



The Shepherd's Tale

Volume 1, Issue 3

May, 2005

NOSEPRINTING YOUR DOG

Every year, millions of dogs are lost or stolen.

We just want to help bring them home.

It's a sad fact of life. Despite the best intentions of their owners, millions of dogs are lost or stolen every year - an estimated 10 million in the United States alone, with countless more around the world.

Even worse, over 3.5 million dogs, from valuable show dogs to beloved family pets, are put to sleep every year, many - too many - simply because their owners could not be identified in time. While nothing can eliminate that entirely,

Dognose ID can help ensure that your dog isn't one of them.

The Dognose ID system is the first painless, noninvasive method for recording the identity of any dog, and storing that record in a permanent, searchable database that enables your dog to be identified quickly and easily. Years later - even if it's appearance has been deliberately altered, we can identify your dog, from it's nose print.

If your dog is ever missing, we'll help you find it: As soon as you contact us, we'll fax your dog's photo, nose-print and contact information to every known animal shelter and veterinarian within the area of your home - the area in which most missing pets are found, as well as local schools in your area where dogs generally roam

because of their love for children.

Lost dogs can't speak.

But they can tell you who they are.

And where they live.

The reason so many lost dogs are never recovered - or worse, put to sleep, is because their owners couldn't be identified.

See the entire site here: <http://www.dognoseid.com>

Protect your best friends by giving them the one way that identification can't be removed, changed, or unknown by not having the correct scanner, which is the case in many shelters .

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PET STORE INVESTIGATED LOCAL 6, ORLANDO

ORLANDO, Fla. -- A pet store in Orange County, Fla., is under investigation after complaints from customers who say their puppies died as soon as they were taken home, according to a Local 6 News report.

Almost every Saturday, people can be seen on Colonial Drive protesting against the retail animal businesses, including the Puppy Store in Orange County.

Animal rights advocates claim the majority of puppies for sale through retail stores come from places where illness and neglect are rampant.

Local 6 News aired video, provided by the group People for the Ethical Treatment Of Animals, of dogs with mange and apparent eye infections living in deplorable conditions at a so-called puppy mill in the Midwest. The video was not independently verified by Local 6 News.

"The conditions of the puppy mills are terrible, filthy, and cramped," Orlando Animal Rights Alliance spokeswoman Heather Carpenter said. "They get a lot of genetic diseases."

PET LEMON LAWS

Florida has one of the most far-reaching pet buyer protection laws in the nation. The law applies to both cats and dogs, and it requires vaccinations and examinations for animals prior to sale.

In summary, it provides that a

pet dealer may not knowingly misrepresent the breed, sex, or health of any dog or cat offered for sale within the state.

The definition of a pet dealer is explicitly written to include active hobby breeders. A pet dealer is defined as anyone who sells more than 2 litters or 20 dogs per year, whichever is greater.

Consumers have 14 days to document contagious or infectious disease and a full year to document congenial or hereditary defects. There is no penalty for failure to produce advertised registration papers.

The law provides for replacement plus reimbursement for veterinary expenses related to certifying the illness, up to the price of the dog.

If a dog is proven ill or defect, consumers may demand a refund or replacement plus reimbursement of veterinary expenses up to the price of the dog.

The state's tough law makes it potentially very expensive to sell ill or defective pets in Florida.

Consider the scenario where a puppy is sold for \$150 and has its hips evaluated within 1 year. The x-rays could run up to \$150. If they turn up definite hip dysplasia, the seller may have to provide either a refund or replacement, plus cover the \$150 for the x-rays.

It is the consumer's right to receive a certificate of veterinary inspection with each dog or cat purchased from a pet dealer. Such certificate shall list all vaccines and deworming medications administered to the animal

HOW DOES YOUR STATE MEASURE UP?

ALASKA STATUTES

Sec. 11.61.140. Cruelty to animals

(a) A person commits the crime of cruelty to animals if the person

(1) knowingly inflicts severe physical pain or prolonged suffering on an animal;

(2) with criminal negligence, fails to care for an animal and, as a result, causes the death of the animal or causes severe physical pain or prolonged suffering to the animal; or

(3) kills an animal by the use of a decompression chamber.

(b) It is a defense to a prosecution under (a)(1) or (2) of this section that the conduct of the defendant

(1) conformed to accepted veterinary or animal husbandry practice;

(2) was part of scientific research governed by accepted standards;

(3) was necessarily incident to lawful hunting or trapping activities; or

(4) conformed to professionally accepted training and disciplinary methods.

(c) In this section, "animal" means a vertebrate living creature not a human being, but does not include fish.

(d) Cruelty to animals is a class A misdemeanor.

ASPCA POISON CONTROL CENTER

ASPCA Poison Control Center
ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, an operating division of the ASPCA, is the only animal-oriented poison control center in North America. Established in 1978, the Center is the only facility of its kind staffed by veterinarians, including board-certified veterinary toxicologists.

Located in Urbana, Illinois, the specially trained staff provides assistance to pet owners and specific diagnostic and treatment recommendation to veterinarians pertaining to toxic chemicals and

dangerous plants, products or substances 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. In 2001, the Center handled over 65,000 cases.

The Center also provides extensive veterinary toxicology expert consulting on a wide array of subjects includes legal cases, formulation issues, product liability, and regulatory reporting. The phone number for the hotline is **1-888-4-ANI-HELP** and the website is <http://www.asPCA.org/apcc>.

DOG QUOTES

Heaven goes by favour. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in. - [Mark Twain](#)

Dogs have more love than integrity. They've been true to us, yes, but they haven't been true to themselves. - [Clarence Day](#)

A dog is the only thing on earth that will love you more than you love yourself. - [Josh Billings](#)

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 webmaster@gsdwebsite.com with LETTERS TO EDITOR in the subject line. All letters must be signed with your full name.



KORNER KITCHEN *BANANA MUTT COOKIES*



Recipes

- 1 1/2 cups ripe mashed bananas
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 cups oats
- 1/2 cup chopped peanuts
- 1/4 cup applesauce

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients together. Drop spoonfuls of the mixture onto an ungreased baking sheet, and press flat with a

fork. Bake for approximately 15 minutes, then cool on a rack before serving. Store in an airtight container. Can also be frozen.

SEND US YOUR RECIPES!!

We need to hear from you about favorite recipes you use for your GSD's. We know there are recipes out there that are wonderful and we would like to include them here in the Korner Kitchen.

Won't you help us out?

Send your recipes to:

Webmaster@gsdwebsite.com
Put RECIPE in the subject line.

THANKS

TSUNAMI—BETTER TREATMENT FOR STRAY DOGS

Reuters Phuket (Thailand) May 6: Black, fat, female, a veterinary worker shouts to an assistant taking notes as she gives a rabies shot to another nameless dog left homeless by the December 26 tsunami on the Thai resort island of Phuket. Hundreds of such pets were saved by officials and animal rights activists while rescue workers were scouring the Andaman sea coast for the victims of the Asian tsunami that left 230,000 people dead or missing along the Indian ocean rim. But while human survivors in Thailand complain that red tape makes it hard for them to resume normal life, the deadly waves brought better care to the dogs and cats that escaped. "The tsunami crisis is an opportunity for abandoned animals to be taken care of," said Mr Roger Lohanan, head of Thai Animal Guardians Association helping stray pets get treatment and new homes.

A US C-130 military cargo plane even flew 120 cats and dogs to Bangkok to find new homes. They had been rescued from Phi Phi island, where the backpacker movie *The Beach* was filmed.

Another 64 starving 'tsunami dogs' were rounded up around a make-shift morgue at a Buddhist temple in nearby province of Phang Nga, where some had been nibbling corpses, officials

said. Some have already found new owners and only 30 of them are still at a state shelter. In Phuket, the city's animal shelter, called Mid-road Dog's House, Thai slang for strays, has more than 400 abandoned dogs.

The tsunami devastation brought the guardians association a rush of contributions from animal lovers. The London-based World Society for the Protection of Animals promised 2 million baht (\$ 50,000), Mr Lohanan said.

But stray dogs are a problem all over Thailand and Mr Lohanan said donations his organisation received would be spent on abandoned animals in other parts of the country if the projects were approved by the donor.

"Many Thais buy dogs as a fad," he said.

"When the film about Dalmatians was showing, it was a Dalmatian fever and a few months later many of them were left on streets," said Mr Lohanan as he pointed to a Dalmatian-street dog cross at the Mid-road Dog's House.

"Many of these dogs have been left wandering on the street because their owners' houses are too small for them. And when they play and

mate with strays, the owners abandon their puppies," he added. Bangkok is estimated to have at least 120,000 strays.

In areas of Phuket where they pack together, animal activists say, aggressive stray dogs have attacked people, bringing fears of rabies, especially during the very hot March-May period.

"Before the shelter existed in Phuket, strays were taken from the streets and either poisoned or slaughtered," said Phuket chief veterinarian, Mr Sunart Wongchavalit, who started the 1.6 acre (0.6 hectare) dog shelter last year. But whenever city officials poison or slaughter some of the island's 2,000 to 3,000 strays, controversy erupts as killing is a sin to Thailand's Buddhist majority.

So Phuket authorities plan a law obliging owners to register and insert identification microchips in their dogs, Mr Sunart said. Owners would be fined if their pets were found abandoned.

"After the law is enforced, we hope to eradicate all strays in Phuket in two to three years."

—*The Navhind Times*

BE KIND TO ANIMALS WEEK

Celebrate Be Kind to Animals Week®, May 1 to 7, 2005

The American Humane Association created Be Kind to Animals Week in 1915 to celebrate the unique bond between humans and animals. Every year, animal shelters throughout the country hold special events during this special week to raise awareness about Being Kind to Animals, and to teach people about the amazing role animals play in our lives. Be Kind to Animals Week is a great time to promote our nation's animal welfare organizations and to encourage everyone to get involved to make a difference for animals.

Help support your local shelter, send a donation to a rescue group or volunteer for a shelter or rescue group. You will be happy you did. The rewards are unimaginable.



ATTORNEY LEAVES \$500,000

TRUCKEE, Calif – The estate of a Truckee lawyer who bequeathed about \$500,000 to the Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe will be used to help build a regional, no-kill shelter for homeless animals, officials said.

The surprise gift from Ruth Frishman comes at an excellent time because the planning process is just starting for the shelter, said Stephanie Hiemstra, organization executive director.

In making the bequest, Frishman challenged the Town of Truckee and local Rotary clubs to match her level of support. "We have a lot of big ideas and big plans, and if Rotary or the town or whomever steps up and really helps out, I have no doubt that we're going to have a state-of-the-art facility," Hiemstra told the Sierra Sun newspaper. Frishman, who died June 7 of cancer, was the third woman admitted to the Rotary Club of Truckee and was its president at

the time of her death. She was past president of the Tahoe-Truckee Bar Association.

"She's been a great supporter of ours for a long time. She's adopted animals from us and (her gift) was really just amazing," Hiemstra said.

The group hopes to begin fundraising later this year for the shelter, with a goal of starting construction in 2007.

The current shelter was designed to hold no more than eight dogs comfortably and currently houses 14 dogs, officials said.

"We won't actually receive any of the money for probably about a year ... and by that point we certainly hope to be well under way with a capital campaign," Hiemstra said.

Frishman had been an advocate for affordable housing since moving to Truckee in 1986.

**CHECK
WITH
RESCUE
FOR
YOUR
NEXT
BEST
FRIEND!!**

MAY DAYS TO REMEMBER

May 1st—May Day >> See the explanation of May Day on page 6
 May 5th—Cinco De Mayo
 May 8th—Mother's Day
 May 22—National Rainbow Bridge Week >> Coco's Castle has an annual Rainbow Bridge Week each year, the week of May 26. We honor all pets who have gone to the Rainbow Bridge with a special tribute. Not a GSD site, but special to anyone who has lost a pet. Go here: <http://members.tripod.com/~CocosCastle/Intro.html>
 May 30—Memorial Day



May Pole

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 webmaster@gsdwebsite.com and put GSD FEATURE in the subject line.

See your GSD featured!

MAY DAY HOW IT CAME TO BE

The international working class holiday; Mayday, originated in pagan Europe. It was a festive holy day celebrating the first spring planting. The ancient Celts and Saxons celebrated May 1st as Beltane or the day of fire. Bel was the Celtic god of the sun.

The Saxons began their May day celebrations on the eve of May, April 30. It was an evening of games and feasting celebrating the end of winter and the return of the sun and fertility of the soil. Torch bearing peasants and villager would wind their way up paths to the top of tall hills or mountain crags and then ignite wooden wheels which they would roll down into the fields

The May eve celebrations were eventually outlawed by the Catholic church, but were still celebrated by peasants until the late 1700's. While good church going folk would shy away from joining in the celebrations, those less afraid of papal authority would don animal masks and various costumes, not unlike our modern Halloween. The revelers, lead by the Goddess of the Hunt; Diana (sometimes played by a pagan-priest in women's clothing) and the Horned God; Herne, would travel up the hill shouting, chanting and singing, while blowing hunting horns. This night became known in Europe as Walpurgisnacht, or night of the witches

The Celtic tradition of Mayday in the British isles continued to be celebrated through-out the middle ages by rural and village folk. Here the traditions were similar with a goddess and god of the hunt.

As European peasants moved away from hunting gathering societies their gods and goddesses changed to reflect a more agrarian society. Thus Diana and Herne came to be seen by medieval villagers as fertility deities of the crops and fields. Diana became the Queen of the May and Herne be-

came Robin Goodfellow (a predecessor of Robin Hood) or the Green Man.

The Queen of the May reflected the life of the fields and Robin reflected the hunting traditions of the woods. The rites of mayday were part and parcel of pagan celebrations of the seasons. Many of these pagan rites were later absorbed by the Christian church in order to win over converts from the 'Old Religion'.

Mayday celebrations in Europe varied according to locality, however they were immensely popular with artisans and villagers until the 19th Century. The Christian church could not eliminate many of the traditional feast and holy days of the Old Religion so they were transformed into Saint days.

During the middle ages the various trade guilds celebrated feast days for the patron saints of their craft. The shoemakers guild honored St. Crispin, the tailors guild celebrated Adam and Eve. As late as the 18th century various trade societies and early craft-unions would enter floats in local parades still depicting Adam and Eve being clothed by the Tailors and St. Crispin blessing the shoemaker.

The two most popular feast days for Medieval craft guilds were the Feast of St. John, or the Summer Solstice and Mayday. Mayday was a raucous and fun time, electing a queen of the May from the eligible young women of the village, to rule the crops until harvest. Our tradition of beauty pageants may have evolved, albeit in a very bastardized form, from the May Queen.

Besides the selection of the May Queen was the raising of the phallic Maypole, around which the young single men and women of the village would dance holding on to the ribbons until they became entwined, with their (hoped for) new love. And of course there was Robin

By Eugene W. Plawiuk

Goodfellow, or the Green Man who was the Lord of Misrule for this day. Mayday was a celebration of the common people, and Robin would be the King/Priest/Fool for a day. Priests and Lords were the butt of many jokes, and the Green Man and his supporters; mummers would make jokes and poke fun of the local authorities. This tradition of satire is still conducted today in Newfoundland, with the Christmas Mummery.

The church and state did not take kindly to these celebrations, especially during times of popular rebellion. Mayday and the Maypole were outlawed in the 1600's. Yet the tradition still carried on in many rural areas of England. The trade societies still celebrated Mayday until the 18th Century.

As trade societies evolved from guilds, to friendly societies and eventually into unions, the craft traditions remained strong into the early 19th century. In North America Dominion Day celebrations in Canada and July 4th celebrations in the United States would be celebrated by tradesmen still decorating floats depicting their ancient saints such as St. Crispin.

=====

SAVE A DOG

VOLUNTEER

AT YOUR

LOCAL

SHELTER

QUOTES FOR MOTHERS

Men are what their mothers made them. - [Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)

Most mothers are instinctive philosophers. - [Harriet Beecher Stowe](#)

We never know the love of the parent until we become parents ourselves. - [Henry Ward Beecher](#)

Making a decision to have a child--it's momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body. - [Elizabeth Stone](#)

A mother understands what a child does not say. - [Jewish Proverb](#)

The mother's heart is in the child's schoolroom. - [Henry Ward Beecher](#)

God could not be everywhere, therefore he created mothers. - [Hebrew Proverb](#)

Happy Mother's Day!!

DOGS GONE TO THE BRIDGE IN MARCH/APRIL

March



Luther received the Kish Award for Bravery protecting his family from being bitten by a venomous Snake. Luther was bitten And didn't survive.

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Sources

Associated Press

Written permission has been received for all content not original.

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

"10 AND OVER KLUB" APRIL 2005



Tinker
Age 13
Sue Finestead



Savvy
Age 10
Alice Murray



Samson
Age 11
Carol Vincent

ONE SICK PUPPY

A CAUTIONARY TALE

The advertisement in the New Jersey newspaper caught Rosa D'Ascoli's attention: dogs for sale from "professional breeders," \$99 and up, all shots included, training provided.

D'Ascoli was anxious to adopt a German Shepherd; she had one as a young girl, and she thought the typically loyal, intelligent and friendly breed would be a good fit for her and her father, with whom she lives in a suburban house in Maplewood, New Jersey. On Saturday, September 8, 2000, D'Ascoli and two friends piled into a car and made the 30-minute trip to the advertised pet store in north central Jersey. An employee ushered them into a little cubicle filled with toys and dog chews.

That's where D'Ascoli first met Gizmo, an eight-week-old male purebred German Shepherd. D'Ascoli already had the name in mind because a German Shepherd's oversized ears always reminded her of the exotic critter, Gizmo, in the 1984 film, *Gremlins*. This canine Gizmo even had a similar temperament: In the cubicle, the puppy was alert and energetic. "He was playing with everyone," D'Ascoli recalls.

Buying the dog was almost too easy. Pet store employees asked her only one question—had she pre-

viously owned a German Shepherd?—before they ran a credit check and had her sign a contract. The paper guaranteed that the store would replace the dog if it died from parvo virus, hepatitis, leptospirosis or corona virus, diseases that are covered by annual shots. The contract also stipulated, "All vet bills will be the responsibility of the purchaser."

Nineteen hundred dollars later, the price tag for Gizmo, Rose D'Ascoli had herself a new companion. As a final send-off, an employee said, "Remember that 95% of puppies may develop the sniffles."

Six days later, Gizmo had the sniffles. But he had more than that: He had a fever, mucus running from his nose, and had lost his appetite. The next day, D'Ascoli took Gizmo to the veterinarian who diagnosed the dog with "kennel cough," which had probably developed into pneumonia. Gizmo's temperature was 102.4. Kennel cough is a common malady among dogs, who usually overcome it quickly, but the veterinarian noted Gizmo's dry coat and his underweight condition, signs that the dog may have come from a mass-breeding facility known as a puppy mill. The veterinarian gave Gizmo a shot and some drops, and told D'Ascoli that her dog should feel better in a few days.

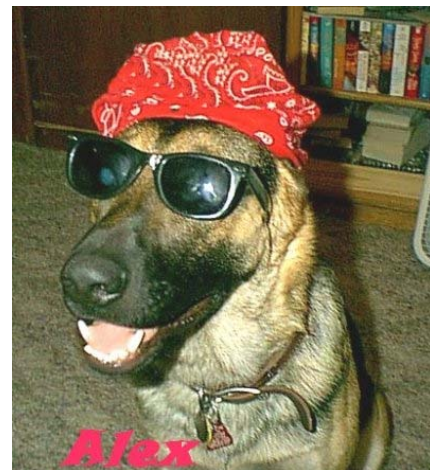
(continued page 9)

ARGHHHH



Amy the clown

VRRROOOOM



Alex the Biter

ONE SICK PUPPY

He didn't. In fact, Gizmo didn't start feeling better until nearly two weeks later, after two more vet visits and \$300 in expenses. But the troubles were just beginning for D'Ascoli and Gizmo. The dog demonstrated signs of poor socialization. He became very aggressive toward strangers. Unless Gizmo knew the person, D'Ascoli remembers, the dog "wanted to eat them alive." He also lunged for cars on busy streets when he and D'Ascoli went on walks. So Gizmo went into training, which can help to increase an animal's confidence if he's fearful or unsure around people. D'Ascoli worked patiently with her pooch, but Gizmo inexplicably became timid. Now on his walks, he would crouch down and try to flee traffic.

D'Ascoli worked with Gizmo every day for nearly three months, and by May 2001, he had shown some signs of improvement. Then on May 24, D'Ascoli noticed that Gizmo was making noises while eating, as if he were choking. She felt the dog's throat and spotted a small lump, about the size of a pea. She took him to the veterinarian who couldn't pinpoint the problem. Gizmo went home with antibiotics for an apparent infection.

A few days later, the lump had increased in size, to the point where it was now visible on Gizmo's neck. But since it was the Memorial Day holiday, D'Ascoli had to wait until Tues-

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

day, May 29, to take Gizmo back to the veterinarian, who suggested the dog immediately visit a specialist.

That same day, the specialist told D'Ascoli that Gizmo would need to be sedated and x-rayed to determine the cause of the lump. Then, mostly likely, the dog would require surgery to remove the foreign mass in his neck. D'Ascoli stayed with Gizmo until the anesthesia took effect and then left her dog with the specialist. It was a simple procedure, the specialist promised.



At 4 p.m. on May 29, the specialist called D'Ascoli and said there had been "complications" during surgery. Gizmo's heart had stopped—permanently. The specialist was at a loss herself to explain how the dog died; the only new information the veterinarian could offer was that Gizmo had a large sac of pus in his neck.

It made D'Ascoli recall what the original veterinarian said on Gizmo's first visit back in September: The dog might have come from a puppy mill. She wasn't sure there was a connection, but she still "was devastated." "I actually started taking karate to deal with the anger," she recalls.

Searching for answers, D'Ascoli halted a planned cremation and

took Gizmo's body to the University of Pennsylvania for an autopsy. Unfortunately, the dog's body had deteriorated too much by then, and the autopsy results were inconclusive, again leaving D'Ascoli in the dark.

The only remedy D'Ascoli had left to relieve her pain was revenge. She wanted to warn others about the dangers of pet stores, which often buy their "inventory" from mass dog-breeding facilities known as puppy mills. "I wish I could close down every puppy mill that exists," says D'Ascoli, who spent nearly \$3,000 on Gizmo and his treatments. "If by telling my story I influence just *one* person (not to buy from a pet store), I have done justice to Gizmo's short life."

D'Ascoli eventually learned that Gizmo came from an unlicensed breeder based in Iowa, considered one of the seven worst puppy-mill states in the country. But that information alone didn't offer any solace. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which enforces the Animal Welfare Act, only regulates commercial breeding operations. And even then, the agency establishes only minimum-care standards, such as daily food, water and shelter. Those loose federal standards leave a lot of wiggle room for the kinds of conditions that breed sickly dogs like Gizmo.

Our condolences on the loss of Gizmo — Editor



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.gsdwebsite.com**

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 12 custom greeting cards with envelopes with the picture selected from the contest.

Cards are done on satin finish with matte interior.

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 April 20, 2005. Submit to webmaster@gsdwebsite.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 webmaster@gsdwebsite.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 June 1, 2005. Watch for it.



Sign up to receive the newsletter