



# THE SHOGUN CHRONICLES

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

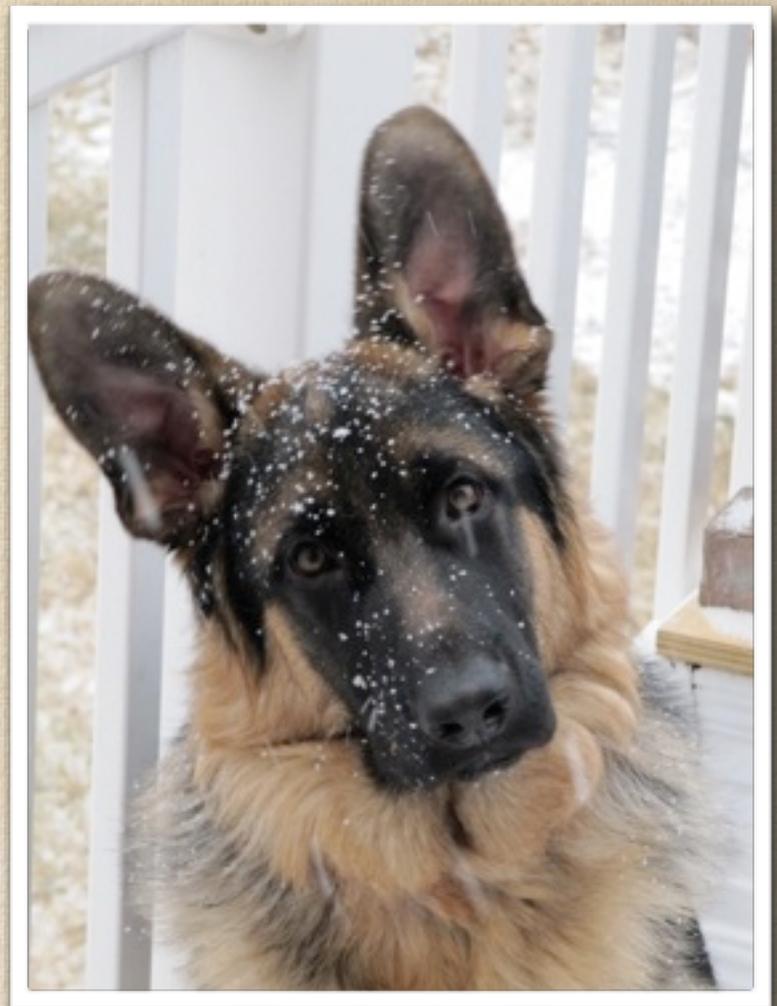
## THE TEENAGER PHASE

Now I haven't fact-checked this with my Mom, but I don't recall EVER being impulsive, petulant or mischievous in MY teenage years (cough, cough...) so I was stunned to see these traits emerge as my sweet little puppy burgeons into mega-sized doghood. Thinking back tho, maybe not so stunned after all.

Kidding aside, Shogun is displaying a wonderful, at times witty personality that is magnified by an utterly relentless drive. His strength is incredible and his lingering explosions of puppy-enthusiasm are hysterical. In a pitched game of Chase or Recall he is like a runaway locomotive.

And yet, amid all the moments of the bouncy chaos, we see a dog that is so darn smart and so eager to learn. He learned to catch treats spit at him in two sessions (not as gross as it sounds and it teaches him to watch our eyes.) Put in a stay we can balance treats on his paw and he just stares at us for the energetic cry of BANZAI that releases him. When his food is to be served he trots to his floormat and sits, again waiting for Banzai.

Still... he has his moments. You can honestly watch the gears turn in his head when he has decided it is "play with the dog time." He leans towards taking a hostage, something sitting near you which he is quite certain you need to remain within reach. But give him credit for guts, he looks you right in the eye when he picks it up and trots off, tossing his head and swishing his tail only to plop down but a few feet away with a look that says "come get it!"



### ***Another snow in Winchester***

*If there is one thing Shogun loves, it is playing in the snow. Unlike the fluffy piles of December, the current snow is a crunchy fine gravel of ice. Shogun has spent much time out on the deck pawing and chewing the white stuff.*

## BITE-SIZED NEWS



### HOW DOES YOUR DOG STACK UP?

The classic GSD pose is known as a “stack” and Shogun at times will fall into the first hints of it naturally, often when looking raptly at something in the distance. But we wanted to see how readily he would do so in front of a camera and the answer proved to be fairly easily (with deference to the expert handling of Jon and Elise of course!) We are just amazed at the beautiful “grownup dog” lines and how quickly this beautiful dog blossomed from the fuzzy little Gund Toy that I cradled in my arms only a few short months ago. We are excited about the prospects of spring and getting involved with some organized canine sports.

### SUPERDOG TO THE RESCUE

Winter in Winchester brings some powerful windstorms as cold air thunders down the Shenandoah Valley. It is a normal occurrence that somebody in the neighborhood gets a tree snapped in half or sometimes siding stripped from an entire wall. As fate would have it, this year was our turn for a wind-driven disaster, or rather it would have been, save for the actions of a watchful German Shepherd. I was in the office when Shogun gave an unprecedented, barrel-chested WOOF as he bounded towards the back window. I came quickly to see the entire metal sheathing of my deck peeling away in the gale! Thanks to the quick alert I was able to run out with some nails and secure the ongoing tear before it had the chance to unwrap the entire deck, exposing wiring and who-knows-what-else. Our hero enjoyed special treats and a nap on the couch after his successful defense of the castle!



### BAD TO THE BONE

One measures time in many ways; the days and years, inches of growth, and in our case a rather unique milestone is the size of bones that Shogun devours. At left he sits with a femur that quite certainly came off a Brontosaurus, yet despite its size he will strip it down to shiny white faster than a school of piranha. We had a good chuckle the other day upon opening the door for our UPS guy, who looked down to see several such bones - enough I realized to have constituted an entire skeleton at first glance. Doubtlessly such a sight would have quite a deterring effect on any bad guy peering in the window with thoughts of uninvited entry! Good thing they don't get to see the sweet, loving dog at right, waiting as his dinner is prepared.

