



Fetching Facts & Noseworthy Notes March 2016

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Upcoming Classes

Puppy Class:

Monday Mar 28 – May 2
Wednesday Apr 27 – Jun 1

Doggy Manners:

Monday Mar 28 – May 2
Wednesday Apr 27 – Jun 1

Advanced Manners:

Saturday Apr 16 – May 21

Tails on the Trails

Thursday Apr 21 – May 12

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Happy Clients!



Spring Surprises:

Refresh Your On-Leash Training

The days are getting longer, the weather is tempting us with warmer days and the snow has melted... The people who "hibernated" in the winter are returning to outdoor life!

For those of us with active dogs, winter hibernation means we are the only people out and about. As spring approaches and neighborhoods once again become active, your dog may need a refresher on walking with more distractions.

How much refresher training you will need depends on where your dog was with training when winter started; and how much walking you did this winter. Most dogs enjoy walking all year round, so keeping up your walks is a benefit for both you and your dog – with exceptions for dangerously cold days, of course.

As a side note: there is a lot of "dog gear" available for winter weather walking: booties, lighted collars, reflective vests and leashes; as well as ice grips for your boots to keep you upright!

If you and your dog participated in the winter walks, your training will need to focus on reminding your dog to ignore the increased distractions and activity. You may need to return to bringing treats on your walks to reward the more difficult "Leave It" situations. Also, keep aware of debris in yards and along paths to be sure your dog does not pick up any unwanted items.

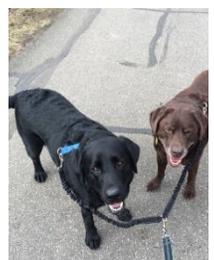
For dogs working on reactivity issues spring can be especially challenging. Winter walks are low activity, minimal stimulation. With warmer weather, out come all the stimuli that cause the dogs to react: kids, bikes, joggers, other dogs, and so on. Remember to take your training back a couple of phases from where you left

off in the fall. If your dog was able to handle high distractions from 20 feet before the winter, go back to 40 feet, making certain you are below threshold.

The good news about refreshing your training - the information and skills are there in your dog's brain. You just need to remind him how to use those skills! The more often you get out and about, the quicker your refresh period will be!

To refresh *your* memory on leash walking tips, see the tips section on page 2!

Kirby and Q checking in on a leash walk...



Q'S VIEWS



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@Quincy Joe Simpson

Q is a very good boy on leash walks! I have been practicing since I was just a baby puppy, so I know the rules like the back of my paw. Pulling is not allowed, checking in with Momma is a "good boy!" moment, and ignoring other dogs is a must! If I am a good boy on my leash walks, I always get rewarded with praise, love and even sometimes COOKIES! Q loves cookies!

Because I am so good, Momma is trying what she calls a "hands free bungee leash." Q calls it awesome sniffy time leash! This leash allows me and Kirby more freedom on walks to go check out sniffy smells. We LOVE it!

But there are rules with this leash too. Q had to learn "easy" which means I am to slow down. I also learned "close" meaning return to Momma's side. And, this is the best one – PULL! Momma lets us pull on the leash so me and Kirby pull her up a hill! FUN!

Because I respond well and listen to Momma's information, I get to walk a lot on the sniffy leash. If you want to use a sniffy leash, make sure your dog is well trained so no one gets hurt!

Leash Walking Tips

- 🐾 Start your walk off with a sit and focus. No sit/focus, you do not start moving.
- 🐾 Use a Sit and Focus during the walk as needed to help your dog settle after an unexpected distraction.
- 🐾 If your dog pulls:
 1. Stop walking and wait for the leash to go slack AND for your dog to sit and/or look at you. Then you start walking again.
 2. Turn around and go a different direction. The key here is to say very little. I will often say nothing at all or just a quick Let's Go!
- 🐾 Be very consistent with the rules. If you allow your dog to pull sometimes but not at other times, you are sending your dog a mixed message. This will slow the training process AND create more work for you in the long run. Give clear, precise messages for EVERY walk! Soon have a nice loose leash.
- 🐾 Keep the leash "light and low" with a nice "J" shape.
- 🐾 Praise your dog for eye contact (or a "check in") and walking in the "sweet spot" near you.

KIRB'S BLURB



When I was younger, I was very afraid of new things and little kids. I have become much more confident in my senior years due to lots work and training with my Momma. When the weather changes from snowy time to warmer time, I sometimes need reminders that kids on bikes are not scary! They just go so fast!

My Momma is always prepared for what she calls the Spring Awakening. People of all ages are out and ready to play! She reminds me to Look at her when I am not sure about this renewed level of activity. Mind you, I see other dogs at work with my Momma all winter long, so I am all set there. But running, screaming small people and blowing trash seem to get me every time!

Because I have had a lot of training help in my past, I am able to remember very quickly how to make good choices. Barking and growling are not necessary as long as I remember to look at Momma when scary things appear!