



CAMP GONE TO THE DOGS

NEWSWIRE

Volume 6, Issue 5



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The Editor Barks Out



The Thaw is On

Once again I'm back at the keyboard inputting tales and information I hope you will find not only entertaining but also useful. Zeppelin and Mojo tire of their indoor activity, so they've pressured me to finish writing to go outside so they can get muddy. So let's get to it.

Jeanne's *Ramblings* run the gamut from camp and her dogs to sharing some really good brags from one of our beloved instructors and from a camper who, because of everything she learned at camp, is now competing. Jeanne also asks for some transportation help for a Massachusetts camper who can no longer drive. If you have some

extra room in your vehicle, it would be wonderful of you to help out. Mary T pronounces judgment on the mean cuisine epidemic among dogs and lays out some *Tips* for post-winter tracking. *True Tails* tells the story of a really brilliant Belgian Sheepdog [no bias here, ha] who sniffs out a target of a different kind. The issue ends with articles heartfelt and amusing.

If you would like to refamiliarize yourself with the Mean Cuisine article from last issue, go to www.campgonetothedogs.com and click on Newswire. There you can read all of the past issues. Please enjoy!

♥ 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
CGTDD Director



Hi Campers!

I am delighted that it is finally Spring. Yesterday there were robins in the yard, and it was warm enough to put the top down on my car. Zorro, Zeta, and Zuni have been spending a lot more time outside enjoying the fresh air and chasing each other around the yard. Zuni

graduated Puppy Kindergarten at St. Hubert's and has begun Obedience for Puppy Kindergarten Graduates. She is a delightful puppy and has added lots of joy in our home. I am looking forward to seeing her reaction to the sheep at Camp.



Summer Camp Tidbits

I have been working away on Summer Camp. I have found very nice new shirts, sweatshirts, and gift items for the Camp Store. Additionally, there will be a Camp Tracking tee shirt in the store. The Camp schedule will be

on the web site by May 22nd. As soon as it is posted, I will post a message on the Camp Yahoo Group. I have been speaking and emailing with the instructors, and all of us are looking forward to Camp.



Massachusetts Summer Camper Needs a Lift

A Summer Camper who lives in Peabody, MA, has developed a medical condition that prevents her from driving. She is looking for a ride to Camp. She has two very nice and friendly dogs. If

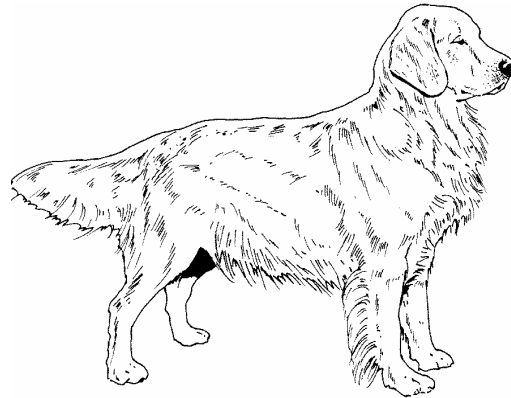
you can provide a ride for her, please call me and I will give you her name and telephone number. I hope someone can help her because she is really looking forward to Camp.



Camp Brags

Agility instructor Kelly Armstrong had a fantastic weekend showing her three dogs and is over the top with the results. “*The dogs and I have just returned from a once-in-a-million weekend of showing. All three of my dogs were entered. Dibs, my three-year-old Golden, was entered in the Conformation ring, needing one more major to finish his Championship, and also in the Novice Obedience ring. Devon, my nine-year-old Golden, was entered in Utility. Cayman, my two-year-old Papillon, was entered in Rally.*

Thursday was the first day of the show, and first up was Dibs in the conformation ring. My friend Teri was showing him for the first time, and they really looked great together. There were 11 dogs in his class alone. After the initial exams, the judge started to pull dogs to begin the process of placing them in order. Dibs was in third place at that point ... not good enough. The judge then



made the first few dogs do another down-and-back to look at their movement again. After Teri and Dibs went, they were placed at the front of the line. At this point I was hyperventilating and had heart palpitations and had to crouch down lest I pass out. Next thing I knew they had won the class! Back into the ring for Winners Dog (all the winners of all the previous classes then go back into the ring to figure out who the ultimate winner is...that is the dog who will get the points for his championship) – I somehow managed to dial my cell phone to call his breeder, my good friend Bets, so I could give her a play by play of the next few minutes. Fortunately she answered, and I

managed to tell her what was happening in the ring. I was still crouched on the floor at this point. She became nearly incoherent also, so it was as if two babbling baboons were talking on the phone. Dibs won, and I sprang into the air crying. The people who were around me (I was standing by another ring) looked at me as if I had gone mad. I couldn't believe Dibs had just gotten his Championship!!! I've never had a dog that had that title before. He also was Best of Winners.

Next on our schedule was obedience and rally in a building nearly a quarter of a mile away (I did a lot of driving back and forth!). Dibs and I went into the Novice Obedience ring, and I was very happy with his performance. I actually don't remember too much because I was still on an adrenaline high. Well, we ended up with a first place and a score of 198½. It was his second leg. I've never had a score that high....

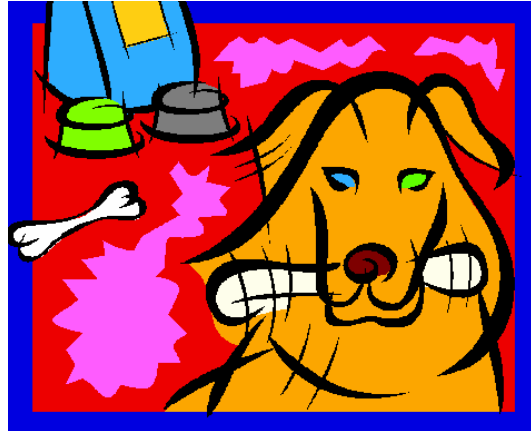


Cayman then went into the Novice Rally ring and ended up with a score of 100, a first place, and a new title.

It was then Devon's turn ... Utility. We had one previously-earned leg but had not qualified for over two years ... always something little to disqualify us. I think Devon felt the pressure ... after all, both his "brothers" had gotten firsts in all they did that day! Into the ring we went, and things were going well until ... the scent articles. Previously he had had a lot of problems doing the scent articles under the pressure of a show. We had done a lot of proofing but not for what happened next. He had done his first article well, not getting frantic like he used to do. While he was searching for the second article, the handler in the next ring, who was only about eight feet directly behind me, shouted "DOWN!!!" to her dog who was doing the down on recall. Devon looked up at me then laid down on the articles – he thought it was me! I didn't know what to do, so I tried to look relaxed and

gazed at the articles. As soon as he lifted off the articles and started searching again, the lady yelled "COME!!" Now Devon was really confused, and he looked at me in disbelief at the ridiculous request that I had seemingly made. He came to me slowly, but I wouldn't meet his eyes and just kept staring at the articles. He then went back out, found the right article, and we went on not only to qualify, but also to take first place with a 193 for his second leg!

Friday came and the firsts kept on coming! Dibs got another first in Novice with a 198 to finish his CD. Cayman was moved up to Rally Advanced and got a 98 and won his class. Devon decided not to wait another two years for another leg and finished his title with yet another first! As soon as I got out of the ring with Devon, I started crying. I was so proud of him. He is my first UD dog.



Saturday arrived, and I figure I've had more than my share of good stuff! Obedience first this day ... Cayman gets a 99 in Rally Advanced and a first. Dibs gets a bumper leg in Novice with a 197 and a first! Wowiee!!

Today is Dibs' first day in the Best of Breed Competition. He will compete with all the other champions. It was nice seeing him in the ring with Teri. Next thing I know – he won the breed!!! I had to go back to the crouching position again and try to find some oxygen.... We then had to stay for groups – that was really something to see. I never thought I would see him in that. We didn't place in the group, but he had a great time and looked happy and relaxed.

I still can't believe what we did this weekend – ten first places, four titles. It was beyond my wildest hopes and dreams. My boys sure made me proud!"

Fall 1 Camper Joyce Jaskula sent the following note to me, and she agreed that I could share it. *“Finn, my Irish Water Spaniel, earned the title CPE Sp. C-ATCH on March 8th at All Dogs Gym in Manchester, NH.*

Finn started doing agility at Camp many years ago, and for the first five years of his life that's the only place he did it. Year five, when I was leaving Camp, Mary Thompson said something like ‘I hear Finn is a pretty good agility dog. When are you going to compete with him?’ I'm sure I looked dumbfounded, as competing had never occurred to me and I said something to that effect. Not one to be brushed off, Mary said, "so are you going to wait till he's a senior citizen to give it a try?" [gulp] – pressure's on. Just what I needed.



Here we are, well down the road from that day, and Finn has accomplished more than I ever dared to dream. I learned to absolutely LOVE agility at camp. One year, during a little friendly game at camp, Abbie volunteered me to run Finn without speaking, next time with my hands behind my back. I was terrified, but it made me realize that dogs really do read only our body language. Clyde taught me to absolutely LOVE the game of Snooker and how to go for the most points.

THANK YOU! Last week, my little whippet, Bing, played Snooker for the third time ever and gathered 46 out of a possible 51 points (only three reds in CPE, in case you're counting). That's what the Level 5 dogs were trying to do.

So thank you camp agility teachers: Abbie, Clyde, Katrin, Jim, Sassie, Mardi, Kelly, Tracey, and anyone else who I might have missed. For all the times you said 'try it,' I thank you. We tried it and love it!"



Purple Mail

Summer Campers: The next time you will hear from me is when you receive Late Breaking News in the middle of May.

Fall Campers: You will receive your purple envelopes containing

the Fall Mailing the last week of May.

If you have any questions or suggestions for Camp, please call me on 1 (888) 364-3293 or send me an email at campnewswire@hotmail.com



*Warmest regards,
Jeanne*



MARY'S TIPS

Mary Thompson
CGTTD Instructor/Staff



Mean Cuisine, the Sequel

Thank you to all of you who responded to my last column! I will admit that I also would like to think that there would be a "quick fix" to that problem [stool eating]. Meat tenderizer worked once as did SeaMeal, but only Sam Z got it correct: it really is a *TRAINING ISSUE*. Why? Just think about it – what was the first thing you did when you saw your dog pick up a piece of stool in his/her mouth? I'm sure I am

NOT the only one who screamed bloody murder! What I did was unintentionally teach my dog(s) that if he wanted a big reaction from his human, go pick up a piece of poop. Soooo, having a long distance "Leave It!," "Drop It," or something similar would be one of a number of correct ways to deal with that issue. Now that I have them leaving the stools alone, they have decided to turn their attention to the dead

spots in the lawn, digging up the little bit of topsoil and eating that along with the dead grass –

again, a training issue that is being implemented daily!



Older Dogs and Pain



For those of you having older dogs taking liquid Metacam, great news! The tablet form of that is called Meloxicam, and Walmart will sell it to you with a script from your vet for only

\$4.00 for a month's worth!
That's right, \$4.00!

My husband, Ross, attended a seminar on dealing with pain in older animals, and we are now selling Flexile Rx. You can Google it. It is a potent antioxidant that may help the older dog before he may need Metacam, Deramaxx, Previcox, etc. This is to be given daily to your dog. I give it daily as well as Cosequin. My five-year-old IWS has a crooked hip and after long walks, he is sore. I was giving him Previcox, but now I can give him the FlexileRx and not have to use a NSAID on him.



It's Tracking Time Again

Now is the perfect time to start tracking again if you took some time off. The snow is granular, which holds scent better than crust. If you can put out a track that goes from snow to grass to snow again, that would work great. Our grass has not had a chance to get green yet, so there is not as much "earthy" smell to distract the working dog.

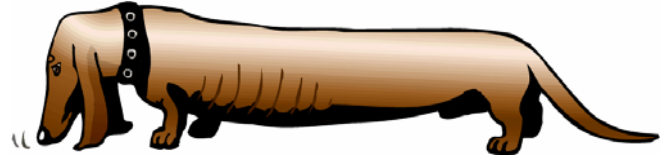
Waiting to track your dog until the grass is green and lush may make both you and your dog frustrated. He will be more interested in breathing in all the other smells than following the track, and you may become impatient and "help" him along too much to the point that he now wants you to make all the decisions.

I know some of you are hesitant to put out tracks as you don't want to make a mistake in either putting out too long a track, too difficult a track, wanting to assist the dog more than you should, etc. All of these issues can be taken care of by using multiple articles. If the dog starts to lose confidence, let him find the next article, praise him like crazy, and end the track. Realizing what you did that your dog might not have been ready for is a great way to learn how to do it better the next time.

There is no "wrong" way to put out a track, only in assisting your dog through it too much.

Once your dog does great on simple tracks, start giving him small challenges that will help him gain confidence and wanting to learn more – tracks that go over a small rock wall, through a single line of trees or a short distance through open woods, different grass heights, a large puddle of water, different surfaces, etc.

Keep it fun and you both will enjoy it more. Good luck!



Remember – if your dog can make you laugh or at least bring a smile to your face, then it's not such a bad day after all!

Mary T.



TRUE TAILS

Good Boy Dogs Work for Conservation in Oregon

By Jane Braxton Little
Nature Conservancy Winter 2008

Rogue, a smart and energetic Belgian Sheepdog, has been taught all sorts of tricks by his owner, Dave Vesely. On command the dog can sit, roll over or play dead. But Rogue's best trick is helping to rescue endangered butterflies.

"Predators use their noses to find their prey, so why not use noses for conservation?" says Vesely, who is an ecologist with the Oregon Wildlife Institute. He has trained Rogue to track down a threatened plant called Kincaid's lupine, a native to Oregon's Willamette Valley. This purple blossomed wildflower is key to the survival of the endangered Fender's blue butterfly, which lays its eggs on the leaves of the lupine.

The butterfly would not survive without this plant, says Greg Fitzpatrick, a Nature Conservancy stewardship ecologist who initiated the project. That's why his team has been testing out the dogs. Ecologists want to find populations of the lupine, and thus determine priority areas for protection.



Near Corvallis, Oregon, Vesely sends Rogue bounding into the tall fescue carpeting and upland prairie. Suddenly – decisively – the dog sits, holding his pose until Vesely catches up to him, breathless. Rogue is waiting patiently before a Kincaid's lupine, even though its flower has long since withered.

Trained to smell what wildlife biologists cannot see, dogs are quickly becoming conservation's best friend. Long known for detecting everything from drugs to truffles, today dogs are locating bobcats in New Jersey, invasive brown tree snakes in Guam and dwindling populations of cheetahs in Kenya.

But using dogs to detect threatened plants is a relatively new thing, says Debbie Smith, co-founder of Working Dogs for Conservation Foundation. After a Montana graduate student tested the concept on spotted knapweed, a notorious invasive species, Smith and her partners teamed up with the Conservancy and Oregon Wildlife to try using dogs to find Kincaid's lupine.

Two seasons of research in the Willamette Valley have persuaded them to expand the experiment next year. They plan to train the dogs to find not just lupine but lupine with butterfly eggs attached to the leaves. "If we can save these two species, we'll be protecting many species in our upland prairies," Fitzpatrick says.



Eventually, the crew expects that detection dogs may help protect entire ecosystems, not just Oregon's vanishing prairies. Vesely envisions dogs specialized in particular habitat types: Mojave Desert dogs, Willamette prairie dogs and old-growth Doug-fir dogs. For Fitzpatrick, it's enough to dream about the time and effort dogs can save field biologists. "They can smell through blackberry bushes and thick vegetation. With twice the legs, they've got twice the ability to cover rough, steep terrain."



CREATIVE TAILS

My Dogs Live Here

Author Unknown



My dogs live here, they're here to stay.
You don't like pets, be on your way.
They share my home, my food, my space
This is their home, this is their place

You will find dog hair on the floor,
They will alert you're at the door.
They may request a little pat,
A simple "no" will settle that.

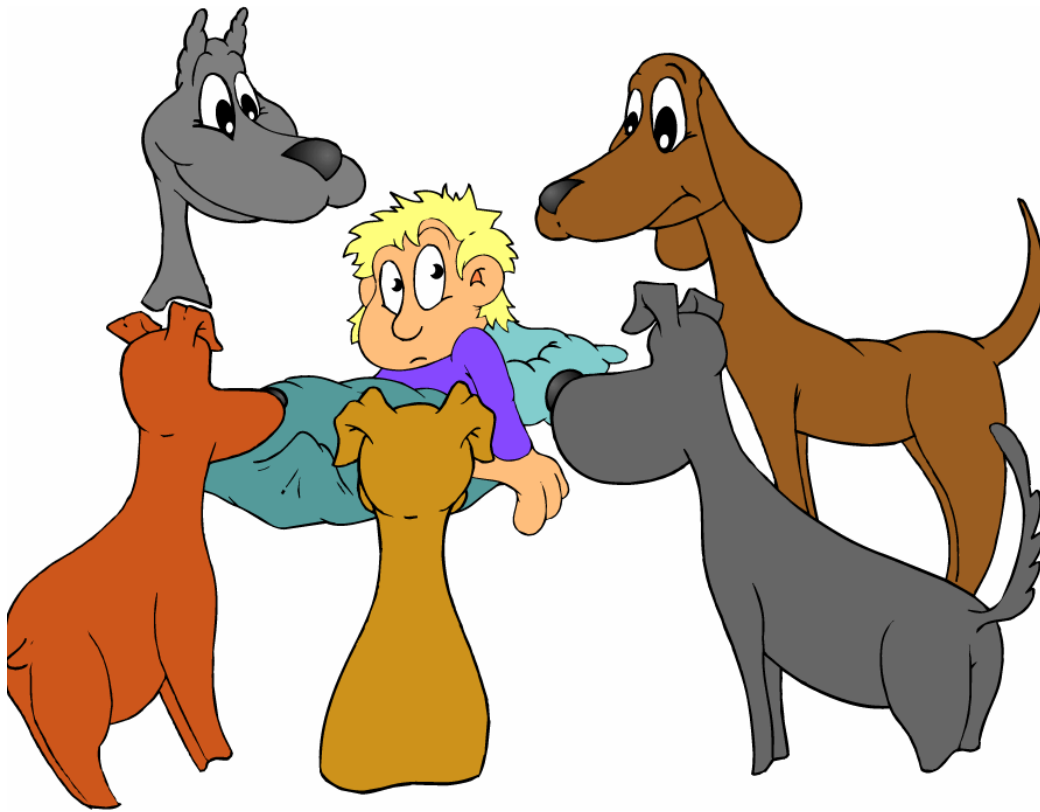
It gripes me when I hear you say
"Just how is it you live this way?
They smell, they shed, they're in the way"
'WHO ASKED YOU?' Is all I can say

They love me more than anyone
My voice is like the rising sun,
They merely have to hear me say
"C'mon girls, time to go and play."

Then tails wag and faces grin,
They bounce and hop and make a din.
They never say "no time for you,"
They're always there, to GO and DO.

And if I'm sad, they're by my side
And if I'm mad, they circle wide
And if I laugh, they laugh with me
They understand, they always see.

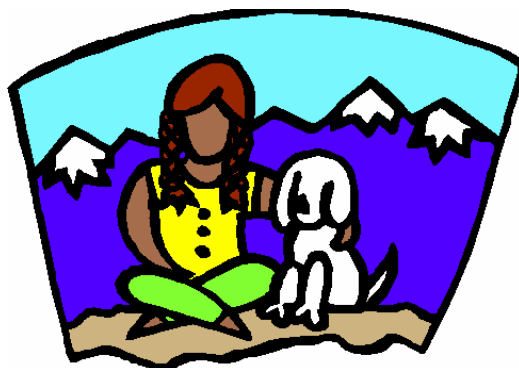
So once again, I say to you:
"Come visit me, but know this too.
My dogs live here, they're here to stay.
You don't like pets, be on your way.
They share my home, my food, my space
This is their home, this is their place."



DIVINE TAILS

When I Got My Dog

Author Unknown



I asked for strength that I might rear her perfectly;
I was given weakness that I might feed her more treats.

I asked for good health that I might rest easy;
I was given a 'special needs' dog that I might know nurturing.

I asked for an obedient dog that I might feel proud;
I was given stubbornness that I might feel humble.

I asked for compliance that I might feel masterful;
I was given a clown that I might laugh.

I asked for a companion that I might not feel lonely;
I was given a best friend that I would feel loved.

I got nothing I asked for but everything I need.

Contributor: Lauren Richmond
CGTTD Camper

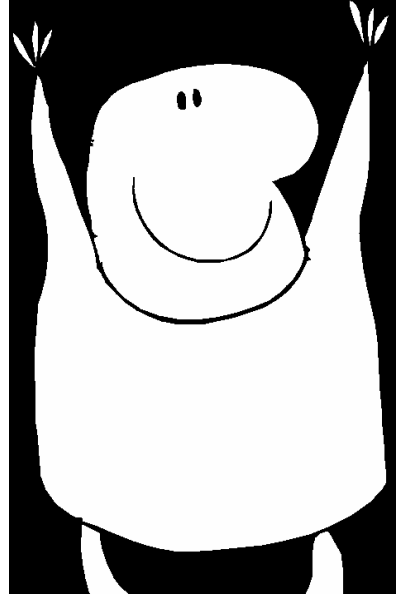


BOW WOW

Tick Warning

I hate it when people forward bogus warnings. Unknowingly, I have even done it myself a couple of times. But this one is real, and it's important, so please send this warning to everyone you know:

If someone comes to your front door saying they are checking for ticks due to the warming weather and asks you to take your clothes off and dance around with your arms up – Do NOT Do It! It's A SCAM!!! They only want to see you naked.



I wish I'd gotten this yesterday. I feel so stupid.



NEW ADDITIONS



We look forward to meeting Kobi at Camp.

Owner

Dog

Breed

Maribeth Hook

Kobi

Australian Shepherd

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:

Charley, Sylvia Myer's beloved Belgian Sheepdog

Charlie, Natalie Shilling's beloved Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Lance, Joan Rothfuss's beloved Collie

Ginger, Mel Witkowski's beloved Papillon

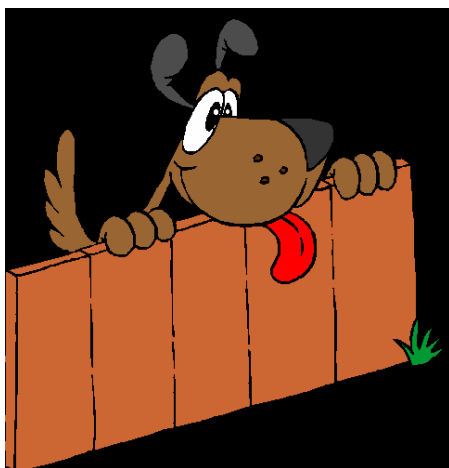
Gussie Mae, Mel Witkowski's beloved Boston Terrier

Lila Rose, Kathy Sawyer's beloved mixed breed

Robin, Kris Kroner's beloved dog-loving cat

UNTIL TAILS UP

(As of March 31, 2009)



CAMP

TIME TO WAIT

Summer

May 31-June 6, 2009

2 Months

Fall

September 6-12, 2009

5 Months

September 13-19, 2009



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