

Miniature Wirehair Dachshunds a specialty at Houndhaven

Visiting Houndhaven kennels located at R.R. 4, Rockwood is really not an unusual experience. It's like most kennels where avenues of well-kept dogs are anxiously vying for visitor attention or playfully talking back and forth.

What is unique here is one particular breed of delightful little fellows which, when first seen, capture the hearts of those who favor smaller dogs. The perky little animals are called Miniature Wirehair Dachshunds and the Whittings have been raising that breed of pups for 15 years.

They describe their special Dachshunds, as great hunting dogs. They originated as much larger dogs, bred in Germany and used as game hunters for badgers. The miniature variety is a British product, according to the knowledgeable Jean Whitting, one of the proprietors at Houndhaven. It is bred and used for smaller game hunting such as rabbits, etc.

She describes her dogs as particularly bright, excellent family dogs and about only nine pounds when fully grown to their 18-inch overall length.

A hobby Mrs. Whitting says, "When we first started up our kennel five years ago there weren't very many kennels near Guelph. Now the city and district have become quite famous as a dog raising area and some of the best-known breeders in Ontario are located nearby."

As well as the delightful Wirehair Dachshunds, Houndhaven also is a place to purchase Boxers, Cairns and German Shorthair Pointers. Another specialty of the establishment is the Norwegian Elkhound. The kennel boasts of having the best female Elkhound in Canada.

According to the Whittings, Houndhaven's Borealis, their special dog, is the fourth top Elkhound in Canada and has the American and Canadian championship as the best female.

The Whittings say their Elkhounds seem to have a special built-in intelligence, with an amazing smelling ability. They can smell a moose a mile away. The Elkhounds used to be taken on ships as companions and hunters by the Vikings 6,000 years ago.

The miniature Wirehair Dachshunds are extremely popular and, as soon as puppies are born, she has almost-immediate homes. "We have waiting lists," she explained. Others breeds produce larger numbers of pups, but there are only two to a litter of the smaller bitches.

"They are particularly great for people living in cities or in small apartments," said Mrs. Whitting.



PUPPIES PEEPING perplexedly are seen tripping about in their temporary cage at Houndhaven kennels at R.R. 4, Rockwood. Born only two to a litter, the small animals are in quick demand and reportedly are spoken for, as fast as they are produced.

With a strong desire to have a kennel of their own and raise their own animals commercially, the Whittings were able to procure residency in an ideal location. A sister and brother-in-law, Edith and Jan Justin, owned a farm in Eramosa. It is on the Justin farm that Houndhaven is now located.

Getting the kennels established was the first problem. Tony was a butcher working in Guelph, his wife, an automobile saleslady at Robinson Pontiac and Buick in Guelph. She had been employed in the same business in England and knew her trade.

Progress As the kennel business progressed, Jean quit her job. She is now working full-time in their special business doing all the chores and working with both her own-bred animals, and those the kennel boards. Husband Tony is employed at the University of Guelph working in the small animals branch.

Houndhaven kennels is,

explains, "It's like a compulsion."

She feels that unplanned dog breeding results in people giving away pups freely which, in many cases, leads to a lack of respect for the animals. "Something about putting more value on animals when they have been paid for," she said.

The kennel operator is also anxious about the number of dogs which run aimlessly loose in packs, picking up other strays as they run. "They are left wide-open to being shot when half-starved, they attack livestock," she said. Mrs. Whitting points out that in the Houndhaven Kennels "We control unwanted pets by a special contract for spaying bitches," she said. She is

anxious that dog owners respect their canine friends and, if unable to look after them properly recommends they do not take them on as pets.

Mrs. Whitting says she is particularly concerned for pets whose owners decide not to pick them up from a pound when they discover the costs incurred during the period of capture. "These animals are set by the township for owners of lost dogs," she explained. She said that many people are quite willing to allow their animals to be sent to the university for experimental purposes rather than pay the fee. She feels dog owners should be educated in proper canine care and the responsibility of dog ownership.

Kennel owners plea dog rights

Jean Whitting, co-proprietor of Houndhaven kennels, is also a former Eramosa district pound operator who has certain attitudes about dog owners. Mrs. Whitting says that one of the things which concerns her very much, is the lack of value some owners place on their animals. Because many people are lax in having dogs properly spayed, there is an overpopulation of unwanted animals. She feels too many people think dogs are self-responsible. "A dog is not an animal which can look after itself." It much be under supervision and cared for.

Osprige Hallowe'en party success

By Doris Fines Mr. and Mrs. William Gilbert left for their home in Oban, Scotland, on Thursday evening, from Toronto airport. They have been visiting about six weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Howes. Mr. and Mrs. Doug Campbell have moved into the downstairs apartment of R. B. Letch's house on the fourth line. Mrs. Arthur Tanah of Toronto, has been staying for a week with her mother, Mrs. Enoch Wood, at the home of her sister and brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ferguson end family. Mrs. Wood has been under the doctor's care this past week.

Hallowe'en Party The Hallowe'en party held at the school on Thursday evening was a huge success. Some of the activities were dunking for apples, pin the nose on the clown, blow up a balloon and try to sit on it for three seconds, eating a doughnut hanging on a string. There were lots of candies, candied apples, freshie and doughnuts for everyone.

Prizes were given for the best costumes 3 to 6 years,

and 7 to 12 years, the most original costume and the best dressed couple. Mrs. Vernon Stewart captured the prize for the best dressed mother in costume. Doorkeepers were Mrs. George Lang and Mrs. Henry Pankratz. In charge of games were Lydia Dudnik, Mrs. Ernest Wynne, Mrs. Ernest McCausland, Mrs. Norman McKenzie and Doris Fines. Miss Dudnik would like to express her appreciation to all the volunteers for their help. Without their aid the evening might not have been the success it was. A thank you to all the parents who came also.

The school pupils had a Hallowe'en party, too, in the afternoon. Prizes for costumes were given for fancy girls Colleen McCausland; fancy boys Peter Hurdle; funniest girl Kirstina Pedersen; funniest boy Scott Page; most original girl Karen Jackson; most original boy Michael Schot-sch; hard time girl Cheryl Gilbert; hard time boy Patrick Barry; best couple Sandra Timmerman and Lynne Johnston.



CRUNCH WENT THE apple as pioneer girl Margaret Sale, left, and Heather Ormsby a pumpkin each capture the fruit with their hungry mouths. Honey Pot nursery school teacher Lee Febel stands clear of the sharp teeth, during the school's Hallowe'en party on Thursday.

Who needs chairs?

According to Oakville Councillor Mac Anderson, there are more than enough chairs to accommodate members of the public in the regional council chambers, Burlington.

Car slams

A car driven by Gerald Sosnowski, 20, R.R. 3, Milton received an estimated \$900 damage Saturday when it left the road and collided with a tool shed. Sosnowski was travelling west along Concession 67 in Eramosa Township.

Two passengers, Rose Hanousek, R.R. 2, Rockwood, and Anna Hartinger, R.R. 1, Acton, were both treated at Guelph General Hospital for minor injuries.

Dublin North

The Dublin North Checkers had their sixth meeting October 30, at 7 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Fred Kirton. Their next meeting will be held on November 6, at 7 p.m. also at the Kirton's. Notes were read on party food. They discussed more about their pyjama party. Lunch was served.

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Water break

An area of town was without water for about four hours Tuesday of last week. The break in a six-inch water line occurred on Churchill Rd. S. about 3:30 p.m. and the workmen left again about 7:30.

A backhoe was floated up from the Halton Hills yard at Georgetown to do the work.

Accident Thursday

Only car accident of the week in town occurred Hallowe'en night at 10:40 p.m. Drivers involved were Kevin Perkins, Marla St., with \$500 damage to his car, the car he was driving, and Norman Smith, R. R. 3, Acton, with estimated \$350 damage to his car.

A two-car collision Friday at Silvercreek Parkway and Speedvale Ave. in Guelph, resulted in \$2,500 damage and injury to two passengers. Drivers involved were Leslie Morrison of 81 Raglan St., Guelph, a passenger in the Morrison vehicle. Both women were treated for cuts at St. Joseph's Hospital.

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PROPRIETRESS OF Houndhaven Kennels holds Mazeltov, one of their newest miniature wirehair dachshund puppies. His name in Yiddish means Good Luck