

PAW PRINTS

The Newsletter from The Lucky Dog Complex



BOARDING & TRAINING CENTER

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the Marshmallow Foundation



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Patriot Assistance Dogs

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Hello and Welcome to the Lucky Dog Complex newsletter, "Paw Prints". Our goal is to keep the clients, supporters, volunteers, and employees of our four entities up to date on the current happenings.

Lucky Dog Boarding and Training Center, Marshmallow Animal Shelter, Patriot Assistance Dogs, and Muddy Puppies have all contributed to this month's newsletter. Lucky Dog's Memorial Garden got a big makeover, we have a new Employee of the Month, how the effects of rescue can create burnout in shelter staff, updates on the fundraisers for P.A.D. from bicycling across states to paddling the length of the Mississippi River, Tools of the Trade: Part 2 with Muddy Puppies dog grooming, the top 5 reasons your dog will benefit from swimming, and don't forget to scroll all the way to the end for the August Special!

We welcome your comments and ideas as we grow this newsletter.

Be sure to scroll to the end of the letter, which is where you will find August's Special!

Lucky Dog

Boarding and Training LLC

Memorial Garden Makeover!

Written by Linda Wiedewitsch

Wow! Take a look at the makeover of the memorial garden on the southwest corner of our building! Spear-headed by Nora, with muscle help from Zach, Mia, Steph, and others, the weeds and old wood chips are now history. Look for Old Glory flying proudly when you come through the gate. Watch for new pricing on the engraved pavers that help support the Marshmallow Animal Shelter while creating a lasting memory of pets that have crossed the rainbow bridge. Take a moment to sit on the bench and enjoy the sun as we move through the last weeks of summer. The memorial garden is place to rest, recall fond memories, and find a calm shelter during uncertain times. While there are still some additions to be added to the garden including a bird bath and bird feeders, the memorial garden is still available to viewed and used. We ask that pets are not allowed to relieve themselves in the memorial garden.



Employee of The Month

Zach Teiken Written by Emily Steffen

Zach is no stranger to Lucky Dog—he has been working with Lucky Dog on everything from Kennel shifts, Maintenance, Mowing, and Front Desk since May of 2016. He is always willing to jump in and help when needed, even when working multiple jobs and throughout college. He has been a staple in helping our community at the Lucky Dog Complex grow and thrive! Recently, Zach and his dog Rex passed their Canine Good Citizen Test with flying colors—an accomplishment that is a far cry from where Rex started. It all started when Zach’s dad called a cousin one day just to catch up with him. In their conversation the cousin had mentioned that he had to help bring a dog in to be euthanized the next day because the couple couldn’t handle the dog and no one would take him in. Without knowing a thing about the dog, Zach’s dad said they’d take it in. It turned out Rex was a young field spaniel—the perfect companion for a young boy. A couple days later Rex found his forever home with Zech. When Zach got him, Rex was just under a year old. He was underweight and had a harness so tight that it was affecting his breathing. Rex hadn’t had any formal training and was quite the handful at a year old. Although he was a rascal, he loved Zach and would do anything for him. Soon after taking in Rex, Zach signed them up for the 4H dog class. Although he was still quite the handful Rex knew he had a job when they walked into the show ring. Five months after they met, Zach and Rex competed at the State 4h Dog show receiving grand champion in showmanship along with a reserve and honorable mention in other classes. Since then they have competed in 4H a couple more years along with doing some gun dog work and hunting together. For an obedience refresher Zach and Rex took the Canine Good Citizen class at Lucky Dog Boarding and Training. Rex and Zach still have a great connection which was proven when Linda said, “We should have had that on video, that’s how you do a CGC test!” upon completion of the official CGC test. Lucky Dog is so very proud to have Zach and Rex on our team! If you are interested in attending a CGC class with your own dog, please reach out to Lucky Dog Boarding and Training for information on class start dates, times, and costs.





Marshmallow Animal Shelter



Tired *Written by: Rowan Wendinger*

I'm tired, man. Physically, emotionally, mentally. I wake up every 2 hours to make sure this kitten gets something to eat and drink and gets brought to the litter box (which he is a boss at now, by the way). I'm am so glad he exists because he is amazing, but thinking about what he's going through just to survive, I can't imagine. Forget how hard it is on me, on anyone who fosters or works shelter/rescue, which is a whole other aspect. Let's focus on how these animals must feel. Of course this same thing overall goes for dogs, but when it comes to helping the sick I work with cats. So let's imagine: eaten alive by bugs, starving, thirsty, sick. Feeling like you may actually die, and also a bunch of strangers are holding you, if you're lucky. Slightly less lucky is being surrounded by barking dogs and a bunch of other cats, all in cages begging for attention but the staff are so overworked by the sheer volume of animals that they are legitimately incapable of giving everyone the time they need. If you're not lucky at all you're dying outside and being eaten by other animals, lost and forgotten like your life didn't matter. I'm tired, man. I'm tired of seeing cats and dogs wandering the streets and the wilderness having lives and babies they didn't ask for because those responsible for them don't see the big deal. Come to my house in the summer and I'll show you the big deal. I'll show you the shoe boxes I save for burials because they definitely don't all make it. I'll show you the bottles and blankets and formula I keep on hand. I'll show you the bathtub turned playpen because I just want to cook some Mac and cheese without holding a kitten in one hand. I'll show you spines stretched over thin skin like they're about to pop out at any minute. I'll show you the eye droppers with measurements just trying to keep them alive for one more day, one more hour. I'll show you how much I cry. I'll show you a dog that was looking for his new kitten friend for 6 hours before realizing he wasn't coming back. Spoiler alert: the kitten died. Tell me, "it's not a big deal, they'll get adopted fast, people love kittens". Tell me "I'll get them fixed soon". Tell me, "they don't go outside anyway". Tell me, "but kittens are so cute." Everyone loves a comeback story and those are the animals that go viral and get famous. You know who doesn't? The ones who don't live long enough to have a story to tell.

**Save A Life
Adopt
Donate
Volunteer**





Patriot Assistance Dogs

Patriot Assistance dogs is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing dogs, then training them as service dogs for Veterans who struggle with psychiatric disabilities.

Fundraising—Not an Option, a Priority

Written By Linda Wiedewitsch

Fundraising for non-profits is always a priority for survival, especially now during the challenges of COVID. The Lucky Dog Complex is home to two 501c3 non-profits, Marshmallow Animal Shelter and Patriot Assistance Dogs (P.A.D.). Several of these entities annual fundraising events have been postponed or canceled this year due to the pandemic.

We often receive inquiries of “How can I help?”

- Check out the agency “wish list” and then make a purchase based on what your budget will allow.
- Set up a monthly automatic payment (bank draft, credit card, etc.) Businesses can often budget quarterly, semi or annual giving from their charitable funding accounts.
- Commit to donating a percentage from a side income you may have or from the sale of a particular item
- Host an online sales party with a percentage of the sales designated to the non-profit
- Name your favorite non-profits in Trusts and Estate Planning.
- Work with your service club, church, neighborhood, golf buddies, etc. to host a fundraiser. Fall is a great time for outdoor activities (no masks required zone!)

Keep reading to consider what these people have done or are still doing during the COVID-19 pandemic to help raise awareness and funds for Patriot Assistance Dogs!

Patriot Assistance Dogs Fundraisers

Written by Linda Wiedewitsch

Marlene Fondrick turned 80 in June. Due to the gathering restrictions, she could not have a large celebration. Marlene set up a Go Fund Me account and sent out a request to family and friends to help her celebrate by donating to P.A.D. Marlene's efforts raised \$800, that's right, \$10 for every year, for P.A.D. She also picked out her birthday gift and adopted a retired service dog, Maura, from P.A.D. Win for Maura, win for P.A.D., win for Marlene!

Army Veteran Andrew Nathan wanted to do something "bigger than just about me". A bicycling enthusiast, he began planning and training for a bicycle ride; across North Dakota from the Montana border to the Minnesota border (and then back to the Fargo VFW). This ride was accomplished in three days (August 7th—9th) with temperatures as high as 105 degrees, strong cross winds, and on the final day, rain and thunderstorms with multiple tornado sightings along the route. Army Veteran Ray Pizarro and Service Dog Beth following in the support vehicle and recorded much of the ride, live streaming it on Facebook. Nathan's ride has raised awareness of P.A.D., and over \$21,000 with donations still coming in.



Air Force Veteran Michael (Mickey) Giovingo is paddling down the Mississippi River for the same reasons; to raise awareness of Veterans, their struggles with PTSD, and other non-visible wounds, the help that is available to them through P.A.D., and to raise funding for P.A.D. Mickey left the Mississippi Headwaters at Lake Itasca on May 31st. His kayak was damaged when blown into rocks during a windstorm. Undaunted, Mickey obtained a canoe and continued on his journey. Most recently he survived the windstorms that went through Wisconsin and his present location near Davenport, Iowa. Mickey's trip can be followed on Facebook at Paddling 4 PAD. Donations can be sent to P.A.D. online at www.patriotassistedogs.org or by US Postal Service to P.A.D., 1478 Mallard Street, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501



Muddy Puppies Dog Grooming

Tools of the Trade: Part 2

Written by Dawn Hutmacher

Last month I talked about the undercoat rake. This month I would like to talk a bit about what is probably one of my favorite tools when it comes to matts and shedding. Meet the dematting rake. The one that I use is double-sided, with two space sizes between the combs. It can usually be purchased for less than \$15. The edges are curved to help protect your dog's skin.

This handy tool has a couple of uses. First, and foremost, it can help you break up matts and tangles in your dog's coat. If you have a dog that is constantly getting those tiny little tangles or knots, then this comb might be a good choice. Use the larger comb size first and then flip it to the smaller comb size afterwards. Just be sure that you aren't trying to tug through a matt that is too big or tight, not only hurting your dog's skin, but making the grooming process in the future less than desirable. Always work with the natural direction of your dog's coat. Dealing with those tiny tangles right away can save you (and your dog) a lot of long, difficult de-matting and expensive grooming bills.

The second use is for shedding. I know a few people that use this comb to brush their dog out (tangles or not). You will be able to pull quite a bit of the loose, dead hair off your furry friend (it works on cats too) and will save yourself some of those shedding nightmares. Again, please make sure you are gentle and always work in the natural direction of your dog's coat. It might be worth noting that, just like any grooming tool, you should use it regularly but not constantly.

I have included a picture of a dematting rake that is similar to the one that I use on my clients. I do not endorse any particular brand or supplier.

Until next month, happy de-matting!

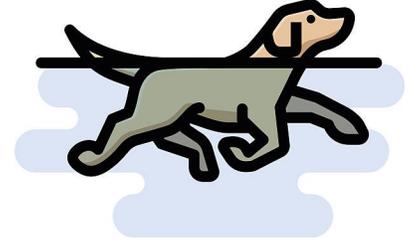




Trainer's Corner

The Top 5 Benefits of Swimming for Dogs

An excerpt from Topdog Animal Health



Swimming is an excellent form of exercise for your dog – and for you! It can be especially beneficial as therapy for dogs who are rehabilitating from an injury or surgery, have joint problems, or are older or overweight. Here are five reasons your pup should take the plunge:

1. It Improves Overall Health

Swimming is one of the best, most complete forms of exercise for your dog. Just one minute of swimming equates to four minutes of running! It provides numerous health benefits, including strengthening the heart and lungs, decreasing inflammation, increasing metabolism, and improving circulation which helps keep the skin and coat healthy...

2. It's Joint-Friendly

Swimming is low-impact, non-concussive, and non-weight bearing, meaning it allows your dog to enjoy all the benefits without putting stress on their joints and tendons. When submerged, the water takes on most of your dog's weight, supporting their body and relieving their skeletal system from the stress of jarring impacts that can occur when exercising on land.

3. It's Stress-Relieving

Not only is swimming great for your dog's physical health, it also improves their mental wellbeing. Just like humans, dogs need mental stimulation in the form of play, fun, and varied activities that differ from the norm to help them stay sharp and happy.

4. It Can Be Pain-Relieving – Warm Water Swimming

Not only is the warm water pain-relieving, it also promotes blood flow and helps to warm up muscles quicker, reducing the risk of further injury. If you don't live in a warm climate or have a heated pool, many cities have rehabilitation facilities with heated pools for recovering pets.

5. It's Great for Overweight Dogs

In the case of overweight dogs, it can be difficult to provide them adequate exercise on land without overworking already-stressed joints and muscles. With the water supporting most of the dog's weight, swimming is a great way for overweight pups to burn calories and improve their metabolic rate without the risk of injury. Together with a balanced diet, swimming can help bring heavy dogs back down to a healthier weight.

What If My Dog's Not a Natural-Born Swimmer?

If your dog seems apprehensive about entering the water, let them acclimate to the idea at their own pace and offer rewards in the form of treats, praise, or affection to further encourage the desired behavior. Always provide an ample supply of fresh water before and during their swim. Also remember to rinse them off after a swim, **[especially] cleaning out the ears to prevent infection**. The amount of time your dog can safely spend swimming varies depending on their physical fitness, overall health, and breed. When swimming, the main thing to keep in mind is to ensure your dog does not become overtired. Some dogs will naturally protect themselves from over-exertion by stopping when they're tired, but others may push themselves to the point of exhaustion which can be dangerous when swimming. Whether your dog is an experienced swimmer or a first-timer, you should always keep safety in mind. It's also a good idea to purchase a canine life vest, especially if your dog does not display the most natural aquatic ability. Just as swimming is an excellent way to get fit for humans, it's also an amazing form of exercise, mental stimulation, and healing for our canine companions

August Special

20% OFF any Tufflock Collar at Lucky Dog Boarding and Training!

Keep in mind any of Tufflock's collar products are **GUARANTEED FOR LIFE**. If your pet's collar is damaged in any way you can always return it to Tufflock and get a replacement!

