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

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



REGAL IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

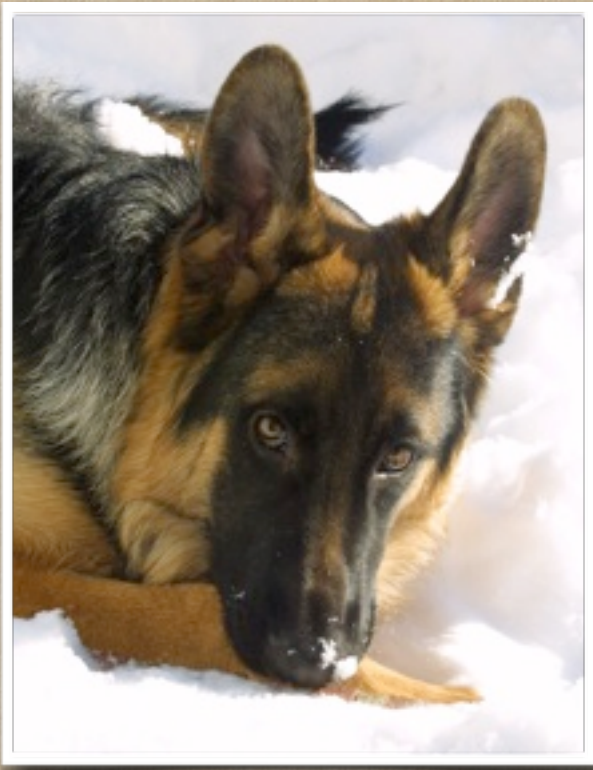
The Shenandoah Valley has been hit, as most of the east coast, with what is beginning to feel like an endless series of snowstorms. Last week some three feet of the white stuff blanketed Winchester and tonight as this is written another eighteen inches or so is falling outside. Its no wonder that the Chronicle is dominated by photos of Shogun in the snow... there's not much else going on!

But oh how he loves the snow. In the break between the two most recent storms we had a day or two of vibrant blue skies where the sun took just enough chill off the air to make it actually quite pleasant to be outside.

Shogun took advantage of every second he could, lounging in the snow, watching the kids have snowball fights out in the yard or watching the birds that gathered at the backyard feeder which, when all else was covered, seemed as busy as a shopping mall the day after Thanksgiving.

While the road-choking snow has limited the distance of our walks, it has more than made up for its exercise value in the exertion required to leap and chest-plow through snow that was often up to Shogun's neck. Just a short time carving pathways in the deep snow would see our favorite puppy soon curled up in front of the fireplace fast asleep!

BITE-SIZED NEWS



SCOTTY - SET PHASERS TO "CUTE"

Animals understand cute, and the incredible power of a soulful stare to short circuit any irritation one might have for whatever mischief said animal may have just undertaken. Shogun it seems, is a Grand Master. Sure, he can very intentionally and very methodically push one button after another in a determined campaign to wrest our attention from whatever activity we mistakenly took to be more important than the dog, but let us swivel about with so much as a harsh tone on our mind and he staunches it with one of those "big puppy eyes" looks. The look at left came in the wake of chewing the daylights out of an extension cord left unwatched on the deck. Obviously the malfactor must have come and gone unseen because there's no way the sweet, angelic face seen here could have done it. That's his story and he's sticking to it.

DIGGIN THE SNOW

There's one thing we've learned about Shogun this winter - he LOVES to dig! When the snow was piled on the deck he literally back-pedaled his way around the patio furniture, digging a trench that allowed him to resume his normal trot around the circle.

But it was out in the front yard that our arctic tunneler came into full glory. At right is the beginning of a digging exercise that ultimately saw the dog all but disappear in the snow, creating a wind-free little den that he all-too-happily curled up inside, holding out for a treat-enhanced coaxing to come bounding back into the house.



THE BOYS OF WINTER

There's a reason dogs are called "man's best friend" and Shogun demonstrates that every day. Through thick and thin he is never more than a word away from following you outside in sun, rain or snow, eager to explore, wanting little more than your love and attention (ok, well, treats. Lots of treats are even better..)

Here Shogun and Mike are piled into a snowdrift as the first flakes of the next snowfall begin to float down.

