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Weather



TODAY:
MAINLY
SUNNY

HIGH OF 24
LOW OF 11



TUESDAY:
MAINLY
SUNNY

HIGH OF 24
LOW OF 12



WEDNESDAY:
MIX OF SUN
& CLOUDS

HIGH OF 24
LOW OF 14



THURSDAY:
SHOWERS

HIGH OF 20
LOW OF 12



FRIDAY:
CHANCE OF
A SHOWER

HIGH OF 16
LOW OF 11

And they called it 'Puppy Love'



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

In 2006 my family was adopted by a cross bred female dog at an SPCA Monterey dog walk held in Knowlton. Part German shepherd and part Doberman, Crisp was not our first choice although she had her sights set on our family from first glance. We were looking for a golden Lab female and Crisp did not fit our criteria as she had mistakenly been tagged with a big sign hanging around her neck as a "Doberman mix, male who did not like cats!" We wanted a female, we had a cat and with three young sons, we felt we wanted a more gentle reputation breed.

We walked, sat with and conversed with a variety of dogs all while being followed, nudged, and stalked by Crisp, who immediately fell in love with our youngest son. While we perused the many beautiful dogs, Ethan sat with his arm around Crisp negotiating her issues with cats...We were also told that her last family had rid themselves of her because she did *not* travel well and they could not keep her due to a pattern of bringing their dog on vacations.

By days end on July 25, we had determined that Crisp was indeed a female al-

most three years old and that her disposition was that of both the German shepherd and Doberman: obedient, intelligent, watchful, courageous, alert, loyal, curious, and confident; a great guard dog. We filled out the paperwork while Ethan continued to negotiate. After loading her in the van, we alerted the boys to the fact that she would not travel well...all were vigilant.

Crisp had no issues travelling and to this day, never has. She hated our cat the moment she stepped into the house and all the negotiating had little effect on her. Cats were something you dominated and, if you could get under the bed, tortured.

Crisp instantly and continuously has made her place within our home, lives, and hearts. She had a longtime companion when we brought home, Fiona (a Scottish terrier) who died a couple of years ago. A little over a year ago we acquired Spot, who was a puppy at the time and Crisp was instantly smitten with him and has allowed him love and attention. *He walks her*, leading her by her chain whenever they go outside.

Crisp turned 14 this year. The average lifespan of a German shepherd and Doberman ranges from 9 to 13 years. She is now having difficulty walking and her hind legs are starting to struggle. With the boys now grown, she sits by the patio door and waits for their visits. She remains Spot's best friend and she comforts all who come through our doors in difficulty. She is old and not at all the dog she once was but she has been the best friend anyone could hope for.

She is not in pain but I know that her days are numbered as she sleeps most of the time. I attempt to prepare myself



MABLE HASTINGS

Crisp

with what I know will be little success when the time comes. While I do not know what the future will bring, I feel compelled to thank the SPCA Monterey for bringing us Crisp all those years ago; for suggesting that we choose the dog that had chosen us when we first arrived. To those pet owners reading this, while I am not a hard person by nature, I never thought that I could feel so much love for an animal. All this to say, "I get it now," until you have a pet you can call it Puppy Love but I guess you will never know how deep that love can go.

ACTE garage sale aims big

By Gordon Lambie

ACTE, the Sherbrooke-based association focusing on providing services to people suffering the after-effects of strokes and severe head traumas, held its third annual fundraising garage sale this past Saturday and Sunday, using as much of the weekend as possible to solicit support for the association.

"It's become our biggest fundraiser," said Peter Neiman, executive director of ACTE. "We've been doing this for two years now and it really is a big boost for us."

Based at 68 Jacques Cartier Street in

Sherbrooke near the intersection with King, l'Association des Accidentés cérébro-vasculaires et Traumatés crâniens de l'Estrie works to improve the lives of people who have been seriously impacted by head injuries or strokes. According to Neiman, the group's clientele are often left with serious impairments by their different conditions, meaning that previously very capable people are left unable to work or face many of the daily challenges of life. By providing adapted support services and social activities, the team at ACTE attempts to help bring a little bit of that normalcy back.

In its second year, the executive director said, the ACTE garage sale was able to generate over \$5,000, which was nearly double what it had the first time around.

"It would be nice to see that double again, but we'll do the best we can," Neiman said, pointing out that an estimated \$25,000 worth of donations had been collected in advance for this year's sale and fundraising activities.

More information about the work of ACTE is available in English at <http://acteestrie.com/en/> or by calling 819-821-2799.

Ben by Daniel Shelton

