



# Christmas 2004

## Vizsla Fun Times Two

We decided in March it was about time our dog Kira had a playmate besides our cat Odo. Bela, another Hungarian Vizsla, joined the Chowaniec family in early April. Selective memory caused us to forget the insane activity level of a four month old Vizsla puppy and the months to come of interrupted sleep. God makes puppies so cute so that we cannot stay angry with them long even when they jump up and sit with the cat on the kitchen counter. Bela learned the tricks "Rollover" and "Shake a Paw" easily in obedience class but the more

essential "Sit" and "Off" need a little more work! Kira is enjoying daily wrestling matches with Bela while Odo has discovered the very few places in the house that he is safe from the puppy's antics.



## Front Row Centre

After our failed attempt to see Hall and Oates last year, our luck changed. When Joe called to obtain tickets for their show in Las Vegas in February, they had seats available in very centre of the front row for both nights! Rami had a chance to talk to some other avid fans while enjoying the music that she loves up close.



## Further Back

Edmonton hosted the Junos (our Canadian version of the Grammy Awards) for the first time this year.

Rami and Joe were there grooving to Nickelback and Nelly Furtado.

Calgary reached the final round of the NHL playoffs for the first time since 1989. Our friend Elio took Joe to one of the games. Possibly a once in a lifetime experience.

In early December, Rami attended her first NFL game in Seattle for the Monday night battle against Dallas. Monday Night Football is an amazing spectacle including tailgating by the fans all throughout the day and

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altercations between the fans. This experience was much further back (we needed oxygen in our seats).

### **Working in Vegas**

As you know, we enjoy visiting Las Vegas regularly soak up the sun, shop and visit with family. Joe fulfilled one of his lifetime dreams of working in Las Vegas. MinExpo (a mining conference) was held in LV in September. Joe was sent down south by his company to attend. Of course, Rami joined him for a few days of vacation. We attended the Andre Agassi Grand Slam for Children which included performances by Faith Hill, Tim McGraw and Robin Williams. Not often that you can say you were forced to go to Las Vegas (not much convincing was required).

### **Visitors from the South**

Rami's Uncle Jon and Aunt Linda had the opportunity to visit Canada for the first time

this summer. We picked them up from Calgary after they had enjoyed a week of Calgary Stampede festivities. First stop for Jon was a breathtakingly beautiful round of golf with Joe at Silvertip just outside of Banff including deer sighting on the course. Rami and Linda went for a hike in Johnston Canyon before we all drove back the Edmonton. Joe and Jon then played a round at the Jack Nicklaus designed course Northern Bear just outside of Edmonton the very next day. Fort Edmonton and Klondike Days were also part of Jon and Linda's Edmonton experience. We were delighted that Jon and Linda could travel up to see us.

### **Awards Galore**

Rami's work as a Certified Diabetes Educator pharmacist was recognized twice this year. She received the

inaugural Pharmacy Leadership Award from the Pharmacist's Association of Alberta and an Outstanding Achievement Award from Canada Safeway. It was honor to be recognized as a leader in pharmacy in Alberta and within Canada Safeway.

### **Making Muscles Move**

Rami raised funds for Muscular Dystrophy by selling mulligans at Joe's ESAA golf tournament again this year. Joe also organized a fund raising casino at RemTech (a conference organized by ESAA). Participants used their "funny" money to attempt to win prizes including a trip to (where else!) Las Vegas. Two thousand dollars was donated to Muscular Dystrophy from these events.

### **Holiday Plans**

Our plans this year include a quiet time at home visiting with family and friends. Wishing you and yours a fun-filled and peaceful holiday season.

***Merry Christmas and all the best in 2005.***

**RAMI, JOE, Kira, Bela, and Odo**

