



NanaimoPetServices  
www.nanaimopetservices.com

grooming

agility

obedience

"Your Local Pet Specialist!"

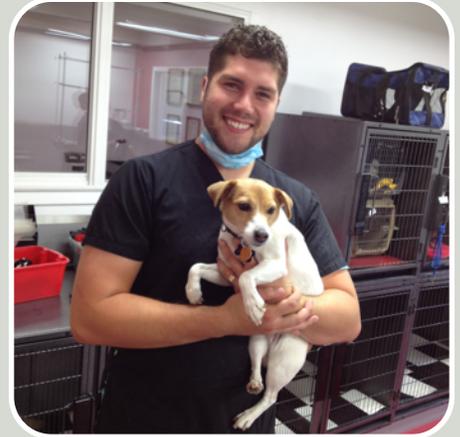
**250-758-3908**



Agility



Grooming



Dental care

## WELCOME TO OUR OCTOBER 2014 ISSUE



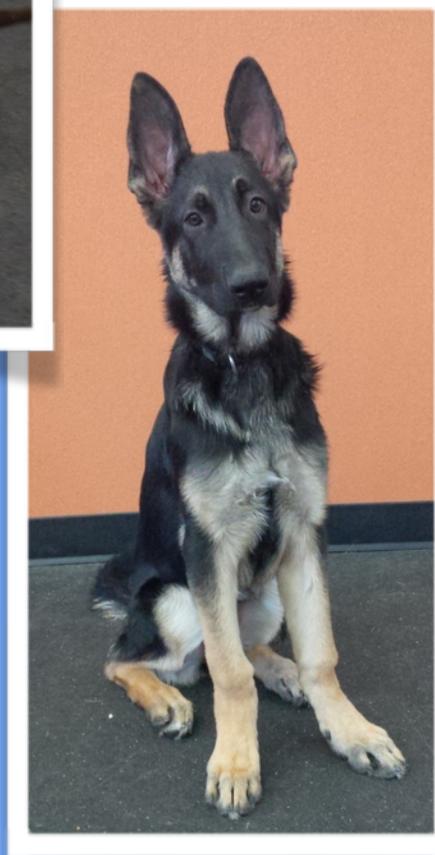
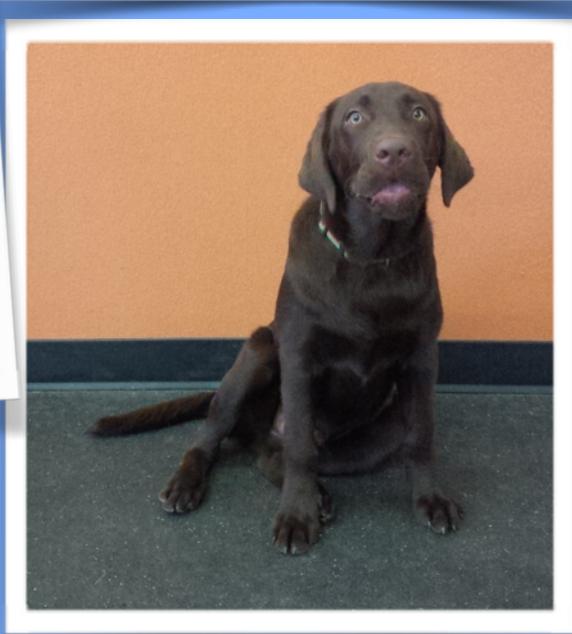
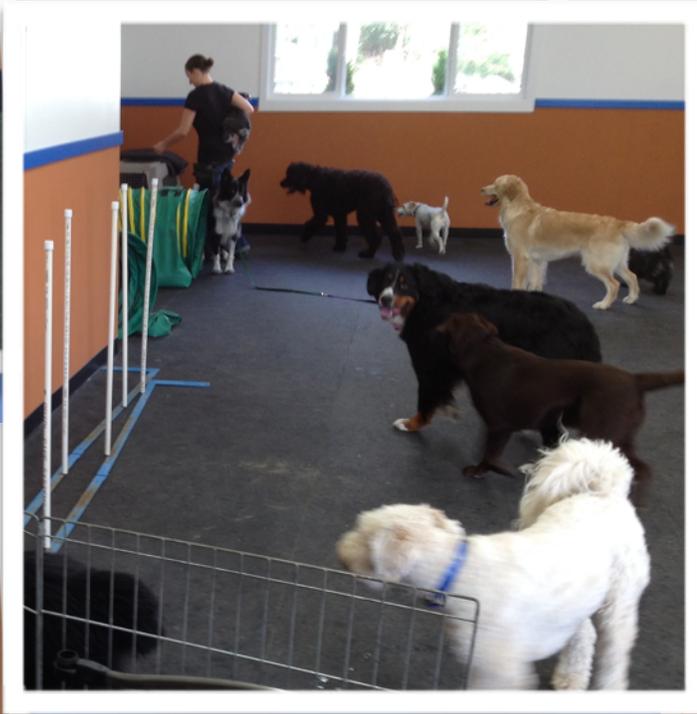
**CGN Test passing score!**

### In our newsletter this month:

- PlaySkool Pictures
- Karen Pryor Academy Training
- What do you feed your 4 legged friend?
- PlaySkool report
- Happy Howl-o-ween!
- Fall grooming for Dogs & Cats
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- Nanaimo by-laws and restricted dogs
- Dental Hygiene for your dog
- events 2014 and 2015

# Playskool

PlaySkool regulars



The winner of the \$55.00 grooming package is:

Dale Abeling with Rosie and Haffy

# Karen Pryor Academy Training

With so many dog trainers hanging out their shingle it's always hard to know where to go for the best training. I have been training dogs since I was 8 years old and have always been interested in learning more about behaviour and learning. In January I was lucky enough to be able to start the Karen Pryor 6 month program aimed at professional dog trainers. If you have never heard of Karen Pryor, look up some of her books about animal training, she has amazing insight into the animal mind that is backed up with scientific training methods and tons of positive reinforcement!

I was attracted to this program because I am first and foremost and advocate for my dogs. I believe that dogs have rights, just like people. I don't believe that causing my dog discomfort or anxiety is the right approach to training. My rule of thumb is, if you wouldn't do it to a small child, you shouldn't do it to your dog. That's right, I would never electrocute a small child, or put a choke chain or pinch collar around their necks, I would never do that to my dog either. It is a great analogy to help you make decisions when training your pets. Remember the more you scare, upset, or punish your dog the greater the level of anxiety and the less predictable your dog will be.

What happens when you punish a child for an undesirable behaviour, they learn to hide when they are doing it or suppress it while feeling all sorts of anxiety. This quite often happens to dogs that get punished for peeing indoors, they learn to do it when you are not watching, or find a spot where you are least likely to see it happen. This also happens with dogs that are nervous or worried and bark or react when approached by other dogs, if you punish them, they feel validated that there was reason to panic and while you may punish them to get rid of the warning signs that they are uncomfortable, the end behaviour itself may escalate drastically.

Learning is divided into three components (ABC):

Antecedent - what happens before the behaviour

Behaviour - what your dog does in response to the antecedent

Consequence - what happens in response to the behaviour (punishment, reinforcement, dog fight, rewards etc)

How is clicker training different? First off it is a humane form of training that focuses on strengthening the bond between human and animal by building trust. If your dog is telling you they are uncomfortable you will teach them how



to deal with their stress appropriately, or help by giving them the space they need so they can calm down. Secondly, it uses the ABCs to help shape your dog's learning efficiently and effectively towards a desired outcome.

This doesn't just apply to complex behaviour issues, but to every day training as well. My dogs get really excited when I pick up the clicker to train with them. They have learned to offer behaviour, rather than constantly being nagged and having to be told what to do. It is priceless to have a dog that can make good choices! It can be as simple as sitting at the door before going out (showing impulse control) or as difficult as deciding that reacting to a passing dog has not paid off and instead turning back to look at the handler.

What a great experience it has been learning new techniques, working with some of the top trainers around the world, and fine tuning my skills as a trainer and being able to bring our whole staff on board with these methods. If you are looking for a trainer, make sure you find out more about what their training and background is. Remember just because they have been doing it forever, doesn't mean they know what they are doing or that they use humane techniques for their training. If you wouldn't use a technique to train a small child, it is not appropriate for your pets.

Linda

## What do you feed your four legged friend?

Kibble, moist food, canned food, home cooked or raw, there are as many variations in the pet food industry as there are breeds of dogs and cats!

But which one is the right one for your pet? This totally depends on your pet's health. Some dogs have the ability to digest a large variety of foods, meat protein being the main source. Unfortunately the grain (wheat, corn, soy, oats etc.) content in some products can give some dogs digestive upsets. Cats generally do not digest grain products well and definitely have a problem digesting vegetables, yet we still see corn and veggies as a regular ingredient in processed cat food.

Humans often eat what appeals to them taste wise, the same for cats and dogs, but is it always what your system would benefit most from? I can live off chocolate and cheesecake, but that hardly makes for a balanced eating regime.

Balanced eating does not mean that every single meal must have all the nutrients a body requires. Rather it means that over a period of time, (one week or even one month) we should ensure that we have a large variety of nutrients to sustain our bodies and minds health and wellness. A commercial balanced and processed kibble or moist food/canned meal will give the same ingredients every single meal. If you have a dog that is often very gassy, or a cat that regularly throws up its food, there is a good chance that the food is actually not really agreeing with your pet's system. If you have a pet that is suffering from allergies or itchy feet or recurring ear infections, that could be due to environmental triggers or be food ingredient related. With so many different ingredients in processed food, it is often impossible to find out exactly what it is that your pet's system is having problems with.

Over the past 15 years we have found with our own dogs that the difference between a commercially

processed food and a simple one-ingredient-at-a-time raw diet is absolutely amazing! When our dogs were being fed a top quality kibble diet, they did good, or so I thought, but there were repeated incidences of upset tummies and some loose bowels from time to time. We made the switch when there was a period of about three weeks where four of our dogs (out of 8) woke us up several times during the night being bloated and uncomfortable. Having had the experience of feeding raw in the past in Europe, I decided to give that a try, and we switched over the very next day, and never looked back! Our dogs' intestinal health increased dramatically within a week, their coats changed from being nice to being spectacular and shiny, and the best side effect of all was the stools changed from stinky piles to nice, small, non-smelling and never moulding over faeces.

Since then we have raised three generations and many pups on the raw diet, and most of our friends have made the switch as well. All with the same great results, healthier dogs with good appetites and a bounce to their step, even into their senior years! Nanaimo Pet Services is a distributor for Mountain Dog Food as well as for Pet Lover's Choice, where the raw meat product is processed in facilities that are government inspected and all ingredients are human grade!

Want to learn more? If there is enough interest, we will host a 2 hour information session in November about this topic. Email Bernadette at [dawgplay@telus.net](mailto:dawgplay@telus.net) for information, dates & times.

**The winner of the \$35.00 Full day at PlaySkool is:  
Carolann Stoll with Pepper**

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 2014 are:  
October 18 / November 22 / December 13.**

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 me at

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

## Play Skool report

How can we describe the benefits of PlaySkool better than talking about Finley?

Finley came to our Play Skool as a super excited and exuberant Labrador, as we all know labs can be! He had a really hard time focussing and fitting into a group without getting over excited. He would be pulling and dragging people while on leash, barking, wildly running around, grabbing things and jumping up on people. That was his idea of having a good time.

Of course, that got him into trouble with his humans at home as well as with other dogs.

Only last week he had a check up with his veterinarian, and the vet could not believe he was the same dog..... well behaved, happily wagging his tail, calmly sitting beside his mom when needed, this was a very different picture of Finley from the one the vet is used to seeing . Finley's mom was asked if she thought he was ok, since he was so calm, and she was able to proudly say that his training had progressed so well at home, and through Regular attendance to Play Skool, that he was a much happier and better behaved dog. He will now play

with her instead of just entertaining himself. Finley proudly complete his Canine Good Neighbour test and his mom is thrilled!

Finley is a great example of what can be achieved with love, careful and positive training methods and a clear rule structure. The various Impulse control games we play at PlaySkool can make such a fabulous change in a dogs mind-set!

Stephanie is our main PlaySkool instructor, and she carefully tailors the mental and physical games and exercises for the day to each dogs individual needs.

Maybe your dog would benefit too??



# Happy Howl-O-ween!



Indeed it is that time of year again, we are officially heading towards another spook-tacular howl-o-ween! We all know Halloween can be a lot of fun, and we like to include all of our family members in the festivities but here are a few things to keep in mind.

- Halloween is not important to your pet, so while dressing them up and taking a few pictures is fun, they can easily get stressed or over aroused with all the things going on, make sure they can find a safe place to settle down.
- Candy and chocolate are nice, but not for your pet. Don't forget that candy wrappers can also be problematic because they still smell like food, but are not digestible. Chocolate on the other hand is toxic.
- Fireworks can be a concern for some since loud bangs can startle even the calmest of animals.
- It is so very dark! Be sure your pets are wearing reflective gear! (Especially outdoor cats should have reflective collars to make them easier to spot)
- Strangers are coming to the door and this is the prime time for your pet to slip out.
- Not all children know how to act around pets, and children that are dressed up in funny outfits may be even more intimidating.
- With so many people and cars out in the early evening hours, maybe leaving your pet in the safety and comfort of your home is a good idea.

If you do take your dog with you, make sure you are aware of what is happening close by, as your dog may startle with sudden approaches from running children etc.



# Fall grooming for dogs and cats!

The leaves are changing colour and fall is finally in the air!

During the heat of summer many people opted for a transformation for their dog or cat for coolness and comfort and ease of maintenance.

A transformation basically turns a long haired dog or cat into a short haired variety!

Golden retrievers looking like Labradors, long coated Shih-Tzu type dogs turning into sporty little fun dogs , even dogs such

as pugs and labs benefit from a pug or lab shave, basically eliminating shedding for a few months!

We saw a multitude of cats come through the door to get a lion trim or a plush cut, getting rid of some unwanted hair.

Some pets will still benefit from one more shorter trim and those dogs that have their own fall and winter wardrobe can be kept short coated all year long! Indoor cats can have a lion trim or plush cut any time!

We sometimes get asked how long it will take before the coat is back to full length. of course this depends on the current coat length and the pets health. Generally, new hair growth is visible within a week or two. A short haired pet will normally have its full coat back in about 4 months, a very long haired dog or cat will take between 5 and 7 months!

There are several reasons your pet may not regrow hair immediately.

There are basically three hair cycles : growth, rest, shedding. If the hair is clipped during a rest or shedding period, it may take longer for you to see new hair growth.

Just like humans, pets can have other factors for delayed hair re-growth including vitamin deficiencies, hormonal imbalances, parasites and skin irritations. Senior pets may have a reduce thyroid function and show delayed hair re growth. In most cases this is just aesthetics and you as well as your pet will derive more benefits then detriment from a transformation.



Fall brings other challenges, rain, puddles, mud, grass seeds and burrs stuck into tails and leg hair.

If your dog comes back for a walk with burrs stuck in their wet fur, please wait for it all to dry thoroughly before trying to comb it out! this will greatly reduce discomfort for your pet.

However, If you wait too long, basically more then 24 hours, the burr can start to work its way into the coat. Serious skin infections can be the result.

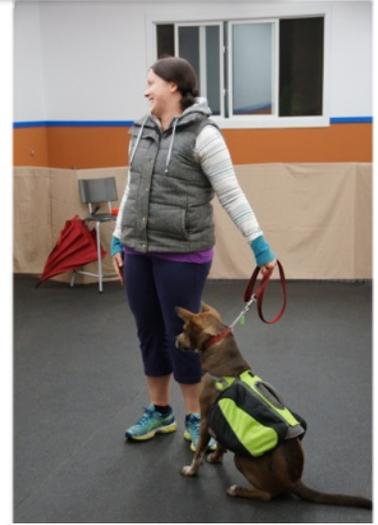
Check your dogs paws and in between toes for signs of spear grass seeds.

For wet muddy paws you can reduce that problem by having the pads of the feet shaved and in between the toes scissored super short. Some dogs are good candidates for fully shaved feet, and this greatly eliminates the mud issue. Drying dogs feet after a walk is of course also helpful. Have

a small stash of treats close by the entry door, and a towel to wipe paws. Every paw wipe is one treat and before you know it, your dog looks forward to having this routine!

As always, we are ready to assist you!

CGN Test at Nanaimo Pet Services October 24th.



The brave souls that weathered the weather at our seawall walk this pas weekend!



## Nanaimo By-laws and restricted dogs

The city of Nanaimo has several bylaws to be aware of. The first is for owners of restricted dogs, there are muzzle laws for dogs that are deemed vicious or restricted, unless they have completed their Canine Good Neighbour certification.

“RESTRICTED DOG” - means (a) a Pit Bull Terrier, an American Pit Bull Terrier, a Pit Bull, a Staffordshire Bull Terrier or an American Staffordshire Terrier; or (b) a dog of mixed breeding which breeding includes the blood line of the breeds referred to in (a). A dog is not a “Restricted Dog” if the dog is registered with the Canadian Kennel Club, the burden or proof of which registration is on the dog owner or the dog/dog owner has successfully completed the tests required to qualify for the Canine Good Neighbour (CGN) Certification.

Restricted/vicious dog not muzzled.....\$500.00  
Fail to enclose restricted/vicious dog.....\$500.00

Not to say that these bylaws are fair, since there are many wonderful Pit bull type dogs out there, and many others dog of various breeds that are very scary, but they are the laws and the city DOES enforce them. The onus of proof is on the owner. Many phone calls have been received in recent months on our end with people that had no idea that these laws were even in place, and it is a costly lesson. Most people don't want to have their sweet dog muzzled and indeed don't need it, so here are the steps that are involved in the Canine good neighbour test so that you can train to pass this test.

### TEST 1 - Accepting A Friendly Stranger

This test demonstrates the dog's ability to allow a friendly stranger to approach and speak to the handler. The evaluator will walk toward the handler and dog and greet the handler by shaking hands and briefly chatting. The dog should remain under control with only gentle assistance, if necessary. The dog should not go to nor jump on the evaluator and must not exhibit any signs of shyness or resentment.

### TEST 2 - Politely Accepts Petting

This test demonstrates the dog's ability to allow a friendly stranger to pet it while out with its handler. The evaluator will pet the dog on the head and shoulders. The dog may sit or stand quietly beside the handler and may change position, but must not exhibit any signs of shyness or resentment.

### TEST 3 - Appearance and Grooming

This practical test demonstrates that the dog will accept being groomed and examined and will permit a stranger to do so. The evaluator inspects the dog, brushes the dog briefly on the back and sides, and lightly examines its ears and front feet. The evaluator then walks behind the handler and dog, returning to face the dog. Minor movement is allowed, but the dog should not have to be restrained.

### TEST 4 - Out For A Walk

This test demonstrates the ability of the dog to walk politely on a loose leash as well as the handler's ability to control the dog. The evaluator will have the handler and dog walk a course, which will include at least one right and left turn and a 180-degree turn. It is not necessary for the dog to be exactly aligned with the handler or sit when the handler stops. The handler may talk to the dog.

### TEST 5 - Walking Through A Crowd

This test demonstrates the ability of the dog to walk politely beside the handler in pedestrian traffic, while remaining under control at all times. The dog and handler walk through and close to several people. Throughout this test the handler may talk to the dog giving praise and encouragement. The dog must maintain a position close to the handler without becoming unduly stressed or unruly. The dog may show some interest in the strangers but should not go to them.

### **TEST 6 - Sit/Down On Command and Stay In Place**

This Test demonstrates the dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands. The handler may take a reasonable amount of time and use more than one command to sit and down the dog. If required, the handler may touch the dog gently to assist it. Once the dog has responded to both a sit and down command, the handler will decide in which position the dog is going to be left. The handler will then tell the dog to stay and walk forward 6 metres before turning around to face the dog, then will return to the dog.

### **TEST 7 - Come When Called**

This test demonstrates the dog's ability to come when called by the handler. The evaluator will stand near the dog and instruct the handler to position the dog in either a sit, down or stand position. The handler will then leave the dog and go to a distance of 3 metres before turning and calling the dog. The dog should come readily to the handler; the handler may encourage the dog.

### **TEST 8 - Praise/Interaction**

This test demonstrates that the dog can be easily calmed following a play session or praise. After playing with the dog for approximately 10 seconds, the handler then calms the dog. More than one command may be used, but the dog must display controlled behaviour when told to settle by the handler. The evaluator looks for evidence of a good relationship between the dog and handler.

### **TEST 9 - Reaction To A Passing Dog**

This test demonstrates the dog's polite behaviour while in the presence of other dogs and handlers. Two handlers, with dogs, approach one another from approximately 6 metres. They stop, shake hands briefly, chat and then continue walking. The dog should exhibit no more than mild interest in the other dog.

### **TEST 10 - Reaction To Distractions**

This test demonstrates that the dog is confident when faced with common visual and auditory distractions such as doors opening, baby strollers, joggers, etc. The dog may express natural interest in the distraction and may temporarily startle, but should not show aggression or fear. One or two barks are permitted and the handler may talk to the dog throughout this test.

### **TEST 11 - Supervised Isolation**

This test demonstrates the dog's ability to be left alone with a person other than its handler, while maintaining a calm acceptance of the situation. The handler asks another person to hold the dog and tells the dog to stay. The handler goes to a pre-designated location, out of sight of the dog and waits 3 minutes until called to return by the assistant evaluator. The dog should not show excessive stress by pulling on the lead, or exhibit excessive panting, barking or whining.

### **TEST 12 - Walking Through A Door/Gate**

This test demonstrates the dog's response to the handler's commands as well as the handler's ability to control the dog while moving ahead of the dog and through a door/gate. The handler commands the dog to sit and wait and walks through the door/gate, while instructing the dog to follow. Alternatively, the dog and handler may proceed through the door/gate together, with the dog accompanying the handler on a loose leash. The dog must not go through before the handler instructs him to do so.

When taking the test your dog must be on a collar (no head collars, halters, or harnesses) and must perform each of these tests successfully without the use of food or toys to motivate them. Your dog must be vaccinated and licensed in your area. They must be able to show they are under control, respond to cues from the handler, can deal with distractions, will not react to another dog and that they are not fearful throughout the testing process.

We offer several tests a year and these will be posted on our website [www.nanaimopetservices.com](http://www.nanaimopetservices.com) There are several other groups that also host these tests dates can be found on the Canadian Kennel Club website [www.ckc.ca](http://www.ckc.ca)

**The winner of the six week Training Package of \$130.00 is:**

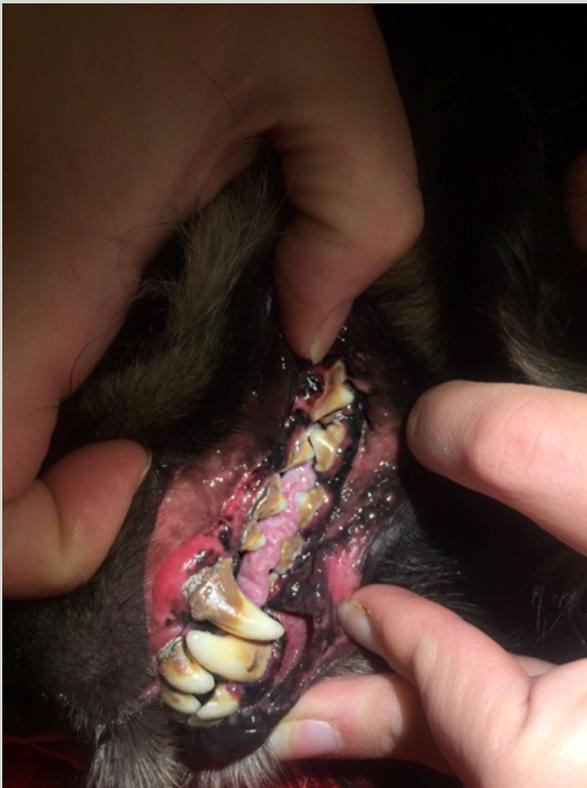
**Valerie Hetu with Coco**

## Oral hygiene tips for your beloved

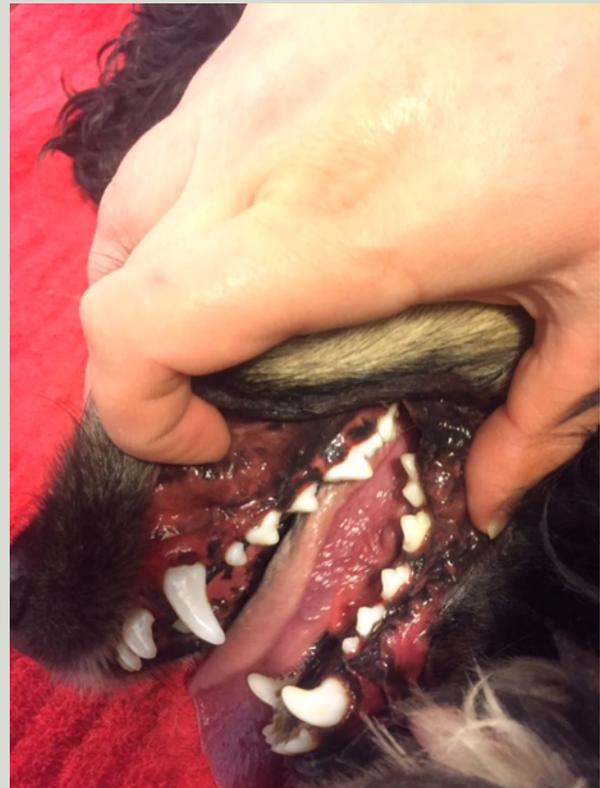
- 1) Oxyfresh toothpaste to allow tissue healing and soothing the gingival tissue. Great for those unwanted bad bacteria that are found in gingivitis.
- 2) Brushing is not just for humans! Buying a toothbrush for your dog and having a nightly regimen can only help prevent and delay gum disease to avoid those unwanted extraction surgeries in the future!
- 3) I'm sure everyone can guess the third part of your doggies hygiene..... FLOSS! Specially those pesky front teeth that are so close together! You would be surprised how much hair, and general debris can be removed be flossing!

We offer free assessments a Nanaimo Pet Services and offer dental cleaning with out any anesthesia on Mondays!

***Book with Brett Kirby - canine oral health care provider***



**Before**



**Not Before!**

## 2015 Tentative schedule

Classes week starting Jan 5-Feb 9

CGN test  
Feb 13 5:30 pm  
NPS 4512 Wellington Road

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

Seawall walk  
3pm Feb 14

Classes Feb 23-March 30

NADAC Video trial  
April 3rd 9:00-1:00

Seawall walk  
3pm April 3rd

CGN test  
April 3 (Good Friday) 5:30 pm  
NPS 4512 Wellington Road

Regionals Practice  
Friday April 10

Classes April 13-May 18

Regionals Practice  
Friday April 17

AAC trial (pending)  
April 18 + 19  
Centennial field

Agility Regionals Practice  
Friday April 24

Agility Regionals Practice  
Friday May 1

Agility Regionals Practice  
Friday May 8

Agility Regionals Practice

Friday May 15

Agility Regionals Practice  
Friday May 22

NADAC Video trial  
May 23 9:00-1:00

Seawall walk  
3pm May 23

CGN test  
May 23 5:30 pm  
NPS 4512 Wellington Road

AAC trial (pending)  
May 24  
Centennial Field

Agility Regionals Practice  
Friday May 29

Classes June 1- July 6

AAC Agility Regionals  
Langley, BC hosted by K-9 Cliffhangers

NADAC Trial (Pending)  
June 27 + 28  
Centennial Field

Nationals Practice  
Friday July 3

Nationals Practice  
Friday July 10

NADAC Video trial  
July 11 9:00-1:00

Seawall walk  
3pm July 11th

CGN test  
July 11 5:30 pm  
NPS 4512 Wellington Road

Nationals Practice  
Friday July 17

Classes July 20-Aug 10 (4 week set)

Agility Nationals Practice  
Friday July 24

Agility Nationals Practice  
Friday July 31

Agility Nationals Practice  
Friday August 7

Agility Nationals Practice  
Friday August 14

AAC Agility Nationals  
August 19-23  
Swangard Stadium, Burnaby, BC

NADAC Video trial  
Aug 29 9:00-1:00

Seawall walk  
3pm Aug 29th

CGN test  
Aug 29th 5:30 pm  
NPS 4512 Wellington Road

Classes Sept 14-Oct 19 (monday 26, 1 week extra due to thanksgiving off)

CGN test  
Oct 30 5:30 pm  
NPS 4512 Wellington Road

NADAC Video Trial (weather permitting)  
Oct 31 9:00-1:00

Seawall walk  
3pm Aug 29th

Classes Nov 2- December 7th



and another issue in your “mailbox”!

Let us know what your think of it!

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

Your Nanaimo Pet Services Team



Photo's courtesy of Petra Wingate