

# Barks N Bits



with our  
favorite  
Jack Russel  
Terrier...

**BELLA**

## Rain, Rain.....Go Away! (And The Barking Game)

Well, I must admit that the last month has been a big let-down as far as the horse-showing goes. I was all excited to take some trips away from the ranch and go people-watching and all we've done this month is watch the Weather Channel. I don't mind watching TV - my favorite show is America's Funniest Home Videos - but I find nothing interesting about the Weather Channel. No bouncing balls or Jack Russells jumping, barking, digging or scratching.

It seems that Mother Nature has been spoiling our traveling plans with downpours being scheduled from Friday through Sunday. (Or at least Friday and Saturday.) Leaving most of the arenas around our neck of the woods too wet to hold a show. Needless to say, I heard the word "canceled" quite often this past month and I think I have figured out what it means in people talk....it means: "we are staying home this weekend."

Since we haven't got to take a ride in the truck recently for entertainment, I have started playing a game in the evenings (or whenever I get bored.) It involves the three big dogs that live outside, a serious conversation being held by the people and my favorite little bark box - "Princess Annabelle."

The object of the game is to wait until everything is very quiet around the ranch. The people have to be talking among themselves and they have to be intent and focused on their conversation before the game can start. My job is to wait until the perfect moment and then to let out the sharpest, loudest bark I can muster up. When this works correctly, it cues our favorite little bark-box, Annabelle. Her job is to take off running and barking towards the ranch entrance. Immediately, if I time it just right, the three big dogs take chase and join in on the barking game. We win the game if we can get the people to start barking too! We win almost every time we play!

Princess Annabelle has started trying to hone her way in on my job. I have noticed her several times lately starting the game without me. I am not sure if the three big dogs like playing the barking game with her as much....she seems to start the game and then walk off after she gets them good and excited. It almost seems like she is doing it on purpose, just to get the people to bark at the big dogs.

Needless to say, we will find ways to entertain ourselves until the rain goes away and we can do some people watching again.

*Bella* 