



Fetching Facts & Noseworthy Notes

Contact Us:

Melissa@htdogtraining.com
www.htdogtraining.com
616-698-2237

Upcoming Classes

Winter 2015

Puppy Class:

Wednesday Jan 14 – Feb 18

Doggy Manners:

Wednesday Jan 14 – Feb 18



@HappyTailsDogTraining
LIKE our page for class and training updates, photos, articles, & tips!!



Check out our blog:
www.htdogtraining.com

Reality vs. Disney Dogs

Life is not a Disney movie. Well, no kidding, you say. Yet there is many seem to have an unrealistic expectation for dogs to be like "Air Bud" or Lassie. Coming to the rescue or simply knowing what we need them to do is not a realistic. Yes, there are stories of dogs doing amazing things; saving families from a house fire, protecting another dog or child in the face of danger, and so on. But our day to day existence is not about amazing acts of heroism, by humans or canines.

One of the toughest challenges in my business is helping people understand having a well-trained, nicely behaved adult dog takes time, patience and consistency. Whether you bring home a new puppy or adopt a dog from a shelter or rescue group, it takes time to establish a bond with your new canine family member. That bond is the basis for solid, successful training. The training is the foundation for good manners and communication with your dog. And it is the maturation and nurturing of the relationship with

your dog that leads to a life time of friendship.

Q and I, sharing a happy moment

In relationships with friends, children, spouses, significant others, and/or co-workers, we understand putting in effort, time and giving of ourselves is required for success. The same



is true for our dogs. Often I am asked by clients, friends and other observers: "How do I get my dog to look at me or listen to me like your dog(s) do for you?"

I promise you there is no magic formula, no spells being cast or hours of training going on. Our relationship is about a mutual respect and taking the time to understand and communicate. It started with developing the bond when they came home. Bonding is: playing, teaching, providing meals, and exercising.

As the bond grows, the level of learning and development of rules come into place. From there stems a mutual understanding and a relationship built on trust and respect. I watch the dogs; the dogs watch me. Observing what works; what makes each other happy, allows us to communicate and share our lives successfully.

The good news is you do not have to spend 24/7 with your dog to achieve this type of relationship. The key is making the most of the time you do have with your dog. And, if you do not have an hour a day for your dog, perhaps you need to reconsider your expectations of what you will be getting from him in return. You do not need an hour straight; just 5 minutes of petting in the morning, a half hour walk after work, a quick game of fetch after dinner, and a bit of time hanging out while you are watching evening TV or reading a book before bed time.

You may not end up with Air Bud or Lassie, but you will have a rewarding relationship with your dog. A relationship of trust, understanding, and unconditional love...

Q's Views...



My Momma pays attention to what Q likes and what makes me waggle! I love adventures, people, and trying new things.

I have learned a lot of cool new things since I was a puppy. Like what I can do to make cookies happen. Coming when called always gets me a cookie! I was in a movie and learned how to push open a door and wake up an actor who was asleep! Then, I learned agility obstacles and how to focus on Momma at a busy class with dogs all playing agility.

Q is a lucky boy! My Momma knows me and makes sure I have lots of exercise, fun and adventures!

Angel Koda's Komments...



As a puppy, I was not super interested in the people at my house. Now, my doggy brother Tucker, I worshiped him! He was so smart and fun; he taught me all kinds of things! I would have been perfectly content to always hang by him. My Mom and Dad had other ideas...

They would play and walk with me by myself. They taught me about what I could do to get cookies! Finally, they offered me a delicious item: a Kong filled with peanut butter! I decided they were pretty great after all!

I am so happy I got to know them. Bonding with them was totally wonderful! And they had a life time supply Kongs!!

A HAPPY TAILS TALE....

One of my goals is to help people better understand the *possibilities* of their dog. Not just how to get their dog to listen, but how to establish a relationship based on trust and respect. While many of us, me included, refer to ourselves as "doggy parents," the relationship with our dogs can be so much more. There can, and should be more to it than feeding, walking and paying vet bills.

Friendship, partnership, and mutual respect are all possible with your dog. Think of the dogs that support their humans as working farm dogs, alert dogs, guide dogs, and assistance dogs. There are dogs in all areas of law enforcement and the military. These dogs are loving and loyal, but also work side by side as a friend and partner with their human(s). Your dog does not need service or military training to be your friend and partner.

Providing basic manners allows your dog to understand how to fit in the human world. The magical part of sharing your life with a dog is the relationship you develop and nurture once that understanding is in place. If you are open to the possibilities, you and your dog can find a friendship where you share in an activity such as therapy work, exercise, hunting, or dog sports. Or maybe your dog is the "one" you can count on to always be there after a hard day at work; offering his quiet support by curling up next to you and just listening.

If your relationship is based on trust, respect and understanding, the possibilities for what you can share and experience together are endless!

Kirb's Blurb!



I love my Momma more than I love anyone! When we are home, I always want to be by her. I am okay if she goes to work because she comes home and gives me belly rubs. Being around her makes me feel safe and happy.

Plus, she taught me how to be brave. I used to be afraid of a lot of things, but she showed me those things are not really scary at all. If I am not sure what to do, she is always there to help me. Trust is very important to a good relationship, and I trust my Momma.

Because we know each other so well, I know my Momma is always there for me, she loves me, and respects me. I respect and love her too! It is so wonderful to share our lives together!