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March 2010 Newsletter



Dear friends,

Welcome to our March Newsletter from [www.bestdoggietips.com](http://www.bestdoggietips.com).

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We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

"If I have any beliefs about immortality, it is that certain dogs I have known will go to heaven, and very, very few persons."

- James Thurber

## Recipe - Weight On Meatballs

Our BestDoggieTips cat (Bahti) recently went missing for 5 days. When he returned he was injured, dehydrated and very, very thin. We tried this recipe to put some weight back on him fast, and he loved it!

### *Ingredients*

750g (1½ lbs) fatty raw hamburger mince

½ cup wheat germ oil or wheat germ

3 eggs

3 cups oatmeal

### *To Make*

Form into meatballs. Place on cookie sheet, put in freezer. After frozen, put in containers.

Microwave about 30 seconds per meatball, depending on size. Give 2-3 per day. Also excellent for the finicky eater.

*(Note: this recipe is from the I Love Dogs free recipe book available at BestDoggieTips.com).*

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## Tribute to Daddy



Daddy, the even-tempered pit bull known to millions of people around the world as the companion of "Dog Whisperer" Cesar Millan, died at age 16 on February 19, 2010.

Millan has set up a special In Memoriam page on his website [www.cesarsway.com/news/daddy-memorial](http://www.cesarsway.com/news/daddy-memorial).

### In Memoriam: Daddy the Pit Bull

Cesar Millan, all his family and friends, his staff and volunteers, and dog lovers all around the world today will mourn the passing of one of the most loyal, trusting, well-balanced, and influential pit bull ambassadors the world has ever known. Daddy, Cesar's longtime friend and partner in canine rehabilitation, died peacefully surrounded by family on Friday the 19th of February. He was sixteen years old.



He lived each day of those sixteen years happy and fulfilled as Cesar's right-hand-"man," helping to shape the behavior of entire generations of dogs by showing them the way to balance. He stood as champion for calm-submissive pit bulls everywhere, and was

instrumental in helping to repair their image as violent, savage, uncontrollable beasts. He successfully battled cancer and weathered chemotherapy, and even got the opportunity to present at the 56th Annual Creative Arts Emmy Awards!

His name is now added to that honorable roster of dogs gone by whose influence is still felt today, and which includes some of Cesar's beloved childhood heroes: "Rin-Tin-Tin", "Lassie", ... "Daddy".

He has been immortalized by Dog Whisperer fans in all mediums, from painting, to photographs, to charcoal drawings and papier-mâché sculpture. And, of course, he lives on in his work, reflected in the balance and calm-submission of his protégé Junior, the countless animals to whom



he was a positive role model, and in the hearts and minds of everyone who knew him as a calm, sweet, and mellow example of a widely misunderstood breed.

#### **In Loving Memory.**

*If you would like to honor Daddy's memory and the contribution he made to improve the lives of other animals, you can make a donation to **Daddy's Emergency Animal Rescue Fund**, which will provide assistance for dogs who are victims of abuse or violence, man-made disasters (hoarder and puppy mill rescues), and large-scale natural disasters (hurricanes, fires, and other natural catastrophes).*

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## Your Dog is Smarter Than You Think

Like us, our canine friends are able to form abstract concepts. Friederike Range and colleagues from the University of Vienna in Austria have shown for the first time that dogs can classify complex colour photographs and place them into categories in the same way that humans do. And the dogs successfully demonstrate their learning through the use of computer automated touch-screens, eliminating potential human influence.

In order to test whether dogs can visually categorize pictures, and transfer their knowledge to new situations, four dogs were shown landscape and dog photographs, and expected to make a selection on a computer touch-screen.



In the training phase, the dogs were shown both the landscape and dog photographs simultaneously and were rewarded with a food pellet if they selected the dog picture (positive stimulus). The dogs then took part in two tests.

In the first test, the dogs were shown completely different dog and landscape pictures. They continued to reliably select the dog photographs, demonstrating that they could transfer their knowledge gained in the

training phase to a new set of visual stimuli, even though they had never seen those particular pictures before.

In the second test, the dogs were shown new dog pictures pasted onto the landscape pictures used in the training phase, facing them with contradictory information: on the one hand, a new positive stimulus as the pictures contained dogs even though they were new dogs; on the other hand, a familiar negative stimulus in the form of the landscape.

When the dogs were faced with a choice between the new dog on the familiar landscape and a completely new landscape with no dog, they reliably selected the option with the dog. These results show that the dogs were able to form a concept i.e. 'dog', although the experiment cannot tell us whether they recognized the dog pictures as actual dogs.

The authors also draw some conclusions on the strength of their methodology: "Using touch-screen computers with dogs opens up a whole world of possibilities on how to test the cognitive abilities of dogs by basically completely controlling any influence from the owner or experimenter." They add that the method can also be used to test a range of learning strategies and has the potential to allow researchers to compare the cognitive abilities of different species using a single method.

(Source: Springer (2007, November 29). *Dogs Can Classify Complex Photos In Categories Like Humans Do*. ScienceDaily. Retrieved March 4, 2010, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/11/071128105543.htm>)

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## Computers Learn Dog-speak

Computer programs may be the most accurate tool for studying acoustic communications amongst animals, according to Csaba Molnár from Eötvös Loránd University in Hungary and his research team. Their research shows that a new piece of software is able to classify dog barks according to different situations and even identify barks from individual dogs; a task humans find challenging.

The aim of Molnár and colleagues' experiments was to test a computer algorithm's ability to identify and differentiate the acoustic features of dog barks, and classify them according to different contexts and individual dogs. The software analyzed more than 6000 barks from 14 Hungarian sheepdogs (Mudi breed) in six different situations: 'stranger', 'fight', 'walk', 'alone', 'ball' and 'play'. The barks were recorded with a tape recorder before being transferred to the computer, where they were digitalized and individual bark sounds were coded, classified and evaluated.

In the first experiment looking at classification of barks into different situations, the software correctly classified the barks in 43 percent of cases. The best recognition rates were achieved for 'fight' and 'stranger' contexts, and the poorest rate was achieved when categorizing 'play' barks. These findings suggest that the different motivational states of dogs in aggressive, friendly or submissive contexts may result in acoustically different barks.



In the second experiment looking at the recognition of individual dogs, the algorithm correctly classified the barks in 52 percent of cases. The software could reliably discriminate among individual dogs while humans can not, which suggests that there are individual differences in barks of dogs even though humans are not able to recognise them.

The authors conclude by highlighting the value of their new methodology: "The use of advanced machine learning algorithms to classify and analyze animal sounds opens new perspectives for the understanding of animal communication... The promising results obtained strongly suggest that advanced machine learning approaches deserve to be considered as a new relevant tool for ethology\*." \* Ethology: the study of animal behavior, with a focus on behavioral patterns in natural environments.

*(Source: Springer (2008, January 19). Computer Learns Dog-speak: Programs Can Classify Dog Barks Better Than Humans, Study Shows. ScienceDaily. Retrieved March 4, 2010, from [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/01/080116095531.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/01/080116095531.htm))*

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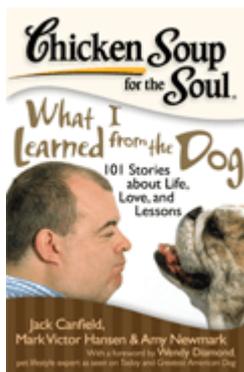
## Chicken Soup for the Soul

You've probably all heard of that book "Chicken Soup for the Soul" by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen –it sold millions of copies.

What you may not realise is that they have released 3 "Chicken Soup" titles for Dog Lovers!:

- 📖 **Chicken Soup for the Soul: What I Learned from the Dog:** 101 Stories about Life, Love and Lessons
- 📖 **Chicken Soup for the Dog Lover's Soul:** Stories of Canine Companionship, Comedy and Courage
- 📖 **Chicken Soup for the Soul: Loving Our Dogs:** Heartwarming and Humorous Stories about our Companions and Best Friends

### Chicken Soup for the Soul: What I Learned from the Dog



Dogs have always been considered companions and playmates that brighten and enrich our lives but they are also wonderful and amazing teachers. The lessons we learn from our canine friends come in all shapes and sizes, just like they do. In this book, dog lovers share what they have learned from our greatest heroes and healers. [Chicken Soup for the Soul: What I Learned from the Dog](#) will delight readers with humorous, heartwarming, and inspiring stories about lessons our canine friends and family members have taught us.

When Elizabeth Cutting reluctantly took over the care of her grandmother's Golden Retriever she had no idea the dog would change her life by teaching her how to integrate her "inner dog." But over the years, through the ups and downs of her life, that priceless dog taught her through example, showing her how to approach every day with "gusto", "live in the moment", "forget the bad, remember the good", and most important, "forgive mistakes – every one of them, every time". After Sean Sellers watched the Twin Towers fall, he says "I might have gone out of my mind if it wasn't for that dog ... she has taught me to concentrate on the rhythm of my heart and to remove the wishing, the wondering, and the worrying from my head".

From the health benefits dogs offer their owners, to the special connection we share with them, to the examples they provide for savoring life, these pets not only brighten and enrich our lives, but they are also amazing teachers. [Chicken Soup for the Soul: What I Learned from the Dog](#) is the latest addition to the bestselling collection of pet books from Chicken Soup for the Soul. These 101 true tales offer insight about life, love, and the fundamental wisdom we can learn from our dogs.

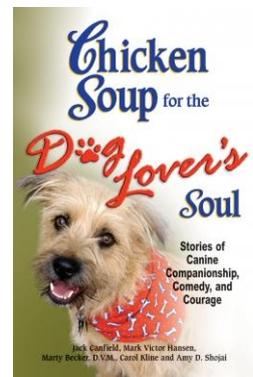
"Our dogs teach us so much about how to live our lives – sometimes we just have to stop and listen", says Amy Newmark, Chicken Soup for the Soul publisher and co-author of the book. From touching stories of dogs helping people cope with life and death, to impressive accounts of heroic

rescues, the lessons learned range in shape and size, just like the dogs. Have a need to look perfect all the time? "Pooper scooping" is the great leveler. Take a page from Nancy Berk, who says, "Ever since the dogs came into my life, my flawed self has been on display for the world, or at least the neighborhood to see. I've been half dressed, overdressed and badly dressed, all for the sake of two sets of big sad eyes".

## Chicken Soup for the Dog Lover's Soul

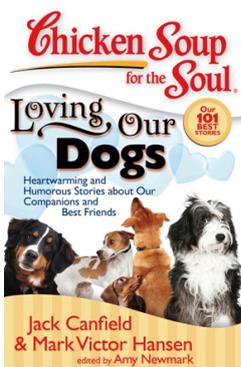
For thousands of years, dogs have been cherished as devoted companions and exuberant playmates - their unconditional love, limitless affection and unwavering loyalty never fail to melt our hearts. The stories in [Chicken Soup for the Dog Lover's Soul](#) truly capture the special joy these four-legged creatures bring to our lives and hearts.

- 📖 The family that learns the true meaning of Christmas when their Lab needs medical care during the holidays.
- 📖 The intimidating Doberman who becomes a loving mother to an orphaned duckling.
- 📖 The homeless man whose life is changed when he meets a special dog.
- 📖 The pocket-size assistance dog who dials 9-1-1.
- 📖 The crafty beagle-mix with the munchies who helps himself from the refrigerator . . . and many more unforgettable canine characters.



From exciting and entertaining accounts of courage and humor to heartwarming tales of healing and learning, each touching story in this book will inspire dog lovers to rejoice in the unique bond they share with their canine companions.

## Chicken Soup for the Soul: Loving our Dogs



Fido's food, vet check-ups and pet-sitting fees can add up to a hefty cost for many dog owners. In fact, the American Kennel Club reports U.S. households on average spend \$2500 per year on the family dog. But even in an economic recession, canine lovers spare no expense when it comes to taking care of their dogs, finding the emotional and mental health benefits that come from dog companionship still outweigh the costs.

And, according to research, investing in canine companionship is a wise choice. A recent SUNY Buffalo study shows that living with pets offers certain health benefits - lower blood pressure, reduced cholesterol levels, less anxiety and boosted immunity [source: The National Center for Infectious Diseases].

[Chicken Soup for the Soul: Loving Our Dogs](#) shares stories that illustrate how man's best friend is not only good for the body, but also good for the soul. Divided into sections ranging from "Bringing

Out the Best in Us” to “Support Dogs,” [Chicken Soup for the Soul: Loving Our Dogs](#) offers real-life accounts of heroic pups who brought their owners back from the brink. The original stories - like George Salpietro’s, a husband and father struck with blindness in midlife - inspire readers to experience the unconditional love and trust animal companions can bring into their lives.

In just one of many amazing true-life stories in this collection, Salpietro shares how a canine saved him from the dangers of living in the dark, offering honest and painful moments about his loss of control. “I put my trust in Karl and let him be my eyes...I knew we had a long way to go, but I felt reborn as trust became more important than fear”.

Inside *Loving Our Dogs*, readers will also read about:

- 📖 The harrowing tale of a decorated dog who aided the Allies in the invasion of Nazi Europe
- 📖 Widow Carren Strock’s pet who brought her back to life after her husband’s unexpected death
- 📖 Pets who have pets too: Bullet, the retired racehorse who shared his snacks with Lucy, a malnourished stray
- 📖 Bobby, the tender-hearted homeless man who gave his last \$10 so his lab found a good home

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## Fun Stuff - How To Install A Home Security System

### HOW TO INSTALL A HOME SECURITY SYSTEM

1. Go to Thrift shop and buy pair of men's used size 14-16 work boots.
2. Place them on your front porch along with a copy of Guns and Ammo.
3. Place a few giant dog dishes next to boots and magazine.
4. Leave a note on door that reads:

Bubba,

Bertha, Duke, Slim and I went for more ammo and beer. Be back real soon. Don't mess with the pit bulls - they attacked the mailman this morning and messed him up real bad. I don't think Killer took part but it was hard to tell from all the blood. Anyway, I locked all four of them in the house.

See ya soon, Cooter

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## The Weird & the Wonderful

### Dog Survives 90 metre Plunge off Cliff

A springer spaniel that chased a seagull off a 90-metre cliff and plunged into the sea survived with only minor injuries, his British rescuers say.

The spaniel, Poppy, fell off the Seven Sisters cliffs in East Sussex in south eastern England while out for a walk with her owner's sister and her partner on Feb. 14. Rescuers said there was just enough water to cushion the dog's fall.

Paul Legendre of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution search and rescue service said the pair sought help after they went to the edge of the cliff and saw Poppy swim to shore. "They heard it barking as well, bless it". He said the spaniel suffered a shock and a partially collapsed lung but looked in good shape.

Volunteer lifeboat crew member Gavin Butcher was part of the crew that rescued the spaniel from the beach underneath the cliff. "She was shivering — she was cold and nervous, but apart from that she was as good as gold".

### Family Dog Keeps 3 Year old Missing Girl Safe

Police in Arizona are crediting a family dog with saving the life of a lost little girl. Three-year-old Victoria Bensch wandered away from her family home in Cordes Lakes, Ariz. and got lost in the mountains surrounding the valley.

Search parties spent the night looking for the girl as temperatures dipped below 30 degrees (Fahrenheit). She was finally spotted 15 hours after she vanished by a helicopter pilot. Next to her was Blue, the family's Queensland heeler.

"The dog kept her alert, warm and gave her companionship throughout a very cold night," said Dwight D'Evelyn, spokesman for the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office.

Pilot Matthew Uhl and medic Eric Tarr spotted the girl and her dog in a dry creek bed and landed nearby. "She wasn't moving when we first came upon her," Uhl said. "She was kind of just looking face-down on the ground."

The dog was protective of the child when they first approached, but when the girl smiled, the dog relaxed. "I think once the dog realized we were there to help them out, he was very excited," Uhl said. "He ran around while the medic tended to the little girl, and when it was time to go, he jumped right into the helicopter and was ready to go."

She was taken to Phoenix Children's Hospital and treated for frostbite, but doctors said she was healthy despite the ordeal. "We have to give a lot of credit to Blue," the girl's aunt said. "He pretty much stayed with her all night."

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