

The Nugget

Gold Rush Champions

Volume 1 | Issue 1 | March / April 2011



Snow Day 2011



First Snow for Yashira! (Keara x Hickman)
PR: Robyn & Warren Strand

New Beginnings

There are so many new things going on here in the GRC. We pay tribute to the years of hard work and care that went into the Nugget by dusting it off and bringing it to you in a new format. We will also have companion stories on our website, and even more pictures than we can put in one issue.

Since the last Nugget we have a new website that helps keep us informed through new features such as a great new training calendar and informative events pages, all with an interactive mapping feature. We also now have a convenient way to sign up for volunteer opportunities online with the ability to see who else has volunteered. Be sure to read our story on other features of the website you might not be familiar with (page 2).

The GRC is also overflowing with new puppies courtesy of our breeder caretakers, and new puppy raisers. Check out some of

their pictures and a series of stories about being a new breeder caretaker.

We hope that you enjoy the Nugget. We plan on having a variety of stories each issue as well as regular columns. Some of our planned columns are puppy outing ideas, toy reviews, as well as stories about our volunteers and graduates. We plan to put an issue out every other month, with regular web updates.

Our goal is to celebrate the accomplishments of our chapter, provide useful information, and share our CCI stories. Please send us your stories, photographs, and ideas for future features. We will use as many of your ideas as possible.

Our next issue will be a special travel issue. Send us your puppy travel stories, suggestions for smooth trips, and of course pictures! Send your thoughts to newsletter@ccigr.org.

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The Gold Rush Champions (GRC) is an all-volunteer chapter of Canine Companions for Independence®, serving the greater Sacramento Valley and Reno Tahoe Area. Canine Companions provides highly trained assistance dogs for children and adults with disabilities, free of charge. Visit our website to learn more about the Gold Rush Champions at www.ccigr.org. If you are interested in applying for a service dog, making a donation, or volunteering for Canine Companions, visit the CCI website at www.cci.org or call 1-800-572-BARK or 1-800-572-2275.

New Outing Ideas

River City Furniture Auction

The River City Furniture Auction is held every Friday Night in a nondescript warehouse on South Watt Avenue. I had never been there before nor was I in need of furniture, but decided to tag along with a friend with my pup in training in tow.

We got there after the auction was well underway. It is a bit loud inside as you would imagine, with the auctioneer calling out bids, and lots of people bidding. However, it wasn't overwhelming for my seven month old pup. In the front is a section of folding chairs that are very tightly spaced together - making for a great under opportunity; with standing room only in the back. We met some friends there so we were able to get a good spot - be early to ensure a seat.

The auction itself is quite entertaining and if you do need furniture we saw a number of interesting and useful items. all which went for great prices. We were welcomed in, no issues bringing the pup. As usual we got the "I didn't know there was a dog in there" gasps as we left.

Staff are constantly moving around, carrying in large pieces of furniture to be bid on. The auctioneer has quite a bit of light hearted exchanges with the audience. All in all something new and different for my pup. It can be chilly, despite the heaters - dress warm!

Where: River City Furniture Auction
5400 South Watt Avenue,
Sacramento, CA 95826
www.rivercityfurnitureauction.com

When: Friday Nights 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Pup Experience: Very very, tight unders, lots of people, loud (but friendly) voices, sounds of furniture and equipment being moved.

What is SGMP??

You may have seen e-mails lately about demos with SGMP or the Society of Government Meeting Professionals. They are a professional organization of individuals who are involved in the planning of meetings and the companies who provide facilities.

For the first quarter of 2011 SGMP selected Canine Companions as their charity. In February we were invited to attend their trade show at the Double Tree Hotel, which was well attended by their membership. We also attended one of their monthly membership meetings in Folsom. We were able to speak to the membership about CCI, as well as introduce them to breeder, facility dog, and pups in training. Ten-week-old Yashira stole the show.

CCI survives solely on the donations and fiscal support from individuals and organizations like SGMP. The GRC's participation at demonstrations and events like these are not only good socialization opportunities for our pups, but help get the CCI word out. Sign up for a demo today!

Upset Tummy?



Lacinda (Mackenzie x Paxton) lives with as CCI Volunteers, but upset tummies (and the results of an upset tummy) seems to be a hot topic.

Apparently pumpkin may be good for what ails a pup. A teaspoon in with their food can help things move along when they are backed up, and slow them down when they need to be slowed down.

Remember to always consult with your Puppy Program Manager before changing food, and check with your Vet if pumpkin is right for your pup.

Puppy Raisers Needed!

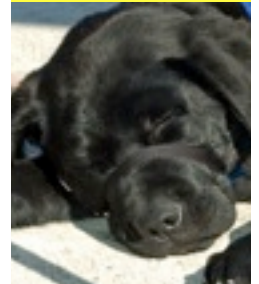
As you have probably read in the Yahoo group lists there has been a little puppy boom here at CCI. Volunteers are the life blood of CCI and are always in demand. Right now though we need to step up our puppy raiser recruitment!

If you know someone who is a good candidate to be a puppy raiser, invite them to a class, graduation, or GRC event. There is nothing like first hand experience to win them over. Right now is an especially good time to visit classes, demos, and events as we have lots of new puppies. (So many that Carly had to make two KPT Classes!)

Visit the Dog House

The doghouse on the GRC website is a great place to visit. Larivee (Linar x Terrell)
PR: Teresa Hart

This GRC members-only area has a wealth of information, here is a brief tour:



Members List: This has the contact information of our members. It is never shared with people other than

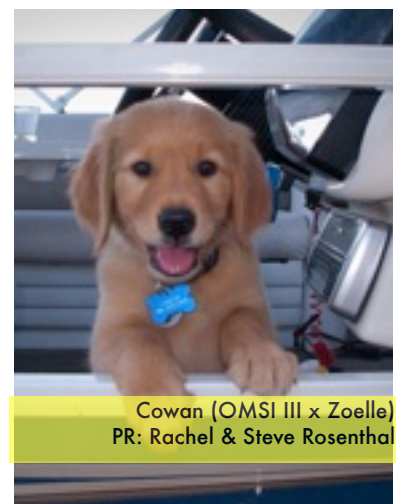
GRC members and truly comes in handy when you are trying to reach someone in the group.

Dogs List: This is the list of the GRC dogs and their status and/or designation. Please be sure to keep your dog(s) updated through your profile page.

Dog Photos: This is still under construction, to see photos taken at a number of events by some of the GRC's great photographers check out the Heart Warmers menu.

Profile: Keep your profile updated with your information and information on your pups. Including uploading their photos. This is a great place to keep all of the important information on your many CCI dogs, including photos.

Stay tuned to find out more about forums!



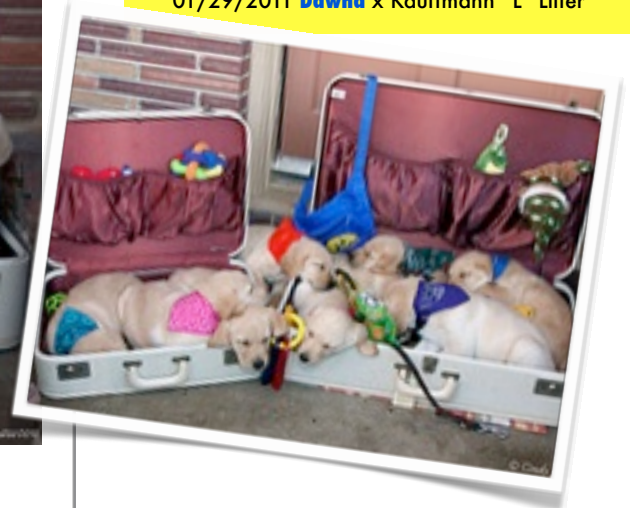
Cowan (OMSI III x Zoelle)
PR: Rachel & Steve Rosenthal



Omeeka's Sweet "P" Litter Sire: Camden

New GRC 2011 Litters

01/04/2011 Ina x Paxton "D" Litter
 01/11/2011 Isabel x Saris "F" Litter
 01/29/2011 Dawna x Kauffmann "L" Litter



Tails from the Trenches

Musings of first-time breeder caretakers

By Irina Green & Rick Spicer

If you have ever turned in a puppy to CCI you may know how your heart races and your stomach turns itself inside out when the phone rings and you see the area code "707." It was just one of those phone calls that made this article possible, please enjoy the first of a three-part series on being first time breeder caretakers from Irina Green and Rick Spicer. (Note from editor: I received very sage advice from a longtime puppy raiser - program Lorna AND Esther into your phone so you know who it is when the 707 comes calling!)

It was April 13th when the phone rang and caller ID showed 707. Since our third CCI puppy, Ina III, had gone into Advanced Training on February 12th, Irina was fairly certain we would be making a trip to Santa Rosa to pick up our just-released Fuzz Bucket. Irina answered with a knot in her stomach, but all of her fears vanished when she heard the National Breeding Program Manager Esther Molina's voice. Esther gave us the great news that Ina had been selected to be a breeder for CCI. Irina's response was so enthusiastic that we were sure it took several hours for Esther to regain her hearing! After raising two primarily Yellow Lab crosses, Irina had wanted "someone fluffy." On Halloween 2008, we picked up Ina (aka Fuzz Bucket), and were happy to have her home, but proud she was going to be a breeder. Several months prior to turn-in, because of her personality, energy and desire to work, Irina started saying "Wouldn't it be great if they

selected Ina as a breeder?" Dreams DO come true!

As fate would have it, Ina had just finished a heat cycle about one week before Irina received the call from Esther. Apparently she was eager to do her new job from the get-go. Jamie Toliver, Ina's trainer, noted towards the end of her stay Ina would come back in from her exercise and training times, find the "intact" male kennels, and back up to the kennel doors, wiggling that fluffy butt of hers in the males' faces! Jamie's observation was "What a floozy!" we just think she was eager to get started in her new career.

Because of the timing of Ina's heat cycle and Esther's call, we had time through the summer months to study, visit with other breeder caretakers and get all of our supplies, plans and lists together and in place. Thanks specifically to Kathy Albrecht and Jan Thornburg for providing material support and Pam Flanagan, Patty Daniel, and Matt Beymer and Mary Roseberry for their words of advice and moral support. In addition, the support and interest of our GRC Family really helped us prepare for "The Event."

The day finally rolled around last October, when Ina was ready to head out to the Spa at CCI Santa Rosa, and have not one but two dates with Paxton II. Of course, Dr. Ruth's observation was "Ina certainly enjoyed the process!" There was still a need to confirm a pregnancy, and Dr. Ruth commented that one of the clear signs of pregnancy would be an increased appetite by Ina. Anyone who knows Ina well can tell you, that's not a clue in this case - she'd eat 24/7 if allowed.

Now, with a projected whelping date of January 4th or 5th, we waited. On December 3rd we drove Ina back up to the Vet Clinic at CCI and Dr. Ruth confirmed with an ultrasound that Ina was, indeed "with

puppies" and she pointed out five of them which were easily discernible and noted that there were in all probability several more which couldn't be seen on the ultrasound for any number of reasons. Way cool! On Tuesday evening, December 28th, Mo Nard performed an x-ray on Ina to confirm the number of puppies and the results clearly showed six. We were now ready to start 2011 off with an incredible "bang!" Patty Daniel, who lives less than 10 minutes from us, and Mary Roseberry had volunteered to be on "stand-by" and respond if we needed help - or "back-up", as we would say in my working days.

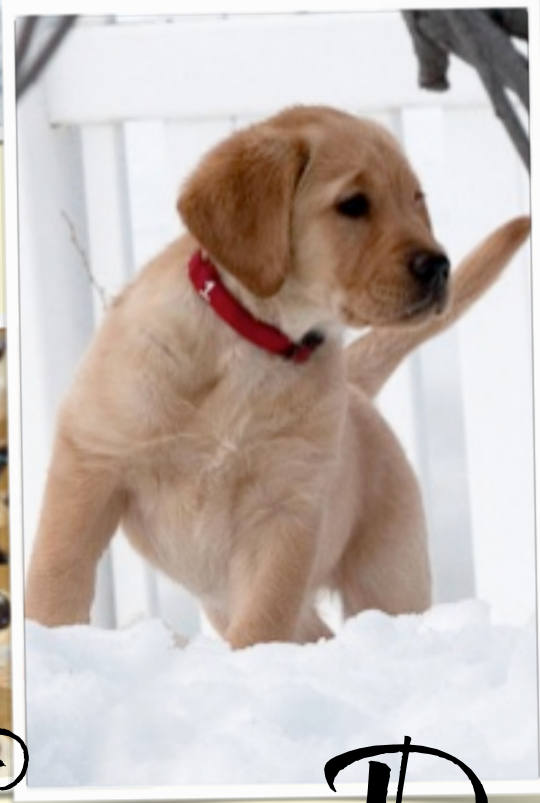
Next Issue: The Little Fuzz Buckets Arrive!

Next Issue

Next issue will be about traveling with our pups, great places to visit, travel tips, and of course great pics from you our readers. Tell us where your pups like to visit, your secret hurry places, and sage travel advice.

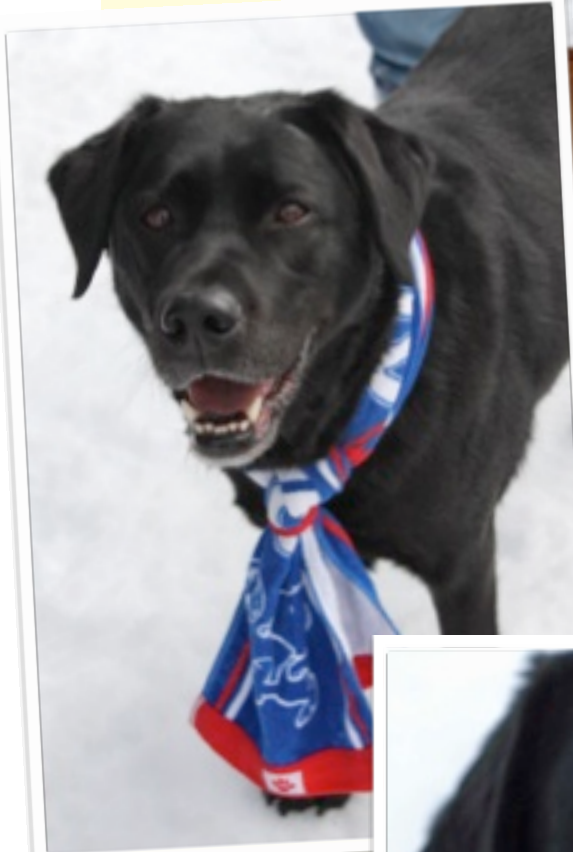
Send your travel tips, tricks, and pics to newsletter@ccigr.org.





Snow Day 2011







Save These Dates!

Canine Companions depends on volunteers to get the word out to reach graduates and potential volunteers. Join us at these upcoming events to get the CCI word out, as well as take advantage of a great way to socialize your pup.

New events will be added and existing events updated as more information becomes available. Check the GRC website for the most up to date information, and sign up today! www.ccigrc.org

April

14

Disability Awareness Day
Sacramento City College

16

UC Davis Picnic Day
Parade and Information Booth

Cycle for Sight
Napa

May

1

Lodi Street Faire

7

K9 Cancer Walk Elk Grove

12

Franchise Tax Board Wellness
Fair

13

Graduation & Puppy
Matriculation
Center for Spiritual Living

June

2

California State Department of
Health Care Services -
Resource Fair

10-12

Dog Expo at Horse Expo
Cal Expo

18

Pet-A-Palooza
Rusch Park (Citrus Heights)

GRC Pups Currently In Advanced Training

Bev
Brumley
Cowan
Ellen
Esmene
Galvin
Gage II
Halsey

Hettie
Kazdin
Lavender
Milano
Nesta
Olaf II
Olina
Oleta

Purdy
Ruel
Rutherford
Taye
Tessa VI
Timberly
Tina IV
Torey

Tutti
Simone II
Skye
Summerlee
Wizard II

This list is complete to the best of our knowledge at the time this issue was published. Things change quickly at Advanced Training, if your dog's status has changed let us know!

What is LPCCI?

LPCCI is the Lions Project for Canine Companions for Independence. To get the whole story though we should start by talking about Lions Clubs International. The Lions Clubs International is a service club organization that was formed in 1917. The current membership is 1.3 million strong in 45,000 clubs across 206 countries. While Lions Clubs support many local programs for youth, and the elderly; Lions are probably best known for their efforts to promote sight conservation.

LPCCI is committed to "creating awareness and providing support for Canine Companions for Independence." LPCCI accomplishes this by educating the community about CCI's services, fund raising, and encouraging people to become CCI volunteers. Individual Lions and Lions Clubs have been assisting CCI since the

early 1970s, when in 1983, LPCCI (A Lions Foundation) became a 501 (c) (3) organization. LPCCI volunteers are Lions Club members. (LPCCI does have one paid administrator located in Santa Rosa.) LPCCI has donated more than 2.5 million dollars to CCI.

LPCCI volunteers hold positions as board members, area directors, and trustees. They all make presentations to various Lions Club meetings, from individual clubs to state and international conventions. One goal is to have the clubs become "Member Clubs" with a pledge of annual donations based on the size of the club. Currently, 1,035 clubs are "Member Clubs". LPCCI also has created opportunities for donations with corresponding awards from a \$100 Abdul Award to a \$25,000 Regional Follow-up Support Sponsorship. All of these donations

are given to CCI on a quarterly basis. LPCCI also offers "Life and Family Life Memberships" for \$300 and \$500 respectively. These donations are "restricted funds" which are permanently invested with the earnings donated to CCI.

I think you can see that the CCI chapters (Ellie, my pup in training, says that being part of the GRC is the best!) and LPCCI have much in common. The greatest attribute we have in common is that the puppy raisers in GRC and other chapters are extremely generous dedicated people, as are the LPCCI volunteers. The local LPCCI volunteers are quite active and are the sponsor's of the LPCCI Crab Feast! This year we had another successful event.

5 Questions: Carly Fermer

(The GRC Contract Trainer)

What are you a stickler for?

Position!!! I almost never pick on first time puppy raisers, but I will always call you out about not having your dogs in the proper position.

How did you become involved in CCI?

I started as a puppy raiser in 1999

How many CCI pups have you raised?

I have raised 7 dogs for CCI.

Margarett III- COC and agility champ

Nantuket- Breeder
Neon- COC and pet therapy dog
Olivia- Hearing Dog
Rock- Service Dog
Islyn- Service Dog
Hajik- Skilled Companion

What is your favorite food?

Chocolate...anything dark chocolate!

What would we be surprised most to know about you?

I raised Llamas in Oregon while in junior high and high school, and trained them for packing and confirmation. I also showed them every summer at the county and state fair.

Welcome! New GRC 2011 Puppies

Blizzard	(Ruta/Saris)	PR: Judy & Hailey Reeve
Carlene	(Darlan/Terrell)	PR: Elizabeth Garigner & Emma Rose Smith
Dovela	(Ina III/ Paxton)	PR: Mary Lyn Kagen
Dreya	(Ina II/Paxton)	PR: Anna and Bob Moger
Fielding	(Isabell II/Saris)	PR Julie Aurrecoecheg
Geneva IV	(Jolee/Hickman)	PR: Mary Jo Colletti & Barbara Jicha
Odera	(Caro/Blaze III)	PR Lloyd Price
Picabo	(Omeeka/Camden II)	PR: Cindy Lawton
Rula	(Ruthie IV/Gulliver II)	PR: Bonnie Beckett
Tairiq	(Bryar/Alvin II)	PR: Jodi Adkins & Jinny
Yalu	(Keara/Hickman)	PR: Barbara O'Flaherty-Monsma
Yashira	(Keara/Hickman)	PR: Robyn & Warren Strand

Bon Voyage!

The May graduation will be extra special for the GRC as two of our own head out to attend team training. If you haven't been to a graduation in a while, bring a friend and cheer on the GRC. Best wishes and good luck Linda and Tiffany! They will be departing for team training in May!

Linda Zisko is the director of the Chateau at Carmichael Park Memory Day Care. You probably know her as Linda Z, puppy raiser to Seven. Linda paved the way at Chateau for a facility dog while raising Seven. With Seven at Chateau it was easy to see how a facility dog would complement Linda's work and be an asset to the Center.

Seven worked and interacted well with the Chateau's participants, and created a non-threatening loving bond with many of them. Linda expects that a facility dog will be a comfort to agitated or anxious clients, reducing use of medications to control behaviors. The dog will also give clients purpose in attending the center, as they will become "the keeper of the dog" for a day. Their primary task will be to make sure she/he gets petted, groomed, walked, and loved throughout the day. Linda thinks that the opportunity to have a fully trained dog in the center is not only a privilege; it is an honor!

In 1998 Tiffany had an accident while hiking in Quincy, California which left her a quadriplegic. While in the hospital she met her

first CCI graduate service dog and facility team. She immediately started doing the paper work to receive her own service dog.

Two years later, she went to team training and was paired up with Tristan, raised by Patty & Scott Minaker from Santa Rosa. Tristan was born on March 31st which was the same month and year as Tiffany's accident. So, the same two years that she was anxiously awaiting a service dog, Tristan was working hard to become one. They had been a great team for nine years and enjoyed another year of retirement together. They had many adventures but at the end Tristan had difficulty walking and suffered from neurological issues. He is now waiting for Tiffany across the rainbow bridge.

In April 2010, Tiffany submitted an application for a successor service dog. Her goal was to make the May 2011 team training, and got a call almost a year from when she applied. She got the call from Lauren on March 1, 2011 that she was invited to the May team training. We hardly think it was a coincidence that Lauren called on the same day as Tiffany's accident, only 13 years later. Tiffany is a firm believer that things happen for a reason and now can't wait for team training to meet her new successor dog!

Just in - another future GRC'er has been identified! We were excited to meet Chandler and his parents who will be graduating in May and in turn become part of the GRC family. They attended the Access to Care Fair this March at Bayside Church and happened upon the CCI Booth and shared the great news. Welcome!

Flying Squirrels !?!

In the fabulous new puppy raiser manual there are lots of great toys safe for CCI dogs. One of them is the Flying Squirrel, which was also introduced at the Santa Rosa puppy clinic last fall. Send us your reviews or toy suggestions to: newsletter@ccigrc.org

It is a bird, a plane...



The Flying Squirrel is similar to a frisbee in that it is tossed across a yard, but that is where the similarities end. Made of rugged nylon stretched on a frame that raises it off the ground. This makes it

easy for pups of all ages to grab it while working on fetch. For the water dogs among us, it floats for hours of retrieving fun. It is available in several sizes and bright colors to fit your pup.

Training Tool Too!

Pair two Squirrels for a good fetch workout. Throw one squirrel, recall your dog, practice drop and immediately toss the second squirrel. As the "feet" are a rubbery covering these are good textures for your pup to start gripping.

Overall Rating

Our testers loved the Squirrel, and kept coming back for more. They can be found online for \$7 - \$9. They are not a chew toy though and shouldn't be left out, hard core chewers can make short work of a squirrel.