

# The Dog Guardian

Newsletter for Responsible Dog Owners of Canada

FALL 2018

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## Highlights by Julie More



Here we go again: winter is coming and so is Christmas. The pups are excited! "What new toys will Santa bring this year?" they wonder. Don't know what to get them? Don't despair. The 'Christmas presents for your pup' article has some great suggestions.

Why not try something new with your pup this winter? Check out our article 'Winter sports for dogs'.

And don't forget to read the 'Safety tips for winter' article. As well as the safety tips it also includes things you can do with your dog indoors when it's way too cold to go outside.

Enjoy reading the newsletter!

## Board News

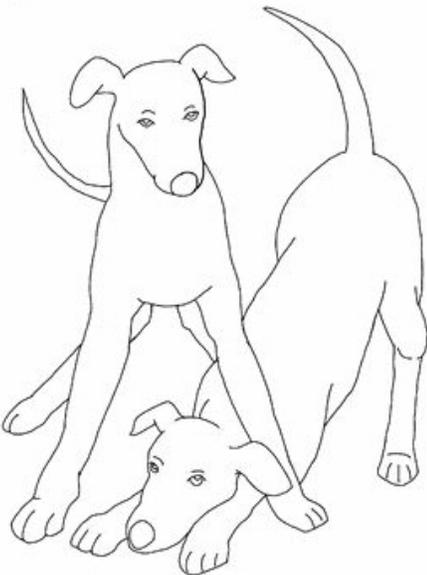
The board would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers and donors for helping out with all our fundraising and educational activities. We couldn't have done any of the activities without your help.

Here is the summary of events since the last newsletter, and future ones that we are working on:

- ◆ Our **Spring park clean-ups** in May and June went very well.
- ◆ Our **Fall clean-ups** will be held on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>; Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>; and Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am to 10 am.
- ◆ We raised \$130 at our **second annual garage sale**, which was held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- ◆ We had fun participating with Ottawa Therapy Dogs at the **Teddy Bear Picnic** on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- ◆ The **'Going to the Dogs' Fundraiser** on July 8<sup>th</sup> was a great success.
- ◆ We published the first **'Kid's Edition' of our 'Dog Guardian' newsletter**. It's a monthly 3 to 4 page newsletter aimed at the 3 to 8 year-old age group.
- ◆ In September we will be holding our second annual **'Take your owner for a walk and support RDOC' fundraiser**.

## Colouring Contest

Fido, Friend or Foe?



Stay calm around dogs.

**TIP:** It is very important to stay calm around dogs. They can be frightened by people jumping or screaming, and they may bite. It is always best to be calm and relaxed around dogs, especially strange dogs.

Colour the large picture of the 2 dogs on the Fall 2018 [Kids Activity Page](#).

Scan or take a photo of the picture you coloured, and send it to us at [morejulie@hotmail.com](mailto:morejulie@hotmail.com) with your email address.

We will choose a winner each month and post it in our newsletter for everybody to see.

## 'Dogs and Kids' safety project

In the summer newsletter, Tyler, Morgan and Nellie (our four-legged friends) gave us some good tips on how to be safe around dogs while having fun. They told us that they love to play with kids, but do not like being teased or chased. They also reminded us that it is important for them to go to the vet for regular checkups.



In this newsletter they are giving us some more tips:

1. Most dogs are very friendly and are eager to meet people. Please ask their owners before petting them. Let the pup sniff you first. It's the pup's way of saying "hi" to you.
2. It is important to remember not to run up to dogs. They know you are eager to meet them, but some are nervous and may bark or growl.

This is so important to remember that we chose this point for our colouring contest in this newsletter.

Look for more doggie hints in our upcoming Winter newsletter.

## From 'The Dogs' Den'



Hi everybody!

Remember us from the [Summer newsletter](#)? We are the famous dog trio, Tyler, Morgan and Nellie. In the last newsletter we told you about guide dogs. In this newsletter we would like to introduce you to **service dogs**.

Service dogs are very well trained dogs who can do lots of different activities depending on the person's special needs. In this newsletter we are going to tell you about **mobility assistance service dogs**.

These dogs are trained to help their mobility challenged owners with everyday activities, like getting the person's slippers from another room, fetching the phone when it's ringing, picking up and carrying things, operating light switches, opening/closing doors, drawers and cabinets, and so on.

Just like the guide puppies we talked about in our [Summer newsletter](#), a mobility assistance service puppy moves in with a foster family for a year to 18 months. This is where the puppy learns to trust people, to have fun with kids, to play, basic obedience etc. Then the puppy goes back to the training school to get more specific training.

It is important to remember that these dogs have special jobs, so please don't talk to them and don't disturb them. The owner's safety depends on the service dog concentrating on his job.



It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Nellie, part of our Dogs' Den team. She would have been 14 years old in December. She died from liver cancer on July 23rd. Nellie had 3 homes before she came to live with us. She was supposed to be trained as a seizure response dog, but instead chose the life of leisure at our place. She worked perfectly for me, but would not cooperate with other trainers. We always joked that she chose to adopt us instead of the other way around. Nellie (always a very thoughtful dog) looked around and decided she liked this household the best, and she was going to stay here.



Nellie was met at The Rainbow Bridge by Rob, her best person playmate. The two of them are now playing ball at Rob's special farm in Heaven. We will miss you terribly, Nellie. *Julie*

*Woofie! Woof! Tyler and Morgan*

## Winter sports for dogs by Julie More



Last year you decided winter is way too long. This year you are going to make winter more fun for you and your pup. You are going to try some winter sports with your dog. Good for you!

**How about skijoring?** What's that you ask? Well, according to the article *'Fun Things to Do With Your Dog in Winter'* (by Shayna Meliker, 20 January 2016) on the VetStreet website

<http://www.vetstreet.com/our-pet-experts/fun-things-to-do-with-your-dog-in-winter> -

"If you love to ski and your dog loves to run, skijoring may be the perfect winter activity for both of you! It's cross-country skiing with a little momentum help from your dog — you're on the skis, and your dog runs out in front of you with a long line that connects you to his harness."

Shayna explains that dogs love to pull, so they will pick up this sport fast.



However, in the article '*4 Olympic-Worthy Winter Sports to Try With Your Dog*' by Sam Bourne <https://blog.petcarerx.com/4-olympic-worthy-winter-sports-to-try-with-your-dog/> -

Sam cautions to "only try skijoring if your dog is able to follow basic commands like 'stop' and 'stay.' Skijoring can get out of hand very quickly if you are being pulled behind a dog whose sole interest is chasing down a rabbit."

If in doubt, you may want to take an obedience refresher course with your dog first. 😊

Skijoring is not your thing? **How about Snowshoeing?** In the article '*Winter sports to enjoy with your dog*' November 16, 2016, <https://www.thehonestkitchen.com/blog/winter-sports-to-enjoy-with-your-dog/>, Amy Tokic (<https://www.thehonestkitchen.com/blog/author/amy-tokic/>) suggests that you

"Strap on some snowshoes, leash up your dog, and trek across the snowy tundra. You'll work up a sweat and move muscles you didn't even know were there."

Your pup will have a good work out too and will be ready to have a long sleep by the fireplace when you get home.

**Snow scooters** is a sport De Martine Lavallée suggests in the article '*In winter, three sports activities with your dog*' April 8, 2017 (by De Martine Lavallée, BBA and Animal Health Technician) <http://www.hvsa.ca/en/in-winter-three-sports-activities-with-your-dog/> -

"The snow scooter has the same function as a sled, but it is lighter. It can be pulled by one or two dogs and is led by a musher. The owner must assist his dog during the climbs by running behind his scooter while keeping both hands on the latter."

There you go, 3 fun activities to choose from. Whichever you choose, your dog will love you for it. If your dog is anything like mine, the more time he spends outdoors with you, the better he likes it!

## **A Christmas present for your pup** by Julie More

The only good thing about winter, in my book, is Christmas. I love Christmas, and so do my pups. Every Christmas they try to figure out what they did to deserve all the extra treats, so they could do it during the rest of the year too. So far no luck!



I decided to search the web for some great new gift ideas for my dogs. The first that I came across is the **Furbo camera** for about \$300. It looks really neat. According to the Furbo website [https://shopca.furbo.com/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI0fips6HJ2wIVhLbACh2eIgOdEAAAYASAAEgKAO\\_D\\_BwE](https://shopca.furbo.com/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI0fips6HJ2wIVhLbACh2eIgOdEAAAYASAAEgKAO_D_BwE)

"Furbo is an interactive smart dog camera that lets you see, talk, and toss treats to your dog from anywhere."

The word 'anywhere' really does mean anywhere. You use an app on your phone to connect to your dog. You can talk to him etc. The device will also let you know about other activities in your home, like the dog walker arriving, or somebody breaking in. Best of all, when your dog looks straight at Furbo, it takes a picture and sends it to you. Yep, your pup is sending you a selfie. A great idea, but a little too expensive for my budget. So my search continues.

I found the article *'20 Fun Christmas Gift Ideas For Your Dog'* (last updated on October 26, 2017 by Jen Gabbard) on the Puppyleaks website <https://www.puppyleaks.com/gift-ideas/> -

I agree with Jen, "It's not easy choosing dog toys. Dog toys get expensive, and it's hard to know just by looking at them which ones won't be torn to shreds in seconds."

Yep, I know what Jen means. Tyler can destroy the sturdiest toy in no time. Here are a few toys from Jen's list: **Bob-A-Lot Interactive Dog Toy**, **Jolly Ball Push 'n Play**, **Kong Classic**, and **Chuckit! Glow Ball**.

The article *'10 Indestructible Dog Toys for the Chew-inator in Your Life'* by Mat Jobe on the website 'Terribly Terrier - the dog site with bite' describes my lab to the letter! <https://terriblyterrier.com/top-indestructible-dog-toys/>

"Dogs love toys, and the thing they love most about toys is destroying them. At least, that's the case with so-called aggressive chewers, who have a knack for shredding whatever plaything you put in front of them – be it plush, plastic, or rope."

Hmmmm, does my pup have too many toys, you wonder? Well, in the article *'Puppy Training: Lesson of the Day – Chewing'* (September 18, 2012 by Laurie Luck ) <https://smartdoguniversity.com/puppy-training-lesson-of-the-day-chewing/>

Laurie comments "Most people have too many toys available to their puppy. Your puppy can play with one (or two) toys at a time. If you have 10 toys laying on your living room floor, that's too many."

She suggests rotating the toys just like you did with your kids when they were small.

What to buy for your dog? In 2016 we asked our members what their dogs' favourite toys are. Here is what they said, (*'Stocking Stuffers for our Dogs'* <http://www.responsibledogowners.ca/newsletter-winter2016.html>)

"Frisbee by far is Nelson's favourite. I think because he loves to fetch, and he can jump into the air to catch it. I love throwing it too." (Mary Blaney)

"Rosie, a six pound Yorkshire Terrier, loves her **Doggie Smerf football** and **Smerf ball**. Both are good throwing toys and they are tough." (Mary Dunne)

"Winnie's favourite toy is the **Chuckit Ultra Squeaker Ball**. It comes in small, medium and large sizes. It is extremely durable and very bouncy." (Kit Watson)

"Tyler, my 9-year-old black lab would like to tell you about his most favourite toy, the treat ball. The official name is the **Omega Paw Tricky Treat Ball** and costs between \$10 -\$16 depending where you buy it." (Julie More)

Good luck with your Christmas shopping.  
Just remember, whatever you buy, your dog will love you for it!



## 'Going to the Dogs' fundraiser

We would like to thank everybody who participated in the 'Going to the Dogs' fundraiser. It was a great success and the money we raised will be used to enhance our [educational programs](#) and encourage responsible dog ownership.

A special thank you goes to all our donors and volunteers. We could not have done this fundraiser without your help.

## Canadian Canine Good Citizen (CCGC) Test Program



Have you thought of hosting a Canadian Canine Good Citizen Test? Like our [website](#) says, it is "a great opportunity for clubs, organizations and shelters to encourage and reward responsible dog owners, and earn money to support their mandates."

Here are the answers to frequently asked questions:

### Who can put on the test?

- ◆ Any club, organization, training school or shelter.

## How do you organize the event?

- ◆ contact RDOC and ask for a test kit and a list of CCGC test evaluators;
- ◆ set a date, location and cost for the test (test locations should be in a busy, active section of the community);
- ◆ advertise the test date in your community.

## Day of the event:

- ◆ conduct the testing;
- ◆ congratulate the successful applicants;
- ◆ commend and encourage those whose dogs require more training to try again.

## After the event:

- ◆ send RDOC a copy of the test registration form;
- ◆ send a portion of the profits to RDOC (10% of the proceeds);
- ◆ bank the remainder of the profits for your organization.

Got more questions? We will be happy to answer them. Just email [morejulie@hotmail.com](mailto:morejulie@hotmail.com)

## Garage sale

We would like to thank everybody who came to our garage sale on June 2nd. We raised \$130. The money will be used to support our educational programs:

<http://www.responsible-dog-owners.ca/education.html>

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who donated items to the garage sale. A special thank you goes to all our volunteers, without whom we could not have put on this fundraiser.

## Safety tips for winter by Julie More

Winter is just around the corner. Your dogs would like you to know that there are some really good articles on the web on the do's and don'ts of winter survival and, in their case, winter enjoyment.



In our Winter 2016 newsletter <http://www.responsible-dog-owners.ca/newsletter-winter2016.html> we talked about problems with winter skin conditions like dry fur, dry skin, chapped paws, etc. If it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your pet, so keep your animals inside. Inside does not include leaving your dog in your parked car. Cars can become refrigerators because they hold in the cold and cause animals to freeze.

The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society website has an article *'The Top 10 Winter Pet Safety Tips'* <https://ontariospca.ca/blog/top-10-winter-pet-safety-tips/>

The list includes things like: keep your dogs warm, don't leave them alone in a cold car, dry their paws, keep them away from water and puddles and so on. They also advise us to "Prepare an emergency pet survival kit. You never know when a storm might keep you from being able to leave the house for extended periods. Having an emergency pet survival kit could save a life."

*'15 Winter Care Tips For Your Dog'* by Dr Ashwani Singh  
<https://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/15-winter-care-tips-for-your-dog/>

Dr. Singh talks about how to recognize conditions like frostbite and hypothermia. He advises that you take your dog outside when the sun shines. He says people think that because dogs have fur, they don't get as cold as we do. That's not always true. He says: "If it's too cold for you to stand at the door without your coat, it's probably too cold for your dog too, so pay attention to her behavior while she's outdoors."

Here are some fun activities to do with your dog indoors when it's too cold to go outside. *'33 Simple Ways to Keep Your Dog Busy Indoors'* (last updated on June 7, 2018 by Jen Gabbard)  
<https://www.puppyleaks.com/easy-ways-to-keep-your-dog-busy-indoors/>

The first one on the list is *'Play Find The Treats With Your Dog'*. Both my dogs love this game. It's way too easy for Nellie, my smart Australian Shepherd, so I made the game harder by getting her to sit and stay in the kitchen. I hide a cookie in one of the bedrooms. I then release her with the command "Go find it". And she does!

The 2nd one on the list is *'Play the Shell Game With Your Dog'*. Nellie does really well. Tyler, my black lab, not so good.

However Tyler does very well with the 3rd activity on the list *'Teach Your Dog to Clean Up His Toys'*. He is my little helper.

Have fun trying some of the 33 activities in the list. Let us know how your dog does. Email your story to [morejulie@hotmail.com](mailto:morejulie@hotmail.com) and we will print it in our next newsletter.

## Park clean-ups

Yep, it's time for the Fall clean up. Where did the Summer go?

### Here is our Fall schedule:

**Bruce Pit** – Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 9 am to 10 am

**Conroy Pit** – Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am to 10 am

**Stittsville Park** – Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am to 10 am

During the morning we hand out bags and gloves to dog owners. They are the ones who do all the work picking up the garbage etc. Their reward is a much cleaner park, and their dogs get dog cookies.

RDOC would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful dog owners who help keep our parks clean.

## Kids Page

Kids, don't forget to visit the latest edition of the **Kids Page** on our website at [www.responsible-dog-owners.ca/kidspage/activitypage-main.html](http://www.responsible-dog-owners.ca/kidspage/activitypage-main.html)

We have a puzzle for you to work on, and an easy trick to teach your dog (this time it is '**Head Down**').



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 it to [morejulie@hotmail.com](mailto:morejulie@hotmail.com). The winner's name and picture will be published in the next newsletter.

# Membership

Please consider joining RDOC. We would love to have you as a member, and our membership fees are very reasonable:

## Annual Membership Fees:

**Seniors and Students - \$10**

(volunteers get a 50% discount)

**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)

Why not purchase a gift certificate! It's a great birthday gift, Father's Day gift, welcome new puppy gift, a welcome to a newly moved-in family in the neighbourhood gift, and the list goes on.



**GIFT CERTIFICATE**  
Responsible Dog Owners of Canada  
**Membership**

 **Category:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**To:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Message:** \_\_\_\_\_

## 'Take your owner for a walk and support RDOC' fundraiser

Hi everybody,

Yep, our 'Take your owner for a walk and support RDOC' fundraiser is back again this year. Last year we raised over \$800. Here are the projects we are able to work on, thanks to our successful fundraiser last year:

Handing out more **'Fido, Friend or Foe?' activity books**

Working on the **'Dogs and Kids' safety project** (a booklet for 5 to 8 year olds on 'How to be safe around dogs while having fun')

Developing a **monthly newsletter for children**, the 'Kid's Edition' of 'The Dog Guardian'

With the money we raise this year, we are hoping that we will be able to expand our kids program even more.

# RDOC 2018 Walkathon



**Responsible Dog Owners of Canada (RDOC)**

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

is pleased to announce our second annual

**'Take your owner for a walk and support RDOC' fundraiser**

## **What is it?**

Our board members' dogs decided to take matters into their own paws to fundraise (and at the same time exercise their owners) again this year.

## **What is RDOC?**

RDOC is working to build and support a network of responsible dog owners, and raise awareness of dogs and their behaviour.

## **What do we do?**

RDOC programs cover a wide variety of activities from preschool (['Fido, Friend or Foe' activity book](#)) to seniors ([survey of retirement homes pet policies](#)). We encourage responsible dog ownership in a variety of ways. We run the [Canadian Canine Good Citizen \(CCGC\) testing program](#), and organize twice-yearly clean-ups at 3 of our major dog parks.

## **When is the fundraiser?**

The walk will take place from **Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Each of the participants will walk a total of 7 hours during the week.

## **What would we like?**

We hope you will sponsor our dog-owners team again this year. The dogs are already starting to whip their owners into shape, by making sure they practise every day.

# Thank you

A big thank you goes to our committee for proofreading this newsletter. We really appreciate your help. You are the greatest. A special thank you to Kit Watson for the final proofreading of the newsletter.

*Jill & Julie (newsletter co-editors).*



Dates referred to in this newsletter:

- ◆ Our **Fall clean-up** dates:
  - Bruce Pit** – Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 9 am to 10 am
  - Conroy Pit** – Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am to 10 am
  - Stittsville Park** – Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am to 10 am
- ◆ **RDOC Walkathon** - Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Responsibility • Respect • Recognition**

**Contact RDOC by:**

E-mail: [inquiries@responsibledogowners.ca](mailto:inquiries@responsibledogowners.ca)  
Phone: 613-868-2201 Please leave a 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)

