



# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Issue 9

## LETTER TO SANTA:



Dear Santa,

I only have one wish for Christmas. I would like my own family and a home with people who will love & play with me. I'm not sure what I did to end up in a cold cement building or to lose the home I grew up in, but I am glad the nice rescue people have taken me into their homes. Although the rescue is really nice, I just know that this is not where I'm supposed to be. So Santa if you know of anyone who is looking for me will you whisper in their ear that I am here, waiting for them. Tell them I've been a good boy/girl and promise to make their lives complete if they would just give me the chance to show them how wonderful I really am. I promise to be the best present EVER for a special someone or family. Thank you Santa!





## A DOG'S CHRISTMAS:

Twas the night before Christmas and all through  
the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.  
My dogs were nestled, all snug in "MY" bed,  
While visions of chewie toys danced in their  
heads.

I in my sweat pants and Dad in his sweater,  
Had just settled down to read the Great Dog  
Reporter,  
When up on the roof there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my chair to see what was the matter!

Off to the window I flew in a flash,  
Tore open the shutter and threw up the sash.  
The moon on the crest of the new fallen snow  
Gave a luster of midday to the objects below.

And what to my wondering eyes did appear  
but a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.  
With a little old driver so lively and quick  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

With a sputter of ashes -- a flurry of soot,  
He slid down the chimney with all of his loot.  
My Dogs stood there so regal and proud,  
Guarding their home with barks oh so loud.  
St. Nick showed no fear and called them by name,  
He knew in his heart they were gentle and tame.

He brought out his list, checking it twice.  
"Well, my beauties, all year you've been very nice.  
I have in my bag toys and much more,  
Just tell me what you pups really long for."

My dogs talked to each other -- much to my  
surprise

and turned to Santa with tears in their eyes,  
"We have chewies and balls and ropes to be  
tugged,  
We are pampered and coddled and petted and  
hugged.  
But for Christmas, dear Santa, we have but one  
care,  
that all dogs be loved as much as we are.  
We want no dog beaten, whipped or chained,  
No dog abandoned, abused or maimed.  
We want all dogs, no matter what size,  
to see love reflected in their master's eyes."

St. Nick stopped for a moment to gather his wits,  
"I have nothing to stop humans from being such  
twits."  
All dogs are so beautiful and are such a treasure,  
Living only to be loved and give humans pleasure.  
This lesson I will try to teach  
Then maybe your wish will be within my reach."

St. Nick leaned over and kissed each beautiful  
head.  
"Now you gentle giants, go off to bed.  
Think good thoughts and dream good dreams  
Of running and jumping and playing in streams."

St. Nick turned to me, his face wet with tears.  
"Be proud of your babies, they are such dears."

In an instant St. Nick disappeared in a poof,  
And I heard him chuckle as he ran on the roof.  
He jumped in his sleigh and to his team gave a  
whistle,  
and off he flew like the down on a thistle.

And I heard him exclaim as the drove out of sight,  
"Merry Christmas to All and To All Dogs a Good  
Life!"





## HOMEMADE HOLIDAY TREATS:

Getting started on your homemade treats is super simple. All you need is access to a kitchen; a good dog treats recipe, and some basic ingredients.

### Peanut Butter Treats

- 2 tablespoons corn oil
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 2 cups white flour

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine oil, peanut butter and water in a bowl. Add Flour 1 cup at a time, then knead into firm dough. Roll dough to 1/4 inch thickness and cut with small bone shaped cookie cutter. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes. Makes 2 1/2 dozen.

## PAST EVENTS: Pictures with Santa

A very special THANK YOU to all of you who came to meet Santa in November!!! Thanks for bringing the whole family out to get pictures with Santa. We had a wonderful time with all of you and your 4-legged kids. Your families are wonderful and absolutely gorgeous. Thanks for making this fundraiser a success for the pups in need this HOWLIDAY season! Prayers to all the rescue kids still looking for their forever homes this holiday season! Here are a few of our featured, furry friends with Santa.



**KUMBA**

**JARENA**

**SHILO**





**PAST EVENTS: Pictures with Santa (continued)**





## *Tracey's Training Tips*

### **Always a Good Time to Learn**

In our society, we teach children all kinds of lessons dealing with safety. We teach them how to cross a busy street, not to play with matches, and to be careful of strangers. Our children grow up with some great

information about keeping themselves safe. However, one thing lacking in their

safety education is how to be safe around dogs. Dogs play a prominent role in our society. Whether you have a

canine buddy (or buddies) at home or not, there is always the possibility that you will encounter a dog, on or off leash, in your neighborhood, at a friend's home, at the park or even at your local coffee shop. Those encounters can be greatly improved with some knowledge on our part about how dogs communicate.



Within the professional canine world, a strong movement has developed to educate the general public, especially children, about dog body language and how to safely interact with the dogs we know and with the dogs we don't know. The main goal is to prevent people from getting hurt, but another goal is to prevent dogs from being unnecessarily euthanized or labeled a "dangerous dog." More often than not, when a dog bites a person, it occurs after the dog has given signals to that person that he or she is feeling very uncomfortable with something that is occurring. If the person doesn't understand the dog's messages and continues to persist, that person might end up on the receiving end of the dog's final "word" to back off...a bite. When a dog bites a person, depending on the local laws, that dog might be euthanized or labeled a dangerous dog and will have a strike against him. Armed with some basic dog body language knowledge, people have a better chance of avoiding possibly unsafe situations with dogs, and dogs have a better chance of not becoming the victims of not being understood.

Now that there are so many good resources on the internet, learning the basics about how dogs communicate and how to interact with them safely is not difficult, rather interesting actually, and takes very little time. I highly recommend that you visit some or all of these sites, and please pass on the information to your family and friends, especially any children in your life. The more we share the knowledge, the better our lives will be...dogs included.

To help you get started, here are some great online resources that I have found helpful:

[http://www.akc.org/public\\_education/safetyvideo.cfm](http://www.akc.org/public_education/safetyvideo.cfm) This AKC video is not entirely comprehensive, but it is a good place to start and very kid friendly.

[http://www.avma.org/public\\_health/dogbite/](http://www.avma.org/public_health/dogbite/) This one has some particularly good links and podcasts in it.

<http://drsophiayin.com/blog/entry/dog-bite-prevention-dogs-bite-when-humans-greet-inappropriately> Dr. Sophia Yin has been one of the forefront proponents in the canine professional world of dog safety education and has some great information to share. Also check out <http://drsophiayin.com/blog/entry/dog-bite-prevention-week-poster-on-the-body-language-of-fear-and-aggression>

<http://positively.com/2011/05/17/why-dogs-bite-children-a-lesson-in-preventing-dog-bites-in-kids/> Prominent dog trainer Victoria Stilwell from the TV show "It's Me or the Dog" has included information on her website from Dr. Yin and then added some information of her own, making it even more comprehensive.

And here are a few others that you might like to check out:

<http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationsafety/dog-bites/biteprevention.html>

<http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/dog-care/dog-care-dog-bite-prevention.aspx>

[http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/avoid\\_dog\\_bites.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/avoid_dog_bites.html)

<http://www.doggonessafe.com/>

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## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

### Keep your Dog Safe for the Holidays

By [Jenna Stregowski, RVT](#), About.com Guide

The holidays are all about family, friends, fun and food - but sometimes it's easy to forget about holiday safety for your dog. We all want our dogs to be part of the celebration, but there are some important guidelines to follow. Keep your dog safe this holiday season - no one wants their holiday celebration to end up at the veterinary emergency clinic!

No table scraps! Just because we humans like to indulge in the feast does not mean it is good for our dogs. Rich, fatty foods can seriously upset your dog's stomach and even be toxic. It is especially important to keep your dog away from the following [dangerous foods](#):

- Onions, which can cause anemia (high levels of garlic can, too)
- [Grapes and Raisins](#)
- [Chocolate](#)
- Bones (especially cooked bones and ANY poultry bones)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Any foods high in fat, sodium and/or sugar

There are some human foods that are okay for dogs, so if you want to give Max or Maggie a special treat you have some options. Try a small piece of cooked turkey or chicken without skin or bones (and hold the gravy). Raw carrots and apples in moderate amounts are actually healthy for dogs. Just remember - everything in moderation.

Watch the holiday decorations! Most dogs are curious by nature, so they will want to check out any additions to the decor. Sniffing can lead to chewing, or even ingestion of foreign objects. Keep electrical cords tucked away and other decorations or holiday plants out of reach. Watch out for dangling objects that can be pulled down and cause injury. Candles should never be left unattended. Also, if you have a Christmas tree, don't let your dog drink the tree water - it can make her sick.

Don't let your dog get lost in the shuffle. Holiday parties and gatherings can mean lots of commotion. This might be fun for you, but not for your dog. Lots of people in your home can result in injury or stress for your dog. A large crowd is not the place for most dogs, so consider keeping her in a crate or quiet room - especially if she is the nervous type. If she is comfortable around a smaller group, just make sure you set down the ground rules with your company: don't feed the dog and keep the doors closed!

Many pets get loose and run off during the holiday season. Though your dog should always wear a [collar](#) with current identification, this is especially important during the holiday season. Sadly, many dogs run off and become [lost](#) during the holiday season. Don't let yours be one of them.

You and your dog can still enjoy the holiday season. Be sure to watch for any [signs of illness](#) and keep the vet's number handy. Stay safe and have fun. Happy Holidays!





## HAPPY TAILS:

CONGRATS to these pups who have found their forever homes! Thanks to their humans for sending in pictures of their new lives. We are so happy for them all! Keep the HAPPY TAILS coming!!!



## HAPPY HOWLIDAYS FROM GSROR!

