

# VT MUSHES

## NEWSLETTER

<b>H 164 Shelter of Animals Bill</b>	<b>Trade Fair Recap</b>	<b>Peanut Butter and Pumpkin Dog Treats</b>	<b>Butter Magician</b>
<b>Page 1</b>	<b>Page 2</b>	<b>Page 3</b>	<b>Page 4</b>

cover photo by: iSkiVermont.net

### BILL WATCH

A bill ([H 164 Shelter of Animals](#)) that is in the House at the Agriculture and Forest Products would better define shelter for animals and dogs.

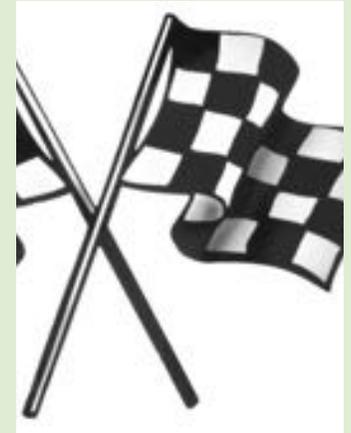
Unfortunately as the H 164 bill is written now, it will restrict too much what is allowable for dogs.

The H 164 bill proposes that only ties outs five times the length of the dog be allowed. For a dog that is 2.4 feet long, you will need a 12 foot long tether.

The H 164 bill also talks about appropriate shelters depending on the size of the dog. For a standard Siberian Husky a shelter should be, as per the proposed H 164 bill, five feet by five feet. There is some confusion on the language, is the shelter a dog house or a run? If shelter refers to a dog house, that is too big. If it refers to a run, that seems on the small side.

At this point, VTMA has deep concerns with some of the language proposed in this H 164 Shelter of Animals Bill.

A lot of these bills are brought to our attention by the [Vermont Federation of Dog Clubs](#) and we appreciate their efforts on our behalf. The [Vermont Traditions Coalition](#) also helps us out - we appreciate their efforts as well!



### Winter Races

- Nov 14 - Paws of Thunder, Gosport NY
- Feb 6 - Plum Creek Wilderness, Greenville ME
- Feb 18 - Great North Woods, Colebrook NH
- March 5 - Can-Am Crown, Fort Kent ME



## VT MUSHES



*VTMA booth at the Trade Fair*

## Trade Fair Recap

VTMA was once again at the annual Northern New England Sled Dog Trade Fair! Several members helped Allan and Suzanne manage the table throughout the course of Saturday. There was chatting with other Vermont mushers, some members, some new members, some passing by.

Allan had brought photos from his Alaska trip as a slide show. Mayhap we can convince him to tell us about his trip at a meeting or in a future article?

The New Hampshire Mushers meeting was lightly attended, but they did announce that two of the northern trails for multi-use in the winter months are no longer available for any type of recreation. One of these trails connects to northern Vermont. They also had a collection of videos of dog sledding in the 1900s from the New Hampshire region. It was interesting seeing how things used to be done and also how much more popular the sport was.

The first speaker on Saturday was veterinarian Dr. Jerry A Vanek. Some key points: To a dog, movement is life. Given the physics involved, dogs push a sled, they don't pull the sled. Don't just do something - stand there! Sometimes the best thing you can do for

your dog, is to watch how they are moving and acting before you even approach or touch the dog.

Michael Malick listened to Jessie Royer, 2015 Iditarod 4th place finisher talk. He had this to say:

I wanted to say a few words about Jessie Royer and how impressed I was with her work on trust between her and her dogs. I know she has Alaskans and not Siberians, but it was great to hear how she unloads her dogs without a drop line! I guess what I enjoy most about running dogs is learning to attempt to get whatever dogs I am running to trust me. That is the tallest of all orders as far as I am concerned. Jessie sure seemed to have worked on that a lot. I can only hope to keep working on this trust factor which I know is very time consuming.

VTMA members also helped sell tickets and donate raffle items for the annual Saturday raffle. With the generosity shown, mushers in Willow, Alaska will get half the pot - \$331! Amy said that this raffle was more than double what is generally raised each year. Way to go mushers!

*~Judy Gilmore, editor*

**Reminder: Annual VTMA memberships are due!**

## VT MUSHES



## Peanut Butter and Pumpkin Dog Treats

2 ½ cups whole wheat flour

2 eggs

½ cup canned pumpkin (look for 100% pumpkin)

2 tablespoons peanut butter

½ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Whisk together all the ingredients. Add water as needed to make the dough workable, but keep the dough on the dry and stiff side. Roll the dough into a ½” thick roll. Cut into ½” pieces.

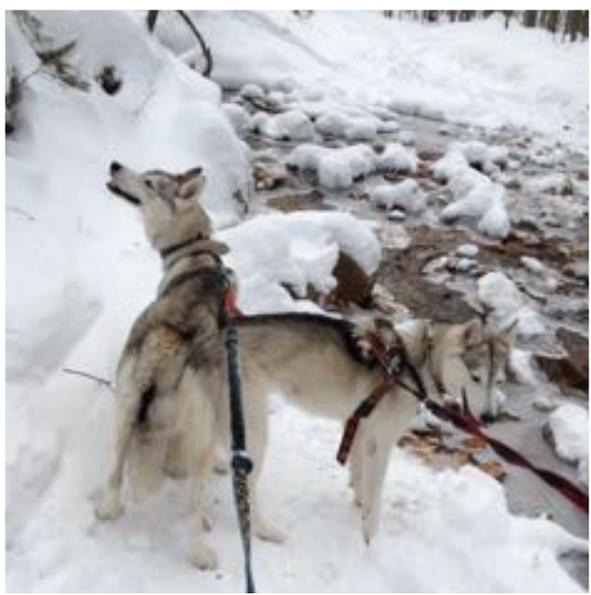
Bake about 40 minutes or until hard.

(Honey can be used as well.)



Ellie and Lily like their Peanut Butter and Pumpkin Dog Treats when they aren't enjoying the snow!

~photos and recipe from Sarah Probst Boudreau



## VT MUSHES



## Vermont Hunting Seasons

It's October and the temperatures are dropping! And according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife [website](#), October is the start of hunting season for many types of game: black bear, moose, turkey, deer, crow, waterfowl, grouse, snipe, gray squirrel, rabbit and hare, coyote, raccoon, foxes, mink, skunk, opossum, weasel, otter, muskrat, beaver, etc.

So while you are out enjoying Fall colors, running the dogs, hiking with the dogs, be careful. Wear some orange, maybe a bell, to warn hunters and any hunting dogs that you and your dogs aren't game during this hunting season.

For a complete list, [click here](#).

*If you, as a member, have articles and/or pictures you'd like to submit for future use, please send them to Judy Gilmore at [ainmirbard@gmail.com](mailto:ainmirbard@gmail.com).*

## Butter Magician

This story takes place when we only had two dogs: Mishka who was just under a year old and few months old Loki.

One morning after sending my daughter off to school, I walked back past the kitchen table and noticed her plate, which once contained some uneaten waffles, was very clean. Not thinking much of it, I headed up to the office with Loki following while Mishka stayed downstairs. A short time later I went back downstairs for a coffee refill. I walked past the kitchen island and saw that the butter dish was empty. *Wasn't there a full stick of butter on that dish this morning when we had waffles?*

Then it dawned on me where the

waffle and butter had gone.

The first order of business was getting Mishka out of the house before the butter made its way back out of her, one way or another. Twenty minutes later I let Loki outside to go to the bathroom. I looked out the window a few minutes later to see how he was doing and saw him eating a pile of something. In vain, I ran outside to stop him. I arrived within enough time to positively ID what he was eating.

By the end of the morning, the stick of butter was a well-traveled stick of butter. In and back out of Mishka and all the way through Loki.

*~Story and photo by Dave Boutin*

