

Copernicus – My New Kitten



April 2016

Dear Kerry & all the Kerris Havanese

Sorry I haven't written for awhile. Life has been very busy and I have been doing lots of growing up.

At the beginning of April I finished my Juvenile dog classes, I didn't do as well as I should've in the last class - I was "a bit distracted" and got the twirly whirlies That's when you bounce around in circles standing on your back legs. It's a pretty good party trick but not quite what one is supposed to do when the instructor asks you sit quietly on your mat...Whoops. My brain seems to have gone all fuzzy recently, I keep forgetting to do "stuff" like coming when Mum calls me. I know I should go to Mum when she calls but...sometimes I can't be bothered. However I think I might try a bit harder to pay attention & make the effort to do what Mum asks cos I have noticed that Shadow and Scramble seem to be getting treats for being good boys and I don't like missing out.

I don't have my playpen anymore. Mum says I'm a big girl now, I almost always go toilet outside, I don't chew things that don't belong to me and I have good dog manners. I have my very own kennel outside with Shadow and Scramble. Inside it has a special warm cosy bed and some blankets. I have started a little leaf collection inside just to make it nice and homey. It was a bit scary sleeping outside at first but Shadow looked after me.



About a month ago I got my very own Kitten!! A bad person put him in a box and left him all alone. Luckily a very nice girl found him and bought him into the Vet clinic where Mum works. Mum bought him home to look after him because he was teeny tiny little and all wibbly wobbly when he tried to walk, we had to be very gentle with him. It is so sad that he got lost from his Mummy.

I loved the kitten so much Mum said I

could keep him. We have called him Merlin Spitfire because he purrs like a Rolls Royce engine. Merlin purrs a lot because he is very happy to be with us. Merlin and I play some super fun games like chasey across the sofas (I didn't realise that I could bounce on the sofas until Merlin showed me) and we have wrestling matches. Apparently it is not ok to make Melin squeak. If I make Merlin squeak people say "No Kipper" and they take Merlin off me. Once I



pulled Merlin's tail really hard and he made a howley sound and Mum said "No Copernicus!!" I got sent outside, so I try not to do that anymore. Merlin is growing big and strong now. Sometimes he makes me squeak if he bites my ear so we are deciding not to bite each other.

About two weeks ago I went into Mum's work and had an operation so that I don't have puppies. I am going to write about it on the Vet's website so that other puppies and their parents know that it isn't scary or too hurty. I did feel vomitty afterwards and a bit sore but I slept inside beside Mum's bed and she gave me cuddles when I woke up in the night. Shadow, Scramble and Merlin were very kind to me, even Sahara the big cat was nice and after about two days I felt all better. I have a little scar on my tummy that the Vet checked last week. She said it is all healed up nicely and gave me a liver lolly for being a brave girl. I also have all my big dog teeth now.

Because I wasn't allowed to run about very much after my operation I am missed going down to "The Park" with Shadow and Scramble to play. The Park is like...Ginormous...I can't see where it ends...it's just grass that goes forever, only it doesn't, cos if you walk far enough you get to the other side but then you can't see the other, other side!! Sometimes we say hello to other dogs which is exciting. I like saying hello to Henry best, he is a Basset Hound. I think Henry has a problem with his ears. They forgot to stop growing..either that or his legs didn't grow enough because Henry can nearly stand on his own ears!! Shadow and Mum are careful who we say hello to in case the other dogs have bad manners. Mum said she will send you a video of me playing with ball with Shadow and Scramble.

That is all my important news so I will let Mum finish off the letter and I promise to write again soon.

Hi Kerry

Kipper continues to bring joy to our family with only Sahara 'the old cat' finding her joyous bouncing and busyness a little bit hard to cope with.

It seems she has all the males in the household wrapped around her little paw. Shadow & Scramble indulge her as only older brothers can, allowing a baby sister to take liberties. I am actually quite surprised that they haven't started to pull her into line but she is still able to take toys off them and jump over the top of them. I do intervene when I think that she is pushing the boys too far but I'm not sure if I should be doing that or not. I don't think they realise that Kipper will always be little, Shadow is such a big softie, he loves babies and I think he still considers Kipper to be a baby. He demonstrated this trait again when Merlin arrived, he knew immediately that he was a baby and he watches over him very protectively as well and tells Kipper off when she makes Merlin squeak.

Kipper's sock collection is still a work in progress but she has started to concentrate on leaves and sticks as the socks keep being removed. Sometimes our walks are very stop start



affairs because she tries to carry what are obviously very important sticks or leaves with her then finds another one she has to have and can't quite figure out how to carry both so we have to stop and decide what to do!!

Kipper has become a very enthusiastic excavator; Shadow and Scramble are in awe of her digging abilities. Often it is only the back half of her that pokes out of the hole under construction. Luckily she is confining her earth works to a couple of areas. I have almost given up trying to keep her dirt free as that only seems to encourage the reapplication of more dirt and is currently requiring a least a rinse if not a proper bath more than once a month.

She is going thru a growth spurt at the moment getting noticeably more grown up and finally cracking the 4kg mark. She seems to still need 2 meals a day in the sense that she wants to eat her food small amounts at a time rather than all in one go. If I give her the food all at once she will only ever eat a small amount then walk away. She will then ask for her bowl again (I have to remove it so that Shadow and Scramble don't help themselves) some time later in the day. I did try to make her transition to one meal a day but she actually lost weight because she didn't increase the quantity that she would eat in one sitting despite me persisting for a week or so. Perhaps she just needs a little more time.

Merlin often has the appearance of a well loved toy - slightly damp and soggy :-) not that he is bothered by this as he is often the instigator of a rough and tumble session.

Thank you for sending out the Havanese magazines. I very much enjoy reading them with some very interesting articles

Cheers

Kipper's Mum