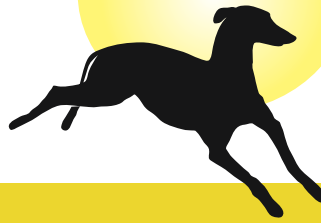




# NEEDLE-NEWS

Volume 6 / Issue 1 / September 2012



## WELCOME TO NEEDLE-NOSE

Was this one of the hottest summers on record, or what? Hard to believe it's almost over and Autumn Equinox is only three short weeks away. Where does the time go?

Despite the frenetic pace, we managed to put together the September issue of Needle-News and we hope you'll find it entertaining and educational. As always, there's a little something for everyone in the family...a feature story about the wily and wonderful Greyhound Welly (Mr. Needle-Nose February 2011!), who has finally settled in and is revelling in new-

found retirement with his forever family; a miracle formula for those hounds unlucky enough to meet up with Pepé Le Pew; some useful information if you've been considering the raw diet for your Greyhound; steps to fend off heartworm; the pros and cons of the off-leash park; and a Wordsearch for a lazy afternoon on the deck. Enjoy!

Don't forget the Needle-Nose Picnic on Sunday, September 9. We hope to see all of you there!

*Elizabeth Hunt, Editor, Needle-News*

## Wily, willful and absolutely wonderful Welly

*Introduction by Brenda Aston*

*I was delighted when Jenny said she would be happy to write Welly's Story. It is a story people need to hear. Welly was not yet two when he came to Needle-Nose. He had a lot of puppy left in him and was not an easy settle in as you will see. Welly's story shows what time, perseverance, patience, and a lot of love can do. Welly has gone from awkward puppyhood to a St John's Ambulance Therapy dog. Enjoy this boy's story.*

*By Jenny Johnson*

September 2009. Geoff and Brenda dropped off my new dog, Wellington, aka Welly (named after my husband's favourite beer). I'd met him a week earlier when Brenda and Geoff invited me on an eight-hour round trip to pick him (and seven other dogs) up at the Rendezvous. But to see him and his size in our small house was overwhelming. He was so quiet and gentle....until he met our cat.

Our cat, Hank, is special needs; mentally challenged, crippled, and blind in one eye so he has no depth perception. Basically, he can't run or jump up on furniture, and when he tries he usually falls short and tumbles. When we introduced Welly to Hank my husband and I thought we'd made a huge mistake. Our poor cat didn't deserve to be living in the equivalent of a shark tank. We muzzled Welly and segregated the animals with baby gates (who



Welly

doesn't want to climb over baby gates for the next 10 years?!!)

The first couple of nights were fine. Welly was a great house guest, sleeping downstairs in his crate. But by the end of the first week he started crying when we put him in his crate at night. We tried to ignore him but he only got more panicked, crashing

*(cont'd on next page)*

## Welly has given his forever family a run for their money!

*continued from previous page*

and banging about in his crate. We eventually gave in and let him sleep on his bed at the foot of our bed for fear he would hurt himself (or my walls).

The panic didn't just present itself at night. When I left during the day, for only an hour or two at most, I would come home to Welly sitting outside his crate like Houdini (which is what we should have named him). So I locked the crate but he still escaped, and eventually the crate was so damaged it was no longer functional. I searched Welly for any signs of cuts or scrapes but he always seemed fine.

We put what was left of the crate away, and started leaving Welly alone downstairs with the cat still living upstairs, segregated by the baby gate that neither animal could jump over. Then Welly started having 'accidents'. I was told by countless people it was just separation anxiety. I was also told you're not supposed to reprimand a dog unless you catch him in the act, but he only did this when I left the house. I was exasperated and my lovely white sisal area rugs were now spotted with yellow and brown stains. This went on for some time because I could never catch him in the act!

One day I came home to a party in my kitchen. Welly had snatched the bananas off the counter top and squished them into my sofa. He'd somehow gotten into my top cupboards and eaten bags of dried lentils and dried beans. The garbage and compost were strewn about the floor. All of this meant another baby gate, this time to the kitchen. Worst of all, what were the bananas, lentils and raw chicken doing to his sensitive digestion. No doubt I would find out next time I left the house, on my white sisal carpets.

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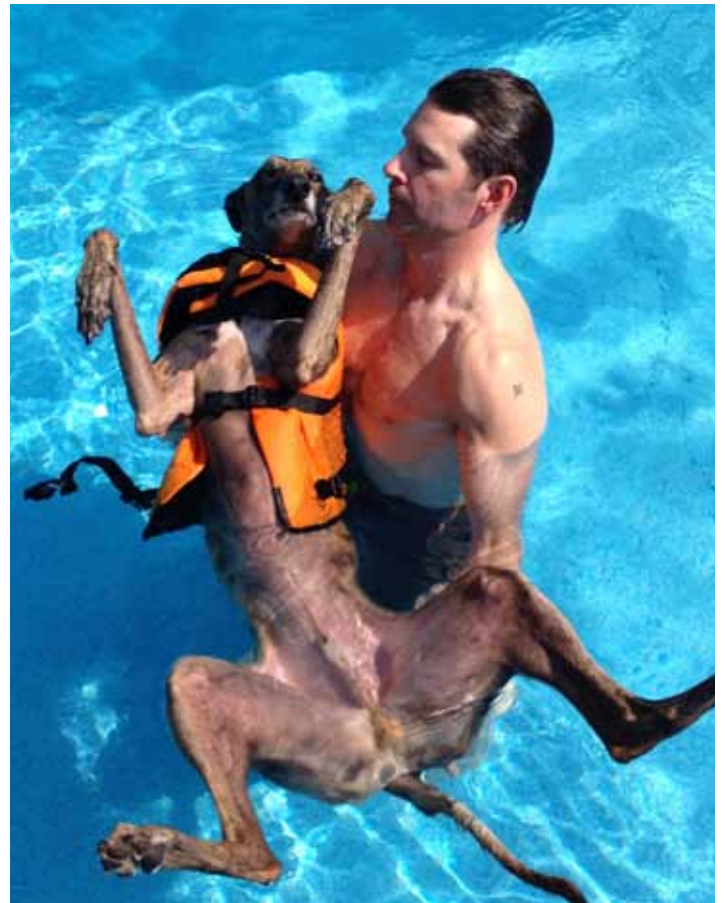
*"He'd somehow gotten into my top cupboards and eaten bags of dried lentils and dried beans. The garbage and compost were strewn about the floor."*

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Time passed, as it inevitably does, and the accidents stopped. Welly 'n Hank became BFFs so I could remove the baby gate between floors. The stains in the carpet were magically removed with the help of Turco Persian (they are serious miracle workers!). I had almost forgotten about this horror story until Brenda had asked I write about it. It's true what they say, that you only remember the good things.

Last month, June 2012, Welly passed his St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog test with flying colours. We're going to

start visiting a facility in our neighbourhood in September (when the weather cools and my dog returns to life). I couldn't have imagined that first day when Brenda and Geoff dropped Welly off that we would have peace between cat and dog and I don't have to climb over baby gates, that my carpets would look brand new again, and that a previously anxious dog would be a comfort to strangers.





# In Memoriam

**Ernie**  
December 13, 2011



It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Ernie Dog (left), much loved by Cassandra & Allegra Weimann and Greyhound Tallulah (right), on December 13, 2011. Ernie was 14-1/2 years old and is very much missed by his family.

**Choo-Choo**  
April 17, 2012



It is with sadness that we note the passing of Choo-Choo, beloved Greyhound of Cara-Lea Suttie, Earl Harroun & Suzanne Meade. Choo Choo is greatly missed by her loving family.

**Izzy (Isolde)**  
July 17, 2012



It is with sadness that we note the passing of Izzy (Isolde) on July 17 due to congestive heart failure. Tricia Scholer and Marie Martin will miss their much-loved pretty girl.

**Dash (Dashel)**  
August 7, 2012



It is with sadness that we share with our readers the passing of Dash, beloved Greyhound of Lorraine Fisher and her son Jordan and Greyhound 'sister' Q'tesh. Dash touched many lives in his eight years on Earth and will be greatly missed by his family and his many pals at Norwood Park.

# Raw or kibble? For some people it's a no-brainer

*The raw food option may be suitable for some pet owners, but we recommend speaking with your veterinarian before starting the diet.*

by Lesley Cadham

One Saturday afternoon I was sitting at my computer watching email after email appear in my inbox, with the subject line "Rawfed Greyhounds". I have to confess; I could not figure out what on earth "rawfed" meant. No word like that in the dictionary. But there were certainly a lot of people very interested in the subject, judging by the number of new emails. Finally, curiosity got the better of me and I bit...went in and had a peek.

Of course! The subject that had used up most of my Rogers data plan in just one hour involved a discussion about raw food vs. kibble for our Greyhounds. Timely for me, as I was debating whether to switch over to raw.

My older Greyhound had looked under the weather for a couple of months and I'd almost faint when she released gas. My vet said she seemed fine, and I'd already tried switching brands of kibble a few times and had returned two of the higher-end brands (\$65 and \$75 per 13 kg) to the store as neither had agreed with either of my hounds.

Have to admit, I was somewhat fearful of the raw diet: I'd always heard that raw meat was not good for me or my dogs; touching them or letting them lick me after they'd eaten raw food could be dangerous. I'd been told that if I put them on the raw diet, I'd be subject to a host of parasites and diseases including salmonella. When I told my vet about my dilemma, he heartily encouraged me to continue feeding them kibble, claiming that a raw diet would result in a "wildly fluctuating" nutritional balance and I would likely end up with very sick dogs.

That was four years and two vets ago. Today, my hounds are healthy and happy, their fur is shiny, their eyes are bright and I have gotten used to the odors that emanate from the bags of tripe and offal.

## Raw Feeding Models

The most common model is the **BARF** (Biologically Appropriate Raw Food or Bones and Raw Food) diet. Typically, ground bones, organs and muscle meat are placed in a bowl and can be combined with chopped fruits and vegetables.

Some owners improvise with the **Frankenprey model, a modified form of the Prey model**, which involves throwing complete parts such as chicken breasts, turkey wings, meaty ribs and/or trachea on the floor and letting the hounds have a paw-lickin' good feast. (You might want to buy a rubber mat or towel for your hound to lie on while eating.)

The **Prey Model** is pretty much what it sounds like...a whole animal is left for your hounds to pick at to their heart's content. Of course this model is not appropriate for everyone; I can pretty much promise you that my neighbours would call the health department if I hauled a dead cow into my back yard and left it there for a couple of weeks. This model, while being the healthiest choice for your hound (your hounds get a little bit of every part of the animal - bones, muscle, organs, flesh - and they know what they need), is obviously more appropriate for Greyhound owners who live on farms or in remote areas. But that certainly doesn't mean YOU can't mix up a comparable and extremely healthy combination for them.



## Are you feeding the right balance?

The Prey Model isn't for everyone, but relax; you can feed your hound a balanced diet by following the 80-10-10 rule:

- 10% organ meat (kidneys, liver, pancreas, etc.)
- 10% UNCOOKED bone (NEVER FEED COOKED BONE!!)
- 80% muscle meat (flesh, heart, skin and pretty much anything that isn't an organ or bone)

## What to buy, where to buy it

Once you've made the choice to switch your hounds or other pets to raw food, you'll need to decide whether you want to buy animal parts that you'll then combine yourself, or whether the pre-packaged format will work better. Pre-packaged is obviously more expensive - someone has done all the math and mixing for you - all you have to do is open the package, place the contents in your hound's bowl and voila! Be cautioned however, it can cost up to three times more than combining the food yourself. I buy on-sale meats at the grocery store and the rest at a raw dog food supplier. I've calculated that it costs me less to feed raw than to feed a non-grain kibble.

*Continued on following page*

# Eau de Skunk not quite the fragrance of choice for Bowser?

By Geoff Aston

If your greyhound (or your son and his girlfriend!! Yep it really happened) ever gets sprayed by a skunk, here's a recipe that might save the day.

Skunk musk is composed primarily of seven ingredients, six of which are sulfur-containing thiols that give the skunk musk its awful smell. Humans can smell skunk musk in concentrations as low as 1 part per billion.

Paul Krebaum, a chemist at Molex Inc. in Illinois, discovered a solution that chemically neutralizes skunk odor. This recipe first appeared in Chemical & Engineering News, a publication of the American Chemical Society.

## Formula

1 quart 3% Hydrogen Peroxide

1/4 cup Baking Soda

2 tbsp Dish Detergent. (the stuff for washing dishes in the sink, not something for dishwashers)



Mix the ingredients in a large bowl, because it will boil up like Vesuvius. We are, after all, making an oxygen generator. Wash the dog with this while it is still foaming, because it is the oxygen which reacts with the thiols in the skunk musk to neutralize the odour. Rinse with plenty of clean water. If the solution sits around, it will lose its efficacy because the oxygen boils off. Don't try to store it in an airtight container, because it will blow up. The brew also works for clothes, humans and unlucky cats.

Because hydrogen peroxide is a bleaching agent, don't use this on material



that could be bleached. Substitute a mixture of half vinegar and half water instead. I've had good luck with soaking running shoes in this solution for half an hour and then thoroughly rinsing the shoes out. After two washings with several hours drying in the sun, the shoes were back to their running shoe smelling self.

For a more complete discussion of various treatments, there is a very good paper published by the University of Nebraska. Follow this link: <http://icwdm.org/publications/pdf/skunk/skunkodorremoval.pdf>

## Feeding your hound naturally, as he or she was meant to eat

*Continued from previous page*

### How much to feed?

Greyhounds generally do well if they are fed 1.8% to 2% of their body weight, twice a day. I feed my 82 lb. boy approximately 31 oz. of food a day, in two servings. My 74 lb. girl gets about 25 oz. I've tweaked it to suit them. Use common sense - if your hound is losing weight, increase the food; if he's gaining weight, reduce it.

Dogs on the raw diet have been known to overcome many afflictions including diabetes, loss of fur, baldness, colonitis, thyroid problems and allergies and this is by no means an exhaustive list. Timing varies, but a general rule of thumb is not to expect to see major changes for at least 30 days after switching to a raw diet. If you're

going to give it a try, give it a proper chance - keep your dog on it for at least two months before committing or withdrawing.

### Supplements and Holistic Treatments

There's a host of supplements and holistic treatments; you might as well go whole-hog, if you'll excuse the pun. There are way too many to go into here, and I wouldn't even try. (Apple cider vinegar in drinking water keeps fleas off your hound!)

There are some excellent sources of information out there, including Karen Ward at *Awesome Paws/Camp Greyhound* and Lori Dzingala at *Heronview Raw & Natural*. I also suggest doing a little of your own web research. A healthy hound is a happy hound!



# Needle-News Nips

*Smell the Sizzle!!!*

## Annual Needle-Nose BBQ & Picnic

Yikes! Could it be that a full year has passed since the last Needle-Nose Picnic? Where does the time go?

This year, all Needle-Nose Greyhounds and their peeps are invited to join the Astons at their farm in Campbellville beginning at noon on Sunday, September 9. The picnic will continue through the afternoon and will be a great opportunity for you and your Greys to meet up with two and four-legged friends you haven't seen since last September. And if that isn't enough to pique your interest, there will be an abundance of good food, games, laughter, shopping and of course, *roos*.

Mark your calendars! For more information, email [aston@rogers.com](mailto:aston@rogers.com)



Needle-Nose 2013 Calendar Coming Soon!



We're laying out the 2013 **Needle-Nose** calendar with those sweet, funny, poignant, playful, *awwww*-inducing photos of all the beautiful hounds who are living life to the fullest with their new forever families. Thank you to all who shared those great moments with us...you made the calendar possible!

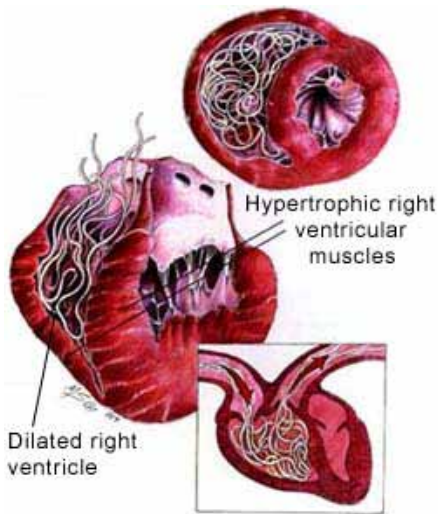
We plan to roll out the calendar at the Needle-Nose picnic on September 9, so take a few minutes to decide how many copies you'll need for yourselves and for Christmas presents!

# Steps to staving off the dreaded heartworm

by Elizabeth Hunt

## What Is Heartworm?

Heartworm is a parasitic infection that can occur in the heart and blood vessels of an infected animal. Yes, this means actual parasites, worms, grow and develop in the circulatory system, heart and lungs of your dog. Disgusting!



The infection comes from the bite of an infected mosquito which pets are sure to encounter during the warmer months in Ontario. Because the condition is serious and potentially fatal, prevention is strongly recommended. The incidence of heartworm in dogs in Ontario has increased 60 percent from 2002 to 2010. With our weather getting warmer year over year, those pesky mosquitoes are going to be more numerous.

## The Heartworm Test

Each year in late spring, your dog should be taken to the vet for a simple blood test to check for the presence of heartworm infection. The test is quick and can now be read instantly in the office while you wait thanks to special indicator strips your vet uses. The test is done to be sure an active infection is not

already taking place in your dog, because the preventative medication could cause an infected dog to have an adverse allergic reaction. If your dog is already sick with a heartworm infection, you would be compounding this with the treatment your dog will then endure to rid him from the heartworm. This treatment is costly and requires several injections to rid the bloodstream of adult worms, which is fatal to the worms but also hard on the dog's body. If your dog is elderly or already weakened by some other chronic problem, his body may not even tolerate the treatment. Still not convinced you want to have your dog tested? Consider that visible signs of heartworm infection in a dog don't appear until the infestation is in the advanced stages. At this point, damage to the dog's body that cannot heal may have already taken place. Don't chance it.

## How Medication Works

Heartworm preventative medication kills the heartworm larvae that may enter the dog's body through the bite of the infected mosquito. This prevents the development of adult heartworms in the dog's bloodstream. Regardless of which medication you choose, it must be administered once per month from June to November (in Southern Ontario) or as directed by your veterinarian, depending on where you live. In warmer climates, year-round prevention is preferred, because mosquitoes are active for longer periods.

## Oral Tablets / Chewables

If your dog will take medication orally (whether by coercion or not), the active ingredient is likely ivermectin or milbemycin. A few examples here are Heartguard or Iverheart

Plus. Heartguard is a chewable that is flavoured to resemble a yummy beef treat. Most dogs find them to be a sort of treat. The Iverheart Plus is a tablet that is also flavoured and can be chewed, but it is more pill-like. With this option, you can either pop it down your dog's throat, disguise in a piece of cheese or salami or skillfully hide it in his kibble. Use your discretion, but make sure it goes down the hatch!

## Topicals

If your dog prefers something applied to his skin, you can go with a topical. It is an oily substance that you apply between the shoulder blades and all along the dog's back. An example of this type is Revolution. The advantage to this type is that you don't have to make sure your dog ingests it and it offers the added bonus of controlling fleas both eggs and adults. The bonus comes at a price, as this option is more costly than the chewables and tablets which are specifically for killing heartworm larvae and will not control fleas.

## No Heartworm Test Yet?

It's not too late! Make an appointment today and get your dog tested and on the prevention medication. Then you can relax and enjoy the warmer months with your dog, knowing he's protected.

From the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association Website ([http://www.ovma.org/pet\\_owners/dogs/heartworm.html](http://www.ovma.org/pet_owners/dogs/heartworm.html))

"Heartworm in dogs in Canada in 2010" published by the Ontario Veterinary College's Department of Pathobiology at the University of Guelph

From Pet MD ([http://www.petmd.com/dog/parasites/evr\\_dg\\_types\\_of\\_heartworm\\_preventive\\_products#.T-kh\\_ZGjx-EM](http://www.petmd.com/dog/parasites/evr_dg_types_of_heartworm_preventive_products#.T-kh_ZGjx-EM))



# Off-leash parks? Some points to ponder...

by Elizabeth Hunt

This article appeared in the December 2008 volume 2, issue 2 of Needle-News. The poignant and pertinent information we thought bears repeating, especially for those of you who are new to greyhound ownership. A must-read for anyone considering that first trip to an off leash park.

You should have a sense of adventure with your greyhound, and part of that should include a trip to an off leash park at some point. You must, however, research the park you want to visit before hand and check it out once or twice without your dog to see what it's like. Visiting the off-leash park is a wiser activity option once you have had some time to get to know your dog and your dog you. For instance, a newly retired greyhound can have a higher chase instinct, and that little white fluffy dog running in the distance may be

## PROS:

- Off-leash parks provide a large, fenced-in area to allow your dog to run free.
- You get to spend time in the great outdoors with your dog.
- Your dog gets to socialize with other dogs.
- There are rules and regulations posted so that all users of the park know what is expected of them; most people and dogs at the park play by the rules.
- Frequenting an off-leash park is a good way to give your dog exercise and enjoyment of life.
- Off-leash park visits can lead to meeting other dog aficionados who provide interesting conversation and who may become recurring enjoyed acquaintances or perhaps even friends.



seen as prey. The converse is also possible, that your new hound, perhaps even unaware that there are indeed other breeds of dog, may be at the very least unsure of how to handle him(her)self



and may act fearfully. Other dogs can hone in on that fear response and react aggressively resulting in injury to your dog. Physical wounds can be severe but will heal; psychological ones can linger from such an experience and can be seemingly impossible to overcome. The intent of these points to ponder is not to induce fear but serious consideration of all of the aspects of the off-leash park allowing you to make an informed decision.

## CONS:

- Some parks are not fenced-in or have unfenced areas that are easily traversed by your greyhound; always check before you go.
- The terrain can be rough, rocky and / or muddy. Your greyhound may be a foot prince(ss) and hate walking around on uncomfortable ground. You may end up with a messy car on the ride home if you aren't prepared.
- Other breeds may want to play and unintentionally hurt your hound because his(her) skin is easily torn. You don't want to end a park visit with the trip to the vet or worse, a trip to the emergency vet (Ka-Ching \$\$)
- This is a big one. Some visitors don't even know there are rules let alone bother to follow them. They see the park as a place to take their dog to relieve itself where they don't have to pick it up. (btw, that is one of the rules!) Some of these people even have dogs who are socially challenged and sometimes, down right aggressive toward other dogs, yet they still come to the park. (Hello!??)
- Frequenting an off leash park can be a frustrating experience for you and a down right dangerous one for your hound.
- Off-leash park visits can lead to meeting the dregs of dog owner-dom who will amaze you with their ignorance and astound you with their blatant stupidity. You and your dog could be much worse off for having met them.



# Teach your Pet with Love and Kindness



## Word Search

by Carol Roberts



D H U S K Y R E V E I R T E R  
 S T . B E R N A R D B R E E D  
 E E G D P O D F F I T S A M E  
 T I R P O I N T E R D P N G H  
 T L E D O R Z T I P S A I O S  
 E L Y R D R E T A W T N M D I  
 R O H E L E F O O D E I A O U  
 G C O H E T D Y A L P E L M G  
 O E U P B D H C A E T L S I N  
 D L N E A D N U O H X O F K I  
 H G D H R H A R R I E R U S T  
 C A D S K I N D N E S S N E S  
 A E R A C D N U H S H C A D I  
 O B L O O D H O U N D G U P D  
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- |               |           |           |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| ANIMALS       | BEAGLE    | BARK      |
| BLOODHOUND    | BREED     | BULLDOG   |
| CARE          | COACHDOG  | COLLIE    |
| DISTINGUISHED | DANDIE    | DACHSUND  |
| FOOD          | ESKIMODOG | FUN       |
| FOXHOUND      | HUSKY     | GREYHOUND |
| HARRIER       | KINDNESS  | MASTIFF   |
| POINTER       | PUG       | POODLE    |
| PETS          | PLAY      | RETRIEVER |
| ST.BERNARD    | SETTER    | SPANIEL   |
| SPITZ         | SHEPHERD  | TERRIER   |
| TEACH         | WATER     |           |

WHEN YOU'RE DONE, YOU'LL HAVE ONLY 'D'S LEFT.

### A few more fun facts about dogs:

*Shepherd Dog:* A breed of dog largely used for the herding and care of sheep. There are several types including the Collie, or Scotch Shepherd Dog, and the English Terrier Dog.

*Pet:* A tame animal that is kept by humans, treated kindly and played with.

*Poodle:* A breed of intelligent canines. Often black or white and always curly-haired.



WordSearchWordSearchWordSearchWordSearchWordSearchWordSearchWordSearchWordSearchWordSearchWordSearch  
 Carol Roberts began creating Word Searches for family and friends some 12 years ago, and today her entertaining puzzles are carried by a number of Manitoba newspapers and relied upon by residents and patients at nursing homes and hospitals. When we asked, Carol was only too happy to create a Word Search for our newsletter. Carol lives on a farm near Brandon, Manitoba. Have a Doggone nice day!