



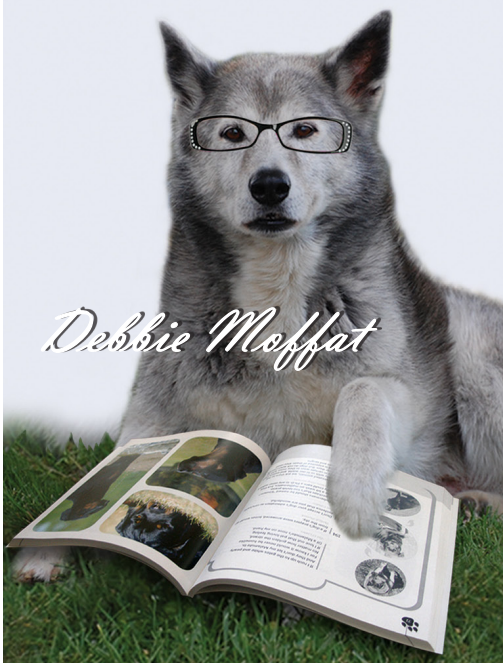
Message from the Top Dog

Welcome to the first issue of the Keshet Kennels Insider, a newsletter designed to provide you with all the inside information about the operations of Keshet Kennels and Keshet Rescue.

I welcome any feedback that will facilitate making this publication as interesting, informative and educational as possible. Send all comments to: inquiries@keshetkennels.com

If you are interested in receiving notification of new newsletters, dogs up for adoption, events and/or activities, please register with us at: <http://tinyurl.com/3n9x3l7>

Privacy Statement: <http://tinyurl.com/3f882bj>



Debbie Moffat

Keshet Kennels INSIDER

A Newsletter for Dog Loving Friends

2010 - A Year In Review

Each year brings numerous experiences and 2010 was no different. We had to say goodbye to some dear friends, we welcomed new wet noses and rehomed a few as well. As the year came to an end, we finally completed the major construction to our facilities. And we ventured into some new areas in the fields of dog training and dog care.

Keshet Kennels

2010 marked a big turning point for the Kennels. After almost 5 years of designing the property for its use, physical and bureaucratic obstacles and lots of building activity, major construction and landscaping was completed. This allowed us to open our doors to facilities rental and boarding services:

- Over the winter, the fabric (CoverAll) building was rented out to a competitive agility group.
- In October, we also took our first boarder.

As 2011 will see the official opening of Keshet Kennels we also increased the number of staff.

The renovation of the second and third floors of the barn will provide increased options for facilities rental. This will allow us to provide more directed training in a distraction free environment.

I would have to say that what made for the biggest change, and certainly the most demand on time, was our jump into the world of social media. You will find that we now have a presence on many of the popular sites: Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and YouTube.

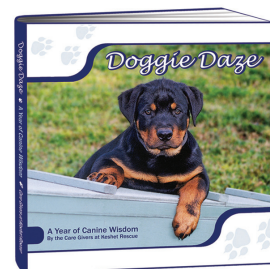
Quick links to each site can be found in the footer on every page of our website at: www.keshetkennels.com



And let's not forget about our free iPhone application which was officially launched in March of 2010:

<http://tinyurl.com/2utzane>

On the entertainment front, I have to ask... What do *Ellen DeGeneres*, *Cesar Millan* and President *Bill Clinton* have in common? Well, they were all presented with a copy of our publication *Doggie Daze*, *A Year of Canine Wisdom*.



- *Ellen* at a taping of her show in LA.
- *Cesar Millan* during his stop in Ottawa during his *Cesar Millan Live Canada Tour*.
- *President Clinton* during a photo op in Ottawa during his *Power Within* tour.

THANK YOU to all of our supporters, volunteers and staff who work so hard to ensure the welfare of all the dogs coming into our facilities.

2010 - A Year In Review (Continued)

Keshet Rescue

It is never easy to have to say goodbye, but it was particularly hard to say goodbye to 2 dogs only 3 days apart. And all this in the first week in January 2010. Had to wonder what the rest of the year would bring, but thankfully, there were no more losses for the remainder of the year.

In Memoriam:



Red
Female
Rottweiler
(13 yrs)

Passed due to complications from old age.
View Red's tribute at:
<http://tinyurl.com/3czynsd>



Storm
Male
Rottweiler
(12 yrs)

Passed due to bone cancer.
View Storm's tribute at:
<http://tinyurl.com/3d6ut4d>

New Residents:

On a positive note, we also welcomed new dogs. This is always a great feeling as it reinforces the need for operations such as ours.



Dozer

Male Rhodesian
Ridgeback Mix (2.5 yrs),
surrendered due to the
arrival of a new
baby in the home.

Bud

Great Pyrenees (4.5 yrs),
surrendered due to owner
being hospitalized with
terminal illness.
(Bud actually came to us
the first week of 2011.
More on him later.)



Tina & Xena

Female Rottweiler / Ger-
man Shepherd Xs (5 yrs),
fostered due to job loss by
both owners.

Adoption:

There was a totally happy ending when just over 4 months after Tina & Xena came to live with us, they were reunited with their original family once the owners were able to get back on their feet.

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/4jgov95> to view which dogs are currently up for adoption. Suitability profiles on the Keshet website will be available soon.

Sponsorships

We would like to welcome **Britannia Heights Veterinary Clinic** as our newest Corporate Sponsor. Their support in our efforts and the actual care they provide our residents is spectacular.



Your sponsorships specifically help us to maintain the rescue portion of our operation. Please continue your generosity by clicking on the following link:
<http://tinyurl.com/3ks7mrn>

Boutique

Please check regularly as we are continuously adding new items to the Boutique:
<http://keshetkennels.com/boutique/>

If you have any suggestions about items you would like to see, or that you think would help us generate funds to support the Kennel/Rescue, please contact us and we would be happy to consider them.

A note to supporters in the Ottawa area:

As an alternative to on-line purchases, Boutique items are also available at:

East End:

Keshet Kennels facility,
6139 Russell Road, Carlsbad Springs

West End:

Britannia Heights Veterinary Clinic,
2579 Carling Ave. (limited selection)

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Follow Keshet online
www.keshetkennels.com

Back to the Present

Keshet Kennels

We are pleased to report a steadily growing following on the various social media platforms. A year after its launch, the iPhone app alone boasts 968 users and over 17,338 usages.

The 2nd and 3rd floor training rooms in the barn have produced some great results. Dogs are being regularly trained which is not only improving the training practices of the staff, but the dogs too are developing new skills and focus. Training is going so well that staff and dogs are graduating to more advanced training, including tricks.



Nothing speaks louder in Canada for winter recreation/sport than sledding. Typically people think of northern (spitz) type dogs as the ideal sled dog. In reality, those serious about the sport use crossbreeds bred specifically for speed and endurance.

Alaskan Sled Dogs are one such type of dog (they are not a breed) and our resident Alaskan Sled Dogs are living up to their heritage. Skye currently is our star and has the qualities of a lead dog. Other sleddies in training are Dingo, Juno, Bowie and Foxy.

The pulling isn't restricted to the just the sleddies either. Dozer and Dodger are proving to also be quite the athletes. That's great because there is skijoring (pulling someone on skis) and cart pulling to consider!



Cabinetry has finally been installed in the barn kitchen. This will further increase the list of available services for facilities rental.

Keshet Rescue

At the time of writing, we have 39 residents. Casa (12 yrs), Chantal (13 yrs) and Tory (8.5 yrs) gave us some cause for worry, but thankfully all three bounced back and are doing well. (More on Chantal later.)

As previously mentioned, we also welcomed Bud into our family. Bud was originally surrendered to another rescue but lost his place with them after making some bad choices. On 3 separate occasions, always under the same circumstances, he snapped at the handler. Fortunately, he has been nothing but a sweetheart since he has been here and would make an excellent companion for an experienced dog owner.

Upcoming Events

In April we are planning a blood drive. In addition to doing our part in supporting dogs needing medical attention, this will also give us the opportunity to test our residents that have come due to be tested for heartworm.

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We are gearing up for an awareness and sponsorship weekend the first weekend in June. One of the local Loblaws SuperStores has kindly agreed to let us set up at both their entrances. To that end we have also added some new items at different price points as incentives for sponsorship.

BITS 'N BITES

- A double dewclaw on the hind leg is one of the distinguishing features of the Great Pyrenees, and a requirement in the breed standard.
- Weimaraner puppies are striped at birth.
- The tasselled coat of a mature Komondor takes as long as two days to dry.

These and more Bits 'n Bites available in the free Keshet Rescue iPhone application.

Medical Corner

When you consider the number of dogs we care for, you can appreciate the variety of health issues we encounter. Aside from the standard vaccines, heartworm prevention, spay/neuter and minor health issues, there is no escaping those that are unexpected, rather involved and/or life threatening.

Following are just some of the conditions we were challenged with within the last year:

Outbreak of Giardia

Giardia are one-cell organisms (protozoa) that live in the dogs small intestine. Dogs are infected when they drink water from sources contaminated with fecal matter in which giardia in the form of cysts reside. Once ingested, the cysts hatch and multiply, causing inflammation in the intestine. There is, however, a giardia vaccine. While it lessens the likelihood of an infestation, it does not eliminate the possibility.

The effects of giardia are influenced by the age and general health of a dog. The classic symptom of giardia is recurring

diarrhea accompanied by foul odour. There may also be other symptoms in keeping with digestive disorders and infection, such as vomiting, dehydration, weight loss and fever.

Diagnosis can be tricky. The identification of the giardia cysts in a fecal sample confirms infestation. But as the cysts are only shed intermittently, the absence of any may produce a false negative. For that reason, a true negative can only be determined by collecting several samples a few days apart from each other. Alternatively, there is an antigen test that specifically

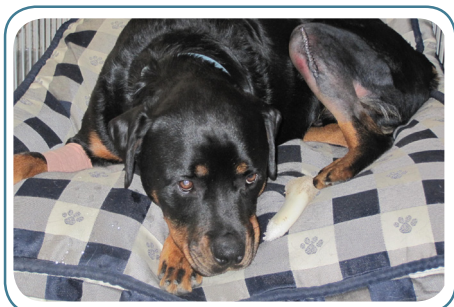
tests for the protein shed by the cysts. It is more costly, but 95% accurate. Fortunately, once diagnosed, giardia is fairly easy to treat. (False positives also occur, but we won't go there.) Due to its contagious nature, in a multi-dog household, if one dog is infected, all need to be treated.

In the Spring of 2010, a number of random tests, facilitated by Juno, confirmed an infestation of giardia. All of the residents had to be treated and during a 5 day treatment of Metronidazole, 750 pills were dispensed. Next time around - *Chihuahuas!*

“The identification of the giardia cysts in a fecal sample confirms infestation. But as the cysts are only shed intermittently, the absence of any may produce a false negative.”

Knee Surgery

There are two ligaments that criss-cross to hold the knee in place. When the one to the front, referred to as the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tears, the three bones that make up the knee joint become unstable causing them to rub against each other and ultimately degenerate.



In the event of a partially torn cruciate, restricting your dog's activities for several months may be enough to get the dog using his leg.

If the cruciate is completely torn, however, surgery is required. Left untreated:

- a partial tear, without any warning, can fully tear.
- you run the risk of the dog overcompensating for the bad knee, potentially tearing the ligaments in the other knee.
- the dog is relegated to chronic pain and the progression of arthritis is accelerated.

Although more common in large dogs, any dog can tear its ligaments. Exercise, obesity or simply slipping are all possible causes for tearing ligaments in the knee. Symptoms of a torn ACL include lameness, swelling and perpetual toe touching.

Samson underwent surgery for a fully torn ACL on his left leg in August 2010.



The reason for the injury can be attributed to his being a very active dog, and that he had spent several years overcompensating for an angular deformity in his right leg (which was previously operated on).

The surgery went smoothly. Recovery went well too, but was long. Suffice it to say that restricting the activities of a high-energy dog for several months comes with its own challenges!

Late Onset of Epilepsy Compounded with Degenerative Myelopathy

Epilepsy is a condition that affects people and dogs alike. Identified by recurrent seizures, which are attributed to abnormal neurological activity in the brain, it is categorized into 1 of 2 types: **idiopathic** when the cause of the seizures are unknown and **acquired** when the cause of the seizures can be identified. The extent of the abnormal brain activity defines the intensity of the seizure as mild (**petit mal** or focal seizure, affecting a specific part of the body) or more intense, (**grand mal** or generalized seizure, affecting the whole body).

Irregardless of the type or severity, there are distinct phases associated with a seizure, each with its own symptoms:

- **Aura**, pre-seizure phase: restlessness, licking, salivating, whining, urinating, incessant barking and wanting affection.
- **Ictus**, actual seizure: collapsing with limbs rigidly extended or going blank and staring into space, unconsciousness, teeth chattering, twitching, excessive drooling, uncoordinated muscle activity, loss of bladder/bowel control, briefly stop breathing.
- **Ictal**, post-seizure/recovery phase: lack of coordination, disorientation, excessive drinking, appearing blind and/or deaf.



“A dog generally exhibits symptoms of idiopathic epilepsy by the age of seven.”

A dog generally exhibits symptoms of idiopathic epilepsy by the age of seven. This was not to be the case with Timber. Timber was already over 10 when he experienced isolated seizures over a period of several years. But it wasn't until August 2010, at almost 13, when he started experiencing multiple seizures on a daily basis that he was definitively diagnosed with epilepsy and started on anti-convulsion drug therapy.

At around the same time Timber started to stumble a lot. The symptoms of tripping over himself, back legs crossing and dragging his feet were classic for an independent diagnosis of degenerative myelopathy (DM). DM is a spinal cord impairment where the coating around the nerves unravels and degenerates. It begins with loss of coordination in the hind legs. It is a progressive condition common in older dogs. Thankfully, on it's own, DM is not a painful condition. Nonetheless, Timber went through a very frustrating few months. Now that he has learned to cope with his deficiencies he is doing very well.

Please see your vet if you recognize any of these symptoms in your dog.

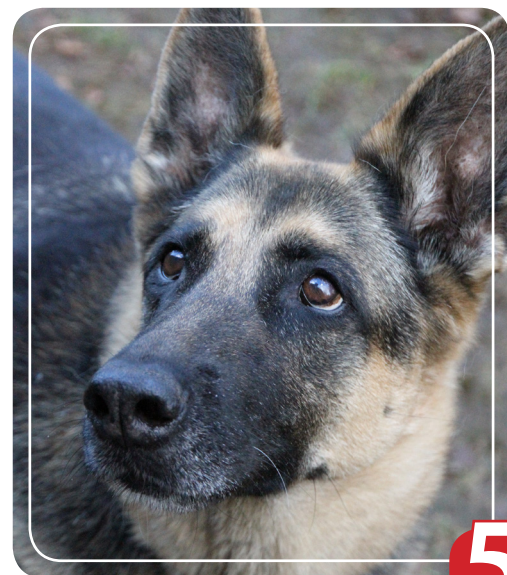
Only because the season is just around the corner... Don't forget to take all necessary precautions for heartworm prevention.

Spondylosis with Secondary Degenerative Myelopathy

Spondylosis is degenerative osteoarthritis of the spine. As with any type of arthritis, bone spurs develop in the area of inflammation causing wear and tear. As the damaged surface area increases, bridges are formed that fuse the vertebral bones together, immobilizing the spine.

Spondylosis is common in older dogs. There generally are no symptoms associated with the early stages, however, as the condition progresses likely symptoms include: back pain, lameness, muscle atrophy and neurological problems.

We have been aware of Chantal's condition for quite a while. There is no doubt that she has been slowing down, but she was doing well, especially for a 13 year old. In the last few weeks, however, her symptoms accelerated, introducing a neurological factor to her condition. The crossing of her back legs and knuckling over (symptoms similar to those exhibited by Timber) indicated a secondary condition of myelopathy (spinal cord dysfunction). The good news is that since being prescribed a daily dose of a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) she is doing remarkable well.



Test Your Knowledge #1

The theme of this puzzle is how much you know about our operation.

All answers to the clues can be found by reading our: website, social networking sites, or newsletter!

Figure out what words the clues represent. Then find the words in the grid.

Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

The solution to the puzzle can be obtained from our website.

Y	Y	R	O	T	B	U	D	G	T	D	Q
R	X	R	L	C	D	D	R	W	M	L	R
A	M	E	V	T	L	O	I	C	A	M	K
N	Y	L	I	L	U	T	N	I	L	Q	G
I	L	I	T	P	T	E	D	M	A	W	H
R	E	E	N	E	H	R	Y	T	D	O	L
E	O	W	R	A	A	O	I	K	N	R	Q
T	P	T	R	I	Y	K	N	N	S	K	T
E	A	T	G	P	A	A	T	E	D	I	B
V	T	O	G	R	T	T	M	N	K	N	C
N	H	R	L	A	C	I	D	E	M	G	L
B	Y	R	N	S	A	M	S	O	N	L	C

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1. What breed is Blue? (10)
2. What breed was Angel? (5)
3. Which dog recently had knee surgery? (6)
4. What is the name of the first resident that found a forever home? (4)
5. To which of the 7 standard dog groups do most of our residents belong? (7)
6. Following our philosophy, what type of activities are the most effective way of socializing and exercising your dog? (5)
7. On YouTube, what type of series is posted in addition to the "Chronicles" and creative videos? (7)
8. What recent infestation required all the dogs to be treated at the same time? (7)
9. What social network drives the information that keeps followers up to date with the daily activities at Keshet Kennels? (7)
10. What condition does Timber and Chantal have in common. (10)
11. Which of the Alaskan Sled dogs is showing the qualities of a lead sled dog? (4)
12. Our newest corporate sponsor provides us with what service? (10)
13. What is the name of the most recent dog welcomed in as a resident? (3)
14. For which mobile device can you download a free Keshet Rescue application? (6)
15. Which dog just had her spleen removed? (4)