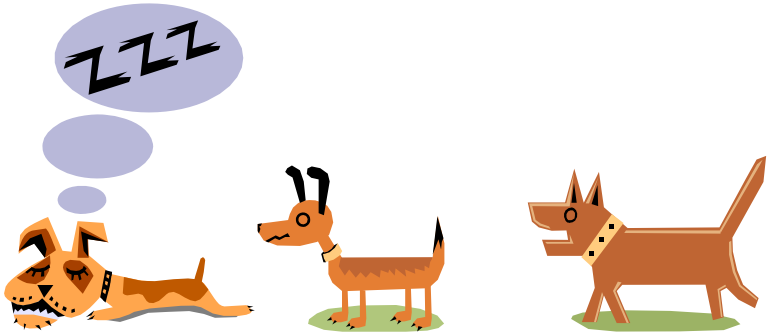
CAMP GONE TO THE DOGS

NEWSWIRE

Volume 7, Issue 5



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The Editor Barks Out

Dog Camp Season Fast Approaching

Spring allows those of us located in winter climates to venture outdoors without bundling in layers of warm clothing. It's a time to cure cabin fever, a time to catch up on the dogs' exercise. It's also a time for Jeanne to accelerate into full throttle preparations for camp, particularly with summer camp only two months away. Jeanne has many surprises in store, with some revealed in her *Ramblings*.

Along with the advent of camp season comes the mud season. Mary T. provides *Tips* for coping with muddy dogs. She also advises of a frozen chicken recall and the opportunity for YOUR dog to become a star. As a follow up to last issue, *True Tails* again discusses just how smart our dogs really are. The issue rounds out with a poem on one of our favorite subjects – "poop pick up," a heroic dog, the importance of communication with your veterinarian, and a little history on the CGC.

So relax, get outside, and enjoy reading this issue of the *Camp Gone to the Dogs Newswire*.

❤ Love those wagging tails ❤

— Valerie Steinman
Newswire Editor
CGTTD Camper

CAMPERS: please send us your dog-related stories, poetry, jokes, etc., so we can share them with all who read the *Camp Gone to the Dogs* Newswire. Forward your material via e-mail to campnewswire@hotmail.com. In the subject line of your e-mail, please type the word, **newswire**. If you are submitting another person's story, please tell us the author's name or where you got the story (e.g., internet/e-mail). We reserve the right to edit your stories for content, grammar, space, etc. You must be a current or past camper to contribute to the Newswire. Thank you for your cooperation.

RICHTER'S RAMBLINGS

Jeanne Richter
CGTTD Director

Hi Campers!

Spring has finally arrived in NJ, and the Richter family is very happy. It was a long, cold, and snowy winter that kept us inside quite often. The dogs are out on the deck snoozing in the sun and look very content, and I am very busy working on Summer Camp. The staff has developed a number of new classes and lectures that I am looking forward to attending.

SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE. My intent is to begin updating the Camp Schedule in a few weeks. The schedule will be posted on the Camp web site in May. Once on the web site, I will post a message on the Camp Yahoo Group and on the Camp Facebook Page.

CAMP STORE. I have started shopping for the Camp Store and have found some great new items. We will have a stainless steel water thermos for dogs. The top is a roller ball that they lick to get water. The thermos has a clip to attach to a belt loop. I have found some very nice new styles in shirts and jackets for the store. At the end of April, I will be attending the Backer Pet Trade Show in Baltimore to find additional new merchandise.

PET FOOD RECALLS. There have been so many scares regarding the safety of pet food. Summer Camper Laura Place sent the following info of what you can do to be informed of any recalls. The Food and Drug Administration offers free e-mail notification of recalls and other important information.

To sign up for the recalls (including pet food), go to www.fda.gov and click on the Email Updates link (or enter Email Updates in the search field). Then click on the Recalls and Safety Alerts heading and choose Recalls, Market Withdraws & Safety Alerts. You will then be prompted to enter your e-mail address. This is an excellent way to stay informed of recalls.

I am really looking forward to Camp. If you have any questions regarding Camp or just want to say 'hello,' please call 1 (888) 364-3293 or send an email to campnewswire@hotmail.com.

Warmest Regards,

Jeanne

MARY'S TIPS

Mary Thompson
CGTTD Instructor/Staff

Chicken Recall

There has been a recall on Prairie Frozen Chicken due to salmonella. For more details, check out their web site or contact the place where you purchased your food. If you want to know if your dog food has had any recent problems, use whatever search engine you normally use on your computer and type in your brand of dog food. Usually in the first page of hits, you will find a site for problems with your brand of dog food. If you don't find any hits, be happy!

Mud Season Cometh

Mud season is here, and I'll share how I deal with it. My property sits on clay soil with about ½ inch of top soil. During mud season, that top soil slides really easily when the dogs start running around. After mud season, there would be areas

that needed to be seeded and fenced off, so grass could grow.

For years I have used feed hay. I shake out the hay just thin enough that I can barely see the ground through it. The hay helps sop up the wetness and reseeds my lawn. I use it near the back door and areas of the yard that are already thin. Usually by the time the grass is ready to be mowed, I rake up any hay that is still left on the ground. Yes, it does get in the dog's coat when the hay is dry but not usually when it is wet – unless the dog rolls in it, which they all seem to like to do!
(note from editor: I did this; it works!)

Dog Star

Do you have a dog that could be a star? Animal Planet is looking for purebreds to be in their season #3 of Dogs 101. They are looking for the following obedience-trained breeds: Saluki, Japanese Chin, English Setter, Cardigan Welsh Corgi, Komondor, Shiba Inu, Brussels Griffon, Norfolk Terrier, Greyhound, Samoyed, and Irish Water Spaniel. They would like the dog to be within two hours of New York City (lets out my IWS!). You can email photos and contact info to dawn@pawsitivelyfamousanimalactors.biz.

I'm off to New Mexico for a five-day tracking camp with an eight-dog VST test the last weekend. I'm really anxious to watch dogs track in the desert. Now if the snakes and cacti can stay out of my way, I'll be really happy! Camp Gone to the Dog trackers should be prepared for more new stuff to learn and hopefully have fun with!

Mary T.

TRUE TAILS

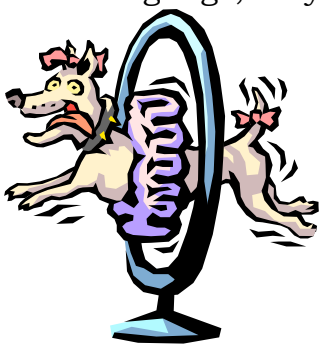
Dogs as Smart as 2-year-old Kids

By Jeanna Bryner, Senior Writer, LiveScience.com

The canine IQ test results are in: even the average dog has the mental abilities of a 2-year-old child. The finding is based on a language development test, revealing average dogs can learn 165 words (similar to a 2-year-old child), including signals and gestures, and dogs in the top 20 percent in intelligence can learn 250 words.

And the smartest? Border collies, poodles, and German shepherds, in that order, says Stanley Coren, a canine expert and professor emeritus at the University of British Columbia. Those breeds have been created recently compared with other dog breeds and may be smarter in part because we've trained and bred them to be so, Coren said.

The dogs at the top of the pack are on par with a 2.5-year-old. Better at math and socializing. While dogs ranked with the 2-year-olds in language, they would trump a 3- or 4-year-old in basic arithmetic, Coren found. In terms of social smarts, our drooling furballs fare even better.



"The social life of dogs is much more complex, much more like human teenagers at that stage, interested in who is moving up in the pack and who is sleeping with whom and that sort of thing," Coren told *LiveScience*. Coren, who has written more than a half-dozen books on dogs and dog behavior, will present an overview of various studies on dog smarts at the American Psychological Association's annual meeting in Toronto.

"We all want insight into how our furry companions think, and we want to understand the silly, quirky and apparently irrational behaviors [that] Lassie or Rover demonstrate," Coren said. "Their stunning flashes of brilliance and creativity are reminders that they may not be Einsteins but are sure closer to humans than we thought."

Math test. To get inside the noggin of man's best friend, scientists are modifying tests for dogs that were originally developed to measure skills in children. Here's one: in an arithmetic test, dogs watch as

one treat and then another treat are lowered down behind a screen. When the screen gets lifted, the dogs, if they get arithmetic (1+1=2), will expect to see two treats (For toddlers, other objects would be used.). But say the scientist swipes one of the treats, or adds another so the end result is one, or three treats, respectively. "Now we're giving him the wrong equation which is 1+1=1, or 1+1=3," Coren said. Sure enough, studies show the dogs get it. "The dog acts surprised and stares at it for a longer period of time, just like a human kid would," he said. These studies suggest dogs have a basic understanding of arithmetic, and they can count to four or five.

Basic emotions. Other studies Coren notes have found that dogs show spatial problem-solving skills. For instance, they can locate valued items, such as treats, find better routes in the environment, such as the fastest way to a favorite chair, and figure out how to operate latches and simple machines. Like human toddlers, dogs also show some basic emotions, such as happiness, anger and disgust. But more complex emotions, such as guilt, are not in a dog's toolbox (What humans once thought was guilt was found to be doggy fear, Coren noted.). And while dogs know whether they're being treated fairly, they don't grasp the concept of equity. Coren recalls a study in which

dogs get a treat for "giving a paw." When one dog gets a treat and the other doesn't, the unrewarded dog stops performing the trick and avoids making eye contact with the trainer. But if one dog, say, gets rewarded with a juicy steak while the other snags a measly piece of bread, on average the dogs don't care about the inequality of the treats.

Top dogs. To find out which dogs had the top school smarts, Coren collected data from more than 200 dog obedience judges from the United States and Canada. He found the top dogs, in order of their doggy IQ, are Border collies, Poodles, German shepherds, Golden retrievers, Dobermans, Shetland sheepdogs, Labrador retrievers. At the bottom of the intelligence barrel, Coren would include many of the hounds, such as the Bassett hound and the Afghan hound, along with the bulldog, beagle and basenji (a hunting dog).

"It's important to note that these breeds which don't do as well tend to be considerably older breeds," he said. "They were developed when the task of a hound was to find something by smell or sight." These dogs might fare better on tests of so-called instinctive intelligence, which measure how well dogs do what they are bred to do.

"The dogs that are the brightest dogs in terms of school learning ability tend to be the dogs that are much more recently developed," Coren said. He added that there's a "high probability that we've been breeding dogs so they're more responsive to human beings and human signals." So the most recently bred dogs would be more human-friendly and rank higher on school smarts. Many of these smarty-pants are also the most popular pets.

"We like dogs that understand us," Coren said. We also love the beagle, which made it to the top 10 list of most popular dog breeds in 2008 by the American Kennel Club. That's because they are so sweet and sociable, Coren said. "Sometimes people love the dumb blonde," Coren said. And sometimes the dim-wits make better pets. “While a smart dog will figure out everything you want it to know, your super pet will also learn everything it can get away with,” Coren warns.

Contributor: Barbara Zimmer
CGTTD Camper

CREATIVE TAILS

Cleaning up after the Dog

By Jason Tandon

Give Over the Heckler and Everyone Gets Hurt

© Black Lawrence Press, 2009

Pull plastic bag from pocket
and wave it like a flag

or diploma. Make sure many
people
congratulate your care
for the community.

Check bag for holes.
Double check.

Inspect stool for odd hues.
Greens, blues, blood.

Evaluate consistency.

You don't want to leave smears
on the sidewalk or grass—no
prints.

Getaway must be clean.

Prepare to go in for all of it.
Hold breath.

Grab, clamp, reverse bag, twist,
knot, cinch.

Smell hands.

Hold loaded bag high in the air,
assure onlookers that Everything
is Okay.

If a cop should cruise by,
his crew cut bristling
in the sun,

hold that bag higher,
so he, too, can salute
your contribution.

The bomb diffused,
the world a little safer, a little
cleaner,

will not offend the deep treads
of someone's shoes.

Contributor: Honey Loring
CGTTD Founder

DIVINE TAILS

Dog Hailed As Hero

(Reporting by Pauline Askin, Editing by Miral Fahmy)

SIDNEY (Reuters) – A mongrel has proven that dogs really are man's best friend when he helped rescuers find the body of his owner who was killed in a car crash in Australia.

Moja, a small mixed breed, was in the truck with his owner, Henry Drew, when it crashed off a highway in Queensland and landed in dense shrubs. The animal sat by Drew's body, which was hidden by trees, barking incessantly for two days until a farmer went to investigate the cause of the noise.

"If it was not for the man's dog, he may not have been found for some time because his truck was completely covered by trees and our helicopter couldn't see it," a spokesperson for AGL Action Rescue told Reuters.

"This bloke heard the dog barking; it was literally sitting by the man's side," the spokesperson said.

Drew had been reported missing by his wife after he did not answer his mobile phone. Rescue helicopters worked with police to search for him until the farmer called.

Contributor: Barbara Zimmer
CGTTD Camper

BOW WOW

A Cautionary Tale

Jon Rivera, a veteran dog owner, had scheduled his dogs for an appointment with his veterinarian: his elderly dog for a change to a more powerful arthritis drug and his younger dog for a rabies shot. Since his regular vet was called out of town, he ended up seeing another vet in the practice. Without asking Jon and before he realized what was happening, the vet also gave his older dog a rabies shot. Less than 24 hours later, his dog could not stand and was in pain. Jon and his dog returned to the vet's office where, with huge efforts, they pulled the dog through the night.

After an extended period of time, the dog recovered thanks to help from several drugs and the homeopathic remedy thuja, which counteracts vaccinosis (an adverse reaction to immunizations). Unfortunately, negative reactions to vaccines are not uncommon. Thankfully, blood work performed on this occasion revealed the dog to be in good health.

Two months later his dog's health suddenly declined, and Jon and his vet agreed it was time to let him go. Since the blood work taken two months ago showed his dog to be healthy and recovered from the vaccinosis, he decided to have an autopsy performed. It was discovered that cancer was the culprit. Jon questioned the role of the ill-timed rabies shot, and although it was not directly linked to the cancer, it had most likely accelerated the progression of the disease.

This sad tale underscores the value of open communication with any physician—veterinarian or otherwise. In this case, it may not have averted the outcome but certainly would have elongated this dog's life.

Canine Good Citizen

By Jacque Lynn Schultz, M.A., CPDT
ASPCA Action Spring 2006

The moniker Canine Good Citizen (CGC) is one that is awarded to a dog that has passed a ten-item canine etiquette test, thus proving itself to be safe and responsive to obedience cues such as "sit," "down," and "stay" in public.

Designed by the American Kennel Club (AKC) in 1989 as a tool to fight breed-specific legislation, the CGC program stresses the importance of responsible pet guardianship and basic training for dogs. This AKC program welcomes both mixed breed and purebred dogs. Some pet therapy organizations use the test as a partial screening tool, and 4-H groups have designed pet-training programs for kids around it.

Throughout the country, state legislators have recognized the CGC program as a way to advocate responsible pet ownership and 22 states now have Canine Good Citizen resolutions.

NEW ADDITIONS

We look forward to meeting these dogs at camp.

Owner	Dog	Breed
Peggy Anderson	Danny	Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen
Beth Karp	Brig	Mixed Breed
Benita & Todd Markewicz	Rylan	Mixed Breed

The Rainbow Bridge

Because of its many colors, the bridge connecting Heaven and Earth has come to be known as the Rainbow Bridge.

Just this side of the Bridge, there is a land of meadows, hills and lush green valleys. When Beloved pets die, this wonderful place serves as their home. There is always an abundance of food and water and warm sunshine. Old and frail animals are young again, and those who have been maimed are made whole. They make new friends and play all day.

There is one thing missing from these carefree surroundings though, the companionship of their loving masters.

Time passes and soon another day comes when one of them is distracted by a familiar scent. With nose twitching, ears at attention and eyes staring in delight, this one runs from the group….

You have been seen.

As you embrace, your face is kissed again and again and again, and once more you look into the eyes of your loyal companion. You cross the Rainbow Bridge together, never again to be separated.

The following campers' dogs have crossed the Rainbow Bridge:

Foster, Jan Hallberg's beloved mixed breed

Hawk, Honey Loring's beloved Standard Poodle

Jamie, Samantha Ziegenmeyer's beloved Wire-haired Fox Terrier

UNTIL TAILS UP

(As of March 31, 2010)

CAMP	TIME TO WAIT
Summer	
June 6-12, 2010	2 Months
Fall	
September 5-11, 2010	5 Months
September 12-18, 2010	

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