



FALL / CHRISTMAS Edition 2010

www.spiritridge.net

vol.4, No.4



... From the Editor's Paw

Jim Tsitanidis, K9 Trainer & Behavioural Consultant

2010 marked a few milestones at Spirit Ridge K9 Training & Rescue:

- ü 500th customer
- ü 40th dog rescued / rehabilitated
- ü 50th agility dog team to take classes.
- ü We expanded the "Paws for Literacy"® Program with 5 new "Paws Pals"® and have now conducted 8 events in two separate locations with roughly 200 children
- ü Lucky 13 – the dogs of Spirit Ridge earned a total of 13 titles so far in 2010
 - "Sonic" (Boom) - 5 titles (Rally Obedience / CKC Obedience)
 - "Jesse" - 5 titles (Rally Obedience / Agility)
 - "Tequila" – 2 titles (Rally Obedience)
 - "Zorro" - 1 title (Rally Obedience)

We are thankful for all of our friends and supporters – without whom we would not have had such a successful year.

Both my wife Suzanne and I, along with our pack here at Spirit Ridge, wish you and your family, both human and K9, a safe, healthy and happy holiday season and may 2011 bring you all that you wish for.

'GOING ONs'

FALL/Winter Group Classes in:

Obedience – Beginner & Intermediate
 Rally Obedience - Beginner & Advanced
 Agility – Beginner, Novice, Advanced, Puppy
 Obedience -- Puppy Classes

Inside this edition

Paws for Literacy® ...2
 Rescue News ...2
 10 Dog Commandments ...3
 Agility News ...3



"Ripley" is Spirit Ridge's DOG OF THE YEAR

Congratulations are in order for Brenda Zeng & Ripley f Orangeville who have proven that it is never too late to work, train and compete with one's dog! At the young age of 9, this awesome team achieved the following in 2010:

- Paws Pal® in our Paws for Literacy® Program
- ADC (Agility Dog of Canada title) Agility Association of Canada
- CARO (Canadian Association of Rally Obedience) Novice Team
- CARO (Canadian Association of Rally Obedience) Advanced Team
- CARO (Canadian Association of Rally Obedience) Excellent Team
- CARO Bronze Award of Merit
- CARO Silver Award of Merit
- CARO Versatility

Ripley is showing no signs of slowing down and the team will be working in 2011 towards

- Ø SGDC (Starter Agility Games Dog of Canada) - ½ of the way there
 - Ø CARO (Canadian Association of Rally Obedience) Gold Award of Merit
- Good luck to this amazing team in 2011!

Our "Sonic" Boom after he has earned his Canadian Kennel Club CD (Companion Dog) title in three straight qualifying runs at the Hamilton Dog Obedience Club trial October 2/3rd – proudly leaning into judge Eva O'Keefe holding his rosette

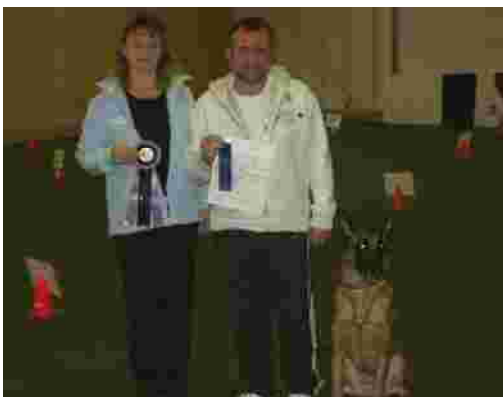


Paws for Literacy® Takes its Magic on the Road!

At the request of other libraries in Wellington County, we have expanded Paws for Literacy® - our non profit community-based literacy program - and will be rotating amongst the libraries within the system - Elora, Arthur, Rockwood, Marden, Mount Forrest, and Hillsburgh.

On November 6th our Paws Pals® continued to spread their magic at the Elora Library. This was our 8th event and the excitement that our program brings was clearly in the air. The event was a smashing success with a total of 21 children providing pats, hugs and a good story to their Paws Pals®.

Our Next 'Paws for Literacy®' date has been set for January 29, 2011 at the Marden Library Branch.



Our "Tequila" after earning his Rally Novice Team Title under the Canadian Association of Rally Obedience; Judge Debbie DaCosta of the Poodle Farm awarding his rosette



... we continue to help dogs-in-need as we are inundated with requests to help dogs that are either in shelters and/or need an emergency re-homing due to "special" circumstances.

Cricket

One such case was Cricket – a beautiful pup who had already been rescued by Russ and Dell of Caledon, ON. Dell had to go into a nursing home and Russ was not able to properly care for "Cricket" due to the changing circumstances. Within two weeks of the initial phone call, we were able to locate a family who had lost one of their dogs a few months prior and was looking to help give a dog-in-need a new home. Linda of Drayton and her family fell in love with Cricket from the minute they met her, adopted her on the spot and, after a bittersweet goodbye, "Cricket" left to go to her new home. Subsequent reports and feedback have all been positive and we are thrilled that this has worked out for Cricket.

Helping Miss Carla – a survivor of "Mile 26"

Another example of the rehabilitative work we do at Spirit Ridge is the case of "Miss Carla" who came from a horrific situation in Northern Ontario. We learned of this situation in late Spring after Jean Luc Levesque died attempting to save puppies in his care. When rescue groups, with the OSPCA notably absent, went in, there were over 200 dogs in need of rescue. Erika – a local Hillsburgh resident and very active in animal rights - agreed to foster a 6 year old girl – Miss Carla. Spirit Ridge helped Erika with the rehabilitation. When Miss Carla came to Erika she was virtually a feral dog. The rescue group reported that **"Miss Carla came from further behind than almost any other and was one of the nastiest dogs to come out"**. She had never lived indoors, did not walk on a leash, had never had a collar on and was fearful of people and other dogs. Through Erika's calm assertive energy, Miss Carla has come a million miles from the dog that was rescued at Mile 26. And what a transformation – week after week of our 'pro bono' obedience classes her head gradually started to come up with confidence, her tail starting wag with each achievement and even more furiously with each successive week. Miss Carla is now housetrained, heels on leash, is able to execute basic obedience commands and does not growl at people or other dogs.

Miss Carla in class



Miss Carla is a story of how much a dog can be rehabilitated given firm "rules, boundaries and limitations" and calm assertive energy – not to mention Erika's devotion and determination. Well Done Erika!

To read more on the Mile 26 Rescue or to help please visit: <http://redstarcafe.wordpress.com/2010/07/22/the-story-of-jean-luc-and-the-mile-26-dogs/> .



Update



2010 marked year 3 of our Agility Program with huge successes from our students (and Instructor) that competed this year.

- Helen & "Cooper" – SGDC, AGDC, MADC, MJDC
- Suzanne & "Jesse" –SGDC, AADC
- Brenda & "Ripley" – ADC, 3/6 legs of SGDC
- Maureen & "Casey" – 3 Qs in first two trials
- Suzanne & "Sonic" (Boom) – 1Q in first AAC run starter gamblers

ADC – Agility Dog of Canada
 AADC – Advanced Agility Dog
 MADC – Masters Agility Dog

SGDC – Starter Games Dog of Canada
 AGDC – Advanced Games Dog
 MJDC – Masters Jumper Dog



Suzanne & Jesse

Suzanne & Sonic

Helen & Cooper



10 Dog Commandments
 (from a Dog's Point of View)

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Regular separation from you will be painful and can even cause depression. Think before you buy me.
2. Give me time to understand what you want from me don't be impatient, short-tempered or irritable.
3. Place your trust in me and I will always trust you back, respect is earned not given as some sort of inalienable right.
4. Don't be angry with me for long, and don't lock me up punishment. I am not capable of understanding why I am being locked up. I only know I have been rejected. You have your work, entertainment and friends. I only have you.
5. Talk to me sometimes. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your tone. "You only have to look at my tail" to know that.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget, if that treatment is unjust or bad, it may spoil the special bond between us.
7. Please do not hit me. I cannot hit back, but I can bite and scratch and I don't ever want to feel the need to do that.
8. Before you tell me off me for being uncooperative, obstinate, or lazy, ask yourself if something might be wrong with me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food or I've been out in the sun too long, maybe my heart is getting old and weak, or maybe I'm just dog-tired.
9. Take care of me when I get old. You too will grow old and will also want care, love, and affection.
10. Go with me on difficult journeys. Never say, "I can't bear to watch" or "Let it happen in my absence". Everything is easier for me if you are there. Remember, irrespective of what you do I will always love you.

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Happy New Year
 &
 all the best
 in 2011



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