

Tangens Whippets

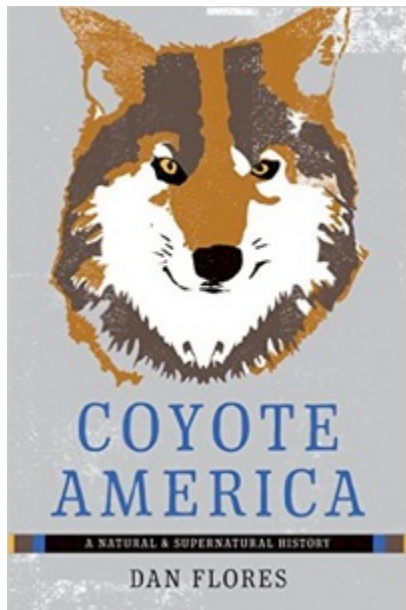
Newsletter #47
January – February 2017
For Tangens alumni and friends

Coyote and dog attacks. I wrote about this in newsletters #31 and #32 in 2014. Since then I always walk dogs with stones in my back pack. I have not had to use the stones on coyotes since then, but I have used the stones a couple of times on approaching off-leash dogs, when yelling didn't work (never hit one of course). No matter how "friendly" the owners claim the dogs are, they create a big problem if coming up to my pack, where all are on leash. Alex Carswell, owner of "Joey" (litter 08) recommended in #32 using a collapsible baton. I bought one, but I didn't really manage it well enough.

Recently, Joan Pleasant, owner of "Juju" (litter 09) wrote to recommend the Falcon Signal Horn Super Sound; lightweight, small, inexpensive, and can be attached to your belt or back pack. I will definitely buy one to try.

An air horn like this can also be useful in other situations, including emergencies.

I wonder though how the dogs you are trying to protect react to the super sound. I heard that it can be used to break up dog fights. Whippets in general don't seem to be too sensitive to sounds, so hopefully they don't get too scared if you use it for coyote attacks.



On the topic of coyotes: I recently went to a presentation and book signing by the author of the book Coyote America. Coyotes are beautiful and interesting, even though they are also a nuisance. In the early text books about the evolutionary origin of dogs, the coyotes are far back, and the wolves are much more closely related. However, this is now being somewhat modified by DNA evidence. First, it is a fact that coyotes (*Canis latrans*), wolves (*Canis lupus*) and dogs (*Canis familiaris*) are still one species, as they can interbreed to produce coywolf, coydog, doyote, woyote, etc. In fact, it was recently realized that some of the wolves previously considered endangered are actually wolf-coyote hybrids with a little bit of dog in them – and by virtue of the mixture, the "endangered" wolves are doing much better!

Spring is coming! Get ready to protect your Whippets from ticks, fleas, and worms!

This newsletter's promotion of tooth care is from the Whole dog journal, November 2016.

Under letters from readers is this advice: "put the dog tooth brush in coconut oil! About a year ago, I started using it to brush my dog's teeth. Every night for the past year, our 2-year old dog Lila will come to me and paw my leg while staring straight into my eyes, about an hour after her dinner meal. She will not leave me alone until I say: 'ready for you teeth to be brushed?' Coconut oil makes a terrific toothpaste for dogs, and it tastes so good that it reinforces the behavior very nicely. Smart! Try it!"



Dog Show in Del Mar, February 25-26, 2017. The Silver Bay dog club organizes a big show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds every year in February. Competitions include conformation, obedience, and agility. And then there are lots of vendors selling everything dog related. The show is very well attended, and the "Meet The Breed" booths are an opportunity to inform the public about the different breeds. The one presenting Whippets showed photos of all the things Whippets can do. The posters were put together by Jennifer Keir, owner of "Riley" (litter 05) and his daughter "Star" (litter 09), and they all participated on Sunday. The photo shows Debra



Stafford with "Bob" (Riley's son and Star's brother) on Saturday; in the center is our little Swedish puppy "Lezah".

Lezah was shown in conformation (by me), but didn't win. We are still "practicing", and we have fun doing it.

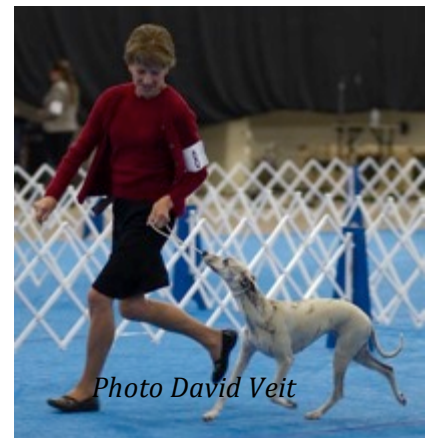
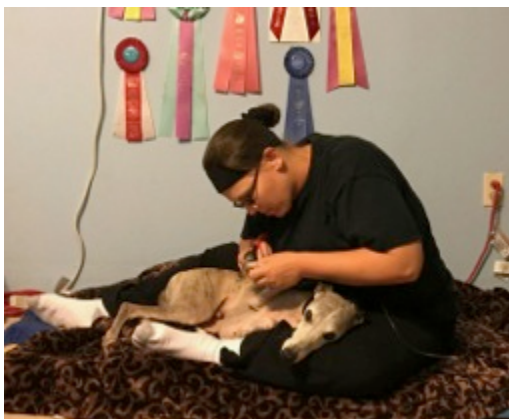


Photo David Veit

Heart testing: David Klang is a heart specialist with over 30 years of experience in taking echocardiograms on people. For about 20 years he has been translating this experience to dogs. He comes to many California dog shows to check out the heart function on dogs. Many dog breeds have genetic heart diseases. In the Whippet breed we have a fairly late onset and slowly progressing heart disease caused by leaky heart valves. It is very important to monitor breeding animals so that this problem is not expanded.

David was present at the Del Mar show, and we took advantage of this to test some of our Tangens offspring. Here is David taking an echo on "Bob" (Tangens Take Me To The Moon, litter 09), and owner Debra Stafford gives the kids, Jared and Kylie Secker, a lecture on heart function while they are watching the heart monitoring on the computer. – And yes, Bob has a perfect heart!



And finally, from Jennifer Keir on **nail trimming**:
"Because of my visual impairment I must hold their paws very close to my face to Dremmel the nails. *Riley* and *Star* are very patient with me and have learned to lay comfortably in my lap so I can take my time while their nails are being trimmed."

Eva Engvall, Tangens Whippets
www.tangenshounds.com
858-232-7692