



"Your Local Pet Specialist!"

**250-758-3908**



Agility

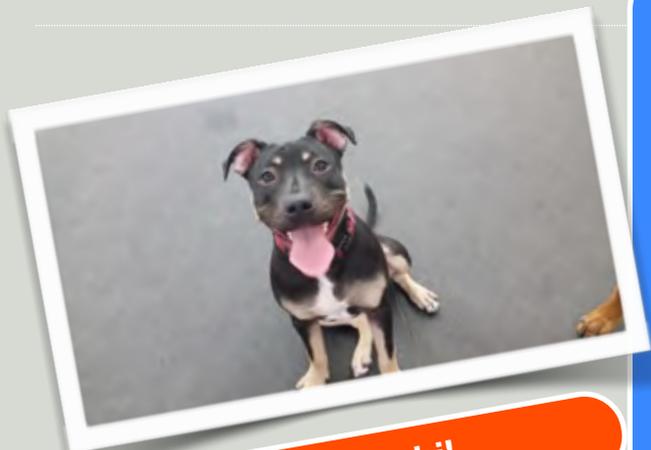


Grooming



Jenna & Neo

## Nanaimo Pet Services newsletter January 2015

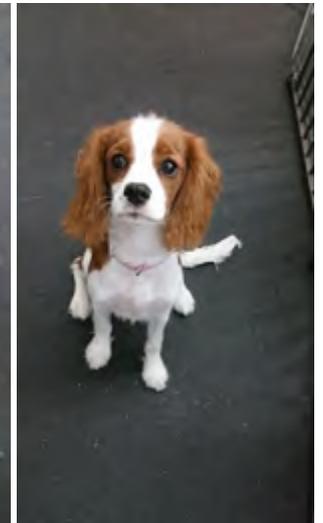
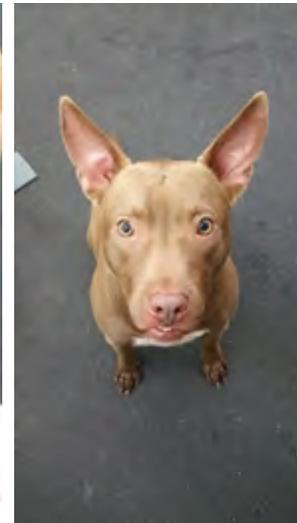
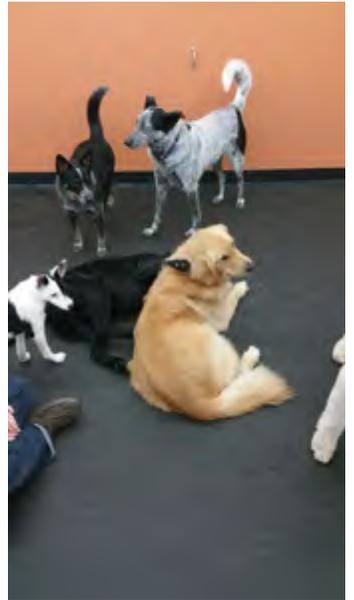
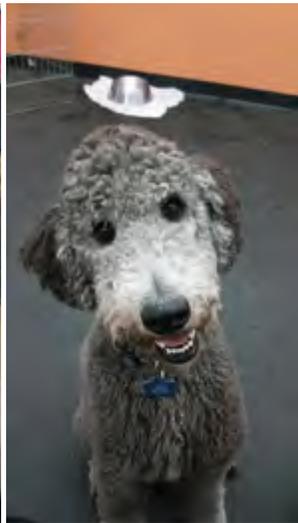
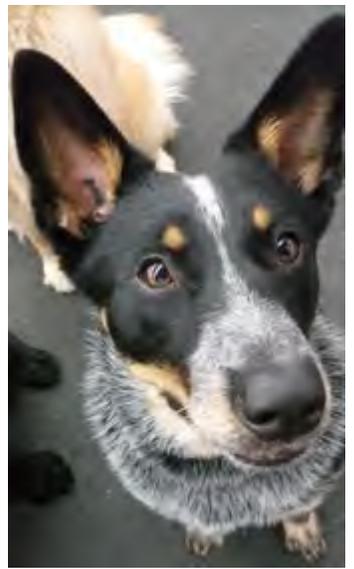


Lana says hi!

### In our newsletter this month:

- PlaySkool Days!
- Try out the dog pool!
- What makes for a happy dog?
- PlaySkool report
- Pocket Pets and Bird training
- Natural way clean your dogs teeth
- Collar sizing for your dog
- A Control Un-leashed success story
- A fun DAWG game for a Sunday afternoon
- Calendar of events

# Playskool Days!



The winner of the \$55.00 grooming package is:  
Shirley Dixon and Rosey

## TRY OUT THE DOG POOL!

Many of you may not know about the dog pool in Errington. Coastal Canine Hydrotherapy and Massage offers swimming, therapy, and massage for your dogs. People take their dogs to the pool for a wide variety of reasons: introduction to swimming, conditioning for sports, rehabilitation from injury, therapeutic exercise and just plain fun!!!

My dogs and I love to go to the pool as often as we can! (Though not as often as I'd like) I hope to one day inspire my dogs to love swimming so much that we can try out DockDogs. Though the dock dog pool isn't heated, which is why it is a summer sport! DockDogs does come to Vancouver Island during the summer months, check them out either as a spectator or participant!

The Coastal Canine indoor pool is heated and has a salt water chlorination system. You do need an okay from your vet as certain health concerns make swimming dangerous! Check out the Coastal Canine website for more information. [www.coastalcaninebc.ca](http://www.coastalcaninebc.ca)



Did you  
know????

*our on line booking system through our web site is a great way to set up your appointments any time you think of it!*  
[www.nanaimopetservices.com](http://www.nanaimopetservices.com)

The winner of the \$35.00 Full day at PlaySkool is:  
Greg & Linda Jay and Oliver

# What makes for a happy dog?



**I know what it is!**

**All any dog wants out of life is: good food to eat, fresh water to drink, and nice place to sleep, love and affection, oh and of course, playtime!**

**How much time a day does your dog have to run around and play? In the winter months it is often very difficult to give your dog enough exercise. I know all too well! I go to work when it is still dark, I go home when it is dark again! In the meantime there is hardly any opportunity for my dogs to run around and stretch their legs.**

**I have found a solution to this problem. Lucky enough, I have access to a nice grass fields. I looked around for something that would be visible at night time for my dogs that I could toss my an my dogs could follow. There is several products available that are usable even when it's dark outside. There is glow-in-the-dark balls, and there are toys that when they bounce will light up.**

**Every night when we go home we go out to the that field and play for 5 to 10 min. I make sure to have multiple toys available so I can send each dog in a different direction to chase their own toy. When they return with the toy, I trade them for a cookie and the**

**game begins again. After 10 to 15 min., they are completely happy and have since forgiven me for not being able to take them on a long walk.**

**You can do the same thing! If your dog is dark in coat colour like my girls are, you can attach reflective material to their collar or give them a reflective vest to wear. If you bring a small flashlight, you will always be able to see where they are.**

**If you are worried that your dog will not return to you, attach a 50 or even a hundred foot long line. You can let that drag while you toss the toy. If you attached a couple of reflective strips on the long line you will always be able to see where it is and you are able to step on it if you think your dog is not returning to you in a timely manner.**

**My girls now totally look forward to going home in the dark! And so do I.**

our store sells the [Mountain Dog](#) and [Pet Lovers Choice](#) food providing quality meats for you pets.

You can place your orders directly through the on-line store on our website, up to the posted deadline for that month.

(Orders are placed once a month and pick up is at our store in Nanaimo on the day of arrival.)

**Deadlines for ordering 2015 are:  
January 17 / February 21 / March 21**

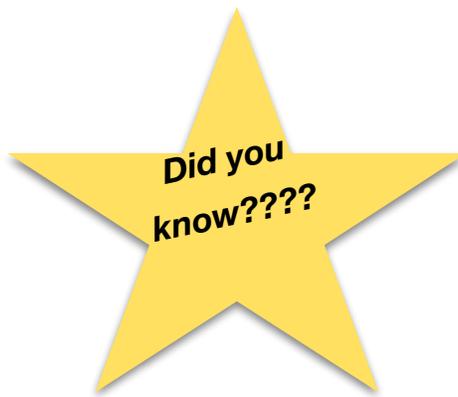
We do keep a small supply on hand. Call our store for what's available at 250-758-3908  
If you are interested in purchasing raw food for your pet(s), or if you would like more information, please contact us at:

250-758-3908

[on the web](#)

or email at

[agilplay@telus.net](mailto:agilplay@telus.net)



***We do NOT use any chemical insecticidal product on pets in our grooming shop! We use an alternative treatment by using a soap that weakens the fleas exoskeleton and they die within 10 minutes. Great success, no danger of poisoning!***

# Pocket pets and bird training

## **Pocket pets and birds training**

**Do you have a small pet at home that spends most of it's time in a cage? Think about teaching some cool tricks! Not only can you help your pet become more confident and outgoing, but you can impress your friends with cool tricks! This also helps your pet avoid cage boredom, by providing mental stimulation.**

**The key to all the fun is to find something that your pet truly loves to eat! For example rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters etc may love a small piece of carrot, lettuce, etc Birds often train well for some seed or millet.**

**Once you know what your pet will work for try to capture a behaviour that your pet does fairly frequently. Here are some ideas to get you started:**

**Birds- making noise, whistling, talking, stretching wings, head bobs, stepping up, playing with toys, ringing a bell**

**Pocket pets- getting in bed (house), making noise (guinea pigs especially make different noises), picking up food, looking up at you, checking out a new object or toy**

**Capturing a behaviour means that you:**

**1. Mark the behaviour by using a word (yes, yip, good, etc) or clicker to indicate the moment the animal is doing something you like. It is like taking a picture of a moment in time that you like!**

**2. Reward! Hand over the thing your pet likes (if they are nippy, use a spoon)!!**

**Once you get good at capturing the behaviour you can add a cue. Add the cue during or just before the behaviour. If you have been watching closely you should be able to predict when the behaviour is going to happen pretty well. Here are some examples of cues: getting a bird to stretch its wings can be cued with 'big eagle', 'wings', 'flex' or 'stretch', or the cue can be a signal from the trainer, such as flapping the arms, or flexing your muscles!**

**Another great behaviour that you can teach is targeting. This involves your pet moving towards a target and making contact with a part of its body. Feet, or nose are most commonly used. We use targeting to train all sorts of fun behaviours such as opening and closing doors (dogs), turning a light switch on or off (cats), and teaching your pet to navigate through obstacles or interact with new objects for all species.**

**If you have a moment to spare, go to youtube and look up bird tricks, pet tricks, or punch in your type of pet with the word tricks and you will be amazed to see what people have done with their pets!**

**Have fun!**



## Small animal services we offer

Our services include grooming and nail trims for your little pets too! Sometimes guinea pigs have super long hair that gets matted, we can help! Ferret needs a bath, no problem! Birds may need their wings trimmed, we do that! And of course nail trims on birds, ferrets, turtles, guinea pigs, etc. They may be small, but sometimes they need a little TLC too.

## Grooming during power outage in our Cedar location!



**Sometimes nature does not co-operate and throws branches on our power lines and they don't like that! Next thing you know it's dark in the grooming shop and we have to get our back up generator in operation. Of course it doesn't help if you can't get it started .....**

**So off to the equipment rental place we go for one that does work! Get some lights from the house, led headbands & flashlights, "et voila" (as the Frenchies say). Problem solved!!!!**

**Did you  
know????**

***Cats or dogs that hunt or eat dead birds, mice and things can easily be infected with tapeworm. Tapeworm infections can also happen when a pet has fleas, as fleas can be a host for the worm eggs.***

**And here are pictures on a natural way to get dogs teeth cleaned!**



Tartar build up on teeth. Gum line is irritated (red)



3 weeks into chewing knuckle bones you can see the tartar starting to break down.



After six weeks whole chunks have come off and gum line is looking healthier.

**Sometime the natural way is all that is needed!**

**This dog was scheduled to go to the vet for dental cleaning, but they discovered an anomaly in blood work, and the vet could not put the dog under anaesthetic.**

**Since they do not live close to our location and therefore could not benefit from the expert services from Brett Kirby, our dental hygienist, they started a natural way for dogs to clean tartar off their teeth by letting the dog chew on raw knuckle bones once per day for 15 minutes. The effect is amazing! In 6 weeks this dogs oral health increased dramatically and for minimal cost!**

**A happier dog and very happy owner for sure!  
The vet will also be pleased with the end result!**

**Use raw bones only, never use "any" type of cooked bone. Cooked bones become brittle and can cause many medical problems for your dog. Always supervise your dog while it's chewing on a bone.**



This is what knuckle bone look like. Nanaimo Pet Services sells these on our website. Go to the Pet Lovers Choice page for ordering on-line or call our store to see if they are in stock!

**(250) 758-3908**



Just got this picture before sending out the newsletter. Sorry, picture a little fuzzy. Dog did not get a lot of time chewing on knuckle bones over the holidays due to owners having over visitors. Still tartar on the teeth is less than just before the holiday break. Compare with the first picture to see what an amazing difference this has made so far.

## Few more fun pictures!



# Collar sizing for your dog!

We frequently have dogs that come into our grooming shop with poorly fitted collars. Pups that have gotten too big for their tiny collar make up a small percentage of the population, the bigger concern is dogs that can slide out of their collar too easily. It can be hard to find a properly fitted collar if your dog has a large neck size, or one that is about the same size as their head, but here are some tips.

For dogs look for a collar that you can buckle like a traditional belt. These are less likely to have sliders that adjust the size of the collar. Frequently these sliders allow the collar to loosen up over time, and can allow your dog to slip out if they spook. If you do end up with an adjustable collar make sure you check regularly that it hasn't loosened up, or even stitch that slider in place.

Training collars are designed for just that, training! They are not meant to stay on your dog unsupervised. There are many different types of collars that are used for training purposes, but most are not relevant to current scientific training methods, or are in fact hurting your dog.

Often we see dogs with martingale or half choke collars on, keep in mind that these can easily get caught on things and can cause your dog to suffocate if they do. A martingale is a training collar, that allows the dog to feel a tightening around their neck when they pull on the leash, it should only be used in that situation. It can also be helpful if your dog has a tendency to slip its collar, which will be harder when it tightens around the neck.

Choke chains pose an even greater hazard. They act similar to a martingale by tightening around the neck, however, unlike a martingale there is no natural stopping point, and it can constrict very tightly around the neck causing your dog great discomfort and potentially doing damage to the back, neck and throat. Over time trainers have realized that these are not only unnecessary, but have been abused by trainers. Hauling your dog around on a choke chain is not the way to go.

Prong collars are another that I would not recommend. I know of several people that have done damage to their dogs necks with the prongs. These are outdated tools, much like using a ruler to punish a child, they are not considered ethical training tools. The main problem is that without any positive reinforcement the dog will either learn to ignore the discomfort of the prong collar or will only behave with the prong collar in place. So while it gives the appearance of solving the problem of a pulling dog, it is in fact only masking the behaviour under specific circumstances.

## Different types of collars



Buckle collar



Prong collar



Martingale collar



Choke collar



Shock collar



Nylon collar with plastic buckle



GPS Tracker on collar (works with your smart phone)



Dog spray collar.

E-collars will send an electric pulse into your dogs neck. Quite often they will give a range of shock from a mild pulse to a big zap. Some of these are used for barking, others for invisible fencing, and still different ones to punish your dog. Let me just say this once, if you only punish your dog it MAY learn to avoid a certain behaviour, BUT it will learn how to sneak and do those things behind your back, or resent you, or become very fearful and reactive, or again learn to tolerate the pain and do it anyway. If there is anything that we have learned as trainers it is that dogs respond in much the same way as young children. If you punish your child, you will see the same avoidance behaviours, lack of confidence, and defiance that you will see from a dog. The only thing you are teaching is that you will hurt them. Find a better way.

If you have dog that has neck, shoulder or back pain or discomfort consider getting a harness. This will greatly ease the tension on these parts of the body. For those dogs that like to pull you can try a front lead harness or a head halter to help make your walks easier, while you are still in the process of training your dog.

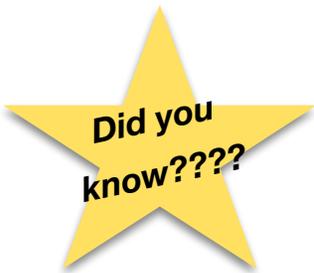
Head halters such as a Halti or Gentle Leader are also commonly used for walking dogs that pull or are easily distracted or reactive to other dogs. They allow you to turn your dogs nose to travel in the direction that you would like them to go. Remember that head halters are not designed for sudden jerking motions, but instead meant to smoothly turn your dogs head. Once you manage to break eye contact you should reward and continue to work with your dog.

Remember a collar is there for two primary reasons:

1. Safety
2. Identification

All dogs should be checked regularly around the collar for abrasion or irritation. Long coated dogs are notorious for forming matting around the collar area as the constant rubbing causes the hair to tangle. Around the head and neck area is also one of the most common areas to have ticks so a regular inspection should be on your list. Be aware that wider collars also are notorious for having dirt and debris trapped underneath them, which can become very smelly.

**The winner of the six week Training Package of \$140.00 is:  
Corrie Messerer with Rennie & Gema**



*Topical flea treatments are a great way to keep your pet parasite free, but some of these treatments are extremely toxic to your pets! Please talk to your vet before applying ANY flea products.*

# Control Unleashed success story

Picture a mid sized dog walking next to its owner, happily wagging its tail while approaching you on the street, then a split second later this nice doggie is lunging and barking ferociously at you and your dog and you fear for your and your dogs life!

Leash reactivity in dogs is starting to take on epidemic status as there are more and more dogs that do not understand how to show appropriate social behaviour and communication while on leash. There are many possible reasons, one possible reason is learned behaviour seen and studied from another dog, or lack of proper social instructions given to the pup at a young age. Association with good mannered calm adult dogs that can help a youngster learn the ways of the world. We can also teach the dog to learn to take it's lead from a person who knows how to help. Other times we are told that pups should not be exposed to other dogs until they have been fully vaccinated, but this causes dogs to miss some of the most crucial social development and learning stages in regards to other dogs.

The most crucial stage in a young dog social skills development is between 8 and 14 weeks.

Often times we are told that pups should not be exposed to other dogs until they are fully vaccinated at 16 weeks of age, but this causes dogs to miss some of the most crucial social development and learning stages in regards to other dogs. They hear the vet say: do not take your pup outside, do not let your pup meet another dog until 14 or 16 weeks.

What you will be hearing if you listen carefully is: do not take your young pup to a field or park or walkway where there is the potential for a lot of faeces and pee on the ground. You do not want to risk exposure to unfamiliar dogs where you do not know the health or vaccine history. But absolutely DO make sure your young dog gets to meet as many different dogs as possible, dogs that are healthy, properly vaccinated and gentle.

This, in my professional opinion, is what every puppy parent should do:

- Take your pups with you everywhere! Car rides, friends houses, shopping places etc.
- Visit at least 20 different houses before your pup is 12-14 weeks,
- Make sure the pup gets to meet and greet at least 100 different people including children and infants before week 12.
- Introduce the pup to 15 different breeds of dogs before 12 weeks (of course only dogs that are friendly and healthy and vaccinated!).
- Let pup walk on at least 15 different kinds of surfaces: gravel, cement, lino, carpet, sand, puddles, grass, a tarp, grate, cardboard, manhole covers, and I am sure you can find a few more!
- Find your puppy a play mate, another young dog that he can wrestle with and learn from and supervise carefully for appropriate behaviour.
- Introduce your dog to a crate or kennel through playing games and having fun, not as punishment! it will help with impulse control later in life and gives safety while traveling.
- Play with your dog every day, enjoy and laugh a lot about their antics!!
- Ask questions from professionals, good guidance in the early days prevents tons of problems later on!

Regardless of why your dog gives you bad behaviour of lunging, pulling, barking or snarling at people, dogs or other things (cars, skateboards, etc.) there are many successful programs to help them change their OUTLOOK. The best programs are those using positive learning methods, completely without the need for punishment.

Our Control Unleashed classes and Private Consultation are the way to start you and your dogs new life!

### **Wendy writes:**

I am so happy to see results after only 2 classes.

#### **A success story with Lola!**

Today after our hike, our group of girls was talking in the parking lot. I had Lola with me on the leash. I noticed a fellow coming towards us with a pit-bull on leash. Lola saw the dog and I immediately said "YES". She looked at me and I was able to back up with her keeping her focus on me. I did have high value treats (prime rib bits)! I had her sit in front of me and fed her treats. Another dog went over to the pit-bull and a fight broke out. Lola kept her focus on me. I kept waiting for the owner to put the dog in his truck, but he was taking his time. I needed to walk past so as I walked by, she kept her focus on me, not making a peep at the other dog!!! I couldn't believe it!

Lola learned in two weeks that mom would take care of the situation and she had other options than to react with aggression! Our ultimate goal for her is that she redirects herself when she feels tension building , and will be able to actually ignore such situations! Her summer is going to be much better then ever before!

## **Calendar of up coming events**

**CGN test Feb 13 5:30 pm**

**Canine Good Neighbour Test at Nanaimo Pet Services (indoor and out)**

**Evaluators: Bernadette and Linda van Klaveren**

**For more info on CGN check out the CKC (Canadian Kennel Club website) [www.ckc.ca](http://www.ckc.ca)**

**Call (250) 758-3908 or click book by email.**

**\$20 for class dogs \$25 for non-class dogs**

**NADAC Video trial (weather permitting) Feb 14 9:00-1:00**

**Seawall Walk 14th February, 2015 at 3:00pm**

**Classes February 23 - March 30, 2015**

**Winter session classes are available for entry on line.**

**6 weeks of classes for \$140.00**

**See our website event list for more details!**

# Fun DAWG game for a Sunday afternoon!

does your dog already retrieve and play tug, great! Instead of reading this, go play with your dog!

But..... for those dogs that do not play, retrieve or tug, here a good way to start!

Teaching dog how to play and retrieve from scratch.

This is for dogs that do not know how to play with toys, or how to pick up an object. Do these steps in a small area such as hallway or corner of kitchen or room, so your dog does not have a lot of open space and distractions going on.

## Step one!

Take a piece of paper (computer print paper works very well!)

Lay it flat on the ground.

Place a small tasty treat on it.

Hold on to your dog's collar and make him excited about the food on the paper at two feet distance.

Release the collar and tell your dog: "GET IT"

Allow dog to eat treat, repeat three times.

## Step two!

You hold on the dog with one hand, you have the piece of paper in the other hand approximately 2 feet away from the dog space. Get the dog excited about the half crumpled piece of paper with the food, let him go to get the piece of paper with the food from your hand.

Repeat three times.

## Step three!

Take paper in cupped hand and place treat on it, Crumple paper together but not too tightly.

Drop paper on the ground about 2 feet in front of your dog.

Hold on to your dog's collar and make him excited about the food on the paper.

Release the collar and tell your dog: "GET IT"

Dog will run towards paper and most likely nuzzle it or maybe even pick it up to get at the treat.

You tell him good dog and pick up the paper, opening it up and allowing dog to eat treat.

Repeat three times

## Step 4!

Repeat step three but throw slightly further out and crumple paper a bit more so it is harder to get at the food and dog will require your help to get to it!

End of session

From there you can gradually build on using other toys, (food toys are good to start with, Kong with peanut butter, food pouch toys, old sock and wieners in them, etc.

Did you  
know????

*That this is the last page of this newsletter?*

*We hope you enjoyed it and have gotten some useful tips and information out of it.*

*Remember, there are no dumb questions! If you have a concern regarding your furry friend, please don't hesitate to contact us for more information.*



and another issue in your “mailbox”!

Let us know what you think of it!

[nanaimopetservices@gmail.com](mailto:nanaimopetservices@gmail.com)

Your Nanaimo Pet Services Team