



# Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

## Two Black Pearls — Gems of a Dog

Black Russian Terriers (BRT) like Luba and Sophie are often reFURRED to as Black Russian Pearls. Their breed resembles the Bouvier de Flanders, but they are a larger-breed resulting from purr-paw-sley breeding combinations of Airedale Terrier, Giant Schnauzer, Newfoundland and Rottweiler plus other breeds not known outside of Russia.

"After the Second World War, Joseph Stalin, the Russian leader, gave a mandate to the Red Army and the state-owned Red Star Kennel to develop a large multi purpose dog for the military," said Ted. "In 1957, the Kennel offered puppies for sale to private buyers and breeders. Finally, in July of 2004, the BRT was recognized by the American Kennel Club as a Working Dog. "These dogs are highly intelligent, love to have a job to do, and are extremely loyal to their families. BRTs are 'people' and guard dogs. They are constantly at your feet. These aren't dogs you leave outside for hours. They like to sit with you, their sweet spirits crave, no, demand

your attention. The most difficult thing of parenting, not one but two of them, is keeping these 100-pound lap dogs off the bed. This breed snores — not just occasionally, but all the time and loudly!

"When you are on the computer, they sit beside you laying their chins on the desk hoping for a scratch on the head. Ignore them? Don't! A bear-size paw will hit your leg in case you didn't notice. They are so intelligent that I am surprised they don't communicate with other BRTs through Facebook — maybe they do and I'm not smart enough to catch them. They are problem solvers who are easily trainable, as they want to please."

Born to be working guard dogs, BRTs take their job of protecting their families seriously and experience anxiety when their family is out of sight. For this reason, when Ted and his wife, Jo Ann, travel, so do Luba and Sophie.

"The 'girls' treat our car as their traveling bed. It's 'rump in — lights out', whether for a trip across town, or the 12-hour drive over the Rockies to Vancouver. Out of our two dogs, Luba has traveled the furthest.

As a puppy, she traveled from Kaliningrad, on the far west coast of Russia, to my waiting arms at the international airport in Vancouver, B.C.

"Our dogs are so intuitive of Jo-Ann, and me," said Ted. "They seem to be able to read our physical and emotional needs. Sophie weighs 115 pounds and Luba is 100 pounds. They appear very friendly, but if they think you pose a threat it is a different matter. I remember an incident late one evening as we walked past a pub. Two patrons came barreling out of the door for a smoke. The dogs went ballistic. Their size alone was threatening and their deep, impressive and down-right scary bark demanded obedience. The dogs settled down in seconds, but I think the patrons required a change of a certain item of clothing after their first-hand experience of this breed's protective nature.

"This breed is not for everyone! They are a large powerful dog that needs to be with their people — all the time. Many people are not prepared or unwilling to expend the energy necessary for these dogs. You can't acquire one and then be at work all day. These dogs need a job to do, to be intellectually stimulated and exercised. For those of us that offer them this, there is no better breed. They have hair not fur and it requires professional grooming every eight weeks, so count that into your budget."

"First snow of the year is always fun," said Jo Ann with a laugh. "Imagine over 200 pounds of dogs, acting like puppies, rolling and romping in the white powder. It is the best time to take a great photo of our black dogs, silhouetted against the snow."

"Our home is in the Canadian province of Alberta," adds Ted, "which is over 2-1/2 times the size of Oregon, with roughly



Photo by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

After a 12-hour car ride from Calgary, Alberta, to Bowen Island, British Columbia, these two Black Russian Pearls, Luba and Sophie, wait for a Ferry boat trip with their dad Ted.

the same population (4 million). Over half of our residents live close to our two major cities, the rest of the province is sparsely populated. Our dogs love their visits to Bowen Island, with its acres of waterfront park land and milder temperatures, although a dog bred to deal with harsh Russian winters does not care about Alberta's cold winters.

"Sophie and Luba love water. They inherited webbed feet from the Newfoundland and are natural and powerful swimmers. It is difficult keeping them out of the water in front of our Bow-

en Island vacation home. Every time they look outside they see 'water, water, every where'!

"If you think these dogs look big, imagine how they appear to children! Sophie and Luba stand at eye level to most 6-year-old humans.

"When toddlers approach, the dogs sit still and patiently take whatever the little ones hand out. The dogs know the children's intentions are not mean, but curious. Yes, Sophie and Luba are understanding and patient with children, just not drunks bursting out saloon doors at 11 p.m."

## TIPS

Airlines Canine Secret that pushes retrieving lost items to a whole new level: [http://www.youtube.com/embed/NK-T\\_1166TY?feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/embed/NK-T_1166TY?feature=player_embedded)

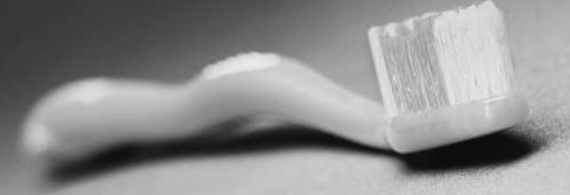
Share your pet tips and tales — [angelscribe@msn.com](mailto:angelscribe@msn.com). "Follow" Pet Tips 'n' Tales on Facebook — <https://www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales>

Adopt Loving Pets  
[www.PetFinder.com](http://www.PetFinder.com)

Humane Society for Neuter/Spay Assistance Program, 541-942-2789

**NEW: Digital X-Rays (use less radiation)**

**Implants • Teeth Whitening • Extractions  
Lumineers (no prep veneers as seen on TV)**



**Cottage Grove Dental**  
**Dr. Brent Bitner, DDS**  
350 Washington, Cottage Grove (behind Better Bodies)  
**541.942.7934**

# Restaurant

# GUIDE

Ask your sales representative  
about placing your  
restaurant ad here.

## JOE'S DINER

Bob and Bonnie Welcome you to Joe's Diner

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Catering, and Special Events

Available for Special Events • Sat and Sun 4pm-8pm

Open Mon-Fri 7am-8pm • Sat 7am-3pm • Sun 8am-3pm  
230 E. Oregon Ave., Creswell OR • Phone: 541-895-2700

## A Neighborhood Favorite

**Daily Specials**  
**20% OFF for**  
**Active Military &**  
**Vets**

**Tuesday Night**  
**is Senior Night**  
**4pm-8pm**

Open Daily for  
Breakfast,  
Lunch & Dinner  
6 a.m.-10 p.m.  
Sun-Thurs  
6 a.m. - 10 a.m.  
Fri. & Sat.

the **Vintage**  
Inn **FAMILY RESTAURANT**

1590 Gateway Blvd. • Cottage Grove • 541-942-7144

**DAILY LUNCH & DINNER SPECIALS**

**BLOODY MARY BAR**  
SIUNDAYS • 12-8PM  
NEW HAPPY HOUR  
FOOD MENU 3-7PM

**EL TAPATIO** 725 Gibbs • Cottage Grove  
Mexican Restaurant & Cantina (541) 767-0457

**Mangiano's Pizzeria**  
Homemade Pizza ~ Lasagna ~ Spaghetti  
Everything made from scratch!

**TWO ONE TIME SALAD BARS & LARGE ONE TOPPING PIZZA \$25.00**

**NEW MENU!! WE DELIVER!**  
Starting at 5 p.m.  
Closed Sunday & Monday  
open Tue-Thur 11am-8pm  
Friday & Saturday 11am-9pm  
Salad Bar & Fun Lottery Room  
2915 Row River Rd • 541-942-5432

**Grill & Chill**  
541-968-1134

"The little blue box with the food that rocks"

**"The best in American comfort food."**  
Burgers, Philly Cheese Steaks, Salads, Fish & Chips, Jumbo Prawns, Soups, Chicken Breast Burgers, Chicken Strip Baskets, Tots, Fries and lots more!  
Call ahead for ready-to-go pick-up orders  
Tues-Sat open till late  
Corner of 6th and Washington 541-968-1134  
Check out our facebook page!