

#### Fluffy Puppy's Future Career

Scarlet's and Kobi's new adorable and fluffy Komondor puppy needed a name to fit his bright future.a He was born on Valentine's Day and loves people and animals, so they chose Attila the Hun (shortened to Atti), but there is a valid reason! Attila, the human, was feared by his enemies and as Atti is destined to grow into their ranch's guard dog, protecting their sheep from predators, the name fits him to "a - T".

Scarlet is from Hungary and admires the magnificent Hungarian Komondor dogs famous for their skills of guarding and protecting families and animals. This is her fifth Komondor. Their breed is hard to find in the USA, so she had her brother ship her their first two from Hungary.

After their last dog passed, the couple looked locally for another. Atti's breeders wanted Scarlet to show him, "but I wanted a working dog," said Scarlet, "not a fluffy show-life dog, but one of purpose. The large breed is calm and a good working dog. They suit our farm and family."

"When we brought him home, at 10 weeks of age, he joyfully assessed everything. He was not afraid of any animal or adventures. Most young animals are cautious, but not Atti. He already displayed the wonderful Komondor traits of being affectionate, fearless and gentle. He was curious about the chickens, ducks, goats, sheep, and especially our barn/house cats. He was not afraid of the large animals either.'

To raise a good puppy that fits in with your lifestyle, obedience classes are mandatory. The classes bond you as you learn how dogs understand differently than how people purr-seave things. Every day Atti works on



Photo by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Scarlet's eight-month-old Komondor, Atti, gained 50 pounds in just a few months! While he concentrates on growing, he is also growing into his role of protecting the lives of the animals on their ranch.

his "homework". He now sits and stays, but like most young students, the hardest is "staying" still. Training him is vital because he will soon weigh 130 pounds and Scarlet and Kobi don't want him running the farm on his own!

Komondors are independent thinkers and, in this too, Atti excels. When he sees something, he steals it! He then stealth fully carries it into a corner and hides it.

"We have found 'hidden' dish towels and shoes," explained Scarlet. "Like human babies he is teething, and our shoes innocently became his teething toys. We are keeping the house extra tidy until Atti learns the house rules! We are also elevating everything for two reasons: 1) to be able to find it and 2) to preserve it."

Atti is clever. He has several loot hiding places. One is under the bed, where he stashes his findings to further investigate (chew) later. His humans eventually uncover the missing articles, "...like my outside work shoes were in the closet behind

boxes," said Scarlet, "No clue how he got them there after they mysteriously disappeared - one at a time. The shoes are a tad chewed but still wearable outdoors.'

Their puppy is now so big that their kitchen table is very tempting for him! Atti can rest his chin on it! He then rolls his big brown, pleading eyes over to each of his doting parents with the telepathic expression, "Please, please, can I have some of that tasty looking food?" or "How soon are you going to be finished before I can have

Because of Atti's eventual adult size he sleeps next to the couple, but on the floor in a big round dog bed. "He snores," admits Scarlet. "We forgive him because we love him and we snore, too."

Adult Komondor coats grow into long cords, or dreadlocks, that resemble a floor mop, so they are often called 'mop dogs.'

Because of our Pacific Northwest's rain, Atti's hair will be kept short. "His hair magnetically attracts all the farm muck," said Scarlet, "and it dips into mud puddles, and sweeps the ground.

On rainy days we have to rub him down before the goop dries and falls on the floor. Once it does, he looks clean, but not the flooring...so all our carpets are being taken out for easier maintenance.

We are working on training him. He is fabulous with sheep, but hard with the ducks and hens, so we keep him on leash. He loves them but when they flutter he thinks they want to play and responds by excitedly bouncing and frightening them. He is a fast learner, and very intelligent, so it will come.

Our other Komondor's were so gentle. We had a 'bummer' lamb (weak), so the dogs curled up to it and took care of it like a mother sheep. You could tell they knew the lamb was a sickly baby in need of warmth and comfort. It was heart touching and we know that Atti is going to be the same guardian to the sheep and their lambs. After all, he is a family member and a farmer like us."

#### Tips

"Never touch a dog on a head that you just met," teaches Scarlet. "Always present your hand for them to smell first. Going over their heads scares the dogs. Also groom pets daily, no matter the breed, because they love it and it bonds you as family."

Komondor Video https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=6HsNwqnDmk8

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## Juggler astounds, educates CG Library crowd



Last Wednesday, Aug. 10, Rhys Thomas of Jugglemania entertained Cottage Grove community members at the Library with a performance that was described as "both humorous and amazing," incorporating juggling, circus tricks and jokes as well as many references to books and the Library. Above, Thomas helps Everett Eckstine, 6, spin a ball. The Library will host its final summer program on Wednesday, Aug. 17 at 2:30 p.m., an event that will feature its prize party and celebration for the Summer Reading Program. Its participants will be rewarded for all of their hard work with refreshments, and then the prizes will be awarded.



The Cottage Grove Sentinel wants to be your source for all things Cottage Grove. But we need your help! If you've got a news tip, we'd be glad to hear about it:

### Cottage Grove Sentinel

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It takes many hands and hearts working together to produce the Bohemia Mining Days Festival each July. With grateful thanks the BMD Board members thank the following individuals, businesses and organizations who contributed time, talent, cash and/or supplies toward the success of our 56th Year! Planning for 2016 is already underway and we welcome your input in that process. Visit www.bohemiaminingdays.org under the "Join In" menu go to: Contact Us and fill out form or call the festival office at 541-942-5064.

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