



Fetching Facts & Noseworthy Notes

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Upcoming Classes

Puppy Class:

Wednesday Sept 10 – Oct 15

Doggy Manners:

Wednesday Sept 10 – Oct 15

Saturday Sept 6 – Oct 11 *

Advanced Manners:

Saturday Sept 6 – Oct 11 *

**Outdoor classes at Shaggy Pines Dog Park*



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Make It A Game:

Tips for Successful Grooming!

Many dog owners prefer to leave the trimming, bathing, and brushing to the professionals; especially those with coats requiring regular maintenance and styled cuts. And others prefer to tackle nail trims, brushing and bathing at home. Either way, grooming should be FUN for your dog!

🐾 Puppies

If you bring your canine companion home as a puppy, start right away with body and paw handling exercises to teach your puppy being touched is a predictor of yummy treats! Gently touch your puppy's paws, softly hold each toe for just a second, treating with a small treat for each toe touch. Also, check his ears and teeth, treating for each. Finally, softly touch your puppy all over his body – his legs, his belly, and even his tail. Be absolutely sure your touches are gentle and use lots of treats!

After a few very short sessions of handling, bring out the grooming tools. Set them nearby, along with those yummy treats! For each toe touch, add in touching the nail tip with the clippers. Do NOT clip yet! The "weird" grooming tools: nail clippers,

*A willing paw to hand interaction!
No stress here;
Koda happily offers me his paw!*



brushes, towels, and tooth brushes need to be associated with your gentle touch, praise, and treats. After a couple days of two or three short (less than 3 minutes)

sessions, introduce using one new tool each day. Again, using gentle touches, praise and treats to reinforce grooming is fun and rewarding. Soon you will notice tail wags of anticipation when the nail trimmers appear! Even if your puppy will require (or you prefer to use) a professional groomer, these exercises are key to long term happy grooming.

🐾 Adults

Even if your dog joins your household as an adult, the process is the same. This process builds trust with your dog; the odd tools and touching are good and safe, not a threat or scary. If you have a dog who HATES to be groomed, you will need to go through the process at a much slower pace. Allow your dog to learn at his pace the grooming tools equal his favorite things; treats, play time, petting, walks, etc. Always reward him after the tools appear; do not use the favorite things to "trick" him into getting his nails trimmed! Tricking him will damage the trust and possibly sully his favorite things!

If your dog is extremely fearful, please seek out a positive trainer to develop a desensitization plan for grooming. Stress is not good for you or your dog! Creating an environment where nail trims, baths and even trips to the groomer are exciting and fun will benefit your relationship for years to come!

Q's Views...



Many dogs have their dew claws nowadays. Back in the old days, when Koda and Kirby were pups, the dew claws were removed. But, I have my dew claws. Dew claws are cool! I use them to grab on to my toys and hold my Kong in place.

The only down side is the dew nail does not wear down like my other nails do. When I go running and playing, the other nails on my paws wear down a bit. But my dew claw nail is up higher on my front leg. To make sure it does not get caught on things, my Momma has to trim it more often. That's ok with me; I get cookies every time!

Koda's Komments...



It would seem that my gorgeous black coat requires a bit of upkeep. On occasion, my coat gets too oily and needs a good washing – or so says my Mom. Now mind you, I love a good swim in the pond and splash in the pool, but baths seem a bit annoying. Personally, I have no issue with the way my coat smells.

Since my Mom insists I must have these baths, she is required to pay me accordingly. Tubs are slippery and closed in; I do not care for being trapped like that! So, Mom gives me cookies for getting in the slippery tub and more cookies after the scrubbing, rinsing and drying. Plus, she does sing me the *Koda Bath Song!*

A HAPPY TAILS TALE....

Each puppy I have brought home has been an opportunity to learn. Tucker, Takoda, and Kirby were either prior to or at the early stages of my dog training career. Quincy, however, entered the household with almost 10 years of experience under my dog trainer belt. His puppyhood was a bit different than the other three. "Training" started sooner and was done in very short, frequent sessions. Incidents of the older two correcting his puppy ways were handled with much less drama on my part; knowing they have the right to tell Quincy to behave himself. Baths were more frequent - mostly due to his love of mud and food allergies that caused nighttime in the crate potty issues. And, nail trims began almost immediately and were made happy, fun bonding time.

Quincy is by far the most cooperative bath taker and happily complies with nail trims, awaiting his "cookie per paw" reward. Many clients will ask me about phasing out or not using treat rewards after a dog is trained. There are some things I am willing to pay my dogs for; nail trims going smoothly is one of them. Making grooming, which most dogs do not enjoy, a positive experience using treats, toys, praise or all of the above as rewards simply makes the chore more enjoyable for both dogs and humans.

Koda will never enjoy brushing like Kirby or baths like Quincy, but he is smart enough to know if he tolerates my crazy human ways without protest or resistance, he will get paid. Compromise can be a wonderful thing! The moral to the story is: why make anything harder than it needs to be?

Kirb's Blurb!



As you may know, I am a very sensitive boy. New things often startle me a bit and it takes me some time to adjust to different situations. Brushing would be one of those situations. When I was a wee pup, my Momma would brush me nice and soft; and then I would get cookies! It was great!

I was not so sure when Dad started being the head brusher dude. Did he know the brushy song? Probably not... Oh dear, I thought, this could be scary! But Dad, he knows me so well. He told me it was not really brushing, but time for *special petting!* WHAT!? A special petting just for me? Just me and Dad? SOLD! Kirby loves special petting and Dad always gives me cookies along with special petting! Jackpot!