



SWISSRIDGE

PAWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

Welcome to the Summer 2017 SwissRidge Kennels Newsletter!

Along with the warm summer months come longer, more beautiful days. This means more time for us to enjoy the outdoors with our devoted doodles! It's also an ideal time of year to reinforce some training or take up a new hobby or game like hiking, frisbee, or agility. No matter how you decide to spend your summer days, we'd love to see your photos posted to our Facebook group. With over 5,000 members, our Facebook group has proven time and time again just what an amazing SwissRidge community we have. If you're not connected with us online, I urge you to do so today and see why our pack gives us two paws up!



Photo credit: Lisa Godfrey

Did you know that SwissRidge ...

- Is busy planning the next Doodle Romp?
- Had its 6th litter of SwissRidge Doodles?
- Is hosting its annual Puppy Auction?
- Has selected two children to support through our charity?
- Is expecting a kennel full of puppies this summer?
- Is creating a coffee-table book with all sale proceeds being donated to service-dog training?

Dog Days of Summer

Planning a summer vacation can be stressful enough, but when that vacation is not pet-friendly, added arrangements for our beloved doodles are needed for peace of mind. Have you tried looking for local in-home pet sitters at Rover.com? Interview a few in your area and see whom you feel most comfortable leaving your beloved pet with while you are away.



Whether the arrangements you've made involve a sitter through Rover, a friend or family pet-sitting, or taking your dog to a kennel, packing for your doodle is much the same. Here's a quick list of the essentials:

Food – Always portion enough food for the planned vacation, but remember to include some extra in case there are unforeseen delays. This saves your sitter a trip to the store and from having to figure out which food to purchase!

Crate – If your pet is not trustworthy being left alone then you will need to bring their crate along.

Bed – This should always accompany your doodle to provide added comfort and a reminder of home.

Bowls – Clean, shatterproof dishes (and a food mat!) are thoughtful items to bring along in case they are not provided at the place your dog is staying.

Leash – Although a kennel will have dog runs for your pet to enjoy, in-home sitters may not have a leash and are likely looking forward to strutting your pup around the neighbourhood.



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Packing a leash (and doggie pick-up bags!) will ensure your furry companion will be getting the exercise they need.

Treats and toys – We know which of these are favoured by our furry friends, so be sure to pack some for them to enjoy!

Medication – Perhaps the most obvious, but often overlooked! Don't forget to include the dosage amount and your vet's contact information.

List – Make a list of your pet's regular feeding and exercise schedule, medication and medical needs, and a list of rules you follow with your pet, along with insurance and vet information and your emergency contact information.

Counting Down to Doodle Romp



Mark your calendars for **August 19, 2017**, when SwissRidge will host its most anticipated event of the year – the Doodle Romp! For those new to our pack, this is our fifth year and it's guaranteed to be a day of fun, games, prizes, food, vendors and exciting auction prizes. It's a fantastic opportunity to make new friends and reconnect with old ones. I love seeing so many families gather together, united by their love of doodles! Tickets are \$15 each; **children under 12 and doodles are FREE**. Please order your

tickets online. We will also have a potluck lunch. If you'd like to bring something to help out or would like to donate any prizes for our auction, please email: swissridgedoodleromp@hotmail.com. All proceeds from ticket sales go towards our SwissRidge Dogs for Kids charity. Please visit – www.swissridgedoodleromp.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

SwissRidge Dogs for Kids Family



Each year, we select a family who can benefit from the unique assistance that a well-trained service dog can provide. We then host various fundraising efforts throughout the year to raise money, which goes directly to raising and training the puppies that I have personally selected for these special families. This year we will be donating two Goldendoodles to two boys, Daniel and Emiliano, who have Down's syndrome. These pups will be raised with our skilled imprinters and then will receive specialized training with our Head Trainer, Lucas Mucha.

Meet Daniel...

"Daniel is an active only child who loves dogs. When he was younger and I saw a dog in the distance, I would make sure I was holding his hand because as soon as he would see the dog, off he would go. Knowing no fear, Daniel would run up to the dog wanting to pet it and to receive a "kiss" if

he could. Nothing much has changed, except he now asks, "may I pet your dog?" and he waits for a response. Daniel usually accompanies his Grandpa to pick me up from work. There is a group of dogs and their owners that frequently meet to socialize in the park nearby. When we can, we will go over so that Daniel can play with the dogs. He likes to play fetch and have them do tricks, like jumping up to catch the ball, shake a paw or anything else they might do. He tries to get a few "kisses" if he can as well!



Daniel tends to wander. When he gets an idea in his head, whether it is a place he wants to go or something he wants to see, he tries his best to accomplish it. Though he has low muscle tone, he can move fast when he wants to! We need to keep a close eye on him and in crowded places we need to hold hands. He also struggles with transitioning and change. It can be very upsetting for him if he does not have the opportunity to process and prepare himself for a different task...to the point of him not being able to control his emotions. He then needs someone to help calm him down, refocus and help him complete the task.

Daniel is still developing his speech ability. He often gets frustrated when people don't understand him and will come to me for help if I'm there. Talking and reading to a furry friend would help improve his speech. He is a very social person and looking for friendship. He has a lot of acquaintances at school, church, social clubs, and the neighbourhood, but no friendships have developed. A dog would assist with building those friendships.



I have been trying different avenues to get a service/therapy dog for Daniel over the past few years knowing that one would greatly benefit him. I had no success until receiving an email from SwissRidge Dogs for Kids. Karley Gittens introduced herself and explained the amazing things that she, alongside Sherry Rupke, has accomplished. There are many reasons I feel that having a dog from SwissRidge will be a benefit in Daniel's life. I believe it will help him reach many goals: improve his sleep by reducing nightmares, help cope with busy and loud environments, improve attention span, increase physical activity by walking the dog, and teach responsibility and encourage independence.

There are so many areas in Daniel's life where a dog will be a benefit. You and SwissRidge Dogs for Kids are making this possible. Thank you so much!"

Meet Emiliano...

"Emiliano blessed our life four years ago. He surprised us with a health condition that required heart surgery at the very early age of five months. He is a very active and curious little boy, who loves to dance, listen to music, read books, play with balls, cars, trains, jump, swim...just about everything that a boy of his age likes to do.



We are blessed to be with him on this journey. He has become our teacher in this life, showing us how to enjoy every little moment and appreciate what really matters in life. We are happy and excited to know that Emiliano will receive a dog from SwissRidge Dogs for Kids. We are certain that a cuddly companion will make a big difference in his life – he will be much more stimulated and will improve his language, reading, fine and gross motor skills and, of course, he will have a loving companion."

Ewok's Adventures

Last year we donated a Goldendoodle named Ewok to a little boy named Sebastian. Ewok is still in our training program and will soon be ready to live with Sebastian and his family! He is now in his last stage of advanced training with Lucas. We hope to have him with Sebastian in late summer or early fall. Ewok has been able to visit Sebastian on a number of occasions and the joy that he has brought to him on those visits is heart-warming. These two are meant for each other! Below are some pictures of Ewok's last visit to see Sebastian in May.



Doodles on Display

Thank you to everyone who has submitted photos for our 2017 fundraiser! The hardcover coffee-table book is simply breathtaking and contains over 320 gorgeous SwissRidge dogs. Books will be ready in August and available for purchase online, at the Doodle Romp, and at the kennel. Please note that these are a limited edition and will only be printed once! For those of you who missed the opportunity to enter your dog's photo, we plan to do a second edition in a few years. They will sell for \$50 each with all proceeds going towards our SwissRidge Dogs for Kids charity.



Puppy Auction

Back by popular demand is our puppy auction! The auction winner will have first pick from any of our upcoming litters! That's right.... any litter, any puppy, and NO WAIT TIME! Proceeds from this auction go towards our SwissRidge Dogs for Kids charity. Check us out online at swissridge-doodleromp.com and place your bid. Don't forget to share the link with those who have drooled over your doodle and may want one of their own with no wait time!

Puppy Love

SwissRidge Kennels is happy to announce the arrival of two more litters of "SwissRidge Doodles" since our last newsletter. Our fifth litter of SwissRidge Doodles, born on April 3, 2017, was a litter full of 14, healthy chocolate beauties who have stolen many hearts. Our sixth litter was just born June 10, 2017 and will be going to their new homes shortly. We've also had our first chocolate merle Bernedoodle. Check out these sweet faces...



Summer Lovin'

With many expectant mothers, it will be a busy few months at the kennel! Take a look at the list below and contact us to inquire about availability.

Standard Bernedoodles

Noelle x Davinci – Due Aug. 4, 2017
Lulu x Davinci – Due Aug. 7, 2017
Isabella x Grommet – Due Aug. 26, 2017

Australian Bernedoodles

Frankie x Levi – Due Aug. 22, 2017
Prada x Wookie – Due Aug. 26, 2017

Mini Bernedoodles

Adelyn x Crumpet - Due Sept. 25, 2017

Tiny Bernedoodles

Kia x Crumpet – Due Aug. 12, 2017

Golden Mountain Doodles

Penelope x Mogley – Due Aug. 14, 2017

New to the Pack



There's a new stud in town! We have retired our primary Bernese stud, Colbert. He is now living life with a very loving family. I searched high and low for an amazing Bernese to add to our lines, and I finally found one in Europe. We imported this magnificent boy in March 2017 and he is turning heads wherever he goes. He is everything a Bernese mountain dog should be and a true specimen of the breed. His thick build, huge head, fluffy coat, affectionate and gentle



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personality earned him the nickname Teddy. He has already blessed SwissRidge with a few amazing litters and I look forward to watching these pups grow.



Mix It Up This Summer

It's wise to have some solutions for preventing fleas and ticks, which are common during this time of year. Ticks are more rampant than ever before, and I recommend that you check your pet, your kids, and yourself daily. Be sure to have a tick remover handy and educate yourself on how to remove a tick safely.

There are many chemical products on the market to prevent fleas and ticks, and while I personally believe these chemicals can be toxic, Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases can be deadly as well.

Some areas are more affected than others, so if you don't have a tick problem in your region, I recommend that you decline chemical treatments. For those pet owners who reside in areas that have problems with ticks,

fleas, or heartworm, chemical treatments may be your best line of defense. Ask your vet, friends, family, and neighbours what pests are common in your area.

The tick controls I find most effective are Vectra 3D and Advantix II. These treatments not only kill, but also repel ticks – two of the few, if not only, treatments that do this. I dislike ingestible flea/tick control and highly recommend you switch to one of the above - mentioned treatments.

Use a natural repellent if your tick/flea control does not have repellent properties. See below for a few natural sprays that will deal with the pests before they have a chance to bite. Be sure to apply to your pet's coat daily during flea/tick season.

Flea and Tick Repellents

Lemon, Apple Cider Vinegar, and Mint Spray

Combine the following ingredients in a bowl or jug:

2 lemons (squeezed into juice)

10 tsp apple cider vinegar

10 mint leaves

Warm water

Let the mixture sit overnight, then strain and pour into a spray bottle. Spray onto your dog and leave it to dry naturally.

Apple Cider Vinegar, Salt, and Baking Soda Spray

Combine the following ingredients in a spray bottle:

8 oz. (240mL) apple cider vinegar

4 oz. (120mL) warm water

1/2 Tbsp salt

1/2 Tbsp baking soda

Spray solution onto your dog's coat and leave it to dry naturally.

Lemon, Salt, and Apple Cider Vinegar Spray

Cut several lemons in half and boil in water with a few teaspoons of salt and let cool. Once cooled, add 1 Tbsp of apple cider vinegar. Pour into a spray bottle and spray mixture onto your dog's coat, leaving it to dry naturally.

Essential Oils

There are many types of essential oils on the market that repel fleas and ticks. Do your research and use them with caution because essential oils are very potent and should only be used in small doses.

Coconut Oil Rub

By rubbing 1/2 Tbsp of pure organic, unprocessed coconut oil onto your dog's fur, you will reduce body odour and improve the shine of their coat. It also acts as a flea, tick, and mite repellent. When ingested, coconut oil has natural anti-fungal, antibacterial, and antiviral properties and helps eliminate intestinal parasites.



Vacuum

Vacuum your home and your pet, if they will allow you. Some dogs like this and some hate it. By doing this on a daily basis, you will rid your home of any lingering pests and eggs.

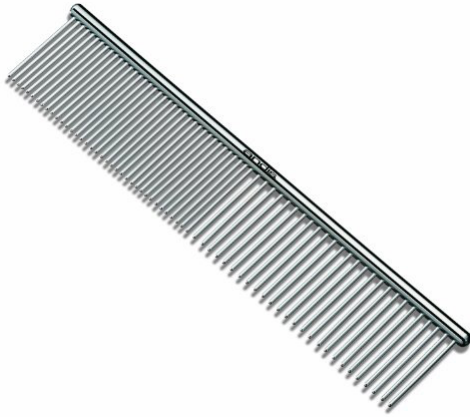


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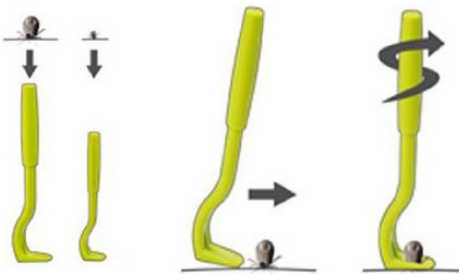


Comb

Comb your dog once a day while doing a thorough check to get rid of any fleas and ticks that may have attached to your dog's fur.



If your dog gets bit by a tick, be sure to book an appointment with your vet approximately 6-8 weeks after the bite to test for tick-borne diseases. It is important to catch these things early so you can put your pup on the proper medication.



Proper way to remove a tick using a tick remover

Remember: Less is always better. DO NOT give your dog chemical flea, tick, and heartworm control if these things are not prevalent in your area. I always look at the advantages and disadvantages and weigh the options.

Trained Pup for Sale!

This puppy has been through our imprint program and knows all the basics from sit, down, come, stay, walking on a leash, watch me, leave it and is house trained. She has very good manners and would be the

perfect pup for someone who wants a dog, and wants to skip the puppy stage. If you would like more information please contact us at: swissridgekennels@gmail.com



Ask Sherry



What precautions should I take to keep my puppy safe during the summer months?

There are a lot of hidden dangers during this time of year. Although doodles are known to be avid swimmers, I always recommend close supervision near uncovered pools (even if they can swim!) and always keep pool chemicals locked away.

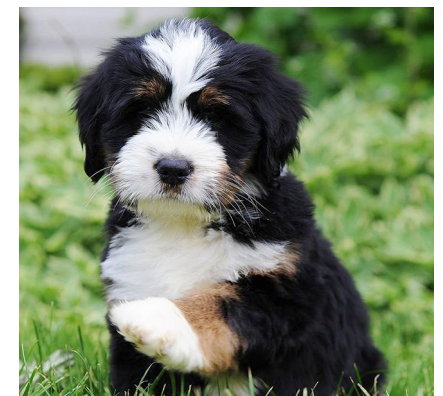
Be careful with lawn pesticides as all contain chemicals that may cause serious illnesses to your pet. Pay extra attention when walking your dog on lawns that were recently treated. Last, but not least, please do NOT leave your pet in a hot car. The temperature inside a vehicle is hotter than the temperature outside and it doesn't take long for your pet to overheat. It's best to leave your dog at home where it's cooler!



A Look Ahead

Hopefully by now you've all had a chance to check out our new website! What do you think? Your feedback is always welcome! Don't forget to connect with us online while you're there. You can join our Facebook group and follow us on Instagram – @swissridgekennels and use #swissridgekennels. Looking forward to seeing you at the Doodle Romp!

Hugs,
Sherry



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