

# Tangens Whippets

## Tangens Newsletter, #35

For Tangens Alumni and Friends

January – February, 2015



Illustration by John Cuneo

## Arctic Blast

Some of us are lucky to live in Southern California, but whenever we watch TV news we feel a bit guilty about the cold weather in the rest of the country. They have eight feet of snow in Boston.

I asked Iva Kimmelman in Boston (Merci Isle Whippets) to send me pictures of her puppies in the snow. She wrote back that the puppies don't want to go out, so no pictures. But then there was a temporary relief:



I then asked Maryann Vogelsang, also in Boston, owner of *Tangens Australis* (litter 05) to send me pictures. Well, I got one from last winter, when the weather was not quite as bad. Thanks Maryann!



They have snow also in North Carolina. *Mona* (07) and *Vivaldi* (11) are well dressed but owner Bob Riffle is wearing shorts, so it can't be that bad.



Some living on the East Coast may enjoy the snow from the inside, as *Brand* (07)here. Photo Maureen Little



### **Do you supplement the dogs' food?**

I recently surveyed the members of the San Diego Whippet club about dog supplements. Here are some comments:

A quote from Pamela Higgins: "Dogs, like their Canidae ancestors and relatives are NOT obligate Carnivores (like cats), they are foraging, opportunistic Omnivores (like humans). Dogs will eat just about anything! They are not good judges of what they should or shouldn't eat." Pamela also points out that many dogs may be lactose intolerant, but that feeding small amounts of cheese, and maybe yogurt, may be ok.

Christine DeClerk takes no chances. She feeds all her dogs "Ultimate Vitamin", "Phyto-Flex", and Norwegian Kelp from Natures Farmacy West, plus fish oil and glucosamine/chondroitin sulfate. Her older boys get in addition Coenzyme Q10, thought to promote cognitive function. Christine also gives out "tons of treats", as she does a lot of training for agility and obedience. Her favorite treats are the small "Rollover Rewards" from Three Dog Bakery.

Stephanie Minella also gives a lot of supplements, such as Berte's Daily Blend (vitamins), Get Up & Go (glucosamine etc),

Glycoflex III, fish oil capsules, vitamin E capsules, coconut oil, and turmeric. She gives mostly tiny treats such as Sojos Good Dog treats. When it comes time for nail grinding, some "higher value" treats are required, such as Pampered Pets from Cosco.

Bo Bengtson stresses the importance of fresh water. The Whole Dog Journal suggests the use of bottled water, not tap.

### **Overall Summary:**

Many old Whippets get joint supplements, such as chondroitin sulfate.

Old dogs may also benefit from something for muscle and the heart, such as carnitine and taurine, present in muscle meat, and coenzyme Q10.

Many Whippets get some kind of fish oil. There may not be enough in a manufactured kibble, as it gets rancid with time. And maybe vitamin E may also be supplemented.

Some Whippets get probiotics. A recent discovery in mice, that I am sure applies also to dogs as well as people, showed that offspring inherit the intestinal flora from their mothers. But if the offspring then are separated from their mother and go through intestinal infections, they may lose the healthy maternal flora. Victoria LaGuardia reports that she had a problem with her young Whippet eating poop. Victoria was told by "everyone" that the puppy was missing something, so Victoria tried several different types of food, and the "problem" ultimately went away. Maybe the food contained probiotics, but it is also possible that the puppy ate some healthy poop. My youngest Whippets eat poop from the oldest. We think this is a disgusting habit, but it is actually called "re-population". The young ones get the healthy intestinal bacteria from the older ones, and the whole pack has the same healthy stuff.



When it comes to “treats”, there seem to be a huge selection, and some of you know of “the generous spouse syndrome”, i.e. treats for no reason.

### **Conclusions:**

In principle, all the supplements you may be giving your dogs, should – and might be - present in sufficient quantities in the dog food you feed. Of course, it may not hurt to increase the quantities a bit. Just don't overdo it.

Some years ago, I heard a presentation by Hills Science Diet on it's new “brain diet”. They no longer call it “brain diet” but it is still called Science Diet B/D. The brain diet contained a supplement not present in their regular food. One group of Beagles was fed “regular” kibble, and another group was fed kibble with the supplement. The Beagles fed regular food developed dementia with old age; the Beagles fed food with the supplement didn't. So did the supplement cure dementia? I don't think so! I concluded that the regular food was simply deficient in essential nutrients and therefore contributed to dementia. If you look up the list of ingredients in the Science Diet B/D, you may not be impressed.

### **Breast Cancer awareness**

*Bobbie* (09) snuggling his pink bunny to show his support & raise breast cancer awareness, while his owner Debra Stafford is being treated.



### **“Riding shotgun! Looking for squirrels”**

We end on a warm and sunny note with a picture of *Dinah* (07) in the passenger seat of owner Rosanna Sutton's car in Weed, California.



### **Sleeping with the cat**

From Mel Marx: “Given the shame of sleeping with both arms around the cat, *Tiger* (07) felt it best to keep his head buried under the blankets”



I welcome all info from you about your Whippets.

[Eva@tangenswhippets.com](mailto:Eva@tangenswhippets.com)

858-232-7692