



# THE SHOGUN C H R O N I C L E S

The life and  
times of the  
newest member  
of the Marks  
family

## CROUCHING TIGER, BOUNCING SHEPHERD

Ninja continues to make a concerted effort to figure out his new brother; often stalking Shogun around the house and taking every safe opportunity to get up-close-and-personal. That is, of course, until Shogun sees him, and bounds after him in a flurry of flapping ears and thumping feet. Thus far, that has been enough to send the cat scrambling.

That changed on Saturday when it was Shogun's turn to sneak up on Ninja as the cat slept sprawl in the window seat, to be awakened by the head of a German Shepherd puppy bouncing up and down only inches away.

Rather than run, Ninja reached in his bag of kitty kung fu! With a hysterical growl whose warbling tone harkened the finest "bad lip sync" Samurai cinema, Ninja hauled back with a paw and struck a pose of feline ferocity. Shogun failed to read the signs and bounced up to the receiving end of a solid *Pa tuda Noggin*. The blow struck with a thud that caused Shogun to backpedal and shake his head. Still undaunted, Shogun led with his face once more and Ninja followed up with an equally resounding *Soka yu Melon*.

This proved more than enough. Looking more than a little contrite, Shogun backed away as Ninja casually strolled through his kitty gate and into a dog-free zone. The judges award the match to Ninja, and hope that it marks a step in defining his personal space before Shogun totally outgrows him.

*Life remains a busy schedule: all this eating, growing, playtime and getting cuddled can take a lot out of a puppy. Fortunately, Shogun can find time in his day to curl up on the office floor and keep an eye on Mike while he works.*

*Ninja does everything he can to get close to Shogun, preferably in controlled settings!*



## BITE-SIZED NEWS

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### EMBRACING THE CRATE

Monday was a landmark day. Shogun fell off the radar for about 5 seconds, enough to spur Mike into a rapid search pattern, only to find that Shogun had climbed into his open crate all on his own. Puppy was napping peacefully, a trick he repeated twice more in the next 18 hours. Hooray!

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### BUILDING BONDS FOR A LIFETIME

The effort to build solid bonds with the puppy continue through every activity, and the results are pretty evident. Given the chance, Shogun remains anywhere between “close and actually touching.” Alla and Mike. He surprised the heck out of us by unexpectedly following Mike into the shower, and during the workday is often under the desk, where a puppy proves to be a wonderful footwarmer!

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### PERSONALITY TO SPARE

It is amazing to see a puppy’s personality blossom along with his size. Shogun has a real loving side to be sure, but BOY does he have a mischievous side as well. Even funnier is how he instinctively learns to be a con man; when caught “red handed” in something he shouldn’t be pursuing, he will look away and amble off like “who, ME?”



### MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL!

If you are going to live at the Marks’ house, you have to love football (or at least be able to tolerate it.) During the Miami Dolphins win over the Jets on Monday Night Football, Shogun literally passed out from excitement when Miami won the game with six seconds on the clock.

Well... maybe he slept through most of the second half but sprawled up the length of Mike’s arm, it was great “shared time” nonetheless.

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### THE REST

Shogun’s 10-week checkup went splendidly, the bruiser has grown to 24lbs and looks to be in the peak of health. He received a round of booster shots, some minor adjustment to his diet, and direction to “keep on doing what you are doing because he looks great!” With his size increase Shogun is showing greater ability to play and our backyard romps are stretching out little by little, and this week he demonstrated his first shift from puppy-trotting to a German Shepherd’s beautiful long-stride lope, even if only for about 10 yards. For now it is still a lot of playtime and enjoying beautiful fall days together.

