



Spirit Ridge

K9 Training & Rescue

"... because sit happens "



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Fall Edition 2   8

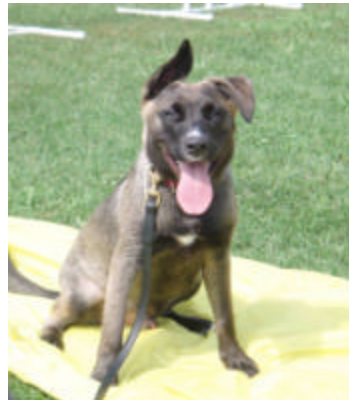
www.spiritridge.net

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From the Editor's Paw ... Well, Fall has definitely arrived and the leaves are well into their 'fiery' colours. You will recall that we had received a 5 month old rescued puppy – transferred to our private rescue facility by the Windsor-Essex Humane Society in early August this summer. I am pleased to report that young 'Duval' is currently test-driving his possibly new 'fur-ever' home! The initial reports are good and we believe that this may be a match made in heaven. Sam lives alone and hates walking alone, Duval is looking for a buddy and loves to go out on the perfect heeling-type walk and

show off his skills. Initial reports have it that Sam has already developed shin splints from the miles he and his new buddy are putting on their 'paws'. For updates on Duval's future as well as to find out about any available rescued dogs we may have, please visit our website (www.spiritridge.net).



All dogs adopted through *Spirit Ridge* come with at least one free obedience session with me, training and behavioural advice, recommendations customized to your household **and** continued support to help you and your family adjust to your new furry friend! There are no surprises (something common when adopting from shelters) as every dog that leaves us is a dog that has been extensively evaluated and exposed to all sorts of people, dogs, other animals, sounds, terrain and is versed in beginner obedience commands! Please stay tuned for exciting events over the winter. Remember, if you (and/or your family) are having a tough time living with your dog because of behavioural issues and you want to keep your dog, give **Spirit Ridge** a chance to help you before abandoning him/her to a shelter! **Have a great Fall and keep exercising your dogs!!**

Jim Tsitanidis K9 Trainer & Behavioural Consultant

Coming Events

FALL Group Classes in:

- Obedience – Beginner & Advanced
- Rally Obedience - Beginner & Advanced
- Agility – Beginner, Novice, Advanced
- Tracking - Beginner & Advanced
- Puppy Classes
- Puppy Agility

Other sessions:

- Schutzhund Training School
- Private 'starter' puppy behavioural sessions (designed to get you started on the right paw with your new puppy!)
- Private K9 **and** human behavioural improvement
- Specializing in aggression issues

New for Fall 2008



Pay as you Play Agility

For those that have been bitten by the agility bug but have no where to practice and hone your skills.

Outdoor facility 100' x 60' field – May 24 to Nov 1

Fenced in warm up / jump area 55' x 35' – May 24 to Nov 1

Indoor facility heated 50' x 40' – Nov 1 to May 24


[Please contact us for rates and availability](#)





Halloween Safety for your Dog


Here are a set of essential safety tips for 'pet parents' to keep furry family members safe and sound during Halloween :


All but the most social dogs and cats should be kept in a separate room during peak trick-or-treat visiting hours. Too many strangers in unusual garb can be scary and stressful for pets.

 When opening the door for trick-or-treaters, take care that Max or Mittens doesn't dart outside. Make sure all your pets are wearing current identification, just in case.

 No tricks or treats: Keep all Halloween candy out of your pet's reach. Chocolate can be poisonous to animals, and tinfoil and cellophane candy wrappers can be hazardous if swallowed.

 It's not a bright idea to keep lit pumpkins around companion animals. Pets can knock them over, and curious kittens especially run the risk of being burned.

 Don't leave your pet in the yard on Halloween. There have been reports of vicious pranksters who have teased, injured, stolen and even killed pets on this night.

 Dress-up can be a big mess-up for some pets. Please don't put your dog or cat in a costume UNLESS you know he or she loves it (yup, a few pets are real hamsters!). For pets who prefer their "birthday suits," however, wearing a costume can cause undue stress.

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



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Games Dogs Play

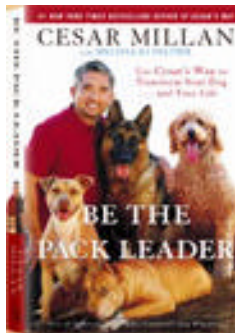


There are many reasons to play games with your dog. It will strengthen your relationship. It will keep the dog from getting bored, which will keep him from things you don't want him doing, and will actually help train your dog. It's important that you can establish control of your dog even when he's very excited. And finally, most people get a dog for companionship -- isn't playing with your dog the whole point? One thing to keep in mind is your attitude while playing. Most dogs will have fun if it's clear you're having fun, too. **Games as Rewards** - Remember that any activity that your dog likes but which you control can be used as a reward for good behavior. Use a favorite game like tug or fetch to reward recalls, long stays and exemplary bouts of loose-leash walking!

Hide and Go Seek

When you are out of sight of your dog, call her to you. You can either use your normal "recall" command or just her name. Be very excited when she arrives. Start making it more difficult by "hiding" behind doors, couches, etc. If she doesn't find you at first, call her again. If your dog is *very* good at "stay" you can use this to keep her in place while you hide. Some dogs will use their noses for this task, others will just look. Most of them will learn a faster recall. This is a great game for kids to play with dogs, as long as the kids don't encourage the dog to chase them.

Recommended Reading



Bestselling author **Cesar Millan** takes his principles of dog psychology a step further, showing you how to develop the calm-assertive energy of a successful pack leader and use it to improve your dog's life – and your own. Cesar helps you understand and read your dog's energy as well as your own, so that you can move beyond just correcting behavioral issues and take your connection with your dog to the next level. Ultimately, what emerges from 'Be the Pack Leader' are both happier dogs and happier, more centred owners.

Spirit Ridge recommends this book for dog 'owners' that are having significant behavioural issues with their dogs!

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