



# Spirit Ridge

K9 Training & Rescue

... *because sit happens* ...



Edition 2011

# RUFF STUFF

[www.spiritridge.net](http://www.spiritridge.net)

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## From the Editor's Paw ...

Winter is finally behind us and as we watch the snow recede and reveal all the spring treasures that our dogs have left us ... it is also time for yet another Newsletter.

Since our winter edition, our clients and our own dogs have continued their achievements in the area of dog sports. Congratulations are in order to Maureen and her dog "Casey" who have earned both their Agility Dog of Canada and Starter Games Dog of Canada (AAC) agility titles. A shout out to Helen and Cooper, who continue to rack up those agility titles – this time with an Expert Jumpers Bronze title. This is for achieving 10 qualifying Master Jumper runs. The ribbon that was awarded is bigger than Cooper. Also congratulations are in order for Kathy and Cindy (with their dogs "Shep" and "Ozzy") who earned their CKC Rally Novice titles. Wonderful "Shep" also earned his Advanced Rally Obedience title under CARO rules.

It is always so rewarding for us to see the huge smiles of accomplishment from our clients that follows their achievements in the trial ring – a testimony to the hard work that our clients put into their dogs and the wonderful relationship that flourishes as a result of this! When one of our clients is successful Spirit Ridge also shares in these accomplishments.

Spirit Ridge was also busy over the cold dreary winter months ... Suzanne and our rescued Malinois "Jesse" earned their Master Agility Dog of Canada, Master Snooker and Master Jumper Dog of Canada titles (AAC). Myself with "Sonic" and "Tequila" (also rescued) earned their CKC Rally Excellent and Rally Novice titles respectively.

Our Paws For Literacy® programme continues unabated as we rotate our presence amongst the library branches in the Wellington County Library system. Our most recent stop was at the Marden library branch on January 29<sup>th</sup> – with nearly 20 children joining us for an afternoon of reading and meeting our wonderful Paws Pals volunteers. Next stop, our tenth event, will be at the Hillsburgh library branch on May 14<sup>th</sup> – mark it down on your calendars and bring your children to come meet our volunteers and read to them. ... **Enjoy the great weather with long walks courtesy of your furry friend.** **Need a refresher to get rid of those winter cobwebs of pulling, lunging and displays of aggression? Check out our Going On's section.**

Jim Tsitanidis, K9 Trainer & Behavioural Consultant

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## 'GOING ONs'

### SPRING Group Classes in:

- Obedience – Beginner & Intermediate
- Rally Obedience - Beginner & Advanced
- Agility – Beginner, Novice, Advanced, Puppy
- Puppy Behavioural and Manners
- Tracking – Beginner

### Other sessions:

- Private 'starter' puppy sessions designed to get you started on the right paw
- Private sessions designed to help you better deal with emerging or existing behavioural problems (such as lunging, jumping, barking, aggression with dogs or humans etc)

### Spring Seminar Session

**Achieving the perfect "walk":** designed for handlers that don't dare take their dogs for a walk due to lunging, pulling, dog/human aggression etc.



Spirit Ridge's clients and own dogs proudly display titles and placement ribbons from February 2011 trials. (Right to Left) Maureen and "Casey" (AAC – Agility Dog of Canada), Kathy and "Shep" (CKC Rally Novice title), Cindy and "Ozzy" (CKC Rally Novice title) and Jim with our own "Sonic" (CKC Rally Excellent title) & "Tequila" (CKC Rally Novice title)



### 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 always be by her side. 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



### PUPPY BEHAVIOURAL TIP

**Q:** Is it a good idea to get two puppies from the same litter at the same time?

**A:** It really depends on the amount of time you have to devote to the new puppies. While there will be some time savings from occasionally allowing the puppies to interact and play with each other, there are NO shortcuts when it comes to training and working directly with each of the puppies. At Spirit Ridge we recommend against getting two or more puppies from the same litter at the same time. One of the main aspects of our training philosophy is that we are always working on transforming the humans in the pack as the leaders, the guiders of the puppies. Since littermates already have had a few weeks of exposure to each other, they carry this familiarity into the new home environment – putting the humans immediately at a disadvantage. The puppies will take their cues from each other and, as the tendency is to allow them to “entertain” each other, humans inadvertently relinquish their leadership position to the young, cute puppies who are more than happy to continue to grow with each other and view the humans as roommates and buddies/littermates rather than the leaders of their new pack.

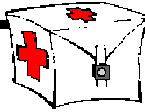
Problems continue as puppies require the same amount of work (individually) something that cannot be avoided unless one is prepared to raise two dogs that are totally out of control and do not in any way listen to reason or cues from the humans in the pack. As a result, each puppy needs to spend a great deal of time interacting with the humans (separate from its littermate) as the bond with the humans needs to replace the bond they have with each other. Each puppy will have a different temperament in spite of originating from the same litter and, consequently, obedience and behavioural work needs to be customized to each puppy's needs.

At the end of the day, resist the urge and temptation to make the leap and take two puppies from the same litter. It is not a good idea and you will not make life easier for anyone in your family!



Spirit Ridge's "Jesse" slurping handler and Agility Instructor Suzanne after earning her AAC Master Jumper and Master Snooker titles – March 2011

## FIRST AID – CPR



If your dog becomes unconscious, respiratory arrest may occur, and usually does before cardiac arrest. The heart may continue to beat for several minutes after the breathing stops. Artificial respiration, or rescue breathing, must begin immediately to save your dog's life. If the heart stops, chest compressions must be given right away to keep the blood pumping. Artificial respiration and chest compressions given together are called cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR.

**If your dog has gone into respiratory arrest, begin CPR immediately.**

1. Lay your dog on his side on a flat surface. Be sure your dog has stopped breathing: Watch for the rise and fall of the chest, feel for breath on your hand, look at the gums - they will turn blue from lack of oxygen.
2. Check the airway - it must be clear. Open the mouth and look for a foreign object. If an object is blocking the airway, grab the tongue and pull it outward. If this does not dislodge the object, use your fingers, pliers, or tongs to grasp it. If the object cannot be reached or pulled out, use the Heimlich maneuver.
3. Once the airway is clear, begin rescue breathing. With your dog on his side, lift his chin to straighten out his throat.
4. Use one hand to grasp his muzzle and hold his mouth shut.
5. Put your mouth completely over the nose and blow gently; the chest should expand. Blow just enough to move his chest (blow harder for large dogs, gently for cats and small dogs).
6. Wait for the air to leave the lungs before breathing again.
7. Continue this, giving 20 breaths per minute (one breath every three seconds), until your dog breathes or as long as the heart beats.

If your dog's heart has stopped beating, CPR must begin immediately. Follow the instructions for artificial respiration, alternating with chest compressions - one breath with five compressions.

**For Small Dogs (under 30 pounds)** Lay your dog on his side on a flat surface. Place the palm of your hand on the rib cage over the heart. Place your other hand on top of the first. (For puppies and kittens, put your thumb on one side of the chest and the rest of your fingers on the other side.) Compress the chest about one inch. Squeeze and release rhythmically at a rate of 80 to 100 compressions per minute.

**For Medium & Large Dogs (over 30 pounds)** Place one hand on top of the other over the widest portion of the rib cage, not over the heart. Keeping your arms straight, push down on the rib cage. Compress the chest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of its width. Squeeze and release rhythmically at a rate of 80 compressions per minute.

**Continue CPR until your dog breathes on his own and has a steady heartbeat.**



"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil" Psalm 23



**If you have any questions,  
please remember that we are  
a woof away (519) 855-6962  
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## Protect Your Grass from Dog Urine



The simplest way to have beautiful green grass that is the envy of all is 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. Some people have even placed a plastic fire hydrant on their lawn to assist Rover in finding his spot. Lead your dog to that area, wait for it to urinate, give a Pee Pee command while he is doing his business 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 in the beginning to make sure they eliminate where you want them to.

**Back by  
Popular Demand!**

**Got Skunked? - here's what to do**

- 1 quart (or liter) of never opened 3% Hydrogen Peroxide
- 1/4 cup (50 ml.) of Baking Soda
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml.) of liquid dish soap

mix ingredients together IN AN OPEN container as mixture will fizz. Wet dog and rub the mixture well into the fur while avoiding the eyes, and other sensitive parts. Let it stay on for 5 minutes. Rinse well and repeat if necessary. Wash your dog with his regular dog shampoo. Discard remaining mixture as it will build up pressure in a closed container and possibly explode.



off the mark.com By Mark Parisi

