



# Fetching Facts & Noseworthy Notes

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## Upcoming Classes

Puppy Class:

March 12 – April 16

Doggy Manners:

March 12 – April 16

March 13 – April 17



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Check out our blog:

[www.htdogtraining.com](http://www.htdogtraining.com)

## New Year, Better Dog!

While each day is an opportunity to be the best version of ourselves, most people start out the New Year with a renewed hope, a sense of positive anticipation, and a resolution for self-improvement. This year, include the relationship with your dog on your list! Whether you sign up for a basic manners class to improve day to day behaviors, teach a new trick or behavior, or brush up a skill that has lost some of its polish; remember all relationships need continued attention to succeed.

Take time for daily exercise with your dog, and add in something new and different! Changing things up just a bit – or perhaps a lot if needed! – will improve the connection you have with your dog. When you do something new it engages both mind and spirit for you and your dog. Working together toward a common goal will strengthen your bond by improving communication and understanding. Success depends on the connection with your dog.

The more activities you engage in with your dog, the more skilled you will be at “getting” each other. Nurturing the relationship with your dog does not need to be a long commitment each day. Set aside 10 minutes, five days per week to teach a new trick or skill. If your dog’s basic manners are doing great, choose a trick such as jump through a hula hoop or weave between your legs. Smaller dogs do well with balancing on their hind legs, so teaching a “dance” trick can be fun. For larger dogs, put a “spin” behavior into their repertoire! There are a lot of tricks, of varying degrees of complexity out there! Find one that your dog will be quickly successful with so you are both encouraged to continue finding more fun ways to bond.

If manners are an issue, participating in a group class is a great way to learn how to improve your dog’s behavior. Classes offer the benefit of a social experience for both you and your dog. While a six week class is not a magic wand, it will provide education and information to get you in the right direction. And, you have the opportunity to converse with other dog owners.

Perhaps you have “been there, done that” with tricks and manners training and are looking for other ideas. Try agility classes, nose-work classes, or doggy Pilates to enrich your relationship and put your dog’s natural inclination to explore, sniff, and exercise into practice. Agility does not have to be intense and competitive, but it is a great way to improve your dog’s focus in a new, interesting way. Doggy Pilates uses a peanut shaped exercise ball and teaches your dog positions and activities on or involving the ball to improve core strength.

Any positive and fun way you can think of to enrich your relationship will improve how well your dog listens and behaves in your daily interactions. Experiment if you are not sure what you and your dog will enjoy. There is no harm in trying something new for the New Year with your dog! Actually, you will find benefits from anything new; your dog will wonder what fun thing you have planned next when you get out the treat pouch or hook on the leash to head out together. The New Year is a wonderful opportunity for a better relationship with your dog!

## Q's Views...



Because I am so smart and learn quickly, I got very bored in my Advanced Manners class. While I did earn my Canine Good Citizen designation, my mom noticed that I was not having very much fun. Someday, I want to grow up to be a therapy dog! It is just in my DNA to make people happy! Therefore, it is important I continue my training. So, my mom signed me up for agility class. It is so FUN! I still have to use my manners and focus on my mom, but this is a much more interesting way for the Q! Q recommends you do something fun with your dog to keep him interested in learning and focusing on you!

## Koda's Komments...



I was pretty sure that at 10 years old I knew all there was that a human could teach me. But then I met my new friend Emily! She is my physical therapist and is making my arthritis way less painful. Plus, I move way easier and faster!

I learned a lot of new things: how to walk in a water treadmill, new tricks, interesting ways to walk over obstacles, and how to use a peanut shaped exercise ball to get even stronger!

Anyone who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks is WRONG! All dogs love to learn!

## A HAPPY TAILS TALE....

*This is a new feature in the newsletter to share a recent experience such as a client dog's story, an interesting class happening, an informative book or article I read, a personal dog story, and so on. I hope you enjoy the new section and find the information either useful, entertaining or both!*

Training dogs is not only my job; it is my passion and life-style. I truly love learning all about dogs. I find everything about living and working with them fascinating and awe-inspiring. Learning more about my own dogs, how to better work with them, live together and enjoy each other is gratifying. And, as any honest trainer will tell you, we need help sometimes too! For one thing, we cannot see ourselves working our own dogs. Plus, we make tweaks to our training to meet client needs and then our own dogs do not have the consistency we preach to our clients!

So what does that mean? It means trainers enjoy, and really have a lot fun, taking classes from fellow trainers! Personally, I gravitate toward trainers with like-minded approaches; using positive reinforcement, relationship focused training. Recently, I took Quincy through Advanced Manners to obtain his CGC title. Now, we are in Agility 101 to keep him focused on me while having fun!

It is so rewarding to work with my dog and have a colleague help me improve the relationship with my dog through her feedback and observations. Working with other trainers makes me better - as a dog mom, understanding the client's perspective, and as a trainer being open to new and different views or ideas. Learning is the key to success!!

## Kirb's Blurb!



Sometimes us canines need a "refresher" regarding the expectations of our people. For example, I did not really realize when my mom said to "Come" at the dog park that she meant RIGHT NOW versus when I was done with my important task of sniffing. One great way to renew my interest is cookies so, my mom starting bringing cookies to the park. Whenever I went over to her, I got a cookie! After a visit or two, she then starting calling me "Come, Kirby!" and all I could remember is those cookies!!

Now my response is WAY faster, even though she sometimes forgets to bring the cookies. All I know is when I hear her call, I run right over just in-case it is a day she remembered those cookies!!