

Newsletter of Have Paws Will Travel

Puppy Raising Club, Arapahoe County, Colorado Andrea Loughry, Editor

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HPWT SCHEDULE

Have Paws Will Travel club meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month at the County Extension building, with a social outing on the 3rd Tuesday. Young puppies meet every Tuesday. Call Carmen Meyer if you have scheduling questions.

Social Outings:

April 26th: GDB Spring puppy Workshop. Details below.

May 20th: 7:00 p.m. Open stairs and traffic walk at Carmen's office, 7000 S. Broadway.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, April 26, 2003

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Arapahoe County Extension Office, Littleton

DOGS, DOGS AND MORE DOGS!

The topics of this event will be geared to Guide Dog puppies and interactions with other dogs:

*Learn how to properly socialize your puppy with other dogs.

*Recognize and correct dog distractions.

*Deal with the special needs of a Guide Dog puppy that does not live with other dogs.

*Deal with the special needs of a Guide Dog puppy that lives with multiple dogs.

*Learn how to work with a Guide Dog puppy in your home when a career change dog comes home.

*Learn about dog aggression and possessiveness.

GDB requires attendance at this event for all raisers. If you cannot attend, you must call Carmen for an excused absence.



A GRADUATION

JASPER, a male golden retriever raised by Andrea Loughry, graduated on April 12th. He will be guide to Ms. Sheila Walker of Los Angeles, California, and have an active life making sure she is on time for school and a busy schedule of volunteer work.



CONGRATULATIONS!

NEW PUPPY

On March 28th. Pat Fitzgerald and Carol Fey received TRAPPER, a four-month-old male yellow lab transfer dog, who they will co-raise.

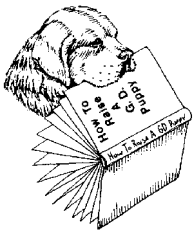
Carol proposed the idea of puppy raising after meeting Carmen and GIDGET at the grocery store. Carol has fostered kittens for years and the two endeavors were a natural fit. Carol is a sales representative for Honeywell, and works out of a home office, allowing maximum time with the puppy. Sales calls in the Denver area, as well as frequent trips to Arizona and Utah, when TRAPPER is just a bit older, will be wonderful experiences for him.

TRAPPER'S other raiser, Pat, is a self employed Civil Engineer, and also works out of a home office. What a perfect excuse for a beneficial break from work when the puppy needs some attention, or a walk outside! Pat is a life-long dog person who naturally jumped at the proposal to get into Guide Dogs. His clients are mostly scattered around the mountain counties of Colorado, and site visits will provide many opportunities to show TRAPPER different types of countryside, a circus wagon full of different people and livestock, and construction activities of all kinds.

Carol and Pat go out frequently, and will be providing TRAPPER a rich experience of restaurants, music venues large and small, and friendly gatherings from two to two hundred people.



ASK ABBIE



Abolene is a career change golden and co-raiser of ten puppies. Address questions to Abbie c/o the editor or e-mail at abbie@hpwtdogmom.org

Dear Abbie:

Once my raiser thought I should climb some really nasty stairs that I could see through. Naturally, I refused. Another time she had the notion I should go over a bridge—but underneath the water was rushing so loud, it sounded like a lion roaring! I was so scared, all I wanted to do was get out of there, so I backed up and refused that, too. Both times my raiser got really mad and jerked and jerked my collar trying to make me do what she wanted. That only made want to get away from her, too! She finally gave up and we went home. Why is she so mean to me when I am afraid?

—Cringing in Colorado

Dear Cringe:

Sounds like your raiser mistook your fright for stubbornness. She corrected you for refusing to cooperate when you needed her support and help. Sometimes raisers try force a dog to do something because they really need to go somewhere, are embarrassed by your refusal, or are in a hurry. Trouble is, force only leads to more fear—and fear never leads to the success of a Guide Dog. It's important for raisers to plan outings that are age and skill appropriate for their puppy and be prepared to leave if the dog starts getting in over its head. A raiser *can* instill confidence, even in a balky dog like you. When you refuse something, she can help you realize that you really can handle the situation by encouraging you in upbeat, matter-of-fact tones. If something is really overwhelming you, it's much better for her to leave and try another day than to use force and cement your fear. Over the next few days or weeks, she can return to the place and help you get closer and closer to the scary bridge or further up the open stairs, until you can do it with self-confidence. By supporting you without coddling or forcing, she can build your self-assurance so you gain confidence and can go on to be a wonderful working Guide!

BLOOD DONOR CONTACT

Kira Staggs is the new coordinator of the blood donor program at the animal ER. She will be taking over for Crystal Connor. Welcome, Kira!

ICE SHOW

Gina and Kelsey Rea (and their Dad) will be in an amateur ice show at the Magnus Arena at the University of Denver on May 2, 3, and 4. It's a good show with some great talent. Show times are Friday at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. RSVP right away to Sheila Rea to arrange for two-for-one tickets. What a great way to socialize our puppies and support one of our fellow raisers at the same time!

NEW TATTOO PROCEDURE

From GDB Puppy Raising and Dog Placement

Effective April 1st, the San Rafael Vet Clinic will be tattooing puppies only in the left ear. This change occurred as a result of a study run within our Kennel and Vet Clinic. The results were successful! Using a smaller letter set we now have better tattoo clarity, therefore a second tattoo is not necessary. When receiving a puppy, please note whether your puppy has been tattooed in one ear or two.

PUPPY KISSES

🐾 To Lizz Landert & TERESA and Chris Ford & DAYTONA for doing several 15-minute programs at the Our Father Children's Learning Center pre-school in March.



🐾 To Lizz Landert and her career change dog MARNIE, for passing the Delta Society Pet Partners evaluation on April 5th. The test requires special training and qualifies them to do pet therapy work together. Congratulations to Lizz and Pet Partner MARNIE! We are proud of you both!

🐾 To Barb Witcher for researching a new style of duffel bags for our club.

🐾 To Carmen Moyer & GIDGET and Andrea Loughry & TEXAN for attending the "Alpha-Bitch Conference" in Longmont. Top dog training experts gave valuable insights into dog behavior that will help them understand our puppies better.

🐾 To Kalkus & TERESA, Rea & WONDER, Moyer & LODGE for presenting a program to a Girl Scout group on April 23rd.

MALADY OF THE MONTH

Estrus (Heat Cycles)

From Randa MacMillian, D.V.M.

Estrus (“heat”) is the mating period of female animals. When estrus occurs, animals are said to be “in heat” or “in season.” Dogs generally have their first estrus cycle at six to twelve months of age. Some females of the large breeds, however, may not have their first estrus until they are twelve to twenty-four months of age. The complete cycle takes about six months, resulting in two estrus periods each year. Individual variation occurs, but a given female’s pattern tends to be repeated regularly.

The estrus cycle can be divided into four stages:

1. *Proestrus*: this stage begins with the appearance of vaginal bleeding. It normally lasts from four to nine days. Male dogs become very interested in the female; however, she will not yet mate with them.
2. *Estrus*: this is the stage in which the female will accept the male and conception can occur. The vaginal discharge is more yellowish than bloody. Ordinarily, the stage lasts from four to thirteen days. Your female will stand still and hold her tail to the side when you touch her back or a male dog tries to mount.
3. And 4. *Metestrus* and *anestrus*: these two stages are periods of ovarian activity, but with no significant outward signs. False pregnancies frequently occur during metestrus.

Important Points:

You should consider the dogs to be “in season” for twenty-one days: seven days coming into heat, seven days in heat, and seven days going out. Though conception is most likely during the middle seven days, Mother Nature doesn’t always follow the rules. Confine your dog for the entire three weeks.

Remember that this information is general. Not all females follow these patterns. Consult with your leader if your pup does not seem typical. Sometimes, cycling problems can be an early warning of more serious problems, and the sooner they are dealt with, the better. Your leader can help you decide how best to follow up on an atypical estrus in a Guide Dog puppy.

What you can do:

If you are raising an intact female dog, begin monitoring her for signs of coming in season beginning

at about six months of age. Her vulva will swell, she will lick herself more, and may act more “flaky” than usual when she’s getting ready for estrus. When you see bloody discharge, the pup has come into heat. Females should receive the nasal Bordatella vaccine when they receive their rabies shot at twenty weeks of age. The vaccine is effective for six months. If you are planning to board her, and it’s been more than six months since her Bordatella, she will need another booster before she can be kenneled. Remember, the kennel will ask for proof of vaccinations including rabies, parvo and Bordatella before they will accept your puppy. If you need help choosing a kennel or if you are interested in home-boarding your female during her heat cycle, call Carmen before the first signs of estrus are observed.

WEBSITE EXCITEMENT

New this month at hpwtdogmom.org: A new *Health & Care* section includes information on puppy first-aid kits, doggie CPR, plus the Malady of the Month archive! Just click the *info for puppy raisers* icon.

The HPWT website receives about 1,000 hits a month, and has been visited by users all over the world, including Canada, Great Britain, Norway, Japan, Italy, Germany, Australia, and New Zealand.

DID YOU KNOW?

Of the 140 puppies Have Paws members have received to raise, 102 have been returned to GDB for harness training (some are still being raised and others were dropped before they ever returned for training). Forty-nine of our puppies have graduated.

CONDOLENCES

Our heart-felt sympathy goes out to Lizz Landert on the recent death of her mother.

