

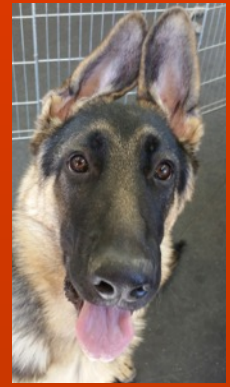


"Your Local Pet Specialist!"

**250-758-3908**



I did not  
catch that.  
What were  
you  
saying????



During the day we lounge around the pool!



Then we get dressed and "Party" all night long!

## Nanaimo Pet Services newsletter April 2015



Lando does "Spring"!

### In our newsletter this month:

- Easter game play
- Playskool Learn & Play!
- Playskool dogs are getting in shape!
- Tips for the ultimate shopper.
- Local artists.
- Kelp, is it a superfood?
- Why feed green tripe? It stinks!
- Think twice and drop it!
- Calendar of events
- Be aware!

# Easter gamed to play!

Looking for something fun to do with your dog over the Easter long weekend? Here are some great fun dog games to play!

Teach your dog to carry a basket. This is easier for dogs that like to pick stuff up! If your dog has a favourite toy you can tie it to the handle of the basket to help your dog learn to pick it up!

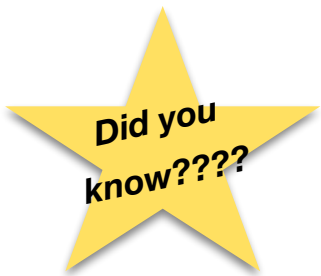
Play hide and seek with your family around the house, or in the yard. Take turns hiding and calling the dog to come find each family member! You can also teach the dog to find each person by name, for example, where's John? Then have John call the dog and reward. Next, Where's Mary? Then have Mary call and reward the dog.

Hide your dog's favourite toys around the house or yard and teach them to find them.

Teach your dog to tidy up their toys. If your dog already bring toys to you, the behaviour can be transferred to bringing it to the toy box with a few simple adjustments. 1. Teach the dog to release the toy into your hand. 2. hold your hand above the toy bin and ask for a release allowing the toy to drop past your hand. 3. Gradually fade your hand. 4. move the toy bin further away from you.

Hide treats around the house and help your dog find them. After all what dog doesn't want to find goodies on Easter morning? Do make sure your dog is only finding DOG appropriate treats!!! Be ever so careful with children's candy and chocolate especially being kept well away from your dog.

Teach your dog to play the shell game, use several similar containers and hide a treat or toy under one. Let your dog check the containers and find their reward! If they guess the wrong container, simply lift it up and show it to be empty. They will soon catch on that only one container gets them the treat.

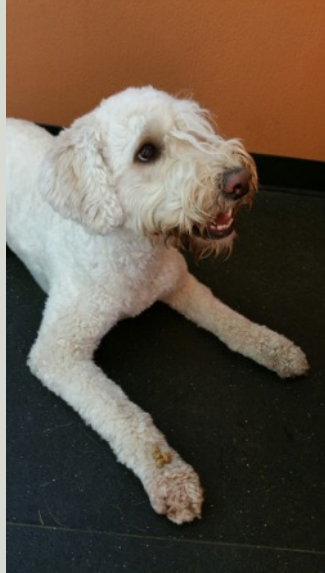
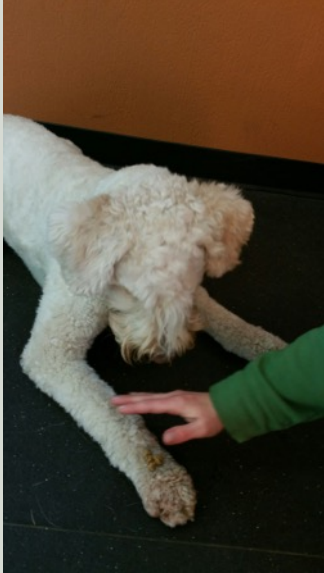


Dental cleanings have been moved over to Friday afternoon. Brett will be happy to schedule your pet for a cleaning between 1-5pm.

**The winners of the \$55.00 grooming package are:**

**Molly and Trina Clarck**

# Playskool Learn and play!



Yeah ok, and now what????



That sure looks like a cookie?!?!?!?



Hhhhhmmmmmmmm????



Aha, the shake a paw trick!



You guys have all the nice toys .....

# Playskool Dogs getting in shape!



**Molly going for a trot!**

## **Our new toy in Playskool!**

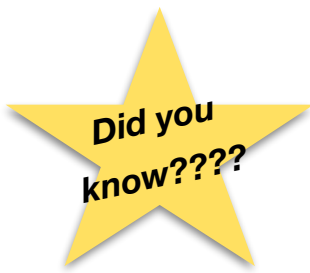
**As some of you may have seen we have a new toy in Playskool! We are very excited about our new doggy treadmill. What makes it so special? It is specifically designed to accommodate the dog's longer stride. It also has an emergency pull cord that will stop the treadmill in its tracks if needed.**

**We teach the dogs to use the treadmill using positive reinforcement. At first this may mean just looking at the machine will earn the dog a cookie or reward. Sometimes dogs are on the treadmill before we can blink, and others take a couple of sessions to get comfortable interacting before we turn it on. The nice part is that the dogs get to choose to get on and are never forced.**

**We do not secure them because we are asking them to burn calories at the pace that they are comfortable with (usually a moderate to fast jog), and we want them to let us know if they want or need to get off at any time. Our goal is to turn off the treadmill long before the dog wants to get off! Within a couple of sessions they quickly believe that the treadmill is the cookie machine and are waiting for us to turn it on!**

**The treadmill is a great tool for dogs that are very active or a little unruly when they first arrive at Playskool. It allows us to help the dog's burn off some of that extra energy so they can go calmly into the group. It is also great for helping dogs build up confidence with new and different environments, sounds and objects.**

**Some dogs just love to run and for them the treadmill is nothing but a great deal of entertainment and fun! Use caution if you want to introduce your dog to a treadmill at home, remember to start very slowly and build up gradually. Never force your dog to get on, or force your dog to stay on. They will learn faster and be more confident if you let them make the decisions on their own. Make sure your treadmill is long enough, especially for bigger dogs that have longer strides. Remember to only allow one dog at a time. Faster isn't always better! A jog is the best pace at which to burn the most calories and work out your dog's muscles.**



*Dogs are omnivores meaning they eat more than just meat in order to have a balanced diet.*

Nanaimo Pet Services sells the [Mountain Dog](#) and [Pet Lovers Choice](#) pet foods, providing quality nutrition 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.

**Deadlines for ordering are:**  
**April 25th/May 16th/June 20th**  
**Food arrives our store:**  
**May 1st/May 22nd/June 26th**

**(ready for pick up after 12:00 noon)**

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

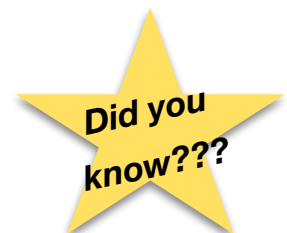
[on the web](#)

or email at

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

**The winners of the \$35.00 Full day at PlaySkool are:**  
**Molly & Neta Howard**

*Cats are obligate carnivores meaning they get all their nutrients directly from meat sources.*



# Tips for the ultimate shopper!

For those of you interested in agility and training equipment you can now order from Costco.ca online and have it delivered here in Nanaimo! Sometimes an item disappears for a bit if they are back ordered, and then they reappear when available.

They are currently offering:

Winged jumps  
Non wing jumps  
Weave poles  
Tunnels  
Tunnel bags

Other places to shop for agility equipment include:

Amazon.ca

Smith agility equipment <http://www.dog-equipment.com/agility.html>

Hill agility <http://www.hillagility.com/>

and sometimes on used sites as well!

Happy shopping!



**Fleas and Ticks are prolific this year! There has been no die off due to the fact that we have had almost no winter this year. Be vigilant for signs of fleas, or use a flea preventive that is recommended by your veterinarian.**

# Local artists

We are so lucky to live in a great city where we have some fantastic local artists with amazing talents! One of those is our good friend Gail Beerman who does some amazing doggie paintings and photography. She recently did a series of paintings to decorate our grooming shop and training/ playskool room.

She does all sorts of beautiful work and you can view some of them online here:

<http://gailbeerman.smugmug.com/>



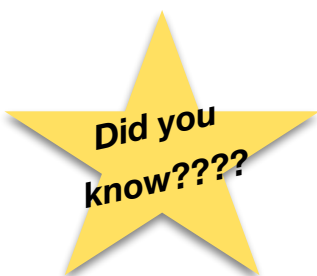
# The "Blond" crew!



# The "Black" crew(crew of 1)!



Luna check out the local swimming holes and of course her new toy!



*In order to drink water dogs curl the tip of their tongue back and scoop water out of the bowl to transfer into the mouth.*

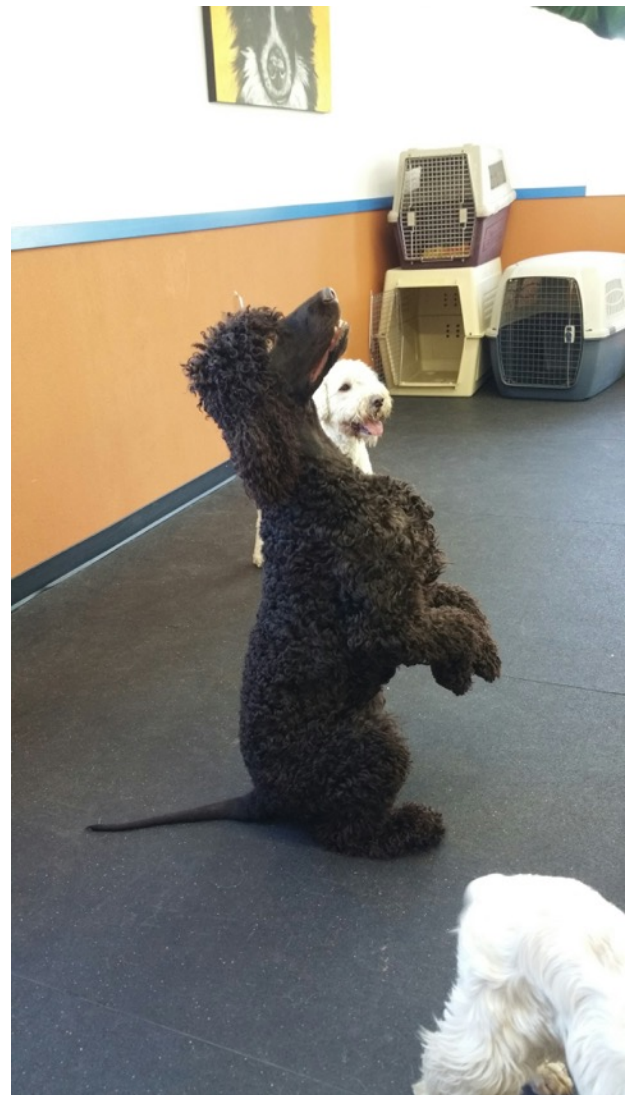


# Reminders!

Agility classes will be out at the Crow and Gate in Cedar starting Thursday April 16th.

Regionals practices will be starting at the Crow and Gate Wednesday night at 630pm

Flattery will get you the cookie!



# Kelp, is it a superfood?

Kelp has been noted as a highly beneficial supplement for humans as well as for many animals. It contains lots of vitamins, trace elements and minerals, some of which are hard to get from other sources.

Feeding your dog kelp on a regular basis can do great things for his well being. Here are some of the benefits you can expect to see:

Shinier coat and softer, healthier feeling skin

Better digestion

Increased immune function, with the potential to heal quicker from injuries

Greater milk production in lactating females

Healthier puppies born to parents that were given kelp

Research has proven that Kelp is especially beneficial for glandular health. This results in greater balance throughout the dog's system, as well as the potential for less incidence of hyperthyroidism and other glandular disorders. The thyroid and pituitary glands directly affect digestion, so this explains in part why dogs that eat kelp digest their food and absorb nutrients better. They have a more efficient metabolism, too.

Dogs also need plenty of fibre to keep their digestive systems in check, and kelp is a great source of fibre. This keeps the digestive tract clean and helps prevent absorption of toxic metals. A diet high in fibre also helps fight inflammation, rheumatism, and the development and growth of tumours.

Puppies can benefit greatly from kelp as well. It contains many of the things they need to grow up healthy and strong. Kelp given to reproducing dogs will make birthing easier and result in better health and increased survival rates for their puppies.

Kelp contains over 100 nutrients that your dog needs. It is a wonderful source of trace minerals, including iodine, magnesium, zinc, copper, gold, cobalt, and

selenium. Also found in kelp are naturally occurring high levels of B vitamins, as well as Vitamin E and C. In addition to these vitamins and minerals, kelp is also rich in amino acids.

The easiest way to include kelp in your dog's diet is to give him food that contains it each day. Since we feed a raw diet to our own dogs, we usually add it on in the form of a dried organic product which preserves its nutritional benefits very well and is derived from Atlantic deep sea kelp, (usually produced on Norway or Iceland) This is known to carry less industrial pollutants than kelp harvested from the Pacific US coast line.

Kelp has been called a miracle plant due to its outstanding nutritional value and ability to balance the body. Including it in your dog's diet on a regular basis can improve his overall well being. In our opinion, kelp is one of the best things you can give your best friend.

## NOTE:

Kelp must be given in measured doses and should not be freely added to your dog's food. Too much of a good thing can be counterproductive!

The dosage should be according to your dog's size.

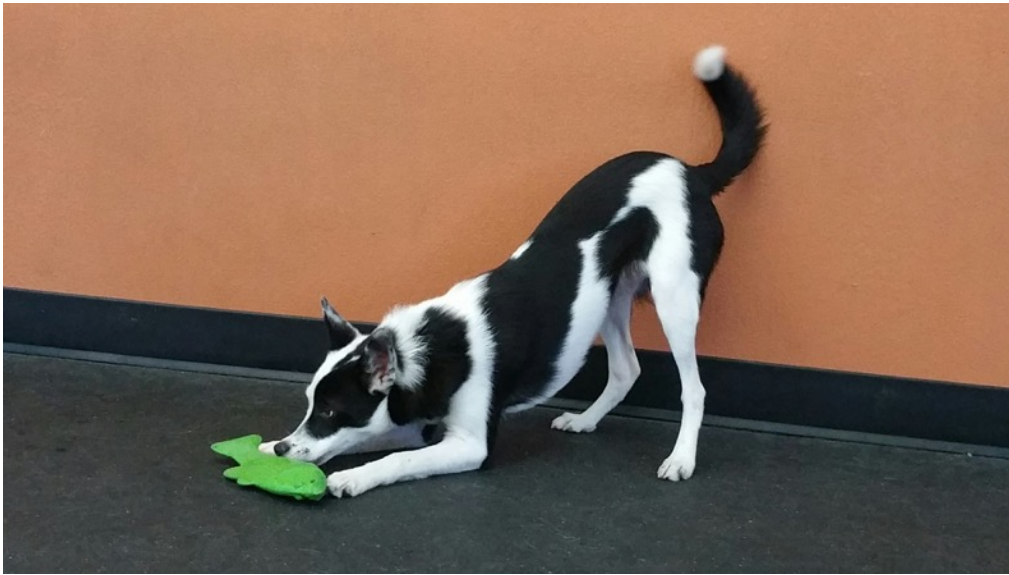
Maximum daily doses of dried pulverized kelp by size are

1/4 teaspoon for small dogs,

1/2 teaspoon for medium-sized dogs

1 teaspoon for large dogs.

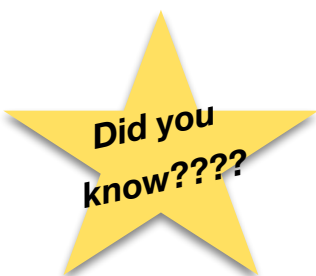
We sell Atlantic Organic Deep Sea kelp at our Nanaimo Location.



**Maeven and her "Fish". She actually rolls in it!**



**This Border Collie don't swim until the water is at least 24C.**



*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.*

# Why in the world would you feed green tripe? After all, it stinks!

many very good reasons to feed tripe:



- Green Tripe is a doggie super food all by itself! Nothing to add, nothing to remove!
- It provides completely natural digestive enzymes to the dog but also vitamins, fatty acids and amino acids.
- Green Tripe is an excellent source of probiotics due to the large numbers of helpful microorganisms contained.
- It is an incredibly gentle food. It is often the first thing that raw feeding breeders introduce to puppies as young as 3-4 weeks old.
- It is often indicated for dogs suffering from sensitive stomachs and maladies such as Irritable Bowel Syndrome and Inflammatory Bowel Disease.
- It can often ease the discomfort of dogs who are just not digesting their food well, all without bombarding them with chemicals.
- It is low in phosphorus levels and high in palatability, making it a good choice for dogs with renal issues.
- And the most important one to your dog: it does not stink, it smells delicious! They will make sure it disappears in a heartbeat, so you do not have to smell it!

Tripe is the stomach of the cow, sheep, goat or buffalo. Green tripe is different from white bleached tripe you can find in your grocery store. Green tripe is only rinsed and then ground and frozen for ease of use, but is not stripped of all the benefits and microorganisms.

Canned green tripe has been heated to preserve the product, and generally lacks the benefits of raw fresh tripe.

Nanaimo Pet Services sells locally sourced ground frozen green beef tripe in bags of about 5 lbs., in blocks of about 1 lbs. each.

Start your dog on a healthier diet today!

**The winners of the six week Training Package of \$140.00 are:  
Rainbow & Val Egri**

## **Calendar of up coming events**

### **Classes April 13-May 18**

Spring session classes are available for on-line entry. Go to:

<http://www.nanaimopetservices.com/#!training/c1duj>

6 weeks of classes for \$140.00

### **AAC Regionals Practice Wednesday April 15**

Regionals practices will be held at the Crow and Gate on Wednesday evening at 6:30PM. Please email to confirm attendance at: [nanaimopetservices@gmail.com](mailto:nanaimopetservices@gmail.com)

### **AAC Agility trial April 18 + 19 Centennial field, Beban Park**

Competition is open to the public. Bring your family for a “fun” event and watch those amazing dogs and handlers!

### **AAC Regionals Practice Wednesday April 22**

Regionals practices will be held at the Crow and Gate on Wednesday evening at 6:30PM. Please email to confirm attendance at: [nanaimopetservices@gmail.com](mailto:nanaimopetservices@gmail.com)

### **AAC Regionals Practice Wednesday April 29**

Regionals practices will be held at the Crow and Gate on Wednesday evening at 6:30PM. Please email to confirm attendance at: [nanaimopetservices@gmail.com](mailto:nanaimopetservices@gmail.com)

## AAC Regionals Practice Wednesday April 29

Regionals practices will be held at the Crow and Gate on Wednesday evening at 6:30PM. Please email to confirm attendance at: [nanaimopetservices@gmail.com](mailto:nanaimopetservices@gmail.com)

For more events see our website:

<http://www.nanaimopetservices.com/#!/events/cnda>

## Think twice and Drop it!

I just received an email from a friend who was extremely sad, because her dog's best doggie friend had just died from an accident involving a stick thrown by her owner. Unfortunately accidents like this happen all the time.

Most people do not think twice to pick up a stick to throw for their beloved dog. After all, what greater fun then to see you dog happily running , fetching and retrieving to you! Most people believe that accidents such as a dog impaling itself on a stick that lodged itself in the ground after it was thrown, or having splinters from sticks imbedded in the mouth or between teeth is a very rare event and has never happened to them before, therefore , their dog is safe.....

Nothing is further from the truth. Accidents like this happen every day and the price is just to high to let such very preventable accidents continue. The cost in vet bills, the grief and pain to you and your dog is not worth it!

Teach your dog that sticks and pieces of wood are off limits. Instead carry a ball, Frisbee, or if your dog is a true stick fanatic, buy a safe rubber "stick" from the pet store and make that your dogs best and most desirable object to play with! You will still have all the benefits of active play, your dog will never have to suffer an injury such as the one that led my friend to cry over a lost doggie friend.

**Next time you pick up a stick, think twice and drop it!**



# Be aware .....

It's that time of year - Warm weather is here! Gardens are being planted, mushrooms are growing, rodents are multiplying, and we are spending lots and lots of time outside enjoying the sun with our dogs.

Most of us aren't aware that many plants in our own or our neighbours' gardens are poisonous to our beloved four legged friends. Lobelia, Bleeding Hearts, Wisteria, tulip bulbs, many lilies, and Rhodos/Azaleas are poisonous and very common in our area. Be sure to never leave your dog unattended in a garden containing poisonous plants. If your doggy area already has these plants, consider fencing them with garden netting or an ex-pen to keep your dog safe; this is particularly important if you have a teething puppy who's more likely to chew.



Check out this list of poisonous plants: <http://www.pgvvet.bc.ca/poisonous-plant-listing.pml>

Many local wild plants are poisonous as well. Bracken Fern and Spurge-laurel are toxic, and stinging nettle will irritate the skin of dogs with short coats.



Vancouver Island is famous for its mushrooms. Some are delicacies, and some can kill you or your dog. Be aware of mushrooms growing on your lawn and while out for a hike. Below are pictures of just two types of poisonous mushrooms:



Along with the warm weather, the mice and rats are multiplying like crazy. Many people and companies use bait boxes with poison inside; death by rat poison is a horrible death. Be on a look out for black boxes in empty lots, garages, and even under pallets at warehouse type stores. Dogs love to pick up and even eat dead rodents they find. While this might be a favour to you if the cat is leaving you 'presents' that you'd rather not clean up, if the rodent died from poisoning, your dog could be poisoned as well.



Here is a link to help you recognize poisoning in your dog: <http://www.wikihow.com/Recognize-Poisoning-in-Dogs>

Have lots of fun in the sun, and be very aware of anything your pup puts in his mouth!



# Another beauty to watch out for!



**Alicia Harrison**

September 4, 2011 · 🌐

FB friends, we got the biopsy report back and with great sorrow I must share this....Our darling girl died from the toxin in this plant that I have on my deck. It is called heliotrope and is highly toxic, causes total liver destruction. The pathologist said our angel had the worst liver damage he's ever seen. Goldie would nibble at the leaves of this plant every so often and we had no clue it was toxic. (It can come in white or purple.) Please share with any dog owners you know to hopefully prevent their dog from becoming a statistic like Goldie. We are even more heartbroken now knowing her death was preventable. Please share her story so that something positive may come of it and create awareness of toxic plants. Our own vet had no idea this was a toxic plant!!



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 your think of it!

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

Your Nanaimo Pet Services Team