



Farm News from December

Turkey season has come and gone and now the shelters I was so excited about in the spring time sit vacant in the snow. They won't see another turkey until July. For the first time in almost 20 years I raised a group of Merriam's Wild turkeys and had both for sale at the same time.



The wild turkey on the right is 3 weeks older than the domestic on the left and is around $\frac{1}{3}$ the size. No big puffy breasts on this hen. The Wild Turkey was meant for flight. The Spaniards discovered them native to North America when they first arrived.

At Christmas the domestic hens on the left averaged 23 pounds and the wild hens on the right averaged 8 pounds. Flavour? The ultimate, a gold medal winner.

Jack the dog passed away at Christmas time. The vet had diagnosed him with a heart defect and recommended pills that would prolong his life by a year or two at a cost of \$400 per month. Aside from the huge expense there was also a moral decision. \$400 is the profit from the lives of 3 pigs. 3 lives per month to extend one life for a month? Jack was making the decision harder. The medication really helped him and feeling better, he would follow me around the farm, wait

for me at the shop and lift his head for a pat when we walked together.

Jack made the decision for me, just a couple of days after I bought a 3 month supply. Non-refundable I'll donate them to the vet clinic and a rescue centre for other dogs who might need them. Jack was 5 years old.



Jesse, the cat in the picture is a big cat and a big eater. Jack weighed 225 pounds, Jesse? We've had to keep his cat food up on the freezer ever since Sixty (my birthday present dog) developed a taste for cat food.

Jesse used to hop up on the freezer for his dinner but then figured out if he just meowed, someone would lift him up (daughter). Now she's off to college and with me doing cat chores I've realized that Jesse, is now so fat that he can no longer jump onto the freezer on his own. With the New Year starting and resolutions being made, what a perfect time to lose weight and get into shape. And lucky Jesse, the only cat with a personal fitness trainer. Me!

Happy New Year !!!