

PAW PRINTS

The Newsletter from The Lucky Dog Complex



BOARDING & TRAINING CENTER

218-847-4100

the Marshmallow Foundation



218-847-9040



Patriot Assistance Dogs

218-850-2425

Inside This Issue:

- ◆ **Toys—Supervised or Unsupervised?**
- ◆ **Volunteer of the Month**
- ◆ **Marshmallow 9th Annual Hairball Event**
- ◆ **How Dogs Qualify To Be a Service Dog**
- ◆ **Should You Shave Your Double-Coated Dog?**
- ◆ **Diabetes: Not Just A Human Condition**
- ◆ **Crate Training Conclusion**
- ◆ **March Special!**

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. Be sure to read through to find out about the toys at Lucky Dog and how to tell if they are to be "supervised" or "unsupervised" toys for your pet. We also have a new Volunteer of the Month, information on Marshmallow Animal Shelter's upcoming 9th Annual Hairball Fundraising event, how dogs qualify to be a service dog, information on shaving your double-coated dog, a guest article on Diabetes in Pets, Crate Training in Conclusion, and the March 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 March's Special!

Lucky Dog

Boarding and Training LLC

Toys– Supervised or Unsupervised?

Written by Linda Wiedewitsch

Welcome to March, spring will soon be official, at least according to the calendar. To help stave off the last weeks of blustery “my dog wants to stay inside weather” Lucky Dog has resupplied on toys. Old favorites have been replenished and a selection of new toys has been added. This seems like a good time to review toy safety for our dogs.

In puppy kindergarten and beginner obedience classes, our trainers cover what is safe and healthy for our dogs to play with and what should be avoided. At Lucky Dog, you will only find toys that we have tested with our own dogs and feel confident in recommending.

Toys can be divided into two categories, supervised toys and unsupervised toys. A supervised toy is one that requires you to be present with the dog during play. Many dogs will repeatedly retrieve a tennis ball without damaging it. But left alone with that same ball, the dog pops it and chews it to small pieces. Tug toys are fun for exercise or when used as a reward during and after training. However, they are not designed to withstand chewing. The issue is, how much of the plastic, rubber or rope string gets swallowed in the chewing process. These toys are definitely supervised toys.

Unsupervised toys are manufactured by companies like Nylabone and Benebone. These are made from tough, manmade materials that can withstand some brutal chewing. What does come off are very small pieces or shavings that are non-absorbent and can readily pass through digestive systems without damage. One must remember to dispose of the chew toy when it becomes small enough to be swallowed by any dog in the household. The “Virtually Indestructible Ball” by Softflex toys is a safe yard toy and withstands the weather well.

Kong makes a variety of toys from dense rubber like material designed for the extreme chewer (unsupervised) to toys that contain strong fabrics or squeakers (supervised). These toys you need to first try as a supervised toy; make your dog earn the privilege to play unsupervised! Check out this month’s special, it is toy related!



Our good friend, Harley the Bulldog, quickly chewed through this squeaker toy in less than an hour– squeaker toys or soft toys should be for supervised play time only and not for unsupervised chewing.



Volunteer of The Month

PAD Volunteer Wanted: Someone to find, rescue and foster dogs. This person should also be capable of creating a photographic log of “a year in the life of a puppy”, share it on Facebook, then create a hardcover book of that journey. They also need to have a background in graphic and document design as they will need to first setup and maintain that PAD Facebook page. And as long as they are doing that, could this same person take over the website from PAD’s webmaster who is retiring from hosting websites? We could use some help with baths, ear cleaning, teeth brushing and toenail trims for the PAD dogs. Would the volunteer also be available for tech support and perhaps be a bookkeeper to help keep PAD’s financial records in order? P.S. PAD would be willing to pay something for the bookkeeping services.

No, PAD did not post that Help Wanted Notice. But we were incredibly lucky enough to have someone approach us and offer to donate all of those skills to help support PAD’s efforts to rescue dogs, train them, and then give them to Military Veterans. That very qualified person would be Dawn Hutmacher. (AKA Dawn Hoot, Dawn II, The Cool Dawn)

The Cool Dawn brings more to the table than the skills requested above. She is a Mom who is very involved in the lives and welfare of her three children. She works with them (Muddy Puppies Grooming), plays with them (many photos of kids and dogs at the lake), hunts with them (freezers stocked with duck and venison) and travels with them (Arizona here we come). She is also involved in running at least two, family owned businesses.

Adjectives often associated Dawn Hoots’ name include hard working, organized, strong, sense of humor, honest, well rounded, talented, remains positive in difficult situations, genuine, and ALWAYS WILLING TO HELP. There are few who would respond to that Help Wanted Notice. And very, very few who could complete the job(s) like Dawn does.

Written by Dawn and Linda
Wiedewitsch





Marshmallow Animal Shelter



Hairball Fundraising Event



Written by: Cassi Ohman

Join us for our 9th annual Hairball Fundraiser!!

On Saturday March 21st 2020 from 4-8 we will be at the Holiday Inn raising funds for local strays in need. This event is always guaranteed to be a good time! Tickets are \$25.00. This gets you into the event, taco bar, & 1 drink. Save yourself the clean-up of supper, because the taco bar is delicious. You also won't want to miss out on some of the awesome prizes you can bid on! I've heard we have a signed Adam Theilen jersey, Minnesota Wild hockey stick, Timberwolves tickets, & of course we can't forget our \$500 cash prize at the end of the night. Along with plenty of other great items! Last, but certainly not least, we will have live music throughout the night. Played by Tim Eggebraaten, Jimmi Langemo, Tony Huseby, Robb McCarthy, & Nate Heinz! These guys really put on a good show! It wouldn't be the same event without them. I can promise you, even if you don't like the food or prizes you will love the entertainment!

If you have any questions feel free to give us a call at 218-847-9040.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at the shelter located at 1478 Mallard St., Detroit Lakes MN 56501

For more information on the event visit our Facebook Page at [Marshmallow Animal Shelter](#).

As always thank you for your support, we look forward to seeing you!





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.

How Dogs Qualify To Be a Service Dog

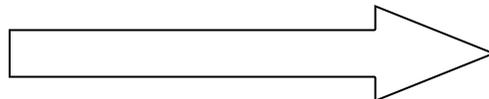
Written By Sara Dohrer

Continuing with our dialog in regard to the canine side of things, this month we are going to look at what happens *after* a dog has been accepted into our program. The candidate's path is just beginning at this point and one of the first steps forward is that the dog gets a PAD trainer assigned to them. The work here at Patriot Assistance Dogs takes a village and this gives everyone from our wonderful kennel staff, tech volunteer, handling volunteers, and veterinary colleagues a single contact point who is responsible for that particular dog.

All dogs ought to already have rabies and distemper vaccinations but we ensure they are up to date on all their other important immunizations as well, including Lyme, Lepto, Bordatella, & Influenza. We run bloodwork checking for illness and for organ function, get the dog started on a medication schedule for the prevention of heartworm and tick-borne diseases. If the dog is over a year old, it will receive a medical workup on the functionality of eyes, heart, hips, & elbows so that we know the dog has the physical ability to perform the tasks we train. Certainly, if not already done, the dog will also undergo a spay/neuter surgery at the same time.

The training they complete generally starts with a foundation in basic commands to establish a basis for good manners and the dog looking forward to training as a fun, enjoyable part of its day. It is important to include socialization relative to new dogs, people, sights, and sounds so that they understand how to react to novel experiences appropriately. From there they also learn how to behave in public, establish groundwork for household manners, and of course become proficient in service tasks for it is that in itself which makes a service dog a real service dog protected by ADA.

Good Golly Miss Molly— A future service dog in training with Patriot Assistance Dogs program, posing for the camera.





Muddy Puppies Dog Grooming

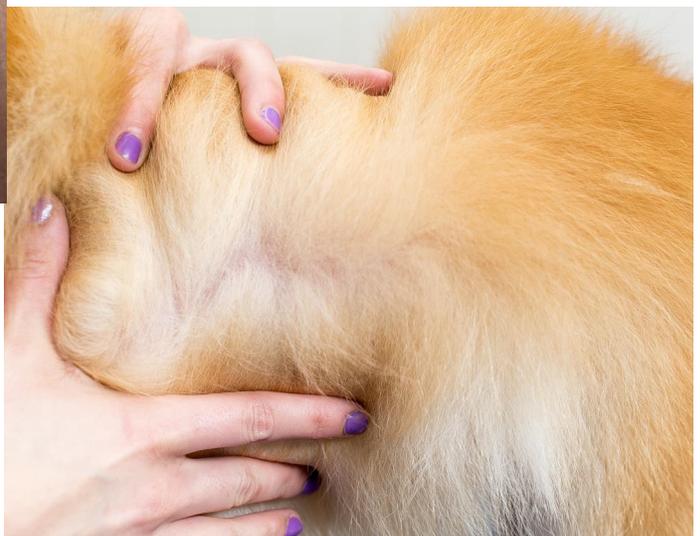
Should You Shave Your Double-Coated Dog?

Written by Dawn Hutmacher

Whether or not you should shave your double-coated dog is a question that many pet owners ask, often out of concern that their dog is just too hot in those summer months or maybe because it does a lot of shedding. A double-coat is explained as a dense, fuzzy undercoat of shorter hairs, with a longer coat on the top. A few breeds with a double-coat include the husky breeds, the Australian Shepherd, Shetland Sheepdog, Bernese Mountain Dog, Great Pyrenees, Newfoundland, Golden Retriever, Labrador Retriever, Miniature Schnauzer, Havanese and the Pomeranian to name a few.

Unless it is for health reasons I will most often say “no” to the owner requesting that I shave these dogs down short. You risk a big chance of damaging the coat. Part of the time it will come back okay and part of the time it will grow back looking very poorly. When the hair grows back the undercoat will grow first, followed by the topcoat. It often comes back too fluffy, too coarse, or sometimes even patchy and sparse. Often the coat will continue to degrade upon repeating the process. Some dogs turn out just fine, but many do not.

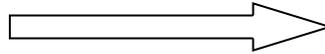
Does it decrease shedding? Not really. You will decrease the shedding just as much by brushing the coat regularly. Does it keep the dog cooler? Studies have been done with heat imaging to check the temperature of the dog, and they have found that the dog with the shaved coat was up to 20 degrees hotter than the dog with its full coat. That thick coat serves as an air-conditioner in the summer and a heater in the winter, and it isn't a good idea to mess with that heating and cooling system.



Diabetes: Not Just A Human Condition

Julio on the day he was diagnosed with Type I Diabetes;

March 19th, 2018



Written by Nicole Remer

When we adopted a 6-month-old, seemingly healthy puppy, managing diabetes seemed like an almost impossible scenario to find ourselves thrown into. Fast forward almost five years after Julio's adoption date and that's exactly where we were.

After noticing a change in Julio's urinary frequency, water intake, and mood over the course of about two weeks, we knew something was off. He would have good days and bad days, but the day he wasn't able to walk up the stairs was the day we took action. As a registered nurse, I suspected diabetes, but didn't know if the symptoms in a dog were the same as humans. A trip to the vet and one, quick blood test later, we had our answer; Julio had diabetes. His blood sugar on the day he was diagnosed was 428. Like humans, non-diabetic dogs should have a blood sugar ranging from 70-100. Prolonged elevated blood sugar levels can cause a multitude of health problems, so insulin was prescribed to begin managing his level.

Suddenly, there we were; a diabetic dog with a new regimen of twice daily insulin dosing. At first, we felt like failures; did we feed Julio the wrong food? Did he have symptoms before that we missed? We were relieved to know, however, that just like humans, dogs can have both Type I and Type II diabetes, and our vets believed that Julio had Type I. Type I diabetes is a condition that one is born with and it cannot be prevented. Knowing that we didn't do anything to cause his condition was a huge weight lifted off our shoulders.

With proper management, dogs with both types of diabetes can live a long, normal life. Diet, exercise, blood sugar monitoring, and consistent insulin administration times are all important in helping your dog be as healthy as possible.

Blood sugar monitoring? Insulin shots? Aren't those going to hurt my dog? Yes, they might be uncomfortable at first; but living with a high (or low) blood sugar is going to hurt your dog far more than poking them. Unlike humans, dogs don't need their blood sugar checked multiple times per day. The insulin that Julio uses (Vetsulin) is a combination insulin meaning it has both a long-acting and short-acting insulin combined into one vial. This is given twice daily, about 30 minutes after eating. Adjustments to dosing are made based on symptoms (is your dog showing signs of high or low blood sugar?), blood sugar curve results (blood sugars checked every two hours during the day— usually every 6-8 weeks), or fructosamine level (similar to Hemoglobin A1c in humans; shows blood sugar control over a long period of time). Communicating any changes in symptoms to your vet is important so proper testing can be done and adjustments to dosing can be made.

Symptoms of high blood sugar: Increased thirst, Increased urination, excessive hunger, dehydration, weight loss, bloodshot eyes, non-healing wounds

Symptoms of low blood sugar: lethargy, slow responses, weakness, loss of coordination, trembling, sudden collapse or unconsciousness, seizures

It is important to know that a consistent diet is important in managing blood sugars. You may want to give your pup treats or snacks throughout the day, but any extra bit of food can significantly change their blood sugar. To help keep Julio's sugar level throughout the day, we have a scheduled snack at noon that he gets really excited about. He also gets one just before bed, and this has become part of our daily routine.

Though diabetes is a life-altering condition, it is very manageable and should not be a death sentence for your pet. Being a dedicated pet owner and having a strong support system can lead to a very healthy and normal life for your furry friend.

Trainer's Corner

My Dog Thinks the Crate is Great – How'd We Get There?

Written by Paula Anderson

Feeding your puppy or a new dog into a multiple animal household may assist in making a positive association with the crate. The process even works with single dog households when we're struggling with making the crate a positive place for the puppy or dog.

Meals should be left in the crate for approximately 15-20 minutes and then removed. For puppies, water should not be left in the crate as it easily spills or becomes an activity for the pup to entertain themselves with. Water intake certainly factors into success with potty training as well.

For pups and some new to the household dogs, soft items and bedding should be removed from the crate when there is no direct supervision. Puppies will often soil absorbent materials and then push them aside to keep most of the space in the crate clean. As the dog ages and you're confident they can be appropriate with bedding, introduce it first under supervision and go forward from there.

There are safe chew toys that you can leave in the crate for your puppy or dog. When the toy is initially introduced, please monitor to make sure that all goes well. Size appropriate is important, neither too large nor too small based on the size of the dog. Rotating a small variety of safe chew toys often keeps the interest level in the toy.

Each puppy or dog should have an individual crate of their own. Their time in the crate is their own and they should not be pestered while in the crate. As things progress, some dogs seek out their crates for self-imposed quiet or down time. Nothing wrong with that!

A quick review of some strategies that will help you achieve successful crate training:

- You've selected a size appropriate crate for the age of the puppy or dog.
- Crates are not used for punishment.
- Crates are helpful in preventing misbehaviors, injury and house-training accidents.
- You have not rewarding barking or whining by releasing the dog from the crate and have ignored those behaviors until he or she is quiet.
- The crate is placed in an area where the family spends time; multiple crates for bedroom and another area in the house are helpful.
- Feeding your dog in their crate may help with positive association.
- Safe chew toys only.
- As your dog progresses to being reliable in the house and more free time is granted, the crate door is left open.

The ultimate goal is for your dog to associate their crate as a positive place that is theirs. With a little time, consistency and fairness, you can guide your dog to this goal. We hope this series has been helpful.

Next month – on to a new topic.



March Special

25% off ONE toy of your choice!

Lucky dog has recently restocked its shelves for Spring with both currently loved and newly approved toys and chews for your dog to try and enjoy!

Purchase any toy and mention the newsletter to receive 25% off one of your toys or chews.

Additional toys and chews may be purchased at full cost.

