



Spirit Ridge

K9 Training & Rescue

www.spiritridge.net

519-855-6962

"... because sit happens!"



RUFF STUFF

Summer Edition 2011

www.spiritridge.net

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From the Editor's Paw ...

The 'heat is on' and we are definitely in the midst of a hot and humid one! When anyone starts complaining, please remember that in a few months, the snow will be flying and daylight will be at its minimum! In the meanwhile, we have been pretty busy here at Spirit Ridge; Obedience and Agility classes have been ongoing, we introduced a nose work scent detection course for "Nosey Dogs" which has been a lot of fun for both handlers and dogs alike, we have had a sad loss in our Spirit Ridge family (see memorial on page 3) and we and our clients have continued to pile up the successes in the competition ring.

Our "Paws for Literacy" programme celebrated its 10th anniversary event at the Hillsburgh Branch of the Wellington County Library – where it all started back in 2009 (see pictures elsewhere in this Newsletter).

Our youngest Malinois, "Sonic" (Boom) made his debut in the herding arena and received his Herding Tested (HT) American Kennel Club certificate on the July weekend – which also happened to be this editor's birthday weekend! Thank you, Sonic!

There are also some "Hollywood North" developments at Spirit Ridge. One of the Spirit Ridge pups is making a movie. Turn to page 4 for more info.

Spirit Ridge will also be making an appearance at the first **Pooch Palooza** taking place at the Caledon Inn grounds on September 24 and 25th with agility demos and nose dog scent games. Page 2 has our schedule information or go to www.poochpalooza.ca. The organizers have had this ultimate dog event in the planning stages for about three years and it is likely to rival Woofstock in Toronto. Rumour also has it that there will be food and a beer tent. As the 25 acres is licensed, come by for a drink, bring your dog and have some fun.

If you live anywhere near Mt. Forest please note our October 1st Paws for Literacy date. Your school aged children are welcome to join us between 12-2PM at the Mt Forest Library branch for a fun time reading to one of our Literacy Assistance Dogs!

We hope you enjoy the rest of this steamy hot summer and remember to keep checking on our website under "Services" for our next classes in Obedience, Beginner Rally Obedience, Agility, Scentwork detection and other fun courses! As always, we continue to offer private sessions for the not-so-well-behaved dogs to get you and your dog started down the right road. **Stay cool!**



'GOING ONs'

Summer/Fall Group Classes in:

- Obedience – Beginner & Intermediate
- Rally Obedience - Beginner & Advanced
- Agility – Beginner, Novice, Advanced, Puppy
- "Nosey Dog" Level I & II Scent work classes

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)



Our "Sonic" Boom earns his Herding Tested certificate under the American Kennel Club (H.T.) on the weekend of July 23/24th – here seen with Jim and judge Cheryl MacDonald from Texas

**If you have any questions,
please remember that we are
only a woof away**

(519) 855-6962

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September 24th & 25th 10:00am to 6:00pm

The Caledon Inn

16626 Airport Road, Caledon East, ON L7C 2W9

A dog festival that is not to be missed by the ultimate dog owner. With 25 acres of dog luxury we have plenty of fun and entertaining things for you and your ultimate dog to do. Walking trails, agility demos, nutrition seminars, search and rescue demos, and much more.

Seminar and Demos Schedule

- 12:00pm – Agility Demo – Spirit Ridge
- 2:00pm – The Dog’s Assistant – Canine nutrition specialist – Seminar on Nutrition and Allergies
- 3:00pm – Pets4life Seminar
- 3:30pm – Nosey Dog Sent Work seminar and demo – Spirit Ridge
- 4:30pm – Agility Demo – Spirit Ridge



“Paws for Literacy®” Turns 10!

When we started this community-based volunteer programme in January 2009, we never realized how popular it would become in our County. It appears that there were many other like-minded dog handlers who did not want to go through the hoops of serving in nursing homes for years before they could get to the population they really wanted to serve – children! The library branches in our Wellington County have been eager to provide the venue to bring the pre-screened and approved-by-us Literacy Assistance Dogs in contact with school aged children eager to read to these wonderful K9 citizens – many of whom have been rescued and are giving back to society in heart warming ways. Score one for the rescues, the “disposable”, “throwaway” dogs that teach us a valuable lesson – that with time, patience, consistency and commitment (values often lacking in our society), these dogs CAN be brought back to lead a productive and fun filled life with us! Paws for Literacy looks forward to continuing to turning a 100 and expanding further in our area. Below, in picture, one of our most enthusiastic local readers, Madison with her favourite “Paws” pals – Koukla (13) left and Jesse (6, rescued, Right) both Spirit Ridge dogs. Madison is also a budding “junior” handler who will be a junior handler in our next Paws for Literacy® event! Way to go Madi!!!

Congratulations to ...

Helen Hill and Cooper ... who earned their Master Gamble, Master Games Dog of Canada, Agility Trial Champion and their Bronze Versatility titles – a HUGE achievement in just 2 short years of competing ...



Maureen Griffith & Casey ... who earned their Advanced Agility Dog of Canada, and their Master Snooker Agility Dog titles. This is a very impressive achievement, as they are a young team who has not been trailing for even a year.

Way to go Ladies and Cooper !





PUPPY TRAINING TIPS

Q: When Is It a Good Idea to Start Training a Puppy?

A: The answer is very simple – training should start as soon as the puppy arrives in your home!

Puppies coming to us at the tender age or roughly 8 weeks already come pre-programmed with a set of behavioural rules that the mother-bitch instilled in it during the weaning period. Sadly, many families are not aware of this and cannot really distinguish which puppy behavioural issues are temporary and which have the potential to turn into serious long-term issues. I frequently get calls from families that need help for their `puppy` (which is no longer a puppy as it is now 8 months old or older). Cesar Millan (TV's famous `Dog Whisperer`) states that we have the first 180 days after 8 weeks to make a difference in a dog's life. This is a very true observation. Investing time in initial training and consistent puppy handling will pay off in many unimaginable ways in the future and make living with your adult dog a true joy. So have fun and start training your new puppy from the get-go. Take advantage of the rules and signs she already recognizes and act like the mother-bitch would. Set the rules, teach, and reward only after your puppy has shown the respect and attention you want her to. For more guidance and help in navigating that first `bundle of joy`, consult a local area trainer!

Q: Should I Crate Train my New Puppy?

A: Without a doubt and Unequivocally "Yes"!

In fact, what we recommend at Spirit Ridge is, if you know the breeder and have chosen to get a puppy from a specific place either take your puppy crate there and ask the breeder to acclimatize the young one to its new crate a few hours at a time, feed it in it and let puppy `crash` in it during down time. This will make initial crate training very easy in your new home. If the breeder is too far, you can always ask him/her to do this for you with one of their own crates. Reputable breeders are more than happy to help with this; if they are not, this is your first clue to walk away – you may be dealing with a breeder that I solely interested in your cheque! Crate training your puppy and continuing to use a crate for the balance of your dog's life will be the best thing you ever did. In addition to having a valuable housebreaking AND overall training tool, you create a special, safe place for you dog – particularly when traveling and arriving at an unfamiliar place. You have a perfect quiet place if your dog is recovering from an illness, a safe place to avoid that annoying new puppy, a safe place for your dog when rowdy children and/or family with that horribly behaved dog arrive for holiday dinner, a way to preserve those Gucci shoes when you are not home etc. CRATE TRAIN and save you and your dog a lot of grief!



TRAINER'S TIP

How Do I know I am Dealing With a Reputable Breeder?

This is, unfortunately a question that puppy buyers usually ask AFTER they have had a disastrous experience getting that first cute puppy. Here are some clues and suggestions that will steer you in the right direction and will increase the probability that you are dealing with a caring, reputable and responsible breeder.



1. The breeder asks you a lot of questions about your family your home environment, your environment, intentions about the new puppy – in essence- "grills" you! And then asks more
2. The breeder insists that, in the event of a future problem, the dog comes back to her FIRST before you are allowed to do anything else. This is a breeder that CARES!
3. There is a contract that explicitly spells out your obligations, rights in terms of breeding, "ownership" and return of the puppy
4. Allows you, in the very least, to meet the mother bitch – possibly the sire of the litter, if he is still on site. While this is never foolproof, it is a good sign.
5. The place of purchase is NOT a pet store, flea market, place of mass puppy production (often associated with religious groups), an electronic bulletin board (although some breeders may advertise on a Kijiji type medium or newspapers, always be careful!)
6. Avoid "breeders" who try and capitalize on "fads" – for example, Malinois are now a fad and everyone has to have one. Why? because one participated in the successful raid on Bin Laden, or Dalmatians when the Disney movie 101 Dalmatians was released – we call these breeders "fly-by-nighters"
7. Avoid a breeder that looks at you solely as an ATM

DO YOUR RESEARCH and match YOUR lifestyle to what the puppy will be like as an adult dog! Don't get that cute English Mastiff puppy (that will eventually weigh over a 100 lbs) if you are a physically challenged handler or that gorgeous border collie if you are a couch potato living in a condo or that cute pug if you want a running partner or a water dog/hunting breed if you hate swimming and are not a hunter. If you do, you are stacking the deck against your puppy (and your family) before you even get started! BE REALISTIC and NOT idealistic and have fun with your new puppy – we always do!

~~How much is that Doggy in the Window?~~

PJ's Pets has announced it will **stop selling puppies** as of September 1st. PJ's will be shifting its focus to adoption, helping to find homes for animals living in shelters as part of their Every Pet Deserves A Home Program. They will offer space in their stores to pet adoption services both to educate and to advertise animals available for adoption. Stores with enough space will actually house adoptable pets.



June 2011
 Agility Team Canada Trial
Sonic Boom earning his first agility title
 with 2 first placement finishes



Foxfire: Confessions of a Girl Gang
 Based on Joyce Carole Oates's novel, this movie is set in the 1950s. In this violent post-war culture controlled by men, a group of headstrong teenage girls unite into a sisterhood of blood: they form the Foxfire gang, a secret female-only society, recognized by the flame tattooed on the back of its members' shoulders.

Release Date is Cannes ...2012

At press time, we were still not able to contact Vera Wang to design Jesse's red carpet dress.



Spirit Ridge goes to the Belgian Shepherd Nationals in Quebec City
 August 3rd, 4th, 5th

what a weekend!



Jesse with Jim showing off their hardware from Rally Obedience - 2 Q's, 1 first place & 1 second place finish
2 Rally Obedience Titles
 Highest Scoring Belgian Shepherd
 High-in-Trial beating 40 other dogs

Jesse and more ribbons
 This time in Agility

4 Q's
 2 first & 2 second placements
2 CKC Agility Titles



In Memory of

Spirit Ridge's "Tequila", RN, RA (CKC), RN, RNT (CARO) (2005-2011)

On June 14th, we were forced to say goodbye to our "Tequila". Tequila was rescued at the young age of 6 months and, from the beginning it was obvious he had a challenging puppy hood and was denied the kind of young life that we firmly believe a puppy should have. Purchased from a renowned working kennel in France, transported during his fear stage, raised in a kennel environment, trained and pushed too hard as a puppy for Sport Protection, when we were finally asked to take him at 6 months of age, the damage was already done. Still, with a lot of work and a

great deal of patience, our "Tikki Boo" as we fondly called him, turned in to a wonderful and faithful friend as well as a valued member of our pack. He was able to eventually overcome some of his fears to compete in both Rally Obedience and Agility and despite this was able to earn several titles, a good number of qualifying scores and



a lot of placement ribbons. When Tikki was "on" and working there was no other dog that was better – his focus and love of what he was doing was second to none. He became a valued member of our Rally Obedience classes as a demonstration dog – his tail always wagging with great joy when he was working in class. I am convinced that between Rally-O classes, playing agility and frisbee, "Tikki" was in his most content state. Unfortunately, at the age of 6 and with a heavy heart we were forced to do what we all dread ...

Gone at the age of 6. Our "Tikki Boo" or "Boo boos" will never be forgotten. He will always watch over Spirit Ridge as part of our logo. Rest in peace, our dear dear friend. You are finally safe.

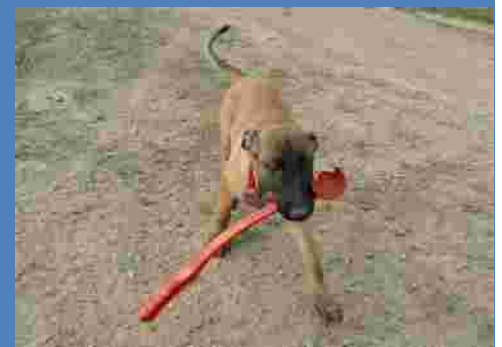


Rescue / Adoption Corner

Aiden - 11 Week Old Male Malinois

He is sweet and cuddly and still a bit unsure with new people. He gets along well with other dogs and his foster mom says he also has no problem with the cats.

He needs a home where he can work – obedience, rally obedience, agility, herding but is a little too timid for protection sport. He is quick to learn and is very responsive.



There are also 3 other puppies available from this litter – 2 males and 1 female.

Let us know if you are interested in giving these great puppies a home, and we will forward the information to you. Puppies are currently in foster homes in the Toronto area.

