

PAW PRINTS

The Newsletter from The Lucky Dog Complex



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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. Find out why it's never too late to modify training methods, our volunteer of the month, what to do if you find a lost pet, and learn about how Patriot Assistance Dogs is celebrating their graduations and their new raffle fundraisers, as well as how to enter your pets photo to be featured in the Marshmallow Animal Shelter calendar, information on nail grinders for pets, why your pet may be doing the butt scoot, and don't forget to scroll all the way to the end for the September 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 September's Special!



Lucky Dog

Boarding and Training LLC

It's Never Too Late To Modify Training Methods

Written by Paula Anderson

As trainers, we are always researching and looking for ways to adapt methods of training for dogs. The often-used phrase “It’s Never Too Late” certainly applies to dog training. So does adaption and always striving to fit the method of training to the dog’s learning style. Not every trainer or dog owner needs to agree with this, but it is a commonsense approach and worth considering.

To share an example from an article (*Be A change Agent*) by Pat Miller, CBCA-KA, CPDT-KA, in a recent issue of the *The Whole Dog Journal* seems very appropriate here. The root of the article is to not be afraid of change, especially when it’s progressive, and cited that over the past 23 years, the *Whole Dog Journal* has changed views about a few dog-related terms, dog gear, and training methods.

One of the topics centered on the cue of “Leave It”. “Leave It” can be both a coaching cue or command for the dog to stop focusing on an object of interest (visual or sensory) and leave it alone. In addition, an alternative command or cue can be added which translates to the dog to stop what it is doing and do something else.

Miller taught her 10 - year old Cardigan Corgi to “Leave It” and “Walk Away”. The “Walk Away” became a fun game where the desired behavior after “Leave It” for her dog was to spin 180 degrees and run away with her. She was able to mold her preferred behavior for the dog by making the alternative command something active and fun.

There are advantages to positive reinforcement - based training. You don’t have to teach your dog to spin and run, but perhaps you want to shape their focus to looking at you after the “Leave It” command, or specifically turning and refocusing on you. Whatever alternative cue or command you might want to experiment with, make it fun and rewarding for your dog. What form of praise does your dog respond to best – employ that when shaping the behavior. Is it a calm, rich verbal praise, an animated tone of voice, a quick touch to the dog’s head or body, a strong maker word, a clicker? Use the form of praise that lets your dog know they have made the right choice, but do not go overboard so they lose focus entirely.

A dog of any age may still learn with an appropriate form of training suited to their style of learning and physical ability. Choose the behavior(s) you want and help your dog to learn that by doing that behavior they are going to receive praise and not just correction. You may find your dog responds better to doing something (watch you, turn away) rather than not doing something (don’t pull towards that, don’t look at that). It is never too late to try a new approach.

Volunteer of The Month

Ashley Schmitz Written by Cassi Ohman

Ashley is so much more than just a volunteer, she is also a foster, employee, transporter & a big piece of our Marshmallow team. I am not sure where to start, but I can still recall the first day Ashely & her sister Kaitlin came to volunteer orientation for the first time in 2014. The way they looked & treated the dogs was unlike any other volunteers that had come through. They came in even when cold and spent hours here, making sure all the dogs went out for exercise & knew they were loved. Now she is so much more than just a volunteer, she is part of what makes Marshmallow all that it is. The care and compassion we see from Ashley is unmatched in many ways. Ashley makes Christmas one of my favorite times for the shelter, whether it be her playing Christmas music for the pups or bringing each one a special present to open. Its always such a warming feeling. And not just at Christmas, Ashley has always had a way of bringing a sense of calm & structure to the shelter. She is also one of our volunteers who reviews applications & sets up meet & greets, which we know is the most important part of finding the right home for each dog! All while working her full-time job & taking care of her own doggos! She is one of the best problem solvers I know & is always willing to help when she is available. Most of my favorite Marshmallow memories involve Ashley, & I know we would be truly lost without her!





Marshmallow Animal Shelter



What To Do If You Have Found A Lost Pet Written by: Cassi Ohman

We have all been there, cruising along enjoying our drive, and suddenly we see a dog or cat running down the road. Sometimes it may be something even less ordinary like a horse or cow, or even a wild animal. So, lets chat about our options.

First, if you can catch the animal safely, check the animal over if they allow. Do they have a collar or an identification tag? If so, begin by contacting the number located on the tag. If it is a rabies tag, contact the veterinary clinic listed, they can identify the owner by searching the tag number. If you cannot catch the animal, try to get a picture of it, & report to animal control or law enforcement in case they receive a missing pet report.

If there are no tags, your next step is to check with all nearby houses. Animals are often picked up very close to home then brought to shelters. This can sometimes upset pet owners, as well as cause unnecessary distress on pets.

If you are still unable to locate an owner, begin by calling your local shelters to ask if anyone has reported this pet missing. Also contact Animal Control & Law Enforcement. You may also chat with a local veterinary to see if you are able to bring the pet in and scan them for a chip.

Once you have ruled out these options, and if you are able to hold the dog until an owner can be found, the next best thing to do is post the information on social media. If someone comes forward to claim, be sure they have proof of ownership. Whether it be a photograph with the pet, or vet paperwork on the pet.

If you are unable to hold the pet in the meantime, contact your local shelter to see their protocols on taking in strays. Here at Marshmallow if a stray is found within city limits, we must have permission from the city to accept the animal. Permission can be given by contacting our local animal control or our police department. If a pet is found outside of city limits, we typically accept if we have the space to do so. It is important to call before arriving to ensure we have the staff and space to best assist you.

If you are fortunate enough to find a type of farm animal, the best thing to do is check with any nearby farms. Often, even if it is not their pet, they may know who it belongs to. Most animal shelters are limited in their ability to care for farm pets, but it is still highly suggested to call and report to them as well. This is also another good time to contact law enforcement to make them aware.

If you find injured wildlife, there are a couple options here. Your local DNR would be the first one to contact. If they are unable to assist, contacting a wildlife rehabilitation center will be your next step. Google search Wildlife Rehabilitation centers near you to find the best one to contact. In our area the nearest one is Duluth. In some states it is illegal to keep wild animals in your care, and many wild animals are very fragile, so it is important to chat with a rehabilitator to find out the safest route to caring for the animal.

The most important thing is to not rehome the animal on your own, not only is this illegal, it may cause the owner and pet to never be reunited.



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.

Patriot Assistance Dogs Annual Graduation Event

Serving Those Who Served

Written By Linda Wiedewitsch

With autumn just a couple of weeks away, our thoughts turn toward plans for the fall holidays. Here at Lucky Dog that include plans for fall events and fundraisers. So many events have changed with COVID that we want to update you on what is happening.

PAD's annual graduation event, Serving Those Who Served, will not be held at Holiday Inn as originally planned. Still scheduled for Saturday, September 26th, it will be held at Long Lake Park just west of the Detroit Lakes airport. This city park and public water access is located at 650 Longview Drive and can be reached by taking Long Lake Road west from Hwy 59, then north on Longview Drive and following the signs. The event will be held at the picnic shelter with our graduation ceremony beginning at 3:00 pm. This is followed with live music by Rod Volker and friends, a BBQ lunch, Quilts of Valor, and visiting with friends both old and new. The park has a nice disc golf course, a modern playground for kids, PAD has bean bags and boards, and the lake offers fishing for anyone who would like to bring their boat. The public is invited to attend.

PAD's annual sports and quilt raffle tickets are now available for purchase at \$10 per ticket. There are four quilts available on this raffle including:

- 96" x 96" Star Pattern by Joanie Tidd
- 64" x 64" Dog Lovers by Cathy Hansen
- 66" x 54" We the People by Joanie Tidd
- Bonus Quilt

Our Sports Raffle prize list includes:

- Henry "One of One Thousand" Tribute Rifle
- Case Cultery Lockback Knife by Zack Brown's Southern Grind
- Wall Flag Locking Gun Concealment Storage System
- Fenwick/PFluger Walleye Rod/Reel Combo
- Scheel's \$100 Gift Card
- Boker Lockback Knife



We will be drawing for the winners of our Sports Raffle and Quilt Raffle at the Serving Those Who Served event.

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Written by Linda Wiedewitsch

The Marshmallow Animal Shelter will again be selling their annual raffle calendar. We are looking for pictures of rescued animals. These photos are not limited to dogs and cats, nor are the animals required to have been rescued by Marshmallow. If you have a photo or a collage of your rescued critters, they can be featured in the 2021 calendar for \$75. Please email photos or your collage to (lkwiedewitsch@yahoo.com). The months of February, June and August are reserved, but if there is a particular month you would like your pet to appear on, that can be arranged. Seasonal or holiday themed photos are also appreciated. September is the month we contact prize sponsors as well. There are still sponsor days available if you or your business would like to donate a prize or prizes. Please contact Linda at the above email address.



The Lucky Dog Complex is hoping to host our annual Open House on Saturday, November 21st. We as citizens are adjusting to the mask, glove, and social distancing requirements of the State. However, we are not adjusting to the social isolation. We are looking for safe and innovative ways for our 2019 chili and fudge champions to defend their titles and for vendors to sell their wares. The popular box by the pound holiday treats bake sale would really be missed by those who do not have the time or maybe the talent to create the variety of treats that appear each year. Watch for more details next month.





Muddy Puppies Dog Grooming

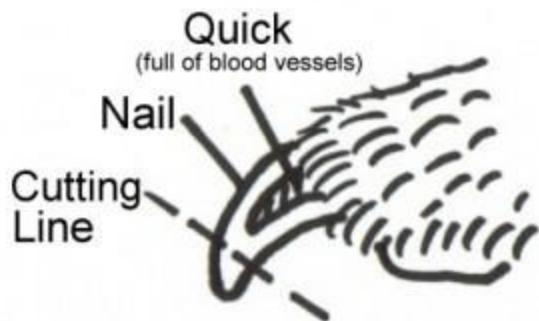
Nail Grinders

Written by Dawn Hutmacher

Many dogs have black nails and it can be difficult to avoid hitting the quick. It is important to be aware of the anatomy of your dog's toenails. There is a hard, outer surface, that you can safely clip back if you take small slices until you see the black ring within the nail (when facing the paw directly on). If you watch carefully you will not hit the inner quick, which can cause bleeding and be painful for your dog. Once that nail starts to get soft, or the black circle increases in size, it is time to stop. Keep styptic powder (or even flour) on hand in case you go to short. Put the powder on your fingertip and apply pressure to the end of the dog's nail to stop bleeding.

Many of us are familiar with the traditional nail clippers, and it is the most commonly used tool when clipping a dog's toenails. However, another useful tool when you are clipping your dog's toenails is the nail grinder, which is the tool that I use most often in the grooming room. It will leave a smoother nail edge and tends to work better on those thick, difficult nails. The disadvantage here is that many dogs won't tolerate the sound and vibration of the grinder. When you use the grinder, be sure to pay attention to the shape of the nail, as well as avoiding holding it in one spot for too long. You can still go too short, but the small amounts taken off make it easier to avoid the quick. If you are uncomfortable using the grinder, or your dog won't tolerate it, you can still use the traditional nail clippers and use a human finger nail file to smooth out those edges.

While I use a more expensive nail grinder, there are many less expensive brands out there that will do the job if you are using it only on your personal dog's nails. As always I do not endorse any particular brand.





Trainer's Corner

The Butt Scoot—Why Does He DO that?

Written by Sara Dohrer

This isn't an uncommon question, and often I see dog owners pose it whilst trying to redirect their dog from scooting as if they are addressing a bad habit. It may be more effective to note, however, that most of the time this scooting behavior has more of a medical root than anything needing training. Below are some of the more common reasons your dog may be continuously dragging his hind end.

- Anal gland issues: anal glands are scent glands that are normally expressed during defecation. If your dog has any anomalies with this procedure, it may need assistance from your veterinarian.
- Parasites: parasites can be transferred by chewing on feces, prey items... you know, this list could get pretty long. Summed up: overall ingestion of fleas or parasite eggs from the environment. Some parasites can lay dormant for years.
- * Tapeworms: visually, tapeworms often look like little pieces of rice in the dog's feces or stuck in the hair around the anus.
- * Roundworms: generally, roundworms look more like soba noodles in the dog's stool.
- * Just because you do not see worms in a stool doesn't mean your dog is clear.
- Debris: this one surprises people sometimes. If your dog does not have a short hair coat, it is at risk of getting things caught up in its fur. Feces caught in the dog's coat can cause matts and blockages (which can turn into a severe medical issue). Additionally, there are a variety of plants in our area with burr type seeds that can be easily irritating sensitive areas with an unfortunate sit/squat.

Rarer causes of incessant scooting could include allergies, wounds, prolapse, or anal tumors. In any case, it's definitely worth a quick call to your veterinarian. Internet articles do not replace professional medical advice and trying to train your dog past a medical symptom will only cause more problems. Let's give our dogs every reason to succeed and enjoy every minute we can.



September Special

30% off ANY Benebone product at Lucky Dog!

Benebone products are chew toys made of super-strong nylon and food-grade bacon, peanuts, chicken, or maple wood. We use no chemicals or artificial flavors. Made in the USA and trusted among the professional pet community as a safe, and fun chew toy that can be left in a crate or kennel with most dogs (always supervise your pet with any new toys at first use) and dogs love them! Benebone products come in multiple different sizes, flavors, and shapes for many different ways to have fun!



Wishbone



Dental Chew
(updated design)



**Maplestick /
Bacon Stick**



Zaggler