

Mixed Soup with Julia Carter

Love Note...

I want to share my love note with "Boykin Spaniels Forever" readers... A little over a year ago, I was diagnosed with mantle cell lymphoma.

Following a period of wild-eyed fear I decided that I wanted a boykin pup.

However, I worried about the attention that a pup deserved and whether or not I could provide it considering my predicament... Cohort Susan Kahler, we transport for Boykin Spaniel Rescue together, suggested that I adopt a rescue boy or girl.

I opened my email one day and Susan and husband, Kevin, had mailed pictures of Lily, a young boykin abandoned in Charlotte, NC. "That pretty, sad-eyed girl is the one", I thought!!!!

I was struck by Lily when I met her, but I knew she was not a Lily! So she became Lady Banksia, Banks.

I believe that she sensed my misery and fear and the first night with me, she staked her place on the bed, on my pillow... I will have to digress, here, to the bed--Banks' feat was a brave one because my bed has been divided three ways by Carter (Boykin), and Nich and Abbot (Cockers)!!!

What a gymnast she is!!!! Banks can leap three feet off the ground on retrieve and clear a wall on the terrace from the bottom up, effortlessly!!!! She has introduced me to her friends, the dragonfly family, and is presently, trying to talk the resident squirrels out of the trees to play with her... Banks' favorite toy is an 'air ring' constructed from tennis ball material.

She carries that ring so that it hides her face; it always makes me laugh...

I love you, Banks! And I am grateful to the people who let you go!!!!



Mystery Illness...

I live in a 'still sorta rural' town in NC-Knightdale, outside Raleigh, NC. It is important to sketch this geography since it plays a significant role in my notes to you. Among others, I am privileged to share my living quarters with two boykins, Carter Burton, 9, And Lady Banksia (Banks), 1 1/2 years old.

About four months ago, all my four-legged friends, Carter, Banks, and Cockers-- Abbot and Nich-- began to display bladder infections. One at a time, 'concentrated urine', as thick as honey, would appear overnight on my kitchen tile floor. To avoid exam visits times four every week, I began to collect samples-early

morning-in 8 oz. yogurt cups.

Every time, the verdict was the same: crystals and "junk" in the urine, e.g., minerals.

We waded through antibiotics and a medicine called Methioform, which contained the problem; but did not resolve the problem!!!

After repeat treatments, my vet called me and told me that she suspected the problem was in the water. Wake County's water, she said, is among the worst in the state noted for minerals, 'trash' e.g., sand. For a week, I supplied only bottled water that had been purified. This was an exhausting task!!!

The resolution was a whole house water filtration system. I bought mine from Lowe's, since the system they sell is excellent by reputation and affordable, about \$40.00. Amazingly, after installing the system, each dog began displaying improved lab results. And, at present, everyone is clear except Banks, who, the vet thinks, may manufacture crystals without the help of the environment. If you have this tedious problem look carefully at your water, especially if it is well-driven.

-- Julia, Knightdale



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