



RUFF STUFF

Summer 2007

www.spiritridge.net

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From the Editor's Paw ...

I am often asked about what is involved in a rescue operation and how I come about finding out about our K9 friends that we have 'taken in'. We are frequently contacted by friends who keep an eye out for Belgian Shepherds and other herding breeds that need a foster home as a stepping stone to their 'forever' home. Clearly, previously abandoned dogs in the care of 'kill shelters' (which is one of the first questions we ask) immediately go to the top of the list. Since we do not have infinite space and financial resources, I am often called to make the difficult choices – rescue a particular dog that appears to be re-homeable over another that may not have much of a chance. I try to keep an open mind when assessing a rescue – the least of my concerns being the aggression these poor animals show in the cages at the SPCAs or Humane Societies – which is something not out of the ordinary. I try to look beyond this aggression and try and assess the temperament of the animal and its willingness to respond to motivators (such as toys, treats) all of which is done in a neutral area, away from the holding cages. Once I make the decision to foster the dog, he/she makes the trip to *Spirit Ridge* where they are welcome and stay for as long as it takes to be re-homed. We are a 'no kill' rescue facility where we work on restoring the dogs' natural instincts, build confidence through obedience and teach rescued dogs to 'work' for their room and board. Our dogs usually go on to live a great life in their forever homes and, the fact that they have been both re-habilitated and taught numerous skills serves them very well. Some of 'our' dogs have gone on to achieve wonderful success such as 'Sputnik' - recently certified in Michigan state as a land and water cadaver dog and used in search and recovery missions. 'Sputie', who was so close to being euthanized, epitomizes our rescue motto '*from simple beginnings come great dogs*'.

... Jim Tsitanidis, K9 Trainer & Behavioural Consultant



Breaking News: **CONGRATULATIONS KOUKLA!** On June 30th, our 9 year old 'girl' Koukla was re-certified to do therapy work through *Therapeutic Paws of Canada* (www.tpoc.ca). Our move from Toronto to the Hillsburgh area necessitated this re-certification. Koukla will, once again, begin to give back to our community by starting visits to a local Orangeville area nursing home. More on Koukla's visits and her wonderful work in our Fall Newsletter.

Coming Events

Spirit Ridge featured on

- Roger's Community Television (First Local – channel 63)
- Erin Radio (FM 101.5)
- The Erin Advocate

SUMMER Group Classes in:

- 🐾 Obedience – Beginner & Advanced
- 🐾 Rally Obedience
- 🐾 Agility (Wed evenings, Sat. AM)
- 🐾 Tracking

FALL seminar series – stay tuned to the website and the Fall edition of Ruff Times !

Please continue to check our website at www.spiritridge.net and click on *Services* for specific dates and information

NEXT ISSUE

- Leash Free Parks – Doggie Paradise or Owner Russian Roulette ?
- FALL Seminar Series Update



Furry Faced Fun

A sheepdog was sent to a kennel, where his owners hoped he might learn to stop jumping up on everybody who came into their home. At the kennel, he got into a conversation with a tiny French Poodle. "My name's Josette," said the little dog. "What's yours?" "I'm not sure," said the sheepdog, "but I think it's 'Downboy'"

Woofs of Wisdom He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion. **Unknown**



Jesse's K-9 Cuisine Korner

Hi it's Jesse! Here's another good eat for my friends to give you fuel and keep you going. Get your Mommy to rev up her mixer again 'cuz here's a recipe that is lip-smackin' and great for getting through those tough obedience classes.

CHICKEN LIVER BROWNIES

- 1 pound raw Chicken Livers
- 1 Egg
- 1 cup Whole Wheat Flour
- 1/2 cup Cornmeal
- pinch of Salt
- 1/4 teaspoon Garlic Powder
- 1/4 teaspoon Oregano

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat a 9"x13"x2" pan with nonstick cooking spray. Mix dry ingredients in a large bowl. Put chicken livers and egg in blender and mush. Add chicken liver/egg mixture to dry ingredients and mix with a spoon. Poor into prepared pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until firm to the touch. Cool, cut into bite sized pieces and store in refrigerator or freezer in plastic bags. For firmer treats, scatter cut treats on a cookie sheet, return to low-heat oven for 1-1 1/2 hours until crispy.

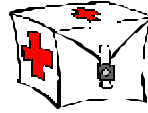
Dog urine burning grass



Most dog owners are aware that dog urine can damage the grass on their lawns. This happens because dog urine contains concentrated amounts of nitrogen which discolours or 'burns' the grass. There are also plenty of products on the market that your dog can ingest to alter the chemistry of its urine and benefit your lawn. Although some do work, there are other alternatives that don't involve 'medicating' your dog for something that it does naturally.

The simplest way to solve the problem is to treat the grass, not the dog. An effective and free treatment is water. All that you need to do is take a hose and give the affected spot a good watering. The extra water will dilute the nitrogen helping your grass to stay green.

Next its time to train your dog to eliminate in the same area. Choose an already damaged spot on your lawn and let your dog always go on that same spot. Alternatively you can place loose dirt, gravel or stone on a part of your lawn and train your dog to eliminate there. Lead your dog to that area, wait for it to urinate and PRAISE him/her with treats the first few times. If your dog seems like it only wants to go to where you don't want it to, say "NO!" and bring it to the right spot. Praise Praise Praise when they go in the right place. You WILL have to go out with your dog at the beginning to make sure they eliminate where you want them to. Seek the advice of a trainer if you are having problems and cannot deal with the situation yourself.



First Aid Checklist for Pets

Since we dogs are doing more traveling these days, now that holidays are around, it's important that you guys look after us. We might need first aid just like you do! First aid kits for dogs are just the same as for people .. a few differences depend on the size of your dog. I add the extras to my own kit ... with the help of my Vet. So here is what I have in mine:

1. Phone # of animal emergency in the areas you will be traveling
2. A first Aid manual or chart for quick reference (ask your vet)
3. Sterile bandaging material, such as gauze bandages (1" roll and non-stick dressing pads 2" squares are a good size)
4. Non -sting antiseptic swabs or spray (some dogs don't like the sound of the spray can. I have seen it in the pump style too)
5. Adhesive Tape
6. Material for a muzzle ie: an old neck tie or an old nylon stocking
7. Roll cotton
8. Hydrocortisone cream
9. Tweezers
10. Blunt-ended scissors
11. Plastic eyedropper for administering small doses of medications

MEDICATIONS:

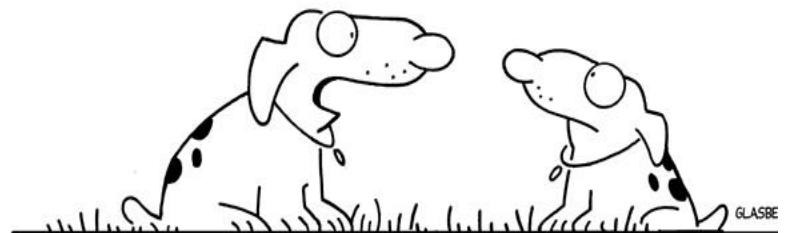
12. Hydrogen peroxide (3%) for wound care and to induce vomiting; only use when directly advised by vet. Syrup of ipecac can also be used to induce vomiting. Always check with Vet about inducing vomiting
13. Pepto-Bismol for diarrhea
14. Broad-spectrum antibacterial eye and skin ointments
15. Antihistamine tablets/liquid. It is a good idea to contact your veterinarian ahead of time to determine the dose and type most suited for your pet

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"I'm sorry, son, but I don't like those friends you hang out with. They look like the type of hoodlums who would shed on the good sofa, chew socks, and drink from the toilet!"