



## Fetching Facts & Noseworthy Notes July 2015

### Contact Us:

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### Upcoming Classes

#### Puppy Class:

Wednesday Sept 9 – Oct 14

#### Doggy Manners:

Wednesday Sept 9 – Oct 14

#### Tails on the Trails:

Thursday August 6 - 27\*

*\*Outdoor class!*



@HappyTailsDogTraining

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Check out our blog:

www.htdogtraining.com

### Happy June Graduates!



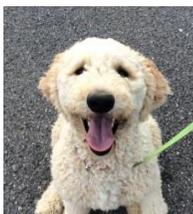
Chloe



Zeus



Lola



Penelope

### Fearful of New People:

#### Tucker's Story

Tucker had several issues we worked together to improve and resolve. One of his toughest issues to overcome was his fear of unfamiliar people; especially men. Working with Tucker and his mom, Julie, was a wonderful experience. Watching Tucker go from afraid of his own shadow to happily greeting a tall man was one of the best feelings a trainer can encounter.

Our effort took place over about a year's time. We had to take each challenge and address it at Tucker's pace; and allow his family time to work with him. The most recent victory has been Tucker overcoming his nervousness and fear when people pass by the house or come into the house. While he is still in the process of learning how to accept a variety of people, his improvement is notable.

Taking Tucker from barking neurotically in extreme fear to his reaction of greeting an unfamiliar man in his yard and again in his home was a process of changing his emotional response to the experience. Changing an emotional response takes time, consistency and patience.

We taught Tucker two key things:

- 🐾 New people equal good things happen to him
- 🐾 What to do instead of bark when he is uncertain

For Tucker, new people going by the house, walking up to the house and coming to the door all resulted in treats. However, to get the treat, Tucker had to remain calm and not bark. First, Tucker learned to look at something that did NOT scare him, and then look back to his mom to receive a treat. Next, we introduced something that would cause him to fear bark, but at a distance far enough away he noticed it, but did not bark. He learned to look at

an unfamiliar person, stay calm, and look to his mom for a treat. Gradually, we had the unfamiliar person move closer and closer. Tucker remained calmed, looked to his mom and received a treat for his calm behavior.

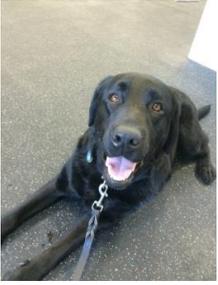
After Tucker was able to successfully greet a new person outside in his yard, we started working on a person entering his home.

*Tucker calmly greets a man at a recent session.*



*(continued on Page 2)*

## Q'S VIEWS



"LIKE" my FB Page!  
@Quincy Joe Simpson

Q was born ready to take on the world! I mean, really, I was in my first movie at 10 months old. Obviously I am going places in this life! I am not at all fearful of new people; I love meeting new people. My whole body waggles and my tail goes so fast it is a blur.

My Momma says not all other dogs are as confident about meeting people as I am. Some dogs are shy because they did not receive the same social experiences as a young puppy that I did. Others pups are simply shy by nature, and need some help from their humans to learn to feel safe meeting new people. My big brother Kirby was that way, but I will let him explain it.

Either way, if a dog is shy and afraid, it is important to be respectful and not push them to greet people before they are ready. With the help of training and desensitization, they can learn how fun it is to meet new people! Especially new people with yummy treats!

*(Tucker's Story – continued from page 1)*

Again, we allowed Tucker to set the pace. This means Tucker was rewarded by his mom for being calm with the new person present, but greeting the new person was up to Tucker. Allowing Tucker to greet as his own pace gave him the ability to make a choice and improve his confidence; as well as process this as a learning experience.

We helped Tucker be successful by having the new person use safe, non-threatening body language and offer small, high value treats. The person meeting Tucker was instructed to not make direct eye contact, keep his body relaxed, turn his side to Tucker, lower his body position closer to Tucker's level, and keep all movements "low and slow."

Following these recommendations, the new person meeting Tucker was less threatening. And having him offer Tucker small tasty treats, he became interesting to Tucker. The high value treats changed Tucker's emotional response away from fear to curious. Curious soon became willing to greet, albeit very briefly and quickly. Finally, Tucker was happy to approach the new person, receive his treat and some brief soft, below the chin petting.

Tucker was then allowed to just "be" around his new friend. He approached for several brief petting and treat sessions. Because no one forced Tucker to do these activities, he was able to process, learn and understand that new people are not a scary threat. With continued experiences like this, Tucker's nervous, fearful response to new people will continue to decrease. As the positive, fun learning experiences continue, Tucker's immediate emotional response around new people will change to curious and happy. He may never be the "loves everyone" type of dog, but with this training he will no longer be a terrified, nervous dog. Fear is not easily overcome, as it is a very intense response. Tucker is well on his way to a new, more relaxed response to meeting people!

## KIRB'S BLURB



When I was a younger dog, new people were a bit scary to me! Especially if they had on sunglasses and hats! Seriously, what is with the huge black eye things you humans call sunglasses? Scary! It is hard to imagine, since my Grandpa is one of my most favorite people, but even his sunglasses used to scare me.

I learned from my Mom to go see the humans with the scary eyes, though. Then I realized these are the same humans I like, they just look weird with the sunglasses on! What a relief!

It took me some time, but now I am not frightened by people wearing different things on their heads and eyes. I understand if I just slow down and sniff, I will realize they are my friends!

Sometimes it is a challenge for us dogs to learn all the ways of the humans. Dogs are so much simpler, but I guess I could start to wear sunglasses...