

ALEX !!

DROP THE THING IN YOUR MOUTH!

Newell Swartz

© 23 Nov 2011

Sometimes dogs can be too smart for their own good. (LOL). As an aside, I have a six-month old Golden Retriever pup who has to have knee surgery on both hind legs Friday, so I have been holding off on treats or human snacks that might throw him off his diet and cause diarrhea which may interfere with his recovery and comfort.

I saw Snickers, the cat, heading toward our house from across the street with a rat in his mouth. He jumped the fence and Flash, the 25 lb. terrier/spaniel mix, took the rat away from that cat. Then Pokey Pup, our 130 lb. Golden Retriever, Molly, the Coon hound and Rose, the Golden Retriever matriarch confronted Flash, who dropped the rat to snarl at the others that the rat was his morsel, and to stay away.

All four dogs were in a circle about a foot to a foot and a half away from the rat staring at him when Alex ran through the middle of them like a fullback on a fumble, scooped up the rat and took off without missing a beat. I ran after Alex yelling at him to drop the rat while he was biting the rat trying to chew it up and choke it down while running from me and the other dogs, who gave chase when they figured out what had happened. Alex outran us to the back of the corral where we cornered him just as the tail disappeared down his throat. I figured *this is not good* but hopefully it will pass through him in three days.

Then today, I come around the corner to the backyard. Then Alex the pup has something new in his mouth which is white and gray— maybe a bird — and when he sees me, he starts the old bite, chew, run and choke it down routine. He is running in circles around the grapefruit tree keeping away from me because he knows I am going to take it away. Sassy, the other cat is just sitting in the grass sniffing around some tail feathers of the bird (the dumb cat was probably wondering if she'd had eaten the bird) which the pup evidently took from her (life isn't fair).

Back to Alex who choked down the rat-thing, and the "white-and-gray feathered" bird thing, before I could get him. If the vet x-rays him Friday before the surgery, or if the Retriever pup takes a dump, all the vet is going to see is rat heads and bird beaks. Proud of himself, Alex walks by a palm stump and takes a big bite out of the bark and rips a big piece off to chew on. Destructive little bugger. I am going to have to put a muzzle on him when he is outside, and maybe inside, until after the surgery.

Animal cruelty (on humans) is what that pup is doing to me, not what I am doing to him (LOL).

Newell

ARF, Alex