



The Shepherd's Tale

Volume 1, Issue 1
March 2005

ALL ABOUT LOVE

The dashing young Prussian cavalry officer was in love with the beautiful actress. So in love that he proposed marriage. This was Germany at the end of the Nineteenth Century, however, and the German Army did not approve of its officers marrying below their station. Forced to choose between his career and his love, Rittmeister (Cavalry Captain) Max Emil Frederick von Stephanitz chose love. The newlyweds moved to his Grafrath estate where he settled down to become a gentleman farmer interested in breeding cattle...and dogs.

While in the Army, v

Stephanitz served with the Veterinary College in Berlin. It was here that he gained the latest knowledge of breeding, anatomy, animal husbandry, and genetics. He was a thoroughly modern man of the times, well read and educated.

On maneuvers one day, he watched a shepherd and his dog control a large flock of unruly sheep. Fascinated by the way the dog worked independently of the shepherd, v Stephanitz became interested in working sheep dogs. He joined Germany's first Shepherd club, the Phylax Society, which formed in 1881 but failed after only three years. The emphasis of the Society was

BY JACKIE ATHEY



Patriot—owner Kathleen Duffy

show dogs, which were popular in Germany at the time, and not the working dogs that interested v Stephanitz.

He kept learning as much as he could about dogs and dog breeding. He kept going to dog shows, especially those with working dog trials. There were many sheep herding dogs in Ger-
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WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER!!

Welcome to our first issue of The Shepherd's Tale, a newsletter to accompany Our German Shepherd Web Site.

This newsletter is for you, the listmembers, who are

so loyal to this wonderful breed we all love.

We will try to bring you tips, recipes, information on the breed, and much more to peak your reading interest.

Enjoy our first issue, and look for our next issue due to come out in April.

Thanks to those who have participated in this issue.

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many, but there wasn't a specific shepherd breed. Shepherds would breed only those dogs that were the best herding dogs regardless of how they looked; utility was the only standard. Von Stephanitz, however, decided that he would create the premier herding breed in Germany, if not Europe and the world. Upon becoming a gentleman farmer, he had the time and resources to create a breed known for its utility and intelligence.

On 3 April 1899, v Stephanitz attended a dog show in Karlsruhe, western Germany, with his good friend, Artur Meyer. There he saw the best example of a working sheep dog, of medium-size, yellow-and-gray, wolf like in appearance, powerful, and intelligent, the dog was a natural-born sheepherder. Von Stephanitz purchased the dog, *Hektor Linksrhein*, and renamed it *Horand von Grafrath*. Three days later, v Stephanitz, Herr Meyer, and several friends formed the *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde* (German Shepherd Dog Club), known as the SV and which is today the largest breed club in the world. Von Stephanitz became the president of the SV and its General Manager, positions he held until his death in April 1936. The SV maintained the stud book (registrations and pedigrees) for the new breed. *Horand*, as the first dog registered with the SV (SZ1), was the first German shepherd dog and the foundation of the breed as well as v Stephanitz's Grafrath kennels.

Von Stephanitz wrote the first breed standard, which emphasized utility and intelligence. He controlled the SV and the breeding of all dogs it registered. Only dogs and bitches that met his requirements were bred. His motto for the breed was "German shepherd breeding is

Working Dog breeding, or it is not German shepherd breeding." To be a breeder of German shepherd dogs, one had to accept direction by v Stephanitz.

The First of the Breed
Horand proved to be as dominant in the breed as his owner was by producing exceptional first generations. *Horand's* sons, *Hector von Schwaben* and *Beowulf*, were as prepotent (influential) as their sire. The bitch *Freya von Grafrath*, SZ7, improved the quality of the breed even further. From a litter whelped in 1903 came a black dog named *Roland von Starckenburg*. *Roland* was such a genetic improvement that v Stephanitz used him as a model for the breed. A second great bitch, *Flora Berkemeyer*, influenced generations in both Germany and the United States. Through finely orchestrated line breeding and inbreeding, v Stephanitz set the type he wanted within eight years, which is an amazing feat in creating a new breed.

During his lifetime, v Stephanitz not only wrote hundreds of articles about his breed, but also the definitive book of its time, *The German Shepherd Dog in Word and Picture*. It covered all subjects, such as canine history, health, breeding, kenneling, training, and his philosophy about the breed. Although written in 1925 and outdated in some areas, German shepherd dog by fanciers the world over still view it as the authority on the GSD.

A Dog for All Reasons

Germany, however, had changed in those eight years into a modern, mechanized society that no longer needed sheep-herding dogs; shepherds took their sheep to pastures by truck or train instead of walking them with dogs. The dog that v Stephanitz created, however, was

destined to be far more than a mere shepherd's dog. Von Stephanitz realized that his creation had the potential to fulfill many roles. After much effort, he convinced the German government to use some of his dogs for police work. To support this effort, the SV created a test consisting of tracking, obedience, and protection. This test also became a temperament test for breeding stock; after World War II, it became the sport of Schutzhund. During World War I, the German Army used German shepherd dogs to great advantage as sentries and messenger dogs. After WWI, the Germans trained GSDs to serve as guide dogs for the blind. The Allies were so impressed with the performance of the dogs that when World War II erupted, both sides used GSDs (as well as other breeds) in various capacities. (The English also used GSDs, but changed the name to Alsatian Wolf-Dog because of anti-German sentiment; the name was later shortened to Alsatian.)

The German Shepherd Dog in America

A man named Otto Gross is believed to have imported the first German shepherd dog, *Mira of Offingen* called *Mira of Dalmore* in the US, in 1905. Another bitch, *Queen of Switzerland*, was the first German shepherd dog registered with the AKC. Twenty-six fanciers formed the German Shepherd Dog Club of America in 1913. That year also saw the first GSD champions, *Lux* (or *Luchs*) and *Herra von Ehrangrund*.

The breed grew steadily in the years before WWI thanks to a small, but dedicated group of fanciers. After the war, the dog stars, *Rin Tin Tin* and *Strongheart*,
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brought fame to the breed by extolling its virtues of intelligence, nobility, and courage on the silver screen. A few police departments started experimenting with police dogs. A bitch called *Buddy* gave independence to Morris Frank by becoming the first guide dog in America, a service GSDs still perform today.

During WWII, the German shepherd dog served with such distinction it became the premier military working dog around the world. After the war, police departments expanded their use of the GSD to patrol partner, tracking dog, and drug sniffing dog. GSDs also found work as Search and Rescue dogs and even replaced the St. Bernard as an avalanche dog.

Today, the GSD is one of the world's most popular dogs, if not

the most popular. In the US, when the AKC began ranking breeds, the GSD was one of the top 10, and it has remained in the 10 ever since, a distinction no other breed can claim.

Fulfilling v Stephanitz's Dream Von Stephanitz devoted his life to creating and perfecting the German shepherd dog as a sound, reliable, and intelligent working dog able to any task asked of it. Today, the German shepherd dog still serves its original purpose of herding sheep. It also serves as guide dog, hearing dog, police dog, military dog, search and rescue dog, show and obedience dog, therapy dog, agility dog, Schutzhund dog, guard dog, among others. Its most important function today, however, is that of companion dog. For v Stephanitz, it was always about love.

DOG QUOTES

A dog is the only thing on this earth that loves you more than he loves himself.

--Josh Billings

Heaven goes by favor; if it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in.

--Mark Twain.

The great pleasure of a dog is that you make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, he will make a fool of himself too.

--Samuel Butler

Outside of a dog, a man's best friend is a book; inside of a dog, it is very dark.

--Groucho Marx.

Send us your favorite quotes—to gsdwebmaster@bigleegs.com with Quotes in the subject line.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR....

We would love to hear from you. If you have a comment, complaint, praise, we want to hear it. We know we can't please everyone all of the time, but we sure want to try.

If you have a response to an article, please let us hear from you. All appropriate letters will be printed, with the understanding that we will edit those letters for spelling and proper content.

Send your letters to the editor to gsdwebmaster@bigleegs.com with LETTERS TO EDITOR in the subject line. All letters must be signed with your full name.



KORNER KITCHEN CORNY CHICKEN BALLS



Cook up something special

3/4 cups chicken broth
 1/4 cup low-fat milk
 3/4 cups yellow cornmeal
 2 1/3 cups whole wheat flour
 1/2 cup shelled unsalted sunflower seeds (could use shelled pumpkin seeds)
 1 egg
 1/4 cup fresh parsley flakes
 3 Tbsp. corn oil

Put cornmeal and flour into a large bowl. Combine chicken broth, milk, oil, egg, parsley and sunflower seeds in another bowl and stir well.

Add liquid to mixture of cornmeal/flour mixture.

Knead for about 1 minute. Form into ball, and let stand for about 15 minutes.

Flour cutting board well, then roll out dough to a thickness of about 1/8". use a 2" round cookie cutter or glass top and cut dough into about 24 circles. Roll circles into balls between palms. Be sure to make big enough for large breeds (no choking, please). Bake in a 350oF oven for about 25 minutes, then lower heat to 200oF for another 30 minutes. Remove from oven, allow to cool and store. Keep these refrigerated because milk is used.

Yield: 24 corny chicken balls

Have a recipe you would like to share? Send to gsdwebmaster@bigleegs.com with RECIPE in subject line.

NESTLE PURINA RECALLS PET FOOD

By Mary Jo Feldstein
Of the Post-Dispatch
02/18/2005

Nestle Purina PetCare Co. of St. Louis voluntarily has recalled all of the pet-food products made at its plant in Venezuela after discovering toxins in the food, a spokesman said Friday.

The problem is limited to Purina's La Encrucijada plant, its only facility in Venezuela.

None of the food was sold in the United States. The recall includes about 10 brands; all the products are dry pet foods.

All of us at Purina are deeply saddened by the situation in Venezuela," the company said in a statement. "We are taking aggressive action, working with the appropriate Venezuelan government agencies, and are doing everything in our power to correct the problem and respond appropriately to consumers in Venezuela whose pets have been affected."

Nestle Purina PetCare discovered the problem after veterinarians contacted the food maker and complained of sick animals. The company launched an internal investigation and confirmed the problem on Feb. 3.

Purina immediately stopped production and began the recall the next day, said spokesman Keith Schopp.

The toxins, which are caused by mold, can lead to serious health problems and death in pets. Purina has yet to determine the underlying cause of the mold.

"It's an extensive recall," Schopp said. "These toxins can cause severe liver problems and we needed to take action."

Purina has yet to determine how much the recall will cost.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals found out about the incident on Tuesday and tried to contact the company. Mary Beth Sweetland, director of research and investigation at PETA, said there are tests that determine the presence of toxins in foods.

"It seems to me this tragedy could have been caused by negligence," Sweetland said.

Nestle SA, the world's largest food maker, bought Ralston Purina in 2001.

Nestle is traded primarily on foreign exchanges and isn't required to report detailed financial data to the Securities and Exchange Commission. It releases limited sales

and profit information denominated in Swiss francs.

Purina PetCare makes up about 11 percent of Nestle's total sales, and the division has grown by more than a third since 2001.

"It's an extensive recall. These toxins can cause severe liver problems...."

DOG TIPS

- Some dog owners and their dogs are allergic to chemical-based shampoos. A safe and effective alternative is Murphy's Oil Soap. This all-natural product is non-drying to the skin and does not leave that "wet dog smell" noticed after use of many shampoos.
- When buying a new collar for the growing dog, buy it two inches longer than necessary and be sure your able to place two fingers under the collar comfortably, to insure the collar isn't too tight.
- When working with a new rescue dog, always use a halter. Rescue dogs can fear the collar and leash, and pull backwards, sometimes pulling the collar over their heads. By using the halter, this is eliminated, the dog can't get away and get lost or injured, and you have avoided a possible tragedy.

SEND US YOUR TIPS!

THE BOUMAN BED

The love of our dogs is evident in the "Bouman Bed" picture to the right.

Our protectors, our friends, our confidants. They love us unconditionally. They don't talk back—well not all the time, and they love us no matter how silly we may be or the mistakes we may make.



Rescue your next best friend. There are so many wonderful dogs needing homes.

Save a Life! Adopt!

ADDISON'S DISEASE (HYPOADRENOCORTICISM)

Addison's disease is also known as hypoadrenocorticism. It is an insufficient production of adrenal hormones by the adrenal gland. Since these hormones are essential for life, this is an extremely serious disease and it must be treated as such.

Adrenal insufficiency can be primary or secondary. Primary adrenocorticism affects salt/potassium balance in the body and glucocorticoid as well. Secondary adrenocorticism usually only affects the glucocorticoids. It is not known why primary adrenocorticism occurs but it may be an immune mediated process. Secondary adrenocorticism probably occurs most often when prednisone or other cortisone being administered for medical reasons are suddenly withdrawn. It can occur as a result of pituitary cancer or some other process that interferes with production of hormones that stimulate the adrenal glands.

Most dogs with Addison's disease initially have gastrointestinal disturbances like vomiting. Lethargy is also a common early sign. Poor appetite can occur as well. These are pretty vague signs and it is extremely easy to miss this disease.

More severe signs occur when a dog with hypoadrenocorticism is stressed or when potassium levels get high enough to interfere with heart function. Dogs with this problem will sometimes suffer severe shock symptoms when stressed, which can lead to a rapid death. When potassium levels get high heart arrhythmias occur or even

"...this is an extremely serious disease and it must be treated as such."

heart stoppage which also is fatal. In some cases, especially secondary Addison's disease, there are no detectable electrolyte changes. This disease can be picked up by changes in the ratio between sodium or potassium by accident at times. When this happens it is still extremely important to treat for it. It is confirmed by an ACTH response test -- administration of this hormone should stimulate production of adrenal hormones. If this does not occur then hypoadrenocorticism

is present. In cases in which the electrolyte levels are normal this is the only test for the problem and it will be missed unless it is looked for specifically. At times this disease can be hard to differentiate from renal failure because the symptoms and even the bloodwork can be similar ---- so the ACTH response test may be necessary to differentiate them.

Treatment for this disease is usually done by oral administration of fludrocortisone acetate (Flurinaf), salting the food, and administration of corticosteroids like prednisone. In a crisis situation this disorder must be treated more aggressively with intravenous fluids, IV glucocorticoids and correction of acid/base balances.

You have to pay close attention to a dog with this problem. Don't ignore any changes in appetite, GI disturbances or anything else that makes you think your dog is ill. If you work with your vet and are careful about following his or her directions this disease has a good prognosis when it is discovered before a crisis occurs.

Source: www.vetinfo.com

GETTING RID OF SKUNK PERFUME...

Submitted by Cathy & Catcher

Warning!!!! Do NOT make this solution in advance - immediately discard any leftovers. This oxygen producing solution could explode a closed jar.

The best recipe we have found for De Skunking dogs is:

1 qt 3% Hydrogen Perox-

ide
1/4 Cup Baking Soda
1 tsp liquid soap (dish detergent)
Rub into the fur, rinse - rinse - rinse ! Fortunately, I haven't had the occasion to try it out, but I know several people who swear by it. Good Luck



Monthly GSD Feature

Submit your GSD's picture and a short story for our Monthly GSD Feature.

Give us some information about your GSD along with a good photo, and we will use it here for our Monthly GSD Feature. Features considered will be placed as they are received.

Send story and photo to gsdwebmaster@bigleegs.com and put GSD FEATURE in the subject line.

See your GSD featured!

SERVICE DOGS GIVEN SPECIAL STATUS BY LAW

BY JEFFREY MINCY

As we learn more about the unique abilities of dogs, more and more are being used to perform tasks that give their handler the confidence and the ability to be an active part of the community.

Although the best known service dog is the guide dog for blind or near-blind people, dogs serve in many capacities. People who have disabilities affecting their ability to walk without assistance. There are dogs that can detect certain medical conditions prior to the onset, such as diabetic crisis and seizures, giving their handler the ability to correct the condition or get someplace safe until the condition passes. Many of these dogs are also trained to call 911, or to retrieve a medication or food item to alleviate the condition. There are sensory deprivation dogs that are trained to smell, or hear for those that cannot. These dogs will bark at the smell of smoke or alert their handler by touch if the doorbell rings. There are dogs that warn of impending anxiety attacks that can be completely debilitating and this gives the handler the opportunity to ward off the attack by removing themselves from a stressful environment or by concentrating on their loving companion.

An up-and-comer in the world of service dogs is the Autistic Child Assistance Dog. These wonderful animals provide a calming affect on children that is somewhat unexplained; they also can protect a child from darting into traffic, or lead a child home who has wandered away.

As is plain to see, these animals are taking on expanding roles and are seen more and more in the public eye.

Service dogs, while friendly and loving, are devoted servants that need to be attentive to their handler. The handlers of these animals trust their lives to the attentiveness

of their dogs. When the dogs are paying attention to other distraction, they are putting their handler at greater risk. While some service animal handlers allow their dogs to be petted, this should only be done after obtaining permission and should be brief and gentle. No one should ever touch a service dog without permission.

Service dogs are given special consideration by federal, state and some local laws. In places where there are differing laws, whichever is the most protective of the disabled dog handler's rights has precedence. Federal law requires all businesses, both private and public, to grant unrestricted access to any service dog to any portion of their business where the general public is usually granted access. This includes hospitals, clinics, restaurants, schools, private businesses and government buildings.

The law here in Indiana goes further and requires businesses to grant access to service dogs in training. The Indiana law further makes it a misdemeanor to interfere, harass or assault a service dog during the performance of its duties and it accelerates that to a felony if the handler or the dog are injured or killed as a result of said action.

So, how can a business owner/manager determine if a dog is a service dog or just a pet? The usual service dog will be well identified with a harness or vest and may also wear an ID tag identifying itself as a "service dog." However, the law specifically states that these common identifying factors are not required. A business owner/manager has the right to ask two questions of a dog handler in a place of business: Are you disabled and is this a service dog?

It is a violation of the handler's right to privacy to demand any further information about the disability

or the service provided by the dog. Many disabled people are more than happy to "brag" of the service their dog provides for them, so politely asking of their dogs services is OK, but access cannot be dependent upon the answer. And don't be upset if they refuse to answer. Medical conditions are personal and the decision to discuss them is solely at the discretion of the patient.

I decided to write this because my wife has a service dog and several incidents recently have led me to believe that many people don't understand the important function of, and the laws regarding, service dogs.

While in a restaurant for dinner, my wife and her dog got up to go to the restroom, and while returning, someone reached out and struck the dog as it passed by their table (under Indiana law this is a Class B misdemeanor and can result in fine and jail time, not to mention it just isn't a bright idea to strike an 80-pound German Shepherd).

While entering a government building, my wife was asked by a deputy sheriff to provide documentation of medical necessity before being granted access. It wasn't until after she provided him with a copy of federal and state laws that he granted her access.

While in a waiting room, my wife was busy at the counter and the dog was laying at her feet. A woman approached from behind and the dog moved between my wife and this woman (German shepherds are naturally protective and she is cautious about allowing people to approach from behind). The woman leaned down and grabbed the dog by the ears and shook it's head back and forth like it was her long-lost friend come back. This is a very awkward position to put a disabled person who depends

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SERVICE DOGS FROM PAGE 6

on their dog for confidence and ability.

By the dog being put in a position of being forced to pay attention to something else, the handler is left feeling vulnerable and is very stressful.

Please take a moment to pass this information on to other people. While most people have nothing but the purest of intentions, they may be unknowingly causing undue stress and discomfort to someone whose life is already pretty stressful.

Jeffrey Mincy is a Wakarusa resident.



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Sources

Associated Press
Mojo News
BBC

Omaha World Herald

Written permission has been received for all content not original.

Anyone interested in writing for the newsletter, contact us at gswdwebmaster@bigleegs.com and put Newsletter in the subject line.

OFFICER ACCUSED OF SHOOTING

CANANDAIGUA, N.Y. -- An off-duty police officer intentionally shot a dog during a deer hunt and then lied to a grand jury about what happened, authorities alleged.

Craig Cummings, 34, an 11-year police veteran, was arraigned Wednesday on felony charges of perjury, criminal contempt, criminal mischief, cruelty to animals and shooting within 500 feet of a dwelling.

Cummings was placed on administrative leave last month but has now been suspended without pay, police said. He pleaded innocent and was released on his own recognizance.

Cummings was hunting with two others Nov. 30 on property owned by a friend's family a few miles outside this lake-side city of 11,000 in western New York.

Cummings told authorities, and later a grand jury, that he shot at two deer running in the woods, then saw an injured dog running toward a house nearby. But prosecutors said he fired in the direction of the house and intentionally shot the dog, an American mastiff named Angel who later died.

If convicted of perjury, the most serious charge, Cummings could get up to two years and four months to seven years in prison.

The dog's owner, Neil Kovar, said he hoped the case raises public awareness about the dangers of hunting in areas that are under development.

"10 AND OVER KLUB" MARCH 2005



Boris
Age 13
Sandy Sutter



Jethro
Age 10
Jamie Smith



Sioleiligh
Age 14
Jackie Athey

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

BY JERRY WILSON.

The person who was to become St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. His given name was Maewyn, and he almost didn't get the job of bishop of Ireland because he lacked the required scholarship.

Far from being a saint, until he was 16, he considered himself a pagan. At that age, he was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village. During his captivity, he became closer to God.

He escaped from slavery after six years and went to Gaul where he studied in the monastery under St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre for a period of twelve years. During his training he became aware that his calling was to convert the pagans to Christianity.

His wishes were to return to Ireland, to convert the native pagans to Christianity. But his superiors instead appointed St. Palladius. But two years later, Palladius transferred to Scotland. Patrick, having adopted that Christian name earlier, was then appointed as second bishop to Ireland.

Patrick was quite successful at winning converts. And this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity.

His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired to County Down. He died on March 17 in AD 461. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since.



Much Irish folklore surrounds St. Patrick's Day. Not much of it is actually substantiated. Some of this lore includes the belief that Patrick raised people from the dead. He also is said to have given a sermon from a hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Of course, no snakes were ever native to Ireland, and some people think this is a metaphor for the conversion of the pagans. Though originally a Catholic holy day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into more of a secular holiday.

One traditional icon of the day is the shamrock. And this stems from a more bona fide Irish tale that tells how Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.

The St. Patrick's Day custom came to America in 1737. That was the first year St. Patrick's Day was publicly celebrated in this country, in Boston.

OOOPS....



Grrrr - Too Big!!

DRIVE ????



Turn what key?

LEGISLATOR WANTS TO BAN ATTACK DOGS

SPRINGFIELD, IL -- All dogs are created equal, as far as Illinois law is concerned.

Two years ago, the state forbade most localities from banning or regulating any particular breed. But one lawmaker wants to strike that rule, which would likely trigger renewed efforts in some places to outlaw pit bulls and other dogs.

The proposal by Rep. Jerry Mitchell (R-Sterling) has already raised the ire of dog lovers and animal rights groups. They say bans on pit bulls and other "dangerous" breeds are hard to enforce and unfairly punish responsible owners -- and may be unconstitutional.

"Canine profiling doesn't work. It's a knee-jerk reaction," said Ledy VanKavage, lobbyist for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Ani-

mals.

No regulations in Chicago

Before the 2003 law took effect, at least 10 Illinois towns banned pit bulls, Rottweilers or Dobermans, including Cicero, Addison, Northlake and Lombard. Many others imposed special requirements on those breeds.

Chicago, a home-rule city, has no breed-specific rules. Ald. Ginger Rugai (19th) introduced a pit bull ban last year but it died in the face of Daley administration opposition.

Mitchell's proposal comes three weeks after 14-year-old Lydia Chaplin was found dead near her home in rural Erie, close to the Mississippi River.

Three pit bulls and a mixed-breed had mauled her late at night, and she died of hypothermia as she lay in a cornfield.

The Chaplin incident and others

convinced Mitchell genetics play some role.

"If it's all just the training humans give them, I guess then, why do we not take wolf cubs and make pets out of them?" he said. From 1979 to 1998, some 25 different breeds killed humans in the United States, according to a 2000 study done by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Just two breeds -- pit bulls and Rottweilers -- were responsible for half of all fatal bites.

Yet enforcing breed bans is tough, said Peggy Wolfe, an Illinois Dog Club and Breeders Association board member. "Pit bull" is not technically a breed, but rather an informal category, she said.

Also, two states -- Ohio and Alabama--have overturned breed-specific laws because they violate an owner's due process rights.

WAR DOG 5TH ANNIVERSARY BY LARRY FERRIS

On Sunday, February 20th, I attended the fifth anniversary of the War Dog Memorial. Just like on the day of the original War Dog Memorial, it rained.

Former Corona Mayor Jeff Bennett raised \$1 million to help pay for the memorial. The memorial is a 16-foot bronze and granite statue featuring a handler with a German shepherd. Around the statue are rows of tiles serving as tributes to individual dogs.

State Supreme Court Associate Justice Ming W. Chin spoke about his combat tour in Vietnam as an Army officer.

Retired Master Sergeant Mike McKelroy, who helped organize the annual War Dog Remembrance, spoke about his best buddy in Vietnam, Ken. He credits Ken with saving him and fellow Marines on several occasions. He said that the Vietnamese communists placed bounties of \$1,500 on war dogs. He said that it still bothers him how the U.S. got rid of the war dogs.

Besides the War Dog Memorial, the March Field Air Museum has several Vietnam-era planes on display.

For more see here www.bigleegs.com/ourgsd_1/wardog.htm





The Shepherd's Tale

Our German Shepherd Web Site

The Shepherd's Tale is a free publication for listmembers of the GSD-L Email list, and a supplement to Our German Shepherd Web Site.

**We're on the web at
www.bigleegs.com/ourgsd_l/**

Please share this issue with your friends and family, or print it out and share it at work.

Future issues will be larger, with more input from readers. Please stay tuned for more next month.



PHOTO CONTEST

Enter your favorite photo in the contest to win a digital portrait suitable for framing. The larger the photo, the larger we can make the portrait.

Sizes range from 5X7 to 13X19, on satin finish paper — depending on size of photo resolution.

C'mon everyone, send your photos attached to an email. Please include your dog's name and your full name on the entry. We will have 3 independent judges to select the final photo. Have all entries submitted no later than March 15, 2005. Submit to gsdwebmaster@bigleegs.com with CONTEST in the subject line. GOOD LUCK!

NOTIFICATION OF NEWSLETTER

Sign up to be notified of each issue of the newsletter. For those who are on digest, this will make sure you see when the new issues are posted to the web.

Send email to gsdwebmaster@bigleegs.com with Newsletter Notice in the subject line. You will be notified each time a new issue is available.

Next issue of The Shepherd's Tale will be available on March 1, 2005. Watch for it.



Sign up to receive the newsletter