



Spirit Ridge

K9 Training & Rescue

"... because sit happens "



RUFF STUFF

SUMMER Edition 2  8

www.spiritridge.net

vol.2, No.3



From the Editor's Paw ...

It has been a while since we last communicated through our Spring Newsletter. Lots of things have happened and I will get right to them

...

On May 3rd we had a booth at the Erin Home & Lifestyle show. It was our new puppy's 'coming out' party at nearly 4 months of age. "Sonic" was a big hit to all who visited our booth. We thoroughly enjoy meeting our community and we are never amazed at the turnout at these wonderful trade shows and fairs!

On July 6th we held an 'Open House' here at Spirit Ridge and everyone in the Orangeville to Guelph corridor that has experienced behavioural problems with their dogs were invited. Also in attendance was [Illona Haus of Scruffy Dog Photography](http://www.scruffydogphotography.com), who is a contemporary, fine-art/illustrative photographer based in Kitchener-Waterloo, shooting dogs, horses & other pets across southern Ontario, [Shirley Haley of Four Your Paws Only](#), a professional dog groomer located in Orangeville, and [Carla Clarke from Caring Hands](#), a professional dog massage therapist whose clients include competitive agility and fly ball athletes as well as family pets. Boy, did we get swamped! For six hours we had over 100 families and individuals with all types of dogs visit us. There was a schutzhund demonstration, a Rally-Obedience demonstration and practice course set up, and an agility demo followed by many trying their hand at this fun dog sport. Others came for behavioural advice and left armed with new ideas and techniques to help restore a mutually rewarding human/dog relationship. Illona was kept busy snapping pictures of dogs, Shirley was on hand to provide professional grooming advice and Carla assisted owners whose dogs' had high stress or behavioural issues.

On August 2nd, Lori (with 'Fizzgig' - right in picture) and Brenda (with 'Ripley' who train with us, competed in an Agility Association of Canada (AAC) sanctioned trial in Tottenham and came away with a fist full of ribbons. [Lori Terrell](#) and

[Fizzgig](#) earned the following awards:

- 2 Qs (qualifying scores) towards their Starter Games Title
- 1st place finish in the Starter's Gambler
- 1st place finish in the Starter's Team
- 2nd place finish in the Starter's Jumpers

Not to be outdone, [Brenda Zeng](#) and [Ripley](#) earned:

- 1st place finish in the Starter's Team
 - 4th place finish in the Starter's Standard
- Not bad at all for their first time out competing. Well done, girls! Congrats.



The agility bug has bitten!

Jim Tsitanidis, K9 Trainer and Behavioural Consultant

Coming Events

Community Events:

- Hillsburgh Family Day
- Orangeville Fall Fair
- Erin Fall Fair

FALL Group Classes in:

- Obedience - Beginner & Advanced
- Rally Obedience - Beginner & Advanced
- Agility - Beginner, Novice, Advanced
- Tracking - Beginner & Advanced
- Puppy Classes
- Puppy Agility

Other sessions:

- Schutzhund Training School
- Private 'starter' puppy behavioural sessions (designed to get you started on the right foot with your new puppy!)
- Private K9 *and* human behavioural improvement

Stay tuned for more brags as we have a number of students preparing for fall trials in Rally-Obedience, Obedience and Agility.



Spirit Ridge's Open House - Schutzhund Demonstration (Spirit Ridge's Zorro - 9 yr old Malinois rescue, working with decoy (Jim Tsitanidis))

Please Welcome Our Most Recent Rescued Dog, Duval!

On August 9th, Spirit Ridge again opened its arms to a dog in need - a young Malinois puppy.



*(l) - Duval (dov-l)
aka Von Duval Dawg - 5 months*

*(r) Spirit Ridge's 'Sonic' Boom
7 months Spirit Ridge's*

In early August, we were contacted by the Windsor/Essex County Humane Society to assist with a young dog that was seized from a home due to neglect. This young fella (just under 5 months, born March 13, 2008) is a very adorable Malinois puppy who has a rare coat colour ('blue' - or black and silver with touches of light brown). The Humane Society recognized that a working dog like Duval required specialized behavioural training and re-homing from someone experienced with working breeds. Since Duval arrived on August 9th, he has been exposed to our puppy, Sonic (7 months), our other stable pack members, cats, people, and children. He has shown wonderful K9 social skills on all fronts but does require (and is receiving) training in appropriate manners as well as getting accustomed to a crate, which we continue to work on prior to his re-homing. We do not release rescued dogs until all behavioural issues have been addressed and the dog is completely rehabilitated. Duval should be ready for his new home sometime after Thanksgiving.

Duval will only be released to an experienced home that can offer him the work that he needs in order to be a well adjusted adult dog. That work can be anything from long (proper) walks, running, bicycling, running on the treadmill (which he is currently being trained on - see below), Agility, Rally-Obedience, herding etc. As with all Spirit Ridge dogs, Duval comes fully vetted, neutered and vaccinated.

Duval (5 months) is incredibly food and toy motivated and LOVES to learn. Give this boy attention and direction and he will follow you to the end of this world!



Duval after a Puppy Agility class on his favourite obstacle - the chute



Games Dogs Play

There are many reasons to play games with your dog. It will strengthen your relationship. It will keep the dog from getting bored, which will keep him from things you don't want him doing, and will actually help train your dog. It's important that you can establish control of your dog even when he's very excited. And finally, most people get a dog for companionship -- isn't playing with your dog the whole point? One thing to keep in mind is your attitude while playing. Most dogs will have fun if it's clear you're having fun, too. **Games as Rewards** - Remember that any activity that your dog likes but which you control can be used as a reward for good behavior. Use a favorite game like tug or fetch to reward recalls, long stays and exemplary bouts of loose-leash walking!



"GO WILD & FREEZE"

This is a GREAT game for energetic dogs that jump on people when overexcited. This game teaches dogs to sit politely when asked to, even when very wound-up. Go Wild & Freeze becomes even more fun when children are included as players in the game because it teaches the kids a positive way to play with their puppy and manage his behavior.

Call "Go Wild!" and have everyone jump around, wiggle, wave arms, and make happy sounds. After a few seconds, call "Freeze!" and have everyone stop and stand tall. When the action stops, the player closest to the dog asks him to sit and rewards with a treat when he does. Then start another round. Each time wait a little longer before calling "Freeze"... after a few rounds, Fido will automatically be sitting when the players stop and stand tall. You can also substitute "down" or "come" into this fun game.



Contact Information:

Jim Tsitanidis,
K9 Trainer and Behavioural Consultant

jim@spiritridge.net
(519) 855-6962 www.spiritridge.net