

Editorial

Letter to the Editor

Hey! Doesn't anybody hunt these little brown dogs anymore? Look at the last couple of newsletters-- Dog Shows and Weight Pulls. Nothing about hunting! Listen, in my lifetime I have seen the Irish Setter go from a beautiful, stylish bird dog to a near brainless idiot. When was the last time you saw one in the field? Brittney Spaniels went from 30-40 pound dogs to 80 pound tubs. Don't even get me started on Labs, Poodles and Afghans. What happened? Dog shows and irresponsible breeders- in my humble opinion. Judges wanted pretty and big (or tiny)- the dogs became "trendy", irresponsible breeders cranked up the "puppy mills" to supply demand with little regard for the breed. I would hate to see this happen to the Boykin Spaniel, nor do I want to see them bred as "beasts of burden". For crying out loud, if you want to pull a cart, GET A MULE !!!

OOPS-- Hi folks,-if you are still with me, I started this article some time ago-way before I got 'educated' by Pat. She explained the importance of establishing a breed standard so we don't end up with 80 pound Boykins. I guess I'm going to have to finish this without paragraphs as I can't make this stupid computer give them to me. As I said, I wrote this article some time ago and I understand that a number of things have changed since then which is sad. But in every dark cloud is a silver lining-PAT'S WEB SITE! Imagine, people actually doing things with their Boykins besides making them pretty and hooking them to carts. Hunting pictures- refreshing! Ok, for all you who hunt in rattlesnake country, there is now a vaccine that will lessen the effects of a bite. Ask your Vet about it. Maggie has been vaccinated and she had no problems with the shots. One more thing. In some of the pictures I noticed several "working dogs" wearing choke collars. Please folks, take them off and throw them away. I'll explain next time around. Maggie says that it is bed time so talk to you later.

- Arlo, Live Oak, Florida

Arlo,

Do you want to start writing for me again...revive the Maggie and Me column you used to write years ago?

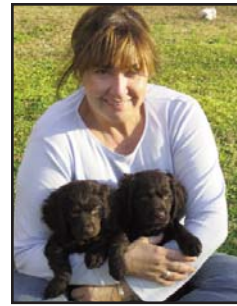
In the most part, I agree with you, but few hunting items are submitted ,... last issues' cover was a hunting photo. This summer edition will be a water one either at play....or working...whichever looks best. Nothing good to say about weight pulls in my rag....except to blast them....as I have found them to be bad for the patella's....which is why I believe the NC and MD folks are seeing so many Patella issues in their kenels. Dogs "showing" were featured this year as we became eligible in Jan '08 for the AKC Miscellaneous class conformation ring. I featured the same first, last year when we were allowed in the AKC Spaniel hunt tests.

Humbly, I submit... hunters are few...so I must depend on my few hunters to submit those photos and articles....you are one of them....start typing....you know how I love your articles!!! Next issue for Oct- Dec is the Puppy issue then in January we return to hunting...mainly because I personally hunt in November and have more hunting photos submitted. I will appreciate anything you submit for publication! The Journal is versatile all dog venues and it covers politics... it is not dedicated just to hunting. Thanks for your comments.

- Pat

Hi Pat, Yes I will start writing again. The two newsletters I was talking about were from the Boykin Spaniel Society and the Boykin Spaniel Club, of which I am no longer a member of as they never sent me a renewal notice. You can delete my comments about weight pull events as I was just trying not to offend anyone. I'm really to old to be "Politically Correct" and still think you should get a mule to pull a cart.

-Arlo



Letter from the Editor

Welcome summer readers! The heat is on so get a glass of sweet tea and relax while you read the new issue of the Boykin Spaniel Journal.

New litters have kept me busy here at Hollow Creek Kennel. The boarding kennel is packed with residents who have come for a little summer vacation while their families are away. With all the excitement here at home base I have not been able to travel this season, but I am training for some trips & competitions in the near future!

This month we've started a new regular column. It is the "Flush of View" that will feature a guest writer's point of view on any Boykin Spaniel related topic. If you have a topic for a future "Flush of View" column please submit your query to me. Other creative or educational pieces are always welcome for review as well.

The Boykin Spaniel Journal does accept paid advertising on a limited basis. The Journal currently reaches over 800 subscribers. See page 8 for more information on placing your ad for the upcoming fall and winter issues.

I've been compiling the evidence that has been received on Roxy's missing November 2005 litter. While I do not have any official announcement yet I hope to give an extensive update to all soon. Four puppies from the litter are still not accounted for: I would very much appreciate it if anyone with information contacted me. The sire and dam might have been listed as Logan of April Farm and Hollow Creek's Roxy. It would put our hearts at ease to know how these boys are doing.

I've received wonderful compliments on our transparent Boykin Spaniel decals. Boykins Forever will be expanding our product line to include Christmas Ornaments and customized stain glass pieces. http://www.boykinsforever.com/cgi-bin/agoracart55/agora.cgi?product=Boykin_Accessories

We welcome suggestions for other items you might desire to should your love of the breed.

Warm Regards,
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Puppy Proofing Your Home / Crate Training Part II

A Lesson Re-Learned By a Breeder

Puppy-Proof Your Home General Tips

Like babies, puppies need constant supervision. However, you do not need to give your puppy access to all parts of your home.

Until he knows the house rules, confine your puppy to an easily cleaned area where you can keep a watchful eye on him.

Gate or crate

Puppy gates are available at pet-supply stores; simply place them in a doorway as you would a baby gate (they work for puppies, too). Or buy a properly sized crate for your dog; especially if you plan to travel with your dog, a crate is an excellent idea. Think of it as your dog's home kennel, or an indoor doghouse; dogs generally see their crates as their personal space and, with training, will willingly go there on command.

To be on the safe side, until you know your puppy's jumping and wriggling abilities, remind everyone in the household to close doors to rooms with temptations like open wastebaskets and low toy bins. A New York couple came home one afternoon to find their Jack Russell puppy happily exploring an off-limits room; he'd learned to jump over the gate in the doorway.



Rooms to avoid

It's not a good idea to confine your untrained puppy to the bathroom, garage, or yard. In the bathroom, she may be tempted to drink from the toilet. Beyond the fact that the water is unsanitary, there's the danger of her falling in and drowning, and the water can contain a harmful bowl-cleaner residue. Your garage is probably full of potentially lethal substances like antifreeze and insecticides. And the

yard is dangerous to a curious puppy, not only because of swimming pools, fishponds, poisonous or spiky plants, and gardening implements, but also because of wild animals (large or small), birds of prey, and sharp twigs (remember, puppies love to chew!).



At floor level

To get a puppy's eye view of the areas of your home where your new pet will have free access, get down on your hands and knees. Whatever you see that's within reach, assume that your puppy will want to taste.

Some puppies will chew on anything and everything; others are more selective. One Brooklyn family thought their puppy hadn't chewed anything for weeks—until the day they noticed that the lowest bookcase shelf had a row of tiny teeth marks in it!

Puppies are also great at wriggling into improbable spaces. So for at least the first few days, you may want to block off areas, like under a couch, where they could get stuck.

Safety Zone

For the place where the dog spends time alone, these tips will help you create a "puppy-proof" area. If you're a parent, much of this advice will seem familiar from when your baby became mobile.

- Place electrical wires out of reach; if necessary, tape down wires to keep them out of the way. Unplug appliances when not in use, and do not let the cords dangle. You may even want to put plastic safety plugs in unused outlets to prevent adventurous sniffing or licking.
- Make sure lethal substances like

household cleaners, bleach, insecticides, fertilizers, mothballs, and antifreeze are locked away or out of reach.

- Place all plants well out of your puppy's reach, for the plant's sake and for the health of your dog. Some plants are poisonous to pets, but "very few are very dangerous to dogs; most, like poinsettias and some of the ivies, can cause gastric or stomach upset if ingested," advises Duane Schnittker, DVM.
- Most homes have an accumulation of books, magazines, shoes, jackets, and shopping bags on or near the floor. As much as is practical, put everything you don't want chewed away in a cabinet or on a high shelf.
- Check the floor and low shelves for small objects like pins, needles, bottle caps, and little toys and knick-knacks, and move them.
- Cover your garbage container with a tight lid. Dogs generally see garbage as a canine smorgasbord. And things that seem harmless (not to mention unappetizing) to you can be tasty but toxic for your dog. This list includes things like the seed pits of apples, apricots, cherries, peaches, pears, and plums.
- Keep in mind that tablecloths and dangling runners can be pulled down. If you use these items, consider keeping your untrained puppy out of the eating area, particularly if fragile and/or heavy objects are on the table.
- Window-blind cords should be tied or taped up to prevent chewing or strangulation.

Puppy Playthings

Keep play time safe with these tips:

- Buy several chew toys, so you can offer them as an alternative when you catch your puppy chewing on something forbidden. Select the appropriate size for your dog right now, not a large size he may need after he's grown. (Similarly, don't give your dog toys that are small enough for him to swallow.)
- Praise your dog when you find her chewing on something appropriate.
- Check that the eyes on stuffed pet toys are tightly attached and that squeakers are not easily removed.
- If you give your dog stuffed toys designed for children, be especially careful to check the label to make sure they're stuffed with nontoxic material, and supervise your dog when she's playing with them. Toys for humans

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