



Fetching Facts & Noseworthy Notes **March 2015**

Contact Us:

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

Upcoming Classes

Spring 2015

Puppy Class:

Monday April 13 – May 18
Wednesday May 6 – June 10

Doggy Manners:

Monday April 13 – May 18
Wednesday May 6 – June 10
Saturday May 9 – June 20*

Advanced Manners:

Saturday May 9 – June 20*

**Outdoor class!*



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



Check out our blog:
www.htdogtraining.com

Happy Clients... *Recent private lesson clients!*



What is Socialization?

There are several “buzz words” in dog training. A few of the most used: dominance, pack leader, positive reinforcement, and socialization. Unfortunately, many of those words have a lot of confusion attached to them. Some are used incorrectly and out of context; others are simply not defined clearly and completely.

Clarifying these requires each term to have an individual, detailed article. The focus here: what is “socialization” as it applies to training your dog.

Attending a training class, you will often hear to “socialize” your puppy/dog. When a trainer tells her class to be sure to socialize, she has a clear picture in her mind of what socializing looks like. Often, this statement is said without any further explanation – and that is where the confusion arises for many dog owners.

Key things to clarify:

- 🐾 Socialization is NOT just letting your dog play with other dogs. It is creating fun, positive experiences to ALL types of people, places, dogs, cats, animals and things. The “ordinary” to humans can be scary and strange to a dog.
- 🐾 The experiences need to be carefully monitored. Too much exposure can cause stress for your dog and create a negative association instead of a positive one.
- 🐾 Each experience must have a clearly defined beginning and end time; and a specific goal for the session. Specifics will ensure your dog has a great experience and is not overwhelmed.
- 🐾 The dog’s personality must be understood and taken in to account to determine the type, length, and of each social experience. Each dog is different; some are social butterflies and others are wallflowers. But, most dogs are somewhere in the middle range.
- 🐾 When classes are over, socialization is just getting started! The classes are a solid starting point for your dog. Socialization is a lifelong commitment! Use it or lose it, as the saying goes!

Whether you adopt a dog from a shelter or bring home a new puppy, taking the time to socialize properly is an important part of your dog’s development and training.

For ideas of positive social experiences, see the article on page 2.

Q'S VIEWS



"LIKE" my FB Page!
@Quincy Joe Simpson

Ever since I was a young puppy, I have gone to lots of places to meet new people and see new things. And I always have so much FUN! My Momma brings treats for me AND people pet me when I am a good boy. I have always been a confident, outgoing dog. So new things are super fun for me!

When we go someplace new, my Momma always brings me cheese. That's because new places tend to get me a bit excited; and I listen better when she rewards me with cheese. Once I am at the new place for a while, and settle down and focus on my Momma, I am a very good boy. I sit to greet people and I always ask my Momma before I go off anywhere.

Whether we go to a familiar fun place or a new place, I am always happy to explore and meet new people. Momma says that is because she made sure all my new experiences from day one have been fun for me and done at my pace. I know too, not all dogs are as extroverted as I am. So I have learned how to be gentle around shy dogs so we can still be friends!

Socialization Ideas...

- 🐾 Meet the Puppy parties: when your puppy or dog first arrives home, and is adjusting to his new life, have small gatherings of family and friends. Three to five guests for the first couple of gatherings will be plenty for a newbie. As your dog acclimates to his new home, after a few weeks, make the gatherings a bit larger – especially if you plan to have holiday gatherings in the future. At the parties, have guests give your dog small treats when he comes over to say hello. Do NOT reward the dog if he jumps up, only if he keeps all his paws on the floor.
- 🐾 Play dates: invite well behaved, healthy dogs to play with your dog. Dogs tend to play in groups of 2, but three is often fine. Monitor the play date at all times, keeping the dogs engaged with the humans as well as each other. Make sure the dogs take breaks and keep the first few play dates to an hour or less.
- 🐾 Field trips: this includes trips to the park to go for a leash walk, going to the pet store, visiting family and friends at their homes, and meeting the neighbors on walks. Keep each trip to an hour or less at first. Reward your dog with yummy treats for exploring the people, places and things he is experiencing.

NEVER force your dog to say hi or go see someone or something!! Force will create a very bad experience that may result in fearful behavior going forward. All experiences should have your dog happy, with a soft body posture. If your dog is fearful, contact a trainer to work with you and your dog in a positive way.

KIRB'S BLURB



Just like Quincy, my Momma made sure I was well socialized as a puppy. But, I am not outgoing like Quincy. My personality is a bit more reserved in unfamiliar situations. It takes me a little longer to feel safe and comfortable around new people and in new places.

It is very important to understand your dog's personality. Whenever we go someplace new, my Momma makes sure I have the time I need to adjust and feel safe. I am never forced to greet anyone or move ahead until I am ready. As I have matured and had more experiences, I adjust much more quickly than when I was a young dog.

Another key to my success is my Momma always brings me cookies to reward me when I am a good boy! I really like cookies! Having my Momma there with me, plus awesome cookie rewards makes new places less scary and a lot more fun!