

Storm the castle with pumpkins!

BY MAGGIE IVES

Saturday and Sunday, October 12 - 13, mark the dates of the 5th Annual Harvest Festival at LongSword Vineyard. This unique event takes your imagination back to the days of wearing armor, fighting with swords, and storming castles with trebuchets. A trebuchet is similar to a catapult, but it has a counterweight to fling objects farther. Where can you see such things in the 21st Century? At LongSword's Harvest Festival, of course!

This fun event includes slinging pumpkins with oversized slingshots, painting your pumpkins, enjoying music, and eating fabulous food from a local food truck, onsite to feed those hungry soldiers waiting to storm the castle.

Last year, one trebuchet was used to fling pumpkins at a castle wall. This year, there will be *two* trebuchets competing to fling the pumpkin the greatest distance and to attack the castle walls. See if you can beat last year's record of 465 feet.

The trebuchets stand a whopping 16 feet tall and can hurl pumpkins a great distance downrange. There will be prizes for the longest flight, the most accurate flight, and the most creatively decorated projectile. Perhaps we can crash pumpkins in mid-flight!

All proceeds from the trebuchet Pumpkin Chunkin' will be donated to Siskiyou Upland Trails Association (SUTA), the volunteer organization that builds and maintains the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail and the Jack-Ash Trail, from



Kate Vangeloff, of LongSword Vineyard, tests one of the two trebuchets that will be used to fling pumpkins at this year's event.

Jacksonville to Ashland. This year SUTA is hoping to add some loop trails around Anderson Butte and to connect to the Applegate Trails Association network. SUTA's mission is to ensure the availability of local hiking, biking, and equestrian trails for generations to come.

The Fall Harvest Festival showcases the most recent vintages of LongSword's small-batch, creative wines, which can be sampled at the tasting room for \$5.

This free family-friendly event runs from 12 - 5 pm both days at LongSword Vineyard, 8555 Highway 238, just west of Ruch. Come out and support a great organization working to maintain recreational opportunities here in our local area and have great fun doing it.

Subaru of Southern Oregon has generously donated 100 backpacks. The first 50 elementary school children who purchase a pumpkin each day will be given a backpack.

For more information, please contact me.

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Health threats to Applegate pets

BY LAURA AHEARN



Friendship at McKee Bridge Day. Photo: Janeen Sathre.

We had a fantastically fun and educational day at Doggy World on June 8 at McKee Bridge Day, organized jointly by Friends of the Animal Shelter (FOTAS) and McKee Bridge Historical Society. Little Applegate resident Dr. Jeffrey Judkins, owner of Jacksonville's Animalkind Vet Clinic, gave a particularly eye-opening presentation about health threats to pets in the Applegate. We want to pass on this important information to Applegaters who could not attend.

Lyme Disease

Yes, the deer ticks in our valley do carry Lyme disease. Without prompt treatment, in humans and dogs this bacterial infection can cause crippling joint damage, deadly cardiac complications, kidney failure, and neurologic problems (cats are apparently at lower risk). Mow the grass and remove brush from around your home and the places your pets frequent and always give them a careful full-body inspection after being outdoors. Dr. Judkins recommends annual testing for Lyme disease for any dog with a history of ticks. If this blood test is positive, the dog can be placed on an immune support protocol that may prevent symptoms of the disease from developing.

Heartworm

Yes, here in the Applegate we do have the species of mosquito that can carry heartworm larvae; in fact, our pets are at higher risk than animals in adjacent suburban areas. Why? A mosquito must first bite an infected canine in order to carry heartworm, and, in rural areas, that "first bite" is more likely to be a coyote. These mosquitoes are active only when nighttime temperatures are consistently above 50°F, so you can track the weather to figure out when this risk is present. Dr. Judkins has an herbal protocol as an alternative to the standard Heartgard monthly tablets. Contact the Animalkind clinic at 541-702-2288 if you are interested.

Salmon poisoning

Okay, this one is a shocker to dog owners who have recently moved to the Pacific Northwest: *Eating raw fish can kill your dog.* A particular species of snail lives in Oregon and Washington coastal rivers. Every year, billions of larvae hatch and many of them become infected with fluke parasites that make canines sick. The infected larvae enter salmon and steelhead as they spawn up rivers like the Rogue and Applegate. If a canine eats



Let me at that agility course!
Photo: Sunny LeGrand.

one of these fish, bacteria released by the parasites will attack the gastrointestinal system and cause symptoms that look very much like parvovirus—and *are just as deadly*: vomiting, lack of appetite, fever, bloody diarrhea, weakness, swollen lymph nodes, and dehydration. What should dog owners do? Keep a close eye on your pets, don't let them eat raw fish, and see a vet immediately if these symptoms appear. Doxycycline will easily cure salmon poisoning if started early in the disease process.

Foxtails

These nasty stickers are extremely painful and can cause infection if they get stuck between your pet's paw pads, in the ears, or even up the nose. Again, prevention is the best cure—clear your yard of these weeds and don't let your pet venture into the brush. Trim the fur around the paws and other areas where the foxtails are prone to get caught. Brush off foxtails that are inadvertently picked up in the fur before they become embedded. If a foxtail gets in between a dog's toes, soaking the affected foot in warm Epsom salt solution three times a day can draw the foxtail out and save a visit to the vet.

Laura Ahearn

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Note: Have you marked December 7 on your calendar for the FOTAS Deck the Paws Holiday Fair from noon - 4 pm at Phoenix Plaza Civic Center?

Attention artists, crafters, quilters, knitters, woodworkers: FOTAS will hugely appreciate donations of your creations to sell at the fair. Please contact Laura at 458-226-0600 if you can help.



With help, this young boy tries to pull the pin on the trebuchet.



The Pumpkin Chunkin' takes a lot of volunteers to assist with the festivities. These were the volunteers for last year's event.