

CAPE BULLMASTIFF CLUB

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2016



From the Chair: This is love, love and lots more love!

☺The CBC Vice President with her first loves! Her beloved Borzoi. ☺

On a more serious note what to do when your dog gets into a scrap with a fellow pooch!

Our Patron Chris Pretorius has submitted a fine article in this regard – do take time out to read it ☺

How do I stop a dogfight?

A dogfight need never happen - it is (usually) the result of negligence on the part of a dog handler or simply a case of being too slow to react properly when it happens. It is most certainly predictable if any dog has not been socialized with other dogs from day one. The main 'imprint' stage in a dog's life happens during its first four months of age. They grow in a year what we humans do over twenty years and they're sexually mature by the time they're between eight and ten months old. If you've neglected to socialize them early, it is very difficult to do so afterwards. Oh yes - you can get them obedient to a degree where they won't attack a strange dog whilst in your presence, but they'll **never** learn to actually like them. For this you'll have to do early (and frequent) socializing, to help equip your puppy properly with real social skills.

Most dogs are much more inclined to show fight when they're held on leash, than if they are free and off the leash. Do not put it to the test though - unless you're **very** sure of your control over your own dog, don't make other people nervous by letting it run free with strange dogs. To do so when there are other dominant males (or bitches) about, amounts to stupidity. If some happen to be valuable show dogs and any harm might come to them, you might be facing a lawsuit too. Once you've established that the other dogs are friendly too (and the other handlers allow this), you can let yours off leash to go and say "hi".

A fight can happen in an instant. One might be relaxing with one's leash in one's hand, chatting to someone and the next thing you know it's out of your fist and two dogs are rolling in the dust. Tell-tale signs of this is when two males (or two bitches) eye-ball each other; something one might not even be aware of. Two Rottweilers can inflict thousands of Rands of damage on one another in less than thirty seconds. This is not a 'Rottweiler' thing; it's a 'dog' thing. You'll find dominant individuals amongst most breeds everywhere.



What to do when it happens? First of all - everyone else; **mind your own dog!** Don't get mesmerized by what you see, because your own dog will experience the same 'adrenaline rush' and might just pull free and join the fray too! The two dog-owners involved should act fast and each grab his own dog by the hind legs and lift it straight up (which is not too high up with 50 kilograms of Rottweiler!) You do this for two reasons:

- a) There will be a rush of blood to the dog's head, and together with the fact that it's held upside down, will make it very uncomfortable - so much so that one or both might release their hold.
- b) Don't think for one moment that your own dog won't bite you in the heat of battle - it will be a reflex action and he/she might not even be aware of it! If you're holding it upside down, this might not happen because it won't be able to reach your hands.

Whatever you do, **don't try and pull them apart** - you could inflict more damage that way. Hold them thus until they release one another.

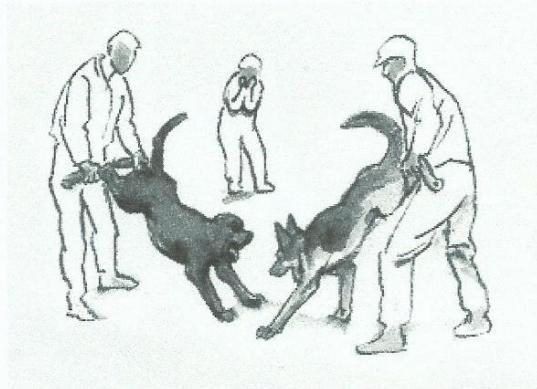
Now is the time you pick up your lead, calm your dog down and walk away as if nothing has happened. **Do not fuss around your dog or act overly sympathetic** - that will actually compound the incident in the dog's mind. Simply walk away until he/she is calm, then you can look for holes in a controlled manner.

Dogs do not always let go of one another. Sometimes the fight is so intense that they remain 'locked' for some time. An associate of mine, a small, delicately built lady, once had an accidental dogfight on her property and although she heaved the one dog over a lower stable-door into the kitchen, the two were still hanging on - one inside and one outside the kitchen! In such a case, a can of Coke helps a lot. Coke?

For the last fifteen years I've made a habit of carrying a can of warm Coke in my training bag. Whenever there's a dogfight and two handlers have their dogs by the hind legs, I run for it and return to the fight scene as fast as I can, shaking it to build up some pressure. Crack the can right in their faces. When the foam hits them, they let go quickly! Uncanny, but true. It works even better than an electric cow prodder!

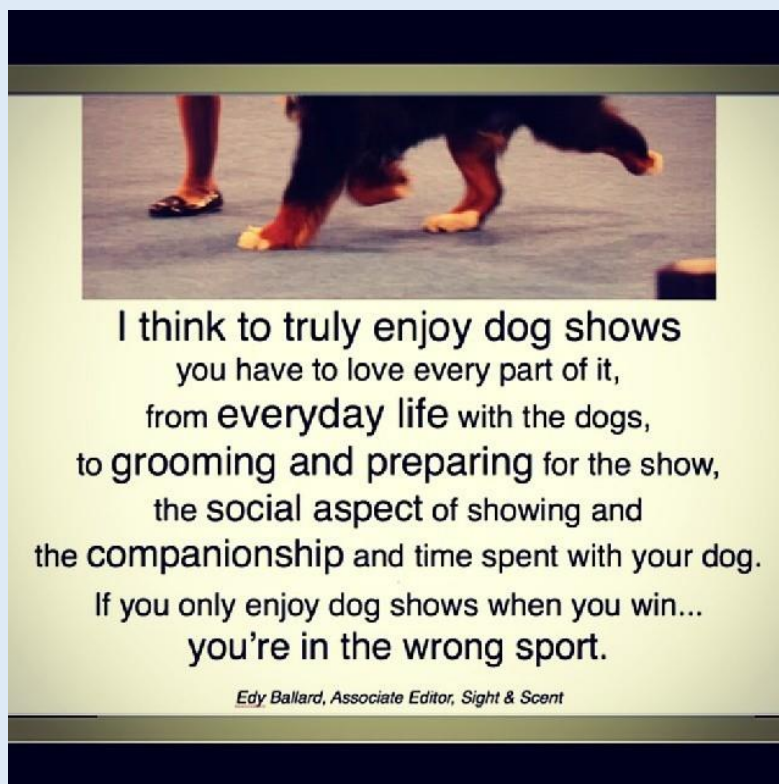
Prevention is, however, always better than cure. Socialize early and frequently. Be aware of emotions coming to boiling point before it actually does. And, if it does happen, act quick and deliberate, without injury to yourself.

I've sketched for you an extreme scenario, but it seldom happens in such a severe way. This is to prepare you just in case it does! Usually (especially with young dogs) it's only a brief scuffle, with much noise but little or no harm done. Moral of the story? When you're around dogs often, **be wide awake!**



Chris Pretorius

OCTOBER IS SHOW TIME IN THE CAPE AND HERE ARE THE LATEST RESULTS AND POINTS OF OUR TOP SHOW GOING BULLMASTIFFS



Results:

BMC of SA Championship show held 08 October 2016: Best Veteran in Show - Chizelhurst Chattanougat - Potgieter

TKC 1 Ch. Show 8 October BOB: Ch. Chizelhurst Chinga – RBOB & Best Veteran Chizelhurst Chattanougat – Potgieter

Breede River Valley KC 15 October: CC Dog Ch. LaGratitude Atticus Earl - Bouwer

Cape Town KC 16 October: CC Dog Ch. LaGratitude Atticus Earl – Bouwer - Best Puppy – Sanniesebos J'aime of Chizelhurst – Jenkins/ Robertson

Working & Herding Breeds 21 October: CC Dog Ch. Sanniesebos Spooner of Chizelhurst

Hottentots Holland KC 22 October: RBOB Ch. Chizelhurst Checkmate of Haaita – Steyn - CC Dog Ch. Sanniesebos Spooner of Chizelhurst – Jenkins/Robertson

Western Province KC 23 October: CC Dog Ch. Sanniesebos Spooner of Chizelhurst – Best Puppy Sanniesebos J'aime of Chizelhurst

Show log with show shots

1. Ch. Chizelhurst Checkmate of Haaita BA(Ex) CGC(Br) – Steyn -239



2. Ch. LaGratitude Atticus Earl BA (Ex) – FCI graded Excellent - Bouwer – 199



3. Sanniesebos Suri Sukani of Chizelhurst DMA, BA (Ex) – Robertson- 178

4. Chizelhurst Chattanooga – Potgieter - 130

5. Ch. LaGratitude Durango Duke BA (Ex)-Bouwer - 100

6. Ch. Chizelhurst Chinga – Potgieter - 60

7. Ch. Sanniesebos Spooner of Chizelhurst BA(Ex) - FCI Graded Excellent – Jenkins/ Robertson – 55

8. Sanniesebos Just Jazz – Jenkins - 28

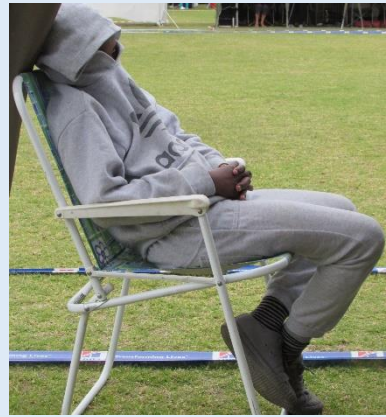




And a hearty welcome to Ria, Ollie and 'Balto' who came all the way from KZN

FAMILY SNAPS





Update on the World of Bullmastiff manual 2013/14/15

Champion section & National Article submitted – order your copy NOW

info@capebullmastiffclub.co.za



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**SOMETIMES PEOPLE DON'T NOTICE THE THINGS WE DO
FOR THEM UNTIL WE STOP DOING THEM**