



The Straight Poop

Written & Edited by Luc & Jennifer Bergeron

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The Latest Scoop

Exciting News!

For those of you who haven't heard yet, Mary Larsen, who has been helping out here on an informal part-time basis for a while, has now joined on as a full-time member of our staff! Most of you know her by now, and we've been very glad to have her around. She's a big help and she absolutely LOVES all of her four-legged pals

here! For those of you who didn't know, she's an experienced dog care worker, having spent close to a year working at Happy Tails in Portland. Not only does she love YOUR babies, but they love her, too! Mary will be here Monday through Friday.



More Good News!

Grooming has always been a part of what we do here, although it has had to be on a somewhat limited basis, as our focus has been the care of our day kamper and boarders. This year, the phone has been ringing more than ever for grooming services, so we decided that it was time to find a dedicated groomer to work out of our facility. We found that person in Sue Cottle, a graduate of the A+ Grooming School in New Gloucester.

With Sue, we'll be able to widen the range of available times, and we'll be better able to handle the frequent grooming requests we get for our boarding clients. (We would also very much like to thank all of you who have been patient with us to this point on matters of grooming.) This is really exciting for us, because we'll truly be able to operate as a full-service facility

With this change has also come a change in our grooming price structure. You can access our price list by visiting our web site and going to our "Grooming" page, located at www.mykampk9.com/groom/html.

At this point, Sue is available Tuesday through Thursday, from the morning through middle afternoon, and she's also available on Saturdays. (If you have a grooming need and can't find a time when Sue is available, Luc can still accommodate you.)

Labor Day Weekend

If you're planning on heading out of town for Labor Day weekend and will need our roof over your dog's head, by all means let us know! Jen and Luc will be away for a little bit of VERY much needed time off, from Wednesday morning (the 1st) and returning late afternoon on the 4th. Mary is going to be here running Kamp K9 and looking after things here, so there'll be no interruption in operations.



The "Smile of the Month" award goes to Lola!



Gracie & Brady-CAUGHT!

“The DHLPP vaccination is a requirement here at Kamp K9, but how many of us really know what those letters stand for?”

Info Feature: The DHLPP Vaccination

You go to your vet at least once a year for your dog (at the very least, you SHOULD...), and while there, your dog gets an annual shot which guards against a few different diseases. You'll see it on your paperwork from the vet's office as a DHLPP vaccination. (Some vets prefer to use a separate vaccination against Leptospirosis; see below. In this case you'll see the multi-shot listed as Da2PV.) This annual vaccination is a requirement of attendance here at Kamp K9, and most of us know we ought to get them done anyway, but how many of us really know what those letters stand for?

D: The letter "D" in DHLPP stands for distemper, which is a highly contagious viral disease that can affect multiple organs including the brain, skin, eyes, intestinal and respiratory tracts of dogs. It can be transmitted through the bodily fluids of infected animals, including respiratory secretions. Due to its airborne nature, the virus can quickly infect dog populations in kennels or breeding facilities. The widespread use of the vaccine has contributed to a significant decline in the incidence of distemper infection throughout the United States. (There's some more information about distemper and its effects in a profile we did on a Kamper pal of ours named Toby Devine in the September 2008 issue of *The Straight Poop*; see our "Archives" page.)

H: Infectious Canine Hepatitis, or Canine Adenovirus Type 1, is primarily a disease of the liver transmitted through the bodily fluids of infected animals. The corneas of infected animals may appear cloudy or bluish, leading to the expression "hepatitis blue-eye" used to describe the unfortunate dog. Although there is no treatment for an infected dog, the disease can be prevented through routine DHLPP vaccinations.

L: Leptospirosis is a disease with numerous strains affecting a variety of species, including humans. The vaccine commonly administered as part of a dog's DHLPP shot inoculates against the Canicola and Icterohaemorrhagiae varieties, but other strains may still affect the dog. The bacteria enters the animal through the mucus membranes or open wounds, most commonly after drinking contaminated standing water, and can result in high fever, vomiting and dehydration. (Unfortunately, some dogs can have a severe allergic reaction to this component of the DHLPP vaccine. For this reason, and because not everyone lives around sources of standing water, many vets will not automatically include this component.)

P: Parvovirus is a common and often deadly disease of the gastrointestinal tract seen most frequently in unvaccinated puppies. The highly contagious virus is spread through contaminated stool, or through contact with an environment in which the virus is present. Symptoms include loss of appetite, lethargy, vomiting and severe, malodorous diarrhea. The DHLPP vaccination is the most effective way to prevent the occurrence of parvovirus infection in dogs.

P: Canine Parainfluenza represents the final "P" in DHLPP, and is the least serious of the diseases against which it protects. It is a highly contagious viral disease that irritates the respiratory tracts of infected dogs, causing dry, unproductive coughing. Its symptoms resemble those of Bordetella, commonly known as kennel cough (also a vaccine requirement at Kamp K9), and can be easily spread between animals.

While not 100% effective (no vaccine is), this multi-shot has been proven to be the most effective way to prevent sickness and the spread of these diseases.



Kamper Profile: CoCo Caron

Meet CoCo, a 2-year-old 1st generation Cockapoo. (His parents were from Missouri; his sire a Poodle, and his dam a Cocker Spaniel.) CoCo lives in Hollis with his “people parents” Dennis and Luanne Caron. He enjoys life in the “country,” has been around other dogs all his life, and is very energetic. He spends a lot of time with his “cousin,” an Old English Bulldog, Lacey, only a day apart in age from him.

CoCo enjoys looking out the window at the bird feeders and gets quite upset when he sees the squirrels eating the bird food. He can sit for hours watching the wild turkeys on their daily rounds to the bird feeders, resting his chin on the window sill, which is perfectly suited to his height. He enjoys walks in the woods, and can't get enough of the different smells. CoCo is not much for the beach and doesn't like to get his paws wet; he'll avoid the tide and any wet sand. However, he DOES very much enjoy playing and running with all his pals in day care. He also loves car rides, and gets really excited to “go on adventures.” He always sits tall in the middle of the back seat, watching the road and knowing exactly when to lean into the curves. At stop lights he'll stick his head out the window and check out the neighboring cars, and loves drive-thru windows, as many of them mean a potential treat or pat on the head.

He also has a few tricks he enjoys doing, especially balancing treats on his nose. On command, he'll flip the treat off his nose and catch it in one motion. When he's tired and doesn't want to play anymore, he'll slowly knock the item off his nose with his paw. He will also roll over for a treat, and of course sit, stay, lie down and touch his parents' hands with his nose on hand signal commands. During his walks he knows when he's nearing home, and will take his leash in his mouth and walk himself the rest of the way home. His favorite thing is his toy stuffed lobster. He has a difficult time going to sleep without it, and will whimper when he can't find it, so a family-wide hunt for it will ensue. His parents know when he's ready to go to bed at night, because he'll bring his lobster from his sleeping crate to the couch and lay down observing them; if they continue to do what they're doing, he lets them know by giving out a sharp bark.

CoCo's parents see his energy to learn and his willingness to serve. He can sense when someone is in pain and makes a point to comfort that person. That was exemplified when Luanne had surgery and was confined to a recliner, and also when Mary at Kamp K9 got hurt from getting knocked over by a big dog. He would sit and just be there, if he was needed. We're so glad to have him around!!

Special thanks to Dennis for the biographical information!

In Other News

One of the additional requirements for attendance here at Kamp K9, aside from being of good temperament, spayed/neutered and on current vaccinations, is that your dog or cat be on a flea/tick preventative. Most people assume that we mean Frontline, or some such equivalent like K-9 Advantix. While those products are certainly acceptable, they are NOT the only form of preventative we find acceptable.

There are a number of products out there which use natural ingredients, which is good news for people who are concerned about using toxic chemicals on their pets (especially if the family has small children in frequent contact with the pet). There are natural topical treatments, like “Natural Defense” by Sentry, which are effective (but strong-smelling at first), but we've been made aware of a product called “Earth Animal,” which is a powder that you add to your pet's food. (Adding water turns it into yummy-smelling gravy!) One of our customers reports great success with it, even this year, which was an abundant year for parasites. It's said to be effective against fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, and black flies – all the Maine villains!

We plan on doing some more research and testing on our own animals here (Junior Kounselors Snoopy & Gracie), and we'll keep you posted on what we find for effectiveness and cost-efficiency compared to the chemical topical products. Stay tuned...



“CoCo can sense when someone is in pain, and makes a point of comforting that person.”



CoCo, King of the Mountain!

Take Me Home

We feel that it's 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 owners or rescue organizations; contact them for more information.

From the files of Canine Commitment in Gorham: Hilda is almost six years old, and what a wonderful dog! She just loves everyone. She is very calm and laid-back. She has such a nice temperament; she's just a joy to be around. She is fine with other dogs, has no problem with cats and would be a great companion for children. Hilda comes from a shelter in Tennessee and is currently being fostered there. She'll be arriving on Labor Day weekend. Please contact Anne at aff0403@msn.com if you are interested in finding out more about her.

Hilda is up-to-date with routine shots, house trained, and has been spayed.

Her Petfinder.com page can be viewed at: www.petfinder.com/petdetail/17185872



To the left is Monique, available for adoption through the Animal Refuge League. She's a gorgeous Tortoise-shell kitty with a really piercing look, like she's familiar with what B.S. looks like, and doesn't suffer fools gladly.

Monique is listed as a "senior" cat, and you know what kind of soft spot we have for senior animals! Again, there's not much information to go on, because the A.R.L. has SO many animals, particularly cats, that it's a nearly impossible task to maintain detailed descriptions on all the Petfinder.com pages. However, if you contact the ARL at gdunnigan@arlqg.org, you'll be able to get the skinny on her, including her personality information and her history.

Her page on Petfinder.com is at:

www.petfinder.com/petdetail/16483612

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.

Kamp K9
30 County Rd/Rte 22
Scarborough ME
04074

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pets are treated
like family!*

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

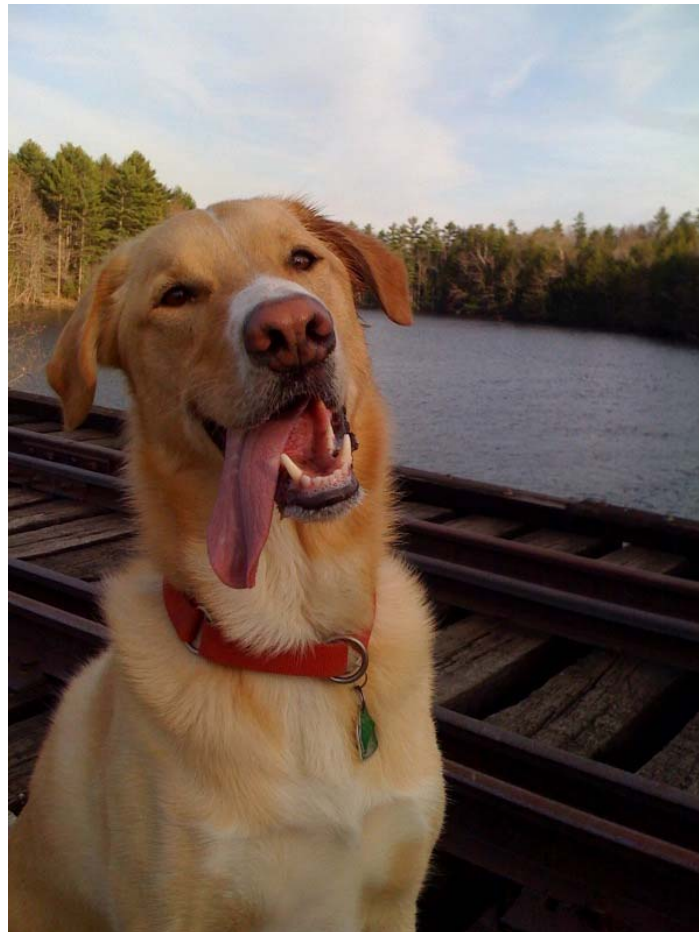
E-mail
kounsellor@maine.rr.com



On the Web at
www.mykampk9.com



Photo of the Month



Brady Cohen speaking volumes of his happiness on the trail with his grin and his tongue.

Random Thought

"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened." – Anatole France

**That's all for now.
Thanks again as always for your support!**

Photo Credits

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Hilda and Monique photos from their Petfinder.com pages
Brady Cohen (photo of month) by Shawn Cohen