

PROLOGUE

August. The last official month of winter. And the coldest month of the year – if we're to go on past experience. But with spring on the not-too-distant horizon, things are looking up for the many mutts at African Tails. And while we wait for that welcome thaw to begin, we've got plenty of heart-warming stories for you and your hounds to huddle around.

We've also got a few exciting updates, from the usual happy endings and homeseeking hounds to our gorgeous canine calendar under construction. Then there's the next mass sterilisation campaign, where we hope to see you all in force – we really need all paws on deck! But enough random mutt-ering – there's lots of important stuff to bark about, so grab a hot chocolate and a dog biscuit or two, and enjoy our latest news...

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Meet some of our latest rescues, and the loving family homes they've found...

1. The many stars of the Milky way

Milky and her five completely cuddly puppies were rescued from Joe Slovo in early July. The puppies were only four weeks old, but you could already see they were going to be heart-brakkers (just like their mom). In no time, they stole the heart of their wonderful foster, who has decided to keep Milky (now Molly) and one of her pups. All but one of the other siblings have found wonderful, cushy homes (call us if your interested in the last little girl), where they can have as much milk and cookies (well, of the dog variety) as they like!



Milky AKA Molly the mum



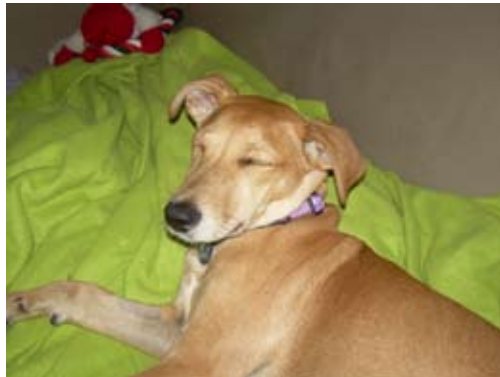
Seriously, wouldn't you want to take all these guys home??

2. Sweet dreams are made of these

Kingston and his sweet sister Cindy didn't start off well. Born into a life of abuse and neglect, they were terrified of human contact when we found them, at about 5 months old in Joe Slovo. So terrified that on the first day, we couldn't even catch Kingston, and were forced to leave him behind. Cindy spent that first night on her own in foster care, but we couldn't forget about her abandoned brother, and they were reunited the next day – and boy, was she happy to see him! Today, they have both found wonderful homes, where Cindy has an 3-year-old human sister, and Kingston's new best friend is a cat!



Kingston dreams of his new life



Cindy can finally doze off in peace

3. Orphans find new parents

Remember the six little orphans that were rescued at just 10 days old? Well, you'll be please to know that they have grown in (literally) leaps and bounds, thanks to the wonderful fosters who hand-reared them. And while they were at it, they leapt and bounded into the hearts of their loving new moms and dads – who will make 100% sure that these babies will never be abandoned again.



Aren't we just the most adorable things you have, like, ever seen?

4. Country road took me home...

Toby – last month's sweet little gentleman looking for the perfect retirement home – will be searching for his sweet spot in the sun no longer. Why? Because he found the sweetest spot on earth, on a spacious small-holding in the sunny countryside, with three other African Tails graduates to share every beautiful day. Which just goes to show: you're never too old to get a second chance...



Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

5. The jungle brak

Roxy was rescued from Du Noon last year, when we found her and her 4-week-old siblings in a damp, sandy hole that threatened to collapse and bury them alive. With her adorable face and gentle nature, she soon found herself a wonderful home – only to get lost at six months old while taking an afternoon walk in the Glen forest! Her owners spent many worried days roaming the woods, and on the sixth day, they found her. And it's lucky they did – she was a natural model at our recent 2010 African Tails calendar shoot!



Roxy a few days after she was rescued from Du Noon



Roxy now, at the 2010 African Tails calendar shoot!

6. Raisin finds her Peanut

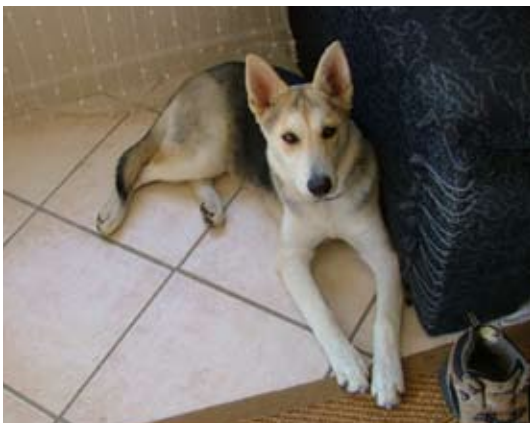
Little Raisin was being sold on the main road that runs through Du Noon, and someone rescued her and brought her in to us. But we didn't have her for very long – with her pretty pint-sized face and lovable nature, she was whisked off to a wonderful home, to join her new adopted canine brother, Peanut. Now that's what we call the perfect trail mix!



Bet you didn't know a Raisin could be this cute...

7. Lost and found – through African Tails!

About a month ago, we got a desperate call about a lost young husky called Misty. Her owners lived near Du Noon, and were absolutely heartbroken to lose their precious canine child. They asked us to please keep a lookout for her, and they sent us a photo for our website. A week or so later, we got a call from a lady in Du Noon, who had found a dog wandering through the streets. She sent us a photo and – you guessed it – it was Misty! By that evening, overjoyed owner and dog were reunited, and the two will never be parted again.



The photo we received from Misty's distraught owners



The photo we received from the lady in Du Noon!

8. Love Mia do

Mia has been on this newsletter for many, many months. But until now, she has always been in the Home-seeking Hounds section. But this month, we have the true pleasure of being able to put her in the Happy Homings section. Why? Because this lovely little 1-year-old has finally found the loving home she has been dreaming of. Those beautiful yellow eyes need search no longer, and we know she'll live happily ever after.



Sweet dreams, Mia...

9. Maxi-mum impact

Little Maxi was rescued from Du Noon last year, along with her 9 other seven-week-old siblings. Being a super-cute and playful bunch, all the puppies soon found wonderful homes, but Maxi really landed the jackpot. While accompanying her foster folk on a weekend getaway to Napier, she scored herself a rambling country home, where she now spends every day exploring the garden and every night cuddled up with her new mom.



mini-Maxi



maxi-Maxi

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1. Just arrived: Cute collie crosses!

Last week, we took in five absolutely adorable – albeit a little thin – collie cross puppies. One has already found a loving new home, but her two brothers and two sisters are fattening up and are now patiently waiting for new mums and dads to call their own. They are about 7 weeks old, very sweet and playful, and they have been vaccinated, dewormed, deflead and debriefed for new lives of play and plenty!



2. I Fila good

Fila was rescued from Joe Slovo in May, and is still waiting for a family to snuggle up with this winter. She is sweet, gentle and addicted to tummy-rubs, and she's approximately one year old. According to her foster mom, she's a very fast learner and is just so grateful for everything she gets. This girl urgently needs a home, as her foster can't keep her for much longer.



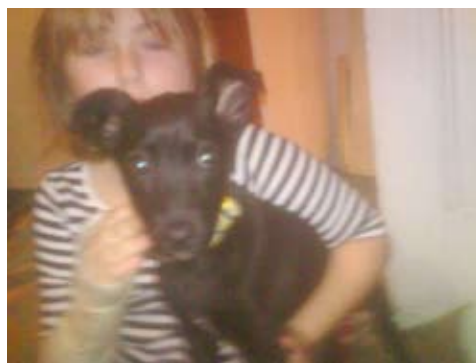
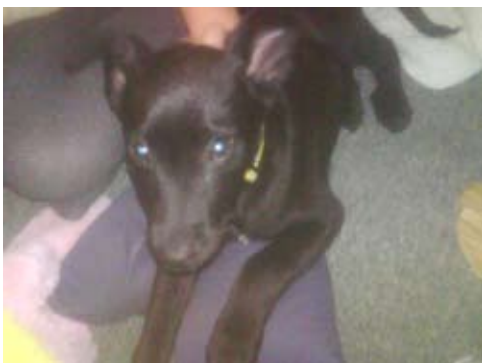
3. Lady in waiting

Lady and her babies were rescued during our mass sterilization in March. All of Lady's puppies have now found loving homes, and their sweet little mother is still seeking her knight in shining armour. Lady is small-medium sized (like a Jack Russell with long legs), and is very sweet and loving. Her one back leg was irreparably damaged in the township, but she moves around just fine on three legs – she even sits for her food!



4. NEW ARRIVAL: Winston

We recently inherited Winston from another rescue organisation, where he was shunted from foster home to foster home. As a result, he's feeling a little insecure, and he just doesn't know what's coming next. Our job is to make sure that what comes next is a wonderful PERMANENT home.



5. Toulouse

Toulouse was found by one of our volunteers in Joe Slovo, and is about 7 weeks old. Unfortunately, she has a neurological problem in one of her back legs, which will probably need to be amputated. But don't be fooled: this little sweetheart has more than enough character to make up for any physical disability, and she promises to put her best three feet forward, every step of the way.



6. Amazing Gracie

This sweet little whippet cross comes with the kind of story that just begs for a happy ending. She was found six weeks ago, malnourished, mangy, and nursing a litter of 7 young puppies. All of her babies have now found wonderful, loving homes (not through African Tails), but their sweet young mum is still looking for her Mr/Mrs right. And that's where we come in – we've promised this girl that we'll find her a match made in heaven, and we know you're out there somewhere. She is VERY caring and loves attention, but she's had a pretty bad start in life, so she really needs someone to give her loads of love and understanding. She will also need a home with lots of space, as she isn't used to being confined.



7. Another lovely Lady

Lady is around 8 months old, and was rescued from a group of street people in Bellville, who kept her tied to a pole with a short rope. According to the street people, she was thrown out of a delivery van on Voortrekker Rd a few months ago, and has been staying with them ever since. The thing is, this poor young Lady isn't looking her best just yet – she has mange and a few bruises and scrapes from being hit by a car – but she is sweet and gentle and full of love, and with a little TLC, she'll be ready to give her heart to someone who will never abandon her again.



8. Meisie

Meisie is an older (about 5 years) sweet girl, who is very friendly and – even though she grew up in the township – very comfortable in a home environment. She has arthritis in her right hip, but the condition can easily be managed by giving her a joint supplement once a day. Even when she was found in a lot of pain, she showed absolutely no aggression towards anyone – even when we pulled and felt her sore leg. She is gentle and patient, plays well with other dogs, will do anything for treats and will be a wonderful companion.



9. Chicken soup for the (dog) bowl

Kelly was found wandering the streets of Muizenberg, on a cold winter's day in the pouring rain. She was thin and frightened, and was immediately sent to a foster home, where she was fed a soul-soothing dose of chicken soup. Now, she's a 6-month-old, healthy girl with lots of good living to catch up on, so don't keep her waiting...



Kelly when she was first rescued



Can't see those ribs anymore...

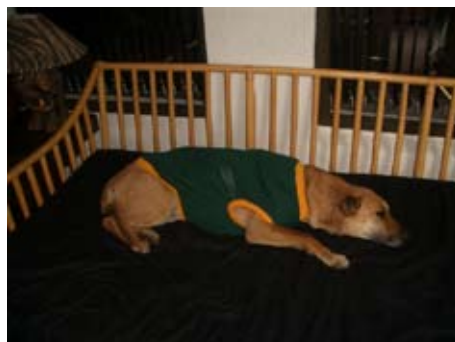
10. Indie-aring Indie

This little cutie was found abandoned (we're not sure where), and brought into one of our foster homes for some TLC. She is now about 4 months old, perfectly healthy, extremely sweet and playful, and ready to go to a loving home where she can start living the life she truly deserves.



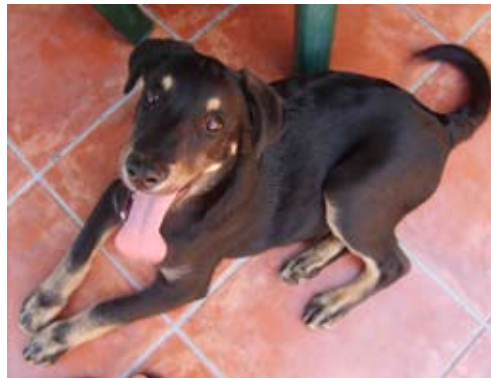
11. Another Mia makes her great escape

This ridgeback cross just got out of the township yesterday. She is very thin, but very sweet, and despite everything she's been through, she's a proudly South African mutt (as you can see from her fashion sense...)



12. Jake returns to African Tails

Jake is the long lost brother of Roxy (the Jungle Brak in the African Tales section above), and was rescued at 4 weeks old from a damp sandy hole in Du Noon. He was adopted that same day by a loving family who brought him up (and taught him to surf, judging by his photo below). Unfortunately, they can no longer keep him, so this sweet, friendly, playful young (about a year old) boy is back on the market. Will you be his new family?



13. BINGO!

No, you're not imagining things – Bingo is indeed still looking for a home, despite all the interest he received when we sent out an email about him two weeks ago. We did try to integrate him into a new potential home, but it didn't work out, as it turns out he is frightened of men and still in a bit of shock after being sent away from the original family who adopted him. He's shy, not aggressive, great with kids, cats and other dogs, but will need time and patience to help him adjust to a new home environment. We do have an animal behaviourist who can help with this process, but we're really looking for a very special home for this very special boy.



If you'd like to give any of our hounds a happy ending, or if you know someone who might be interested, please call us on any of the numbers at the end of this newsletter. You can also visit www.africantails.co.za for more info on these and other dogs.



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WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

- 1. Sterilization** – African Tails funds sterilisations on a weekly basis through Animal Rescue Organisation. We have performed 4 mass sterilisations so far, and have successfully sterilized around 500 dogs. The next mass sterilisation is set to take place in September, so watch this space!
- 2. Feeding** – currently feed 150 starving dogs a day within Joe Slovo & Du Noon informal settlements
- 3. Rescue and re-homing** – successfully re-homed over 160 dogs and puppies since our inception. The process includes a site visit, official documentation and ensuring that the dog is sterilized, healthy and up-to-date with all vaccinations.
- 4. Education** – presently focusing on educating the urban, economically mobile public about the situation in the townships. We have also recently started educating the Du Noon/ Joe Slovo community.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **NEW! Mass sterilisation:** Our next mass sterilisation is set to take place from Tuesday 1 September to Thursday 3 September, at the Du Noon sports complex (same location as last time). We are desperately seeking **volunteers** to help on any or all of the days, as well as **old blankets, dog food, newspaper** and **sponsors of food for the human volunteers** on each day. We would also like to hire a **security guard** or two, to ensure that our volunteers are completely safe, so if you know anyone who could help or would like to sponsor our security, please contact us asap.
- **NEW! Airtime sponsorship:** Every month, we need to make a lot of calls, to ensure that every rescue mutt has a warm place to stay and appropriate veterinary treatment. All this makes our phone bills sky-high, and we'd appreciate any airtime sponsorships we can get for Lola, our day-to-day manager. All you need to do is purchase airtime for her phone – 082 450 9804 – and then SMS her the pin number.
- **NEW! Monthly sponsorship:** In order for us to continue our lifesaving work, we are appealing desperately for small monthly donations to cover our running costs (rescuing one dog can cost R150 in petrol and phone calls alone). Even if it's just R10 a month, it can make all the difference, so if you can help, please contact Lola on 082 450 9804 or see banking details on the next page.
- **Sponsor a dog in foster care** and help it on its way to a happy ending. For only R200, you can cover a dog or puppy's food and medical care treatment while in foster care, helping it look its best when a potential new owner comes along (we all know how important first impressions are...) We will send you regular 'pupdates' on his/her progress, and once a home has been found, you'll receive a thank you letter with photos and info on his/her recovery. You can even keep in touch with the new owner, and watch your beneficiary brak grow up! Just reference the dog's name and the word "sponsor" (eg Babe sponsor) when you make the payment, and email contact@africantails to let us know.
- **Kennels (2nd hand or new):** In winter, this is a priority as many of the dogs have no shelter.
- **Bakkie:** We're urgently looking for a Bakkie to be sponsored, which we will use in Du Noon to reach all the animals that need to be dipped, de-wormed, treated and saved. The roads in Du Noon are not conducive to standard cars, so a Bakkie would be a dream – if you can help please contact us asap.
- **Food:** We always need dog food donations for the daily feeding of township dogs. We have food collection bins at Citi Vet Sea Point (Main Rd), Citi Vet Tamboerskloof, Tangles Sea Point and Green Point Vet (High Level Rd). Pinelands Pets, 43 Morningside Road and Pikkies Pet's Paradise, 292 Ottery Road, Ottery.
- **Fosters:** While we look for permanent homes for the puppies/dogs, fosters homes are essential, and the more fosters we have, the more hounds we can save. If you can open your heart and home to a temporary foster mutt, we (and, more importantly, they) would be eternally grateful.



● **Funds:** The more money we make, the more dogs we can save... our banking details are:

Nedbank Sea Point

Account name: African Tails

Current Acc no: 1069401978

Branch Code: 106909(13)

Please email proof of payment to contact@africantails.co.za

● **Other:** If you can help us with anything else we mentioned in this newsletter – be it the calendar sponsorship or sales, medical equipment or services for the sterilizations, leashes/collars, blankets, cushions or even just spreading the word to a larger audience, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Please call any of us (numbers at the end of the newsletter) if you can help in any way!

CALENDAR UPDATE

Our calendar is coming along beautifully, and will be launching on the 22nd of October at Wembley Square – further details to follow, but please save the date so long!

GREETING CARDS

Our greeting cards are still available, and suitable for all occasions. Please contact us if you'd like to buy or sell some – they are R60 for a full pack (of 11), and R10 for a single card. You can also buy them at: Tangles Pet Shop (Sea Point Main rd); Citi Vet Tamboerskloof (42 De Lorentz St); Oshun Hair (2nd floor Lifestyle Centre – Kloof Rd); Absolute Pets (Garden Centre); Lola Cox (Pinelands/Observatory) – 082 450 9802; Forest Drive Vet Shop; Howard Centre, Pinelands; Pinelands Veterinary Clinic - Wisteria Way; Camps Bay Vet (Dr Twomey) - 1 Fulham Road, Camps Bay.

GIVING THANKS

We'd like to give a warm, face-licking thank you to the following people for their incredible support:

🏆 THANK YOU to **Richelle Graham**, who has not only taken in four of our African Tails angels, but she also runs a cattery and has decided to donate a certain percentage of every cat's admission fee to African Tails, *every time* a cat is brought into her fine establishment (which you can see below). Who says cats and dogs can't be friends? We'd like to help her in return, so if you have a cat that needs temporary lodgings while you're away on vacation, please call Richelle on 021 875 5700 or 073 9286236.



🏆 THANK YOU to **Travelbags (Cape Town Travel Women's Club)** who recently donated an entire boot full on blankets to our township mutts. They have already been taken into Du Noon, where they will warm the hearts and bodies of many thin, hungry and cold canines. On behalf of the needy animals, we are very, very grateful for your generosity – without which we would not be able to do the work we do. Many, many thanks for the comfort these animals will get from your donation.

🏆 An impressed THANK YOU to **Janice Lindsay**, who rescued the lovely new Lady from Bellville, where she was tied to a pole. Thanks to your courageous rescue, she is now safe in foster care. Another brave rescuer this month is **Rebecca Beale** who rescued a pregnant dog from a group of homeless people, as well as **Angela du Preez**, who rescued several puppies and dogs this week! Last (but definitely not even close to least), we need to say an enormous African Tail-wagging thank you to **Lola Cox** and **Avryn Alter**, who have tirelessly rescued over 100 dogs from lives of neglect and abuse.

🏆 A huge THANK YOU to **Tania Wener**, who successfully raised R4850 for dog food! Your generosity and effort will fill the tummies of hundreds of hungry township mutts in Du Noon and Joe Slovo.

🏆 Last month, we bought 10 kennels from a company called **DNS Kennels**, and the owner, **Deon Wuister**, decided to donate an extra kennel to us. But he didn't stop there. Deon has since decided to donate a kennel every month to African Tails, PLUS he plans to donate a portion of the cost of every kennel ordered via African Tails to the township mutts we visit. So firstly, we'd like to say THANK YOU to Deon and DNS Kennels. If you'd like to order a kennel, please contact us for the sizes and prices, and we'll order the kennel you choose. Next, we'd like to thank **Hartmut, Andre, Rene, Anoushcka** and **Harriet** for making it the delivery of these kennels possible, and **Avryn Alter**, once again, for giving them to the pups you see in the pics below.



🏆 And as usual, we'd like to say a great big THANK YOU to all our incredible, tireless **fosters and volunteers** for their patience, love and selfless help, **Bernice Jaffe of Happy Dogs** for her ever-enthusiastic support of our mutts, **NoMU** for their continuing generosity and good will, as well as **VetClin** in Blouberg, **Hillside Veterinary Clinic** in Wynberg and **CitiVet Sea Point** for the wonderful care that they gladly give to our dogs.



with others, approach unfamiliar dogs with confidence and – when playtime is over – come back to you when called. If you're not sure what class to attend, please call us and we'll put you in touch with a good puppy school.

HANDLING HUMANS:

As an adult dog, your puppy will one day be expected to tolerate all sorts of physical encounters with humans – from veterinarians who poke and prod his body to young children who pat too hard and move unpredictably. To prepare your puppy for these future encounters, you need to show him that human hands aren't a threat. Pat him and stroke him and feel his toes; play with his ears and his tail and his tummy; feel his nails (which will need to be clipped one day) and touch his mouth and his teeth and gums. Of course, remember to be gentle, and don't ever hurt your dog – he should never have to be comfortable with that...

BITING RIGHT:

One of the most important thing a dog learns as a puppy is to control the pressure of his jaws. A young puppy will be teething, and will want to chew anything and everything he can find – including your poor fingers and toes! This isn't – I repeat – isn't a bad thing. When littermates play with each other, they'll often bite too hard, hurting a sibling and inadvertently ending the game when the littermate yelps and scurries away. In this way, they learn what kind of bite is too hard, and they'll grow up with the ability to adjust the strength of their bite. You can help your puppy learn these lessons – NOT by shouting or hitting your puppy when he bites a little too hard; just by 'yelping' and refusing to play for about 30 seconds. Then, give him the chance to try again, and repeat the exercise until he makes the mental connection and adjusts the force of his bite. When you can see that he's trying to be gentle, praise his efforts and keep playing.

GOING POTTY:

Housetraining is one of the most common conundrums for a new puppy owner. But it's really very simple. First, a few don'ts:

- Don't shout at your puppy if he's done his business inside – he won't know why you're angry
- Don't rub his nose in it, and don't banish him outside if he 'goes' inside
- Don't expect him to get it 100% right – puppies only gain full control of their bladder at around 9 months of age, but they'll get it right 95% of the time once they've got the basic message.

And here's what you should do:

- As a rule, take him outside immediately after waking up, eating or drinking – wait with him and praise him enthusiastically as soon as he wees or poos outside.
- If he has already done it inside, just clean it up and carry on – no shouting, angry looks etc
- If you catch him in the actual act, you can say "no" and take him outside, then wait with him and praise, praise, praise if he finishes it off outside.
- Once he has 'gone' outside, take him to the same spot next time – he'll recognise the place and smell that he's been there before
- As much as possible, try to maximise the number of correct experiences outside (always accompanied by lots of praise), and minimise the number of mistakes he makes inside.
- If you need to leave him alone for a while, put him in a safe, confined, preferably tiled space, with newspaper on the floor and a soft bed for him to lie on. He won't want to eliminate near his sleeping spot, so with any luck he'll wait until you return, but at the very least, any mess will be easy to clean up.
- Remember: if a puppy was raised on soil/grass, he'll be more likely to wee on the same kind of surface (grass, soil or something porous like a carpet), while a puppy who was raised on cement will be more likely to wee on paving, tar, tiles etc.



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www.worldwooftour.com

Street mutts have a new spokesdog, and his name is Oscar... This former South African SPCA special is currently on what he calls a "world woof tour", in an effort to show the human race just how cool pound hounds can be. Follow his pawprints around the planet by visiting the website above.

www.het.org.za

The Humane Education Trust is a fantastic initiative, which we'd like to bring to your attention. Basically, it rolls out Humane Education in schools, teaching children the value of life, respect for animals and humans, how to break the cycle of violence and ways to care for the planet. Please check it out!

www.coape.org/awsn.html

There are still huge numbers of 'stamp and jerk' dog trainers at large, who use choke chains, spiked collars, shock collars and bullying attitudes to punish their pups into submission. It's time to stop them, and to force them to move into the humane, modern age of dog training. Please visit this site to find out why they need to be stopped, and how you can add your voice to the protest.



And that's it from us... Have a great month, and for brak's sake, pass this newsletter on!

Lots of puppy love and African Tail-wags
THE AFRICAN TAILS PACK



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