

# CLANCY'S CLICHES

We and wee Kindred Spirits abound. Life weaves wonderful friendships and connections. Way beyond our wildest expectations, an event or experience can touch the very depth of our hearts, giving pause to the gift of humility and humanity.

Dogs live a pretty carefree life and slough off the ditty of detail and material concerns humans bring to their own sphere of life. Other than water, food and the occasional snack, dogs just enjoy being with people and nature, and loving the life of the canine conundrums. We collies, especially, are eager to gather together the family of whatever it is we're herding, and are pleased when our masters are tickled with our deeds.



What happens, then, when one of our Kindred Spirits encounters an unfortunate incident, or is pushed over the edge, closer to that mortality we all will come face-to-face with one day? Only a few weeks ago, the word "discourse" was used in announcing the passing of a fellow collie. It moved me beyond the realm of anyone's imagination. The message was a reminder of how all of life is a conversation with what's around us—the air we breath, the connection of food to the earth that nourishes our bodies, the gurgles of love of life welling up from our very souls, the beauty and sights we view through the channel of our eyes, and even the pain and angst in our hearts seeing someone

suffer or ache.

So, again, what happens? There are choices. Whether an auspicious or unfortunate happenstance, which will you make? To do what everyone else does, or to follow that path of which only your heart, and your heart alone, knows. The beauty of the latter is similar to that of Fall's transition: trees say goodbye to their comfy green clothing, but, with a splash of color before the leaves drop followed by the crackling of walk-upon leaves, we are beneficiaries of the glory of life.



Discourse. Go have a dialogue with your life.



So, speaking of herding, look whom I gathered together. A true "reflection" of my talents!

And September 19th is National Talk-Like-A-Pirate Day. R-r-r-r-r-r! (No, I don't make these days up!) So go out and buy corn for a buck-an-ear.

**Howlin's hootn'; Growlin's not gooten!**



– Clancy



# CLANCY'S CLASSROOM CACKLES

Knock, knock! Who's there? Canoe. Canoe Who? Canoe help me with my homework?!

1. Why did Jake bring a bowl of goldfish to class? **He heard fish like to swim in schools!**
2. What did the bee say when it solved the problem? **it! got t! Hive**
3. What do you get if you cross a dog and a calculator? **A friend you can count on!**
4. Where do small dogs like to live? **On Lapland!**
5. Why did the a, e, i, o, and u get in trouble? **For using vowel (foul) language!**
6. What happened when the English class started writing poetry? **Things went from bad to verse!**