



The Straight Poop

Written & Edited by Luc & Jennifer Bergeron

[Click here to receive The Straight Poop every month](#)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Latest Scoop	1
Info Feature: <i>Benefits of Exercise</i>	2
Kamper Profile: <i>Utah Manel-Jarvis</i>	3
In Other News	3
Take Me Home	4
Photo of the Month	5

[Kamp K9 Web Site](#)



The Latest Scoop

Is it Time?

Well, folks, it's been a long time coming (and probably would have come a lot sooner if not for the construction down the road 2 years ago), but we are now getting to the point with our day camp attendance numbers where we must start to think about scheduling people. Up to now it's



been a "come as you like" system, because we always had room for more. At this point, though, the ranks have swelled a great deal, and everyone seems to want to come on the same days (namely, Tuesday and Thursday), so don't be surprised if before very long we ask you if another day or two might work for you.

This is a fantastic thing! The fact that day care has gotten so busy means a level of consistency in the business which we've been hoping for. Boarding business can be spotty and seasonal, so having a stable day care clientele takes a bit of uncertainty out of things. Thank you all so much for helping us reach the next level with Kamp K9!!

April Vacation

If you need us for the week of April vacation (the 21st through the 27th), don't forget to get your reservation in ASAP! We've already got several kampers on the books for that week, and we always get lots of last-minute callers, so be sure you don't miss out!

Wild Weather

We've gotten so used to rainy conditions here that we are fully confident that if we ever needed to open a franchise in the Seattle area, we'd be all set. Wow! What a freaky winter into spring...we had a couple of closures, but mostly because of the intensity, rather than the duration, of the rain storms on those days. The more recent storms haven't been super-soakers (i.e., 4 inches of rain or more), so we've all been doing just fine through them. When the rain hits, unless you see a notice in your email inbox or a post on Facebook, you can feel free to bring your pup in for day care. The rainy weather has brought about some wild after-storm days, too...when it gets wet, people don't bring their dogs in, or walk them, and after a couple of days, the canine stored energy is through the roof. Combine this pent-up need with a whole lot of dogs going to camp on the first nice day after a stretch of bad weather, and you have a recipe for, shall we say, an interesting day. So fear not the rain, and we'll towel your dog off before you leave with them.

“The need to cover territory hasn’t been bred out of domestic dogs’ DNA.”



Jumping is one of the many kinds of exercise your dog might enjoy.



“King of the Mountain” – a favorite game at Kamp K9



The goal of exercise!

Info Feature: The Benefits of Exercise

The general reasons why Kamp K9 exists are summed up in our mission statement (see page 5), but for this article we’d like to focus on one specific reason: to give your pet(s) some exercise!!

Dogs are genetically programmed to travel throughout their territory with their pack. They look for food, check the borders to make sure there have been no incursions, look for food, deal with intruders, look for food...you get the idea. This need for going about hasn’t been bred out of domestic dogs’ DNA, so your retriever has as much need to expend his energy as a wolf in a pack in Yellowstone. The problem today is that too many people don’t give their dogs enough activity, and therefore many dog owners experience problems like excessive barking, home destruction, unruly behavior with people and/or other dogs, and other neurotic displays.

Let’s take the case of “L” (name withheld). “L” lived in an apartment complex with her dad, and while a very sweet, affectionate, and devoted dog, “L” frequently caused consternation with the neighbors because while dad went to work every day, nervous barking would ensue. They were in danger of losing their home due to this barking, which would go on for many hours of the day. Once “L” and her dad discovered day care with Kamp K9, the neighbors and landlord became much happier, and now, on days when “L” doesn’t go to day care, calmness, quiet, and improved obedience are the norm.

Now, day care is not the only solution, particularly if your dog isn’t social, or has certain physical limitations. Also, not every dog needs (or can stand) a very intense level of exercise. Some dogs are just fine being walked once or twice a day, while others need to play fetch with tennis balls for 10 hours without a break (and we do have a couple of those here!). There is also a specific style of walking that Luc can show you if you’d like; it not only exercises the body, but works on the mind as well, and helps strengthen the bond between you both, and reinforces you as leader.

Cats need activity, too! Interactive play is not generally thought of as something that’s needed for a cat, but boy, doesn’t it help them stay happy, and again, playing with your cat not only gives them some exercise, but helps you bond with them. When we have feline boarders here, we make sure that we spend time playing with them, so that they don’t get bored, they have their need for human interaction fulfilled, and they grow to trust us (when they’re new clients) a lot faster.

Remember: an active pet is a happy pet – which makes for happy owners and families! All of us at Kamp K9 are very happy to help with this.

We also help cats stay sharp while they’re here!



Full speed ahead!



Kamper Profile: Utah Manel-Jarvis



This month's Kamper has got to have the longest name we've encountered: Utah Four Pup Pup Double Rainbow Manel-Jarvis. The story of his naming is a tale unto itself. It begins with Dana Manel quitting her job and spending the summer hiking around the US, and thinking it was time for a dog. In the Southwest Navajo & Hopi country, in Utah, the locals told her to look around because often there were dogs available for adoption. One day she pulled into a reservation tourist stop called The Four Corners, and as she was looking around at the jewelry and food, a friend told her that she has to come see a stray dog. She went over and saw this scrawny little guy sitting down with his leg off to the side, tongue out, panting and begging for food. They whistled and clapped to him, and he followed them to their truck. They had her friend's dog with them, so they set him up with his water bowl and food. The stray ate and sat under the truck in the shade, with no particular place to go. It was decided that Dana would take this little guy with her. At first she called him "Four" for the Four Corners, but that didn't seem right. She tried out "Pup Pup," which a young girl at Four Corners who had wanted to take him home called him, but then when they pulled out of the Four Corners, a beautiful double rainbow appeared over their road...and Dana couldn't let that go un-remembered. In the end he got all four names; and as in Native American culture, his name tells a story.

"As in Native American culture, his name tells a story."

According to Dana, Utah has come a long way since then, both physically and emotionally. She guesses he was around six months old when she found him, and he was not very well. He had no idea how to handle cars, leashes, or even the inside of houses. She feels that it was good for him that she spent much of the next several months outside camping and hiking, calling it "the perfect way to bond with an animal." First baths were a challenge, and walks on a leash were dicey, with him diving into the bushes whenever a car came by. He barely ever relaxed, and would always run wherever they went until he was too tired to run anymore. He struggled once in an urban setting, so Dana took to walking him after midnight when the streets were quieter. Over time they bonded, and he learned to trust her and adapt to life outside of the reservation.

Eight years later, a move to Maine, and a marriage for mom, he lives happily in Maine, is a regular at Higgins Beach, can ride in all cars (with or without roofs), and is not afraid to come indoors or take a bath! He has a family with a mom, dad, and 15-month-old girl, plus a cat (but don't tell his dog friends that part!). According to Dana, "He's a real dog's dog, so he loves hanging with Luc at Kamp K9. It's nice to know that there's a place that really gets him, and lets him be himself."

We can happily return the sentiment, as we love having Utah around. He's a sweet boy who seems to appreciate everything he has, and who's simply happy to be around!



In Other News

Maine Cocker Spaniel Rescue is having a raffle; all proceeds go toward defraying the medical expenses of rescued Cocker Spaniels who have not yet found their forever homes. The prize is a magnificent hand-made quilt; here are some details from the Maine Cocker Spaniel Rescue web site:

The Lewiston/Auburn group of the Southern Maine Chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America crafted and lovingly stitched the quilt for MSCR to raffle in 2010. The quilt is done in the "redwork" style, though it is not in the traditional red as the group felt that blue was a better choice. The cockers are line drawings by Denise Pratt from actual dogs she knows, and are painstakingly stitched in stem stitch with floss. There is a label on the back of the quilt that every single person that worked on it signed. The quilt measures 4'-8" x 5'-9".

The raffle will be going through November, and Kamp K9 has tickets available for printing and mailing in with your donation. They're \$1 for one, or \$10 for a dozen.

www.mainecockerrescue.org/quiltraffle.html



Take Me Home

Welcome to the newest feature in *The Straight Poop*! We felt that it would be a good idea to feature pets who are in need of a loving forever home, particularly since we here at Kamp K9 often hear about animals displaced by the misfortunes of so many people and families in these times. If you know a pet who needs a new home, and who doesn't have the benefit of much publicity, let us know, and if we can help, we will by featuring them here. Information given here is preliminary only and comes from rescue organizations; contact them for more information.

From June Hill of Maine Cocker Spaniel Rescue:

This is Charlie, who is in need of a foster or permanent home. He's currently at a shelter. He was a stray, extremely matted, with a massive ear infection. He was taken to a vet and sedated so they could flush his ears and shave him down. The shelter staff is treating his ears, and due to the pain they do have to muzzle him. His ears are improving, though, and he is accepting the treatment much better now. He is about 3-5 yrs old, and it's obvious that no one has spent a lot of time interacting or playing with him. He's showing interest in toys now that his ears are feeling better. He's a very sweet boy who could benefit from obedience classes and some love. He does not have a mean bone in his body. If you or someone you know might be interested in fostering this wonderful boy, or better yet adopting him, please contact me at jhill@sacoriver.net or Kim Tees at jtees1@maine.rr.com We need to move him out of the shelter and show him how life should be! He is up to date on vaccinations and will be neutered shortly.



What a beauty! This little girl, Snowball, is one of the many cats available from the Animal Refuge League in Westbrook. There's not much information at all on her Petfinder.com web page, but she's here this month because she's an older girl, and as such, will have a harder time finding a forever home. Puppies and kittens almost ALWAYS get homes...older animals don't, which is absolutely tragic, because they have so much love to give us, and they just need a place and a human (or 2 or 3) to call their own, and for the most part they're so much easier to deal with when they're older!

The older ones really need the help finding homes, so we try to give them priority on this page.

For contact information, go to her Petfinder web page at:

www.petfinder.com/petdetail/15760731?recno=0

Kamp K9
30 County Rd/Rte 22
Scarborough ME
04074

*Where all your
pets are treated
like family!*

Phone
207-839-WOOF
(207-839-9663)

E-mail
kounsellor@maine.rr.com



On the Web at
www.mykampk9.com



Kamp K9's Mission:

To provide pets with a safe, fun, comfortable and active haven for boarding, day care, & grooming, with the comforts of home, and without the stress of confinement.

Photo of the Month



"Had I known this place had no hot water for bathing, I never would have signed the lease. Ugh. I'm calling my attorney."

Random Thought

Happiness is not something ready-made. It comes from your own actions.

-Dalai Lama.

That's all for now.

Thanks again as always for your support!