

2012

Alpha and Omega K9 News



March-April Edition

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Alpha and Omega K9 Training

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Message from Steven and Lee

What an eventful two months it has been. From the visit to Pug Rescue South Africa's "Yappy hour" to the various Dog Shows held at SouthernStar grounds. A great highlight was definitely being able to tag along with Paws for People Therapy Dogs East Rand unit.

We are pleased that our in-home training program is reaping rewards for both the dogs and their owners.

The behavior challenges that most owners face when first entering the program and the changes that have come about has highlighted the importance of having this specialized training available.

In the next issue we will share some of the success stories with you.

We are pleased to announce that due to great demand we have started Obedience Training Classes on a Saturday from 10h00 to 11h00.

To keep up to date with what is happening at Alpha and Omega K9 Training and for articles of interest or events, follow us on

www.facebook.com/AlphaOK9 or on twitter @alpha_k9

A special thanks to Douglas Robinson for his support and encouragement.

Enjoy this Edition of Alpha and Omega K9 News until next time.

Steven and Lee



Meet the K9 Clients

PUG RESCUE SOUTH AFRICA

On 31 March Pug Rescue SA hosted their second Yappy Hour for 2012 at Pugs H(e)aven in Benoni. After a night of rain, the sun was shining and the Pugs and Pug lovers arrived to have a day of fun in the sun with our much loved Pugs. The theme for the yappy hour was "Biggest Loser" and Janine and Debbi who are veterinary nurses from Hills Pet Nutrition set up to ensure that the Pugs had a mini health check and the walk of shame was done to the much dreaded scale. We were not surprised to discover that 60% of the Pugs are overweight. The weights have been registered and on the 9 June, Janine and Debbie will be back to weigh the Pugs again!!

A rescued Pug Parade was next on the agenda and we had no less than 20 rescued Pugs strut their stuff for all to see. The purpose of this parade was to showcase the beautiful Pugs that come into rescue who need new and loving homes. It still surprises us to learn that the average person still believes that they need to buy a puppy as puppies will adapt better to a new home than an older Pug – an absolute MYTH.....remember **ADOPT DON'T SHOP!!**

Cheryl Gaw – President
www.pugrescue.co.za

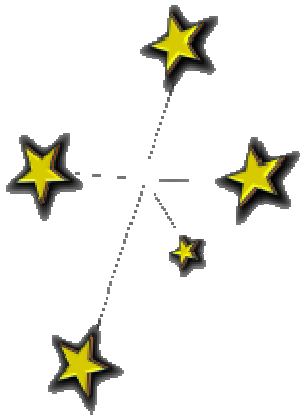


Pugs Rescued To Date : **335** (and 30 non-pugs)
Total Pugs Happily Rehomed : **297**
Pugs in Retirement : **11**
Acts of Kindness (Pugs Sent over the Rainbow Bridge) : **7**



PUG RESCUE YAPPY HOUR





SouthernStar

Douglas Robinson is a well known breeder of 4 breeds of Setters (Irish, English, Gordon and Irish Red and White). His passion for this breed started in 1974 while he was still resident in the then Rhodesia. In 1980 Douglas immigrated to South Africa where he established the SouthernStar grounds. The grounds were specifically developed for dogs and the interventions which promote the well balanced relationships between K9 and their owners, namely, dog training schools and just recently dog club shows.

These spacious grounds have a country like atmosphere and sport a club house, bathroom facilities, kennels and a training agility course. Its location is well situated to the main thoroughfares into the Benoni area and can be found at 32 Doreen Street, Norton Home Estates, just off the R23 – High Road.

April 22, 2012 saw SouthernStar Setters host the following Associations and Clubs at their grounds in Benoni, Gauteng, South Africa

- Toy Breeders Association,
- GoldReef Sight Hounds,
- Dalmatian Club and ,
- Doberman Club.

These dog clubs were generously sponsored by Eukanuba (Toy Breeders Association) and Montego Classic – Sight Hounds. Both national and international judges were present to judge the various breeds as well as representation by KUSA and a local veterinarian.

As outsiders to this very high profile environment we at Alpha and Omega K9 Training were blown away by the amount of effort and dedication it

10 Rules for a well behaved K9

1. *Socialize your K9 to everything. This includes all types & ages of people, dogs, sights, sounds and places.*
2. *Never allow your K9 on the furniture. This will only make your K9 think of himself as an equal "PACK" member.*
3. *Never feed your K9 people food or treats from the table. If you follow this rule, you never have begging problem.*
4. *Always praise your K9 when he does good work. This will produce amazing results – even more so than punishing your K9 when he doesn't do what you want.*
5. *Correct your K9 only if you can catch him/ her in the act. Otherwise forget it, and be prepared next time.*
6. *Train your K9 in basic obedience. This is must, if you want to have happy, well behaved companion you can trust in any situation.*
7. *Remember humans must be the "PACK" leaders. The proper pack structure is easily established if obedience training is done.*
8. **NEVER, NEVER, NEVER** hit your K9. *This will only make behaviour problems worse.*
9. *Utilize the 4 P's in training: Practice, Patie**n**Ce, Praise, Proper Timing (within 15 -2 seconds of a behaviour)*
10. *Think like a K9 when you are trying to teach him something. Do not treat your K9 like a human with fur. Treat him with respect and in training always try to look at things from his perspective.*

took to ensure that this day was uneventful and achieved the success that it had.

Comments: "The atmosphere is warm and friendly"

"We would definitely want to return here as it outweighs some venues in preparation and the want to please and make our exhibits a success"

"The general feel is that everyone worked together to create a pleasant experience"

Well done to Douglas and the work teams for making the event the success it was.

Special thanks to Catering:- Karen and Jessica Evans, Joan Booth, Peter Watson and Pat Courtney, Nivar Singh, Douglas Robinson, Rodney Fick, Max, Wayson and Dominic , Steve and Lee Magill

UPCOMING EVENTS – SOUTHERNSTAR GROUNDS

Upcoming Events

5 May 2012

Siberian Husky Club
Tvl Terrier Club
Staffordshire Bull Terrier
Club
Eastern Bull Terrier Club
PTA Toy Dog Breeders
Golden City Poodle Club

32 Doreen Street, Norton Estates, Benoni , Gauteng, South Africa

Contact: Douglas Robinson or Karen Evans

Email: karenevans64@gmail.com

Mobile: 083 395 011

Upcoming Events

6 May 2012

Jubilee Toy Dogs
Egoli Nordic Spitz
Grand Central Utility Breeds



Pet Nutrition What's in yours?

After a lot of research "Fur Angels" has adapted feeding for the South African way of life.

Your Pet requires protein, carbohydrates, calcium, fats, raw vegetable matter and all the essential vitamins and minerals. These are obtained from chicken, Beef, Pork and Vegetables.

By cooking and drying the food, we know from experience that most of the minerals and goodness has left the food, leaving just the minimum, which is not enough and that is why most of us humans take an extra vitamin tablet! By taking the time to feed the basics, this should help in the paying of Vet bills. By raw feeding we can try and eliminate the following problems:- anti-ageing, indigestion, diarrhea, heart problems, bladder stones, deficiency of zinc, growth problems, reproduction problems, stress, cancer, nervousness, skin allergies, circulatory system, digestive, eye problems, immune deficiency, diabetes, arthritis, hip dysplasia, stomach torsion, bladder control, plaque build up on the teeth and many more.

Fur Angels has been research to give your pets all the essentials in one meal. Why not try feeding them the old fashioned way! **For more information contact Karen Evans on 083 395 0111**

66%

Man's best friend is also a good work out buddy! According to a poll reported by Reuters, dog owners report that if it wasn't for their dog, they wouldn't be going out for a walk quite as often during the week. Owner's report that dog walking accounts for two thirds (66%) of the walks they take each week.

www.msnbc.msn.com

Door Scratching – Mindless dog destruction Or Symptom of Dog Anxiety

Many dog owners think of scratching as mindless dog behavior, rather than a symptom of dog anxiety, and while it can be destructive, that is not the intention that lies behind the dog scratching the door. Instead a dog suffering from separation anxiety will be in a panic to get to you and will use any means they can – which includes trying to scratch their way out through the door.



To treat separation anxiety in dogs effectively you'll need a two-pronged approach. The first is to use training that is aimed at establishing you as pack leader, this is because an anxious dog will relax when it is clear that you head the pack and they can trust you to look after them. The second is to focus on the dog behavior problem itself and use techniques that will show your dog that this behavior is not acceptable to you.

THERAPY DOGS



The pioneer in the field of animal related psychotherapy was Boris Levinson, a psychiatrist in New York. Many students of human animal studies would rather give recognition to Levinson as the “Father” in this field of study as we know it today because his contribution was therapeutic in nature. He began his observations in a very modest fashion by noting his own pet at home where his practice was situated, could assist him in therapy of children with communication problems. Levinson had the courage to publish his observations in scientific journals, but not without the expected criticism of his methods. History proved Levinson right and silenced many of his critics. He paved the way for further similar studies in psychiatry and related helping professions.

**Reference: *Pets and our Mental Health, the Why, the What and the How.*
By Dr Johannes Odendal**

We at Alpha and Omega K9 Training were privileged to accompany Paws for People on one of their therapy sessions to an Old Age Home in Boksburg, South Africa. It was indeed an eye opener and humbling experience to see the interaction the dogs had with the elderly and the reactions received from the residents. This organization also visits Children’s Homes, Hospice Centres, Oncology wards and Special Needs Schools to assist in therapy of those in NEED.

Paws for People are funded by the **DONTATIONS** they receive and not by any other funding body.

To contribute to this worthy cause, please contact **Eileen at 27 11 849-7801** or email **Zena at ruffitwood@absamail.co.za**





James Tindale – Memorial Day hosted by Tailwaggers Social Dog Club



The memory of the co-founder of Tailwaggers Dog Academy and a long-standing member of the Benoni community, James Tindale, was commemorated on Sunday, April 1, at 32 Doreen Road, Norton's Home Estates. James Tindale and his mother, Maureen, founded Tailwaggers and passed on immense knowledge to many dog handlers over the years.

Members of the public and their dogs started the proceedings with an honour walk around the property, where after Graham Vollmer, Chairman of Tailwaggers Social Dog Club paid tribute to the late James Tindale.

Peter Watson was MC for the day and kept the crowds entertained and informed by providing commentary on the activities as they occurred.

The day was filled with entertaining activities:

- Paws For People demonstration;
- Show dog display;

- Kennel Hands – show dog display
- Tailwaggers Social Dog Club demonstration;

- CMS Patrol Dog Display
- Christina Smuts and Ace – Scent detection display
- Graham Vollmer and Shaka – off lead display

Thanks to the judges present who judged the breed display.

Catering was done by Karen Evans, Douglas Robinson, Peter Watson and Pat Courtney. Braai facilities were provided for those people who brought along their picnic baskets.

Tailwaggers Social Dog Club is a fun, friendly training environment where only kind, humane training techniques are used.

For further details contact Liezel Pienaar on 084 777 5557.



Fun Dog Facts

Fun stuff for dog lovers.

Here are some fun and interesting dog facts. See how much trivia you know about man's best friend. Did you Know...

- A dog's heart beats between 70 and 120 times a minute, compared with a human heart which beats 70 to 80 times a minute.
- A dog's normal body temperature is 100.5 to 102.5 degrees Fahrenheit.
- A female carries her young about 60 days before the puppies are born.
- According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the smallest dog on record was a Yorkshire Terrier in Great Britain who, at the age of 2, weighed just 4 ounces.
- The longest lived dog, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, was an Australian Cattle Dog, named Bluey, who lived to be 29.



Hopefully he's potty trained

If a dog was the teacher.....

You would learn stuff like.....
When loved ones come home,
always run to greet them.
Never pass up the opportunity to go
for a joyride.
Allow the experience of fresh air
and the wind in your face to be pure
ecstasy
When it's in your best interest,
practice obedience
Let others know when they invaded
your territory
Take naps. Stretch before rising
Run, romp and play daily
Thrive on attention and let people
touch you
Avoid biting when a simple growl
will do
On warm days, stop to lie on your
back in the grass
On hot days, drink lots of water and
lie under a shady tree
When you are happy dance around
and wag your entire body
Now matter how often you're
scolded, don't buy into the guilt
thing and pout.... Run right back
and make friends
Delight in the simple joy of a long
walk
Eat with GUSTO and enthusiasm.
Stop when you had enough
Be loyal
Never pretend to be something
you're not
If what you want lies buried, dig
until you find it
When someone is having a bad
day, be silent, sit close by and
nuzzle them gently
And finally, Never trust anyone until
you sniff their butt..