



# Tribal Tales



The 2015 Fall Newsletter for the Chief Solano Kennel Club

Between this newsletter and the last there have been many events. Titles, new additions, lost loved ones, happiness and sadness and always the comfort and sharing of friendship.

Linda and Roger not only got Best of Breed on two year old Rusty but then went ahead and got a GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP to boot! Way to Go!

I believe there was a milestone birthday in there also.....

Karen also lost Indy, her much loved sheltie companion of many years.

Christy and Michael were not satisfied having the two cutest long haired Chihuahuas, Shadow and Bijou...EVER....They now have an impossibly adorable little white tornado named Max!

Susan is attempting to breed Kai Lei to a beautiful multi titled sire named Bodie who is noted for his equally titled offsprings. We are awaiting the good news of Thanksgiving puppies.

We voted in some new members recently and we are so happy to welcome Jody, Teresa, Christina and Sara. We know you will enjoy having fun with us this next year.

Be thinking about what to bring for our Christmas party which will be a pot luck held at the Elmira Fire Station.

We'll have a gift exchange too!



**Peder and Charley on a run. Both getting their exercise**



**Linda shares a milestone birthday with friends.  
Happy Birthday Linda!**



**Behold :  
Destiny's Maxine  
You Are The  
Greatest!**



# SOME INTERESTING DOG FACTS AND MYTHS I FOUND SEARCHING THE WEB:

## 1. Dogs are color blind

**The origin:** The basis for this myth is not known.

**The truth:** Dogs do see in color. However, they see differently than most people do and are less able to distinguish between colors. Veterinary ophthalmologists have determined that dogs see like people who have red/green color blindness. Dogs' eyes have receptors for blue and green shades, but not for red shades. As a result, it appears that dogs cannot easily distinguish between yellow, green and red, but they can identify different shades of blue, purple and gray. Color is only one of many visual stimuli that dogs detect in their environment. Brightness, contrast, and especially motion, are extremely important to a dog's interpretation of what it sees.

## 2. A dog's mouth is cleaner than a human's mouth

**The origin:** Dog saliva was once believed to be antiseptic, and some people still believe it has healing properties. The basis for this belief is not known.

**The truth:** A dog's mouth is not "cleaner" than a person's mouth. Dog saliva can be toxic to some bacteria, but it carries its own population of bacteria and other infectious organisms. That

population is just different from the assortment of bacteria and other "germs" in the human mouth, based largely upon differences in diet. There is a reason for the term, "dog breath." People with weakened immune systems and young children probably should not have direct contact with dog or cat saliva.

## 3. One year of a dog's life is equal to 7 years of a human's life

**The origin:** The basis for this myth remains a mystery. It probably comes from simple math: an average life span for dogs is 10 to 12 years, and multiplying this by seven equals 70 to 74 years, roughly the average life span for people today.

**The truth:** Contrary to popular belief, there is no exact formula to gauge how much a dog develops or ages in comparison to so-called "people years." Aging is as individual for dogs as it is for people. Taking a dog's age and multiplying it by 7 is an overly simplistic formula and does not reflect a dog's actual developmental status. A more accurate rough guide is as follows:

- 1-year-old-dog equals a 15-year-old human
- 2-year-old-dog equals a 24-year-old human
- 4-year-old-dog equals a 32-year-old human
- 7-year-old-dog equals a 45-year-old human
- 10-year-old-dog equals a 56-year-old human
- 15-year-old-dog equals a 76-year-old human

20-year-old-dog equals  
a 98-year-old human

Of course, there is a distinct difference in aging between small dogs and giant breed dogs. Large dogs have a significantly shorter life span than do small dogs. Their development in the early years is about the same as other breeds; however, large and giant breed dogs developmentally are much older than smaller breeds in their later years, starting at about 7 years of age. Before, they usually want to learn. Their minds need stimulation, just like ours. With patience, kindness, persistence and consistency, owners can teach their older dogs all sorts of new tricks, such as sit, bark when the doorbell rings, fetch, lie down, roll over, play dead and shake or “high five.” As long as a dog is bright, alert, responsive and healthy, there is no reason that he cannot keep learning new things throughout his life. Dry or warm nose, it means that he has a dry or warm nose. A dry nose or a mildly warm nose has nothing to do with the overall health of a dog.

#### 4. If a dog is wagging its tail, it is happy

**The origin:** Most dogs do wag their tails when they are happy. As a result, people associate a wagging tail with a happy dog.

**The truth:** In many cases, a dog that is wagging its tail is happy, or at least is expressing excitement or pleasure. Tail-wagging certainly does express a strong state of emotion, much like a smile does in

people. However, just like a human smile, a dog’s wagging tail does not necessarily reflect happiness or something positive. Dogs frequently wag their tails when they are agitated, irritated, tense, anxious, annoyed, frightened, angry or aggressive. Interestingly, researchers have found that dogs do not normally wag their tails when they are alone, even if they apparently are happy or are in a pleasant situation. Tail-wagging seems to be a behavior that is reserved for times when the dog is in the company of others.

#### 5. Dogs eat grass to throw up

**The origin:** This myth originates from people observing their dogs eating grass and then vomiting.

**The truth:** There actually appear to be two distinct types of grass-eating behavior in domestic dogs. Some dogs graze casually, taking only a few nibbles of grass at a time, while others chow down on grass vigorously and with a purpose. Dogs who wolf down their grass tend to vomit it (and other stomach contents) within a matter of minutes. Dogs that graze slowly usually do not throw up. So, eating grass does not necessarily mean that a dog has an upset stomach.



## 6. You can't teach an old dog new tricks

**The origin:** This myth probably started with someone who wasn't able to get his older dog to sit, roll over, come or stay. It is one of the most common (albeit false) clichés about domestic dogs.

**The truth:** You can teach an old dog new tricks. Dogs can learn new tricks, skills and commands within their physical capabilities until the day they pass away. What's more, they usually want to learn. Their minds need stimulation, just like ours. With patience, kindness, persistence and consistency, owners can teach their older dogs all sorts of new tricks, such as sit, bark when the doorbell rings, fetch, lie down, roll over, play dead and shake or "high five." As long as a dog is bright, alert, responsive and healthy, there is no reason that he cannot keep learning new things throughout his life.

## AND WHILE WE ARE ON THE SUBJECT.....

### AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

excerpts from an article By: [Samantha Okazaki DVM](#)

We've all heard the adage that old dogs can't learn new tricks, but that doesn't mean their owners can't benefit from studying up on some fresh tips as their pets advance in years.

At age 7, a dog starts to be considered a "senior," and it's important for owners to know how to improve their dog's well-being and cognitive health in their later

years through specialized care and nutrition. If you have decided to adopt a senior dog or currently own one, these seven tips will help you hold back the march of time and make them feel comfortable and as pain-free as possible as they age

**Age is just a number.** Similar to humans, if you don't allow your pets to get overweight or obese and if you keep them active, they can look and act much younger than their true age would suggest.

Don't assume changes or problems are due just to age. Many times a pet owner attribute a decrease in appetite, thirst or activity, changes in personality or bathroom habits, hair loss, weight shifting up or down, or even obvious pain to "**just old age.**" **Warning to all dog owners:** if you see any changes in a senior pet, never assume it's not a medical problem. The culprit may be metabolic problems like diabetes, hyper- or hypothyroidism, or Cushing's or Addison's disease, as well as canine brain aging, arthritis, dental disease and other conditions mistaken for "**just old age**" that, once diagnosed and treated, can return a dog to normal life!

If you are interested in adopting a senior dog Check out [The Grey Muzzle Organization](#), which is dedicated to helping homeless senior dogs.

