



# happy tails dog training

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*Happy dogs, Happy homes!*

## Fetching Facts & Noseworthy Notes August 2015

### Contact Us:

Melissa@htdogtraining.com

www.htdogtraining.com

616-698-2237

### Upcoming Classes

#### Puppy Class:

Wednesday Sept 9 – Oct 14

#### Doggy Manners:

Wednesday Sept 9 – Oct 14



@HappyTailsDogTraining

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



Check out our blog:

www.htdogtraining.com

### July Puppy Graduates!



Wiki



Seeley



Jessie



Fyre



Sarge



Maizy

### Purposeful Puppy Classes

The two main reasons new puppy parents give for signing up for class are to teach basic behaviors and socialization for their puppy. And puppy class definitely provides a great start to both of these essentials for success. In addition, puppy class should and can provide so much more!

❖ **Basics for Life Long Success:** Attending puppy classes provides a starting off point for training with your dog. Teaching a puppy how to successfully achieve behaviors is the first phase for life long success. The introduction to coming when called and walking nicely on a leash are skills to continue building through adolescence. And, reinforce with praise and positive feedback for the life of your dog.

❖ **Shared Learning Experience:** Dialogue between the trainer and people attending the class is beneficial to all class participants. Perhaps another person remembers to ask about something you had forgotten to ask. Or, just hearing you are not the only one struggling with a situation can offer comfort and confidence that success will come in time. Encouraging participant discussions of their struggles and achievements is a big part of my classes. Having a support network is helpful!

❖ **Establishing Communication with Your Dog:** Training is about setting your dog up to succeed in the human world. By showing your dog what to do, how to get it right, and then heavily rewarding his success, you build a foundation for lifelong good behavior from your dog.

❖ **Behaving Around Other Dogs:** Participating in a group puppy class teaches your puppy to respond to you with other dogs are present. Developing this skill at a young age provides a foundation for good manners around other dogs as your puppy matures. Your puppy will learn to focusing on you not only

results in a yummy treat, but he is also allowed to return to his playmates!

❖ **Using Basic Behaviors in Real Life:** Success after classes are over comes from translating the newly learned behaviors and responses into daily interactions with your puppy. Class exercises and discussion should provide ideas and examples of how

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*Puppy Class: Practicing Sit Stay as a group!*

## Q'S VIEWS



*This is me on the movie set! Totally the face of a star!*

Q is a born star! Q was chosen to be in a movie when he was just a 10 month old puppy! I learned a new trick – how to push open a door – just for the movie. And, I had to be on a movie set with lots of people and distractions. It was sometimes hard to listen to my Momma and do what I was told.

Momma says I did well on the set due to a “good foundation” of puppy training. From very early on, I learned to always come when I was called and to not jump on people. Since I got a lot of rewards for doing those things, I repeated the behaviors over and over. Momma says this makes me a good boy, and I like being a good boy! Good boys get good stuff like treats, belly rubs, walkies, swimmies, car rides and play dates!

So take it from me young pups, learn your lessons well and good things will come your way! Maybe even stardom! Check me out in “The End of the Tour” opening in Grand Rapids August 21!

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to use the behaviors learned to have successful leash walks, greet people politely and without jumping, proper manners for guests entering your home, and responding to a recall when playing with other dogs or at a park.

- 🐾 **Defining Socialization for Your Puppy:** While class provides an opportunity to meet and play with other puppies, puppy socialization goes far beyond play. Socializing includes your puppy meeting all types of people, dogs, and other animals. Plus experiencing a variety of places, surfaces, and sounds. Exposure to new things needs to be brief, fun, and reinforced with positive praise and treats. In addition, approaching a novel item, person, or place must be done at the puppy’s pace with no forcing from the owner. Puppies need to learn to go up to something new and different with confidence, not because someone made them do it. Using treats to reward increments of an approach is fine, but never require the puppy to move forward if he is afraid.
- 🐾 **Developing a Foundation for Future Experiences:** A fun, educational puppy class should leave you wanting more fun and experiences with your puppy! You both will look forward to trying new things together, going new places, and spending time as a family. Having the resources and understanding from your puppy class, you will enjoy the experiences you and your new puppy go on together.

Keeping in mind most puppy classes, including Happy Tails classes, are only six weeks long, your expectation should be a foundation to build on. Your puppy will still have a lot of growing up to do when class is complete. Your job is to ensure the skills achieved during those six weeks continue to develop. Adolescence is a time of repetition and reinforcing the manners learned at puppy class. If your puppy seems to have “forgotten” what he learned at class, take the time to go back and re-train the behavior. Learning is a never ending process; and puppy class is the starting off point!

## KIRB'S BLURB



Growing up with two big doggy brothers, I was able to learn a lot from them! I know my Momma taught me many things, but my big brothers showed me how to get along in a group of dogs, how to play, and how to do super cute things to get the Momma to do what we wanted. Yes, having doggy big brothers was very beneficial...

I also learned from a very young age to share my toys. My big brother Tucker would take stuff from me; and I had to learn that I might not always get it back. Hardships of being the little brother, I guess. But I also figured out to stick up for myself without starting a fight. Sometimes a Kirby has to do what he has to do to... Like take a toy, run away, and hide it from the big brothers!

So young puppies can and do learn from older dogs in the household. But the parents need to watch closely to prevent bullying. And, just like puppies can learn an older dog’s good manners, he can also learn his bad habits!