

# Ridgeback Roster

52<sup>nd</sup> Edition

WINTER 2020



*Merry Christmas*



*Cleo*




## ***RRCEC - Mission Statement***

*Committed to the promotion and preservation of the breed, to fostering compliance with the Breed Standard, to promoting the health and welfare of show and companion dogs and to informing the general public.*

*We do not condone breeding for profit.*

*We provide companionship and mentorship to all our members, whether they be companion owners, show owners, breeders or handlers and offer educational support and fun events for all.*



## **WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO**

The majority of our members are pet owners who want to enjoy their Rhodesian Ridgeback as a member of their family. The Club holds many fun events around the membership area. Events such as walks, picnics, information exchanges, seminars, racing (lure coursing, straight racing and Uval racing).

We support Conformation shows; hold Specialties; and offer trophies for ridgebacks showing in regular conformation shows. The Club offer special Club trophies for racing and obedience. These trophies are awarded at the annual general meeting of members. There is a new Versatility Award initiative under way, medals and certificates are awarded annually.

A newsletter, The Ridgeback Roster, is published for members. It offers interesting articles, show results, advertisements by members, club activities and dates of special events.

An on-line store with a variety of RRCEC clothing items is available on our website with proceeds going toward RRCEC events and club activities.

A library on the breed is maintained. Club members may contact the club librarian to borrow an item from our many interesting breed and dog related books.

Many members have their Rhodesian Ridgebacks in agility and in both, obedience and rally obedience training. Scenting and tracking are also popular..Some members have Ridgebacks that are also very active in Therapy Dog programmes.

RRCEC Website <https://ridgebackcanada.com/>

Join us on Facebook RRCEC Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/groups/RRCEC](http://www.facebook.com/groups/RRCEC)

# Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of Eastern Canada

## EXECUTIVE 2019-2020

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### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dorian Chlopas [ridgebackroster@kos.net](mailto:ridgebackroster@kos.net)

### **RRCEC POLICY – Use and Identification of PHOTOS for the RRCEC Newsletter, Website & Calendar** January 1, 2007

- ❖ For the website home page and annual calendar the photographs should be those taken by club members and of their dog(s) only.
- ❖ Photos must be identified.
- ❖ For the photo gallery (website/newsletter); the rescue page and other general use, the photographer should be identified but not the dog(s) if the dog(s) is/are not owned by a member. The photographer does not need to be a club member if the photo is of a member's dog(s).
- ❖ General group photos or photos of moving dogs taken at events or picnics, do not require that the dogs or photographer be identified.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Presidents Pawprint  
Notes from the Secretary  
Letter from the Editor  
Secretatry's Report 2019-2020  
Treasurer's Report 2019-2020  
Membership Report 2019-2020  
Club Events  
Versatility  
Club News  
Brag's'n'Wags  
Rainbow Bridge  
Ridgeback Tales  
Ridgeback Humour



### ***PRESIDENT'S PAWPRINT***

We are already at the end of the year, and I think we all have a bit of an impression that this year has slipped past us without us fully having seen it. Since March, our way of living has been completely transformed and our daily habits disrupted.. Despite this difficult year however, and many cancelled events, we have managed accomplish some good things.

We've revamped the club's logo, as well as our website, which we are continually working to improve. Our new puppy membership program has gotten off to a good start, with many new members that appreciate the opportunity to learn of activities the club offers, as well as to get good advice where their new puppy is concerned. Our online store is up and running well, and we are proud of our new Versatility program. We've also finalized our 2021 calendar, so members can proudly show off their 4-legged stars!

All of these things have been accomplished through the time and effort of our volunteers, who are the ones that truly make our club special. I want to thank each and every one of you!

We hope that 2021 will be a wonderful year and that we will all be able to once again offer plenty of activity days for you & your hounds. Since this is your club, if you have questions, suggestions or ideas, I welcome you to share them with me by email: [savoieaf@videotron.ca](mailto:savoieaf@videotron.ca)

As the Holidays approach, I'm offering you my best wishes and, especially this year, wishing you good health and please stay safe!

*France Flibotte, President.*





## NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

This year has presented its challenges! It is unfortunate that we were unable to get together at local activity events, with the exception of one – the Agility & Racing Day. Our Conformation people were unable to show off representative dogs of our breed, due to the cancellation of the majority of the shows, which included our Club Specialty show. Let's hope 2021 is easier on all of us and we can get out to our chosen activities, or venues, for some good times with our ridgebacks.

Just a reminder that membership fees for 2021 will be due and payable effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. Single membership is \$25, and for families \$35. You do not need to complete a renewal membership form if your contact information has not changed. Payment details are on the website under "Join us at RRCEC", you do have to click open the membership form.

It is important however, that we have your up to date contact information. Emails do change as do telephone/cell numbers. Please ensure we at least, have this correct information for you.

While I am at it, would you consider adding a Club Calendar for 2021 to your membership renewal fees this year? The cost of the calendar \$15 members, \$20 non-members. The calendar is full of YOUR photos of YOUR ridgebacks. There are some terrific pictures. AND it would make a great Christmas present or just one for yourself. You deserve it and it will make you smile every time you look at the photos of our members' ridgebacks. Go to the Club Facebook page for details. (...../groups/RRCEC).

*Diana, Club Secretary*



### Letter from the Editor

*Well another year is almost past. Time to reflect on what has been and look forward to a New Year. Hopefully we will say goodbye to Covid and be able to have more club events in 2021. Thank's again to everyone who has provided photographs and stories for the Roster this year. Wishing you and your's a Happy Holiday Season,*

*Dorian Chlopas*

[RidgebackRoster@kos.net](mailto:RidgebackRoster@kos.net)



# **ANNUAL BUSINESS REPORTS**

**2019-2020**

## **Secretary's Report**

This has been a very odd year for everyone, nothing is normal! We will not be holding an AGM this year due to the COVID regulations, closures, etc. Please see the Treasurer's report and financial statements in this issue of the newsletter. Any questions should be directed to Jim Beckett at [beckettj@ripnet.com](mailto:beckettj@ripnet.com). Should you have any other questions for the Board, please send them along to me and I will forward them to the appropriate Executive or Board member ([skyridge@ripnet.com](mailto:skyridge@ripnet.com)) for reply.

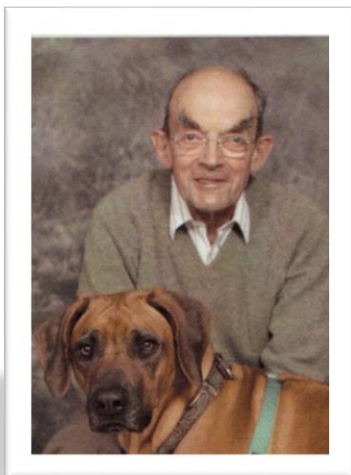
From an administrative perspective, this year has been quiet with little happening for members around the membership area with the exception of the Ontario East activity day. Indeed almost all dog events have been cancelled and this included our regional Conformation Specialty Show scheduled for early September 2020. This event is tentatively re-scheduled for same show site, early September 2021 but nothing is certain at this point. I should add that some of our members have been attending sanction matches and limited trials in various skills (scenting, tracking, racing, barn hunt, Rally and competitive obedience, etc.,) and have done well.

We do owe a big shout out to those special breeders who have participated in our rejuvenated puppy membership programme. Quodos to Ridgeville, Shumbatsvuku, Foxtrot and Sarjo. The Club offers free membership to new puppy owners to the end of the following full calendar year. We do ask the breeders to advise us when their puppies go to their new homes, with an email point of contact. We take care of the rest.

I hope you will enjoy the 2021 Club calendar. Special thanks to Sabrina Gauthier who does the work and puts together a wonderful collage of our ridgebacks. It would make a good, inexpensive Christmas gift! - Think about it when ordering your copy!!

Cheers – Diana Pethick, Secretary

## **Treasurer's Report**



We may have had a very quiet 2020 but, for this report, the 12 months started on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, as per the Constitution so it includes the 2019 Conformation Specialty in November. Our 2020 Specialty was scheduled for September and we had ordered the prizes which are created specifically for us, before everything got cancelled. We had taken the precaution of asking that there be no date reference on the prizes so that they will be good for the next Specialty that we do hold. This has meant, however, that the accounts for this year include the main expenditures for two specialties but only the income (rebates on the entry fees and special

fundraising at the Show) from one. Other items of note were the printing and sale of the revived calendar (shown under “Boutique”) and the commissioning of a new logo for the Club. The boutique entry includes a rebate from the company offering club clothing on our website. I should note with gratitude the donation from member Rosemarie Burdin.

	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Boutique	107.78	18.51	894.53
Memberships	1140.00	1000.00	1140.00
Show Committee	1965.03	0	1582.00
Donations and interest	3.33	218.17	113.19
Breeder listing webpage	275.00	225.00	350.00
Social	233.71	0	120.85
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>3724.85</b>	<b>1416.68</b>	<b>4200.57</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Administration	175.90	232.74	506.82
Show Committee	1427.18	810.77	3243.01
Publicity	177.92	150.09	148.24
Insurance	853.95	837.00	837.00
Social	250.17	184.89	350.00
Boutique	0	0	567.39
Equipment		220.28	345.79
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>2885.66</b>	<b>2435.77</b>	<b>5998.25</b>
<b>Income-Expenses</b>	<b>839.19</b>	<b>(974.09)</b>	<b>(1797.68)</b>
<b>BANK BALANCE</b>	<b>7856.39</b>	<b>6882.30</b>	<b>5084.62</b>

*Jim Beckett, Treasurer*

## **Membership Report**

RRCEC membership is up this year with a total of 94 members currently on our list. The club decided to resurrect our former New Puppy Membership program which was launched in early 2020. Breeders that are members of RRCEC give a free one year membership to all new puppy owners from their litters. This year we welcomed a total of 41 new puppy members to the club. A big thank you to Ridgeville Ridgebacks, Foxtrot, Royal City, Sarjo , Radisha, and Shumbatsvuku kennels for participating in this initiative. The club has also welcomed new members who have joined after attending one of the club events.



Lisa Conley



# CLUB EVENTS

## Agility & Racing Fun Day

Sunday September 27, 2020

WHAT A DAY WE HAD ! THE WEATHER GODS WERE ON OUR SIDE, THE SUN SHONE ALL DAY, THE REGULATIONS FOR COVID WITH RESPECT TO OUTSIDE GATHERINGS WERE NOT AN ISSUE. 15 MEMBERS PLUS 12 RIDGEBACKS CAME OUT TO LEARN ABOUT AGILITY AND AT LEAST FOR THE RIDGEBACKS, TEAR AROUND THE RACING CIRCUIT!!!

THE OWNER OF OUT BACK AGILITY, KANDY DUMM, HAD SET UP TWO AGILITY RINGS FOR US. ONE WAS A BASIC JUMPERS COURSE WITH JUMPS AND TUNNELS AND THE SECOND RING WAS A STANDARD COURSE WITH ALL THE AGILITY OBSTACLES (DOG WALK, WEAVES, TIRE, TEETER, ETC) AND LOTS OF TWISTS & TURNS!

THE FIRST COURSE OF JUMPS AND TUNNELS WAS GOOD FOR PEOPLE AND DOGS WHO HAD NO EXPERIENCE WITH THE EQUIPMENT OR HOW TO GET YOUR DOG OVER, THROUGH OR ON, THE OBSTACLES. WE ALL BENEFITED FROM TIPS AND DIFFERENT APPROACHES FOR DIFFERENT DOGS WITH ATTITUDE PROBLEMS! THE SECOND COURSE WAS A REGULAR STANDARD AGILITY COURSE. EVERYONE HAD A CHANCE TO ATTEMPT THE OBSTACLES AND WATCH OTHERS SOME WITH MORE, OR LESS, SUCCESS! WE ALL LEARNED A LOT ABOUT THE WORK INVOLVED WITH SUCCESS!

IN THE AFTERNOON, AFTER A LUNCH OF DELICIOUS GOURMET WRAPS, IT WAS RACING! RACE MASTER JIM BECKETT, HAD SET UP 350 YARD CIRCUIT FOR THE DOGS TO RUN. EVERYONE BENEFITTED, LOTS OF LAUGHS. SOME RIDGEBACKS DID NOT SEE THE NEED TO RUN! OTHERS FLEW AROUND THE COURSE AND WANTED TO KEEP GOING! OWNERS RAN QUITE WELL TOO, SOME WITH THEIR DOGS, OTHERS LOSING THEM ALONG THE WAY! AND THEN WE RAN KANDY'S BORDER COLLIES, TOGETHER - THEY FLEW AROUND THE COURSE TWICE. AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF RACING IS TO WATCH THE INTENSITY OF THE DOG ON THE LURE AND NOT TO BE DISTRACTED. WE RAN A FEW "TRYs" WITH TWO RIDGEBACKS RUNNING AS A PAIR! VARYING DEGREES OF SUCCESS & FAILURE!

I AM SURE MANY MEMBERS SAW THE PHOTOS THAT WERE POSTED ON FACEBOOK. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO TOOK THESE. IT WAS A FUN DAY. WE WILL DO IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR, PROMISE.

DIANA AND JIM



## Fun Day Candida



A good turn-out for the Agility and Racing Fun Day







## Agility





## Racing



## Ready, Set...



## Race





# VERSATILITY

We would like to take the opportunity to introduce you all to the updated version of our Club's Versatility program. The program has been recently updated to include many of the new sports and activities open to Ridgebacks. We hope that you'll all spend some time looking into all the things we can do with our hounds, get busy achieving new titles, and have so much fun along the way... Jesse and I are both enjoying participating in many different dog events, and although Covid has certainly limited trials this year, we've spent most of our time training new things. We hope that when 2021 rolls around, and with some luck, life gets back to some semblance of normal-we will be ready to earn a whole bunch of new titles! Below you will find some information on just a few of the many activities that are included in our Versatility program. Also take the time to look at the requirements for the Versatility title and I encourage all of you to think of which activities you'd like to try in the coming year!

**Agility:** A sport where the dog is trained to complete obstacles in a set pattern with its handler. There are multiple types of classes in agility, all with several levels of difficulty. The CKC (Canadian Kennel Club) holds agility trials, as well as AAC (Agility Association of Canada). There are many dog training schools that have agility classes, and it is a great opportunity to learn how to work as a team with your dog, as well as get in a good work out!



**Obedience:** There are 3 main titles in Obedience: CD (Companion Dog), CDX (Companion Dog Excellent), and UD (Utility Dog). To obtain each title, you must have 3 passing scores of at least 170/200, and earn at least half of the available points for each exercise executed. Obedience includes teaching the dog to heel (both on and off leash) in a pattern that the judge will call out to you, do a formal recall, stand for an exam by the judge, sit and down stays, retrieving a dumb bell, and many more elements-All without treats in your pocket! It's beautiful to see a well trained dog working with its handler, and while this sport definitely requires lots of practice, patience and dedication, it is a great feeling of accomplishment to walk out of an obedience ring, knowing you & your dog have put in a good routine.



**Barn Hunt:** In this sport, rats (safely caged) are hidden in a 'barn' setup and the dog must find the hidden rat and indicate the find to the handler. It's a timed event and there are several levels of difficulty. Classes are given at several training centers (Guides Canins in St-Lazare, QC is one of them)

**Rally-O:** This is an 'obedience' activity but is set up very differently from traditional obedience. A rally-O ring is set up with a certain amount of numbered signs (which tell you what to ask your dog to do at each station). The judge is in the ring to score the performance, but you proceed through the stations on your own, with your dog.



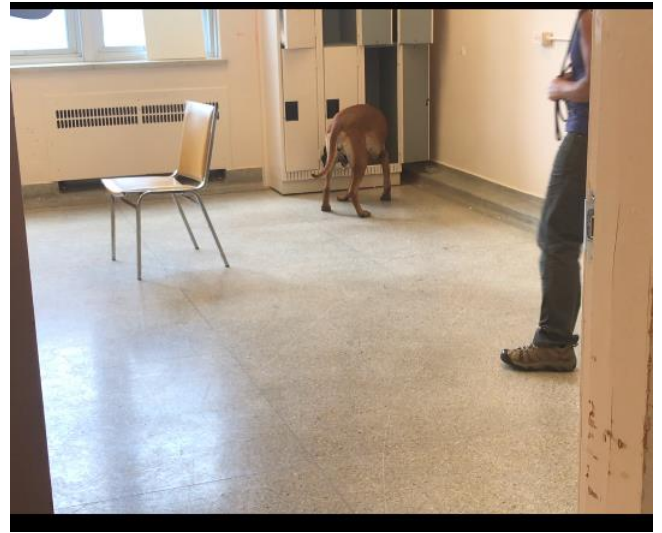
In **Rally-O**, you may verbally encourage your dog throughout the routine, and team work and fun is very much the name of the game.

**Scent Detection:** There are a number of different Scent Detection organizations in Canada, including CKC & SDDA (Scent Detection Dog Association). The game here, is to teach your dog to find designated odours and 'indicate' his/her find to you (the handler). All organizations use common essential oils. For instance, SDDA uses Wintergreen, Pine & Thyme. In both organizations, you must pass an indoor search, outdoor search, and box search, to earn a title at each level. You don't have to pass all 3 searches in the same trial, but some organizations have special titles for dogs that do pass all 3 searches in the same trial. Jesse LOVES scent detection and it's an activity that you can practice inside at home on a rainy day, to occupy your dog's mind, and find new and challenging ways to get your dog to

put its nose to good use! There are great resources online for training scent detection at home (look up the scent work classes at:

<https://www.fenzidogsportsacademy.com>)

And go here ( <http://www.k9sportslines.com/scent-detection.html> )when you're ready to buy your essential oils for training! Jesse indicating her find with a nose freeze...



**Lure Coursing:** Canadians with Ridgebacks have had to travel to the USA for decades if they wanted to go Lure Coursing and obtain titles with their dogs.... but not anymore! Since 2019, Ridgebacks are now part of the CKC Lure Coursing family. There is now also ASFA (American Sighthound Field Association) trials in Canada. The point system for obtaining titles and becoming a Field Trial Champion are different for these two organizations, but the dogs get to chase plastic 'bunnies' (white plastic bags) just the same at both types of trials. No training required for this sport-Ridgebacks either want to run, or, they look at you as if you've lost your mind! Some young dogs do need to build up the confidence to run the entire course, so if your dog seems enthusiastic but doesn't follow the lure all the way around, definitely don't give up. There are other 'lure coursing' events such as the Sprinter events which are much shorter and a straight line which can definitely build up a dog's confidence and enthusiasm!







I am hoping, and so looking forward to seeing many of you out with your Ridgies & participating in new activities in 2021!

Have a safe & Happy holiday season, Tina Andreatos, Vice President.



## 2021 Specialty

Oakville & District Kennel Club  
September 2021



# CLUB NEWS

***ONLY 5 COPIES LEFT – GET YOUR'S NOW***



**2021 RRCEC CALENDAR  
AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER**

**CALENDRIER RRCEC 2021  
PRÉ-COMMANDE DISPONIBLE**

**\$15 FOR MEMBERS - \$20 NON-MEMBERS**  
POSTAGE INCLUDED

**MEMBRES 15 \$ - NON-MEMBRES 20 \$**  
LIVRAISON INCLUSE

**RIGHT ON TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!**  
LOOKING TO GIVE A CALENDAR OR TO GET ONE?  
HERE'S HOW!

Send an email to [info@cerveaudroitdesign.com](mailto:info@cerveaudroitdesign.com)  
with the following informations:

- NAME
- FULL ADDRESS
- NUMBER OF CALENDARS

**JUSTE À TEMPS POUR LES FÊTES !**  
VOUS SOUHAITEZ OFFRIR UN CALENDRIER OU EN  
OBTENIR UN ? VOICI COMMENT !

Envoyez un email à [info@cerveaudroitdesign.com](mailto:info@cerveaudroitdesign.com)  
avec les informations suivantes :

- NOM
- ADRESSE COMPLÈTE
- NOMBRE DE CALENDRIERS

Binding of calendar might differ from image. / La reliure du calendrier peut différer de l'image.

# *Rhodesian Ridgeback print*

## *FOR SALE*

*Unique, limited edition print.*

*11 ins x 15 ins*

*On 80lb. acid free paper*

*\$55.00 plus postage*



*The artist, Gerry Knight, created this unique print for Jo Dunn's book, Rhodesian Ridgeback Review. She has offered the Club the opportunity to raise funds through a small commission. It is a signed limited edition and will never be reproduced.*

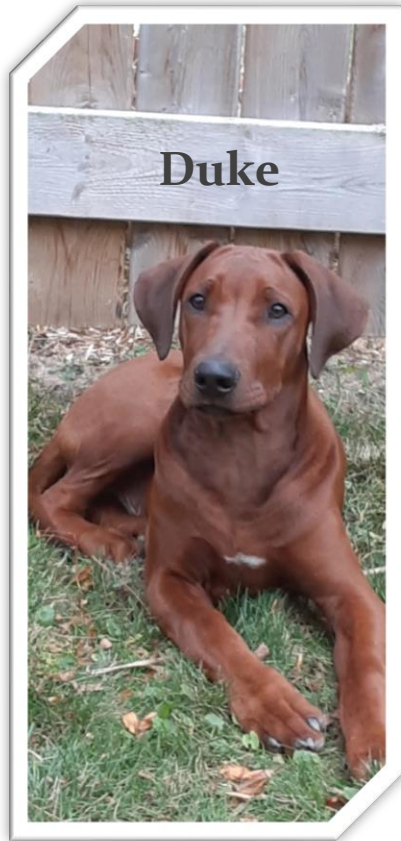
*It is recommended the print be mounted & framed with acid free matt & core. Hang this print out of direct sunlight.*

*Interested ridgeback owners should contact the Club Treasurer, Jim Beckett for details at [beckettj@ripnet.com](mailto:beckettj@ripnet.com) or online at [www.ridgebackcanada.com](http://www.ridgebackcanada.com). The print is also available on the RRCEC website ([www.ridgebackcanada.com](http://www.ridgebackcanada.com)). Click on the On Line Store, drop down menu – RR Print*



## Welcome New Puppy Members

RRCEC is pleased to welcome the new members sponsored by  
SHUMBATSVUKI and RIDISHIA KENNELS



*Malaika*



*Anoona*



DID  
SOMEONE  
PAW SAY  
walk?





# BRAGS & WAGS

**It is now Ch. Nirokii's Code Black, FCh, SDN\***

**\*pending CKC approval**

This October, Jesse & I attended Belleville District & Kennel Club's first CKC Scent Detection Trial. It was also our first ever Scent Detection Trial. We had so much fun. The judge & the entire trial committee as well as all of the participants, were such a pleasure to spend the day with. I wasn't sure what to expect, having never been to a scent detection trial, but it's one of the few sports where there are no spectators (other competitors can't watch, or they would know where the hides have been placed), so it was a perfect Covid safe activity. Jesse had a great day, only missing 1 out of 6 hides, in the two trials held that day. We obtained our Scent Detection Novice title, made new friends and are very much looking forward to their planned spring trial!



# BRAGS & WAGS



## Nairobi and Timbavati

got qualifying scores today in the first Rally Trial in Canada since Covid.  
In Truro Nova Scotia.





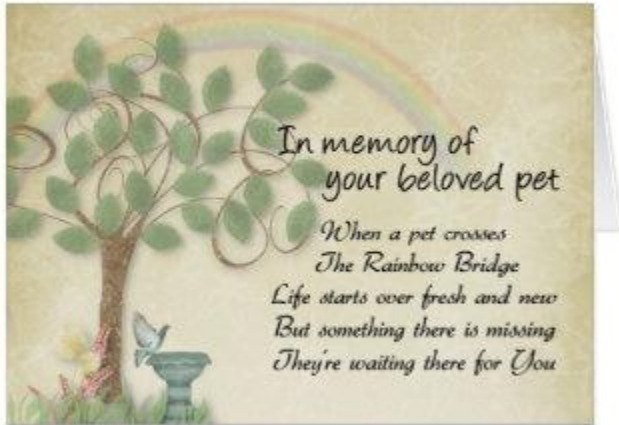


**Dashing thru the snow...Who needs reindeer!**



**Winter Wonderland**





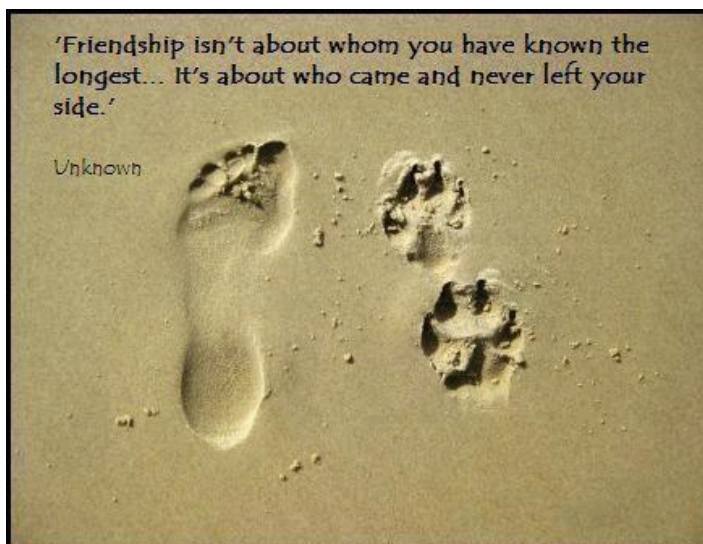
# RAINBOW BRIDGE

*Many members will recall Shumbatsvuku Tana. She passed away at age 12 early this year in my arms. She was an amazing dog and companion. A Champion and loyal protector of our family. She shall be ever missed.*

*And with a loss comes new birth. We welcome this summer a new girl to fill a vacant space. It is wonderful to have a grand daughter of Tana. Shumbatsvuku Luna (Luna...tic). Born 5 July 2020 she is a wonderful girl that is fitting right in with us.*



*Tana*



# Chobe



*Twelve years ago Sarjo got a male puppy from Shambatsvuku. He was a treasure and although his show and breeding career where limited he had a wonderful career as a family pet living with my good friend. These are her memories as Chobe passed away in October 2020. Thank you to the Logan's for his wonderful home.*



*I remember it like it was yesterday. It was the Mildmay Christmas Parade 11 years ago. I met Chobe aka Chobinator. He was just over 1 year old and he was the most handsome dog I had ever met. I had no idea what a Rhodesian Ridgeback was but I instantly loved him. A month later I met him again and mentioned to his owner Cindy Maurer what a beautiful dog he was. The day was December 28th and she said I could have him. I could not believe my ears. I did not take him home with me that day. I needed to speak to my family and we had to agree as a family to bring him home. Weeks later he climbed into and onto our 3 children in the back seat of our Ford pick up and laid down!*

*As we drove away Cindy called out -"and he eats 6 cups of food a day"!*

*We've had many adventures with Chobe. He could run like lightning! Never allowed anyone in the house that didn't belong and had amazing healing energy!*

*When he left this world he took a piece of my heart with him. He will truly be missed! Thank you Cindy Maurer for allowing Chobe to look after me and my family for the short time he was on this earth with us.*

# Ridgeback Tales



## *Jessica, my Rhodesian Ridgeback Dog Disappears*

*Hans vander Heiden 20 March 1998*

*Late this afternoon I went down to Kariba Kushinga Lodge, my new safari lodge being established on the slopes of Camp Hill in Kariba. I went down to check on the day's work, and to show workers where to put posts for the new electric fence being put up to keep elephants, buffalo, hippo, leopard and other potentially dangerous game out, and the bushbuck, duiker, waterbuck and zebra in. I took along my two Rhodesian Ridgebacks, and also those of my son and daughter. There were four Ridgebacks in all.*

*My bitch, Jessica is 20 months old, and is big for a bitch. It was she who in the 75<sup>th</sup> Rhodesian Ridgeback Club Anniversary show held in Harare in 1996 won First Prize in the "Best Head Challenge", "Novice Bitch", "Novice dogs & bitches" and received a Third Prize for the "Members Challenge".*

*While down in the wild and overgrown gully between Kushinga and Lake View Inn, Jessica soon disappeared with the other dogs. When called in after 10 minutes, only three returned and came out of the gully with me, and I thought Jessie would soon follow. She always tends to go that bit farther. I continued checking work progress, calling for Jessie periodically, but she didn't respond. Then I noticed that my son's bitch, Tonga had also left on her own. However, she often returned home when she got bored. I was a little concerned for Jessie though, as I had concentrated on training her to come immediately to my call, and she had responded so well over the past month. I went back into the gully, following the streambed looking for signs of Jessie. The two younger dogs, Induna and Tamba were with me. However, I found no sign of her. As it was getting late, I came back up along the lakeshore, hot and sweaty in a temperature of 33 ° C. As I was heading for the office I heard one single dog yelp, but was not certain of the direction. I called to see if I could hear her again, but no such luck.*



I decided to check at home first, and possibly return to the gully after dark if she wasn't there. In the dark I would have the advantage of spotting Jessie (or a leopard or some other wild animal) from a long way by the reflection of her eyes in the light of a torch (flashlight). Back home I found my son's dog Tonga, but no Jessie. After feeding the younger pups and Tonga and after supper with my wife Valerie, I returned to the lakeshore in front of Kushinga, armed with a handgun, torches, a knife, wire cutter, water and more. I also took Induna (the male pup) for experience, and hoped he would indicate if he sensed or heard Jessie. He wasn't too sure about this, as he had just had a good feed, and his kennel seemed so much more comfortable. By now I was absolutely sure that I had heard Jessie yelp earlier, and that my hunch that Jessie was caught in a snare was right. My worry was that in the dark of night I would meet up with buffalo, elephant or leopard in the gully, as all of these had been in the area lately. There was also the threat of a leopard having found Jessie in the thick bush first, and she would be no match for a leopard while held by a snare.

I walked Induna on a short leash. Gingerly picking my way in the dark, stopping to shine about periodically and listen for animal sounds. We went into the gully. On approaching a particularly dense patch of undergrowth I heard a deep rumbling sound. Could it be a leopard, or a buffalo? Checking the undergrowth very carefully with my torch from different angles but spotting nothing, I was relieved when a closer rumbling turned out to be that of distant thunder. Half an hour later I reached the end of the gully, and nothing had turned up. I returned down the gully, but along the slope higher up along the Lake View Inn side. On reaching the hotel staff accommodation site, a hotel worker told me he had recently heard what sounded like a dog's yelp higher up the slope, but he wasn't certain. This reinforced my suspicion about the snare. The worker, Clever by name, and his son offered to show me where the sound had been heard, and on we went, higher up the slope, again on hands and knees in thick bush. The pup, Induna, had been on the leash all along, and had been fine. However, he had had enough of this game now, and became very suspicious of the helpers with me, keeping a very sharp eye on them as we all progressed in the dark.

After crawling through, over and under bushes for some time, checking with my torch periodically, mainly for leopard in trees! I finally caught a brief glimmer of the reflection of a set of 'eyes' mirrored back to me from some distance in the light of my torch, but they were a long way off. It was only a glimmer, and I was uncertain whether in fact I had seen a reflection. It could have been a light from a building in the background momentarily causing a glimmer through the leaves and bushes. Or could it have been Jessie? Or worse still, a leopard. I called her name, but there was no response. We went on, crouching low through the undergrowth, and Induna still with me on a leash kept going the wrong way around bushes

with thorns. When I was able to stand up again, I shone about in the direction I thought Jessie might be. This time I saw the unmistakable reflection of two eyes, set wide apart. They stared at me, as a cat might from cover. After an initial hesitation to analyze the reflection, I decided that they were not the eyes of a leopard, and as Jessie is a particularly large Ridgeback, the distance between the eyes were more likely to be hers than those of a leopard. Jessie made no sound, and Induna became very nervous. As I went forward cautiously but with haste, I had to drag Induna along. When 10 m from the 'eyes' I did a final check to ensure that the 'eyes' were still there, and had not become those of a leopard. They remained those of Jessica. I saw her clearly now, and she was straining against the wire snare to come to me. Concerned for her I hurried forward, dragging the very worried pup with me. Jessie was fine. She had no injuries, no leopard had got to her. The snare had thankfully not cut into her, nor had the ends of the twisted wire injured her. She was delighted when I freed her, and jumped right on top of me while untying the snare at the base of a root to which it was anchored. My helpers were amazed that she was alright, as they said they had seen leopard in the area only the night before. On the way down, we return to the staff accommodation to drop off my helpers, and then I went back to the waiting vehicle on the lakeshore. Jessie was already in the back when I arrived with Induna. She had had enough for one day and was pleased to be back in 'civilization'.

#### **Subscript:**

Despite the late rains of 1998 in Zimbabwe generally, elephants have been feeding on domestic trees in the Kariba township throughout the wet season. Buffalo always roam about in small groups, keeping to the more dense patches of riverine vegetation in gullies during the day, and moving about at night. Leopards abound, and weekly there are reports of domestic dogs and cats having been taken by them at night. Other wildlife, such as hippo, bushbuck, klipspringer, duiker, waterbuck and a few Zebra, though not often seen, move about freely feeding in the numerous unfrequented places. Poaching is a major problem for this unique environment, where man and wildlife coexist with relatively few and infrequent problems.



**Kariba, Zimbabwe** The little town which developed haphazardly on the hills near the site of the massive hydro-electric dam constructed across the Zambezi River in the 1950s, became known as "Kariba". Kariba is now a small and spread-out resort town which is the starting point for tourism activities centered on the lake of the same name.



# Ridgeback Humour

## A Dog's Rules For Christmas

1. Be especially patient with your humans during this time. They may appear to be more stressed-out than usual and they will appreciate long comforting dog leans.
2. They may come home with large bags of things they call gifts. Do not assume that all the gifts are yours.
3. Be tolerant if your humans put decorations on you. They seem to get some special kind of pleasure out of seeing how you look with fake antlers.
4. They may bring a large tree into the house and set it up in a prominent place and cover it with lights and decorations. Bizarre as this may seem to you, it is an important ritual for your humans, so there are some things you need to know:
  - a. Don't pee on the tree
  - b. Don't drink water in the container that holds the tree
  - c. Mind your tail when you are near the tree
  - d. If there are packages under the tree, even ones that smell interesting or that have your name on them, don't rip them open
  - e. Don't chew on the cord that runs from the funny-looking hole in the wall to the tree
5. Your humans may occasionally invite lots of strangers to come visit during this season. These parties can be lots of fun, but they also call for some discretion on your part:
  - a. Not all strangers appreciate kisses and leans
  - b. Don't eat off the buffet table
  - c. Beg for goodies subtly
  - d. Be pleasant, even if unknowing strangers sit on your sofa
  - e. Don't drink out of glasses that are left within your reach
6. Likewise, your humans may take you visiting. Here your manners will also be important:
  - a. Observe all the rules in #4 for trees that may be in other people's houses. (4a is particularly important)
  - b. Respect the territory of other animals that may live in the house
  - c. Tolerate children
  - d. Turn on your charm big time
7. A big man with a white beard and a very loud laugh may emerge from your fireplace in the middle of the night. **DON'T BITE HIM!!**



**These pics of Anoonas are just too funny!**



**Captions Anyone??**

Let's make it a contest Best Caption for publication in next Roster!

email your ideas to [ridgebackroster@kos.net](mailto:ridgebackroster@kos.net)





The Ridgeback Roster will be published quarterly in 2021. Submissions for the next issue are encouraged and can be sent to the editor in MS Word or WP. Pictures are always welcome and can be emailed in JPEG format or sent by regular mail to be scanned. The dog(s) and photographer in/of each picture must be identified in your email or covering letter. (See below for additional information regarding club policy on use of photographs.)

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***Please note: the deadline for submissions for the next Ridgeback Roster is February 15, 2021***

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!**