

# The Dog Guardian

Newsletter for Responsible Dog Owners of Canada

## WINTER 2017

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### Highlights by Julie More

Check out our new section, "The Dogs' Den", written by the RDOC puppies. In this issue they decided to focus on kids and dogs. It is important to teach children how to be safe around dogs, and at the same time teach pups how to be safe around kids.

We had fun writing the "Things you wish you had taught your pup; and skills you are glad he learned" article. Take a look. You may be surprised at what is included in the list.

Thank you, Roger, for writing the "Flying with a larger dog" article. It is very informative. Thanks to you, our dogs and their owners will have an easier time planning their travels.

In the Winter 2016 newsletter we covered some Winter and Holiday safety tips. The information is really important, so we are including a [link to the article](#) in this newsletter.



# Board News

The board has been focusing on fundraising. Unfortunately, the "Going to the Dogs" fundraiser didn't work out this year. We are replacing it with the Online Auction and the "Taking your owner for a walk and support RDOC" fundraiser.

Our AGM will be held on Sunday, November 19th at 10:00 a.m. For more info, please email [morejulie@hotmail.com](mailto:morejulie@hotmail.com)

## Flying with a larger dog by Roger Sandwell

Dogs and other animals that are too large to fit under the seat in the cabin will have to travel in a crate in the hold of the plane. We do this regularly with our dog (a standard poodle) and can pass on a few tips.

Before we started to fly with our dog, we asked an airline representative if he had any advice about flying with dogs. With a perfectly straight face he said "We've trained them for years to run down the runway and flap their ears. But they never quite seem to make it up in the air!" Hopefully the following suggestions will be more useful.

Many dogs (for example from breeders and rescue groups) are shipped via unaccompanied cargo. That's another story. These comments only relate to the situation where you are flying accompanied by your larger dog on the same flight.

### **First, the obvious:**

Purchase an airline-approved crate of adequate size. All reputable pet stores carry them and the regulations will be listed on the airline website. There may be restrictions on some smaller planes as to the maximum size of crate that can be carried. So those of you with Great Danes, Mastiffs, etc., may have a problem in some cases. Check with the airline.

Make sure the crate has a thick, warm layer of padding on the floor. You want the dog to be as comfortable as possible when the plane is bouncing down the runway on take-off and landing.

Give the dog adequate opportunity to "do its business" before being confined in a crate for several (possibly many) hours. They have washrooms in the human passenger cabin, but not down under.

For the same reason, we prefer not to feed our dog, nor to give her much water immediately before the flight.

Opinions differ as to whether you should sedate your dog. We don't. We were advised that it's difficult to sedate the dog for a sufficiently long time on a multi-hour flight, and it will be more of a problem if

he/she wakes up disoriented and confused half-way through a flight. But our dog is fairly calm and just sleeps when there is nothing better to do. Your situation may be different – take your vet’s advice.

### **Less obvious:**

Our main concern is always to make sure that our dog has been loaded on to the plane. Consequently, we like to watch the baggage loading from a window in the terminal before we (along with other passengers) board the plane. We also try to get a pre-assigned seat close to the cargo door so that we can monitor the loading after we’ve boarded.

WestJet (we can’t speak for other airlines) have a good system where they will put a label with a tear-off tab on the crate at check-in. The baggage handler will bring that tag to the flight attendant when they have loaded the crate, and the flight attendant will bring it to the passenger. That way, you know the animal is loaded.

We try to avoid travelling with our dog in the middle of a Canadian winter when there may be weather delays. You don’t want your pet stuck down in the hold for hours, possibly with the engines (and therefore the heating) turned off. Likewise, it is also safer to avoid the hottest part of the summer.

Talking of heating, we always mention to the in-charge flight attendant as we board the plane that we have a dog in the hold, and ask her to make sure that the captain knows to turn on the heating in the hold.

We do not use connecting flights where the dog will be transferred directly from one plane to another. Seasoned travellers will know that suitcases rarely get lost when travelling from A to B. They typically get lost when you are travelling from A to C, through B. Suitcases are one thing. Pets are entirely another matter. Plus, it adds stress to the dog, who will not understand or appreciate all the extra handling and delays. If we have to connect, we make sure we have a sufficiently long connection to get our dog back into our care, even if it means an overnight stay in a hotel. Then we check in again for the next flight, maybe the next day.

### **At the Airport:**

When travelling with a crated dog, most airlines will need you to check in at least 1.5 hours, probably 2 hours before the flight time.

We like to have a large label on the top of the crate with the dog’s name, flight details and contact information. See example at right.

The airline will require you to complete a form and will paste it onto the crate with a baggage tag.



After you have checked in, you will move to the special/oversize baggage area. You will take the dog out of the crate and security will inspect the crate for anything suspicious. When that is done, the dog can go back in the crate and the door can be sealed. Most airlines will provide cable-ties to prevent the door being inadvertently opened. It's a good idea to have your own supply of these ties. You can buy them at any hardware store. Make sure you get ties that can be used multiple times and removed by pressure from a finger, as opposed to the 1-time ties that need scissors or clippers to remove them.

After that, a baggage handler will collect the crate and hold it in a special area until it is loaded on the plane.

### **Bottom Line:**

It sounds complicated. It's really not. We get stressed; our dog takes it all in her stride.

Happy travelling.



## **Things you wish you had taught your pup, and skills you are glad he learned** by Julie More

Christmas is coming, and then it will be spring. Lots of kids want a new puppy. We thought we would write an article on things that a new puppy should know. This is not a training article, but a list of useful skills (like hand signals; sitting and waiting calmly for food or before going outside; "go to your bed"; paying attention; a really good recall; no jumping on people, etc.) We also thought to include a list of "things that I wish I had taught my dog when she was a puppy" and "things I am glad I taught my pup".

We sent out an email to our members and here are some of their replies:

**Mary said:** *"I wish I had taught my dogs not to go into water without checking with me first, lol."*

**From Kit:** *"How about familiarizing/desensitizing your puppy to various sounds that they might be fearful of, such as vacuum cleaners, fireworks, thunder storms .... etc."*

**Julie wrote:** *"I wish I would have taught my dogs to be good when their nails are cut and their teeth are cleaned."*

*"I am glad I taught my pups:*

- ✦ *"Leave it" means walk past it. Do not even look at it. Great when you drop a piece of food accidentally on the floor, or on your walk there is a chicken bone. This command saved me many vet bills. 😊*
- ✦ *"Back up" comes very handy when you come home with an armful of groceries. Your pup eagerly waits at the door. You give the command and your pup backs up, so you can come in and put down the groceries before being licked to death by your enthusiastic puppy. 😊*
- ✦ *"Pick it up" is very useful when you drop something. It comes in very handy if you have a sore back or knees. Let your pup help you. 😊 "*

*Diane emailed: "I am not sure that I have a wish list ... will think about that ... but I do have a list of things that I am really happy we did teach Tyke, my Jack Russell grand-pup, that are maybe a little out of the norm:*

- ✦ *when walking without a leash, the command: "Off the road", with a waved hand pointed in the correct direction.*
- ✦ *to not go out a door unless told to.*
- ✦ *poop on command.*
- ✦ *only swim when invited.*
- ✦ *stop and not enter the parking area at the cottage, which is grassed and only a quick dash to the road.*
- ✦ *ring bells which we hang on the door handle when she wants out ... (no barking to enter or leave the house).*
- ✦ *recently she has learned that there are no treats until her real food is finished.*

*I did think of something we wish that we had taught her ... to catch a Frisbee in the air."*

*Jill answered: "Now that my dog is elderly and set in her ways, I wish I had:*

- ✦ *taught her to not spend the majority of her walk sniffing at the ground.*
- ✦ *taught her to not snap at flies (OK) and bees (not OK).*
- ✦ *not allowed her to ever cross in front of me, and then trip me when out walking on leash!*

*Some of the things I am glad I taught her:*

- ✦ *she stands like a rock and supports me when I am standing on one leg, putting on my shoes!*
- ✦ *now she is rather deaf, I give thanks that she was taught hand signals for many actions.*
- ✦ *a quick recall using a whistle, which she hears better than my voice.*
- ✦ *to happily go to, and stay in, her crate.*
- ✦ *to not be scared of noisy shopping carts, people in wheelchairs or with crutches etc.*
- ✦ *that small children = lots of tasty treats = a great experience!*
- ✦ *to accept having her teeth cleaned daily, and nails clipped."*

Good luck with training your puppy, and training your child to be responsible for the pup he/she begged you to get. There are a lot of good websites that teach children to take responsibility for their new pup. In the [Christmas 2014 newsletter](#) I wrote an article about how much your children will be able to help.

"How to Love Your Dog, A Kid's Guide to Dog Care" <http://loveyourdog.com/>

Click on "What's your Job?" or just go to <http://loveyourdog.com/ages.html> to find out how your child can help. It starts with the 4 year olds petting and helping to brush the pup, etc. under adult supervision. You click on your child's age, and it gives you suggestions on what he or she is capable of helping with. It's just a general guide line, since each child is different, and you are the one who knows your child the best. The chart goes from 4 year olds to 15 year olds. It covers all the categories like feeding, grooming, training.

We would love to hear from you on what you taught your pup and what you wish you had taught your pup. Email me at [morejulie@hotmail.com](mailto:morejulie@hotmail.com) and we will include your replies in our next newsletter.

## Winter and Holiday safety tips



Winter is almost here. Brrr. Not looking forward to the snow, freezing rain and the cold. Neither are my dogs. There are ways to make winter more enjoyable for both you and your pet. Here is a link to the [Winter and Holiday safety tips](#) we published in last year's winter newsletter.

## The Dogs' Den

by Tyler, Nellie, and Morgan

Hi everybody,



Let us introduce ourselves. We are the newsletter co-editors' dogs - Tyler and Nellie, Julie's pups, and Morgan, Jill's pup. We decided this newsletter needed an article written by us dogs. We have to give you guys a dog's perspective of responsible dog ownership. In each newsletter we will cover a new important topic.

In this newsletter we decided to focus on kids and dogs. It is important to teach children how to be safe around dogs, and at the same time teach us pups how to be safe around kids.

In fact, RDOC is running a new fundraiser called "Take your owner for a walk and support RDOC". Our board members' dogs decided to take matters into their own paws to fundraise and at the same time exercise their owners. The funds raised will be used to enhance our children's education programs on how to help look after pet dogs, and be safe around dogs.

What children's educational programs you ask? Well, click on this link [www.responsibleowners.ca/studies.html](http://www.responsibleowners.ca/studies.html) and take a look at our "Fido, Friend or Foe?" activity book written by Etta Agan Bradecamp, DVM, DACT, DABVP and Joanna Burnette Freeman, DVM, and recently updated in conjunction with RDOC.

The purpose of this activity book is to teach children how to act responsibly and safely around dogs. It can be used as a starting point to talk to children about bite prevention.

The book includes several informative illustrations that can be printed out and coloured.

And here are some neat websites about kids and dogs:

[www.getdogsmart.com](http://www.getdogsmart.com)

"Get dog smart with Diggity the Dog! Diggity the Dog's story encompasses the number one cure for the dog bite epidemic. The story takes children on a fun walk through the neighbourhood. Along the way, children encounter a whole lot of dogs in different situations. Diggity tells the "do's" and "don'ts" - right from the doggie's mouth."

[www.liamjperkfoundation.org/talk.html](http://www.liamjperkfoundation.org/talk.html)

"Little Liam was fatally bitten by his family's own beloved dog. This site is full of information for parents and caregivers - such as dog body language; dog stress signals; signs of anxiety; why dogs bite; Be a Tree, and more. Well illustrated."

<https://drsophiayin.com/blog/entry/free-downloads-posters-handouts-and-more/>

"Dr. Sophia Yin's website: dog body language of fear and anxiety; how to greet, and how not to greet a dog; also training tips, and much more."

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for teaching their kids how to be safe around us. We would also like to thank all the dog owners for training us to be safe around children.

Tyler, Nellie and Morgan (Woofie! Woof!)



# "Going to the Dogs" Fundraiser changed to online auction

Unfortunately we were unable to put on the "Going to the Dogs" Fundraiser this year. We needed to sell 25 tickets for the racetrack to hold the fundraiser. Sadly, we did not sell that many. However, we did get lots of wonderful merchandise for the silent auction. We decided to change the silent auction into an online auction. The plan is to open the auction before Christmas, in time for the presents buying season. More info will be posted on our website as we get it.

# "Take your owner for a walk and support RDOC" Fundraiser

RDOC is pleased to announce our first "Take your owner for a walk and support RDOC" fundraiser. Our board members' dogs decided to take matters into their own paws to fundraise (and at the same time exercise their owners). The funds raised will be used to enhance our children's education programs on how to help look after pet dogs, and be safe around dogs. We have raised \$815. A big thank you goes to all our sponsors. 😊

# Ferguson Forest Dog Park

**FEATURING**

- Kemptville Pipes and Drums Band
- Unbuckled
- Landon Bador Musician/Songwriter
- Wendy Daniels, Boom 99.7, MC

**EVENTS**

- Paws4Fun
- Agility/ Outback
- Agility Fun Match
- Airborne Disc Dog Club of Ottawa
- Competitive K9s -Sport Detection
- T.A.G. Dogs Freestyle Demo
- Barbeque
- Live Music
- Sponsor Booths
- Face Painting

**Ferguson Forest Dog Park**  
**Grand Opening**  
September 17, 2017  
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Look for us on Facebook

RDOC would like to congratulate all the volunteers and businesses who made the Ferguson Forest Dog Park possible.

Thank you Dagmar, Mj and Candice for volunteering at the RDOC table on opening day.



## Park clean ups

Thank you everybody for helping to keep the parks clean. The fall park clean up projects went well. We cleaned Conroy Pit, Bruce Pit and Heritage Park.

We are starting an extended park clean up project in Bruce Pit and Conroy Pit. About once every 2 weeks our volunteers are going to the parks to thank owners for picking up after their dogs, give out poop bags, and give the pups yummy cookies. We are also handing out information about our organization and upcoming events.

## CCGC (Canadian Canine Good Citizen) testing

[CCGC is a ten-step test](#) that provides a good measurement of a dog's behaviour in a social setting with different distractions.

Congratulations to Angela Houle with Rio and Tara Vanneste with Farley for passing the CCGC test on Sunday, October 29th. You worked very hard with your dogs. You make a great team.

## Kids page

Kids, don't forget to visit the latest edition of the Kids Page on our website at [www.responsible dogowners.ca/kidspage/activitypage-winter2017.html](http://www.responsible dogowners.ca/kidspage/activitypage-winter2017.html). We have a puzzle for you to work on, an easy trick to teach your dog ("Ring the bell to go outside") and a little article about pet turtles.

Why not enter our colouring contest? There is a new picture to colour each time we update the page. All you have to do is follow the instructions on the page, and colour the picture you print out. Then, scan or photograph it, and email the copy to [morejulie@hotmail.com](mailto:morejulie@hotmail.com). The winner's name and picture will be published in the next newsletter.



Thank you, Dagmar, for helping with the Kids Page. We would also like to thank our committee for proofreading this newsletter. We really appreciate your help.

A special thank you to Kit Watson for the final proofreading of the newsletter.



**Merry Christmas!**

**Happy Holidays!**

**Responsibility • Respect • Recognition**

**Contact RDOC by:**

E-mail: [inquiries@responsibledogowners.ca](mailto:inquiries@responsibledogowners.ca)

Phone: 613.258.0697 / 613.868.2201 (leave message)

**Write to us at:**

RDOC, 24 Elderwood Trail,  
Stittsville, ON K2S 1C9, Canada

**Or visit us online at:**

[www.responsibledogowners.ca](http://www.responsibledogowners.ca)

## **Annual Membership Fees:**

Seniors and Students - \$10

Adult and Family - \$20 (volunteers get a 50% discount)

Not-for-Profit Organizations - \$35

Corporations and Businesses - \$50

To join or renew your membership, please email: [inquiries@responsibledogowners.ca](mailto:inquiries@responsibledogowners.ca)  
or go to our website at: [www.responsibledogowners.ca/membership.html](http://www.responsibledogowners.ca/membership.html)