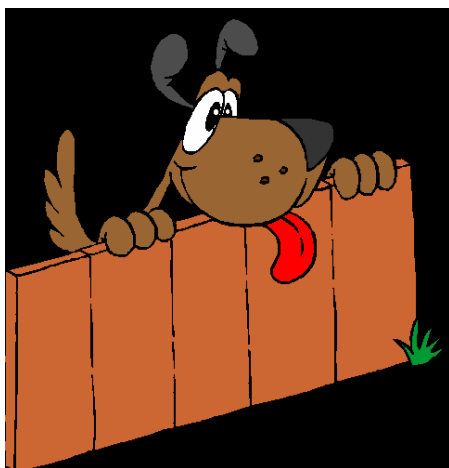
Miranda, Carol Warden's beloved Cairn Terrier

Emma, Anne Cotton's beloved Flat Coated Retriever

Merlin, Marie Radcliffe's beloved Belgian Sheepdog

UNTIL TAILS UP

(As of November 30, 2008)



CAMP

TIME TO WAIT

Summer

May 31-June 6, 2009

6 Months

Fall

September 6-12, 2009

9 Months

September 13-19, 2009



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