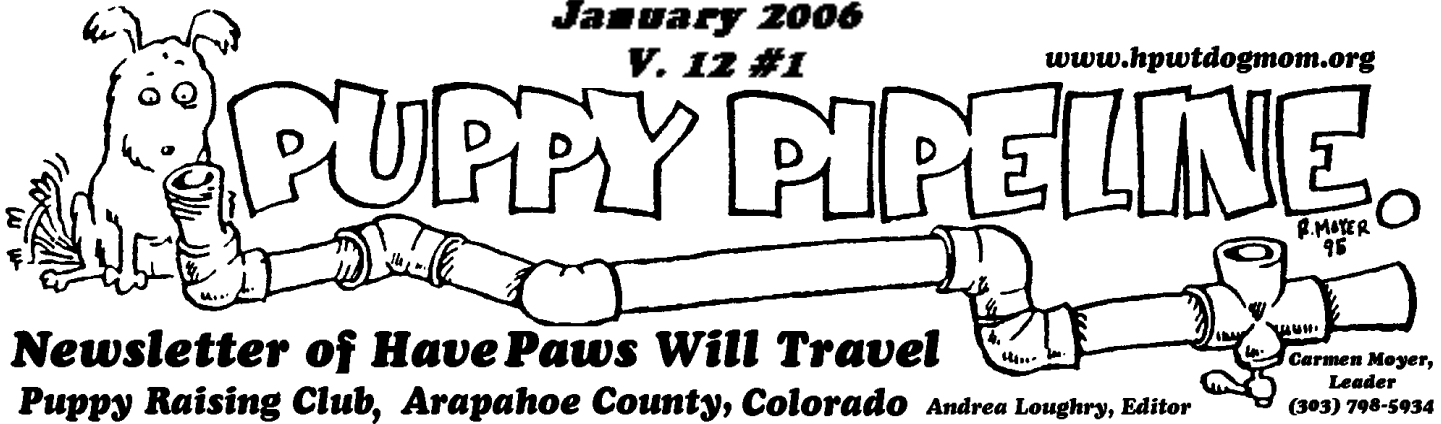


January 2006

V. 12 #1

www.hpwt dogmom.org



SCHEDULE

January 10th 7:00 p.m. *Digital Scavenger Hunt* at Southglenn Mall. Meet in the center of the mall, at the bottom of the stairs. Puppies and handlers will be divided into several groups, given a master list and 45 minutes to see how many locations can be completed. We will take a picture of the dogs in various locations. The following families will bring cameras: Loughry, Hartzell, Rea, Trujillo, Moyer. Hopefully we will have a slide show at the end on a laptop. (We need a volunteer with a laptop to put this together--call Carmen if you can help). If you don't have puppies and would like to come, extra handlers will be appreciated. There will be a prize for the winning group.

January 17th 6:30 p.m. Social outing, 6:30 p.m. the Village nursing home. All dogs, well groomed (brushed, with nails trimmed & filed smooth) and in coat. Meet in the front entry of The Village for a half hour visit with interested residents. RSVP to Carmen if you plan to attend. *Directions: From the Holly/Arapahoe Rd. intersection, go west on Arapahoe past past King Soopers at Forest to the Johnson Center sign. Turn south and follow the road to the high rise at 4751 East Costilla Avenue.*

January 24th: 7:00 p.m. Training and business meeting at the County Extension building.

PUPPY COAT SLEEVES

The green breast strap sleeves emblazoned with "Guide Dog Puppy" have been received and distributed to everyone who reserved one. We still have a few extras, so if you'd like one, contact Carmen. Cost is \$5.00.



BREEDER DOGS



Sister and brother black labs NANA and NEO were both accepted into the breeder program recently. NANA is Mary Jo Mueller's first puppy, after getting her start with Ellen Goldstein and the Anderson Family. NEO is Wendy Kalkus' second puppy and second GDB stud dog. Congratulations all around!

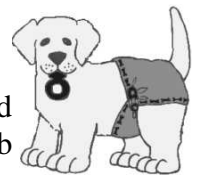
GRADUATIONS

Two HPWT dogs graduated as working Guides on December 17th, 2005. BECKER, a male yellow lab raised by Annette Bossert graduated from San Rafael. JORDANNA, a female yellow lab co-raised by James Creasey and Ellen Goldstein graduated for the second time at the Oregon campus. JORDANNA was re-issued after the death of her first partner. The raisers all presented their dogs at the graduation ceremonies. Congratulations, everyone!



NEW PUPPY

Rhonda Sutton received her second puppy, FRAMPTON, a male yellow lab transfer dog on January 3rd. FRAMPTON came to Colorado on the October 28th puppy truck as a planned transfer (he was raised by a family who specializes in starting young pups) and we hear he's a sweetheart. Welcome back, Rhonda, enjoy your pup!



NEW TOY APPROVED

GDB has approved a new dog toy! It is called a Combat Bone, and is an industrial strength tug toy. Dogs with Vision Club has a small quantity of the toys to sell. Contact Dot Dill if you are interested.

CALLING ALL CRATES!

If you have a HPWT crate, exercise pen, or gate, please call our crate coordinator Jenny Truax with the I.D. numbers. We're doing an inventory and need to confirm locations. If you could use a different size crate or a larger crate, *now is the time*. Jenny will be moving (crates & all) soon and would like to lighten her load. At the January 10th meeting, park on the west side of the mall, south end, last entry into mall before Sears, which will take you straight into the food court if you have crates to move to/from Jenny's vehicle. Please be sure the crates you return are clean.



HPWT LIBRARY NEWS

From Sheila Rea, Club Librarian

The HPWT Club Library is missing the following videos: *Special Partners*, *Proper Leash and Collar Techniques*, *Problem Solving the Recall* (two copies) and *Puppy Training*. Please check and see if you have one of these tapes at home and return it to Sheila at a club meeting.

The library has a new addition: *Do you remember the Color Blue?* by Sally Hobart. The book contains questions from children to the blind author and her answers. From what it feels like to be blind, to using her Guide Dog, this book gives great insight on what it is like to be blind. You will find a list of this and other materials available from the HPWT Library on our website. Contact Sheila if you are interested in checking something out!

DOGGIE TALES 2006

We need career change dogs and calm, older puppies to volunteer for the Doggie Tales library reading program. If you don't have a qualified dog and would like to help, we will find a dog for the day. Call Kelsey Rea if you would like to volunteer. Programs run from 2:00-4:00 p.m.: Southglenn January 14th; Koelbel February 11th; Castlewood March 11th; Smoky Hill April 8th.

FASHION STATEMENT



There is a new T-Shirt design available on our website. The shirt says "Be Patient...My Puppy Raiser Isn't Finished With Me Yet" with your choice of breed. Check it out and order at the club store on the web!



ASK ABBIE

Abolene is a career change golden and co-raiser of thirteen puppies. Address questions to Abbie at abbie@hpwt dogmom.org

Dear Abbie~

I've discovered that I can get an extra meal or two a day by eating my poo. Mom yells at me when she sees me doing it, so I usually just do it when she isn't looking. What's the big deal, anyway?

—Stinky Mouth

Dear Stinky:

Dog's digestive systems are inefficient, and there is a lot of food value left in dog feces. However, humans find this habit disgusting, so you should avoid it. There are commercially available products to put on your food, like Forbid, and some people swear that adding meat tenderizer to your meal will make your stools unpalatable, but these methods are patchy at best. Some even put Tabasco on the stool, but when my mom tried it, it just made my little brother think the stuff was yummier! The truth is, my mom & I have never found a good way to stop a really determined dog from indulging, except to keep him away from the stuff until it can be cleaned up. That said, your mom might try switching you to a higher quality food that you might be able to process better. There will be less food value in the stuff, and if you feel more satisfied, you may be less inclined to go for the hors d'oeuvres left in the yard!

MALADY OF THE MONTH

Dry Nose Several raisers have noticed their dogs' noses are dry and crusty. We asked the Vet Techs at Colorado Veterinary Specialists, and they said this is a common problem for dogs in the dry Colorado winter, just as dry, cracking lips are common for humans.



What you can do Put Vaseline or the oil from a vitamin E capsule on the dog's nose if it seems too dry. It lasts for a few hours to a few days, depending on the weather or how much licking the dog does to remove the added ointment. Many folks prefer Vaseline because it is inexpensive, readily available and won't hurt the dog at all —no matter how much of the stuff he licks off. If the dry nose is accompanied by other symptoms of illness or you have any concerns about your dog's health, call a leader to discuss the need for a vet visit.

P.R.A. POINTERS

From Barb Deevers

- GDB has been producing "softer" dogs in the past few years. These are dogs that may be more easily managed, however at some stages of life, may lack confidence. PLEASE *assume that a dog that displays a balking or avoidance behavior may actually be lacking confidence rather than challenging his handler.* Correcting a dog that is not sure of himself can compound the issue. If your dog seems stubborn or willful, talk with your leader to find positive solutions for your pup's behavior.
- Remember to limit the interactions of your GDB puppy with unknown dogs--this means any dog that does not live in your home, even those of family and friends. GDB pups should not be allowed to run or roughhouse with dogs. Keeping dogs separate is best, utilizing crates, tie downs or at least tying the GDB pup to your belt so you can control his actions. Friends or relatives may not be used to confining their pets, so be sure safe interactions and supervision is possible before considering mixing your GDB pup with personal pets. Concerns about encounters with unknown dogs include; dogs that are aggressive injuring a puppy, rough play injuring a puppy, puppies learning that being excited to see other dogs rewards them with play, puppies being dominated or learning to dominate another dog.
- For raisers with intact GDB pups (of either sex) please remember to ask if the other dogs that you encounter are spayed or neutered. Care should be taken to avoid mixing of unaltered dogs. Males may not appreciate other males, and the male to female point is obvious. Our boys encountering Grandma's intact female is a valid concern. A little planning can avoid any potential issues.



TALE WAGGERS

Abominable Snowman?

From Sheila Rea

While on our walk one morning, I discovered something QUAZAR, our fearless, never-met-something-he-wouldn't-tackle puppy, was afraid of—a snowman! It had very realistic facial features, and QUAZAR freaked out! By the time we returned home, he was willing to investigate it closer, particularly when he discovered it was edible!



REMINDERS

Begin using your puppy's adult collar as soon as the large collar, when adjusted to its shortest length, does not slip over the dog's head. Turn in the baby puppy collars to Andrea for recycling.

When you send your puppy to the sitter, be sure to write the sitter's name, puppy's name and the dates sat on the top of the visitor diary before you turn it in with your monthly report.

When flying with a puppy, we are required by law to have a health certificate issued within ten days of the dog's flight to board the plane (Guide Dogs does not cover this expense). Also, mention you will have a "service dog" with you and ask the ticket agent to note this on your reservation so there are no surprises at the airport!

WINTER WALKING

From Jane Smoak

What do you think about when it's cloudy and cold? Got that old cabin fever? If you are like many people I know, thoughts of Spring are creeping in. Thinking how nice it will be to walk the dogs once it gets warmer? Why wait? Winter walks require some planning but can be rewarding. Don't go if the temperature is below freezing; don't stay out too long and get really cold. Just a short spin, five to ten minutes will do. Need a walk on a really cold day? Try the mall right when they open so it isn't busy yet. You need to consider your footing as well as the footing of the puppy you have by your side. It's also best to wash the puppy's feet when you get home so that they don't lick off any antifreeze or ice melting chemicals. Winter can actually be a great time to get out with your dog. There are so many people who want the warm weather instead that the dog walker numbers are greatly diminished. This means that you might have the entire park to yourself and the birds, or at least smaller numbers of dogs right now. Winter is great for surface issues as well. You can have a dry sidewalk on one side of the street and a snow covered one on the other side. There may be puddles and there may be some brittle ice that cracks when you step on it. Sure, it may be cold outside, but if these pups are going to be guide dogs they will need to be able to deal with lots of different types of weather. So, go grab your coat and a leash and enjoy some nice winter walking.

PUPPY KISSES

To November *Village Life Care Center* Attendees: Jenny Truax with ITALY, Casey and Debbie Horgan with HARBOR, Janet Ford with FRANNIE, Amanda Hartzel with ICON, Barb Witcher with CHAMPION, Carmen Moyer with LABELLE, and Lael O'Shaughnessy with LODGE.



To Andrea Loughry for donation of the book *Do you Remember the Color Blue* to the club library. Sloppy kisses to Sheila & Kelsey Rea for keeping the HPWT library materials and making them available for our members' use.

To Chris Ford for being a wonderful Santa for us at the Holiday Party. Sloppy kisses to Janet & Chris for donating the cost of the costume rental to the club!

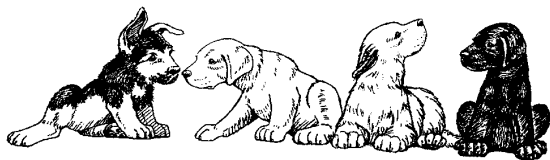
To December Doggie Tales volunteers: Janet Ford with FRANNIE and DAYTONA, Lynda Harris with AKIRA, Jenny Truax and ITALY, Sheila Rea with WONDER DEVON James with SONIC, and Jane Smoak.

To the Jonas Family for their ready and willing puppy sitting over the holidays—even for some extended puppy stays!

The volunteers at the *Adoption Alliance Foster Care Holiday Party*: Carmen & Tom Moyer with LODGE, GIDGET and LABELLE, Lynda Harris with AKIRA, Amanda Hartzell with ICON, and Amanda Ingram who handled LODGE for the day.

To Barnes & Noble gift wrap fund raisers: Sheila Rea, Rhonda Sutton, Barb Witcher, Lizz Landert and Carmen Moyer. Together they raised over \$300 to fund future graduation trips!

To Lizz Landert for inviting GDB trainer Melissa Smith to speak at our December 27th club meeting. Melissa shared some wonderful insights into our dogs' training and kennel experience after they return to Guide Dogs, and we greatly enjoyed her visit.



A GRADUATION SPEECH

by Leah Jonas

Ed. note: we asked Leah to share the powerful and touching speech she wrote for Cougar's graduation with his partner Chris; we thought everyone should share in her pride and excitement at this wonderful event!

Two adventures were started on March 14, 2005. One adventure for me and another for COUGAR. It was a first for both of us. I was nervous; this was going to be my partner for the next year. He was a great partner. He was always there for me to give me a lick on the face or just snuggle with me when I was feeling down. He loved to see others happy. His tail was always wagging the fastest when someone was smiling.

COUGAR also loved to work. He loved pleasing people and making others happy especially me and now he will do the same for Chris. The day I gave him up I tried not to cry. I smiled so that his last day with me was a happy one. His last day—I knew it was going to be his last day no matter how much I wanted to think he was coming home—I knew he wasn't.

COUGAR is smart, loving and caring. I knew that if the guide dog trainers could harness his intelligence there would be no way he would be coming back to my house. But now that I see him here with Chris, see him look into Chris's eyes with the same love and passion in which he looked into mine when I first got him, I see that it was meant to be. This is why people become addicted to puppy raising because they get to see the unfathomable love that man has for dog and dog has for man. I just want to tell COUGAR that I love him but so does Chris if not more.

I want to end with one of my favorite quotes that I think describes this situation perfectly: "*To the world you maybe one person but to one person you may be the world*".

Dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me they are the role model for being alive.

—Gilda Radner

