

BOYKIN SPANIELS FOREVER

QUARTERLY JOURNAL

VOLUME II

2009



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Always enjoy reading Boykins Forever, especially the articles regarding Boykin health. I read with interest and commonality the article on ear infections. "Amanda," my Boykin, has a similar issue with her ears although not as pronounced. At one point I considered not running her in any more AKC or HRC events that involved water. She would completely stop swimming to violently shake her head and ignore the handling whistle. Conversations with vets and other owners convinced me that she could be allergic to the fillers in her food. At the testimonial of a friend who changed his dog food to "Innova," I made the change out of desperation. After several weeks of the change, I noticed an improved appearance and lengthening of her coat and that her ears were no longer bothered by water. Her ears are kept some what trimmed and I use the alcohol/water/vinegar after her water work but the food is making all the difference. Readers can Google "dog food analysis" and find lots of reading for their own conclusions.

No financial interest in Innova only interested in dog health,

- DeVon Ruth

Thanks...I had not heard of Innova.... I will read up on it. I know Purina's Salmon is also very good when there seems to be allergy issues... I also like the real lamb (not lamb meal) in the Diamond Premium Edge.

- Pat

I read your most recent Quarterly Journal and loved it! If I may, I would like to assist in the communications in regard to Boykin "ear infections."

My little Boykin, Bunny, who will be 3 in May, has had chronic ear infections. When she was a puppy I fed her Wellness Puppy and never had problems with her ears except for a little issue when she swam. All I needed to do though is dry them out with cosmetic cotton pads and maybe a gentle ear cleaning solutions specifically made for dogs. When she turned 2, I thought I could save some money and started buying Blue Seal Lamb & Rice. Well... let me tell you the ear infections came on full blown! That poor little dog. I took her to the vet and the vet prescribed Animax Ointment 2 x a day for 10 days and put her back on Wellness Lamb & Rice. That is exactly what

I did, and no more ear infections! Also, we follow up with the once in a while vinegar / water solutions as you recommended as it was also recommended by my vet.

Also, there was a picture of a Boykin in this last Quarter Journal wading in an ALGAE infested pond! Please tell that reader and all of your readers, once again, that this ALGAE and/or Blue Algae is highly TOXIC to our dogs! I know this for a fact because I almost lost Bunny to Blue Algae in the summer of 2007.

As always, Thank You for keeping the Boykin pure and for all of your hard work. I greatly appreciate all that you do!



Patricia Watts, Owner and Editor of *Boykins Forever*, a quarterly journal written for the love and well-being of the breed

- Lisa



What A Dog!

Brutus is a military K9 at McChord. He's huge - part Boxer and part British Bull Mastiff and tops the scales at 200 lbs. His handler took the picture. Brutus is running toward me because he knows I have some Milk Bone treats, so he's slobbering away! I had to duck around a tree just before he got to me in case he couldn't stop, but he did. Brutus won the Congressional Medal of Honor last year from his tour in Iraq. His handler and four other soldiers were taken hostage by insurgents. Brutus and his handler communicate by sign language and he gave Brutus the signal that meant "go away but come back and find me." The Iraqis paid no attention to Brutus. He came back later and quietly tore the throat out of one guard at one door and another guard at another door. He then jumped against one of the doors repeatedly (the guys were being held in an old warehouse) until it opened. He went in and untied his handler and they all escaped. He's the first K9 to receive this honor. If he knows you're ok, he's a big old lug and wants to sit in your

lap. Enjoys the company of cats.

Remember that they can't do a lot of things for themselves and that they depend on you to make their life a quality life!

A PET'S TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you is likely to be painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment, but I have only you.
5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.
7. Before you hit me, before you strike me, remember that I could hurt you, and yet, I choose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I have been in the sun too long, or my heart might be getting old or weak.
9. Please take care of me when I grow old. You too, will grow old.
10. On the ultimate difficult journey, go with me please. Never say you can't bear to watch. Don't make me face this alone. Everything is easier for me if you are there, because I love you so.



COVER PHOTO: "JAMACA & BUDDY" KNUDSEN
OWNER: LARRY & PAISLEY KNUDSEN OF ATLANTA, GA
"PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAM SIMMONS"

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