



Fetching Facts & Noseworthy Notes

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Upcoming Classes

Puppy Class:

May 14 – June 18

May 15 – June 19

Doggy Manners:

May 13 – June 17

May 14 – June 18

Advanced Manners:

May 13 – June 17

Tails on the Trails

June 9 – June 30



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Furry Family Spring Time Fun!

Spring has finally arrived! This is the season for getting out and enjoying outdoor events with family and friends. Dog lovers want to include their canine family members in walks, outings, and picnics. It may be fun to bring your dog along, but it may also cause stress if your dog does not have the proper manners to attend. Prepare yourself and your dog to be successful at busy events with a lot of people and activity. Here are some tips for a successful season of family fun including your canine family member!

- Establish a solid "go to your mat" behavior. Teaching your dog to go to a spot and stay keeps him safe in a busy environment. At picnics, this behavior is a great option while people are eating or there are a lot of children running and playing.
- Practice leash walking in a variety of scenarios prior to attending the event. Prepare your dog by reinforcing his "close" or "heel" in crowds of people, around other dogs, and young children. Use praise and treats to reward him for staying at your side.
- Be sure your dog's response to "Come" is very solid. If he should get loose for any reason, you want to KNOW he will come back when you call.

Hanging with fur friends can be fun for your dog!



- In a situation where your home is the location of the gathering and your dog will be mingling with guests off leash, take precautions for his safety. Place a sign at the food table to please NOT feed your dog. Too many tasty morsels may result in an upset digestive system. Place another sign on all entry doors politely reminding people to keep the dog inside your home or fenced yard when they exit. And finally, practice your dog's greeting behavior with a variety of people entering your home prior to the date of the event. This way, your dog will not jump up or perform other behaviors that may offend - or worse yet injure - a guest.
- Know your dog and what he enjoys; consider the event from his perspective. Will he be safe, happy and relaxed at the venue and with the crowd of people? Some dogs – just like people – love a good party! Others prefer a quiet evening at home with a few close friends. Do not force your dog to attend an event unless he will have a wonderful time and be able to follow the rules.
- Bring appropriate clean up items, water bowl and water, a bed or mat for your dog to relax on, a stuffed Kong and other toys for entertainment, and treats to reward his proper manners. Pay close attention to his whereabouts and activities at all times so you are ready to praise him for making good choices. Also, keep him safely occupied if a situation arises where his presence will be a risk to himself or others.

Enjoy the beaches, parks, trails, campgrounds, and family parties with your canine family member! By keeping his well-being as your top priority, you will have a furry, fun summer season!

Q's Views...



Q is excited to announce he will be doing the Doggy Dash again this year! It is a 5k run/walk in June. I walked it last year, but I was a wee pup. This year, I am all grown up and ready to run. Since my mom does not run real fast, I basically trot alongside her.

For our training, my mom has been working with me to stay on one side of her, close by and not pull on my leash – even if I see another dog. It is also important that I do not run too much, since I am still growing. We take little breaks and after our training I do my cookie stretches.

With all this training, Q will not be the last doggy done this year!!

Koda's Komments...



Ever since I was a young pup, I have been able to go a lot of places with my family. I have one of those "go with the flow" attitudes towards life. No need, in my mind, to get all amped over every little thing. But, I still do like to be rewarded with cookies when I make the right choices, according to the human rules.

When you take your canine family member out and about, be sure to bring a water bowl and water for him in addition to his treats. Praise and reward his good choices with treats. Your dog is never too old to be appreciated!

A HAPPY TAILS TALE....

"Weekends with Daisy" by Sharron Kahn Luttrell is an interesting and heart-warming read. Sharron tells her story of being the weekend puppy raiser for Daisy, a yellow Lab puppy, who is part of the NEADS (National Education for Assistant Dog Services.) The program uses prisoners (carefully vetted and screened of course!) at a local penitentiary to train the dog's basic behaviors during the week. The weekend puppy raiser proofs the behaviors in the real world, providing socialization and experiences in a variety of situations every weekend during the training process.

It was Sharron's role in Daisy's life that would "make or break" the dog's success in the program. Her job was to make sure Daisy experienced the world in a positive, fun way while still following the rules of proper behavior. Exposing Daisy to parades, movie theaters, stores, trains, elevators, any and all places a human goes with little or no thought to the process was key to her passing the program. Any bad experience could cause the dog to "flunk out" and all the hard work of her training would be time lost.

Sharron's story shares the ups, downs, mistakes, panic moments, and successes of her time with Daisy. Her honest expression of the emotional rollercoaster was enlightening and moving. As a trainer and fellow dog lover, I appreciated the time and effort she put in to ensure Daisy was "bomb proof." Meaning Daisy could handle, with no stress, our human world. Take the time to read how important Sharron's role is; and enjoy the happy ending where Daisy fulfills her calling!!

Kirb's Blurb!



While events at parks and other busy venues are fun for some dogs, I prefer less hectic environments. I know the rules for all types of gatherings and places, and will follow them. But, I prefer to be in smaller groups of familiar people and dogs.

If you plan to take your dog to outdoor events this summer, make sure he will be having fun too. Not all dogs want to be in a crowded park on a Saturday afternoon with screaming children and barking dogs. A quiet afternoon at home while you attend the event may be a happier option for your dog. If your dog is shy, skittish, uncomfortable around strangers or afraid of sudden loud noises, he will be happier at home with his stuffed Kong and fluffy dog bed!