



Dear friends,

Welcome to our December Newsletter from www.bestdoggietips.com. We hope you enjoy the newsletter.



Merry Christmas to you and your doggie families from Hamish and all of us here at BestDoggieTips.

(We'll be taking a break in January, so your next doggie newsletter will arrive early February)

Contents

Recipe – Magic Doggie Cookies	Page 2
The Love of a Dog	Page 3
Seniors Special Helpers	Page 5
Face Recognition & Dogs	Page 7
Site of the Month – Keri's Kookies	Page 8
Name Your Own Price!	Page 10
Fun Stuff	Page 12
The Weird & The Wonderful	Page 13

In the whole history of the world there is but one thing that money cannot buy – the wag of a dog's tail. – *Henry Wheeler Shaw*

Recipe - Magic Doggie Cookies

Ingredients

2 Kg (4 lbs) finely chopped liver (chicken or beef – can use food processor to chop)
7 cups flour
4 cups oatmeal ground finely (use food processor)
8 tsp chicken bouillon
½ to 1 cup HOT water (to dissolve bouillon)
8 eggs, beaten

To Make

Preheat oven to 350°F or 180°C.

In a large bowl place the liver, beaten eggs and dissolved bouillon and mix thoroughly. Add the flour and oatmeal a little at a time and mix well until thoroughly blended.

Line 2 baking trays with cooking paper and then lightly spray cooking oil on these. Try to use baking trays with sides at least 1" high.

Place half the mixture in each tray and spread out evenly. Place in the preheated oven and let cook for 25 to 30 minutes or until cooked in the centre.

Remove from the oven and let cool. Loosen around the edges with a knife and then invert onto a bread board.

Remove the cooking paper and cut into bite size pieces suitable for your dog. These can be frozen or kept in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks.

[Back to Contents List](#)

The Love of a Dog



Since her best friend's death, Zelda has taken to wandering.

Neighbours spot the one-eyed, rust-coloured dog roaming the farm roads near her home, heading in the direction of the cemetery. Animal control officers say that's where the dog was found recently, roving the grounds of a brick church, yards from her owner's grave.

"She's without her boy," said mom Marci Reed. "She just sniffs all over, looking for her boy."

Zelda and her owner, Joshua Reed, 15, had been inseparable ever since Joshua rescued the dog three years earlier when she was hit by a car.

It had been nightfall when the family drove past the dog lying in the road. Joshua "jumped out of the moving van," Marci Reed recalled. "He yelled, 'Stop! We have to get the dog!'"

The teen brought the bleeding animal into the van, wrapping the dog in his jacket. The child stayed up all night talking to the dog, his mother remembered with tears in her eyes. "He kept saying, 'I love you. I love you. You'll be all right. I'll take care of you.'"

Zelda lost an eye in the accident, and her tail was broken in several places, but the dog flourished at the Reed home.

Zelda followed Joshua everywhere, waiting for him every day when he got off the school bus. Zelda and Joshua would roll around in the grass outside the family's Mishawaka farm. They would race down the gravel drive, with the boy on his bike and Zelda sprinting beside him.

So Zelda, along with the rest of the Reed family, entered a world of emptiness last year when, one day, Joshua didn't come home.

When Joshua asked his parents for a four-wheeler, they first said no. But he promised to earn half the money for the vehicle himself, said his dad, and worked extra hard on the farm to make the wish a reality. Joshua loved his new ATV, riding it with a group of four-wheeling friends in the summer of 2009.

The Reeds will never know why Joshua didn't stop and look when he approached the intersection on the evening of Sept. 3. It might have been because the road had previously been closed and only recently opened for traffic.

State Police said the pickup truck driver reported that he didn't see the boy on the ATV until it was too late. Joshua was thrown 120 feet, his dad said, and died instantly.

Joshua, the middle of five brothers ranging in age from 11 to 31, is remembered most by friends and family as a great friend and lover of all animals, especially ones like Zelda who needed extra care.

For days after the funeral, Zelda wandered up and down the farm, searching high and low for her boy. Zelda had never run away before the accident, but now, the Reeds say, the dog takes to the road any chance she gets.

She was taken to the cemetery only once by the family. Marci Reed brought Zelda to St. John's Cemetery on Bremen Highway after the first time she ran away.

Since visiting the graveyard that first time, the dog has been caught twice more near the cemetery route.

"They always say that animals have that extra sense," said Jordan McGuire, with the Humane Society of St. Joseph County. "It's obvious (the dog) is grieving."

"We're going to get a fence," Reed said. "I can't let something happen to her."

[Back to Contents List](#)

Seniors Special Helpers

At senior care centres across central Texas, residents get visits from a special group of dogs every week. The dogs bring unconditional love and cheer to folks who may not have much of that in their daily lives.

"When you're a senior you tend to stay in your little compartment. You don't want to go out," said Patsy Swendson, founder of the **Penny's From Heaven Foundation**. "When you have a dog with you or a dog that comes to visit you, that changes. I've seen patients take a shower for the first time in a week because they've got a dog coming to visit them".

Swendson began her outreach after she was inspired by her own rehab dog, Penny. Her dogs also visit wounded veterans. Seniors have a special appreciation for the visits because some rarely get human visitors of their own these days.

Stroke victim Harley Clark lives at the Hill Country Care Center in Dripping Springs. He owned dogs most of his life before coming here, and looks forward to every visit from the dogs. A favourite pup is Bosley, who gets around on just two working legs of his own. He and the seniors with their own disabilities share a common bond.

"When you're disabled you spend a lot of time by yourself. But to have a dog as a companion it keeps you in touch with a different expanded world," Clark said. "It's really good to have a dog that is devoted to you and with you all the time, so I think its a really good idea."

Patsy says the dogs look forward to the visits too. They can sense the fragile bodies and moods of the seniors, and respond accordingly.

"When a patient is very depressed or in a depressed state what happens? The dog takes that on to themselves. When a dog's around you they take on your depression, they cuddle up and love on you," Swendson said. "When a patient's happy, the staff is happy, they're all about happy."



THE PENNY'S FROM HEAVEN FOUNDATION is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization that evaluates, tests, trains, qualifies, and assists therapy dog/handler teams in order to provide loving, nurturing and compassionate visitation in nursing homes, hospitals, psychiatric facilities, senior residences, schools, private homes, military care facilities, and other locations where

emotional support dogs are indispensable.

According to their website <http://www.pennysfromheavenfoundation.org/> :

Our mission is providing physical and emotional rehabilitation through pet assisted therapy. Our program objectives are as follows:

- Honoring America's fallen heroes by providing support and encouragement to our service men and women in rehabilitation, through pet assisted therapy, offering hope and inspiration to them, as well as their families.
- Nurturing, training, and caring for the special dogs that provide therapy or service.
- Affording advancement and encouragement to any person, or persons, in a rehabilitation environment through pet assisted therapy.
- Promoting and educating others through stories of healing, service, and courage exhibited by these animals, patients, or persons who have served our nation.

[Back to Contents List](#)

Face Recognition and Dogs

Does your dog like to watch you and follow you when you walk around a room? It's studying, and recognizing, your face, according to new research published in the journal *Animal Behaviour*.

The study, led by Paolo Mongillo from the University of Padua in Italy, found that dogs can not only recognize their owners' faces, but they also rely on their sense of sight more than previously understood. Not only that, they use their eyes to help distinguish their owners from crowds of other people.

It's the first study of its kind, and it helps shed some light on how dogs adapted to become our domesticated companions. "If you imagine a dog in a real setting in a city or anywhere in the middle of a crowd or a crowded space, you can see how the animal must have adapted to give preferential attention to its owner".

According to the study's abstract, the experiment let dogs watch two people (their owners and a stranger) as they walked in and out of a set of doors. And the end of the sequence, the dogs were allowed to go to one of the two doors, and almost always chose the door their owners had last used.

"Most of the dogs gazed at their owners for most of the time and then chose to wait by the owner's door," Mongillo said.

Lest you think they were relying upon scent, the experiment was repeated, only this time the humans wore bags over their faces. With no faces to see, the dogs were less focused on tracking the movements of their owners.

The study had another component, which used older dogs (those 7 years or older) in the same situations. It turned out that they were not as focused or able to keep their attention on their owners, which shows that dogs' brains age in similar ways to the human brain.

This isn't the first study to find that animals can recognize individual people. A team from the University of Washington found that crows can recognize people by their faces. The big difference: they weren't looking for "best friends" but for potential enemies. Bees, meanwhile, can recognize individual flowers, and even human faces if they think of them as if they were flowers, according to a study published earlier this year in the *Journal of Experimental Biology*.

Bees and crows, however, won't fetch your slippers, so dogs still have the advantage.

[Back to Contents List](#)

Site of the Month - Keri's Kookies

[Keri's Kookies](#) is run by a small family of humans with a big family of furry babies. According to Teri (chief cook!), "we have four dogs and two cats that we have either rescued from the road, pasture, or shelter where we used to live. Besides my wonderful husband, Keith, my next great passion in life is animals; in specific, dogs and cats and their welfare. Upon the frightening debacle of the melamine food poisoning in many dog and cat foods and treats a few years ago which resulted in the tragic deaths of precious dogs and cats around the country, I decided to start baking my own dogs' treats. This way, my husband and I would know exactly what was in their treats, and, by doing so, ensure that they were safe. I started baking my dogs' cookies in my own kitchen in the Fall of 2007. I've been doing it weekly ever since, and my pups swear by them!"

[Keri's Kookies](#) are baked fresh for each order. The smallest dog in the pack, Holly, samples a cookie from each batch and they always meet with her approval! Teri uses only the best, wholesome ingredients in her dog biscuits. At this time, her specialty is peanut butter cookies, and they have only five ingredients, with no preservatives or anything other than natural peanut butter, whole wheat flour, skim milk, baking powder, and honey. Teri recommends you refrigerate your Keri's Kookies upon receipt for longer-lasting freshness, as they do not add artificial preservatives. They last in the refrigerator just fine for up to two weeks (they are usually gobbled up before then!), and can even be frozen if you want to set back a few for later for your pup. And a portion of every order is donated to a no-kill shelter.

The name "Keri's Kookies" is in honour of Keri-Leigh. Keri was the oldest dog and the most loved. Unfortunately she recently passed away on November 27 after a short illness, leaving her family devastated. She was a labrador retriever/chow-chow mix and was adopted from Bartow County Humane Society in northern Georgia as an adorable puppy when Teri's husband was doing voluntary computer software work for the shelter. [Keri's Kookies](#) now continues on in honour of Keri.

Teri is proud to announce that she has just mailed her first check to a no-kill shelter.

"Tomorrow morning, I will be mailing our first Keri's Kookies check donation to the no-kill shelter, provided solely by the portion of each of your orders you have placed with us this year, our dear friends. I wanted all of our customers to know, as I would want to know if I were you, that my money that was promised to a charity, did, indeed, go to a charity. I am very excited to mail this check, although a small one, I am hoping the next one can be bigger, and maybe even I will someday be able to mail a check to them every month in the future".

Teri goes on to say "In Memory and In Honor of my precious Keri Leigh, I want to offer a special in December at Keri's Kookies. For every two dozen of Keri's Kookies purchased, or even every Tiny 72-count of Keri's Kookies purchased by a DoggySpace customer, any December customer will receive a free Tiny Christmas Bakers Dozen from me in honor and in memory of our girl, Keri, whom this company truly belongs to. Also, this offer can be used more than once by a customer if he or she would like, as I want to honor my Keri and give you all a small Christmas gift from her. If you would

like to receive this offer, there is no need to enter a coupon code or even write a special note to me, as I will automatically include it with your purchase".

"Thank you for all your support, for myself, my precious Keri, and of course, for our little business, [Keri's Kookies](#), LLC. I hope each of you have a very Merry Christmas and a joyous and safe holiday season. My wish is that all people would open their hearts and embrace the love of a dog or cat, and that eventually there wouldn't be a need for a shelter with the title "no-kill". Maybe one day there would only be adoption centers, where homeless pets would soon find forever homes. As you all know, I adopted my precious Keri from a kill shelter, and how lost my life would have been had she not been in it".

LOSING KERI LEIGH

There's a hole in my heart where a dog used to be.
She's nuzzled my soul and is now part of me.
Her pain is her life and I know what to do.
But when I release her, I'm losing me, too.

The puppy I cradled for ten short years,
is a precious bundle of love and I know
that she'd lick away all of my tears if she could.
It's her sense of duty to make me feel good.

It's my obligation to do what is best.
The love of her "mistress" is put to the test.
It's a wrenching and sorrowful way that we part
it doesn't hurt less when the head rules the heart.

There's a hole in my heart where my Keri Leigh passed through.
When we said goodbye part of me went too.

Author Unknown

[Back to Contents List](#)

Name Your Own Price!

When it feels like it is raining dog books, and yours is one of hundreds, what does an author do to get noticed? Bo Hoefinger, nationally published author, has come up with a novel idea to sell his book. The idea is to offer readers his funny dog memoir, [BAD TO THE BONE: Memoir of a Rebel Doggie Blogger](#) and let them decide what they want to pay for it. The great thing about this effort is that all profits will be donated to dog rescue groups.

BAD TO THE BONE: Memoir of a Rebel Doggie Blogger is written through the eyes of the dog, Bo, and is the first non-fiction memoir published under the dog's name.

Bo's book, unlike other dog memoirs out there, is laugh out loud funny and does not have a sad ending. 'Bad to the Bone' features Bo's two parents as they embark on life together, along with their four legged companion who manages to outwit them at every turn. The book highlights the bond between dog and owner; the love, laughter, and joy a dog brings into a family's life.

'Bad to the Bone' has been getting great reviews by readers and critics alike. Britain's #1 dog publication, Your Dog Magazine, says, "If you can imagine 'Marley & Me' written from a dog's point of view, but much funnier and with a happy ending, then you'll find this isn't far off the mark." Publishers Weekly called it "hilarious from beginning to end." The tough critics at American Dog Magazine even chose it as a featured spring reading pick. It has a five star rating on Amazon; readers call it "laugh-out-loud funny" and "one of the most original books they have ever read."

Horst Hoefinger realized shortly after publication how difficult it is to get the national attention needed to make the book a big success if you're not a well-known author, no matter how many great reviews. He found out as a first time author that it's up to him to get the word out.

He's tried all the various marketing methods out there, all to no avail. There are so many dog books vying for the attention of the consumer, it's virtually impossible to get the message out to the masses without the help of major publications.

The Hoefingers came to realize that out the box thinking is needed in order to get some publicity. Based on all the five star reviews, they know the book is good, but what they don't have is the much needed exposure to make it a best-seller like some of the other dog books out there.

The genesis of the 'Pay What You Want' idea is the same business model tried by the highly acclaimed band Radiohead for one of their albums. The Hoefingers thought that was a great idea when they went to market with it, and since it's never been tried by an author decided to give it a shot to bring attention to Bo's book, and help dog rescue groups in the process.

If you want to get a copy, act now, quantities are limited. Just go to the author page at www.badtothebonememoir.com, and use the 'Pay What You Want' tab. Keep in mind, whatever is paid goes to dog rescue, especially the smaller ones who are in desperate need of funding to survive.

Or order a personalized 'pawtographed' copy on his author page for \$15, just click on 'Bo Merchandise.' As a special incentive, if ordered now through December 9th, get a SURPRISE FREEBIE

with purchase. The book is the perfect holiday gift for the dog lovers in your life and you can feel good about the purchase because Bo donates 10% of his proceeds to shelters.

Help save this dog from being buried under a pile of dog books, BUY NOW, then spread the word to all your dog and cat loving friends.

[Back to Contents List](#)

Fill The Bowls

(sung to the tune of Deck the Halls)

Fill our bowls with freeze-dried liver,

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!

Watch our noses start to quiver,

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!

Please add bits of cheese and bacon,

Fa-la-la, Fa-la-la, la-la-la!

Happy wags our tails are makin',

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!

Sniff the gifts and shred the wrapping,

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!

'Round the Christmas tree go FRAPping*

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!

Swipe a slurp of grandma's eggnog

Fa-la-la, Fa-la-la, la-la-la!

Then relax and be a bedhog

Fa-la-la, Fa-la-la, la-la-la!

The Weird & the Wonderful

Dog paddles 4Km out to Sea Lion



A DOG had to be rescued after chasing a sea lion more than four kilometres out to sea in South Australia.

The crossbreed dog, called Westie, was walking with his owner along a beach when he dashed off into the water after the sea lion and refused to come back. Soon the pair were lost from sight over the horizon as the sea lion led the dog further and

further off shore, leaving Westie's owner frantic.

Semaphore Surf Life Saving Club captain Craig Van Tenac was part of the rescue effort. "I'd say it was 4km offshore - that dog swam forever," he said.

Westie was rubbing his nose against the sea lion who was rolling around playfully in the water, he said.

Despite the dog's stamina, Van Tenac doubted Westie, who spent more than an hour in the water, would have made it back to shore. He said the dog's owner was much relieved to have him back safely.

Chihuahua passes test to become a Police Dog

A long-haired Chihuahua will be joining the long arm of the law, having passed a test to become a police dog in Nara Prefecture, it was announced Friday.

Seven-year-old Momo will be involved in search-and-rescue operations in disaster areas, as well as other duties, from January.

"I expect her small size will help her squeeze into areas where larger dogs can't go," an official of the Nara prefectural police said. Momo weighs in at about three kilograms.

According to the police, Momo earned her badge last week by finding a person in a 100-square-meter area within five minutes of gaining a scent from some of their belongings.

The canine cop began training about six years ago, and impressed her handlers with her agility and high degree of intelligence.

[Back to Contents List](#)