

American Bullmastiff Association Archives Committee

The Bullseye

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The Bullseye



NEWS FOR, OF, AND BY BULLMASTIFF FANCIERS

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Love Thy Neighbor.

SOCIALIZE YOUR PUPPIES EARLY!

by JACQUELINE FRASER
reprinted from DOG WORLD, MAY 1985

TIMING IS CRITICAL, BUT THE PROCESS NEEDN'T BE TIME-CONSUMING

Thanks to Clarence Pfaffenberger's 1963 book THE NEW KNOWLEDGE OF DOG BEHAVIOR and the fine works of behaviorists that followed, enlightened breeders are familiar with the terms "critical periods" and "puppy testing". During the '70s, numerous breeders of good reputation carefully socialized and tested their litters. Kindergarten puppy training classes sprang up, often sponsored by all-breed or obedience clubs, to continue the breeders' efforts after the puppies were placed. By the early '80s, puppy classes were well established and invaluable to the new owner and his dog. However, breeders began to depart from their own socialization procedures and to rely on recommending these schooling programs to their buyers. Optimistic that class association would make up for their own failure to continue the early socialization and testing methods they had faithfully performed on previous litters, breeders shifted the responsibility from themselves to the buyers.

One can only surmise why there is less emphasis on early socialization now than there was ten years ago. One reason might be that while it was a vital subject of conversation among breeders of the early '70s, many new fanciers are unaware of its importance. Another could be that--while the long term breeders originally embraced the principles of socialization as a method of improving the temperaments of their puppies--after a few generations of better adapted, highly trainable specimens, they convinced themselves that their breeding programs had improved and conveniently forgot that their own interactions with these litters may have contributed to this progress.

The most obvious explanation is lack of time. As more women join the work force and their older children take part-time jobs, fewer families find time to properly enhance their puppies' mental potential. Instead, printed materials explaining socialization, stimulation and training are sometimes given to new buyers, along with a recommendation to join kindergarten puppy classes. These instructions have definite merit. But although proper handling on the owner's part will improve the puppy's confidence and trainability, one prime consideration is being disregarded--the word "critical". Webster defines "critical" in this context as "pertaining to the crisis or turning point; important, as regards consequences (a critical time or juncture)".

Studies have shown beyond a doubt that the puppy goes through the critical periods of social development from birth to 12 weeks. Some include the 12 to 16-week period as critical also, but all testimony points to the three to seven-week period as being the most important of all. Thus, placing the responsibility on the new owner who purchases a youngster of seven weeks or older is to completely ignore that most crucial month when the pups are between 21 and 49 day old--and still in the breeder's care. This is when the pup's ability to function in society, adjust to new surroundings, and develop the desire to please are in the breeder's hands alone. During this month the pup must gain the self-confidence that will enable it to learn self control later on.

Assuming that responsible breeders want their pups to fit easily into family homes and enjoy training and showing, the purpose of this article is to simplify and shorten the socialization process so even the super-busy can accomplish it. Many of us have been guilty of putting off because it loomed ahead as such a big job--then suddenly realized that our procrastination had taken us past the period when it would have done the most good. It doesn't have to be that way. There is no enigma to socializing pups. It's just everyday, simple activities. Simple but urgent.

SOCIALIZE YOUR PUPPIES EARLY! (continued):

This easy process must be done at the proper time, and can't be put until another day because the puppies' rapidly maturing brains won't wait for you to be ready. Time is short here. We have only a short span in which to start our puppies' lives off well, but the amount of time it takes is brief also. It doesn't take hours and it doesn't take maoney--just imagination and a small amount of quality time.

22 to 28 days

Actual socialization begins when the puppy is 22 to 28 days old and his needs are easily satisfied. He still requires his dam and littermates in order to learn how to function in doggie society. Breeders who remove puppies from their dam as early as four weeks of age in the hope that their bitches will recover their shape quickly for showing are doing their puppies a tremendous injustice. Don't breed your bitch until you are willing to take the chance that she might remain a little taggy. She probably won't anyway, but your puppies need some interaction with their dam for a minimum of five and a half weeks.

Since the puppy's first social relationships begin at this time, it must have some attention beyond cleaning and feeding. How much time with you is enough? Ready? Ten minutes per puppy per week is sufficient. It may be divided into two five-minute sessions, or whatever suits you, but make it quality time. THE KEY FACTIOR IS TAKING THE PUPPY AWAY FROM ITS LITTERMATES. Talk to the pup and pet it. Once during that week place it on a different footing, provided it isn't slippery. Sit down at pup level. Let it walk on you and initiate the play. For a litter osix, ten minutes of individual atteniton per puppy means that one hour of your time spread over the entire fourth feek will give each pup its first sense of individuality and a basis for relating to humans.

Besides ten minutes of your time per pup that week, your litter also needs a more stimulating environment now. Their senses are developing and, along with them their curiosity. Disposable items make wonderful, safe toys for the puppy room. Large cardboard cartons to be pushed about allow the pups to manipulate their environment. Once huge holes have been chewed in these boxex, the pups can enter them and they become dens. The local supermarket should be able to keep you supplied. Plastic gallong milk containers are fun. Discarded smelly leather gloves and knotted worn-out socks and undershirts are wonderful--both for their interesting texture and diversity of odors. Of course there are many toys you can buy, but if you use your imagination you won't have to. Safety is of promary concern. Too big a toy is ineffective, but too small is dangerous. A low wooden platform with two steps is find for exploration is you are inclined to make one, and carpeting in and around the sleeping box at this time is an aid to housebreaking later..

29 to 35 days

During the 29 to 35-day period, the puppies, though curious and active, will become exhausted quickly. Busy people will be happy to know that a little individual attention will go a long way and ten minutes per puppy the fifth week is still sufficient. But this is a minimum now. Fifteen minutes would be ideal. at this time it would be preferable if the personal attention were given by someone other than the breeder. This is the best week to introduce well-mannered, dog-knowledgeable children into the pup's life. It is also good to introduce an adult of the opposite sex of the person who has been doing the regular puppy care. So--if you have children, a willing spouse, or friends who like puppies--your only joub during the fifth week may be cleaning, feeding, and keeping the disposable toys coming. Don't allow your children to fatigue the puppies. Setting aclock to ring after 15 minutes to remind them to put back one pup and play with another might prove useful. To the ten nimute per pup per week minimum, let's add a 15 minute per pup per day maxiumum.

SOCIALIZE YOUR PUPPIES EARLY! (continued):

36 to 42 days

Thirty-six days marks the beginning of the period when individual attention reaches its peak importance in the socialization process. Failure to give it would be a calamity. If a puppy experiences too little personal interaction from this time on, adjusting to humans will be problematic for the rest of its life. By the end of the sixth week, much of its personality, especially self-image, has been formed. As before, use your ingenuity to find a variety of disposable toys to add excitement to the environment. Each pup needs more time away from the littermates now, with 20 minutes per puppy per week as a minimum, best divided into two sessions. Again it doesn't have to be you. Got a child watching cartoons? Put a puppy in his lap. A friend over for coffee? Add one puppy to the scene. Settling down to watch your favorite TV show? Settle down with a puppy (change pups during commercials). By the end of a one-hour show, you will have socialized four puppies the easy way. It's that simple. But it is essential.

At the end of the sixth week, it's both fun and enlightening to test your puppies' reactions to various stimuli and situations. These test results can be a big help in placing your pups, as overly dominant or independent dogs do not make good pets for the very young or very old, and those who are too noisy or touch sensitive are not ideal obedience prospects. If some of the pups appear shy, it isn't too late to help them along with some extra attention during their seventh week. The tests are divided into those the breeder can give alone and those that require the aid of a stranger to the puppies.

Simple puppy tests you can do alone

WHOLE LITTER TOGETHER--(1) Attention span--approach your pups while they are in an enclosure and can see you but can't reach you. Whistle a tune or sing to them. Note which ones give you their full attention for the longest period of time.

(2) Startle reaction and recovery--drop a metal pan or other noisy object among the puppies. Take care that it doesn't land on them. After they startle, note which ones recover first and approach the object.

(3) Desire for human companionship--feed pups a couple of hours later than scheduled to be certain they are all hungry. As soon as they have their heads in the food dish, kneel and call them from about six feet away. Note which, if any opt to leave dinner in their eagerness to play with you.

(4) Curiosity (indicates intelligence)--show them new items--a paper plate pulled about tied to a string; the beam of a flashlight moving around, etc. Note which pups show the most interest.

ONE PUP AT A TIME--(1) Confidence--borrow a shelf of metal grating out of your stove and place it in a doorway in your home. Put a puppy on one side, you on the other. Record if you could entice the pup to walk across the grating to come to you and indicate whether its stance was confident or fearful.

(2) Problem solving--place a pup near the back of an adult size metal crate with door opened. Quickly step to about three feet in front of the end opposite the door. Coax the puppy to come to you. Time how long it takes each pup to realize that getting out entails turning away from you to go out the door. When the pup finds its way out (if he does--don't allow it to struggle more than two minutes, praise and replace the pup in the crate again to see if it remembers how to solve the problem.

SOCIALIZE YOU PUPPIES EARLY! (continued):

(3) Touch sensitivity--pinch the pup's ear or toe and release quickly. The ideal pup will reach, complain slightly and forgive right away.

Tests that require aid of a stranger

The breeder should remain out of sight and each pup should be tested individually in an unfamiliar area of the home or yard. The tester should do the scoring. The puppy should not be spoken to or coaxed during these tests. Friends who are also breeders handle testing well, and you can reciprocate when they have a litter.

(1) Social interaction--tester carefully places pup on the ground and walks about 10 or 12 feet away. Then he kneels and claps his hands gently. He should record if the pup came quickly and happily; slunk over with tail down indicating fear and shyness, or went off to check out something else, indicating independence.

(2) Following--when pup is watching, tester should walk away. Record if puppy follows, jumping and biting at shoes (dominant behavior); simply follows pleasantly with tail up; follows crouching with tail down, indicating shyness, or was so independent that he went off in a different direction.

(3) Desire to work with humans--use a small ball or even a balled-up piece of paper. Tester should be sure the pup sees it, then roll it a couple of feet. If the pup runs out to it or goes to it and plays with it, that is sufficient. If the pup picks it up and brings it back to the tester, that is excellent. Give each pup three tries before scoring.

(4) Trust and acceptance of restraint--tester should pick up pup and gently cradle it in his arms to see if it will lie relaxed and confident on its back to enjoy a chest and tummy rub. Record if it struggles fiercely the whole time; struggles a bit, then relaxes, or stiffens in fear.

Far more puppy tests are available, some with highly scientific scoring systems. A few tests are even breed-specific to indicate pups which show the most potential to perform breed-related work. The group listed here consumes very little time and gets the job done for most purposes. Give a puppy which scores "shy" some extra attention for a week. When you re-test you may be really surprised.

Many of your pups will be with you much longer than six or seven weeks, and socialization must continue--with individual attention being its most important ingredient. By nine weeks, any puppies still with you must spend several hours daily away from their littermates. Although they may be permitted to play together most of the day, they must spend nights or some portion of the day apart or they will bond better to dogs than to humans and will suffer from shyness and separation anxiety.

Please don't make the mistake of thinking that socialization is just for the potential show or obedience dog. It is a "must" for the puppy. Unlike some show animals, which may be forgiven for having a poor disposition because they are typey and show well, the pet will be expected to adjust to vacuum cleaners, family arguments, umbrellas, people in rain gear, noisy children running in and out, furniture being moved, and the neighbor's cat.

Can you do everything right with your litter and still have some puppies turn out badly? Certainly. Nothing in nature is an absolute. We didn't even discuss the importance of heredity, although it is to be hoped that temperament of the parents



Bullmastiffs of Tailwynde, Reg'd

First International Molosser Supermatch, October 20, 1985
 Entry: 35 Bullmastiffs as well as other Molosser breeds



Tailwynde's Wise Guy

Ch Tailwynde's Juliann Truly Can

Best Undergraduate Puppy
 Judge: Judy Haight,
 Handler: Linda Tedesco

Best Bullmastiff Bitch in Match
 Judge: Vera Hyman
 Best Bitch in Show, Judge: Victor Zeoli
 Handler: Dorothy Smith

Opposite: CH. TAILWYNDE'S DOUBLE DUTCH, sire of a litter of 16 puppies from dam, CH. TAILWYNDE'S TANYA TON O'BUNS, whelped December 30, 1985. 7 dogs and 6 bitches survive; inquiries invited.

Congratulations to Jim and Susan Moulton, on the 9th Tailwynde-bred Bullmastiff to achieve a championship in 1985. CAN. CH. TAILWYNDE'S BOGART is our first Canadian titlist.

Dick & Adele Pfenninger

Penny Lane Farm, RD #2, Box 228, Milford, NJ 08848
 201-996-4769

Ch Tauralan Triga de Azteca



TRIGA not only struts her stuff in the breed ring, she's done pretty well in the whelping box too!

This is her first litter. At 10 months they show a lot of promise.

TRIGA will be bred again in the Spring, and we expect more of the same pups with size, bone, type, style, expression and movement.

Upper Crust's Double Delite

Our DELLA did us very proud just four days short of her ten month birthday by going Winners Bitch for a 5 point major over verly lovely competition from the Bred-By class at Los Encinos Kennel Club. Thanks to Mrs. Eileen Pimlott who also awarded "Momma" TRIGA Best of Breed that day.

Upper Crust
Home of Champions

Ranette & Terry Gaskins

Associate Handler:

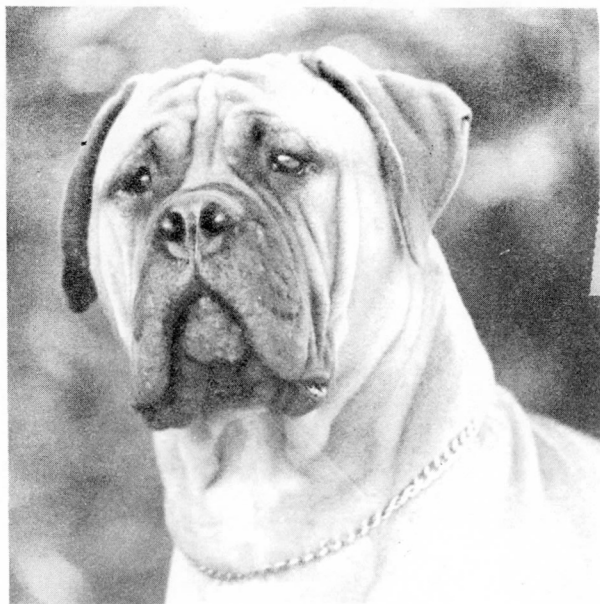
ANNE HINSON



4635 Normandie Place
La Mesa, CA 92041

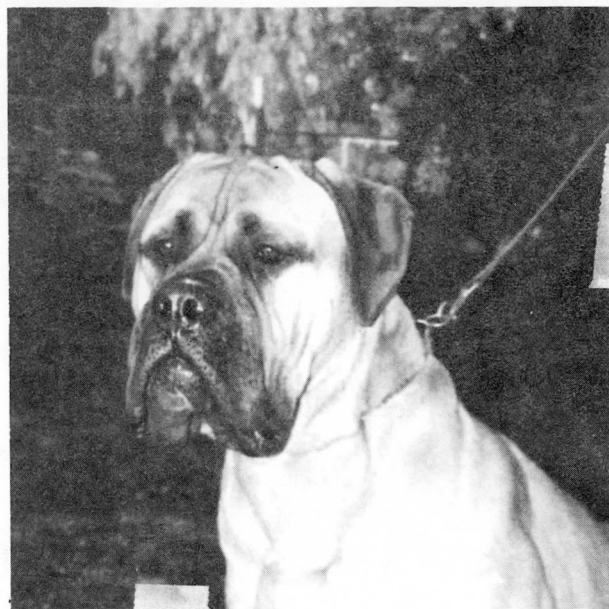
619-697-7075 or 619-465-4695

Tauralan Turkish Delight



ZOE is owned by Carol Beans, who co-bred this outstanding litter with us. ZOE was WB for a 4 point major at 10½ months at Palm Springs Kennel Club. Judge William Hixson also gave "Mamma" TRIGA Best of Breed over a very large, quality entry.

Upper Crust's Charter Member

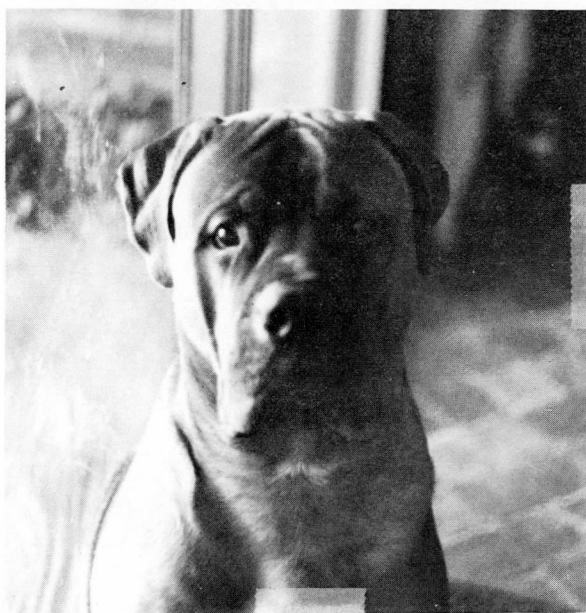


CHESTER is co-owned with us by Chris and Jeanie Talley of La Mesa, CA.

CHESTER went RWD to a 5 point major his third time out at 10 months of age.

FLASH!!! CHESTER went BW for a 3 point major and BOS at San Fernando KC on January 18th.

Upper Crust's Sudden Impact



A big, beautiful, red brother, RUFUS lives in Tucson, AZ with David and Martha Anderson.

These "Superkids" are double grandsired by CH. TAURALAN VIC TORIOUS.

CH. PRINCE CHUNKY CHOCOLATE is their sire.

Upper Crust

Home of Champions

Ranette & Terry Gaskins

4635 Normandie Pl., La Mesa, CA 92041

619-697-7075
or 465-4695

Tauralan Tempest Storm

STORMY was awarded Winners Bitch for a 5 point major at Long Beach Kennel Club. She then went on to BW and Best of Breed over very nice Specials. We are extremely pleased and proud.

CH. TAURALAN VIC TORIOUS
X
CH. TAURALAN COLONIAL ANN TEAK



Windy Hills Luz of Upper Crust

T-BONE is shown here winning RWB to STORMY's 5 point major on her first weekend out, from the 6-9 class.

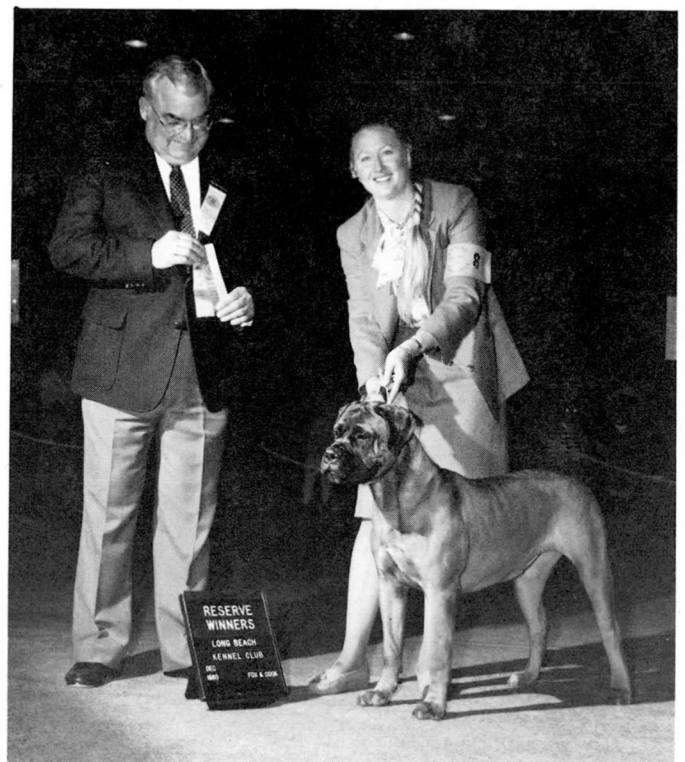
Thank you Mr. James White for the lovely wins at Long Beach.

CH. SAGUARO'S DOMINO
X
CH. TAILWYNDE'S BUMP IN THE NIGHT

Upper Crust
Home of Champions

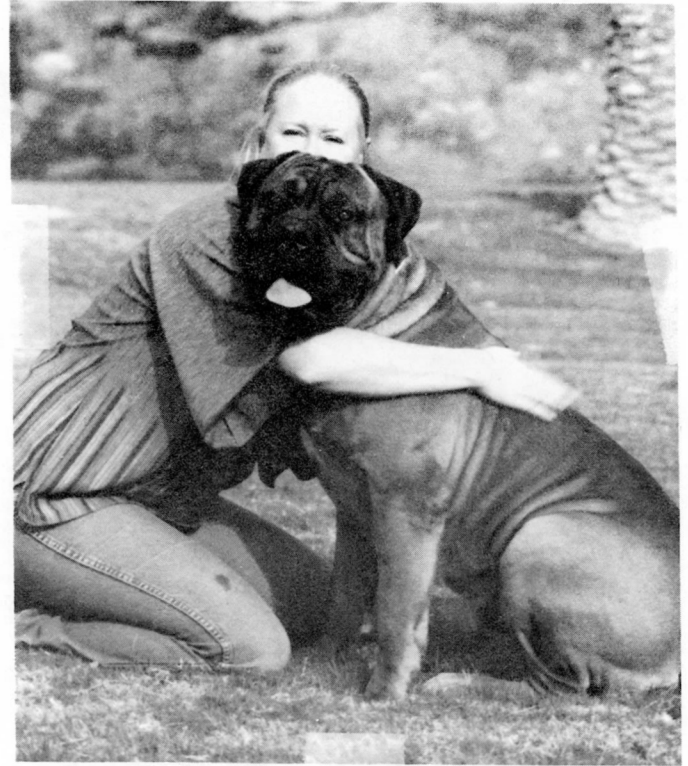
Ranette & Terry Gaskins

4635 Normandie Pl., La Mesa CA 92041
619-697-7075 or 619-465-4695



Associate Handler:
ANNE HINSON

Upper Crust welcomes
Ch Prince Chunky Chocolate bmf-514



We are very proud to welcome CHUNKY into our family. He is a Specialty winning son of CH. TAURALAN VIC TORIOUS. He is also the sire of 2 daughters from his first litter who are major pointed at 10 months. Thank you Bill Fruin for this handsome boy!!

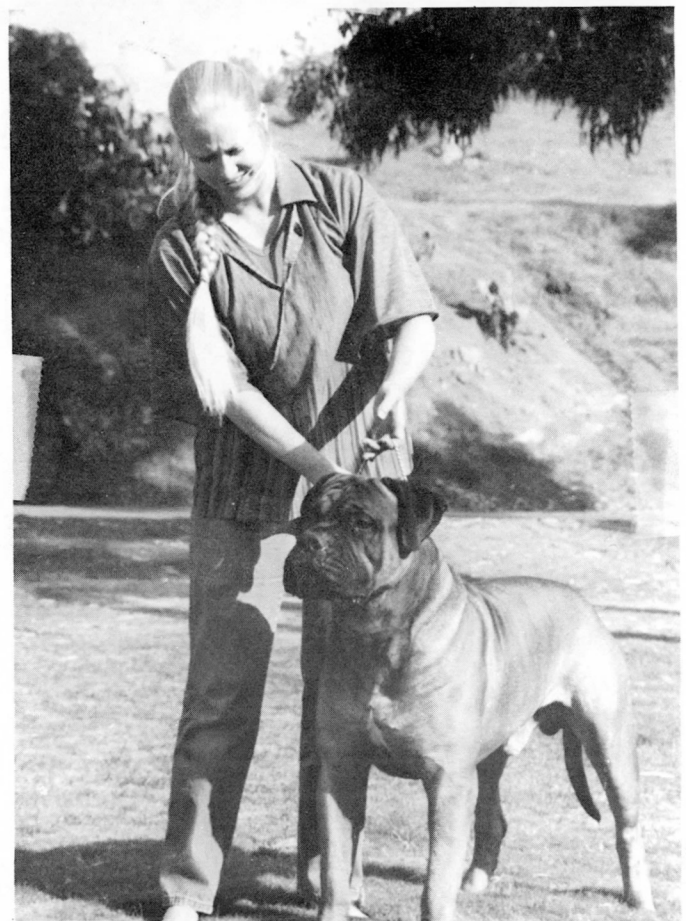
CHUNKY stands at stud in his new home.

Upper Crust

Home of Champions

Nanette & Terry Gaskins

4635 Normandie Pl., La Mesa, CA 92041
619-679-7075 or 619-465-4695



Tauralan Turkish Delight



"ZOE--Greek: 'Life'. A sweet animated existence with eternal potentials."

This exquisite puppy definitely lives up to her name. She's an incorrigible prankster at home and a vibrant, stunning competitor in the ring. ZOE is shown above taking a 4 point major at Palm Springs Kennel Club under judge William Hixson. She was just 10½ months old.

ZOE was co-bred by Nanette & Terry Gaskins and Carol Beans from
CH. PRINCE CHUNKY CHOCOLATE x CH. TAURALAN TRIGA DE AZTECA

Stud Service to Approved Bitches
CH TAURALAN VIC TORIOUS, BMF-322 & CH TAURALAN HOLD THAT TIGER, BMF-432
(fawn) (brindle)

Tauralan
Carol Beans

12131 Arroyo Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705
714-544-1824 or 714-730-9106

DOMINO



CH SAGUARO'S DOMINO bmf-495

This powerful red dog stands 27 inches and has the substance, muscle, and weight that is proportionate with his size. DOMINO's first litter, whelped June 3, 1985, out of CH. TAILWYNDE'S BUMP IN THE NIGHT, BMF-481; produced 9 beautiful pups. Six of these have already begun their show careers. Two of them, WINDY HILL'S LAURUS (Adam Shreve) and WINDY HILL'S LUZ OF UPPER CRUST, (Nanette & Terry Gaskins), went Reserve at Long Beach KC at just 6 months of age. There were two points in dogs and a five point major in bitches.

It is hoped that DOMINO will follow in his father's footsteps (CH. WINDY HILL'S HANNIBAL) as a top producer for the breed. DOMINO and "LANA" will repeat this breeding shortly, with pups due in late spring.

DOMINO is at stud to approved bitches. He offers size, substance, and a gorgeous head.

BULLMASTIFFS OF WINDY HILL

Arthur Lambert

3242 San Carlos Drive
Spring Valley, CA 92077
619-460-5288

WISHBONE MUGGS LONIGAN



CH. TAURALAN HOLD THAT TIGER x CH. BLACKSLATE'S DARLING DALILAH

MUGGS possesses Temperament, Bloodlines, Free Movement and stands square at the top line. He's shown here at Mensona KC under Mrs. Betty Moore, winning a 5 point major.

Young, spirited and still developing, MUGGS is skillfully handled by Shelia Farrington. Watch for this team in the Open Class!!!

STANDING AT STUD TO APPROVED BITCHES

WISHBONE BULLMASTIFFS

Kand K Banford

118 Montana Street, San Francisco, CA 94112

415-586-1275

BULLMAST BULLMASTIFFS



Brigadier of Bullmast

Pictured at 14 Months

Taking Best of Winners for a 4 point major under judge William Hixson at Palm Springs Kennel Club.

BRIG now has 13 points with both majors.
He is a powerfully built young man with a gorgeous temperament.

BULLMAST BULLMASTIFFS

Patricia V. O'Brien

1012 Dolores Drive, Fullerton, CA 92633
714-870-5235

DESTRUCTIVE CHEWING

by DOUGLAS KIRK & VALERIE MATTHEWS, DVM
Reprinted from DOG FANCY, February 1986
Copyright by DOUGLAS KIRK, 1985

IS YOUR DOG CHEWING YOU OUT OF HOUSE AND HOME? HERE ARE SOME HINTS ON KEEPING THIS BEHAVIOR UNDER CONTROL.

Chewing is a part of the daily life of every dog. When that chewing extends simply to the dog's breakfast and dinner and some rawhide chewies in between, that's fine--but when it extends to your slippers, your drapes or the leg of Aunt Martha's antique chair, it's a problem.

Chewing of objects other than food is a natural behavior for dogs, as is evidenced by the examination of the contents of dog dens in the wild. By domesticating the dog, we've brought it into contact with objects we value--but which our dogs, lacking our decorative tastes, are liable to see as little more than refined sticks and bones. Thus to prevent destructive chewing, one needs to examine both the behavioral reasons for the chewing AND the dog's environment.

WHY DO DOGS CHEW?

Puppies tend to chew more than adults, partly as a result of the growth of the mouth. It is believed that as teth erupt and grow, puppies soothe their teething pain by chewing on objects. As the teeth mature, this chewing should decrease. During the teething process, puppies will chew on practically anything. They may eat pieces of what they chew, but more often they'll simply leave the pieces scattered about.

Puppies also chew as a means of exploring their environment and discovering the nature--including the potential edibility--of things around them. In this type of chewing, the puppy may gnaw on something for a while, then go on to something else. Sometimes it will come back to the first object, but odds are that it won't. The purpose is to discover how the object behaves, and once that has been accomplished, there is no need to return.

Adult dogs also chew to explore their environment, as well as to test the food value of objects, to entertain themselves, and to vent displaced aggression.

Dogs that chew objects to discover whether they are edible will sniff a great deal and chew only slightly. If the object has food in it--such as a paper-wrapped pastry--the dog will often shred the paper to get to the food.

Dogs often chew when they are bored and lonely. They may select an object and chew on it for long periods of time. By the time the owner of the object--and of the dog--gets home, the object may be completely destroyed.

Sometimes frustrated dogs will attack and chew objects unrelated to the individual or situation that caused the frustration. If a dog wants to go with its owner and is left at home, for instance, it may attack the door or rip up the drapes in frustration. A dog that is tied outside may attack tree branches, grass, its chain or a water dish.

DESTRUCTIVE CHEWING (continued):

HOW TO PREVENT CHEWING

Before you take any action to prevent chewing, make sure that your dog is getting a good, balanced diet, that it is free from illness and that it is getting plenty of exercise and attention. These basics can eliminate many physical and psychological problems that might lead to chewing and other unacceptable behaviors.

If your puppy is teething, make sure that a variety of things that are acceptable to chew are available to it. Also, it is your responsibility to remove unacceptable objects from your puppy's immediate reach. After all, your puppy doesn't understand the difference between its rubber bone and your favorite pipe! Rawhide bones and large hard-rubber toys work well for teething puppies; toys of soft rubber are also good, but can be destroyed fairly quickly by the needle-sharp teeth of young puppies. Avoid giving your dog any object that it can swallow or that can be broken into bite-sized pieces, or that contains parts that might come loose and be swallowed, such as plastic eyes or metal bells. Your dog may also get some relief from gnawing on large, frozen soup bones; the cold is thought to ease the pain in the puppy's gums. NEVER give your puppy or adult dog cooked bones that can crumble or easily fracture into splinters.

If your puppy or adult dog is exploring as it chews, there isn't a great deal you can do to prevent it, except to keep valuable objects out of its reach. Try leaving toys where the dog can discover them.

The garbage can is usually the target of dogs that are chewing to look for something edible. Keep the lid securely fastened on your garbage can or keep it locked in a kitchen cabinet. Larger dogs may learn that they can stand up to a sink or table and steal packages of food you've left out, so don't leave food unattended where your dog can reach it. This applies to dog food, too: Don't leave the bag of kibble sitting out on the floor.

Chewing for entertainment or out of frustration is the most difficult activity to stop. Your dog may chew anything in sight just to pass the time. This sort of chewing often takes place while you're away from home, when the dog is bored and has no one to supervise its activities.

One possible solution is to make sure that your dog has a variety of acceptable things to entertain itself with. This may mean stretching your imagination to provide a steady stream of new toys, or rotating the dog's toys so that it doesn't have the same old things to play with day after day. This doesn't mean that you have to run to the pet store every week; some household objects also make acceptable chew toys. Plastic one-liter soft drink bottles have been used by many kennel owners with great success; make sure that the metal cap and ring have been removed! Tennis balls, an old cap, shoe or sock, a towel--as long as you keep safety considerations in mind, your house may have limitless potential for toys. One dog I know of even liked to play with the used air filter from a car!

Sometimes getting a dog a companion helps by providing it with another source of entertainment while you're gone. Different trainers have different opinions on the question of whether you should get another dog to keep your bored dog company. Sometimes two dogs can get into

CANINE HEART PROBLEMS

Reprinted from Morris Animal Foundation
COMPANION ANIMAL NEWS - December 1985

Heart problems in dogs often can't be detected until well advanced. The owner brings the dog in to the veterinarian because the dog's breathing is labored, the dog is coughing and it may have lost weight recently.

Taking a cue from human diagnostic techniques, Mark Kittleson, D.V.M., Ph.D., of the University of California, is testing dogs on an exercise treadmill, developing techniques to diagnose heart problems and evaluate treatment at an early stage. The work is funded by Morris Animal Foundation.

Humans tested for cardiac problems usually exercise to maximum stress level, or the point of fatigue. Because his patients can't complain of fatigue, Dr. Kittleson will work dogs to a sub-maximal stress level.

Physicians also test human patients for maximum oxygen consumption by using a breathing tube and measuring the point where oxygen consumption levels off. To test this in dogs, a different size face mask would be required for each size of dog.

However, the reason oxygen consumption levels off is that with strenuous exercise, the heart cannot pump enough blood to carry enough oxygen to the body, even though the body is demanding more oxygen. The pressure of oxygen in the capillaries--tiny blood vessels supplying muscles and organs--becomes so low that it no longer is forced from the vessels into the surrounding tissues. By measuring the oxygen pressure in leg veins, Dr. Kittleson can find this maximum oxygen consumption level in dogs.

Also, when muscle cells are deprived of oxygen, they produce lactic acid. Dr. Kittleson can measure lactic acid in the blood stream and correlate it with the oxygen pressure measurement.

Comparing these levels in blood samples from exercising dogs with normal hearts and with heart defects will provide a guideline for evaluating the seriousness of the heart problem. Dogs will be exercised on a treadmill at various speeds and degree of incline.

Heart problems are fairly common in dogs. Dr. Kittleson has seen a large number of cases of congestive cardiomyopathy, an enlarged heart with weakened muscle. In the University of California clinic the patients with congestive cardiomyopathy usually are middle-aged large or giant breed male dogs. Of 11 patients with the condition brought in in the past six months, seven were Doberman Pinschers.

Once Dr. Kittleson establishes measurements for evaluating heart problems, he will test the action of drugs on the conditions. One drug, milrinone, strengthens the heart muscle much like digitalis, but seems to be effective in cases where digitalis doesn't work. It has few side effects and a wide safety range, unlike digitalis. The same techniques and measurements will be used for other drugs in the future.

BREEDERS' LISTING

- AAWDDT**
Richard & Claudette Aamodt
3567 Custer St
Oakland, CA 94601
415-534-0792
- ALEHOUSE**
Kent & Karen Durso
10614 DeVal
Houston, TX 77040
713-890-2563
- AZTECA**
Luis & Frances Blanco
4060 1st Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92407
714-883-7087
- BAD'NUFF**
John & Karen Dorsch
1100 Agnew Dr
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
215-446-9644
- BANDELLER**
Robert & Helen Vales
3410 Pershing Ave, SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
- BLACKSLATE**
Virginia Rowland &
Mary Barbara Walsh
RR#1, Box 298
Templeton, MA 01468
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- BLUEGRASS**
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