



Welcome to the Spring 2016 SwissRidge Kennels newsletter!

It's time to shed that winter coat! Spring is here, and that means it's time for us to announce the date of the next Doodle Romp! Mark your calendars for **August 20, 2016**, for food, fun, prizes, games and more, at the *Pinetree Pet Care Centre* – 5951 Highway #6 in Guelph, Ontario. We're looking forward to seeing our pack members – new and old!



www.swissridgedoodleromp.com

Did you know that SwissRidge is...

- Getting settled into the new kennel in Schomberg, Ontario?
- Following the development of our newest service dog, Jack?
- Hiring new employees to join our amazing SwissRidge family?
- Preparing for the next SwissRidge Dogs for Kids puppy auction?
- Working on a new website that will consolidate everything SwissRidge into one central place?

Something to Bark About

A special thanks to all of you that came out to celebrate the Grand Opening of the new kennel! So much hard work, time and dedication went into our December 19th event, and the fun did not disappoint! Family, friends, food, drinks and entertainment were enjoyed; tours were had and new friendships were formed.



The ribbon cutting and champagne toast were particularly emotional for me. It was in those moments that I felt this dream had, in fact, become a reality. For those of you that were unable to attend the event, you can check out the video tour on our SwissRidge Facebook group or

click on the link:

<https://youtu.be/U6q27W6wVXQ>
The video tour will also be posted on our new website.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our day a memorable one, including *Bark & Fitz* for generously donating a prize basket and swag bags for all those who attended the event.

The kennel is now in full swing, and more dogs are being moved over every day. We have hired eight amazing new employees who are busy learning the SwissRidge ropes.



Pin-up Pups

What an accomplishment! This year we have raised an astounding \$3,660 from the sales of the SwissRidge dog calendar, which will go towards

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our SwissRidge Dogs for Kids charity. Thank you to everyone who supported our cause by purchasing a calendar!



Pick of the Litter

To help raise money for our *SwissRidge Dogs for Kids* charity, we are once again going to be auctioning off a “pick-of-the-litter” puppy! If you’re hoping to jump the line and get first pick from the litter of your choice, then this auction is for you!



You will have the opportunity to choose from a Tiny, Mini, Australian or Standard puppy. Details will soon follow, so please keep an eye on your inbox for more information.

Expected Litters

Spring is definitely in the air! There are lots of furry bundles expected to

fill the new kennel, and I can’t wait to hear the patter of these little paws...

Kyla x Hendrix – Goldendoodles (March 2 – Available)
 Paris x Mogley – English F1b Goldendoodles (March 7 – SOLD)
 Blossom x Levi – Australian Bernedoodles (March 7 – SOLD)
 Aria x Sting – English Mini Goldendoodles (March 8 – SOLD)
 Sheena x Crumpet – Mini Bernedoodles (March 9 – SOLD)
 Sedona x Colbert – Bernedoodles (March 17 – SOLD)
 Penelope x Mogley – Golden Mountain Doodles (March 21 – SOLD)
 Hazel x Levi – Australian Bernedoodles (April 25 – SOLD)
 Zara x Hendrix – Goldendoodles (April 25 – Available)
 Coco x Colbert – Bernedoodles (April 28 – SOLD)
 Prada x Levi – Australian Bernedoodles (April 29 – SOLD)
 Zoey x Crumpet – Mini F1b Bernedoodles (May 29 – Available)
 Kia x Crumpet – Tiny F1b Bernedoodles (May 29 – SOLD)

Introducing...Dorito!

Just like the famous chip brand, this pup’s personality really packs a punch! Dorito is a beautiful Mini Bernedoodle, and just as handsome as he is solid. He was my pick from Prada and Crumpet’s litter, and is going to make an amazing addition to our breeding program. He has an unyielding temperament that is fun-loving, gentle, playful, affectionate and kind. He is always happily wagging his tail and willing to please. He’ll actually walk upright on two feet for a bit, and will often curl up beside us and give us his paw!



Jack’s Journey

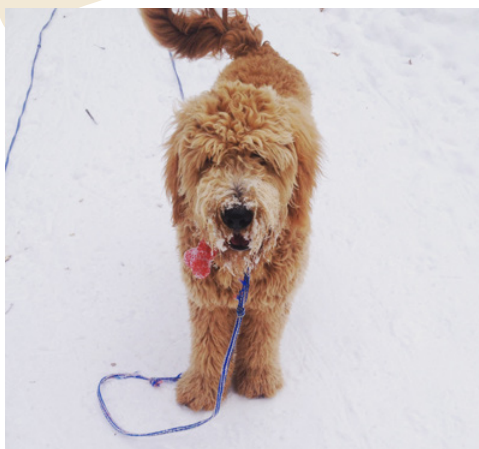
Last year, we donated a puppy named Jack to Autism Dog Services. Since that time, Jack has been attending regular puppy classes. He has been socializing with the general public and practicing basic obedience skills. Some of what Autism Dog Services focuses on is dog and food distraction, greetings and how to properly respond when someone approaches. By practicing these skills, the puppies learn how to cope with the hectic world happening around them while focusing on working for their child. They continually work on walking on a leash and basic commands such as sit, down and stay. We are happy to report that Jack is progressing very well in all these areas!



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Over the Christmas holidays, Jack witnessed his first snowfall! If he could, he would stay outside all day eating snow and romping around. Jack loves to play, but once his vest goes on, it's like he's a different dog. Jack's training has taken him from a very energetic and excited pup to a calm and comforting dog who is doing exceptionally well with his training. He loves to learn new skills and has really improved on his focus while out in public. Jack loves going on trips to the grocery store, movie theatre, dog park, restaurants and the library on campus. He's a very social pup who loves to play and make new friends!



In the coming year, Jack will continue to perfect and generalize the skills he has been gaining in puppy class and with his exposure to the general public. Once he has been moved into the advanced training program, he will learn more progressive skills, such as how to stop a child from wandering,

running or darting away from their parent or guardian, or any overwhelming situations. While working closely with one of the specialized trainers, Jack will be evaluated and trialed with families until they find the perfect match between him and a family!

Making a Difference in a Child's Life

This year, the SwissRidge Dogs for Kids charity is hand selecting a child in need of a service dog. I had the opportunity to meet with a sweet little boy named Sebastian who suffers from Cerebral Palsy. He is our choice for the 2016 SwissRidge Dogs for Kids charity.



The puppy selected for Sebastian will be put through 6-8 months of imprinting, and then Lucas will train him to a very high level of obedience. This will ensure the dog will be able to serve the child in numerous ways. If all goes as planned, we hope to expand this into training a few dogs per year for children in need.

Sebastian's mother, Kara, gave us some insight into Sebastian's world and his love of dogs...

"He first fell in love with dogs during his hospital stay when he was only two years old. We hadn't seen him smile

for a week, and then a therapy dog came to visit his hospital room and his face lit up! Sebastian has Cerebral Palsy due to a brain injury at birth. He depends on my husband and I for all of his needs. He loves being outside and going for walks to the park.



Sebastian started having seizures when he was just over two years old. We have a video monitor that ensures we can hear him when he cries out at night, and also monitors his movements for possible seizures, as we can't know if he's having a seizure when we are sleeping. Having a dog trained in seizure response would be simply amazing. It would give us such peace of mind and provide an even safer environment for Sebastian.

When he was in pre-school, he used a walker to help walk a retired therapy dog that visited once a week. Her name was Laila and they had an unspeakable bond. I asked Sebastian what he would do with a dog of his own. His response was that he would love to have a dog sleep with him at night, to watch over him and get us if he needed us. He would take his dog for walks to

the park, holding on to him with his wheelchair or even in his walker. Giving him the opportunity to care for a dog, with our assistance, would provide both confidence and independence for a little boy that spends his day depending on others.



A dog for Sebastian would not only provide him with companionship but also security. Loud noises can sometimes upset him while other times he gets tired and his head control wavers and his head falls forward. I imagine a dog would calm Sebastian in startling situations, as well as encourage him to keep his head up and actively engaged. Due to Sebastian's extremely low tone in his upper body, he also gets very painful gas. This can be especially difficult for him when we are out and about in a loud or busy environment. I believe that a companion for Sebastian would help ease his anxieties while taking his mind off any discomfort until it passes.

Sebastian's complex needs require a dog that can be sensitive and focused. Sherry came for a visit a few months back and seeing him with those dogs was amazing. He was happy to have them jump onto his lap for kisses and loved reaching out to touch their soft fur. Both my husband and I grew up with family dogs, so we understand the love that a dog brings into the home.

Giving Sebastian the opportunity to have such a companion of his very own is indeed priceless. It will change our lives in so many wonderful ways, but most of all it will provide Sebastian with a forever friend. We are very thankful.

Ask Sherry



What is the best way to socialize my puppy?

Socialization is the key to raising a well-rounded, happy and well-behaved dog. It's important to start young – right at 8 weeks! Unfortunately, if your puppy is not socialized properly, you may end up with a dog that's shy and skittish. My clients always ask how to do this the proper way – how to socialize their puppy while keeping him safe from infectious diseases like Parvo before he is fully vaccinated. While there is always a risk that the puppy will pick up a disease before he's fully vaccinated at 16 weeks, the risk of having a dog that's not properly socialized is actually much higher. However, there are some safe ways to socialize your puppy before he has all of his vaccinations.

Here are some helpful Dos and Don'ts:

DON'T

DON'T take your unvaccinated puppy to a pet store.

DON'T take your unvaccinated puppy to the vet and let him walk on the floor, go nose-to-nose with any dog or let anyone touch and play with him. There are many sick dogs at the vet, and it's the most likely place where you'll come into contact with Parvo. Always carry your puppy into the vet's office!

DON'T allow your unvaccinated puppy to be around any unvaccinated dog.

DON'T walk your unvaccinated puppy around the whole neighbourhood (a few houses up and down in front of your house is fine).

DON'T take your unvaccinated puppy to obedience classes without confirming that all dogs that attend are fully vaccinated.

DON'T take your unvaccinated puppy to a dog park.

DON'T feel nervous, scared or tense up when you are around your puppy. They can sense that nervous energy and will react to the way you are feeling.

DON'T comfort your puppy if he is scared. Always ignore nervous behaviour.

DO

DO socialize your puppy at every available opportunity – to new people, environments, situations and dogs who are fully vaccinated.

DO take your puppy for car rides.



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DO take your puppy to pick up your kids from school and let other children pet your puppy and give him treats.

DO take your puppy over to your friend's home and let your puppy play with other people and their vaccinated dogs.

DO invite people and fully vaccinated dogs over to your home to play with your puppy.

DO expose your puppy to different noises. You can buy a sound socialization CD on Amazon called "Clix Noises and Sounds CD." It plays thunder, trains, airplanes, sirens, fireworks, crying babies, crowds and more. Start playing it softly so your puppy hardly notices it (while giving your puppy treats as positive association), and gradually increase the sound every day.

DO create a positive environment around your puppy, allowing different people to give him treats to encourage positive experiences for your puppy with different people.



It's very important that your puppy meets thousands of people in his first 8-20 weeks of life. Most people don't know that many people, so I suggest taking your puppy to the mall for socialization! It's a fairly safe place since most people don't bring their dogs to the mall. I recommend standing between the two entrance doors and watching people come and

go. Ask people to pet and socialize with your puppy, giving them treats to give to your puppy. This way your puppy gets comfortable taking food from different types of people, creating positive associations with different people.

Health and Wellness

In this segment, I want to talk a little about urinary tract infections (UTIs) in dogs and what to watch out for. Occurring more often in females than in males, UTIs can often affect puppies. If you notice your dog is urinating in small and frequent amounts around the house or outside, or wetting her crate overnight, or has blood in her urine, it is important to take her to the vet as soon as possible. If a UTI is left untreated, it can have serious consequences, particularly on the kidneys.

If you suspect your pup has a UTI, you will need to schedule an appointment with the vet and have a urinalysis done. If the test comes back positive for a UTI, I recommend the use of Clavaseptin. It is important to treat your dog daily and give her the full dose of the medication. Do not skip doses or end the medication early because you think she is better. If your puppy has ongoing UTIs, it's important that the vet cultures the urine to ensure the medication they are giving your puppy is the right one to fight off the infection.

Along with medication, there are supplements you can give your dog to maintain urinary health. If your puppy has a UTI, the bacteria in the urine causes the PH of the urine to rise (it becomes alkaline) and then struvite crystals can form. I suggest the use of Cranberry Extract to help keep the

urine more acidic, contributing to an antibacterial effect, preventing struvite crystals from forming. Cranberry Extract prevents the bacteria from adhering to the wall of the bladder. Remember to always speak with your vet before adding any supplement, as they can sometimes have a negative reaction when used with certain medications.

I also suggest giving your dog 1 tsp-1 tbsp (depending on the size of the dog) of Manuka Honey twice a day to help heal an infection and prevent superbugs from forming. I give this in conjunction with antibiotics. I also give a good probiotic to help with gut health and building a stronger immune system.



Any time one of my dogs has a UTI, I give them Manuka Honey in conjunction with Cranberry Extract, Clavaseptin and a good probiotic. My dogs just lick the Manuka Honey off the spoon! We will talk more about the amazing benefits of Manuka Honey in our next newsletter.

Don't forget to change your dog's bedding twice a day, and keep her surroundings very clean. Wash your puppy if she is dirty, and clip the hair around her back end so bacteria can't travel back up into the vulva.



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After your puppy goes to the bathroom, I suggest wiping her with a baby wipe to keep the area clean.

Doodle Domain

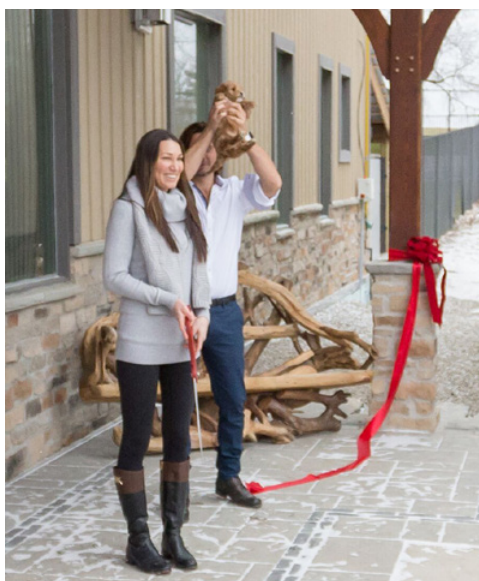
We've been busy working on a new website that will link all of our SwissRidge breeds with one quick click. The site will have a fresh look, be easy to navigate and best of all... you'll be able to find everything SwissRidge in one central place. We are collecting testimonials for the site, so if you would like to submit one, please feel free to send it along with your favourite puppy pics. Please email them to: swissridgekennels@gmail.com and we will add them to our references section.

A Look Ahead

Our Facebook group is going strong with almost 4,000 members! It's wonderful for me to see the support, advice, photos and stories that are being shared on a regular basis. It warms my heart to see the friendships that are being created across the miles! Please join our Facebook page if you haven't already, and be sure to check us out on Instagram @swissridgekennels. There are many photos posted on our feed that you may not see anywhere else!

Hugs,
Sherry

More Photos from the Grand Opening...



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THE NEW SWISSRIDGE KENNEL!

