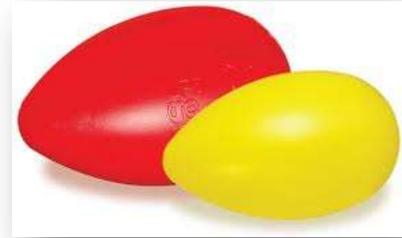


Product Review – Jolly Pet Toys

Purchasing toys for the Georgia Dog Gym Pro Shop always requires making difficult choices. I see plenty of great cute toys that I would love to buy for the store. The problem always comes in trying to create a sale for them. I understand that pet owners want to get the most from their toy buying dollars and the most frequent request that we get is for a toy that will LAST and not be destroyed, at least not in a million pieces within a week. Our stuffed toys linger on the shelves because most dogs will un-stuff them, chew up the squeaker, and shred the material within 10 minutes. Great FUN for the dog, but very disappointing for the owner to watch their money be shredded and scattered all over the living room floor.

The search for great toys that hold up to lots of hard play, has led me to Jolly Pets, Inc. Two products from Jolly Pet have been put to the test by Georgia Dog Gym dogs and have held up under daily rough and rugged abuse from some of our most toy obsessed dogs.

The first is the **Jolly Egg**. Made of hard plastic, this Egg-shaped toy comes in two sizes. Because of its shape, it will shoot out of the dog's mouth when he bites down on it. It wobbles along and is difficult for the dogs to get any kind of grip on the toy. Four months ago I added the smaller size Jolly Egg to my kennel play yard at home. My two Border Collie pups quickly became obsessed with the toy. They abuse it every day. While they have worked at it with their teeth enough to make small scratches in the plastic so that they can pick it up and carry it a little ways before it shoots out of their mouth, the toy is completely intact, no cracks or breaks anywhere on it. They have learned to bat it around the yard and they take turns pawing it and trying to bite it to get it to move. They like for me to kick it around the yard for them, but they have played with it independently for up to an hour at a time.



The second great toy from Jolly Pet is the **Bounce-n-Play**. It is made of non-toxic polyethylene plastic which makes it bounce and float in water. These balls do not need air to inflate and they are also scented! I added the 6" ball and the 8" ball to the play yards at Georgia Dog Gym two months ago to replace the soccer balls we were using that only held up a few weeks before they were shredded. These two balls are, to my disbelief, still going strong! You can see lots of bite marks on them, but they cannot be flattened and the dogs have been unable to tear them. They still have all of their bounce and we can still throw them and kick them across the yard for the dogs to chase. I have watched dogs chew and chew at these balls and not be able to destroy them. Just amazing! I will never buy a soccer ball again!

Georgia Dog Gym is now stocking both the **Jolly Egg** and the **Jolly Bounce-n-Play**. We highly recommend them as a toy for your hard playing dog!

Click on the link to see Rook & Seven play with their **Jolly Egg!**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FASgwlqOlmw>

Upcoming Classes:

Wednesday, March 30th at 7pm- 4 Week Puppy Kindergarten Class

Tuesday, April 12th at 7pm- 7 Week Basic Training Class

Georgia Dog Gym Agility Dogs Go to Trial!

On February 26 & 27th, Cyndy Douan and Riff; and Beth Mitchell and Collin ran in the NADAC Sanctioned Agility Trial hosted by Southeastern Agility at Jim R. Miller Park in Marietta, Georgia. It was a great weather weekend and lots of good times were had by all! Beth and Collin had some very nice runs. They earned Qualifying Scores in Touch-n-Go, Tunnelers, & Chances; all with First and Second Place Ribbons! This was their second NADAC Trial and we are proud that they have earned their First Agility Title in Novice Tunnelers! Cyndy and Riff Qualified in Touch-N-Go with a First Place and also earned their Open Regular Title with a Qualifying Score and a Second Place. We expect Collin to earn at least one more title when we head to Huntsville, AL in April for the Canine Cruiser's NADAC Trial!



GO COLLIN!!

Click on the link to see Riff's Open Title Run! http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOi1ZH_mECE

DOGS REALLY DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Last week, Georgia Dog Gym's "Tyler", a seven year old Border Collie, made his FIRST official Therapy Visit as a Delta Society Pet Partner. His handler for his Pet Partner job is Janet McKenzie. Tyler and Janet traveled to Floyd Hospital to visit with patients in the rehabilitation unit. Janet reported that Tyler was very well received and that many of the patients enjoyed petting Tyler and throwing a ball for Tyler to fetch. Later, we heard through another visitor to

that rehabilitation session, that Tyler worked a small miracle that day. It seems there was a patient on the unit suffering from a brain injury who had been unresponsive to any type of therapy. Apparently the nurses had only been able to do passive movements with him, meaning they were moving his arms and legs for him. On the day that Tyler visited, this patient responded for the **FIRST TIME**. He reached out for the ball and began tossing it for Tyler. He stood up out of his wheelchair, with support, and he also spoke a few words. The moment was overwhelming and we understand it brought tears to the room.

About a week ago, we hosted a field trip for a group of middle school special education students. At the end of the dog demonstrations, I let the students throw the frisbee for Tyler. There was one young man in the group with Down 's syndrome. He was so excited about this trip and he really did enjoy the demonstrations and the chance to throw the frisbee for Tyler. I had done a demo with Tyler on the agility equipment; several jumps and a tunnel and this fellow must have been paying super close attention. While I was answering a teacher's question, this young man picked up a frisbee off the table and called Tyler over to the agility obstacles. While the teachers were worried that the young man might not be allowed to play with Tyler, I reassured them, and asked them to wait and watch. Before our eyes, Tyler began running the agility obstacles with this young man.....through the tunnels, over the jumps, back and forth, then over the A-Frame! This youngster looked like he'd been running agility his entire life!! It was incredible and Tyler was running along and following his every cue! That boy was **OVER THE MOON!** He was grinning from ear to ear and just so proud of what he'd done!

**TYLER**

These are the stories that make my heart grow bigger. Through the years I volunteered as a Member and Director of Happy Tails Pet Assisted Therapy, I heard lots of these kinds of stories and had similar experiences with my Happy Tails Pet Therapy dogs; Jaymie, Sallie, & Carmen. So many dogs have a gift for connecting with others and reaching them in a very positive manner where many other therapeutic modalities might not have. Sharing these gifts is a very fulfilling and rewarding experience. While my time is so limited now, I am thankful to Janet McKenzie for being so willing and eager to certify Tyler with the Delta Society and take him on these magical & wonderful visits. We are very proud of Tyler and so happy he is able to do the work that he's been called for.

If you live locally to Rome, and want more information on opportunities to share your dog's special gifts, visit the Compassionate Paws website: www.romepaws.org