

Grey Ghost Weimaraners

December 2010 Newsletter

Hi Everyone! Its been awhile since I gathered together all the Greyghost news so I thought that I'd bring you up to date on what's new...

Highlights: We'll go oldest to youngest in the house...

Christie (Brighty X Birko) turned 12 in November (can you believe it?). Still crazy for agility and hunting but she went deaf last winter and suffered a bit of a cruciate injury. I spent last winter getting her sound, then we spent the spring learning to run agility again. Ran in the BC Regionals and Canadian Nationals (at Spruce Meadows) in 2010. Did OK though its pretty tough to do Gamblers with a deaf dog. Christie continues to run agility because she loves it - especially Steeplechase where she can run flat out. She finished her Silver Lifetime Achievement award a week before she turned 12.



Sunshine (Christie X Rory) also has a bit of a chronic injury after sliding off the dogwalk at an agility trial. She still loves to play obedience and rally though. Finished her CDX obedience title and was 5th place in Top Obedience Weims in Canada in 2009. She also competed in CKC Rally Obedience and got a perfect score her first time out. She's a really sweet dog.

Keeper (Christie X Cruz) had a litter in 2009 with Enzo and was spayed later that year. She now gets to play at agility and lead the pack when chasing rabbits. She also competed at the 2010 BC Agility Regionals in the tough 26" regular division and qualified for the Nationals. Keeper still has to learn to Gamble better and relax at trials. She's a softy.

Keeper and Enzo



Enzo (US Longhair) has become Lead Guard Dog with his favourite place on the deck surveying his kingdom. He competed in CKC Rally at the end of 2009 earning his Novice title. He's also a big softy who gets stressed at events. He'd rather just stay home and guard Doug.

Jake (Sunshine X Enzo) had an eventful year. Last fall he broke his toe badly (ran into Doug) and spent 12 weeks in a splint! Or should I say, 12 weeks breaking splints! They're just not made for big, active dogs. He spent the winter learning Rally moves and rehabbing his foot. He was sound by summer and we spent a lot of time teaching him how to collect his big stride when jumping. He loves agility and loves the new, larger weavepole spacing. He finds the turns in agility courses a challenge but he loves the big open running courses.



← **Jake, Jazz and Keeper**

Jazz (Zoe X Cooper) is the latest puppy to join the household born in April 2010. Her mom Zoe is Keeper's sister. She's got both of her parent's sunny temperaments and has inherited Christie's drive. She spent the summer learning how to do some of the agility equipment and is spending the winter learning obedience and rally. Her and Jake love to play together.

Highlights from our Extended Doggy Family...

Zoe (Christie X Cruz)— is now a Registered Therapy Dog
Cooper (Smokycity Longhair) - finished his CARO Rally Novice title
Chevy (Sunshine X Enzo LH) – finished his CKC Rally Novice Title
Faust (Sunshine X Enzo LH)— now in training for Search and Rescue
Porsche (Smokycity LH) – living in Vancouver getting her "Princess" title ☺
Rogue (Nova X Cooper) – got 1 point towards her conformation championship
Meredith (Nova X Cooper LH)— finished her CKC conformation championship!

Greyghost in PRINT!



After getting on the cover (Jake) and an article on Longhairs in the CKC magazine I didn't think we'd get in another magazine but we did! **Dogs in Canada** was looking for puppy pics for an article and we just happened to have some puppies about the right age. Robbie's dog Nova had puppies from Cooper in January 2010 and were 6 weeks old when they asked for pics. We spent an afternoon posing puppies with a photographer (Philomena Hughes) hired by the magazine. The pics turned out great with 1 puppy getting a centerfold (Jack) as well as a group shot with me for the front of the article.

I also co-wrote an article on the Weimaraner breed standard for **Canine Review**. A number of pics of Greyghost dogs went in that.

2010 Puppies!

Nova (Christie X Cruz) had a litter with Cooper in January 2010. 6 puppies – 3 longhairs, 3 shorthairs. Robbie (Nova's owner) kept a shorthaired girl and named her Rogue (Greyghost's Rogue Wave). The longhair female puppy went out to Manitoba to Minalt Weimaraners. Meridith (Greyghost's Fuzzy Escape to Minalt) finished her Canadian Championship her first weekend out. She lives in Brandon.

Zoe (Christie X Cruz 2) had a litter with Cooper in April 2010. Her 4 puppies have stayed in BC with 2 in PG (Ozzy and Jazz), one in Quesnel (Jazper green) and one in Port Moody (Jazper Blue).



2011 Puppy Plans

-We liked the puppies from the Zoe X Cooper litter so much that we've decided to do it again! We're expecting longhairs and shorthairs in the litter. Spring puppies. Spread the word.

2011 Dog Event Plans – Join us at...

Joy and Vaughn dog training workshop in PG, March 30/April 1. Excellent dog training workshop for all levels. Let me know if you're interested. Profits go to dog rescue.

2011 Weimaraner Canadian National Specialty will be held in July in the Vancouver area.

Conformation as well as obedience and Rally Obedience. The judge knows longhairs so we're hoping for good results.



Clear Sailing Dog Sports Agility Trial and Rescue Fundraiser. Held July 10/11 in Quesnel. This is an annual agility trial that also raises funds for purebred rescue. We have a huge raffle table. If you'd like to come and help or watch or donate to the raffle table, let me know.



Dog books...

-One Jump, Two Jump. DVD and workbook. I bought this to help improve Jake's jumping. Its great if you're doing training at home. All you need is 2 jumps.

Book Review:- Fight! A practical guide to the treatment of dog-dog aggression

By Jean Donaldson

Anybody who has had dogs has, at one time or another, had to deal with dog fights. Its scary and distressing for everyone involved including the dogs. Advice on dealing with dogs that get in fights varies greatly. This book has a refreshing approach. First, it discusses how common, and in fact natural, dog fights are. It discusses how our attitudes and expectations of dog behavior have changed over time and has led us to believe that our dogs should never have a disagreement their entire lifetime. This, of course, is unrealistic. The book makes you purely look at the fight incidents and their context before broadly categorizing dogs that fight. It then lays out a plan to re-train the dog how to act as a better citizen.

I found this book very helpful in number of ways. It was helpful to learn that some dogs just need some help to learn how to play better – they tend to play hard and go "over the top" getting themselves in trouble. It was also helpful to learn that there are dogs that are not able to be re-trained or that it may take a long, long time and that in the meantime they must be managed to keep everyone safe.

The big thing learned from this book is that dogs NEED play and need to continue to have the opportunity to play with a variety of dogs throughout their life. We sometimes forget that and quit with puppy parties after puppy has reached 6 months. That's a shame.

I would recommend this book for any dog person to read whether they have a dog with "issues" or not. It makes you really watch what your dogs are doing when playing and gives you the tools to help dogs learn to play properly so that they don't develop bad play habits that can escalate.

A small book with big impact. Highly recommended. Available at www.dogwise.com

Dog Beds and Dog Jackets... the on-going quest...

I haven't found the perfect dog bed design/material but I'm getting close. I've come to the conclusion that eventually dogs will destroy their beds. It might last a year, it might last a week but at some point they get pissed off and tear it up. So, I rarely buy pre-made dog beds. I've found that good quality upholstery material makes really good, tough, dog beds. I found a source for Lazy Boy fabric (FabricLand in Courtenay) where I buy it on sale when I'm visiting my mom. I sew it into a rectangle with a zipper at one end. Stuff it with old pillows or foam mattress topper and PRESTO – excellent dog bed for a reasonable price.

Looks like Costco is going to get their memory foam dog beds back in. Check on the price, it might be worth it just for the foam. Also check out your local foam place – they often have ends that they can't sell for other projects.



Always working on the best design for dog jackets. Polarfleece is still king. I've lined some of the jackets with tshirt material to cut down the static problem in our dry climate up North. Christie's Extreme Jacket is lined with quilted material. She's not a real fan of going out in the cold. I've made some jackets for a wide variety of breeds this year including a Great Dane, a Bug (Beagle X Boston Terrier), a Shitzu, a Bull Mastiff and of course Weims. I even made one for Jake since he has a bald spot on the bottom of his chest – its actually a half-jacket just to protect his chest. I like my design because the dogs can freely run in them and they cover their full chest and front legs. I can really only make jackets with back legs if I have the dog handy to fit. There's a few pics on the website if you haven't seen them.

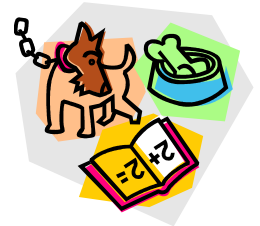
Favourite Dog Toy...



OK, maybe two... The one that I use the most is the ChuckIt Trainer Tennis and Baseball. These are kinda balls on a rope except the ball is solid rubber and the rope is woven mesh that goes through the ball and has a soft handle. Great for tugging and tossing and, important for me, the ball fits into the tennis ball holder on my belt. That way I can go hands free when training and grab the toy from the clip on my belt when I need it. Extremely durable. The other toy that the dogs like is the Flying Squirrel. A cloth frisbie toy that is also suitable for tugging.

Time to train?

I'm sure that some people wonder how I have time to train all our dogs. I'm lucky. Doug takes them for a run during the day and I train them in the evening after work. It doesn't take that much time – 1 hr to train 6 dogs. That's right. 1 hr. Now that its winter I lock them all behind a baby gate in the living room and train them 1 at a time in the kitchen. I work on rally moves, retrieving and stays. I'm also training Jake and Sunshine to do obedience scent articles – a good winter project. Once I'm done I let them all into the kitchen and we practice group stays in preparation for group photos (what the heck!).



Thanks to everyone who keeps in touch and sends photos. We love to see them.

Denise & Doug
&
The Greyghost Gang...