



Dear friends,

Welcome to our October Newsletter from www.bestdoggietips.com. We've got Beef Stir Fry as our recipe this month – it's good enough for you to eat! We've also got a report on 2 Dogs 2000 Miles, a heart warming story of a man and his 2 dogs who are walking 2000 miles to raise money for canine cancer research. There's also a report on Dog Breeding – have we gone too far? And don't forget to check out our recommended products for the month – both Award winners! Plus lots more.

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Happy Halloween from Hamish!!

We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

I've seen a look in dog's eyes, a quickly vanishing look of amazed contempt, and I am convinced that basically dogs think humans are nuts. – *John Steinbeck*

Recipe - Beef Stir Fry

Ingredients

4 cups boiled rice
500g beef mince
1 tbsp sunflower oil
2 eggs lightly beaten
Dash of soy sauce or Worcester sauce (optional)

To Make

This is a great way to use up left over boiled rice!

Heat your wok or frypan and add the oil. Add the beef and stir through until evenly browned. Now add the eggs and rice and stir through.

When the egg and beef are cooked, add the dash of sauce (for colour rather than flavour).

Allow to cool before serving.

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2 Dogs 2000 Miles

Luke and his two dogs – Murphy and Hudson, are walking 2000 miles across America to raise funds for canine cancer research. Here is their story:



Why We Are Walking Across the Country

In 2004 my dog, Malcolm, was diagnosed with bone cancer. Amputation and chemotherapy only slowed its progression and the cancer ultimately metastasized to his lungs. After almost a two year battle, he was given rest.

Malcolm was only six when diagnosed and no one could tell me why or how he got this horrible disease. Dogs are living longer these days said some. It's genetics said others. Or his diet. Perhaps pesticides or administering multiple vaccinations at once.

We've known about cancer for over half a century and that we still don't know these answers was unacceptable to me. And so I set out on the road with a pack on my back, my boys, Hudson and Murphy, at my side, and a simple belief.

We can discover the cause of canine cancer. After travelling over 700 miles, and meeting many thought leaders in veterinary oncology we're beginning to understand the challenges we face off the road to achieve that goal.

And this little cross country walk we're taking is only the beginning...

Hudson, Murphy, and Yer Big Dog



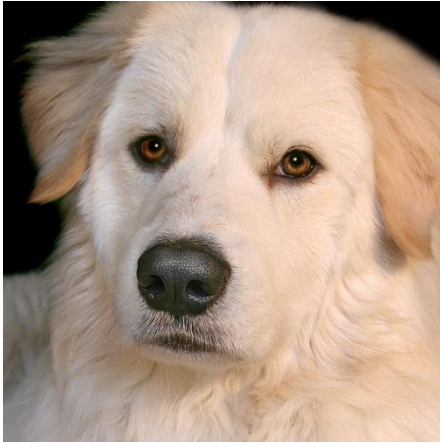
Murphy

DOB: May 31, 2001

Weight: 112 lbs.

Hobbies: Eating, eating, cuddling, eating and cuddling.

Native American Name: Poops on Trees.



Hudson

DOB: August 4, 2006

Weight: 58 lbs.

Hobbies: Ignoring pappa, chewing on my toes, digging, and chasing my tail!

Native American Name: Poops on Three Legs.



Yer Big Dog (YBD)

I've always tried to minimize my part in the walk. Heck, I don't even think many people know my real name (it's Luke).

Hudson & Murphy, my boys, are the real celebrities here and I'm just the guy carrying their luggage. But here are, perhaps, some interesting factoids about me:

- Born in the Year of the Dog
- Got the heart to do this walk from my Mother and the mind from my Father. The rest is all me.
- Mother is a breast cancer survivor
- Have a BBA in Finance and Accounting
- No Bear Grylls, Hell I wasn't even a Boy Scout
- I'm just a man who lost his boy
- Made three promises to Malcolm before he was given rest
- Former founder and head of a high-tech and life science business consulting firm.

For the first few years of Malcolm's life, I worked long and hard hours to get my company up and running. A 90 hour-plus work week wasn't uncommon and I often slept on my office couch. I loved my work and helping build startups and received several accolades and honors.

But when Malcolm was diagnosed with cancer, none of that meant anything to me. I rarely left his side after that. It was truly a life defining experience and one that's made me re-evaluate my place in the world and what my contribution can be.

To find out more, or to support this worthy cause, go to www.2dogs2000miles.org

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Dog Breeding - Have We Gone Too Far?

The BBC in Britain recently aired a documentary on dog breeding entitled **Pedigree Dogs Exposed**. This in-depth investigation suggests they are in serious trouble, plagued by genetic disease due to decades of inbreeding. They are also suffering acute problems because of the showring's emphasis on looks over and above function and health.

Some physical traits required by the Kennel Club's breed standards have inherent health problems (short faces, wrinkling, screw-tails, dwarfism) while other problems occur because of exaggerations bred into dogs by breeders trying to win rosettes.

Deliberate mating of dogs that are close relatives is common practice and the Kennel Club continues to register dogs bred from mother-to-son and brother-to-sister matings.

Seventy-five per cent of the seven million dogs in the UK are pedigrees, and they cost their owners over £10m in vet fees every week.

Scientists at Imperial College, London, recently found that pugs in the UK are so inbred that, although there are 10,000 of them, it is the equivalent of just 50 distinct individuals – making them more genetically compromised than the giant panda.

Steve Jones, Professor of Genetics, UCL, says: "People are carrying out breeding which would be, first of all, be entirely illegal in humans and secondly is absolutely insane from the point of view of the health of the animals." He adds: "In some breeds they are paying a terrible, terrible price in genetic disease."

The film exposes the devastating consequences of such genetic disease for dogs and the distress it causes their owners. Disturbing footage is shown of a cavalier King Charles spaniel writhing in agony due to syringomyelia, estimated to affect up to a third of the breed. They have been bred with skulls too small for their brains, explains veterinary neurologist **Clare Rusbridge**: "The cavalier's brain is like a size 10 foot that has been shoved into a size six shoe – it doesn't fit."

Boxers suffer from several life-threatening health issues – including heart disease and a very high rate of cancer, especially brain tumours. There are no official figures to say how many boxers suffer from epilepsy but in some breeds it is 20 times the rate found in humans. Two-year-old Zak is filmed while fitting and the distress the disease causes for him and his owners is obvious.

The film also demonstrates how some breeders produce dogs with pronounced physical attributes – "exaggerations" – in their efforts to attract a dog show judge's eye.

The breed standards are set by the Kennel Club but are open to interpretation and the film shows how, as fashion changes, so do the dogs, leading to serious health and welfare problems in some breeds.

Bulldogs, for example, have been bred to be such an unnatural shape that most can no longer mate or give birth unassisted.

The RSPCA's Chief Vet **Mark Evans** says: "The show world is about an obsession, about beauty, and there is a ridiculous concept that that is how we should judge dogs... "It takes no account of your temperament, your fitness for purpose potentially as a pet animal – and that to me just makes absolutely no sense at all."

The film also exposes famous show champions that continue to father puppies despite having serious inherited disease, and demonstrates that some breeders cull perfectly healthy puppies on purely cosmetic grounds.

As the filmmaker Jemima becomes increasingly concerned with what she uncovers, she challenges the Kennel Club. The Kennel Club, however, robustly defends its position as the guardian of dog health, pointing out the initiatives it has taken to improve pedigree dog health – including their accredited breeder scheme which sets a code of conduct for breeders and asks them to make use of health screening schemes.

It also insists that "the vast majority of dog breeds are healthy". Ultimately, the film concludes that far from enough is being done.

As Professor Jones says: "If the dog breeders insist on going further down that road, I can say with confidence really that there is a universe of suffering waiting for many of these breeds – and many if not most of these breeds will not survive. They will get so inbred that they will be unable to reproduce and their genes will come to a dead end."

The RSPCA in Britain was so outraged, that they will no longer support the Crufts Dog Show. They issued the following statement:

"The RSPCA has suspended plans for stands at Crufts next March and Discover Dogs this November and is calling for new measures to tackle the unacceptably high levels of disability, deformity and disease that threaten pedigree dogs.

In the wake of the BBC documentary Pedigree Dogs Exposed broadcast last month, the RSPCA has become increasingly concerned about the health and welfare of pedigree dogs - and this includes animals entered into 'best of breed' classes in dog shows like Crufts.

In the past, the RSPCA has staffed a stand at both Crufts and Discover Dogs in order to promote general animal welfare issues.

Urgent change needed to save the pedigree dog

RSPCA chief veterinary adviser Mark Evans said: "Dog shows using current breed standards as the main judging criteria actively encourage both the intentional breeding of deformed and disabled dogs and the inbreeding of closely related animals. There is compelling scientific evidence that the health and welfare of hundreds of thousands of pedigree dogs is seriously compromised as a result.

From a dog health and welfare perspective, such shows are fundamentally flawed and do our much loved pedigree dogs no favours. Intentionally breeding deformed and disabled animals is morally unjustifiable and it has to stop.

We want to see the emphasis shifted away from arbitrary appearance, so that health, welfare and temperament are considered first and foremost.

We want to help ensure that pedigree dogs have the best possible chance of being fit, healthy and happy and well suited to the lives they will lead as pets.

All those who benefit from pedigree dogs have a collective responsibility to solve what is now a very serious and totally unnecessary animal welfare problem - not just here in the UK, but around the world."

The RSPCA has commissioned an independent review of the science in this field, and will be discussing its findings with relevant experts and stakeholders later this year.

Amongst a raft of specific recommendations, the following themes have been identified as possible ways forward.

- An overhaul of the rules and requirements for pedigree dog registration and competitive dog showing (including breed standards). Health, welfare and temperament should be prioritised over appearance.
- The development and implementation of health and welfare-focused breeding strategies for individual breeds. This should include pro-active steps to increase the genetic diversity of dog breeds.
- More data collection and scientific analysis on causes of disease and death in dogs.
- Education, especially of would-be owners, to encourage demand for dogs which have the best possible chance of leading healthy, happy lives as pets.

Health and welfare should be paramount

"We know that hundreds of thousands of dogs are vulnerable to illness, pain, disability and behavioural problems because they're primarily bred for how they look rather than with health, welfare and temperament in mind," Mr Evans added.

"If things don't change pedigree dogs will continue to suffer unnecessarily, and their welfare will continue to decline - this is totally unacceptable and cannot be allowed to happen. Careful breeding with an emphasis on health, welfare, temperament and quality of life is the only way to ensure a positive future for the pedigree dog."

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The Most Popular Dog Names

Move over "Fido," the American Kennel Club® (AKC®) today announced that "Lady" and "Bear" top the list of most popular male/female dog names in the U.S.

A survey of 2007 AKC registration statistics showed that, in addition to Lady, Belle/Bell/Bella, Princess, Mae/May, Bear, Blue, Max/Maximus/Maxwell, Rose, Daisy, and Duke round out the top ten dog names.

"Traditionally names based on a puppy's physical appearance or personality, such as 'Spot' or 'Sassy,' have been popular with dog owners," said AKC Spokesperson Lisa Peterson. "Today we are seeing human names, such as 'Jack' and 'Molly,' and names that reflect a pet's stature in the home, such as 'King' and 'Princess,' gain in popularity as more people consider their dog a valued member of the family."

The top male/female dog names, according to the AKC are:

Most Popular Male Dog Names*

1. Bear
2. Blue
3. Max/Maximus/Maxwell
4. Duke
5. Buddy
6. Jack
7. Prince
8. King
9. Bailey
10. Rocky
11. Harley
12. Jake
13. Shadow
14. Lucky
15. Hunter
16. Dakota
17. Lou
18. Midnight
19. Cooper
20. Buster

Most Popular Female Dog Names*

1. Lady
2. Belle/Bell/Bella
3. Princess
4. Mae/May
5. Rose
6. Daisy
7. Grace/Gracie
8. Baby
9. Molly
10. Maggie
11. Sadie
12. Ann/Annie
13. Star
14. Lily/Lilly
15. Angel
16. Coco/Cocoa
17. Sophie/Sophia
18. Lucy
19. Abby/Abigail
20. Marie

The AKC offers the following rules to consider when naming your pooch:

- Names often reflect the character of your pet. Observe your dog for a few days and see if his personality suggests a name. Is he regal? Does she always want to be the center of attention? If so, how about "King" or "Star"?
- Short, sweet and easily recognizable names work best in getting your dog to be responsive. Use a name that is one or two syllables, ending with a vowel, such as "Sadie" or "Rocky."
- Don't choose a name that is too long or difficult to say. A name such as "Sir Barks A Lot" will only confuse your dog.
- Avoid names that sound like commands. Names like "Joe" sound like "no" when called.
- Pick a name that will fit your dog regardless of his age. For example, a puppy named "Fuzzy" may not be a good fit after he grows into adulthood.
- Don't name your dog after a friend or family member without getting their prior permission. You never know who could be offended.
- Test out the name you would like to give your dog for a day or two. Remember any name you give your dog will be a 10-to-15-year commitment for the life of the dog.
- After you chose a name for your dog make sure you use it often so he can learn it more quickly.
- Don't raise your voice every time you call him, and try to use his name in positive, playful settings, such as when you feed him, play with him or pet him.

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Featured Products

Hugx Pet Food Bowl

A British company, Hugx, have taken out the top prize at the Dog Fashion Week in New York, for their innovative Hugx Pet Food Bowl.



The Hugx design ensures easy access for pets wearing elizabethan collars, or buster collars, ensuring no need to remove the post operative collar at feeding time!

Hugx pet dishes can turn 180 degrees, perfect if this a present for a puppy or kitten as the bowl can adapt to a growing pet. Pet food can be reached easily, and the pet bowl is easily cleaned due to it's curved inside walls. No where for food to lodge.

Hugx pet bowls are a perfect pet accessory, practical and stylish in any home and enjoyable for your pet dining. Available in a range of sizes.

Unfortunately, these are not yet available in Australia, but area available in the UK and US. Check your favourite pet store.

Doog Walking Belt



The DOOG Walkie Belt is an award winning, innovative new product for dog owners. It contains everything you need when out walking your dog, all in one handy, lightweight belt.

The belt is designed to free up your hands and your pockets when taking your dog for a walk. No longer will you need plastic bags stuffed in one hand and keys, money and dog

lead in the other. And... no more bulky, laden filled trouser or coat pockets!



1. iPod clip
2. 30 x Tidy bags
3. 2 x pockets for holding house keys, phone, money and dog treats

4. 20 x antibacterial, scented Hand Wipes
5. Caribena for attaching dog lead / hanging belt to a hook by the door

Available from www.doog.com.au

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The Weird & the Wonderful

Faithful dog provides clue in burglary case

Pet follows suspect after theft from owner's home.

A rural Des Moines County resident saw something unusual while driving through Burlington one morning -- his dog following someone wearing one of his shirts and carrying one of his bags.

Perplexed, the rural resident confronted the person, who managed to get away. He, however, was able to get his dog and return to his home. It was there he discovered someone had burglarized his home.

That was in June, and on Tuesday, Des Moines County prosecutors charged a 17-year-old with second-degree burglary in connection with the sneaky escapade.

Authorities said the resident, upon returning home June 27 after finding his dog, a female miniature pincher in Burlington, found his .22 caliber and 9mm handguns were taken, along with a blue shirt, a laptop and a black shoulder bag.

Detectives said the culprit also left a wet and dirty T-shirt at the victim's home.

Three days after receiving the report, sheriff's detectives tracked down two other men who, during an interview at the station, allegedly implicated the suspect as the one responsible. Those two witnesses told detectives that three days prior, the suspect met up with them and was wearing the blue shirt and carrying the bag in question. Inside the bag were the two handguns reported stolen.

He allegedly confided to his friends that after taking the items, he walked out of the home and the dog started walking behind him, following him from the scene of the crime all the way to Burlington. The teen said he threw rocks at the dog, but the canine was persistent and continued walking behind him.

The suspect told the two witnesses he fell and got his shirt dirty so he took it off, left it at the victim's residence and helped himself with a shirt there, authorities said.

Murder Trial Calls Dog As Witness

A courtroom observing a French murder trial could be excused for thinking the presiding judge has gone barking mad.



Not so silent witness: Bark once for innocent, twice for guilty...

In what is believed to be a world first, the investigating magistrate has invited a dog to take the stand as a witness. Scooby will give evidence as he is believed to have been with his 59-year-old owner when she was found hanging from the ceiling of her Paris flat.

Police believe the death was suicide, but her family cry murder - and the only witness to see the alleged crime is on four legs.

It is hoped Scooby can collar the potential perpetrator, having already played a leading role during a preliminary court hearing in Nanteree, a Paris suburb. He is said to have hounded a suspect, "barking furiously" after being taken out of the kennel and into the witness box by a vet.

French judge Thomas Cassuto praised the mongrel for his "exemplary behaviour and invaluable assistance".

But lawyers barked back - insisting the bizarre spectacle "proved nothing". One said: "Human evidence is unreliable enough, let alone canine evidence.

"Besides, the victim died two and half years ago, which is seventeen dog years! How is the animal supposed to remember that far back?"

A spokesman for the Palais de Justice in Paris confirmed that the appearance was the first time a dog had appeared as a witness in criminal proceedings in France. He said: "It was a preliminary hearing. The judge will now decide if there is enough evidence to go to trial."

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