



THE SHOGUN CHRONICLES

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

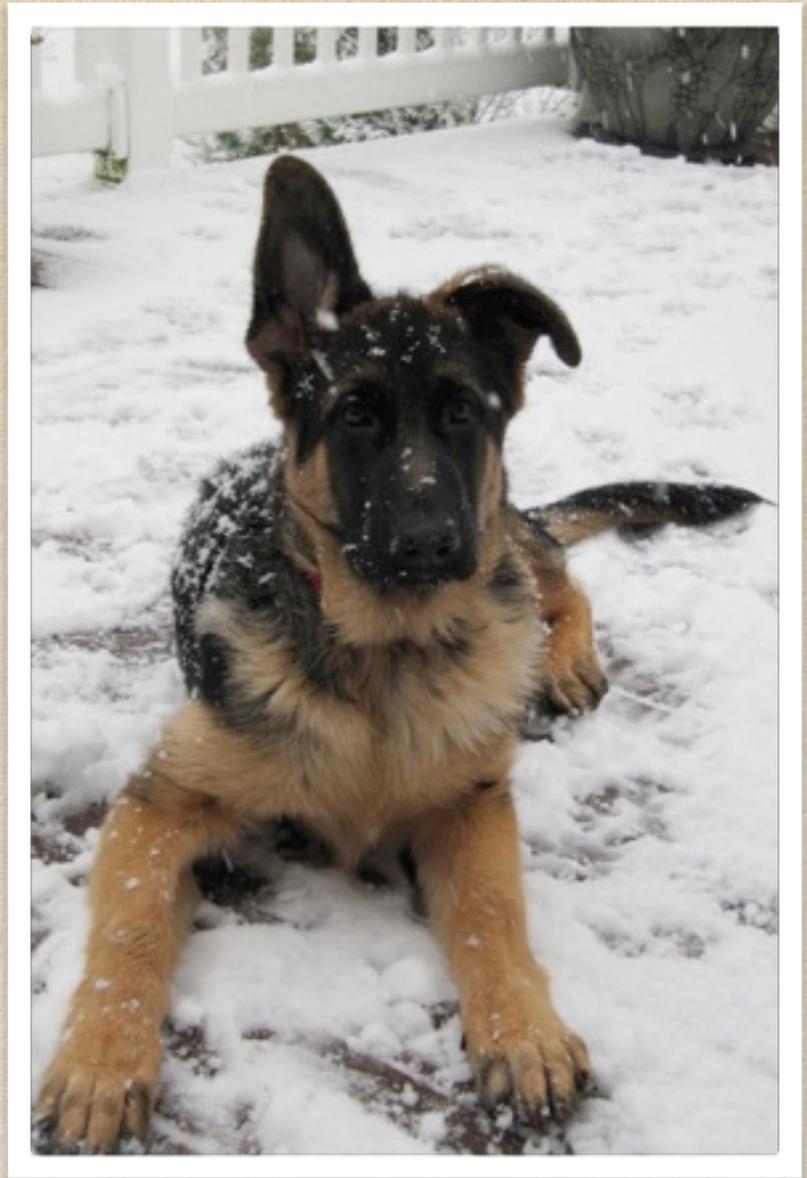
SHOGUN'S FIRST SNOW

Barely into December and Winchester got its first snow. Not a big snow by any standards, just a couple inches really, but for Shogun it was a day of magic. After just a moment's pause at the door to sniff the falling flakes, Shogun bolted outside and began a day of romping, spinning and snapping at falling flakes. He rolled in the snow, stretched out in it, and generally had a ball.

Shogun continues to enjoy days going to the park, moreso it seems as the weather gets colder. He is really coming into his next level of strength, with a pulling ability that could probably pull either of us on skis. It is such a magical thing to see the changes in him each day. His ears are beginning to stand up, both on some days or one on some days, the latter prompting jokes that his "turn signal is on" and pointing to the right or left.

His ability to do focus work gets better in the quiet of home, and falls apart utterly in the presence of new and fascinating things in his surroundings, a reminder that he is barely five months old with a lot of growing up yet to do. But he can now sit with food on the floor in front of him, or wait while we walk out of the room, until we tell him to release with an energetic "Banzai!"

With the Christmas tree up for several days now he has given it only the briefest of interest and we remain hopeful for a Christmas that doesn't involve chain-link fencing around the tree. Only time will tell!



Frosty the Shepherd! Shogun is completely at home sprawled in his first day of snow. Asked to give his reaction to the winter festivities, Shogun gave it "One and a half ears up!"

BITE-SIZED NEWS



NO, HE'S NOT SPOILED. REALLY.

We understand that some images of the treatment of animals can be disturbing, but holding fast to journalistic integrity the Chronicle felt justified in running the photo above to break the untold story of the hardships of growing up a dog in the Marks' house. Oh sure, Shogun is asleep on the couch, warm and cozy in front of a crackling fire, and sources tell us that soothing classical music was playing softly in the background, but our crack team revealed the gaps in the seemingly idyllic facade. Look closely and you will see... *no mint on the pillow!* We know you will join us all in hoping that Shogun pulls through.

FEAR FACTOR

Fully expecting the GSD puppy "fear period," we were still surprised by how vividly the first moment played out. Shogun could have been described as utterly unflappable until Tuesday night when we were out walking and a neighbor across the street rolled a garbage can to the curb. Something about the deep growl-like rumble coming out of the darkness set Shogun into a nearly panicked retreat back into the house. He recovered quickly but despite all our efforts to remain blaisé about the noise, it was clear that Shogun had thought the Big Monster coming to get him.



BOYS WILL BE BOYS

Most of the stories of Shogun focus on how cute he is, how smart, how much he is loved. But there are other times... **THOSE** times. Like walking out onto the deck to find that your little darling has emptied a six-foot planter, transforming the ENTIRE deck into a splattered, dripping mud-field! At left, the artist can be seen in one corner of his loamy masterpiece, surrounded by, and covered head-to-toe by, his great work of art. We were... speechless.

It took about an hour with brooms and hoses before the deck was returned to normal and the dog was clean enough to go back into the house!

