



Fetching Facts & Noseworthy Notes October 2015

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Upcoming 2016 Classes

Puppy Class:
Wednesday Jan 6 – Feb 10
Monday Jan 11 – Feb 15
Doggy Manners:
Wednesday Jan 6 – Feb 10
Monday Jan 11 – Feb 15

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

 Check out our blog:
www.htdogtraining.com

Happy Clients!



Dodger



Quinn



Stone



Monty



Remie



Beaux

Building Blocks:

The Value of "Auto Focus"

When I ask clients "What are the areas of struggle with your dog?" there are these recurring top three issues:

- 🐾 My dog only listens if he wants to...
- 🐾 Pulling on the leash
- 🐾 Does not come reliably when called

Especially with young and/or newly adopted dogs, most owners express at least one of the above concerns. To address each of these issues, the solution is the same: getting and keeping your dog's attention quickly and consistently.

Without focus, the rest of the issues cannot be resolved. Your dog needs to look to you both when asked AND check in voluntarily to ensure success with leash walking, come, and good manners.

To establish the Automatic Focus behavior, start off by teaching your dog the Focus behavior on cue.

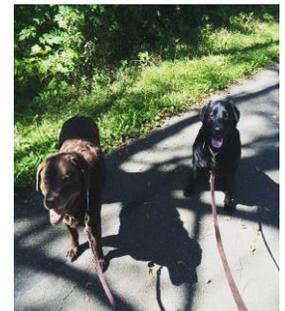
To teach Focus or Look:

- 🐾 Ask your dog to sit.
- 🐾 Take a small treat between your finger and thumb; then bring the treat close to your dog's nose.
- 🐾 Slowly move your hand up next to your eye.
- 🐾 As your dog's eyes follow the treat up to your eyes, say "Look!" or "Focus!"
- 🐾 Mark the eye contact from your dog with a "Yes!"
- 🐾 Give your dog a treat from your OTHER hand and praise your dog for getting it right!

Once your dog learns to make eye contact on cue, start rewarding all eye contact; both offered by your dog voluntarily and when he responds to your cue.

Teach eye contact in low distractions first. It is much easier for your dog to succeed with fewer distractions. Successful learning results in long term good behavior. As your dog's offered eye contact becomes more consistent in low distractions, you are ready to play the "Auto Focus Game!"

Kirby and Q working focus on a trail walk.



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Q'S VIEWS



"LIKE" my FB Page!
@Quincy Joe Simpson

Someday Q is going to be head training assistant for Momma! Because Q is still young, Momma says I have a lot to learn about ignoring other dogs "no matter what." One way we practice is to go to parks and work on focus.

First we practice with Q just hanging out with his handler – aka Daddy! Once we settle in, we put things into motion. We walk all around and Q's job is to look at Daddy A LOT. Whenever I look at Daddy and ignore other goings on, I get cheese! Q loves cheese!

We have been playing this game for a while now, and Q is getting good at it! At first, it was hard for me to choose Daddy over other interesting things. Now, I am learning the more I focus on him, the more often I get rewarded! Jackpot!

Momma says if I learn to ignore all things, even other dogs, I will get to work with her and get even more cheese! Let's get focusing then! Yay for cheese!

(Auto Focus - Continued from Page 1)

How to play the "Auto Focus Game:"

- 🐾 The purpose of this game is to teach your dog looking at you is a good thing to do! But, it must occur WITHOUT your asking for it or saying the dog's name!
- 🐾 Go to a location with some moderate amount of distraction.
- 🐾 Stand with your dog, keeping the leash short – about 2 feet; you are CALM and QUIET.
- 🐾 WAIT. BE QUIET.
- 🐾 The INSTANT your dog looks at you - for ANY reason - say "YES! GOOD DOG!!" and reward with a treat.

The more often the game is played and you reward Auto Focus, the better your dog will focus on you in a variety of situations. Your dog will choose to look at you more quickly and more often when you are frequently and consistently rewarding offered focus. When your dog is choosing to focus on you, establishing a solid recall, a nice leash walk, and improved listening will fall into place much easier and more successfully.

Get some high value treats and do focus work with your dog! Have fun and give treats often!

ANNOUNCING... NEW CLASS LOCATION!!

Happy Tails is excited to announce we will be offering classes in the Cascade/Ada area starting in January! The classes will be held at the Paws & Claws Cascade location; which is in the mall behind the D&W on 28th Street in Cascade. We will have an indoor area large enough to hold Puppy, Doggy Manners and Advanced Manners classes. More information will be posted to the website soon!

KIRB'S BLURB



Kirb is Momma's number one assistant! To be the assistant, I had to learn to ignore other dogs no matter what they do. Some dogs bark, lunge and/or growl at me when I am there to work. Rather than respond or be afraid, I have learned to just focus on my handler.

At first, I only knew to focus on my Momma. But she taught other people what to do so I would focus on them instead of the goings on around me. A most important part of my work is being consistently rewarded for my good behavior. After all, nobody works for free! Kirb charges his fee in cookies!

It is important to keep your dog focused on you when the things going on around him are stressful and/or overly stimulating. That way, your dog knows you have his back and the situation is under control. I do not worry one bit about working around other dogs that might not like me; I have one of my people there to take care of me!