

A “Bundle” of Treats



Hi! My name is Bundle and I'm a Wire Haired Fox Terrier. I was only 9 days old when I was adopted by a wonderful lady named Cynthia. Why don't I let her tell you my story?

“Bundle’s Story”

He was born February 6, 1997 in the middle of the night. Of a litter of nine puppies, Bundle was first out of the gate - the other eight had to be delivered by C-section, they were so numerous and large. Probably this crowding in the womb resulted in Bundle’s deformed leg - no room to grow properly. All the other pups were normal, and the bloodline runs back for thirty years on his breeder’s books. His breeder is Joyce Hurst of Burchurst Kennels. I have AKC papers for Bundle - his sire is Ch Bancroft Because of You (Bingo) and his dam is Rycote Rendezvous (Lily). Bingo and Lily have AKC registration numbers if anyone is interested in that. I did not register Bundle - he was not going to be a breeding dog, and he has been neutered. A couple of his ancestors are: Ch Mt. Ayre Autumn (Sally), his grandmother, and Ch Mt. Ayre Bronco Buster (Cowboy), his grandfather.

Bundle’s right forepaw is thin and twisted in from the elbow down with a rounded, odd pad. Two of his toenails were growing the wrong way so they were removed completely when he was about 8 months old. He shows no sign of discomfort from his small leg and uses it to hold his toys and for catching his balance. Otherwise he sort of carries it high. When he runs, his shoulder action is completely balanced and the leg swings forward without touching the ground (except for tight turns to zoom in the other direction!).

The other thing not to breed standard is that Bundle’s ears did not fold. They are upright (prick) ears and make him look like a baby faun. I find them very expressive - I love the way they look streaming behind him when he runs toward me with that joyful face. When playing tug he lays them back and cocks them forward again and again (grrr! grrr!). Those ears have a language of their own. They are so soft and silky.

In all other matters to do with general health, he is very healthy, sturdy and strong with a good appetite. He weighs 18 pounds. He enjoys fruit and vegetables as well as his kibble. Particularly hollowed out half-oranges which he keeps as toys as they dry and loves to chew, which gives him really nice breath and clean teeth. His vet remarked that his bite is perfect and an x-ray showed very healthy bones and organs. Well, he's the stuff of champions!

Bundle's coat is thick and healthy with no skimpy areas. I haven't got the ability to strip him, so he's always been clipped. I think he looks great that way. He hates to be brushed or messed with in general, though, so I doubt he would take to stripping gladly. Perhaps in the hands of an experienced person he would.

As to his personality, he simply loves everybody he meets. However, his love can be overwhelming. I have been working with a trainer to get it under control so he doesn't jump all over people – let's just say we are still working on it. He is a great snuggler and nap partner. Whenever I sit on the couch or curl up on the bed, there he'll be, as close as possible. He watches t.v. and gets excited whenever he sees any dogs.

Bundle hasn't had a day in his life without me since I brought him home at the age of only nine days. His breeder had to go out of town and he needed to be hand fed. He was getting pushed away by the other puppies. Joyce noticed he never stopped trying, despite his little leg, and so she knew he had a very strong will to live. She thought of me and offered him to me in exchange for taking over the hand feeding.

That was a precious time. I still had my mother living with me then (she's now in Michigan with my older sister) and I kept Bundle's basket next to her. (Since I had to feed him every two hours around the clock, I was soon walking into walls.) Mom was able to help me, and as she is an invalid on oxygen, this made her feel useful, which was nice for her. We had Bundle in a laundry basket with a heating pad on low, a pillow on top of it, and a towel tucked all around to keep him from poking his tiny head through one of the openings. I took a medium-sized teddy bear and turned it upside down in the corner, which

created a little cave, if you can picture it. While the formula heated up in the microwave, I would hold my tiny puppy under a slow stream of warm water and tickle him to make him potty. Then, wrapped in a tea towel, he would sit in Grandma's lap and be dried off while I got the formula ready. Joyce taught me how to get him sucking on my pinkie finger (strong suction - ouch!) and then get eyedroppers full of milk into him. I usually just let it run down my pinkie and this seemed to work pretty well – he seldom choked or sneezed. He made the cutest smacking noises. When his tiny tummy was like a golf ball, and he slowed down, back he went under his teddy bear.

One night I reloaded the eyedropper and, when I looked back, lo and behold - there was a tiny, dark jewel of an eye. Not very focused, but there was somebody in there, all right. A day or so later the other eye opened.

Bundle's early walking was a sort of elbowing himself around – I wondered how this would be as he grew. What happened was that he gradually became straighter and stronger and adjusted his balance to hopping around on three legs. What his two gaits are like now: a sort of circus pony canter and a flat-out gallop. It took a while before the power developed in his hind legs enough to jump on and off the bed without help, but I never saw him take a fall. Now, of course, he's a little jumping bean!

So there is a description of my little Bundle. He is the only dog I've ever had apart from the family cocker spaniel of my childhood. In the past, living in Boston, I usually had a cat. My cats were great, but life with Bundle is much closer. He shares everything I do all day long.

As you can see, I'm pretty special and every day spent with my friend Cynthia was great! Unfortunately for both of us, Cynthia was fighting a battle with breast cancer. The time came when Cynthia knew she would not live much longer. Because Cynthia was such a responsible dog owner, she knew it was time to find a new home for me. During her time with me, Cynthia belonged to a wonderful e-mail group called the Wire Fox Terrier Network. Cynthia turned to her friends in this group for help. Here is part of her request.

“As some of you already know, my health has been dwindling and in the near future the day will come when I may need to go into hospice care. That day is not just around the corner at the moment, but in the past two weeks I have become too frail to care for him properly. I have my sister and niece to help me, but it is clear the time to look for a new home for Bundle is now.”

“I don’t have to tell you how important it is to me to know my little boy is safe and happy when I can no longer care for him. It’s hard even to think about parting with him at all, but it’s better to face things squarely and make a good and thoughtful decision. My ideal is to place Bundle before he even suspects something is wrong with me, and worries about it. So far it has been my joy and delight to give him a happy start in life - now I need to find a good soul to take the reins for me. Thank goodness I have this large group of compassionate friends to help me in the quest.”

“With love and gratitude from Cynthia and her Bundle of Joy, Mischief, Energy and Love”

Well, folks on the list went to work, and in no time I had a wonderful new home. My new family is a retired couple so they are at home with me all day. They do have grandchildren for me to play with and I’m enjoying that a lot!

On Saturday, April 17, 1999 Cynthia passed away peacefully at 4:39 p.m. Cynthia’s sister said, “One of Cyn's last thoughts was for Bundle! She said, "Oh-I just had a happy thought--Bundle is a happy boy! I'm just so glad!" I’ll miss Cynthia very much, but what a joy to know she will be eagerly waiting for me when I cross that Rainbow Bridge.

As you can see, Cynthia was a very special person. One of the things I especially enjoyed while living with Cynthia was the dog treats she baked for me. I've included her favorites in this book; it's my way of sharing a little bit of Cynthia with you. Each time you share one of these treats with your very special "friend", I hope you will remember Cynthia and the courage she showed in making sure I was cared for after she was gone. If you haven't already thought about this for your "special friend", I hope you'll do so very soon.

With a big doggie kiss,



"The Bundle"

Editors Note: The recipes that follow have been printed just as Cynthia sent them to the e-mail group. Any notes or comments she made have been included.

Dog Treats

(From the Humane Society of Santa Clara Co., CA)

5 cups whole-wheat flour
1 cup milk
½ cup cold water
2 eggs

10 tablespoons vegetable oil or bacon fat
Seasonings*
½ teaspoon salt

*Seasonings – recipe calls for onion or garlic powder. I used chopped garlic in oil this time. However, I'm sure this dough will lend itself to sweet flavoring if you prefer it.

Mix all ingredients well. Pinch off pieces and roll into little balls. Grease cookie sheet with about a tablespoon of vegetable oil. Bake at 350 degrees for about 35 minutes, adjusting for size of cookies. 35 minutes was perfect this morning for treats about the size of a large marble.

I didn't try rolling this dough, but I think you could if you wanted to use dog bone cookie cutters. It would probably freeze well in a log if you wanted to do a slice-and-bake thing later on.

Cynthia

Basic Biscuit Recipe for Dogs

½ cup powdered milk

1 beaten egg

2-1/2 cups flour of choice

½ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon onion or garlic powder

½ cup cold water

6 tablespoons meat drippings or margarine

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Mix all ingredients and form into a ball. Roll out to ½" thick, cut into shapes. Bake for 25 – 30 minutes.

P.S. The first recipe I tried, the second one and all those which follow will be basically untested since the list say they are happy to test them themselves!

Cynthia

Peanutty Pupsicles

Here's a change of pace with this one...quite gooey sounding, but actually I might want to eat some of these myself!

1 Banana

½ cup peanut butter

¼ cup wheat germ

¼ cup chopped peanuts

Mash banana and peanut butter. Stir in wheat germ. Chill one hour. With wet hands, roll teaspoon-size amounts into balls. Roll the balls in the chopped peanuts, coating evenly. Place on a cookie sheet. Freeze until solid. Place in a container and store in fridge or freezer.

P.S. It strikes me that I would give Bundle only one of these at a time to avoid "the trots."

Cynthia

Basic Dog Treats

1 cup uncooked oatmeal	1 beaten egg
1/3 cup margarine	3 cups whole-wheat flour
1 teaspoon bouillon granules	3/4 cup powdered milk
1-1/2 cups hot water	garlic powder to taste (optional)
3/4 cup cornmeal	

In large bowl, pour hot water over the oatmeal, margarine and bouillon granules and let stand for 5 minutes. Stir in powdered milk, cornmeal and egg. Add flour 1/2 cup at a time, stirring well after each addition. Knead 3-4 minutes, adding more flour if necessary to make a very stiff dough. Pat or roll dough to 1/2" thickness. Cut into desired shapes. Place on a greased baking sheet.

Bake at 325 degrees F. for 50 minutes (according to the size of your cutouts). Allow to cool and dry out until hard before storing.

I will probably try this recipe because I can flavor it with either chicken or beef bouillon – I also want to see what the texture will be like using oatmeal and cornmeal, so I'll let you know.

Cynthia

Breadmaker Dog Cookies

Here is something for those of you who own a breadmaking machine:

1 cup beef, chicken or vegetable stock	¼ cup powdered milk
1 cup bread flour or regular flour	½ teaspoon salt
1 cup whole-wheat or rye flour	1-1/2 teaspoon yeast
1 cup bulgar wheat	cornmeal

Place all ingredients in the breadmaker and use dough setting. Roll out to ¼ thickness. Cut into desired shapes. Place on a cookie sheet sprinkled with cornmeal and cover with a towel. Let rise 45 minutes.

Bake at 325 degrees F. for 45 minutes. When all baked, turn off the oven and leave the cookies in there overnight to harden. Store in airtight container.

Elsewhere in the world of dog treats, this week a new show came on my cable system called “Three Dog Bakery” on the Food Network. Two young guys who own several successful bakeries specializing in doggie treats. They prepared a recipe called “Boxer Brownies”, featuring a carob pawprint on top of the cream cheese frosting. I must admit I don’t see myself getting that far out there, but it’s an amusing show and they throw in nutrition and grooming tips as well. I think you would all like it – “check your local listings” as they say.

Cynthia

Cheese Multi-Grain Dog Biscuits

1 cup uncooked oatmeal	¼ teaspoon salt
¼ cup margarine	1 beaten egg
1-1/2 cups hot water or meat juices	1 cup cornmeal
½ cup powdered milk	1 cup wheat germ
4 ounces (1 cup) grated cheese	3 cups whole-wheat flour

In a large bowl, pour the hot water (or meat juices) over the oatmeal and the margarine. Let stand for 5 minutes. Stir in the powdered milk, grated cheese, salt and egg. Add the cornmeal and wheat germ and mix well after each addition. Knead the dough 3 or 4 minutes, adding more flour if necessary to make a very stiff dough. Pat or roll the dough to ½” thickness. Cut into shapes and place on a greased baking sheet.

Bake for 1 hour at 300 degrees F. Turn off the heat and leave the biscuits in the oven for 1-1/2 hours or longer. Makes approximately 2-1/4 pounds.

Cynthia

Apple-Cinnamon Dog Biscuits

(This recipe I got from Dog Fancy magazine.)

1-1/2 cups unbleached flour	2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1-1/2 cups whole-wheat flour	1/2 cups smooth applesauce
1/2 cup cornmeal	1 slightly beaten egg
1/8 cup nonfat dry milk	1/2 to 3/4 cup water

Stir together the dry ingredients in a large bowl. Add the applesauce and egg and blend thoroughly. Add the water gradually, stirring with a wooden spoon. The dough should be very stiff. If not, add a little more flour. Knead the dough with your hands to create a smooth texture.

Roll the dough out 1/4 inch thick. (It helps if the top and bottom of the dough are lightly floured.) Cut out desired shapes. Place the biscuits about 1/2 inch apart on lightly greased cookie sheets.

Bake at 350 degrees F. for 38 to 50 minutes. The biscuits should be lightly browned on the outside and they should not be moist inside. Turn off the oven and let the biscuits stay inside without opening the oven door for five hours or overnight to let them harden.

Store in an airtight container. Makes four dozen 3-inch-long by 1-inch-wide biscuits.

Cynthia

Banana-Peanut Butter Dog Biscuits

(This recipe was Elvis-inspired)

1-1/2 cups unbleached flour	1 egg slightly beaten
1-1/2 cups whole-wheat flour	1/4 cup mashed ripe banana (about 1/2 banana)
1/2 cup cornmeal	1/4 cup creamy peanut butter
1/8 cup nonfat dry milk	3/4 to 1 cup water

Stir together the dry ingredients in a large bowl. Add the egg, banana and peanut butter. Blend well with a pastry blender until peanut butter and banana are about the size of small peas. Add the water gradually, stirring with a wooden spoon. The dough should be very stiff, if not add a little more flour. Knead the dough with your hands to create a smooth texture.

Roll dough 1/4-inch thick. (It helps if the top and bottom of the rolled dough are lightly floured.) Cut out into shapes and place on lightly greased cookie sheets. Bake at 350 degrees F. for about 40 minutes to one hour. The biscuits should be lightly browned on the outside and they should not be moist inside. Turn the oven off and let the biscuits stay inside without opening the oven door for 5 hours or overnight to let them harden.

Makes about 3 dozen 3-inch long by 1-inch wide treats.

Cynthia and The Bundle (“Thank yew...thank yew verra much”)