

# Tangens Whippets

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for Tangens alumni and friends

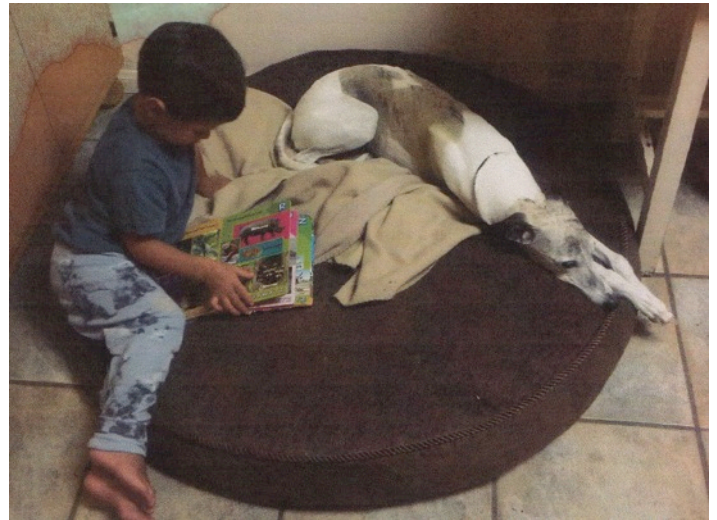
## Happy Holidays!

*Keep your Whippets happy and safe!*



My favorite cartoons are by Maria Scrivan. Her cartoons are often about dogs. You can look her up on the internet: <http://www.mariascrivan.com>

The sweetest picture comes from Betsy Thies, owner of "Meg" (litter 05)  
The young man reads  
*a bedtime story to Meg*



From Maureen Littell, owner of "Brand" (07)

Maureen, Jeff, and Meg  
Galino, Brand, and Shea

*Dressed up for the Holidays!*



## Presenting Jennifer Keir, Chaprun Hounds

*This story was originally written for the SD Whippet club newsletter. Jennifer has been involved in all sorts of Whippet activities. She also has a very interesting "Day Job". Jennifer was asked to describe her life with Whippets*

**My beginning in dogs:** I believe I got my love for animals from my father. If it were not for my mother's practicality we would have been overrun with pets. We have shared our home with many birds, rabbits, and hamsters before dogs.

I had always wanted a large dog. While at an adoption event I met some Greyhounds and immediately fell in love. I really wanted to start with a puppy, so I found a breeder in Colorado, who was expecting a litter. When the puppies were ready, my dad drove us to Denver to pick up "Jack". Jack was a very special dog, a once in a lifetime dog, a life changing dog.



I didn't know what I had gotten myself into - he was so naughty! I didn't realize how much exercise and stimulation a large puppy would need. So Jack and I took several puppy and basic obedience classes. By the time he was six months old he had completed an advanced obedience class and had earned his 'Canine Good Citizen' title.

Jack did so much for me. I was born legally blind. I was shy when meeting new people and I was afraid of new situations. I was also afraid of doing things by myself, but having Jack by my side made things so much easier. I was able to break out of my shell and out of my comfort zones.

**My professional work with dogs:** While looking through the Yellow Pages in hopes of finding more obedience classes for Jack I came across an ad for a boarding kennel that would soon be opening. I applied for a job there and was hired.

After working at the kennel for about a year the facility signed a contract with the federal government to house 30 of their working dogs. Five years later the government built a facility to house all of the dogs. In 2008 I applied and was hired as an Animal Caretaker for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection canines through the Department of Homeland Security. I have been working there for eight years.

The facility can house 80 dogs, but currently we have about 60. The majority of the dogs are German shepherds and Belgian Mallinois. We also have a few Dutch shepherds and a few Labradors.



*From the CBP web site: The CBP Canine Program is critical to the mission of the Department of Homeland Security: "To Protect the Homeland." The primary goal of the CBP Canine Program is terrorist detection and apprehension. The working CBP canine team has become the best tool available to detect and apprehend persons attempting entry to organize, incite, and carry out acts of terrorism. The Canine Program's secondary goal is detection and seizure of controlled substances and other contraband, often used to finance terrorist and/or criminal drug trafficking organizations. Additionally, CBP canine teams assist local law enforcement agencies when requested.*





Each dog has an officer (handler) that is assigned to them. The handlers pick up the dogs from the kennel facility and report to duty at different locations. The dogs primarily work at the San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, and Tecate ports of entry from Mexico into the United States. They also work at the Otay Mesa cargo facility, inspecting large shipment loads in semi-trucks. Though the dogs mainly search cars coming into the country, they also search trains, cruise ships, passengers and luggage from international flights at the airport, and pedestrian traffic at the ports of entry.

The dogs are trained to detect marijuana, methamphetamines, cocaine, heroin, and ecstasy. They also alert to concealed bodies. When the dog alerts to an odor they are rewarded with a toy. The handler throws the toy at the area that the dog had pin pointed which leads the dog to believe that the toy comes out of the spot with the odor. The handler then plays with the dog and toy, and the dogs LOVE IT! The dogs must have a high drive to want to work so hard for that toy.

We also have a currency/fire arms program. These dogs mainly search the outbound traffic heading into Mexico. The dogs are trained to detect the odor of ammunition and large sums of money that could be going to fund the drug cartels in Mexico. Our labradors make up an agriculture program. They search cars, luggage, and people to find certain produce and meats that are not allowed to come across the border.

My job is to provide general care to all of these amazing dogs. I feed and medicate them, clean and sanitize their kennels, groom them, and exercise them on their days off.

Though I love the dogs at work, I love even more to go home and spend time with my beautiful whippets!



***And then I discovered Whippets:*** While I was working at the boarding kennel we had a time where we were fully booked and a client was in a bind. I ended up dog sitting her whippet at my house for a few days and we fell in love with him. He was the first whippet I had known. Eventually we decided to get a whippet as a companion for us and for Jack. I was dead set on a small, dark brindle, female whippet. I was going to take my time looking until I found exactly what I wanted. The first litter we went to see belonged to Eva Engvall (Tangens Hounds). My goal of finding 'my perfect whippet' was thrown out the window when we met five week old Riley- the largest, light fawn brindle, male whippet puppy. After a brief discussion we called Eva from the car before we even got home to let her know that we really, really wanted Riley. I am so grateful that we were able to bring him home a few weeks later.

Riley has always had an old soul. He was calm, confident, and gentle, but the first time I took him to race practice at five months old IT BEGAN! He was insane! He was very keen, and very fast! Soon after Riley turned a year old we took him to a lure coursing event. It didn't take long before my dad, myself, and of course the dogs, were hooked. All of my dogs have enjoyed lure coursing, straight racing, and oval track racing. Riley was my superstar finishing his AKC lure coursing Field Championship with a Best in Field win.





We soon added another whippet to our family. Hank was from Kamio whippets. He did very well in both the show ring and on the lure coursing field. He was the first male dual champion whippet to earn a grand championship.



In 2005 Eva chose Riley to breed to her beautiful Laika (Plumcreek HW Across The Moon). Ten puppies were born, five boys and five girls. And there she was - 'Star', my small, dark brindle, female whippet. She is so much more special since she is the daughter of our beloved Riley..



My dad has driven the whippets and I thousands of miles to dog shows and lure coursing events. Without my dad I could not have participated in these events. A simple 'Thank You' to him is just not sufficient.



*Check out Chaprun on Youtube for several wonderful movies*

***Thanks to all of you for staying in touch!***

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