

KRYSTAL KENNELS NEWS

From the paws of Joe & Robin Oberton

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3



MARCH 2008

On March 1st, 2009, we all had a memorable excursion when Cub Scout Dale Jepson came out for a ride, along with his sister Ashton, mom Trisha and Aunt Angie.

Here's a picture:



Thank You Very Mush!!

This month, our gratitude goes out to Bob Conzemius. He joined us for a dogsled ride on March 15 while donning a "helmet cam" that he used to videotape his riding excursion. He then sent us a copy of the resulting video, which we were quite pleased to display on our web site. Thank you very "mush" Bob! Great footage! Please see the video at: www.krystalkennels.com/dogsled_rides (Look for the link to the ride demo.)



Surgery for Sapphire Our 9-year old Siberian Husky Sapphire had surgery for a mammary tumor on March 24. This is a good time to remind everyone that spaying and neutering of your pets is recommended to keep them healthier as they grow older if you do not plan to breed them. Since Robin's experience with breast cancer (see December 2007 newsletter), and our experience with two female dogs having mammary tumors in the past few years, it seems the one thing we girls have in common is the "spaying." Ha! Ha! =) It tends to be a preventative against future cancers related to hormones. Both Robin's doctor and our veterinary staff chuckled along with me as I made the observation that Sapphire and I were both "spayed" for the same reason. We hope it works! (And we hope you had a chuckle with us too!)

Copious Quantities of Mink Meat!

Joe traveled to visit our fellow musher Joel Kersting on March 29, where they did some mushing with their teams out on the trails near Joel's place, and then processed approximately seven 55-gallon drums of mink carcasses. This meat is ground and then added to slump (similar to "dog food soup") and is very nutritious for sled dogs. Mink has a very good balance of fat and protein for our 4-legged athletes. If you have never smelled mink slump, you don't know what you're missing! Jacque Le Flash says, "You just gotta try it sometime!"

Welcome February Sponsor!

During February 2008, we were happy to welcome one new sponsor, Heathyr Dahline of Treasure Bay Printing in Grand Rapids, Tel #218-326-3466. See our web site sponsorship page for a picture of Jacque Le Flash, the adorable dog she has chosen to sponsor. **Thank you for your support!** (krystalkennels.com/sponsorships)

A Poem for All Who Share Our Love of Dogs

When I am old...
I will wear soft gray sweatshirts...
And a bandana over my silver hair...
And I will spend my social security checks on wine and my dogs.

I will sit in my house on my well-worn chair
And listen to my dogs' breathing.
I will sneak out in the middle of a warm summer night
And take my dogs for a run, if my old bones will allow.

When people come to call, I will smile
And nod as I show them my dogs...
And talk of them and about them...
...the ones so beloved of the past
And the ones so beloved of today...

I will still work hard cleaning after them,
Mopping and feeding them and whispering their names
In a soft loving way.

I will wear the gleaming sweat of my throat, like a jewel
And I will be an embarrassment to all...especially my family...
Who have not yet found the peace in being free
To have dogs as your best friends...

These friends who always wait, at any hour, for your footfall...
And eagerly jump to their feet out of a sound sleep,
To greet you as if you are a god.

With warm eyes full of adoring love and hope
That you will always stay.
I'll hug their big strong necks...
I'll kiss their dear sweet heads...
And whisper in their very special company...

I look in the mirror...and see I am getting old...
This is the kind of person I am...and have always been.
Loving dogs is easy. They are part of me.

Please accept me for who I am.
My dogs appreciate my presence in their lives...
They love my presence in their lives...
When I am old this will be important to me...
You will understand when you are old...
If you have dogs to love too.

~ Author Unknown ~

