



Newsletter for December, 2007  
Written by David Greenberg

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Our 2007 Agility season wrapped up during the first week of November when we had our annual fall trial at the Agriplex. I have not included pictures in this newsletter; however to see the photos Sheldon took go to his site at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/icenrye/> As usual the trial ran smoothly, on time and without major problems. Once again we had fabulous food in the form of lunch pot luck items and a delicious catered lasagne dinner.

From the perspective of a new judge I must express my thanks and admiration to all of the people involved in the trial who made it such a success. Kristine (as always) had every organizational facet completely covered and thus the trial was set on rails to go smoothly. The "Old Man Club" course builders (Glen, Rob, Al and Roger) made my job much, much easier because they built my courses quickly and accurately. They corrected my design flaws as they went so the courses were smooth and proper. We had hard working ring crew, timers, scribes and gate stewards and best of all, the competitors were positive and understanding.

Congratulations to the teams that got Qs and titles; they will be listed later. Also, congrats to the Judges Choice winners: Dirk and Rex, Diana and Mason, Ken and Blitz and Sandra and Abbey.

We had our Annual General Meeting in the middle of November. The best part of the meeting is that it was short. The good news coming out of that meeting was that the entire board of directors was re-elected so we can carry right on with nary a hitch. Thanks to Gys, Rob, Lynn, Linda, Charlie, Kris, Val and Mike for staying on. It was also good to hear from Rob that we are going to get one of those nifty vertical break away tires.

The Christmas party was held at St. Michael's church on Saturday, December 8. I did not make it (babysitting) myself but from past experience I am sure the food was great and a good time was had, despite the very cold weather that need to be braved in order to get there. Thanks to Kris for organising the party.

#### **Coming events:**

Top Dog has its spring trial scheduled for March 8 & 9 back at the Agriplex. We have found this to be an ideal spot to hold a trial. The footing is great, it is warm and weather proof with plenty of parking, real bathrooms, bleachers and a great location. As of this moment the judges are scheduled to be Kim Collins and me; however, these assignments could change. Keep posted....

In Kamloops Phil and Mary have a number of events planned:

Feb. 17, 2008 - 1 day AAC trial  
March 1, 2008 - 1 day AAC trial  
March 16, 2008 - 1 day AAC trial

March 29 and 30, 2008 - Theresa Rector Handling Seminar!

June 3, 4, 5, 2008 - Stacy Peardot-Goudy Seminar!

June 6, 2008 - Shannon Mercer puppy and novice dog clinic

June 7 and 8, 2008 - AAC Regional Prep Trial with judges Tim Ostrem and Jeanne Shaw! Fun guaranteed.

The events happening from June 3 - 8th

will be at 5 Star's new agility site - a beautiful, secluded ballfield with lots of camping available.

Entry forms for Theresa Rector and the June events will be available soon at [www.fivestardogs.ca](http://www.fivestardogs.ca)

Here is an item of great interest and importance submitted by Veronica Shortland:

**To be posted VERY LOW on the refrigerator door - nose height.**

Dear Dogs and Cats,

The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue sleeping on the couch to ensure your comfort. Dogs and cats can actually curl up in a ball when they sleep. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space is nothing but sarcasm.

For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, meow, try to turn the knob or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. Also, I have been using the bathroom for years -- canine or feline attendance is not required.

The proper order is kiss me, then go smell the other dog or cat's butt. I cannot stress this enough!

**To pacify you, my dear pets, I have posted the following message on our front door:**

***To All Non-Pet Owners Who Visit & Like to Complain About Our Pets:***

1. They live here. You don't.
2. If you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture. (That's why they call it "fur"niture.)
3. I like my pets a lot better than I like most people.
4. To you, it's an animal. To me, he/she is an adopted son/daughter who is short, hairy, walks on all fours and doesn't speak clearly.

***Remember: In many ways, dogs and cats are better than kids because they:***

1. Eat less
2. Don't ask for money all the time
3. Are easier to train
4. Normally come when called
5. Never ask to drive the car
6. Don't hang out with drug-using friends
7. Don't smoke or drink
8. Don't have to buy the latest fashions
9. Don't want to wear your clothes
10. Don't need a "gazillion" dollars for college.

***And finally,***

11. If they get pregnant, you can sell their children.

Kennel Cough: By now I think you all know more than you care to know about Kennel cough. Many of our dogs have gotten it over this past couple of months. In my house Cassie got it first and now Ziva has it. I must say it was a pretty

mild disease, Cassie coughed once or twice a day and other than that was in top spirits. It is, however very contagious. Mike Shortland sent along this information about it:

What is "canine cough"?

Infectious tracheobronchitis, more often and unfairly known as "Kennel Cough", is a highly contagious, upper-respiratory disease which is spread by an airborne virus. The incubation period of the disease is roughly 3 to 7 days. The main symptom is a gagging cough, sometimes accompanied by sneezing and nasal discharge, which can last anywhere from a few days to several weeks. Although this coughing is very annoying, it does not usually develop into anything more serious. However, just as with the common cold, it can lower the dog's resistance to other disease making him susceptible to secondary infections, and so he must be observed closely to avoid complications.

How is it cured?

Just as in the case of the common cold, tracheobronchitis is not "cured" but must run its course. Many times antibiotics will be prescribed to prevent secondary infection, and

sometimes cough suppressants will be prescribed to reduce excessive coughing, but these medications do not attack the disease itself.

Does tracheobronchitis occur only in kennels?

No. Since these viruses can be present anywhere, and can travel for considerable distances through the air, they can affect any dog ... even one which never leaves its own back yard. But tracheobronchitis is more likely to occur when the concentration of dogs is greater such as at dog shows, kennels, veterinarian offices and hospitals as well as pet shops. Dogs can also be exposed while running loose or while being walked near other dogs.

But aren't the chances of catching it greater when a dog is in a kennel?

Yes ... because, in a kennel, a dog encounters two conditions which do not exist at home ... proximity to a number of potentially contagious dogs, and the stress and excitement of a less familiar environment, which can result in lowered resistance to disease (these same factors explain why children are more likely to catch the flu in school rather than at home). But the more frequently a dog boards at a kennel, the greater are the chances that he will acquire an immunity to the disease. Even during a widespread outbreak, only a fairly small percentage of exposed dogs are affected.

### **Dog Health:**

The holiday season brings special hazards to our dogs' lives. Remember that grapes, raisins, macadamia nuts, onions and of course, chocolate are all potentially toxic to some dogs. Also, mistletoe berries can be very poisonous so you may want to forgo the kissing. The preservatives that put in the tree water can also be a danger. Depending on your pet's habits you may need to be careful about tinsel on the tree and electrical cords.

It has been suggested in the local press that dog owners should be putting boots on their dog's feet when it is cold. It seems to me that wild canines such as coyotes, foxes and wolves do without shoes. What do you think?

For owners of older dogs you may be interested in this article I lifted from the internet:

#### **Skin Problems in Senior Dogs**

After having given you a lifetime of love, loyalty and companionship, a

senior dog needs a reason to live in its older days. Even though it remains debatable whether dogs experience emotions like humans or not, they definitely deserve the same compassion as any other senior member of your family.

With advanced age, senior dogs become more vulnerable to the same [dog skin problems](#) that they had to face while young. The skin is the first line of defense against the attacks of external pathogens. And senior dogs are prone to have a dry skin and lose some of the shine of their coats as oil secreting glands slow down. Graying hair and a dry skin are the key indicators of advancing age.

An itchy skin is common in all dogs but it occurs more frequently in senior dogs. As senior dogs are more vulnerable to environmental irritants and external parasites, fleas and ticks, an itchy skin in seniors requires immediate attention lest they cause secondary infections.

\* Senior dogs should be given medicated baths to keep their skin in good shape.

Also use a very mild shampoo and only those that have been specially formulated for dogs.

\* The aging skin of the dog is more inclined to react to allergens and dryness. A blow drier at this age can prove to be harsh on the dry skin. Use thick absorbent towels instead.

\* Lumps under the skin are more prevalent in senior dogs. Look for any unusual growth while grooming. This could be a tumor that might be difficult to cure at this age if early treatment is not provided.

\* Cut the toe nails more frequently than before to avoid damage to the skin on itching or scratching as a drier skin is likely to be brittle. Dogs usually run down their nails while walking but senior dogs are less active, which makes their nails grow faster.

\* You need to be more regular in grooming and even more observant so as to locate any abnormal signs on the skin. Even harmless looking flea bites can potentially cause a major infection or an allergic reaction at this age. Your [flea control program](#) also needs to be more focused.

Whether it is a senior dog or a cat, an older skin cannot take care of itself. In senior cats, even mild conditions like feline hair loss, cat dandruff and feline acne require more than normal attention in the case of older cats. Grooming at an advanced age is not only meant to spruce up the looks, but also to protect the first line of defense of the body against external factors.

Article brought to you by [Pet Alive](#).

Another Hazard from China

Over the past year we have all heard about poisonous substances found in

many, in fact most commercial pet foods made by the Menu Foods group. When it was revealed that Chinese manufacturers were using lead based paints on children's toys it lead some researchers to check on the safety of pet toys.

Unfortunately, the researchers did find what they had feared. Dog toys and pet bowls imported from China were found to have high levels of lead, arsenic and cadmium. The toys tested were purchased at Wal-Mart. Naturally the Wal-Mart spin doctors are trying to discredit the research. Now, it seems to me it is bad enough to provide little children with a source of heavy metals along with their playtime, but poisoning puppies is worse. This is because children can speak and should be able to say, "please mom and dad, I prefer toys made with a little less lead if you don't mind." Puppies, on the other hand are completely dependant on us. We, in turn are depending on our government to protect us; after all we can hardly be expected to test our own products for toxin levels.

Actually, come to think of it, this would be a great invention: the Home Toxin Test Kit! There is a little "CSI" in all of us and I bet most of us would rush up to the same Wal-Mart type stores that sells us toxic products to buy a toxic product tester.

Here's a story for you. Many years ago we were not just a dog family we were a cat and dog family. One day our son decided to give the cats a bath. We bought some cat shampoo. The day after the bath both cats got very, very sick. We took them to the veterinarian. The vet said that they looked like they were poisoned and he suspected they both had kidney failure and were deathly ill. Now, the manufacturer of the shampoo we used made two varieties of cat shampoo.

One was regular, and that is what we bought. The other was for killing fleas. The doctor figured that the shampoo maker had mislabelled a batch and sold flea shampoo with insecticide in regular shampoo bottles. We gave him the bottle and he sent it to whatever was the appropriate government agency for testing. Well, you are not going to believe the government's response. They sent the bottle back untested. They wrote

### **Trial Results:**

#### **Clear Sailing Trial—September 8**

June West/Benson.....Advanced Team and Masters Snooker  
Mike Shortland/Daz.....Masters Standard, Masters Gamblers, 2 Steeplechase and MSCDC title  
Marc Bernat/Jasper.....2 steeplechase  
Sheldon Pineo/Able.....Masters Jumpers Masters Snooker  
Roger Ryf/Biscuit.....Steeplechase  
Joy Miller/Chase.....Advanced Snooker, Masters Gamblers, Steeplechase  
Maria James/Teigs.....Advanced Snooker, 2 Masters Standard, Masters Jumpers, Masters Team, 2 Steeplechase and AGDC title  
Kim Collins/Peak.....Advanced Standard, 2 Advance Team, Masters Standard, Masters Snooker, 2 Steeplechase and SAADC title  
Kim Collins/Bounce.....Advanced Standard, Steeplechase  
Pat Krebs/Spryte.....Advanced Jumpers, Advanced Team and Steeplechase  
Michelle Klein/Zap.....Starters Standard, Advanced Standard, Advanced Gamblers, Advanced Snooker, Masters Jumpers and SADC  
Denise McLean/Keeper.....Starters Gamblers, Starters Snooker  
Kim Collins/Bryn.....Masters Standard, Masters Gamblers, Steeplechase  
Glen McNab/Alee.....Masters Snooker. Steeplechase  
Denise McLean/Christie.....Masters Standard , 2 Steeplechase  
Val Sadler/Furgie.....Starters Standard, Advanced Jumpers and ADC title  
Glen McNab/Max.....Masters Snooker, Steeplechase  
Kim Collins/Sierra.....Masters Standard, Masters Gamblers, Masters Snooker, Steeplechase  
Joy Miller/Hannah.....Masters Gamblers, Steeplechase  
Roger Ryf/Zeus.....Masters Standard, Masters Snooker  
Val Sadler/MacGyver..... Advanced Standard, 2 Steeplechase

#### **5Star dog Training- September 29**

June West/Benson.....Masters Jumpers, Masters Snooker and SMSDC and SMJDC titles  
Shannon Mercer/Marty....Masters Standard, Masters Gamblers and *Bronze Award*  
Joy Miller/Hannah.....Advanced Standard  
Shannon Mercer/Cai.....Masters Jumpers, Masters Gamblers, Steeplechase

that they could not test this particular product for toxicity, because it was not on their list of toxic products. It seems that poisonous products are registered and therefore if it was not registered it was not poisonous.

Now, I am not an expert on pet toys but I am willing to bet that most dogs would enjoy toys just as much if they contained no lead, arsenic or cadmium as they do the once that are so enriched.

### **Top Dog Trial -November 3**

June West/Benson.....Advanced Team, Masters Gamblers, and SAGDC title  
Mike Shortland/Daz.....Masters Standard, Masters Gamblers, Masters Snooker, 2  
Steeplechase and MADC and MSDC titles  
Sheldon Pineo/Able.....Masters Snooker , Steeplechase  
Roger Ryf/Biscuit.....Masters Snooker and SMSDC title  
Joy Miller/Chase.....Masters Gamblers  
Maria James/Teigs.....2 Masters Standard, 2 Masters Jumpers, Masters Gamblers,  
Masters Snooker, 2 Steeplechase and MGDC title  
Robbi Holmes/Nova.....Starters Standard  
Kim Collins/Peak.....Advanced Team, Steeplechase  
Donna Holmgren/Rayn.....2 Advanced Standard, Advanced Jumpers and AADC Title  
Katie Eschak/Tigger.....Advanced Jumpers  
Dirk Blok/Rex.....Starters Standard, Starters Snooker,Masters Gamblers, Steeplechase  
and SGDC and MGDC titles  
Al Henke/Bud.....Starters Team and SSGDC title  
Shauney Denis/Cruise.....2 Starters Jumpers  
Michelle Klein/Zap.....Masters Gamblers  
Denise McLean/Keeper.....2 Starters Standard, Starters Jumpers and ADC title  
Ken Sharp/Blitz.....Starters Standard, Starters Jumpers, Starters Gamblers, Starters  
Snooker, Advanced Jumpers, Steeplechase  
Michelle Makelke/Rook.....Starters Jumpers  
Kim Collins/Bryn.....Masters Standard, Masters Gamblers, Masters  
Snooker,Steeplechase and **Lifetime Achievement Award!**  
Glen McNab/Alee.....Masters Gamblers, Masters Snooker 2 Steeplechase  
Denise McLean/Christie.....Masters Standard, Masters Gamblers, Masters Jumpers,  
Masters Snooker, 2 Steeplechase  
Rob Waterston/Timber.....Masters Snooker, Steeplechase  
Donna Holmgren/Warjac.....Masters Gamblers, Steeplechase  
Mike Shortland/Shenia.....Masters Team  
Sandra Morrison/Abbey.....Advanced Standard, Advanced Gamblers, Advanced  
Snooker, Steeplechase  
Carolyn Gerrie/Levi.....Masters Gamblers, Masters Snooker, 2 Steeplechase and  
VMSCDC title  
Kim Collins/Sierra.....Masters Gamblers, Steeplechase  
Joy Miller/Hannah.....Advanced Standard, Masters Standard, Masters Jumpers, Masters  
Snooker  
Roger Ryf/Zeus.....Masters Snooker  
Dirk Blok/Jack.....Masters Jumpers, Steeplechase  
Chris Buker/Zoom.....Starters Standard, Masters Gamblers, Steeplechase  
Tony Hayne/Rosie .....Advanced Gamblers  
Diana Spelay/Mason.....Masters Gamblers, Masters SnookerSteeplechase

