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Paws & Effect

APRIL 21, 2008

Upcoming events!

Saturday May 17th
10am—4pm

A Bark Heard
Around the World

Yates County Fair-
grounds
Penn Yan, NY

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Upcoming Plans and Events

A Bark Heard Around The World

Puppy Mill Rescue and the Beverly Animal Shelter are planning an exciting event on Saturday May 17, 2008 at the Yates County Fairgrounds in Penn Yan NY from 10am - 4 pm.

The event will include informational booths, vendors, rescue groups from New York State and beyond, and guest speakers.

This year the speakers will include Franklin McMillan, DVM, a veterinarian and Ms. Kelly Ohrtman, Puppy Mill Campaign Specialist from the Best Friends Sanctuary in Utah. Dr. McMillan is the author of "Mental Health and Well-Being in Animals" and "Unlocking the Animal Mind".

The members of Rescue Inc from NY City will also be at the event. Other speakers and events include:

Mike and Dana Harder from the European Hockey League

Puppies are Biodegradable from the Art Gallery of Philadelphia and a tour of the country:

Gail Furst of K-9 Healers is certified to perform the canine good citizen and pet therapy international tests

Carl Darby DVM from our own Seneca County Area: will discuss mill dog health issues.

Mark your calendars and be sure to join us in the fight against animal abuse.



Picture from Pathfinder Bank Ad - Wally and Beth Alfieri

From Foster To Famous

A little off-white terrier mix came to us almost a year ago. He was still a young dog, about a year old, with the puppyhood still going strong. What a character! He stole our hearts from the moment we met him with his silly wiggle and happy smile.

I brought him into one of our obedience classes and he learned to sit and down in the first class. From that point on, he would run up to everyone, sit instantly and then lay down as if to say, "Look what I have learned!"

This little treasure was tossed away. Someone decided that he was not good enough for them. Now he is in his forever home with a family that sees the treasure that he truly is. He makes them smile every day.

You can see Wally and his Mom's picture in the Pathfinder Bank's ads in your local paper. The picture truly depicts the love they share for each other.

Training Classes

Dog Behavior / Obedience Classes

We are currently taking reservations for the classes starting on Thursday, May 22nd and Monday, June 23rd. The entire 2008 schedule of classes is listed on our website. Classes will be held on Monday and Thursday evenings. Each class is seven weeks in length and runs from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Cost of a class is

\$100.00 plus tax. Registration and proof of vaccination is required. All dogs over the age of 8 months must be spayed or neutered to attend. If you'd like more information, call 343-0001.



Dog Game Night

Learn to Play! Play to Learn!

Dog Game Night is every Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. No registration is required, but we ask that you call the day of the class to let us know you are coming since the game selection for the evening is based on the number of people attending. For more information, 343-0001.

Mealworms Sale!!

Mealworms are a tasty treat for your reptiles and Hedgehogs!

Wild birds love them too.

**50 count
container
only \$2.00**

Domination within a wolf pack is typically non-verbal. The pack leader enforces and defends his position in a relatively bloodless manner with several ritual behaviors that act on the instinctive level. A dominate wolf will :

- (1) Give a threatening look;
- (2) Stretch out with hackles up and tail out in an effort to intimidate a challenger;
- (3) Place his head on the shoulders of the subordinate or rear up and place his paws on the subordinate's shoulders.

Only when these methods fail does the alpha wolf become verbal as he "Alpha Rolls" his challenger.

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

A Closer Look at Barking

Fearful Barking Many under-socialized or genetically shy dogs bark because they are afraid. They typically bark at people or objects they have not encountered before. The barking, in this case, is not the problem, it's a symptom. Taking care of the underlying problem will likely resolve the barking issue.

You should never reprimand a dog that is barking because of fear. Scolding will only increase your dog's negative association with the object or person which may escalate the behavior from simple fearful barking to fear aggression.

It is important to understand that you may inadvertently be "rewarding" your dog for his fearful behaviors. Owners often try to sooth their dogs by praising and touching them. This may temporarily curtail the barking, but in most cases, it rewards and therefore further encourages it.

To treat a dog that is barking because of fear, you must first identify exactly what the dog is afraid of and then establish his threshold of tolerance. As discussed in the last issue of this newsletter, the threshold of tolerance is defined as the distance between the dog and

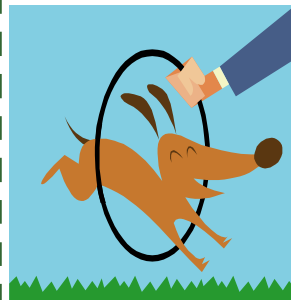
the object of fear at which the dog can remain relaxed and refrain from barking.

Food often overcomes fear, Food can be a motivator used to gradually decrease the distance between your dog and the object he fears. The desire for food is a positive way to encourage your dog to slowly decrease his threshold of tolerance. You should never, however, rush the process. Remember to reward even the slightest progress, which at first may simply be not retreating.

Pack Mentality

- ⇒ Did you know that wolves are pack animals?
- ⇒ Did you know that all behavior, communication and order within a wolf pack derives from the powerful, instinctive behaviors of dominance and subordination?
- ⇒ Did you know that in a pack, there is always a leader and a defined hierarchy of subordination?
- ⇒ Did you know that a wolf pack generally has both an alpha male and an alpha female?
- ⇒ Did you know that dogs likely descended from the wolf?
- ⇒ Did you know that, like the wolf, dogs are pack animals?
- ⇒ Did you know that, from your dog's perspective, you and your family are members of his or her pack?
- ⇒ Did you know that, like the wolf, your dog's pack must have a leader?
- ⇒ Did you know that if you do not step up and become that leader, your dog will take over that role?
- ⇒ Did you know that, since we do not behave like typical subordinate pack members, being a pack leader is frustrating and stressful for your dog?

Give your dog a break. Step up and be that kind, assertive leader that he or she needs. Let your dog be the kind and gentle follower that he or she wants to be. If you don't know how to be a pack leader, give us a call.



Coupon - 1/2 Price for your first Game Night

Tuesday evenings

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Good through 5/31/2008

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.

More Than an Angel

The young pup and the older dog lay on the shaded sweet grass watching the reunions. Sometimes a man, sometimes a woman, sometimes a whole family would approach the Rainbow Bridge, be greeted by their loving pets and cross the bridge together.

The young pup playfully nipped at the older one. "Look! Something wonderful is happening!" The older dog stood up and barked, "Quickly, get over to the path."

"That's not my owner," whined the pup, but he did as he was told. Thousands of pets surged forward as a figure in white walked on the path toward the bridge. As the glowing figure passed each animal, that animal bowed it's head in love and respect.

The figure finally approached the Bridge, and was met by a menagerie of joyous animals. Together, they walked over the Bridge and disappeared.

The young pup was still in awe, "Was that an angel?" he whispered. "No, son," the older dog replied. "That was more than an angel. That was a person who worked rescue."

(Author Unknown)

I have met many rescue angels while working with Paws Across Oswego County. They are the most loving and giving people you could ever meet. I thank each of them for their kindness and determination to help those who can not help themselves.



Meeting New Friends - Week 2

It has now been over a week since I brought my Mom's two cats and Arthur, a Shih Tzu, into our home with our two labs and two cats.

The dogs are doing well together. Arthur still eats slower than my labs, but I now feed him while I'm mixing the lab's food, giving him a head start. The labs are so excited about the preparation of their food that they don't bother him. Because I need Arthur to eat his meal when I put it down, I have him on a frozen Cantz food. It is soft and I can see he enjoys it. He was a bit over weight and being short legged, it was very hard for him to run or jump. He has lost some weight and can now go down the three stairs to the outside run. We are still working on coming up those stairs. Living with cats his whole life, he is now a part of a dog pack for the first time. He seems to enjoy following the other dogs and is beginning to play with his toys again.

I have also learned that owning a long coated dog much different than owning labs. Everything Arthur eats or drinks ends up in his ears and on his beard. My answer to this issue was to shave his face and trim his ears very short. - Yes, he now looks like one of those troll dolls I had while growing up. Every day he cracks me up with that face. When I talk to him he tilts his head as if he is trying to understand. His big, marble eyes look intently at me. I give all of you a lot more credit for keeping those furry faced guys of yours clean.

I still have my Mom's two cats in our guest bedroom. The warmer weather allows us to open the windows and they love to sit on the sills and watch out over the woods and the stream. The guest room used to be the only room in my house that was fur-free. If anyone has seen a nervous cat shed, you can understand that now that room looks as though a large malamute blew up in there. The cats are now putting their paws under the door and beginning to talk more nicely to each other. My female lab loves the new cats and waits to go in to see them. They are responding well to her. Butch, the larger one, purrs and rubs against her. They both come right to the door whenever we come in and they don't seem to be afraid when the door is open. I'm sure soon I will be able to let them venture out.

Bringing new pets into an already full house is a process that should be done slowly and with supervision. New and old pets need time to adjust. They are not always best friends right away and sometimes they just need to learn to co-exist peacefully in the same space. I'll keep you posted on our progress.

Margie

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](https://www.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

A female dog spayed before their first heat decreases the chances of breast cancer by 90%



Don't forget your heartworm pills. Call your vet for a checkup.



343-0001

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

Just Doing Our Job

We all forget sometimes that the job we do everyday is not always easy for others to understand. I certainly do not understand all there is to know about computers - the girls and my husband can attest to that. While watching me try to get the computer to do what I want it to do, I am sure my children think that the woman that raised them could not work her way out of a paper bag. I push too many buttons and the "You have performed an illegal act" message pops up. I panic thinking the "Computer Police" are going to come and take me away. I remember how my children would zip through the keys on the computer and say, "It's easy Mom, just do this." I would usually pretend to understand and then wait until they left to try again. With this in mind, I know I have to be very careful when explaining different types of coat issues with our grooming customers.

If a matted dog comes in, I try to explain to the owner that the dog's coat should either be trimmed short or the dog should be groomed more often. I also explain to customer how to brush, where to brush, and how mats occur. I let them know that there may be sores under the mats which are not visible until the fur is removed. If a dog comes to us very matted, we may not be able to brush it out without causing the dog pain and damaging the underlying skin. Therefore we strip the coats of very matted dogs. This is not always what the owner wants. Most people listen and try to understand. I have, however, met people who just don't want to hear it. Some become angry. I have even been told to "Just do my job."

I always do my job to the best of my ability, but my first consideration is the comfort and well-being of the dog. Pulling at a dog's coat to remove mats is not an option. Coats will grow back and, honestly, the dog could care less that he does not look like the terrier in the Pet advertisement. He just wants to feel good.

So if you bring your dog to a groomer and you are told that the coat must be stripped, don't be too shy to ask why. Inquire how you can keep the coat from matting so future stripping is not necessary. We are always open to discuss coat-care with you. If you have a question about your dog's grooming, call or stop in and ask for one of our groomers. We are glad to take the time to help you. That is "just doing our job."

Margie



10% OFF

Cat Trees (Already Low Prices)

Beware - Dog People are Everywhere!

We are dog people. You know who we are. We're the ones with multi-colored hair on our clothes, in our cars, and all over our houses. We're the ones who don't mind a little drool from our best friend and who reward bodily functions. Our furniture is kept longer than it should be due to the dent in the armrest from our beloved lab who passed away many years ago. Our homes have more dog beds than beds for people, even though our pets sleep with us, usually sideways on our beds. There are as many pictures of our pets decorating our walls as there are of other family members. We are the people who will not watch a Disney movie involving animals unless it is first reviewed and deemed "safe." We are the people interrupting your drive home as we stop traffic on a busy highway to save a lost pet.

Only "Dog people" - you know who you are - understand the connection we have with our dogs. We know the joy of coming home after a long day at work to be met by a wagging tail and loving eyes. Our dogs fill our lives with humor, devotion, and the kind of love that is unquestionable.

Our dogs listen to us without judgment and forgive us for not always understanding them. They even think our singing is great,

Non-Dog People, beware for we are everywhere. We will try to help you become one of us. I'm sure somewhere one of us is developing a twelve step program just for you - a program called "How to get hooked on dogs and improve your life".