



BOXER CLUB GOLD REEF

newsletter

DECEMBER 2016
ISSUE 34

Improving Behaviour on the LEAD

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& PIGLETS

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WITH CHIZ, ZENO & KOKO

Tis the season to be jolly again. The years go by faster and faster and I can't believe Zeno and Koko are turning 8.

I am hoping that 2017 will see a much healthier year for Zeno, who had a really bad time this year in May and June. I thought, more than once, that we had seen the end of our beautiful boy...

It all started with acute colitis (I noticed blood in his poo).. and he was kept in hospital for 5 days on a drip and meds. Our trusty vet Dr Leask was most concerned about him but he rallied, and was eventually allowed home. (Life number 1 used up.)

The night he came home he developed a reaction to his supper. He started foaming at the mouth and retching unproductively and was obviously in distress, and very quickly his tummy started to get bigger and it dawned on me he had a torsion. I knew time was of the essence – a dog with bloat/torsion can die within an hour from shock and is in agony. We rushed him to the local emergency vets at 10 at night... they hurried him into theatre and managed to stop the stomach twisting before it went too far. Phew... we could breathe again. (Life no. 2 gone) After Dr Leask checked him over the next day he came home.

He seemed OK, but quiet and very pale. After a few days and no improvement in colour it was back to the vet. Anaemia confirmed.. but why? Tummy had settled.. eating OK.. The vet suspected possible internal haemorrhaging. An X-ray followed by a scan revealed a large tumour on the spleen, apparently a not uncommon condition in Boxers.

This poor dog.. so next he had to have an op where 1/3 of the spleen and the tumour were removed, and while

he was in there, Dr Leask performed a gastropexy - stitching the stomach to the abdominal wall so it couldn't twist again and cause another torsion. The tumour was basically a 7cm blood-filled balloon, and although it turned out not to be malignant, it must have been leaking slowly, causing the anaemia – and it could have burst any time. It would have caused a rapid death and we wouldn't have known why. So there went Zeno's 3rd life.

For the next couple of days he convalesced in his crate, but came out when it was evening to lie quietly with us in the lounge. On day 2, mid-evening, I turned round and saw large blobs of pink tissue hanging down from the wound in his stomach. The stitches were splitting open. (And Zeenie was looking at me with a big smile on his face.. I couldn't believe my eyes... he didn't seem to be able to feel it – but then he's terribly stoic and doesn't show pain.)

His guts were in imminent danger of falling out... so I hurriedly retrieved my winter scarf and a towel.. padded the wound and tied the scarf round his tummy as tight as I could and knotted it over his back to hold everything in. Mad rush to the emergency vets again.. they operated at 1am in the morning and sewed him back up and kept him

BCGR Committee 2016

MAY OOSTHUIZEN

Chairperson
082 857 3037
che-jane123@absamail.co.za

SALLY YOUNG

Vice Chairperson
082 490 6961
sally_young@iburst.co.za

ERNA FABER

Secretary
082 749 3275
maroelani@gmail.com

RENÉ CLULOW

Committee member
073 963 8096
rene.clulow@gmail.com

MANI DE LIMA

Committee member
082 492 9430
mdelima@global.co.za

LUCY YOUNG

Committee member
011 487 2037
youngs@netactive.co.za

GEORGE & CHRISTINE OOSTHUIZEN

Committee members
076 987 4218
rmsautomation@vodamail.co.za

CHIZ JUDGE

Committee member,
Media &
Newsletter
083 408 2977
chizjudge.design@gmail.com



in for a day. Bye bye Life No. 4.

We had to go get him 2 mornings later because he hadn't stopped crying and barking non-stop in their hospital and the other patients needed some peace and quiet! He HATED it there and was overjoyed to see us, shame. So back to our vet again, and he was kept sedated for a few days just to let the wound heal a bit before he came home. At least he's used to the hospital there and knows the staff very well. (Dr Leask tells me he shouldn't have favourites BUT... !)

Meanwhile my nerves were shot. I was so worried, but the boy came right. After two more weeks, all was still in place and healing, his colour was better, and I breathed a sigh of relief. (Too soon as it turned out.)

Meanwhile, a small lump on his back had decided to have a growth spurt and enlarged alarmingly, so I asked Dr Leask to remove it as soon as Zeno was well enough to cope with another op. (We've had several lumps and bumps removed before from both dogs so I wasn't unduly concerned). He had the op and we left the stitches in for 2 weeks. All was looking good and no malignancy, so with the vet's approval I removed the stitches myself at home. Next morning I was met by the sight of a huge pink expanse of naked muscle on his back.. the skin had not knitted properly at all and the whole lot had split open... so that needed more anaesthetic and yet another op to restitch, plus more blood tests taken. His white blood cell count, which had become very low after the colitis, was still right down. Probably why the wound didn't heal. Life 5 gone.

At this point I simply could not face putting this poor dog (or myself) through any more... and if that white blood cell count hadn't come right I had gotten to the point where I actually didn't want to know. It was just too scary.

I decided, as Zeno seemed to be much happier and the wound was healing properly this time, to let "sleeping dogs lie". His colour was now good.. we put him on a tonic supplement and he seemed perkier and more cheerful and we left the stitches in for a month to be sure. That did the trick.

Now, after six trouble-free months (hooray!) I am happy to report that Zeno seems pretty much back to his old self... chasing birds, stealing hooves and bones off Koko and generally being Lord of the Garden – and addicted to tummy rubs and hugs and kisses as always. Looking back it has been a slow recovery, but each month

he's been brighter.

He worked his way through his entire annual medical insurance of R35000 in two months!

(Thank you, thank you Medipet – I don't know what we would have done without you. You were fantastically supportive and settled the never-ending claims quickly, every time. You even responded with little notes on the emails hoping he was getting better. Great service.)

So Zeno is now under strict instructions to stay fit, at least until his medical aid kicks in again!

I shall worry about low white cell counts if the necessity arises, but am thinking positive and hoping it was just a nasty leftover from the colitis and subsequent afflictions. We have been boosting his immune system with supplements ever since, so hope all that has helped. He's happy and comfortable, which is the most important thing.

He is such a loved and precious soul, the thought of losing him was too much to bear. When he went away Koko missed him as much as we did, and she was deliriously happy to get him back home



On the mend...

again, every time!

After all that, I reckon he owes us a few more years of healthiness! Do you HEAR that Zeno?

Gosh these Boxers... they are just so special, aren't they? How many lives do they actually have? I'm hoping they are like cats and have quite a few...

AND NOW for a change of subject. Boxers have become the "in-thing" of the



dog world in the UK this Christmas. If you haven't already watched the John Lewis Christmas advert, do yourself a favour and watch it on the internet (www.johnlewis.com-christmas-advert) – it's brilliant and features Buster the Boxer, who has been watching his young mistress practise bouncing for weeks (John Lewis put out little "teaser" trailers before the main ad was released, featuring Buster watching her bouncing on a Moonhopper, etc..).

It's a wonderful ad campaign, and has been followed by some hysterical spoofs on YouTube in a similar vein, featuring Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump... and now there are viral videos of people's Boxers at home jumping up and down as they watch the ad on the TV!

Great that our breed is being popularised... as Toyota's 'Buddy' did for Boxers here, but it is also concerning, as there is the fear that there will be people out there who are now going to want a cute Boxer puppy for the kids, only to find that it's more than they can handle. Let's pray that there isn't a resultant boom in cases of neglect and rehoming.

Fortunately in the UK there is a responsible attitude to pet care amongst the majority and we hope that reason will prevail. But I remember all the trouble with unwanted dalmations after the 101 Dalmations film years ago triggered an unprecedented demand for puppies. I regret I don't have a lot of faith in human nature!

I've just had such a laugh with Koko.. she wants to help our domestic, Esther, to change the sheets upstairs... it's cleaning day today and the dogs love Esther, but Koko's idea of helping is doing play bows and rolling around on the bed and grabbing the duvet so Esther can't get the cover off it. It was too funny to watch.. and even Esther laughs at her. Of course being a Boxer she hams it up even more when she has an audience!

She is such a sweet dog.. brightens our lives up so much, but is a horror on the



lead.. pulls like mad as soon as she sees another dog and I've never been able to train her out of it. Not having socialised her enough is doubtless part of the problem, but now its too bad to be ABLE to socialise her! She's pretty good when it's just her and I alone.. but as soon as another dog gets near she goes bananas.

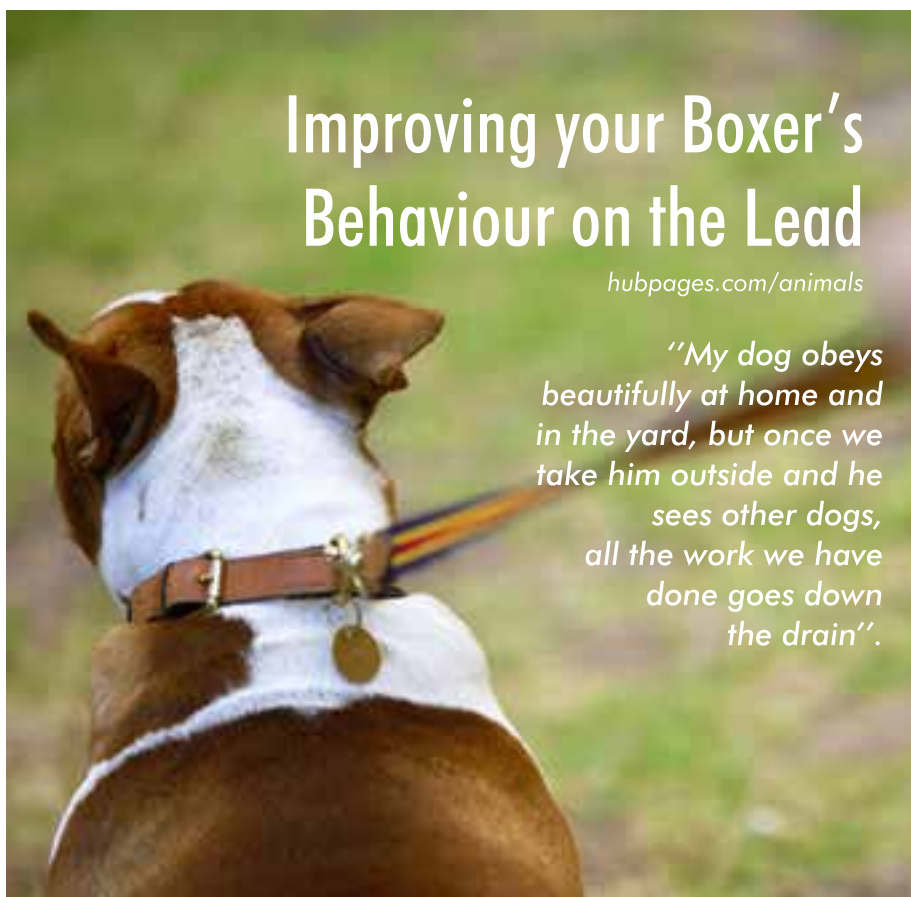
Embarrassingly, she puts on a huge show of coughing if she feels the slightest pull on her collar, so I have to use a harness, but then I'm not strong enough to hold her if she really decides to lunge.

I have now purchased an Easy Walk harness, in fact it was just delivered this morning – I was able to source it on the internet. So we are going to practise with this and see if it helps. I found a great article with advice on supportive training which I've included here.. so maybe with a bit of luck I can teach an older girl some new tricks! I will keep you posted.

NB. If any of you out there have advice, please contact me (chizjudge.design@gmail.com).

That was a long chat from me this time – hope you are all still awake enough to receive our very best wishes for a super Festive Season!

So to you and your Boxers from the three of us and the rest of the BCGR committee, have a Happy Christmas full of woofs and dog treats and a New Year blessed with the promise of bones to come...



Improving your Boxer's Behaviour on the Lead

hubpages.com/animals

"My dog obeys beautifully at home and in the yard, but once we take him outside and he sees other dogs, all the work we have done goes down the drain".

As a dog trainer, I hear this complaint quite often and I can literally perceive a sense of despair. The dog may be dragging the owner on leash or may be barking, jumping and simply going nuts. Often dog owners, want to make the point that their dog is in no way acting aggressively, but that he simply his too excited, and cannot contain himself. However, other dog owners may not be aware of this, and they may therefore, as a precaution, walk to the other side of the road.

But how to stop this behaviour once and for all? Thankfully, there are some effective strategies, but ultimately, there are no short cuts. So therefore, pull your sleeves up and get ready for some intense training for several weeks.

How to stop all that excited lunging

Stopping your dog from lunging excitedly will save your back, your arms and yourself from potential falls. Following are some strategies to stop all the excited lunging.

• Enroll in Classes

Classes are not crafted only for training a dog to obey commands such as sit, lay down and heel. They offer the perfect setting for teaching a dog to be under control around strong distractions. Pulling on the leash is one of the most common problems dogs owners encounter, and often, the pulling is towards other dogs.

A dog can be trained to obey wonderfully in the home and yard, but it is near other dogs that owners realise how much more training the dog needs. It is said that dogs are well under stimulus control when the three D's are added; these are Distance, Duration and Distractions. We will see how to incorporate these training essentials with your excited dog.

• Work Under the Threshold

What is the threshold? Dog trainers use this term to depict that fine line where your dog is no longer capable of obeying your commands and appears to no longer have a brain. When your dog reaches this point of no return, you can try to pull, yank, shout and even dangle a juicy piece of steak as much as you can, but it does not

Dog Reflexology



Message from May Oosthuizen, BCGR Chairperson

From the Chairman and the Committee we wish to thank all those club members who give us support throughout the year. We appreciate the time the Judges give to the club and also to the assistance we receive from KUSA, NAPC and TKC.

On a personal note, I would like to express my thanks to this Committee, who not only give their dedication, but also donations in the form of time, raffles, petrol, entries and help in every way.

In addition, we thank Supreme Pets for their ongoing sponsorship this year. Their team has arrived unfailingly at every show with generous donations of dog food for prizes and they have even sponsored our rosettes on occasion. We really appreciate the effort they make for the Club.

Just a reminder – Club subs are due... only R12,50 per month for a family for membership! (Application details at the end of this newsletter.) And please support the AGM on January 29th (to be held at 11am in the Committee Room, Goldfields Showgrounds, Boeing Road, opp. Eastgate) so we can move forward, and make this Club a force to be reckoned with.

THANK YOU FROM ME. AND I WISH ALL A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR.

Kind regards,

May Oosthuizen
082 857 3037



A CHRISTMAS POEM ABOUT A DOG

Author unknown

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through
the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care
In the hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The children all nestled snug in their beds
With no thought of the dog outside filling their heads.

And mom in her kerchief and I in my cap
Knew the dog must be cold, but didn't care about that.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter –
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash
Thought "The dog's off his chain and into the trash."

The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow
gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But Santa Clause there, with his eyes full of tears.

He unchained the dog, once so lively and quick –
Last year's Christmas present now painfully sick.

More rapid than eagles he called the dog's name
And the dog ran straight to him, despite all his pain.

Now Dasher, now Dancer, now Prancer and Vixen
On Comet, on Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen!

To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall
Let's find this dog a home where he'll be loved by all.

I knew in an instant, there'd be no gifts this year
For Santa Claus had made one thing quite clear.

The gift of a dog is not just for the season –
We had gotten the dog for all the wrong reasons.

In our haste to think of a gift for the kids
There was one important thing that we missed.

A dog should be family, and
cared for the same.
You don't give a gift,
then put it on a chain.

And I heard him explain,
as he rode out of sight,
*"You weren't given
a gift,
You were given
a life."*



The Boxer Standard

The Official Boxer Breed Standard of the Kennel Union of South Africa

BCGR



PART 10 FAULTS

Any departure from the points covered by the Breed Standard in previous issues should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.

FAULTS

1. **Behaviour/Temperament:** Aggressive, vicious, cunning, untrustworthy, lack of spirit, overly shy.
2. **Head:** Lack of nobility and typical expression, sombre face, Pinscher or Bulldog type head. Dribbling, showing of teeth or tongue. Muzzle too pointed or slight. Bridge of nose falling away. Leather or weather nose, pale nose leather. So called "hawk eye", lack of pigment in haw. Flapping, half erect or erect ears, rose ears. Wry jaw, slanting teeth, incorrect position of teeth, poorly developed teeth and unsound teeth due to illness.
3. **Neck:** Short, thick and throaty.
4. **Body:** Front too broad and low to the ground. Sagging body, roach or sway back. Lean, long, narrow, sagging loin, loosely coupled body.
5. Arched loin, croup falling away. Narrow pelvis, hollow flanks, pendulous belly.
6. **Tail:** Low set on, kink tail.
7. **Forehand:** French front, loose shoulders, loose elbows, weak pastern, hare foot, flat, splayed feet.
8. **Hindquarters:** Weak muscles. Too much or too little angulation, down on hocks, barrel hocks, cow hocks, narrow hocks, dewclaws, hare foot, flat, splayed feet.
9. **Movement:** Waddling, insufficient reach, pacing, stilted gait.
10. **Colour of coat:** Mask extending beyond muzzle. Stripes (brindling) too close together or too sparse. Sooty ground colour. Mingled colours. Unattractive white markings such as a whole white head or white on one side of the head. Other colours and white markings exceeding one third of the ground colour.

NB. Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

And that finally concludes our coverage of the Standard.

Here is a beautiful example of a Boxer bitch very close to the Breed Standard, she is Ch. Panabolo Specially for Norwilbeck Bellchime, who won this year's Boxer Best of Breed at Crufts, in the UK.

I have put some of my own thoughts regarding the Breed Standard and dog showing and their importance, together.

Many pet owners will probably say they don't really care about the Standard – they just love their Boxer no matter what it looks like, but the point is that without a benchmark to guide us, the dog we recognise as a Boxer today would cease to exist. Breeders try to breed healthy dogs which adhere as closely to the Breed Standard as possible. That way, we breed Boxers that continue to look like Boxers! And adherence to the breed standard also ensures that the Boxer moves efficiently. Form and function are completely intertwined, if one is incorrect, the other will also be.

Following the standard ensures that only dogs with good temperaments will be bred from. The Boxer has a particular type of personality, and whilst they are all very individual, they generally share that affectionate, exuberant zest for life and that peculiar combination of intelligence and loyalty combined with the humour and enthusiasm which endears the breed to us so much. We all know what we mean when we say "That's sooo Boxer!" – so there are general personality traits distinctive to the breed which we deliberate perpetuate. A mean-spirited, aggressive Boxer, however *physically* correct, should not be used for breeding.

The whole point of dog showing, apart from the human competitive 'sporting' aspect, is to recognise those dogs which conform as closely as possible to the breed standard. Those are the dogs which will then be used for breeding by registered breeders. Thus dog



contd. overleaf





Breed Standard contd.

showing contributes hugely to the healthy future of the breed. The owner of a Boxer which looks way off target when it comes to the breed standard, if responsible, will not use that dog for breeding.

Obviously, just because a puppy's parents are well bred and top showdogs, it doesn't always follow that it is also going to be a fabulous example of the breed. We can't

all be top models.. look at the offspring of beautiful people – they aren't necessarily blessed with their parents' stunning genetic attributes! So we won't all have perfect boxers even if we obtain them from reputable breeders who have used beautiful, health-tested parents. (Breeders will tell you that there may be only one pup in many litters that really stands out

as a promising show dog. The rest make wonderful companions, go to pet homes and their families love them just the same.) But puppies from well-bred, health-tested parents will have the best chance of having a healthy life themselves. So it makes sense to get your pup from a responsible source – never a backyard breeder or a pet shop supplied by a puppy farm.



Improving your Boxer's Behaviour on the Lead contd.

seem to make its way to your dog's brain. It almost looks like all the circuits are off and the brain is unplugged. In order to resume some reasoning therefore, you need to work UNDER the threshold.

• Take a Step Back

If your dog is too revved up to listen to your commands, you are exposing her too close to the other dogs. You really need to step back a bit to regain some control. Keeping her too close to other dogs creates three particular problems:

- 1) By walking your dog very closely to other dogs your dog feels more compelled to fulfill its desire. This means your likeliness of being pulled and dragged is much higher and the other dogs are more likely to come closer. The more your dog gets to pull or the more other dogs come closer, the more your dog will be rewarded. Rewards reinforce behaviour and therefore, the behaviour will become increasingly more established and harder to extinguish over time. Your dog's mind will reason this way; "Pulling makes me meet and mingle with other dogs, and therefore, I will continue to behave like this.". This creates a vicious cycle which is hard to extinguish.
- 2) Walking your dog too close to other dogs will ultimately put up your dog to fail, while you really want to put up your dog for success. Working your dog over the threshold will not help your dog learn anything other than bad behaviours. Dogs learn best when they are put into a situation where they can cognitively function.
- 3) Walking your dog too close to other dogs may make you feel compelled to increase your level of authority to get your point across. This means you will feel the need to take bigger steps than usual to stop your dog from misbehaving. You may feel like yelling, yanking the leash and even resorting to aversive methods to stop your dog in its tracks. However, since the shouting, yelling and yanking do not work once your dog is aroused, you are basically burning important lifelines and teaching your dog to *not* pay attention to them.

It would help greatly if you worked on finding a distance from where your dog is better under control and not too aroused. It will not matter if the distance is 2m, 5m, 15m, or more. Once you have found the distance, you will work from there and try asking some focus commands.

• Teach "Watch me"

Watch me can be easily taught using high value treats. The treats need to be significant enough to beat the distractions. These can be sliced hot dogs, slices of ham, cheese, freeze dried liver, bits of steak or grilled chicken. Use a treat pouch around your waist and practice with this exercise at home and in your garden:

- 1) Make a smacking noise with your mouth as if you are giving kisses. This will not mean anything for your dog right now, therefore according to Pavlov, it will be a "neutral stimulus". However, we will give it value in step 2.
- 2) Immediately after making the smacking noise take a treat in your hand and place it near your eyes. This will make your dog look at you in the eyes.
- 3) Immediately, give the treat as soon as your dog makes eye contact. You can gradually add duration to this exercise by keeping the treat at eye level longer. Repeat this



exercise several times, until your dog automatically makes eye contact when you make the smacking noise. This means the neutral stimulus (the smacking noise) now has the meaning "Yummy food is coming!" and therefore has transformed into a *conditioned stimulus*. Welcome to Pavlov's marvellous world of classical conditioning!

• Apply it to the Real World

Now is the time to add distractions, but at a low level, under the threshold.

Start applying the "watch me" command on quiet roads, parks and then areas where dogs are walked. As soon as you notice your dog acknowledges another dog, make the noise with your mouth and ask for "watch me". If your dog is not paying attention to you, it means you are too close to the other dog. So put your dog up for success and work farther away. When your dog complies, deliver the treat and start very gradually to work on closer distances.

Expect some set-backs; they are normal. When they happen, go back a few steps and work from a greater distance. It is best if this exercise is initially done with the other dog being calm, so it does not create too much excitement.

When you are at a point where your dog is responding well, you can try these focus exercises with other dogs which are more





on the hyper side. Remember that every time you are adding strong distractions, you should work from a greater distance since it is harder for the dog.

• Apply Grandma's Law

Important: remember that each and every time your dog lunges and is rewarded by interaction with other dogs, the behaviour scores high for your dog, but you are losing points in training.

Not allowing your dog to pull and interact with other dogs however, does not mean he cannot play with his favourite buddies any more. He can and should, but from now on it will be on your terms. You can therefore introduce Grandma's Law, "You can have cake, only if you eat your broccoli first."

How does this apply in dog training? Basically, "You can play with Buddy only after you heel and sit nicely". So let's say you are in the park and your dog sees Buddy. Lunging and pulling will not take your dog to Buddy, but heeling will. There is a saying that dogs have an opposition reflex, in other words they tend to pull when pressure is put on their collar. Well, humans can have an opposition reflex as well. Every time your dog pulls, you stop moving, when the leash is slack, you keep moving. If your dog keeps on pulling he will get nowhere. If you are stubborn enough, he will eventually learn. Before snapping his leash off to play, remember to make him sit.

• A Helpful Tool

To save your arm, you may want to invest in a good training tool such as Premier's Easy Walk harness. Please remember that no training tool should be used as a replacement for training. Tools are just that – tools, they therefore become insignificant without training to accompany them. 



SUSIE AND TABITHA

It was love at first sight between Susie the Boxer and Tabitha the piglet.

In 2011, a member of the public found Tabitha the piglet alone on the side of the road just days before Christmas and took her into the Hillside Animal Sanctuary in Norfolk, UK.



Wendy Valentine – Susie's owner – runs the sanctuary, and said that Tabitha was so small her umbilical cord was still attached. There were no pig farms anywhere near where she was found, so they could only assume she fell from the back of a lorry. She may have fallen through the slats as her mother gave birth on the way to the slaughterhouse.

"We had to feed her by hand, and I brought her into the house with me so I could keep an eye on her. But Susie our Boxer immediately took an interest in her, and wouldn't stay away from the basket she was in. I let them play together and it was obvious Tabitha saw Susie as a mother figure. They would nuzzle up together – they didn't leave each other's side. They are constantly with each other and don't like being separated. They go to sleep with each other and eat next to each other. It's lovely to see them playing with each other, Susie is very gentle with her and seems to know she's only young."

She added: *"They go racing around the room, rolling on their backs playing, it's very funny."*

Susie, who was then five years old, had been rescued from appalling conditions at a Welsh puppy farm two years before, where she had been used for breeding. She was one of six dogs found to have been living in squalor in a stinking cattle shed. The owner was subsequently prosecuted and convicted for keeping dogs in atrocious conditions.

Susie and Tabitha garnered a cult following online with a video taken of the pair, titled "Piggy and Puggy" which became an internet sensation on YouTube in 2011, with close to 50,000 hits.

Watch the video! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SLXPkxJdps

Wendy Valentine said the online interest in the couple was amazing. "Tabitha is growing so fast though, we're just worried that in a few weeks she might end up squashing Susie by accident," she said.

contd. overleaf 





BOXERS & PIGLETS

BCGR

Boxers and pet pigs make great playmates! Here are some more charming photos of boxer/piggy combos.

thevintagecontessa.net:
'The Admiral' or 'Butter,' as he is known, and Banksie the teacup piglet.

www.boredpanda.com: (below)

And this is Virginia, a cute little Juliana pig who has grown up with her Boxer friends. She thinks she's a dog but is actually more intelligent than them, her owner says. She learned to use the dog door before they did and got the hang of using a litter box in one day!



Susie and Tabitha contd.

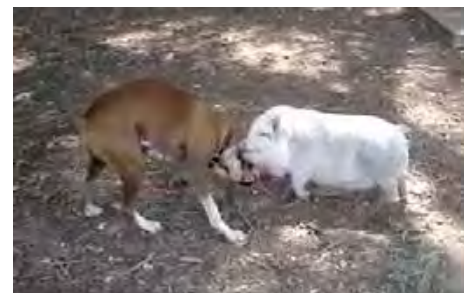
Tabitha *did* continue to grow – into a very large pig (see pic on previous page) and now Tabitha and Susie live on different sites. Susie is a resident of Hillside's sanctuary in Norwich, along with their other dogs, while Tabitha lives in their North Norfolk sanctuary with other pigs, horses and cows.

That most recent photo of Susie and Tabitha together was taken in August 2013. Hillside says that on that occasion, "Tabitha certainly seemed to recognize Susie, but as the picture shows, Susie decided that Tabitha was now too big to play with and gave her a wide berth."

While the two may not be able to play together any more, their story of triumph over adversity still has the power to move us and remind us that when it comes to it, pigs and dogs aren't so different after all.



Other Youtube stars: Cooper the Boxer & Isa the pig



Bush the Boxer & piggy playmate in Holland





"BOXER" COLITIS

This particular canine disease hits the Boxer breed more than any other dog breed in the world. It causes ulcers in the lining of the dog's large intestine. This, in turn, causes the dog to have diarrhea and/or blood in the bowel movements.

www.allboxerinfo.com/boxer-dog-colitis



What is this?

This canine health issue is so common in the Boxer breed, that it is often referred to as Boxer Colitis, even though it can affect other breeds as well.

The word "colitis" means "inflammation of the colon" and it can be a chronic, troubling issue.

The colon of the dog becomes swollen with ulcers all along the lining of the dog's large intestine. The swelling actually destroys cells in the colon's lining and this is where the ulcers develop.

When a dog has this health problem, there are clear symptoms and luckily treatment is available.

What are the symptoms?

The way that most owners know that something is wrong is from the dog's bowel movements. There are several red flags that will be noticed:

- Diarrhea – often completely uncontrollable. This means that the dog will often have accidents in the home, as they will not have time to signal that they need to go outside to the designated area. It will be what can be described as kind of "gooey"
- A pus-like mucus will be in the bowel movement – it will often be of a whitish color
- Blood in the bowel movement. This can be fresh (red) or if it has had time to dry in the faeces, it will appear to be black

As this progresses, there will be more symptoms:

- Weight loss. This will be most noticeable around the rib cage
- Gas (flatulence and/or burping)
- Vomiting (For some this can be intense, for other Boxers, it does not present as a symptom)

What causes it?

If the Boxer dog has sudden symptoms, this may be a case of stress related colitis. This can happen with dogs who are moved into a new home and have not adapted well, have been put into a kennel or other situations which may make a dog feel very nervous.

This type of colon issue usually clears up once the dog used to a normal routine. While

the dog is experiencing problems, it is often recommended to keep them on a very bland, home-cooked diet.

An example of the proper food to give would be fresh, well cooked white meat chicken cut into bite sized pieces along with cooked soft white rice. Some do well with some sweet potatoes or standard baking potatoes mixed in.

Other Causes

Aside from acute stress, the causes of this vary a bit wildly:

- Infections (including Salmonella, Clostridium, and E. coli)
- Parasite infections (including, Giardia, Cryptosporidium and whipworms)
- Trauma
- Allergic colitis (an allergy brings this on, often a reaction to a particular food - and sometimes one that the dog has ingested many times before - but has "grown into" the allergy)
- Primary inflammatory bowel disease

Colitis may also occur after ingesting contaminated food, being in contact with infected dogs or after chronic exposure to a wet environment.

Treatment

A diet of plain chicken, plain rice and potatoes as discussed above are part of the treatment plan for chronic colitis.

An antibiotic medication, Baytril being a common one, may be prescribed by the veterinarian which can help in many cases. The 2nd most commonly used antibiotics are with Clavomox or Metronidazole.

Sulfasalazine (a sulfa medication used for treating ulcerative colitis and rheumatoid arthritis) and Corticosteroid medicines may be given.

Dosage will vary depending on the severity of the colitis and the age of the Boxer. In general, 2 pills a day is common with Baytril. This, in combination with a bland diet can begin to work after approximately 24 hours and each day will bring about more improvement. Full results are often seen in 10 to 12 days.

Some dogs will respond well and then once they go back to eating kibble, symptoms



Boxer Colitis contd.

may come back. In these cases, a bland diet may be recommended indefinitely. When feeding plain foods, be sure to *not* add any spices such as salt, pepper, etc. The goal is to feed simple foods that are easily digested and do not put any unneeded stress on the intestines during digestion. Foods high in fiber are not recommended.

Here are other key ingredients that seem to help a Boxer with Colitis:

- **Canned pumpkin** – 2 tablespoons mixed into 1 meal per day
- **Yogurt** – plain white yogurt, 1/4 cup per day, mixed into kibble or eaten right off a big spoon
- **Psyllium powder**, 1/2 teaspoon, mixed well into 1/2 cup of warm water and then dribbled over food. Veterinarians often supply this, but it can be expensive. It can now be obtained at Dis-Chem.
- **Kaopectate** – You'll want to double check with your veterinarian, however this works well for many Boxer dogs, with a dosage of 1 tablespoon (for adults), 2 times per day. This is for short term use, during times that bowels really need to be tightened up (high diarrhea days).

Another key step to helping dogs with colitis is providing your Boxer with outdoor access via doggie door or open door policy. They have to eliminate frequently and giving them the option to get out on their own relieves stress, as it can sometimes be mere seconds that a dog has to make it to his or her designated bathroom area and anxiety of "knowing" he won't make it in time can make things worse since stress affects this condition.

Histiocytic Ulcerative Colitis (HUC)

This is a unique form of this canine health problem and it is much more severe.

If symptoms last longer than 2 weeks, a veterinarian should perform a complete exam to find out the cause.

Stool samples should be examined to look for parasites or bacteria that can cause this canine disease.

Blood tests should be done to check red and white blood counts of the dog.

Non-Championship Show

RESULTS 13th August 2016

JUDGE: Mrs Sally Young
Boxer Specialist (Gauteng)

BEST IN SHOW: Ch Ilruca Deyzel 'Deyzel'
Owner: Wolfgang Raschke

**RESERVE BEST IN SHOW
& BEST JUNIOR:** Maroelani Pippa Perfect 'Pippa'
Owner: Erna Faber

BEST VETERAN: Owned by Gerrit Swart
BEST PUPPY: Nero
Owner: Eben Rademan



BEST IN SHOW: Ch Ilruca Deyzel



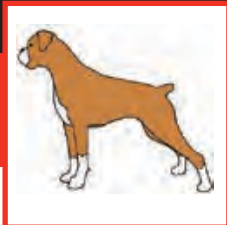
RESERVE BEST IN SHOW & BEST JUNIOR:
Maroelani Pippa Perfect handled by Lucy Young



BEST PUPPY: Eben Rademeyer with Nero

Below:
The Supreme Pet team and our BCGR members





BOXER CLUB GOLD REEF



Championship Show 2016



RESULTS 8th October 2016

JUDGE: Mr Freddy Christensen
Working Group Specialist Judge (Norway)

BEST IN SHOW: Chiswick Unveiled

Owner: Mrs S Young

RESERVE BEST IN SHOW: Ch Rising Star of Montala

Owner Mr W Streak

BEST PUPPY: Manitoka Avanti

Owner: Mr W Streak

BEST VETERAN: Carjoe Winston of Ilruca

Owner: Mr W Raschke

BEST SA BRED: Ch Ilruca Itano Inoi

Owner: Mr W Raschke

BEST JUNIOR: Chiswick Unveiled

Owner: Mrs S Young

CC DOG: Chiswick Unveiled

Owner: Mrs S Young

CC BITCH: Manitoka Avanti

Owner: Mr W Streak

BOXER OF THE YEAR: Ch Rising Star of Montala

Owner: Mr W Streak

PUPPY OF THE YEAR: Chiswick Unveiled

Owner: Mrs S Young

Congratulations to all our worthy winners!

Thanks go to Mr Freddy Christensen, our Working Group Specialist Judge from Norway... we appreciated his individual critiques.

Also to thanks to Ilruca for your, as ever, great catering and to all those BCGR committee members whose hard work made the show such a success.

And lastly, thanks to all our entrants and their beautiful Boxers and our sponsors Supreme Pet — you made the show a great success!

BEST VETERAN: Carjoe Winston of Ilruca, with his owner Wolfgang Raschke

BEST IN SHOW & PUPPY OF THE YEAR:

'Bentley' handled by Lucy Young, and owner Sally Young with the judge and all her trophies!



RESERVE BEST IN SHOW: Ch Rising Star of Montala with his owner Wayne Streak.



BEST PUPPY & CC BITCH: Manitoka Avanti & Wayne



BEST SA BRED: Ilruca Itano Inoi



2016 BOXER OF THE YEAR: Ch Rising Star of Montala



HIP DYSPLASIA: Can the Shape and Surface of the Whelping Box Prevent It?

Hip Dysplasia —

The nature vs. nurture side of things

Hip Dysplasia is a condition that all dog breeders are very well aware of and have been making considerable efforts to eliminate. Boxers are no exceptions and reputable breeders will only breed from HD-tested parents. HD is the reason why the Orthopedic Foundation For Animals (OFA) was founded in the USA.

However, after all the effort that went into the OFA's monitoring of the inheritance of HD, (resulting in data spanning over 50 years) it is emerging that the causes of hip dysplasia are in fact only about 20% genetic and the other 80% are environmental.

You can mate two parents with excellent hips and get dysplastic offspring, or mate two dysplastic parents and get pups with normal hips. Some scientists go as far as to say that hip dysplasia is predominantly a bio-mechanical process, with genes playing a very limited part.

Theories that describe HD as a mostly bio-mechanical condition firstly point to the fact that HD affects breeds with a higher ratio of weight to height (i.e. the heavier, stockier breeds) and secondly that research has shown that overweight individuals within the same breed are twice as likely to develop the condition.

OFA data lists Bulldogs and Pugs as the two most affected breeds and Italian Greyhound and Whippet as least affected. Talk about compact weight juxtaposed with a light, lean body!

In a study comparing Labrador puppies on restricted diets with those on a control diet, the results were striking (Van den Berg-Foels et al 2006). By the age of 6 years old, the pups fed a restricted diet had 40% less evidence of HD than the controls, with the heaviest dogs affected the most.

Chubby puppies are very cute, however their risk of developing orthopedic problems is almost twice as big as for lean puppies. But before you measure out perfectly controlled portions of food for the little gremlins you can do something else to reduce environmental risk for hip dysplasia.

The Whelping Box and Hip Dysplasia?

Indeed, there might be another environmental factor we are overlooking — the whelping box! When you have a chance to watch videos of wild canines, you will notice how the den is shaped like a bowl. Its surface is compact dirt. When the pups are nursing they have great traction under their feet. They do not use knees and bellies to crawl as much as pups in a flat whelping box are forced to do. The concave shape informs blind and deaf newborns where “up” and “down” is, and they all pile at the bottom of the den, forming a thermally efficient little gathering.

The differences between a natural den and a man-made whelping box just may explain why all puppies are born with normal hips and develop dysplasia afterwards, and why wild canines do not suffer from hip dysplasia. Does the damage happen sometime after birth in a man-made environment?

In multiple studies, puppies were shown to have normal hips at birth and showed signs of laxity in the hip joints by two months. (Laxity means looseness: the head of the femur does not fit tightly into the acetabulum). Joint laxity is a key risk factor for developing hip dysplasia. So what happens in those two weeks? Now if you look at newborn puppies nursing in a whelping box you will see feet flaring about looking for traction, or puppies putting their weight on knees and hips. Both over-flex the legs and put weight directly on knees and hips, putting undue stress on the hip joint and can result in luxating (dislocating) that joint.

Can some easy adjustments to a whelping box make a difference? Here is a simple experiment I did.

This first photo (1) shows my litter nursing in a flat whelping box lined with a Sherpa blanket. The next photo (2) was taken



after I put a non-slip rug pad under the blanket. The pad changed the traction on the bottom of the whelping box. Notice how the weight distribution changed from knees and hips to feet. I could not believe the difference!

To go a step further in creating traction I put a rug pad over the blankets and all of a sudden the puppies no longer looked like the cute blobs we are used to seeing but more like their wild cousins, lifting weight up on all their limbs (3).



Are we on to something here? After sharing this experiment with friends I got some great tips on surfaces with traction.

One can buy Sherpa pads with rubberized backing! Who knew? Or use a bathroom rug that has rubber backing.

Ed's note:

Discussions with some of BCGR's breeders concluded that this was a great idea, but that one could not get away from the inheritance factor with HD. The importance of testing our dogs for soundness of hips before breeding is still paramount.

It was pointed out that synthetic material in the pups' bed should be avoided because it generates static electricity, but cotton towels or natural fabric with non-slip rug matting underneath or the use of some other non-slip material could make a very beneficial difference to the pups' development.

To re-create the bowl-shaped den would be

Hip Dysplasia contd.

difficult, although the author managed it by putting towels around the edges of the box under the blanket to create a dish shape. She says that the pups did gravitate to the middle of the bed as a result. (I suspect she has a smaller breed of dog and so a smaller bed to deal with!)

However, the flat floor of the whelping box with bars around the edge is designed to stop the mother inadvertently squashing the pups, so I personally would not like to recommend this course of action.

I thought that this feature might be of interest to our members who are breeding their Boxers.

Thank you Wolfgang for your comments. If any other breeders have points to make on this topic please let me know and I can publish them in the next newsletter. (email chizjudge.design@gmail.com) – Ed.



2016 Frabeldine litter, below.



BCGR 

members' GALLERY

2016 Maroelani puppies – little and large... below right



TURKEY, SALMON & BRUSSELS SPROUTS: The perfect healthy Christmas dinner for dogs

CANINE dietary consultant Kristina Johansen shares her recipe for a nutrient-packed canine festive feast guaranteed to get tails wagging.

From a succulent roast with all the trimmings to fruit-laden puddings, chocolates and cake – not to mention nuts, mince pies and smoked salmon – Christmas Day is all about eating.

Dogs are much-loved members of the family and it's hard to resist slipping them scraps or even shovelling a helping of food into their bowl, but while we love to indulge on December 25, canine dietary consultant Kristina Johansen advises that our pets must not do the same.

While many of our Christmas standards such as turkey, carrots and Brussels sprouts are good for dogs, it's important that dog-owners know which elements of the Christmas meal can be dangerous for their four-legged friends.

Kristina, who runs a London-based dog nutrition service, also warns that if you think your dog has eaten any harmful food or liquid you must call the vet immediately as the effects can often be reversed or minimised if treated in time.

Here's her guide to the do's and don'ts of sharing Christmas food with your dog.

FAT

Fatty foods or table scraps, such as turkey skin or pan drippings, gravy, bacon or sausages are all no-nos. Too much fat can cause pancreatitis, the swelling of the dog's pancreas which can have long-term consequences.

Tip: Choose skinless turkey meat instead of turkey skin or dripping.

BONES

Don't play wishbone with your dog. Bones can perforate the oesophagus, stomach or intestines and cause blockages along the digestive tract.

RAISINS

Keep your dog away from the Christmas pudding, cake and mince pies as raisins and grapes can cause canine kidney failure.

Tip: Swap grapes and raisins for blueberries and dried cranberries and



instead of a Christmas pudding, core an apple and stuff it with Kristina's special Christmas recipe (see at end of the article).

CHOCOLATE

Chocolate is another big no-no. It contains a chemical called theobromine which dogs can't metabolise as well as humans. It accumulates in dogs' bodies and becomes toxic or even fatal.

Tip: Replace chocolate and candy canes with celery and carrot sticks.

NUTS

Many of us love eating nuts at Christmas but while a little bit of peanut butter is fine for dogs, other nuts such as macadamia or walnuts can be toxic. Err on the side of caution and avoid nuts altogether.

DAIRY

Many dogs are lactose intolerant so the milk in bread sauce can cause stomach upsets. Yogurt and cottage cheese are low in lactose and are good alternatives.

In addition they are both excellent sources of calcium, phosphorus and protein. Yogurt with active bacteria can act as a probiotic and is good for the dog's digestive system.

Tip: Swap cheese for ricotta or cottage cheese and replace whipped or sour cream with a bit of plain low-fat yogurt.

ONIONS

Onions cause a form of anaemia and should never be fed to dogs. Garlic has similar effects but is much less potent so a tiny amount used for flavouring is OK.

ARTIFICIAL SWEETENER

Xylitol is more dangerous than chocolate so don't let your dog get anywhere near chewing gum, store-bought desserts or anything else artificially sweetened with xylitol. It can cause acute and life threatening low blood sugar in dogs as well as liver failure.

However, a little natural sugar is not bad for dogs. It occurs naturally in many foods and is necessary for a dog to have energy. If your dog gets too much sugar (from sugary snacks) he will suffer the same symptoms as you when you over-indulge – such as dental problems, hyperactivity followed by lethargy, obesity and diabetes.

ALCOHOL

Keep brandy butter and alcoholic drinks far out of your dog's reach – booze, even in tiny amounts, could do permanent damage or even be deadly.

TURKEY

A low-fat meat, turkey meat (without skin) doesn't need any special preparation but, depending on the way you cook your bird, you may need to set aside a portion before adding butter, cheese, sugar, onions or other "do not eat" foods.

Tip: Rather than gravy, add low-salt bouillon with stock from the giblets to any turkey scraps going into the dog's bowl.

SALMON

Cooked or tinned salmon is a healthy protein food. Salmon is an excellent source of omega-3 fatty acids, which

The Perfect Healthy Christmas Dinner contd.

support a dog's immune system and can be beneficial for allergies and improve the condition of your dog's skin and coat.

Tip: Choose tinned salmon instead of smoked salmon, which because it's cured and not cooked, can carry a parasite which can cause problems for dogs. The likelihood your dog will become ill from smoked salmon is very slim but it's generally not recommended.

VEGETABLES

Potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, Brussels sprouts and parsnips are all excellent and safe food choices for your dog. If you're giving him leftovers, either rinse away any excess butter and oil or put aside a portion before you dress the veg.

Tip: Your dog can eat plain mashed potato with a bit of low-fat yogurt; giving him green beans wrapped in a thin slice of carrot and Brussels sprouts with a few bacon bits won't hurt.

FRUIT

Dogs can eat cranberries, so you can share a little cranberry sauce but be aware that it's often full of sugar. Many dogs love apples but cut out the core as apple seeds are toxic to dogs.

Tip: Apple slices are a great healthy treat for dogs and a perfect substitute for biscuits.

KRISTINA'S CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR DOGS

Quantity: Half the daily calories for a medium-sized dog

Nutritional information: Protein 49g; fat 10g; carbohydrates 88g

100g turkey, roasted skinless
40g canned salmon, drained
350g potatoes, boiled or plain mash
50g Brussels sprouts, boiled
50g carrot, raw or boiled
1 tbsp cranberry sauce
6tbsp giblet stock

Consult your vet before feeding to any dogs with health issues.

Prepare the ingredients, mix together and place in the dog bowl. For an added treat, core an apple (down the middle and across) and stuff the mixture in to the gaps.



CHRISTMAS WOOF LOAF



Treat your dog (or cat) to a healthy, homemade dinner that's filled with tasty goodness.

INGREDIENTS

1/2 kilo minced chicken (or other meat), lean
1/2 cup chopped carrots
1/2 cup peas (frozen are fine)
1/2 cup oats (gluten-free)
2 eggs, raw
3 eggs, hard boiled

DIRECTIONS

Preheat your oven to 350°F. In a bowl, mix together the lean minced chicken (or other meat), chopped carrots, and peas. Both are healthy for cats and dogs, giving them the nutrition they need for strong eyes and good digestion.

Add the oats and eggs. Mix until the loaf mixture comes together. Oats help your pet's coat shine, and eggs offer extra protein. Lightly grease a loaf pan with olive oil and then add half the mixture to the pan.

Place the three hard-boiled eggs along the center of the loaf and then cover with the other half of the ground turkey mixture.



Pop in the oven and bake for 45 minutes.

Cut a slice from the cooled loaf and offer it to your pet. It'll be woofed down in seconds! If feeding a slice to your feline, it's a good idea to chop it up before adding it to her feeding dish.



I LOVE MY

♦ SOCK STEALING
♦ DOORBELL DANCING
♦ BED HOGGING
♦ BIRD CHASING
♦ WRAPPER SNACKING
♦ VACUUM DUELLING
♦ LEASH PULLING
♦ TISSUE TEARING
♦ DELIGHTFULLY
♦ DARING

BOXER





members' GALLERY



Blue goes to Yorkshire



Nichola and Simon, Blue's owners, returned to England this year after a couple of years in South Africa, when they acquired Blue. He was from a litter Zeno sired with Erna's Flame. They have kept in touch with photos ever since he was little, so I have had the pleasure of seeing him grow up and have lots of adventures.

2017 has been quite a year for him, travelling to the UK and joining the ranks of the British furkids, enjoying stress-free walks in the countryside and on the beach, and making new friends at the "Doggy Daycare" where he spent time while Simon and Nichola were working.

He is no longer an only dog, his rather rotund little Bulldog brother Boris has joined the family and they have become best friends.

I have included photos of him before in the gallery, but thought that I'd put the more recent ones together because they make up such a nice story.

Nichola enjoys dressing Blue up for special occasions, so goodness knows what he and Boris are going to look like on Christmas Day. I look forward to getting photos of them which will no doubt be very entertaining! Nichola will be in her element with TWO furchildren to decorate!

Happy Christmas to Blue, Boris, Nichola and Simon! It's so rewarding to know that a "grandchild" has gone to such a loving home. —Ed.

NB. If any of our breeders have followed the adventures of puppies they have bred, I'd love to feature them in future issues.



With his new friends at Doggy Daycare and 'cleaning own teeth', right.



Left, Blue in his crate ready to fly, and above, safely back on the ground at Heathrow ARC.



Getting used to his new home with a great view out of the bedroom window (left) and above, with mom Nichola and enjoying the countryside in June with dad Simon.



Blue with his new baby brother Boris... too cute!

Blue turns 2. Celebrating his second birthday with Boris.

YOUR BOXER CLUB NEEDS



**It's renewal time and EVERY member's
subscription counts...**

Without the revenue from your subscriptions we would not be able to continue functioning – no championship shows, no open shows, no newsletters or dog walks or other social functions - all of which promote and perpetuate our special breed.

As a club we do not have a huge bank balance, but in order to do our job we have to pay license fees, showground fees, judges' fees, and numerous other official outlays to hold our shows and remain affiliated to KUSA.

We depend solely on our members' subscriptions and fund-raising for the club's income.

If you are not a member but own a Boxer, do join us!

If you have been a member in the past, renew your subscription!

The more Boxer owners help us, the more we can do for the Boxer breed.

The membership application form is on the next page. Subscription fees are now due for 2017.

(NB. Failure to have renewed membership by the end of January 2017 means that you will not be able to vote at the AGM.)

PLEASE SUPPORT US!



BOXER CLUB GOLD REEF

Affiliated to the Kennel Union of South Africa

Chairman: May Oosthuizen
P.O Box 6272, ANSFRERE, 1711 Tel (011) 763-3037/ 082 857 3037
Secretary: Erna Faber Cell:0827493275/maroelani@gmail.com

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2017

(Subject to Committee Approval)

I hereby apply for membership of the Boxer Club Gold Reef and undertake to conform to the Constitution and Rules of the Club. I enclose a cheque/cash for:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ R100 Single membership | ☐ R150 family membership |
| ☐ R50 pensioner (single) | ☐ R50 Litter membership |

(Annual subscription, renewable yearly on 30th November)

Name(s) (in full)

Adults:

Dr / Mr / Mrs / Miss _____

Children: _____ M/F _____ Age: _____

_____ M/F _____ Age: _____

_____ M/F _____ Age: _____

_____ M/F _____ Age: _____

Address

Street _____

_____ Code _____

Postal _____

_____ Code _____

Telephone (H) _____ Cell _____

Telephone (W) _____ Fax _____

Email _____

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT/S: _____ DATE: _____

LITTER MEMBERSHIP (to be completed by the breeder)

I/We,being fully paid up members of
Boxer Club Gold Reef, hereby request that the persons named above be considered for
Litter membership. They have purchased a KUSA register Boxer puppy bred by me or sired
by my dog. I enclose the litter membership fee of **R50-00 (per puppy)**

Signature: Date:

The SA Boxer Breed Council is a body to which all KUSA-affiliated Boxer clubs in South Africa belong. It has a very informative website which will be of interest to all Boxer lovers.

Our BCGR newsletters are posted on the website.



SABOX
SOUTH AFRICAN BOXER BREED COUNCIL

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advertise your boxer litter

SABOX offers an advertising service for Boxer litters on their website.

Note: This is only for breeders who are paid-up members of a KUSA-affiliated Boxer Club.

R100 will be charged for a four-week listing, which includes a photograph, details of the puppies and contact details.

Contact your local Club Secretary with the litter details and photo to organise a posting on www.saboxer.co.za



BOXER (BOX-ER)

Someone who can't hear their name being called repeatedly, BUT can hear a bag of crisps being opened through three walls and a thunderstorm.



2017 BCGR CALENDAR

Keep the Dates

January 29 BCGR AGM
February 19 Open/Non-Championship Show
June 16 WTC (Working Trials)
August 6 TT (Tracking)

August 9 Breed Assessment
August 12 Open /Non-Championship Show
October TBA Championship Show