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February 2010 Newsletter



Dear friends,

Welcome to our February Newsletter from www.bestdoggietips.com.

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We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

"If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went."

- Will Rogers

Recipe - Beef & Rice Stew

Ingredients

500g (1lb) stewing steak
1 tbsp olive oil
¼ pumpkin cut into small pieces
1 carrot grated
1 zucchini grated
1 chicken stock cube
2½ cups warm water
¼ cup oats
1 cup rice

To Make

Cut the steak into cubes. Place the oil in a saucepan and brown the meat.

Mix the chicken stock cube with a little of the water to dissolve. Add the vegetables, oats, rice, stock and water. Bring to the boil and simmer until the rice is cooked (around 15 minutes). Add more water if required.

Cool before serving.

Will keep in the fridge for 3-4 days.

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Top Dogs of 2009

From the American Kennel Club

For the 19th consecutive year, the Labrador Retriever is the most popular purebred dog in America, but could this be the last year for the Lab's reign?

According to the American Kennel Club® (AKC) 2009 registration statistics, the German Shepherd Dog overtook the Yorkshire Terrier last year and is now ranked second most popular in the nation for the first time in more than three decades.

An American favourite since the time of Rin Tin Tin, the German Shepherd Dog became the number one breed of the 1920s, but then slipped in popularity until after World War II.

"Labs have been America's top dog for nearly two decades due to their loyal and gentle nature," said AKC Spokesperson Lisa Peterson. "But the German Shepherd Dog has gained ground recently, quite possibly due to the increased attention they receive for their security efforts at home and abroad. Hailed as the world's leading police, guard and military dog, this energetic and fun-loving breed is a loyal family pet, ideal companion and dependable K-9 partner when duty calls."

The 2009 Most Popular Dogs in the U.S. were:

1. Labrador Retriever
2. German Shepherd Dog
3. Yorkshire Terrier
4. Golden Retriever
5. Beagle
6. Boxer
7. Bulldog
8. Dachshund
9. Poodle
10. Shih Tzu

WORKING K-9s "SNIFF OUT" THE TOP 10

The German Shepherd Dog isn't the only breed Americans will spot at the airport or train terminal when they travel – Labradors, Golden Retrievers and Beagles work throughout the country to keep the homeland safe. These breeds are used by law enforcement military and homeland security personnel for a variety of tasks ranging from border patrol, bomb and narcotics detection, to searching for missing persons and tracking down fugitives.

These four breeds were developed for various forms of hunting or herding, but the traits that made them so effective at these jobs, such as strong scenting ability of the Beagle, the eager-to-please attitude of the Golden Retriever and Labrador, and the bold nature of the German Shepherd, make them effective in their careers today.

"Despite advances in security technology, the canine and its unique abilities remain a valued resource for the military and law enforcement agencies that work to keep us safe," said Peterson. "The loyalty, intelligence and hardworking nature which make these breeds desirable as K-9 partners in the field also contribute to their status as valuable companions in the hearts of dog owners around the nation."

PET PREFERENCES: FIFTY OF THE LARGEST CITIES

Top trends in 50 large cities in the U.S. include:

- 🐕 The ever-popular Lab is slowly losing ground in some towns – more U.S. cities featured a breed other than the Labrador Retriever in its top spot this year than in 2008. The breeds responsible for ousting the 19 year national favourite? The German Shepherd ranked first in Columbus, Detroit, Honolulu, Memphis, Miami Providence and West Palm Beach; the Yorkshire Terrier triumphed in Oakland, Tampa, NYC, and Philadelphia; the Bulldog rose to the top in L.A.; and the Bull Terrier was a favourite in Newark, NJ.
- 🐕 The Bulldog is a favourite in California, perhaps due to celebrity owners such as Adam Sandler, Kelly Osborne and John Legend. The breed reached the top spot in Los Angeles, the only city where it currently reigns as number one. The wrinkled pooch nearly reached the top in San Diego as well, coming in at the 2nd spot.
- 🐕 South Florida loves its German Shepherd Dog. The breed ranks first in West Palm Beach as well as Miami, where it has held the top spot since 2002, the first year the American Kennel Club started tracking city registration statistics.
- 🐕 Providence is the only U.S. city where the Labrador Retriever does not factor into the Top 5. Despite ranking second in 2008, the breed dropped off the list, making room for the German Shepherd in first place, along with the Yorkshire Terrier, Golden Retriever, Boxer and Poodle.
- 🐕 Unusual breeds on local top five lists include the Bull Terrier (1st in Newark), the Mastiff (4th in Des Moines), the Miniature Pinscher and Shetland Sheepdog (3rd and 5th, respectively, in Richmond) and the Chihuahua (3rd in Honolulu).

PET PREFERENCES: 1999– 2009

Some of the most notable recent trends in the past decade include:

- 🐕 The most popular pets with the biggest increase in rankings over the last decade included the Bulldog (from 21st to 7th); French Bulldog (from 73rd to 24th); Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (from 58th to 25th) and the making the largest leap the Havanese (from 92nd to 32nd).
- 🐕 Working K-9 breeds favoured by law enforcement and the military have shown modest gains as pets including the Belgian Malinois (from 95th to 81st), the Border Collie (from 71st to 52nd) Bloodhound (from 51st to 43rd), and the Doberman Pinscher which served heroically with the U.S. Military during WWII (from 23rd to 15th).
- 🐕 A trend toward easy-to-groom breeds is seen with the rise of the Mastiff (from 39th to 27th) and the Rhodesian Ridgeback (from 56th to 48th) as well as the decline of higher maintenance breeds such as the corded breeds the Komondor (from 132nd to 154th) and the Puli (from 123rd to 149th) and on the Irish Terrier (from 108th to 132nd) and Sealyham Terrier (from 138th to 157th) which require hand-stripping.

- 👉 Among rare breeds on the decline are the Curly-Coated Retriever (from 114th to 142nd), the Sussex Spaniel (from 135th to 159th) and the Irish Water Spaniel (from 130th to 150th).
- 👉 Even before the Obama family selected the Portuguese Water Dog it was on the rise in popularity ranked 80th a decade ago to 60th currently. However, it did make a jump from 64th a year ago when all the interest in this mid-sized, hypoallergenic breed began.

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Rescue Dogs Helping out in Haiti

In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Haiti on Tuesday, an unprecedented number of rescue dogs from around the globe were deployed to help. The specially trained canines were rushed to the area to sniff out survivors trapped in the rubble and locate Haitians who lost their lives.

For the present time, countries from around the world have put aside their differences and are pulling together to save the lives of the Haitians who live in the poorest nation in the Caribbean. They are sending medical aid, heavy equipment, food, water and search and rescue dogs.

Rescue dogs are desperately needed during catastrophic events. Their special training and natural abilities help emergency workers find survivors quicker than any other method. Their sensitive hearing, sharp night vision and strong sense of smell have proven to cut down on the time it takes to locate injured and trapped victims.

The Teams

The British team was the first to arrive on the island early Thursday morning. Among the group of rescue workers were 71 specialists and their dogs. The U.S. also responded quickly to help with the disaster - a 72 member team with rescue dogs was sent to the country.

Soon after the 7.0 earthquake hit, the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation issued a nationwide plea for assistance from its membership. The organization's director Debra Tosch said, "Our hearts go out to our neighbours in Haiti, and we're honoured to be able to help find survivors of this terrible tragedy as part of CA-TF2 (the code name for the task force). This is the day our teams have trained for; when the unthinkable happens, SDF Teams stand ready to respond, bringing hope and comfort to victims and their loved ones."

Many more canine search and rescue teams arrived over the next few days:

- Dutch Search and Rescue took off from Eindhoven Airport with 60 dogs and their handlers.
- A group from France boarded vans that were headed to the airport.
- China sent a chartered plane with several sniffer dogs.
- A plane left Moscow with 3 Labrador retrievers, 2 Golden retrievers and a German shepherd.
- Dozens of other rescue dogs came from Peru, Mexico and Taiwan.
- And dogs from Spain, Iceland, Canada, Germany and Venezuela have been pledged to help.

One Dog's Story

Search dog Echo was part of the Greater Manchester team which has been helping in the country after it was devastated.

Mick Dewer, who is based in Kearsley is back, but Echo has to stay in quarantine for six months. "It's really good to be back, but it's tinged with sadness as I've left behind my work partner and best friend," he said.



Search dog Echo from Greater Manchester helped in the Haiti rescue

He said Echo gave people hope that something could be done. "Echo worked really hard, but his benefit wasn't just in searching, he also brought home to the families of people we were searching for, that bit of hope that something can be done." He said the children stroked the dog which he thought would have provided some comfort to them.

While in Haiti they successfully rescued a two-year-old girl from her collapsed kindergarten school.

The Haitian Government has declared the search for survivors of the earthquake over.

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How to Teach Physics to Your Dog

In January I published an article on Best Doggie Tips entitled **New Year's Resolutions for Your Dog** (you can see it [here](#)). One of the suggestions was to exercise your dog's mind, not just his body. Which is why I was intrigued when I saw a book titled *How to Teach Physics to Your Dog*.



Not that I was suggesting you try anything quite so difficult! *How to Teach Physics to Your Dog* is by Chad Orzel, and is a "layman's" guide to quantum physics. As Orzel explains on his website:

When physics professor Chad Orzel went to the pound to adopt a dog, he never imagined Emmy: not just a friendly mutt, but a talking dog with an active interest in what her new owner did for a living and how it could work for her.

Soon Emmy was trying to use the strange ideas of quantum mechanics for the really important things in her life: chasing critters, getting treats, and going for walks. She peppered Chad with questions: could she use quantum tunnelling to get through the neighbour's fence and chase bunnies? What about quantum teleportation to catch squirrels before they climb out of reach? Where's all the universes in which Chad dropped steak on the floor? And what about the bunnies made of cheese that ought to be appearing out of nothing in the backyard?

With great humour and clarity, Chad Orzel explains to Emmy, and to human readers, just what quantum mechanics is and how it works--and why, although you can't use it to catch critters or eat steak, it's still bizarre, amazing, and important to every dog and human.

Follow along as Chad and Emmy discuss the central elements of quantum theory, from particles that behave like waves and Heisenberg's uncertainty principle to entanglement ("spooky action at a distance") and virtual particles. Along the way, they discuss the history of the theory, like the experiments that discovered that electrons are waves and particles at the same time, and Albert Einstein and Niels Bohr's decades-long debate over what quantum theory really meant (Einstein may have been smarter, but Bohr was right more often).

Don't get caught looking less informed than Emmy. *How to Teach Physics to Your Dog* will show you the universe that lies beneath everyday reality, in all its randomness, uncertainty, and wonder.

"Forget Schrödinger's Cat," says Emmy, "Quantum physics is all about dogs." And once you see quantum physics explained to a dog, you'll never see the world the same way again.

How to Teach Physics to Your Dog is a book that explains quantum mechanics in terms that even a dog can understand - in fact, the dog does some of the explaining.

Each chapter is built around a conversation between Chad Orzel, a physics professor at Union College, and his dog Emmy, the Queen of Niskayuna, in which Emmy seizes upon some aspect of quantum mechanics as a way to obtain doggy goals - using her wave nature to surround bunnies, using quantum tunnelling to pass through the fence to the neighbour's yard, using quantum teleportation to surprise squirrels in the back yard. Each conversation is followed by a more detailed explanation of the real phenomena at the heart of quantum physics (with occasional interjections from Emmy).

About the Dog: Emmy Orzel

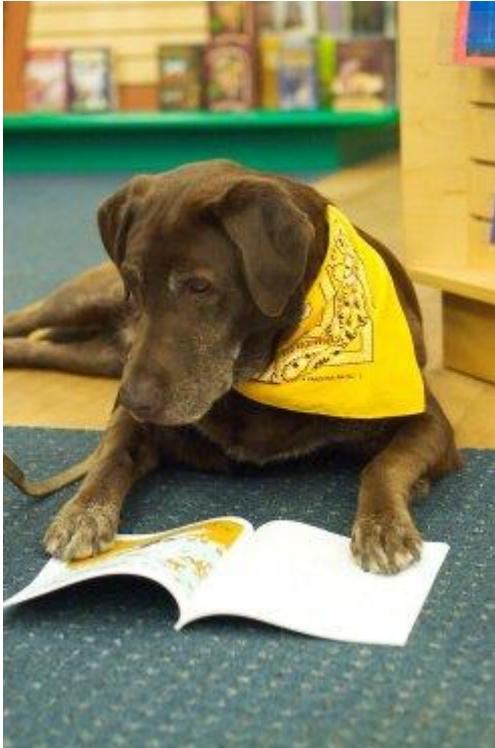
Emmy Orzel is a German Shepherd mix, born in 2002, and adopted by Chad Orzel and Kate Nepveu in August of 2003. Her original owners named her "Princess," but Chad and Kate didn't think that seemed like the right sort of name for a 50-pound mixed-breed dog, and changed it to "Emmy." Emmy, however, took the name change as a promotion, and has regarded herself as the Queen of Niskayuna ever since.

Emmy's interests include long walks, bunnies, squirrels, quantum physics, squeaky toys, and belly rubs. She lives in Niskayuna, NY with Chad, Kate, and their daughter, where she works diligently to protect the house from mail carriers, inferior dogs, and evil squirrels.



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Reading with Rover



There is an exciting program in the USA that involves kids, dogs and literacy. The program is called Reading With Rover.

Reading With Rover is a community-based literacy program volunteering in the schools, bookstores and libraries of Puget Sound area of Washington State. It is their goal to make the "Rover" program available to all schools, reading and learning facilities that would like to enhance their reading programs.

In the "Rover" program, children with reading difficulties actually read stories to a dog and the dog loves to listen! A child that may be hesitant to read aloud to his peers is typically less stressed when reading to a dog and the dog never judges the child's reading ability.

According to Reading with Rover (www.readingwithrover.org):

Why does Reading With Rover Work?

A study in 2002 by Karen Allen, PhD, a researcher at the State University of New York at Buffalo showed that the presence of dogs lowered people's blood pressure while they read aloud to a dog. According to the study, published in the September 2002 issue of the Journal of Psychosomatic Medicine, this research demonstrates "that pets can buffer reactions to acute stress as well as reduce the perception of stress." One reason Allen believes this is true is because animals are not seen as judgmental.

Past Studies Support Similar Results

Researcher Aaron Katcher notes, in his book *Between Pets and People: The Importance of Animal Companionship*, © 1996 West Lafayette, Indiana: Purdue University Press, that the presence of an animal can create a therapeutic environment if it:

- 🐾 Draws attention outward
- 🐾 Turns off anxiety, anger, depression
- 🐾 Creates safety
- 🐾 Creates intimacy
- 🐾 Increases positive expectations of both self and others

Our Own Results!

The dogs involved in the Reading With Rover program help turn the reading environment into a non-threatening place where children can read for the fun of it! There is no risk of being embarrassed when he/she mispronounces a word, reads at a slow speed or does not comprehend the exact meaning of sentences.

At Woodmoor Elementary School (just one of our current 'read' locations), the Reading With Rover program is showing great results. Kids are more excited about reading because reading to a dog is more fun. The kids range in age from 7 to 12 years old and most join the program reading below grade level or have self esteem issues and have been identified as at-risk youth. They are pre-selected by the wonderful reading staff at Woodmoor Elementary School for participation in the Reading With Rover program.

In addition to increased reading fluency, teachers have also noted:

- 🐕 Decreased absenteeism
- 🐕 Kids have improved self-confidence and self-esteem
- 🐕 Kids have a sense of pride in their accomplishments
- 🐕 Kids become involved in other school activities
- 🐕 Kids have improved hygiene
- 🐕 Kids are gentler and have more respectful interactions with animals
- 🐕 Kids find reading fun and volunteer to read aloud in class
- 🐕 Kids check out books from the library and ask the librarian about books

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Fun Stuff - My Dog Lives in this House

My dog lives in this house. You are welcome to come and visit me anytime but we have a few things that you must understand before you visit. You must expect a few dog hairs to stick to your clothes. I vacuum and clean, but my dog lives here too.

You may be leaned on and find him in your lap a few times but he does this because he loves people and wants to say Hello. So if you feel that you are too good for his love then you are not welcome here because this is his home too.

My dog is well mannered and very clean but if you are one of those people who think all animals are dirty and smell, then go away. You are not the type of person that I care to associate with. If you don't like the sound of barking, then my home is not going to be a comfortable place for you to visit.

Do not expect me to lock my dog in another room during your visit. I have trained my dog well so he will not do anything to you except maybe want a pat on the head. I will not subject him to feel as if he is being punished by locking him away for no reason. That would be cruel. When you walk into my home, be careful not trip on a stuffed toy or ball. These are my dog's treasures and I will not take them away from him just to show you that I keep a clean house. He knows where all his toys are. They may not look like much to you, but to him, they are worth more than gold.

You see, this is OUR home. We have been together since he was a small puppy scampering around the house. I raised him into a well mannered, beautifully behaved dog.

I am proud of him. I consider him my personal gift from GOD. He has done nothing but give me his endless love and devotion for many years. I love him dearly and want to make his years happy ones. As happy as he made mine.

When I was sick, he stayed right by my side, as I did his when he was not having a good day. A better friend I could not ask for.

When no one else cared, my dog did. He has given me nothing but pure joy and I love him endlessly. So please understand that I am not being rude. I'm just looking out for my best friend.

----- Author Unknown

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The Weird & the Wonderful

Dog Rescued From Ice Floe In Baltic Sea

A dog had a lucky escape when a Polish boat rescued him from an ice floe that had carried him more than 100km up a river and out onto the icy waters of the Baltic Sea.

Polish sailors found the animal on an ice-floe in the Baltic Sea, struggling to stay out of the freezing water.

When the Baltica crew found him, he had already drifted some 24 km (18 miles) out to sea.

Senior Officer Jan Joachim said: "A shape was moving and we immediately decided to get closer to check if it was a dog or maybe a seal relaxing on the ice. As we got closer to the ice we saw that it was a dog struggling not to fall into the water."

The Baltica boat's crew struggled to rescue the dog as he kept slipping from the ice and submerging in the water before fighting to climb back onto the ice again. The crew lowered a pontoon into the water at which point someone was able to reach down and pick up the dog by the scruff of his neck. The crew dried the dog, wrapped him in blankets, massaged his body, and fed him in order to aid his recovery. It's not known how he landed up on the ice.



The lucky dog has since made a full recovery. He is now a mascot dog on the ship that rescued him, and his rescuers have given him the name "Baltica".

Baby antelope spared by three cheetahs



THIS impala escaped unscathed from its encounter with three male cheetahs who simply weren't hungry.

Photographer Michel Denis-Huot, who captured these amazing pictures on safari in Kenya's Masai Mara in October last year, said he was astounded by what he saw.

'These three brothers have been living together since they left their mother at about 18 months old,' he

said.

'On the morning we saw them, they seemed not to be hungry, walking quickly but stopping sometimes to play together.

'At one point, they met a group of impala who ran away. But one youngster was not quick enough and the brothers caught it easily.'

These extraordinary scenes followed, as the cheetahs played with the young impala the way a domestic cat might play with a ball of string.

The impala eventually walked away.....



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