

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

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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. Read on Lucky Dog Boarding and Trainings details on the newly instated policy regarding retractable style leashes, have some fun with your pup for HOWL-ween with Marshmallow Animal Shelter, learn how to make Halloween both fun, special, and safe for you and your pets, and don't forget to scroll all the way to the end for the October 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 October's Special!



Lucky Dog



Boarding and Training LLC

Lucky Dog's Revised Policy

Written by Linda Wiedewitsch

Lucky Dog has had a long-standing policy that requires owners who utilize retractable style leashes to have the leash locked on the shortest setting available when they bring their dog into our building. The reasons behind this requirement were multiple. Dogs on retractable leashes who are allowed to roam and explore while their owners conduct business often:

- Sniff out and mark new territory, including food and merchandise displays
- Become entangled in displays
- Rush over to greet other customers and dogs (who may or may not be pleased with the greeting)
- Wrap their line around the legs of people or other dogs

We have gotten through most of these scenarios without serious consequences, but they could have been avoided entirely if the dog were on a four to six foot leash.

Moving forward, the new policy is: **Dogs are not allowed to be brought into the Lucky Dog Complex building using a retractable leash, even if it is short and locked.** We have just had too many handler errors and the occasional leash failure. We want all of our dogs and customers to be as safe as possible in (and around) our building and this is one way to help.

If you choose to use a retractable leash while walking your dog about town, please remember that not all leashed dogs are friendly to other dogs. Although your dog may be friendly, to allow him to run up and introduce himself to another dog not already known to you is neither safe nor wise. Any resulting tussle or bite is not the fault of the dog whose space your dog invaded. Particularly do not allow your dog to introduce himself to a service dog. That dog is working and has a responsibility to stay focused on its handler. That responsibility does not include being sniffed, distracted by, or “exchanging business cards” with your pet dog.

Retractable style leashes are best used for keeping your dog in proximity while you are outside, or going for a walk, or affording your dog space to relieve itself, or making sure it does not wonder off during an evening on the patio with you. These leashes are not effective or safe for obedience training, moving your dog to and from a groomer or veterinarian appointment, or anyplace else that you need to keep your dog close to you.

With more and more businesses becoming pet friendly, please invest in a quality four to six foot leash. Look for one that is sturdy and fits your hand well, meaning that it is easy for you to grip and does not tend to slip through your hand. If you own a large dog, particularly one that tends to pull, choose a leash made of leather or of cotton webbing as these materials do not cause the burns to your hands that sliding nylon can. To help make a new purchase easier, please check out our special of the month. Happy and safe walking with your dog in October!



Marshmallow Animal Shelter



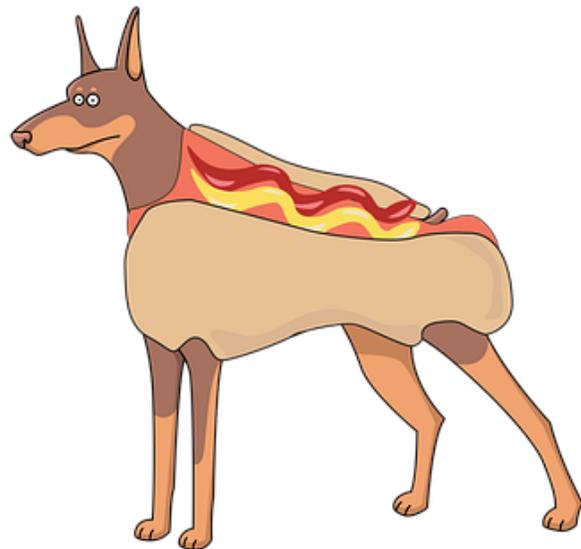
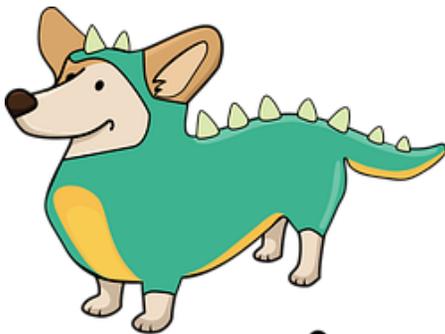
HOWL-oween Photo Booth Fun! Written by: Cassi Ohman

Hi all & Happy Fall!

We thought we would have some fun this Fall by hosting a photo booth for you and your pets! This is a free-will donation event starting on Saturday October 17th and running until October 31st (excluding Sundays) we encourage you to stop by the shelter at 1478 Mallard St. anytime between 11 a.m. & 3 p.m. We are setting up a HOWL-oween photo booth! We have a large selection of Halloween costumes & fall sweaters for your pet to wear for their photo shoot or come in your own! Choice of 4 different back drops will be available. Photos can be sent to your email or by text. Each photo will also be entered to win a Halloween basket! Voting to happen on our Facebook page & winners announced November 1st. Also, the first 25 Trick or Treaters will receive an extra woofstastic treat bag!

We cannot wait to see you! Keep an eye on our Facebook for more information. Or give us a call at 218 847 9040.

HOWL-oween Photo Booth!





Trainer's Corner

Canine Halloween

Written by Sara Dohrer

I used to be of the mindset that dogs needn't wear costumes or cutesy clothing of any sort. Working gear, jackets, boots, pragmatic things, sure. Tutu's and pretty frivolity just plain ol' aren't necessary. My big fluffball of a dog changed my mind. Years back he was sent home from the groomer with a baby blue snowflake bandana that he was so proud of, I could watch him deflate a when I removed it. So much so that I couldn't even bring myself to put it in the scrap fabric basket. I resignedly admitted that the enrichment is good, even if it isn't as utilitarian style as I generally prefer. And that was it- the first step on a slippery slope of ridiculous enrichment activities for years to come. Halloween can be chock full of wonderful novel experience opportunities for you and your dog. It can also be a terrifying experience raising suspicion and creating mistrustful behaviors if handled inappropriately. If Halloween shenanigans are something you'd like your dog to participate in, there are a few things to consider along the way. First off, enrichment is good for the body and soul, but too much too fast is overwhelming for anybody. If your dog is not accustomed to wearing gear of any kind, try starting with something unobtrusive and showering him/her with praise. Short timeframes of dress up, followed by something fun for the dog. Gradually increase the timeframes until your goal time is reached. Costumes are a "supervised only" form of enrichment as fabrics and stuffing's can cause digestive blockages (a medical emergency). Pictured below is my Boe practicing dressing up as "Grandma" the Halloween that my niece was Little Red Riding Hood. You can also take the same approach to getting your dog accustomed to masked humans, scary Halloween decorations, and the like. For many dogs holidays are just a stressful disruption to their "normal," so giving them a space of their own away from the chaos may be the most enjoyable part of the whole situation. Make sure you have contact information ON your dog regardless, even if it's just your phone number sharp'ied on the collar. It's quite easy to slip a collar when startled, and it's even easier to slip out a door when trick-or-treaters are arriving. Keep it short, take lots of breaks, and don't forget to have fun with it!



October Special

Trade In Any Retractable Style Leash, Get 30% Off Any Training Leash at Lucky Dog!

Here at Lucky Dog Boarding and Training we are advocates for using the proper equipment with your dog to not only encourage proper learning but also to ensure the safety of all our clients and their pets.

For most cases, we do not recommend retractable style leashes—we have seen first hand the damage and heartache they can cause. Just a few risks of using retractable style leashes include but are not limited to breaking and losing control of the animal, entangling and injuring animals and humans, and lack of control of the animal resulting in injuries.

We want to provide a safe and fun community for dog owners in our area, and an important first step is helping everyone be safe and in control.

For the month of October, we are encouraging all owners to trade in their retractable style leashes to receive 30% off a leather training leash at Lucky Dog Boarding and Training.

A training leash provides not only a great training tool for your dog, but also serves as a cushion of safety, security, and peace of mind—plus they are stylish and can last a lifetime!

30% OFF