

**GARDEN STATE SIBERIAN HUSKY CLUB NEWSLETTER**

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- Deadline for submission of articles, howls, etc. for the next issue is December 15, 2008.
- Next issue of the **GSSHC Newsletter** will be at your local newsstand or mailbox on or about December 20, 2008.
- Club web site: <http://www.gsshc.com>
- Club central email: [gsshc@gsshc.com](mailto:gsshc@gsshc.com)

Subscription included with Club membership. Non-member subscriptions are \$10.00 per year.

It is the policy of this Newsletter to publish the contributions of Club members. The views expressed, however, are not necessarily those of the editor and staff or of the GSSHC. Contributions are encouraged. Please do not submit copyrighted information without the permission of the copyright owner. Other Siberian Husky Newsletters to which we directly mail may use articles submitted here as long as the same privilege is extended to our Club.



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| <p><b><u>President Emeritus</u></b><br/>Irwin Linker<br/>908-213-6957<br/>link@siberlink.net</p>                          | <p><br/><b>9-11-2001</b></p> |

### President's Message

A lot has happened since the last newsletter. First of all we had our match show. It was kind of last minute planning but the site was beautiful, the weather great and there was a great deal of Siberian related events going on. Tails of the Tundra Rescue had many very nice vendors present and it made for a very nice day. I hope that if we get welcomed back next year we have more time to plan and get more support from our members.

Our specialty show with Ramapoo Kennel Club was another beautiful, warm sunny day and we did have a nice turn out. Cindy and Jon had a nice gathering after the show which I am sure was enjoyed by all that attended.

The Marions have very geberously invited us to have our holiday party at their house after the Saturday dog show in Allentown on December 13th. This is always a very nice event but last year so few members could attend that it was canceled. We are asking that you let Mike & Maggie know if you will be able to attend by November 22 so that they can purchase the food and prepare for the party. I am hoping that we can make it this year.

I am sure that a number of us are preparing for the National. It should be a real nice time and I hope to see many of you there!

Lynne

### 2008 Activities Calendar

The currently scheduled events on the 2008 GSSHC calendar.

| DATE                    | EVENT                    | LOCATION                               |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| October 17              | General Meeting (8:00pm) | TBD                                    |
| October 27 – November 1 | SHCA National Specialty  | Eisenhower Inn<br>Gettysburg, PA       |
| December                | Annual Christmas Party   | At the Home of Mike & Maggie<br>Marion |

### Chocolate Chart

From the Internet

The National Geographic web site has an interactive chart showing the effects of chocolate on different sized dogs. It is compared by type of chocolate. You use the scroll bar to select the dog's weight to see the amount of chocolate to get the adverse effects. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/3eejhe> and check it out.

### Part-Time Dog

From Michelle O'Brien.

An older, tired-looking dog wandered into my yard; I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home and was well taken care of.

He calmly came over to me, I gave him a few pats on his head; he then followed me into my house, slowly walked down the hall, curled up in the corner and fell asleep.

An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out.

The next day he was back, greeted me in my yard, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall and again slept for

about an hour. This continued off and on for several weeks.

Curious I pinned a note to his collar: 'I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful sweet dog is and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap.'

The next day he arrived for his nap, with a different note pinned to his collar: 'He lives in a home with 6 children, 2 under the age of 3 - he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?'

### Achievements, Howls, & Brags



#### Mike & Mary Spatz:

Siberlink's Crystal Glow: **1<sup>st</sup> in Open Bitch** at Pocono Mtn. KC on Sep. 12.

#### Mike & Maggie Marion:

Marionhill's Rock N Rollin: **RWD** at Pocono Mtn. KC on Sep. 11 & Sep. 12.

Marionhill's Rollin Easy: **RWD** at Somerset Hills KC on Sep. 6.

#### Laura Anderson:

RedRiver's Stryke Force CD, RN: **RWD** at GSSHC Specialty on Oct. 12.

#### Lynne Kerstetter:

Rockland's Just Chillin At Kunu: **WB, BOW, BOS** for 1 pt. at Lehigh Valley KC on Sep. 13.

Kunu's Sam I Am: **WD** for 4 pt. major for his Championship at GSSHC Specialty on Oct. 12.

**Congratulations!!!!!!!!!!!!**

#### Michele Szczepanski:

Rockland's Just A Doll: **RWB** at GSSHC Specialty on Oct. 12.

#### Irwin & Lois Linker:

Am. Can. CH. Marionhill Chairman Of the Bd UD, RAE, MX, MXJ, AXP, MJP, NFP, CGC, TDI, Can. CD: **qualified to earn his Novice FAST (NF) title** at the Delaware Valley GSDC agility trial on Sep. 21; **Best Veteran In Sweeps** at the GSSHC Specialty on Oct. 12. **Congratulations!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Siberlink's Chairman's Choice: **RWD** at Newton KC on Aug. 29, at Sussex Hills KC on Aug. 31 & at Schooley's Mountain KC on Sep. 1; **WD, BOW** for 1 pt. at Tuxedo Park KC on Sep. 5; **WD** for 1 pt. at Pocono Mtn. KC on Sep. 11; **WD, BOW** for 1 pt. & his **Championship** title at Pocono Mtn. KC on Sep. 12. **Congratulations!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Siberlink's Dot Comet O'Marionhill: **WB** for 1 pt. at Newton KC on Aug. 29; **RWB** at Sussex Hills KC on Aug. 31 & at Schooley's Mountain KC on Sep. 1; **WB** for 1 pt. at Tuxedo Park KC on Sep. 5; **RWB** at Somerset Hills KC on Sep. 6; **WB, BOW, BOS** for 1 pt. at Pocono Mtn. KC on Sep. 11; **RWB** at Pocono Mtn. KC on Sep. 12 & at Berks County KC on Sep. 14; **WB, BOW** for 1 pt. at Hatboro KC on Oct. 2; **RWB** at Hatboro KC on Oct. 3; **RWB** at Gloucester County KC on Oct. 17 & **WB, BOW** for 1 pt. at Gloucester County KC on Oct. 18.

**Ed. Note:** Our apologies if we missed your brags. We can only print results from the information available at press time. If the AKC or superintendents have not published it or if you have not sent me an email, then I don't know what your brag is. If you would like to add your brag to the next Newsletter, please email Link.

### HOW TO MAKE A "PUPSICLE"

From DogAge.com, 9/4/08

Want to give your pup a refreshing treat after a nice long walk or a vigorous bout of exercise? Try making some doggy "pupsicles" using broth from a can or carton. Simply pour some low-sodium chicken or vegetable broth into an ice cube tray or small plastic container -- you can skip the sticks -- and pop it in the freezer until it's frozen solid. You'll have a cool, savory, low-calorie snack for your dog in just a few hours! If you're worried he'll make a soupy, melty mess, have him slurp his snack outside.

### **Object Guarding and Food Aggression in Dogs**

By Sherry Woodard, From Best Friends Animal Society, <http://www.bestfriends.org>

#### **What is object guarding?**

An object-guarding dog is one who guards objects that he considers to be valuable. Oftentimes, the object is food or a treat, but it can also be other objects such as a toy, a bone or an item picked out of the trash.

#### **Why is object guarding a problem?**

It is not unusual for dogs to covet objects and guard them from each other. In a pack, dogs often threaten each other, but then one of them backs down and everything's fine. In a home environment, however, object guarding can be dangerous if your dog sees you or other family members as someone he needs to guard against. You can easily get bitten trying to take something away from a dog who is a serious guarder.

Children can be especially vulnerable, since they are seen as pack members. Keep children away from a dog until the dog is willing to give up any item when you issue the command "give it."

#### **How can I train my dog not to guard food?**

First, only adults should train dogs to stop guarding. Here's how to do it: Place an empty food bowl on the floor. Sit or kneel on the floor near the bowl with a bag of kibble. With your hand, place a few pieces of kibble in the bowl. Say to the dog, "Take it," and let the dog eat the kibble. After you and your dog practice this routine a few times, place a few more pieces in the bowl, but this time keep your hand on the bowl. If the dog is fine with your hand on the bowl, practice three more times.

Then, if there have been no signs of guarding (growling or stiffening), put a few pieces of kibble in the bowl, but this time, take the bowl away and add a treat to the kibble – something that your dog likes even more than kibble (such as 1/2 spoonful of wet food). Give the bowl back to the dog so she can eat. Practice this routine five times. Use just a few pieces of kibble each time, adding only a small amount of wet food or a small treat. (You don't want a sick dog or a fat one!)

If your dog has still shown no signs of guarding, move on to the next step. Stand up and remove the bowl from the floor. Add a morsel of wet food and return the bowl to the dog. Repeat five times. If you can complete all these steps without signs of guarding, you should be able to safely feed your dog. One thing to remember, though, is that she may be fine with you, but not with other people who attempt to feed her.

If the dog becomes threatening toward you at any point, back up to the step where she was relaxed and work forward from that step again. If your dog is a serious guarder already when you start training, you must be very careful. In fact, you may want to get help from a humane trainer.

#### **How can I train my dog not to guard other objects?**

Dogs that guard food may also guard other objects, such as a toy, bone, or even an item out of the trash. You can train your dog not to guard these objects by getting him to "trade up" for something better. If you practice with many levels of trades, your dog will always expect something better in return for what he's giving up, and will gladly relinquish the guarded object. Here's how it works:

First, do not have high-value items lying around while you're training. Start with something that your dog has very little interest in. Give him the object and say, "take it." Then, say "give it" and take the object back. Reward him with a treat from your pocket. Practice this routine five times, then walk away. Repeat three times the first day.

On the second day, move to a slightly more valuable item. As on day one, do five trades (accompanied by "take it" and "give it" commands) three times throughout the day.

On the third day, put a more valuable item on the floor and bring the dog's attention to it. After he settles in for a chew, ask him to trade ("give it") for a higher-value item. If he shows no signs of guarding, you can practice this routine a few times. Again, as with food, back up to the step before if your dog growls or stiffens up.

Remember – be very careful. Do not include other adults in the training until you can trade up for the highest value item with ease. After you've worked with other adults, you can work with children, but only if you know that your dog likes children and takes treats with a soft mouth. Also, children should be supervised by you at all times.

#### **How long do I have to practice these routines?**

If you have a dog with a tendency to guard food or objects, you should practice the above routines often to prevent any future problems.

*Sherry Woodard is the dog training and care consultant at Best Friends. She develops resources and provides consulting services nationally to help achieve Best Friends' No More Homeless Pets mission.*

### Sense and Sensibility

By Jean Donaldson, From Dogs in Canada, October 2008

#### **Do dogs have a sixth sense?**

For me, a huge part of the beauty of living with dogs has always been their terrific otherness. With a sense of smell at least a thousand times better than our own (some estimates go up to a million), and an attendant higher allocation of brain real estate to interpret it, dogs nevertheless routinely put this exquisitely sensitive apparatus millimetres from feces in apparent fascination. The world of your dog is far and away a chemical world.

If you get angry or stressed, dogs smell it on you as readily and from as far away as you can smell cinnamon buns baking, if not more so. Our world is colourful. Their vision is less colourful: they see similarly to how someone with red-green colour-blindness sees. It's also fuzzier, like that of someone who's lost their glasses, but night-capable and with greater sensitivity to movement. They hear better and over a much broader range than we do, also compatible with an ancestral night-hunting lifestyle. But do they have a sixth sense?

#### **Animal instincts**

Sixth senses are well documented in animals. The ones we know about so far are:

Echolocation. A sonar system that gives animals a pinpoint location and descriptive fix on the physical world, this is incredible stuff. Bats can discriminate mosquitoes on the wing with their sonar, and dolphins can discriminate complex shapes as well as echolocate "through" objects, for instance "seeing" fish buried in the sand. (It has even been suggested that they can "X-ray" us.) Dogs have not been demonstrated to have sonar, or to possess any of the apparatus for it.

Electric and magnetic field perception. Whereas you and I can of course feel strong electrical currents, only some humans have been shown to have the ability to detect weaker fields, and then only if it is of the AC variety and only if our body hair is not removed, which suggests the mechanism we use is indirect. Basically, we infer the field when our hair moves. Shave it off and we're oblivious.

Sharks, by contrast, have dedicated organs for detection of magnetic fields, which they use like a compass to navigate, as well as to detect prey (the prey's muscle contractions give off an itty-bitsy electrical field). The importance of this perception system in sharks is illustrated by the degree to which it has driven the evolution of the weird head shape of hammerheads. Dogs lack the particular gear, and so their world is akin to ours in this regard. It's therefore likely that dogs who predict seizures in their owners are responding to a smell or subtle behavioural cue rather than a change in electrical activity in the owner's brain. It also makes the earth's magnetic field a somewhat shakier contender for how dogs find their way home over vast distances and novel territory.

Lateral line (pressure detection). This is the system fish use to feel movement. It allows for the fabulously precise, mass-synchronized schooling movements you may have seen on nature shows, and is a related system to the electric-field-detection system. Dogs do not have a lateral line system any more than we do, and so the precision of their tactile discrimination is proportionately worse.

Seismic detection. There are oodles of anecdotal reports of dogs (and other animals) behaving strangely prior to earthquakes. Science so far has come up empty-handed, however, at showing that animals actually do this, or with a convincing mechanism for how they might. (Hypotheses include that they smell gases released early on in ground-shifts, or simply feel the shaking earlier than we do.)

This raises one of the ways science, which copes very nicely with probability theory, clashes with intuition, which doesn't. Within any large number of people and dogs, it is statistically inevitable that a certain percentage of dogs will happen to bark or do a novel behaviour prior to an earthquake, and happen to be witnessed by a human. To a person, the dog's behaviour seems uncanny, but this is more testament to our human tendency to connect coincidental events than to a seismic-detection ability in dogs. (Possible interesting exception: elephants.)

Telepathy, clairvoyance, precognition. Again, there is no shortage of stories about dogs with ESP, reading minds or seeming to predict what's about to happen but again, it has never held up to scientific scrutiny. And, lest you think that science loves raining on these parades, consider that there'd likely be a Nobel Prize and immortality for a scientist who could prove telepathy or precognition in any species, so science is plenty incentivized. The most interesting thing here is how the complete absence of any evidence of paranormal ability (notably in humans) has not slowed down the lucrative psychic industry. We love to believe.

Jacobson's (vomeronasal) organ. Ah, now we're getting somewhere! This "other" olfactory system was first discovered and described in snakes, which are the Jacobson gold medalists. Access to the glands involved is available strictly from

two holes (pits) in the roof of a snake's mouth, which is why snakes are said to "smell with their tongues" and also accounts for the forked tongue of snakes and many lizards. The wider the fork and wider the spread between the corresponding pits, the more "stereo" (direction-sensitive) the olfaction, which aids hunting. In mammals with a well-developed vomeronasal system, like lions, its utility is not in hunting but in the receiving and interpreting of pheromones, to assist in mating.

#### **Enter dogs, at last**

Dogs have a much, much better developed vomeronasal system than humans have, and humans, in spite of our feeble equipment, have been demonstrated to be pheromone sensitive (especially women!). Interestingly, although the anatomy of the dog vomeronasal system has been well described, there is surprisingly little direct research on exactly what dogs do with it.

The circumstantial case is that they do what other mammals do: decode pheromones via a fast track between the vomeronasal organ and limbic system of the brain. But although male dogs sometimes lick urine, few dogs exhibit much in the way of a Flehmen response (wherein compounds of interest that are less volatile are worked into the roof of the mouth by the characteristic upper lip extension and breath intakes), in contrast to other mammals with comparable equipment.

Synthetic dog lactating pheromones hit the market a few years ago as a behaviour-problem aid, and have been shown in a few research studies to mitigate symptoms in dogs with separation anxiety, as well as barking in shelter dogs. It's a potentially promising avenue that I hope will be further explored.

#### **Address or Email Changes????**

We know some of you have had changes in your email or US Mail addresses. Since future Newsletters will be available online only, we need your current email address to notify you when a new issue of the Newsletter is available. Additionally, email has become the primary communication vehicle for the Club and a current address enables you to receive all pertinent GSSHC-related information. Please send these changes to the Club Secretary.

#### **More Newsletter Changes**

The Newsletter will continue to be available on the GSSHC website. It will also be sent to all GSSHC Club members with a valid email address as a PDF attachment. Soon back issues of the GSSHC Newsletter will be available on the Club website.

#### **Newsletter and Howl Submissions**

See Submission Information below for where to send your Howls, or any other information for the **GSSHC Newsletter**. You may leave a message on my answering machine, 908-213-6957, but leave **only** your name, phone number and a brief message; I'll call you back for the details. To insure accuracy, also send the information to me one of the ways provided below. **Email is the preferred method for submission of material.**

#### Mailing address:

Irwin Linker  
GSSHC Newsletter  
74 Stewartville Road  
Stewartville, New Jersey  
08886

#### Email (preferred method):

siberlink@comcast.net

As a .doc file for text or as a .jpg file  
for pictures, cartoons, etc.

**Note:** Per Club rules, information about litters must be accompanied by OFA/SHOR/CERF information on the parents.