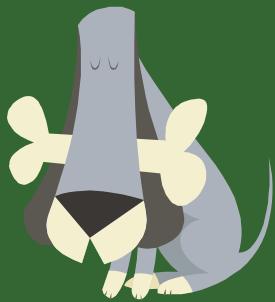




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Paws & Effect

August 25, 2008

Small Dogs Need Big Training

Marjorie Wentworth

The smaller breed of dogs are more likely not to receive any type of formal training with their owners. Most owners feel that little dogs don't need as much training due to their size. This could not be further from the truth.

Most small dogs tend to be treated like human babies rather than canines by their owners. This is natural, we all tend to protect the smaller and weaker. But, by providing everything they want and more, then allowing them to do what they please we send these little ones the wrong message. A dog, no matter the size looks for you to be their leader. A pack leader in the dog world would always eat first and then allow the others to eat. They pick the spot they prefer to lay in and then may allow the others to lay with them. The leader will always walk first and the others follow.

If we send the wrong message to our dogs they will feel that we have placed them in a leadership role. This is hard for any dog. This will lead to a nervous dog who may pace and bark a lot, at any thing, in side or outside the house. They will get so frustrated with this role they can even begin to take it out on the owners. They may get on a bed or couch and nip at anyone who comes near. You may give them food or a treat and they growl and snap anytime you reach for it. They also tend to protect their belongings, you included.

Small dogs also are most likely not to be socialized due to their size. Again, we feel the need to protect the small ones. If any dog does not get the chance to socialize when they are young they never get the chance to learn the body language and vocalizations of other dogs. This is necessary to every dog if you want them to learn dog etiquette. A dog who understands how to approach another dog is less likely to fight or be attacked by dogs later on.

A puppy learns a lot of the dog etiquette when they are with the litter and the mother dog. Breeders tend to send the pups out very young. Sometimes as young as 5-6 weeks in order to get the best price. For a puppy to learn all from the mother and siblings they should remain with the litter until at least 10 weeks of age.

This is why puppy kindergarten classes are so important. The smallest puppy, even if they sit in a corner and listen and watch, learn quickly the body language and vocal sounds of other puppies playing. Hopefully they will also join in the fun and play along with all size puppies. Don't worry puppies are pliable and can handle a lot of ruff play.

Remember, you don't want to send your dog the wrong message and have them think that they are your leader for their sake and yours. Big or small a dog is a dog no matter what. They all think the same no matter what size package they come in.

Training Tips

Most Important : Be consistent.

1. Be sure every one in the house knows the commands for each thing that you ask your dog to do.
2. One word commands are best, along with a hand signal.

3. One word should be used for one thing. "Down" means lay down. "Off" means get off the furniture, the bed, Aunt Polly. If you say "down" to a dog laying down on the bed they may not understand, since

they are already down. Saying "off" and pointing to the floor is easier for them to understand.

4. Every one in the house must stick to the same rules. Remember: Consistency is the key.



Training Classes:

Behavioral /Obedience Classes — Classes are scheduled Thursday Evenings 6:30—7:30 PM. Classes are seven weeks in length. Registration is required. Call 343-0001 for more information or to register.

Basic Obedience Class
Classes are held Saturdays from 10:30 to 11:30. Registration is required. Next Class begins September 20th.

Game Night – Cancelled for the summer months. Every Tuesday evening from 6:30—7:30 PM. No registration is required, but we ask that you call 343-0001 the day of the class to let us know you are coming. Games are selected based on the number of attendees.

Puppy Kindergarten—Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM. For puppies up to 6 months of age. No registration is required. Classes will resume September 20th.

Fun with Agility—Wednesday evenings at 6:30—7:30 PM. Call 963-8293 for more information. This class is instructed by Maureen Howard and all the proceeds go to Paws Across Oswego County.

www.pawsandeffectinc.com

We're on the Web!!!
www.pawsandeffectinc.com

Reality Shows, Some Aren't Dumb or Dumber

In the past the only shows about dog groomers I remember seeing on T.V. or the movies portrayed us all as either complete idiots or completely insane. For instance Dumb and Dumber. The two intelligently challenged men were dog groomers driving around town in a van that looked like a dog, full of dogs. Others I remember had older women with pink hair, too much makeup and a cigarette dangling from their lips. I even recall a Dirty Jobs episode that portrayed us as less than positive. Even a Cops episode showed two women driving to a location to groom a dog and get pulled over for no seat belt. Let's just say they were short a few brain cells also.

I talked to a friend of mine who works in the Animal Rescue field of the animal world and was busy being angered by the way dog groomers are always shown on T.V. and the movies. As I fumed and fretted she reminded me of her portrayal. She defiantly got the long straw in that one. She is portrayed on Animal Cops as a clean cut, intelligent, caring person and they even get a cool car to drive. Not to mention they always come to the rescue. So they get some sort of super hero image and we just kept getting dumb and dumber.

Along comes Groomer Has It. When I first saw the previews I had mixed thoughts. What kind of groomers would they bring in to make a good "show". I was glad to see Jim Carey wasn't available.

How would the show portray groomers as professionals and would dog grooming as a whole be seen in a true light?

Most reality shows offer the winner a quarter of a million up to a million dollars. I was not surprised to see that the winner of "Groomer of the Year" was to be awarded \$50,000 and a mobile grooming van.

I was though most impressed with the fact that they stressed the care and kindness that should be shown to every dog during the grooming process.

The one thing that was very hard for the show to do was allow the audience to see the time spent on each dog and all that was done during that time.

Of course they had to show all kinds of personalities and differences in people. I guess this is true for any profession or any group of people. As always the drama is what sells the show, so seeing people at their worst is good T.V. (then we don't feel so bad about ourselves)

I was also pleased to see a segment on homeless animals in shelters being groomed to be adopted. I hope all the groomers that watched this show try to help as much as possible.

I was at first concerned that the show would be all about only the pure bred dogs and not get into the others out there that we see on a day

to day basis. They covered this as well.

They did have a wide range of groomers, from the part time new groomer to the New York groomer who charged \$100.00 for a yorkie bath. Of course I rooted for the 40 something woman who had groomed for 30 years.

The winner was a well deserved man who found grooming dogs his saving grace to a bad neighborhood and not much of a future. His kindness to the animals he worked with in such a stressful situation was wonderful. He also devotes some of his grooming time to the shelters in his area, grooming the dogs for adoption. His plan for his winnings are to open a school for inner city kids to learn the grooming profession.

There were some moments that made some in our business look a little like what is usually portrayed. Of course they had the blond without a clue, but what would a reality show be without her?

All in all with our dogs becoming more and more a very important part of our lives I am hoping that the groomers of the world will be looked at in a different way. I may never get the cool car or the badge, but my dog clients do sometimes think of me as a super hero.

Margie

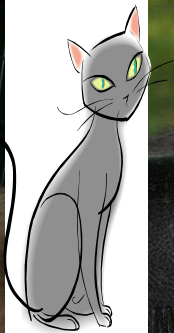
Meet the Fosters

Note: We foster dogs through Paws Across Oswego County. They are a not for profit group made up of volunteers who work on donations and fundraisers. If you are interested in meeting any of our fosters, please call the shop to make arrangements.



These are the four kittens found in a park in Mexico. They have all been spayed and neutered and all their shots are up to date.

There are two boys and two girls. The boys names are Joey and Carmen. The girls names are Gracey and Carmella. They are all doing wonderfully and their foster Mom may never want to see them go. If you are interested in any of the kittens please call 963-8293.



Studies have reported over 8 million animals are euthanized in shelters across the US. PLEASE spay and neuter.

Looking for a new member of the family? Check out petfinder.com

If you would like to make a donation in memory to Paws Across Oswego County send a picture and tell us about your much missed and loved pet and we will place it in our next newsletter



Paws in the Park Dog Walk

The Oswego County SPCA is holding their Paws in the Park Dog Walk-a-Thon at Breitbeck Park in Oswego on Sunday, September 7th. Food and refreshments will be available. Registration begins at 11:30 and the walk

starts at 12:30.

It 's a gorgeous location, right on the lake, and the dogs just love it! Free T-shirt for you and a bandana for your dog with registration while quantities last.

downloadable sponsor sheet or registration form please visit our website: www.ocawl-spc.org. We look forward to seeing you and your wonderful dogs there!

Rebecca Lagoda, Secretary

For more details and a



Don't forget to support your local SPCA and Humane Society

Strut Your Mutt

The Oswego County Humane Society will be holding their annual Strut Your Mutt, a 5K Run or Walk and 1 Mile Family Walk on Sunday, September 27th at Breitbeck Park in Oswego.

Registration begins at 9 am. The 5K run takes off at 10:30 with 5K and 1 mile walks to follow.

Pre-registration is \$15 for individuals, \$25 for families. Includes entry in the event, picnic lunch, gift bag with Strut Your Mutt hat, and treats for the dogs. For more information and to download an event registration form, go to www.oswegohumane.org. Dogs are more than welcome!



Paws & Effect



343-0001

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"We have more in
store for your best
friend."



Lick Sores

If you notice your dog licking a spot over a joint this could mean they are having a little arthritis pain in that joint. Dogs lick areas that hurt (Just as we tend to rub or hold a sore area on our body)

If dog licks their fur a lot in one area the saliva will stain it. White fur will become darker and black fur will become a reddish brown.

If you suspect joint pain in your dog see your veterinarian. An x-ray will show arthritis. They may also suggest a pain reliever and or supplements to help the joints move more freely.

Next Basic Obedience classes

The Next Dog Obedience Classes will start

Thursday October 9th—November 20th 6:30 to 7:30

Next Saturday Class :

September 20th 10:30 to 11:30

The cost is \$100.00 and you must preregister to join. (8 per class)

Puppy Class Price Reduced

The price for Puppy Classes on Saturday morning from 9:00 - 10:00 has been reduced to \$10.00 a session. The puppies all need their second series of shots to attend. You are welcome to come any Saturday. Andrea Jones is your puppies instructor. Classes will resume Saturday September 20th.

Grooming Questions

by Marjorie Wentworth

There have been some troubling stories over the years about dogs dying of heat stroke in drying cages. We have had some concerned customers ask us about our drying procedures here and we are glad you asked.

We do not use drying cages. These produce heated air that blow from all sides and up from the bottom and the dog can become overheated quickly.

We use driers with no heating elements. The air temperature will only reach ten degrees over room temperature. The grooming area is always air conditioned in the warm months.

Most of your dog's drying is done right after the bath with a high powered dryer. Your bather will use this dryer in the tub to blow the excess water and fur out of the coat. Then they are put into their cage. According to the breed of dog we may use a cage dryer. If your dog is a small one to be groomed they would be taken directly to the drying table. If they are a larger dog they may air dry for a bit before being brought to the drying table. On the table the warm air of the stand dryer is used along with brushing the dog's coat to fluff and straighten it for the preferred trim.

Please feel free to keep asking us questions about your dog's grooming. We want you as well as your pet to always feel comfortable with the grooming experience. You are also welcome to e-mail any questions to : pawsandeffect@twcny.rr.com



COUPONS (expires September 8th 2008)



**Any size joint supplement in the store
Includes Fresh Factors, Joint Health
and Nutro Joint Support**



\$ 1.00 off

Coupon

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