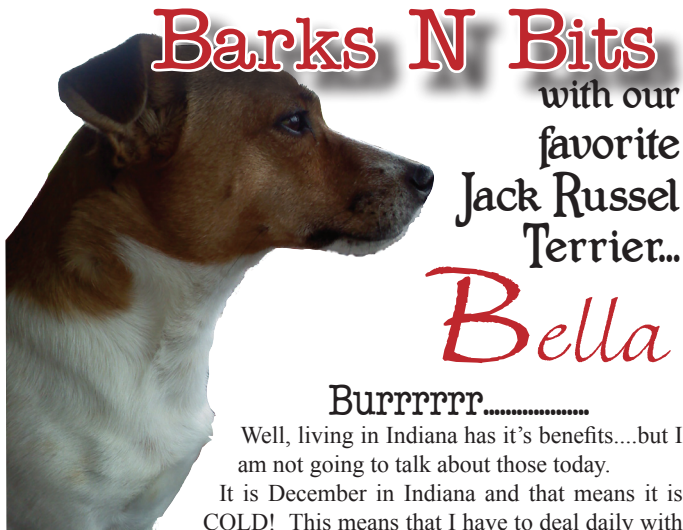




Barks N Bits

with our
favorite
Jack Russel
Terrier..

Bella

Burrrrrrr.....

Well, living in Indiana has it's benefits....but I am not going to talk about those today.

It is December in Indiana and that means it is COLD! This means that I have to deal daily with doggie-wear...not only for myself, but for the fashion diva of the ranch - Princess Annabelle. Anytime we go out for more than a potty break - doggie wear is inevitable. Since I haven't much choice in the matter, I have learned to be completely happy in my mini-horse-type blanket. I have had it for several winters and it is your basic blue quilted-type blanket with black trim and straps....nothing fancy. It is very functional and allows me to run and chase rodents without too much trouble. It also keeps me toasty warm while I am out in the barn on a cold December day. Needless to say, I wear it without any qualms.

Princess "Hoity Toity" Annabelle is a totally different story. She will not settle for your basic mini-horse-type blanket. Oh, no. Just ask her, she is way above functional. She pitches a puppy fit and starts biting at it and trying to pull it off the minute that one of the people

begin putting it on her. If she doesn't like it, she won't wear it. She is waaaay to picky about her doggie-wear if you ask me. She doesn't like the blankets, she doesn't like sweaters..... if it isn't pink and fuzzy and "princessy" - she declines - in her own spoiled little black bark box way.

I do however have to admit that it is comical watching the people try to dress the little fashion diva doggie. They'll put a blanket or sweater on her and as soon as they turn around to bundle themselves up, she is in a pile on the floor with fuzz in her teeth as she attempts to remove or destroy her outfit - protesting their choice of doggie wear. Then the battle is on. They put one on, she takes it off....then another, then another. It is funny, but it gets tiring waiting on her to agree to wear something.

If you ask me, they should just let her go outside and freeze her long little ears for a few hours....she might change her tune the next time a functionally warm blanket is the choice of the day for her. But no, they would rather add to her ever-growing wardrobe. Pink jackets, fleece pullovers and fuzzy-necked frilly doggie clothes are lying in her overflowing basket on the back porch. And guess who gets all of her rejects.....yours truly. That is right... "if she won't wear it, Bella will." I can't tell you how many times I have heard that lately. I was totally fine with my functional blanket, now I am wearing girly doggie sweaters....the outside dogs chuckle at me when I am not looking, I know they do. But I don't care, if girly is just as warm as functional, then bring it on, I won't complain.



I guess there is one benefit of living in Indiana in the winter - snoozing in front of the fireplace. Until next month.

Bella

