

TEL: 031 - 7681122

SHONGWENI KENNELS & CATTERY - NEWSLETTER



CHRISTMAS 2004



Well it has been 'all go' since our last newsletter in July. However our biggest disappointment is the fact that we were unable to build our new kennel block before our busy Christmas/ New Year period. After numerous enquiries to the Outer West Council, planning and building rules and regulations and unexpected zoning restrictions, we are at last getting somewhere. Not in time for Christmas, but maybe in time for Easter. As a result of these unexpected delays we have had to disappoint some of our regular customers with their Christmas bookings. By the time the season commences both our kennel blocks will have been refurbished, now sporting new windows, new roofs and a bright sunny yellow interior. New floors however will have to wait a little longer, as a result of the recent daily storms; we have decided to put these on hold until we can predict the weather more accurately.

Our driveway is even more prolific with roses, due to Jo's inability to visit the farmers market without returning with a boot load of bushes. Also at the entrance to the driveway, we now have some imposing new gates, complete with Great Danes head profiles. We would like to introduce you to two new staff members, Beauty and Jabu. Both these girls have fitted into the kennel routine very easily and have a natural empathy with the dogs. We are indeed fortunate that our full complement of staff will be working over this busy period, including Christmas Day, which will mean no disruption to the kennel regime.

Thank you very much for your support in 2004 and we would like to take this opportunity in wishing you and all you pets, a Happy Christmas and a healthy 2005. Festive Greetings !!!! - Travel safely !!!

Jo and Kevin Packer

When medical emergencies happen, they in evidently happen outside the regular hours of your local veterinarian. This is exactly what happened to us recently when at 10.30 on a Sunday evening we were witness to our 9 year old Great Dane, Thomas, who was obviously in a great deal of discomfort and was displaying the first systems of 'BLOAT'. This is the most serious of conditions and there is no time to waste in order to save the dogs life. We were indeed fortunate and with the speedy assistance of our vet, Thomas is well on the mend after his major operation.

RECOGNISING THE SIGNS OF BLOAT

WHAT IS BLOAT ?

Bloat is a life-threatening condition that acts rapidly and can lead to DEATH within hours if not recognised and treated immediately. Unfortunately, the cause of bloat remains unknown at this time. The scientific term for bloat is gastric dilation-volvulus GDV. Bloat is characterised by rapid and abnormal expansion of the stomach with Gas (dilation). This can be followed by rotation of the stomach (volvulus). This rotation closes both the entry to and exit from the stomach. The blood vessels are also closed down and blood flow restricted.

What follows is an increase in pressure inside the stomach and compression of the surrounding organs. Eventually shock will occur as a result of the restricted blood flow.

- **Bloat should always be treated as a medical emergency**
- **Bloat can kill a dog within hours after onset**
- **The cause of bloat is unknown**
- **Bloat can occur in dogs of any ages**
- **Certain breeds are more susceptible to bloat, particularly deep-chested dogs (see list)**

SIGNS OF BLOAT

Bloat is a true medical emergency and early identification and treatment is critical to survival. If you notice any of the following signs seek immediate help from your Veterinarian.

In the early stages of bloat, the dog will be very uncomfortable. You may see him pacing and whining, trying unsuccessfully to get into a comfortable position. He may seem anxious, may lick or keep staring at his stomach and may attempt to vomit, without success.

Other signs can include weakness, swelling of the abdomen and even signs of shock. Signs of shock are increased heart rate and abnormally rapid breathing.

IF YOU NOTICE THESE SIGNS, CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY

- Whining
- Inability to get comfortable
- Pale gums
- Unproductive attempts to vomit
- Abnormally rapid breathing
- Increased heart rate
- Anxiety
- Pain
- Weakness
- Swelling of the abdomen (particularly the left side)



HELPING TO PREVENT BLOAT

The following guidelines can help manage the occurrence of bloat. These suggestions are based on suspected risk factors and are not guaranteed to prevent the onset of bloat.

- Feed small amounts of food frequently, two to three times daily
- Avoid exercise for 1 hour before and 2 hours after meals
- Do not allow consumption of large volumes of water immediately before or after eating or exercise
- If there are two or more dogs present, feed them separately to avoid rapid, stressful eating
- If possible, feed at times when after-feeding behaviour can be observed

- Avoid abrupt diet changes
- If signs of bloat are observed, seek veterinary assistance immediately
- Try to avoid stress in the dogs life, particularly thunderstorms

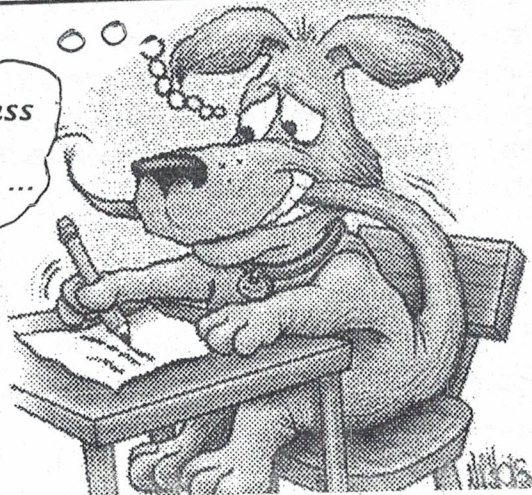
DIGESTIBLE FOODS

Another recommendation is frequent feeding of high quality, highly digestible food with normal fibre levels. Feeding management offers the best method available for reducing risk until the exact cause of bloat can be identified. Although not 100% effective, these measures can reduce the number of dogs that face this serious, life-threatening condition

HIGH RISK BREEDS

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| • German Shepherd | Borzoi |
| • Bouvier de Flandres | Irish Wolfhound |
| • Great Danes | Dachshund |
| • Boxer | Labrador Retriever |
| • St. Bernard | Basset Hound |
| • Doberman Pinscher | Poodles Standard |
| • Bloodhound | Gordon Setter |
| • German Shorthaired Pointer | |
| • Irish Setter | |

*Dear Diary -
You'll never guess
What I FINALLY
Caught today ...*

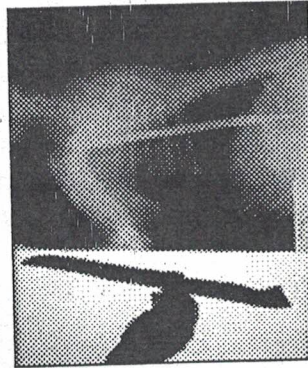


18-INCH DOG SWALLOWS 15-INCH KNIFE AND LIVES TO BARK ABOUT IT

Leeds, UK

"I've been a vet for 15 years and I have never seen anything like this in a dog," said Dr. Ann Draper, senior veterinary officer at a Leeds animal hospital.

Kyle the 6-month old, 18-inch long collie/ Staffordshire Bull Terrier is home recovering from a major surgery in which Vets removed a 15-inch serrated Knife from his belly. Apparently he had swallowed the blade unbeknown to his owner Eva Oliver of Leeds.



Only later when he began to try and vomit did Mrs Oliver take him to the animal hospital. On New Year's Eve, suspicious vets decided to give him an X-ray, which to their surprise showed the knife extended upward towards the throat. Kyle immediately underwent surgery and about an hour later the knife was carefully and safely extracted.

"The knife could have cut his internal organs to shreds at any time and it's a miracle he survived," added Dr Draper.

With only some minor post-operative swelling, the puppy seems to be back to his old self, bouncing around and eating normal, less hazardous meals once again.



SPCA HOWICK – MPOPHOMENI DOG SHOW

Recently Howick SPCA arranged the first 'Dog Show' to be held at the Mpophomeni Township. The idea came from Adrienne Olivier, who has been involved in registered Dog Shows and Obedience Trials for many years. She managed to arrange a staggering R 11 000 from the sponsorship of Dog food Companies and Natal Dog Clubs.

The show was held at a township school and Adrienne and her team of helpers were very apprehensive as everyone started to arrive, as they had no idea how many dogs would arrive. Once the gates were opened, dogs of all ages (6 weeks – veteran) were accompanied by their owners (children, young men and a sprinkling of women).

Entrants were marshalled to the registration tables, each entrant being given a 'check-list'. Next stop all the dogs were fitted with a new collar and lead to replace the belts, rope, chains and even wire, with which they had arrived. Next stop, State Vet, rabies inoculations, dip and de-worming.

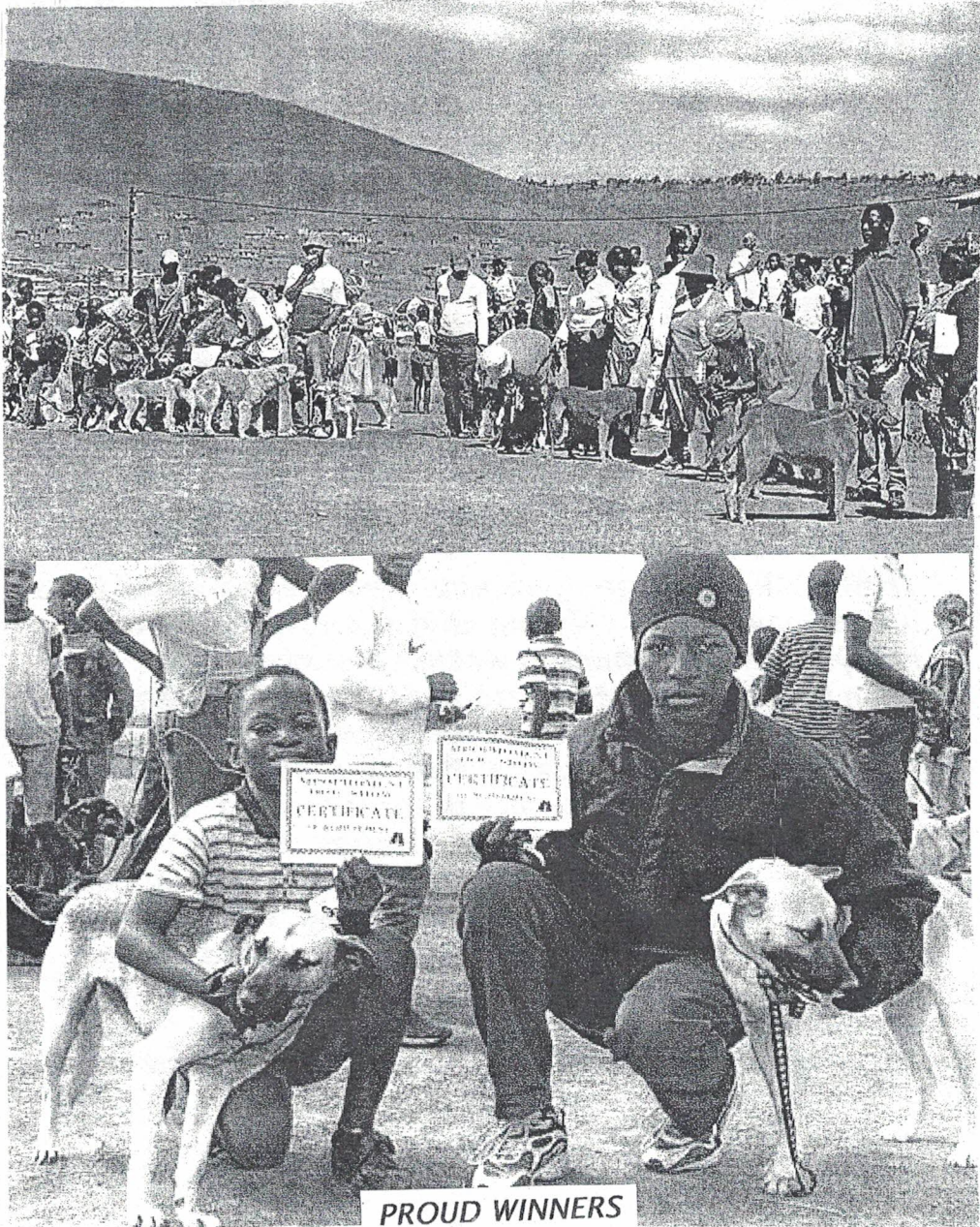
Then the handlers and supporters were encouraged to browse over the various education stands, while enjoying the 'booming' township music.

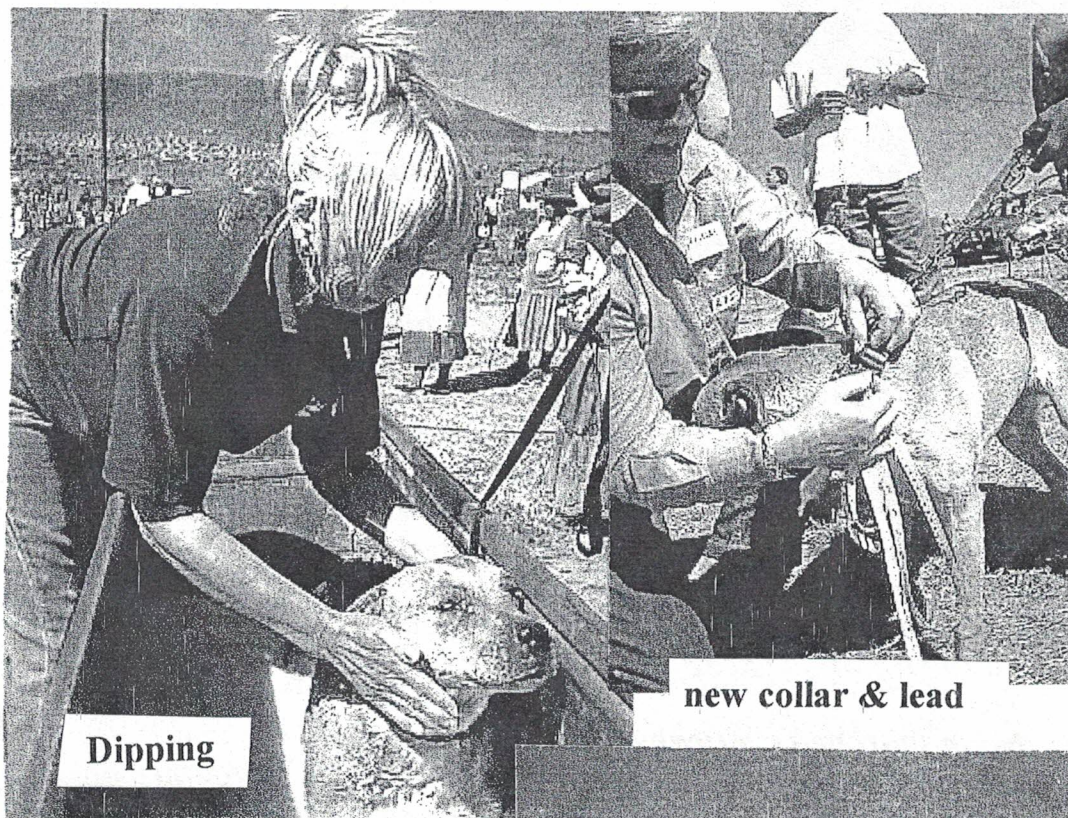
Then the crowd were entertained to a display of agility and fly ball, followed by an obedience display to music. Judging by the applause this was a real winner !!!!

The 190 entrants then entered the large ring. Classes were, typical African Dog, Happiest Dog, Best Condition, Best Handler and Dog and Best Junior Handler. All the Group winners competed for the Best in Show Title, who went home with a brand new wooden kennel. Everyone was a winner and went home with a dogs bowl and blanket

Generally the condition of the dogs was very good and although most were Xbreeds, there was also a GSD, Jack Russell and Dachshund.

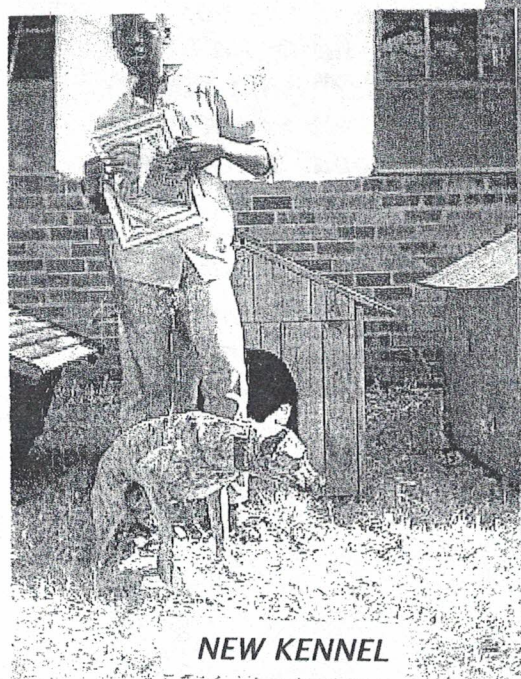
Hats off to Adrienne, as it was a great success and next year she hopes to repeat the event in our area. If anyone is able to help with sponsorship, however small, please contact the me (Jo), as I will be helping Adrienne next year.





Dipping

new collar & lead



NEW KENNEL



**One of the more
smarter entrants**

NOAH'S ARK

When a man named Noah started building a boat in the middle of a desert, everybody laughed. But Noah wasn't listening to them, he was listening to God and so he continued.

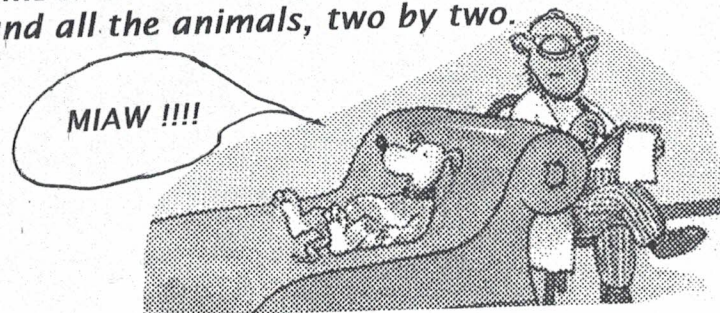
When Noah was finished he called it his ark. Then, he rounded up all the animals, two by two. People laughed at the Panthers and Penguins, the cheetahs and chinchillas and the giraffes and gazelles.

Pretty soon, after all the animals had got aboard two by two it started to rain. It rained and rained and rained and eventually the ark started to float. They sailed for 40 days and 40 nights. When the rain at last stopped, out of the ark came Noah and his family and all the animals except one. No one could find the little dog.

Noah searched everywhere, first deck, second deck and finally in the farthest corner of the lower deck he found the little dog. The dog was shivering and standing with his nose pressed hard against the side of the boat.

When Noah pulled the little dog away, he saw a little hole in the side of the ark. "What's this?", said Noah. "Without your nose plugging the hole, we might well have sunk". The little dog was very proud. "Little dog so that all the world and all future generations will know your great deed, your nose will always be cold and wet, just as it is today."

That's how the dog got his cold wet nose. When you feel it, remember the little dog that used his nose to save Noah and all the animals, two by two.



Caroline Hlengwa (26) died on the 22nd September 2004 after a long illness. Caroline was one of the original staff when we took over the kennels. She will be remembered as a staff member with a big smile and a wonderful relationship with all the animals. A hard worker and a sunny disposition she will be sadly missed. Hamba Khahle Caroline.



THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

It is always so very hard to say goodbye to our beloved animals and our thoughts go out to the following owners and all of you, who have recently lost beloved pets. Our sympathies to all of you whose pets we have not mentioned.

Glen & Hazel Winslow	Kimber	Pug
Norman & Irna Deacon	Ruffles & Honey	Maltese
Michael & Cathy Fry	40 Winks	Cat
Pat McCann	Star	Afghan
Ray & Iris Megahey	Annie	Poodle
Nigel & Paula Rault	Takara	Mini Daxie
Mr & Mrs N van der Reyden	Bruno	Labrador
Peter & Brenda Winn	Geof & Snuggles	Maltese

TIME

*TIME hopefully will heal sorrow, sadness & grief
 TIME in its own way will bring us relief
 The TIME we're allowed to live with our pets
 Is life's quality TIME we will never forget.*

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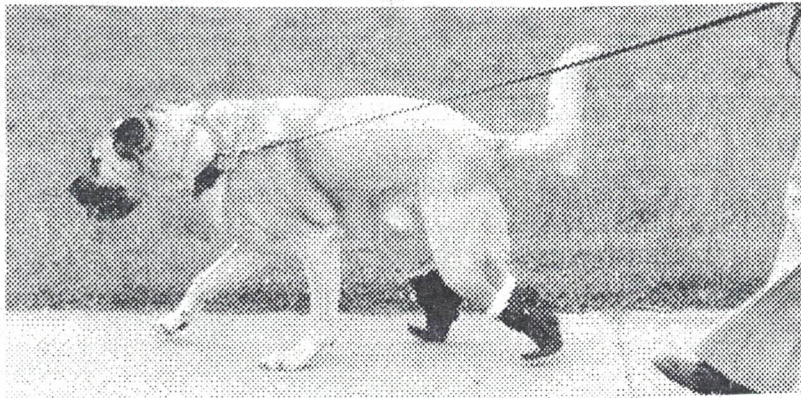
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MICHIGAN DOG IS GIVEN NEW LEGS TO STAND ON
Associated Press



ANN ARBOR – The 6 year-old patient has two new legs and can walk, run sit and frolic. (and bark}
After Helen DePinto of Washtenaw County's Webster Township spotted Foolsie the handicapped shepherd mix on CNN six years ago, she went to Buffalo, N.Y. and adopted him. Missing the lower halves of his hind paws, Foolsie used to have to tuck his two back legs under his backside and scoot with his front paws. Now he has prosthetic legs, thanks to an Ann Arbor prosthetist and orthotist who tackled the project of creating legs for the dog. In more than 30 years of combined experience with humans, Steve Hoover and Kenneth Woodard said this was the first time they had worked with an animal. "It wasn't easy," Woodard said. Woodard normally fits braces on humans from head to toe. "I don't know how many times we spent talking and trying to figure out how we were going to do this," he said. The pair spent nearly a year working on the project, which they tackled without pay. "It was fun," said Hoover, who makes artificial limbs for humans. "But it was a real challenge." The key was getting a good cast of Foolsie's hind legs, Hoover said. After several failed attempts, Hoover said they finally made a mould that satisfied them. Using a process called vacuum-forming, they shaped a layer of foam and a

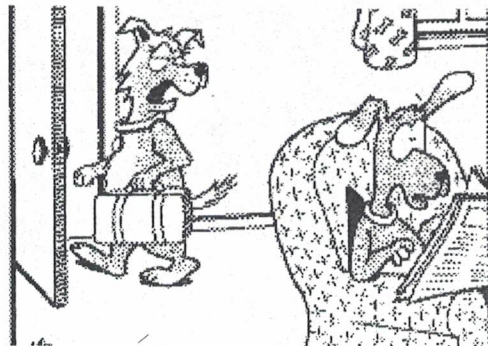
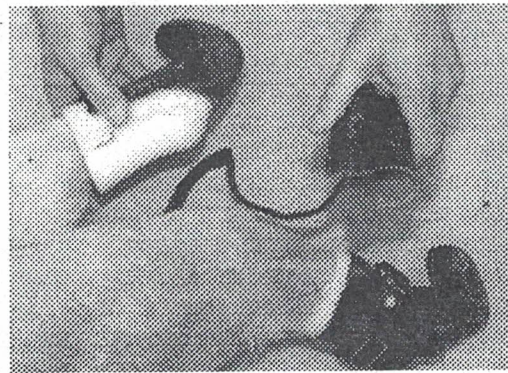
layer of plastic over the mould, then added a hard, black shell with tread material on the bottom, to give Footsie a grip. The shell is fastened to the dog with a Velcro strap.

"Footsie tried them on when they were done and it was a home run," DePinto said.

Hoover got involved in the prosthesis project after getting a call from Brad Pearsall, a physical therapist assistant at Rainbow Rehabilitation Centre, a brain injury centre in Ypsilanti. DePinto and Footsie have been visiting there for nearly three years because Footsie works there as a certified therapy dog.

"Footsie plays a motivational role here," Pearsall said. "Footsie's disabled, yet he plays with the clients, he's happy, upbeat and a very well-mannered dog. It's like he says, 'If I can get out and function like (dogs with all four paws), then you can be a functional member of society.'"

Kenneth Woodard
Attaches Footsie's new
feet. A layer of foam and
a layer of plastic were
placed over a mould, then
a hard, black shell with
tread material was
added to give Footsie a
grip.



ONE MORE THING CODY...
Y'KNOW ALL THOSE TIMES
I WAGGED MY TAIL?
..... I FAKED IT...

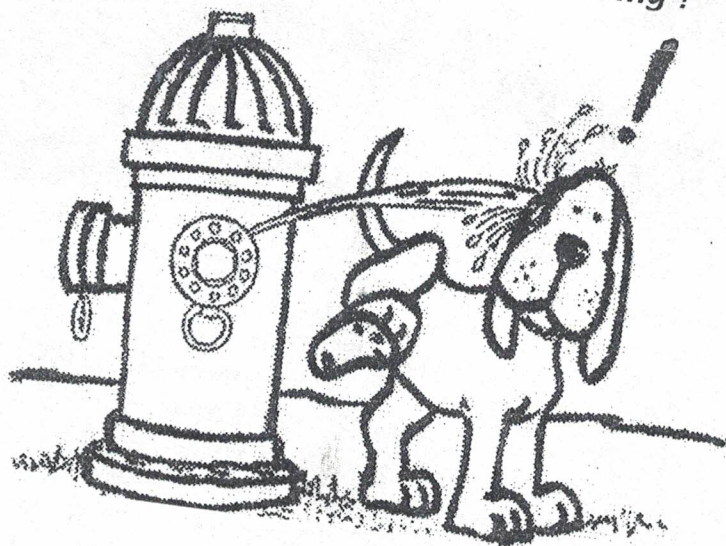
A POEM FOR NEW PUPPY OWNERS

Don't smell crotches, don't eat plants,
Don't steal food or underpants,
Don't eat my socks; don't grab my hair ...
DON'T RIP THE STUFFING FROM THAT CHAIR !!

Don't eat those peas, don't touch that bush,
Don't chew my shoes, what IS this mush !?!!
Eat your cookies, drink your drink,
Outta the toilet! Outta the sink !!

AWAY FROM THE LITER BOX, IT'S FOR THE CAT !
(and must you kiss me after that !?!!)
Raising a puppy is not for the lazy,
Those rugrats are funny, but also quite crazy.

Don't despair through the toil and the strife,
"Cause after three years you'; get back your life!
So lets go for walkies, so you can do your 'thing'
And maybe I'll get back my diamond ring !"

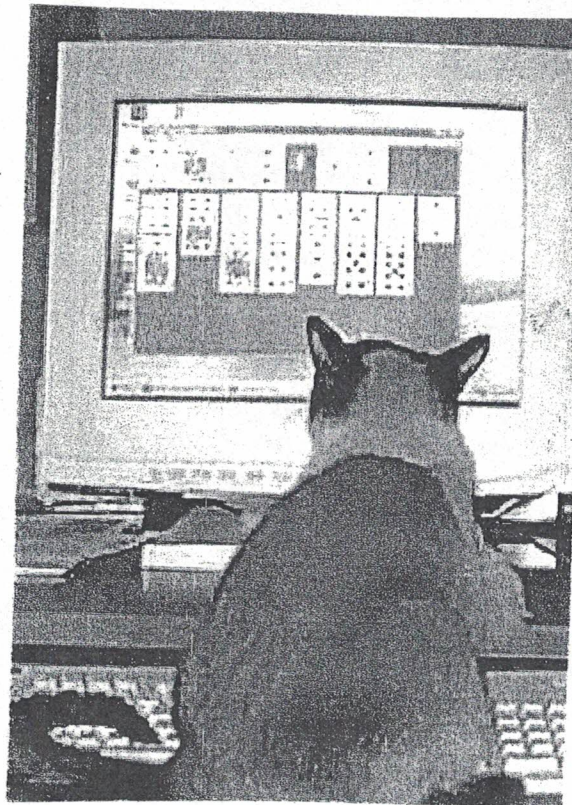


EVER HAD ONE OF THOSE DAYS
YOU WOULD RATHER FORGET !!

5 GOOD REASON WHY A MAN NEEDS 2 DOGS INSTEAD OF 2 WIVES

1. *The later you are, the more excited they are to see you.*
2. *Dogs will forgive you for playing with other dogs.*
3. *A dog's parents never visit.*
4. *Dogs seldom outlive you.*
5. *Dogs are not allowed into shopping centres.*

*ENCOURAGE YOUR PETS TO RELAX THIS HOLIDAY
SEASON -*



KEEP THEM AMUSED



LET THEM CHILL-OUT

A PUPPIES FIRST CHRISTMAS

Christmas morning at last and Santa has been
Children rush to enter to take in the scene
The lounge door is opened with shouts of delight
But the scene that awaits, gives them all quite a fright

For there in the middle of parcels and games
Is a Great Dane puppy who answers to James
He's opened the stockings and ate all the mince pies
He's pulled down the Christmas tree although twice his
size

The trifle's half eaten, the ham's in his belly
His face is covered with red currant jelly
He's attacked the turkey and scattered it wide
Under Christmas paper, he's now trying to hide

Children are crying and dad's red with rage
"Tomorrow I'll build him a ruddy great cage"
But mother's much calmer, "That won't be his fate
In only two ticks I'll have this place straight"

"If one of us hadn't left open a door
then this would not have happened, of that I am sure
He's only a puppy who just loves to play
Now forgive and forget for today's Christmas Day

