



## **Fetching Facts & Noseworthy Notes** December 2015

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### **Upcoming 2016 Classes**

Puppy Class:

Monday Feb 1 – Mar 7

Wednesday Mar 2 – Apr 6

Doggy Manners:

Monday Feb 1 – Mar 7

Wednesday Mar 2 – Apr 6



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[www.htdogtraining.com](http://www.htdogtraining.com)

### ***Happy 2015 Clients!***



## **Adolescent Woes: Big Body, Baby Brain** **Otis' Story**

Getting a new puppy is such an exciting time! They are silly, cute, and full of mischief! As a responsible new puppy parent, you attend Puppy Classes. At class, you learn how to teach your puppy new things, get him house and chew toy trained, and socialize him safely with other dogs. Graduation night comes and you are filled with confidence and pride with all your new pup has achieved...

Fast forward three months. Your "puppy" is now the size of an adult dog and no longer looks like a puppy. Most of the time things are going well, but... Some of those "naughty" puppy behaviors are not quite fixed yet. Every once and a while your puppy behaves as though you never trained him a day in his life! What is happening?!

Otis, a German Shorthair Pointer puppy, attended my puppy class Fall 2015. He is smart, energetic, and playful. He exemplified his breed. His people are experienced with this breed, so his instincts and energy level were expected. Otis is going to be a hunting partner for his dad, but he is a pet dog when not in the field.

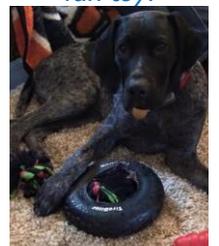
Being a smart boy, Otis did very well at puppy classes. And, his parents followed up at home; reinforcing his good choices and teaching him how to be successful. Otis grew quickly; becoming a big boy in no time! Even though his body is the size of a big dog, in his mind and heart, Otis is a very young dog.

As puppies mature into adolescence, their stamina for exercise increases, they are still in the learning process, and becoming more independent. So now you have a young dog, still learning the rules, but with MORE energy! A recipe for trouble, as you might imagine! What to do to help Otis and his family address the stealing of items, the jumping and his high energy levels?

We put into place a multi-faceted plan for increased exercise, mental stimulation, and more challenging training for Otis.

- ❖ **Puzzles and games:** Providing puzzle toys for your dog is an excellent way to get your dog focused; and if he is focused and thinking, he is NOT making bad choices. A simple, at home puzzle is to put treats into a muffin tin and cover them with balls.
- ❖ **Teach Settle:** Initiate play with your dog. Get him to tug or fetch, using an excited tone.

*Otis with a new fun toy!*



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## Q'S VIEWS



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@Quincy Joe Simpson

When I came home as a baby puppy, there were always lots of toys around. My Momma would give me a toy in my mouth when I would run up to play with her. She says it was because I liked to use my teeth, as most puppies do; but teeth hurt people. So, she showed me if I wanted play time, we would play with toys.

As I grew up to be a bigger boy, a mature puppy of 6 months old, I started bringing the toys to her! She did not have to give them to me anymore because I knew the rules; bring Momma a toy and she will play! Since I love to play and get snuggles, I carried LOTS of toys to her. See the photo of a young Q carrying his squeaky stick to play with Momma!

Now, mind you, sometimes I would forget and she would remind me by giving me a toy if I accidentally tried to use my teeth. And, sometimes, Momma could not play with me for very long. But she always would tell me I am a good boy and do a quick tuggy or fetch. Momma says taking a quick moment to reward a good choice takes a lot less time than fixing a bad habit!

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Only "jazz" him up for about 30 seconds; then stop the game and in a calm, soft tone say "Settle." Have your dog settle for 10 - 15 seconds and repeat. Incorporate "Settle" into your regular play sessions frequently so your dog will respond to a settle when he gets excited.

- ❖ Choice Learning: Have several treats ready. Hold a treat in your fist. Do not give your dog the treat until he offers you calm behavior. The trick is you DO NOT say ANYTHING at all!!! Not his name, no cues, nothing. Just wait. This teaches your dog calm behavior equals good things. AND to make the choice to be calm on his own!
- ❖ Exercise variety: Use play dates, training sessions on walks, doggy day care, off leash running in a safe area, and "sniffing walks" to give your dog a variety in his routine. Mixing things up will result in more stimulation for your dog; making him more tired by the end of your exercise. Also, break things up so your dog gets multiple types of exercise a day. A 30 minute "sniffing walk" and a 15 minute game of fetch can be more tiring for your dog than an hour long boring leash walk.

Adding in "thinking" games, a variety of exercises, and teaching a settle on cue, Otis is becoming a well-mannered young dog. Put effort into teaching your dog to do it right from the beginning! Set your dog up for success; provide him opportunities to use his skills in a productive manner and you will enjoy spending time with your dog!

## ANNOUNCING... NEW CLASS LOCATION!!

Unfortunately, the other location did not work out. BUT, we are pleased to announce we will be holding classes at the **Cascade Chow Hound** location! Puppy and Manners will begin in February. We are very excited about partnering with a local business and being able to offer more opportunities for classes in the area! Dates and times are on the website.

## KIRB'S BLURB



As a young Labrador, I loved to play! I still love to play! Romping with my brothers, playing with my toys, and running top speed in my yard are all favorites for me both as a young puppy and now.

My favorite toy when I was a young pup was a red, squeaky football. When I would get really, really excited, I would grab my football and run as fast as I could! My ears would fly straight up I would be going so fast! Momma says it is very important for dogs – of all ages – to have appropriate daily exercise.

Young dogs especially have a lot of energies and will chew up your furniture and behave badly if not properly exercised. Remember, exercise is both physical and mental! And, variety is best: games, walks, doggy play dates, and chew toys are all great options! A properly exercised dog is a well behaved dog!