



"Your Local Pet Specialist!"

250-758-3908



August 2014 Edition



Obedience



Grooming



AGILITY

WELCOME TO OUR AUGUST 2014 ISSUE



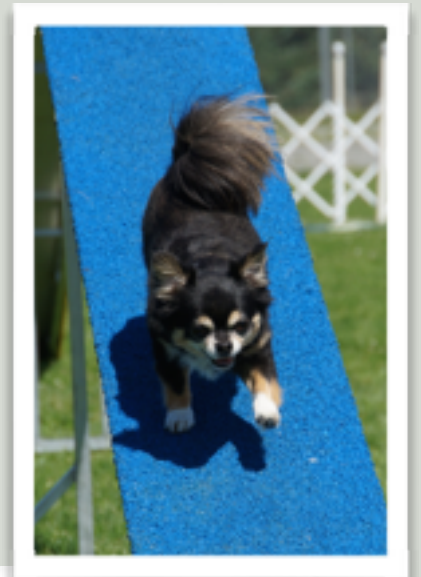
Play skool is "cool"!

In our newsletter this month:

- V.I.E.X. demo pictures
- Trick training, can your dog catch?
- Pepper runs for "Gold" at V.I.E.X.
- Play Skool report
- Raw food corner
- Helping your dog being a better companion
- Grooming for the season
- and the winners this month are???
- events 2014 and 2015

V.I.E.X. DAYS

AUGUST AGILITY DEMO BY D.A.W.G.



Trick training: can your dog catch?

Many dogs do not have the skills to catch an object or a treat, however, it is a great skill to have in training and one of our dogs most favorite games!

When working with your dog it is great if you can toss a reward to him while working at a distance, or if you do not want slobber on your hands, or just as a nice trick to show off your dog's excellent coordination to friends!

Here is how you get started: you need:

1. hungry dog,
2. Lightweight and highly visible treat such as popcorn or very small pieces of cooked chicken or toast.



Ask your dog to sit in front of you, looking up while you tease the dog with one of your treats, bringing it to his nose and then gently moving it up higher by about 2 inches.

Once your dog is keenly following the treat, and maybe would like to grab it, drop the treat directly in his mouth from about 1 inch distance. It will be a straight drop into and almost open mouth, this is your dogs first "catch". If your dogs has no interest in the treats, find better treats, or wait until the dog is hungry later in the day!

No worries if your first attempts end up with the treats on the ground. For now, as long as your dog made an attempt, he can pick it up!

From the 1 inch successful straight catch drop, your can gradually increase distance to about 10 inch drop over several sessions, still making sure the drop is straight and not curved!

Once your dog reliably catches, it will be the right time to add a small curve to your toss.

Peppers versus Verge for “gold” at the V.I.E.X.

click on the image to see the youtube video



Recent “Open House” at Nanaimo Pet Services



Play Skool report

by Stephanie Hunt

Stephanie, our PlaySkool instructor writes:

What a fun time we have been having at PlaySkool! In the last few weeks we have welcomed many new faces into our program. Some are eager and playful while others are graduates from our control unleashed class.

It is extremely rewarding to see that our various control unleashed graduate dogs have been able to develop more confidence around our other happy and playful guest dogs and around people, and are slowly but certainly learning how to play!

PlaySkool is a perfect place for shy or scared dogs to learn to trust and for more rambunctious dog to learn more self-control! The various Play groups are carefully matched and selected for compatibility in age, size and temperament!

We take each training step and each game with our PlaySkool guests nice and slow with appropriate play and relaxation exercises throughout the day for optimum learning opportunities!.

Our Special programs:

Mondays and Thursday's are our **Agility and Fitness** days!

Our main training focus is on each Agility obstacle individually to help build confidence and body strength. We let the dogs tell us the pace they are comfortable with. Some see our wobble board as a tiny teeter and jump right on ready to rock it back and forth. While others take some time and patience to get the confidence to put a paw on it staying steady.

Tunnels are always a favourite!

All the agility exercises offer lots of mental stimulation and help build muscle and toning for all breeds and ages of dogs.

Tuesday & Friday's are our **Trick Training** days!

Some tricks can be simple and practical such as hand targeting, others can be more challenging like leg weaving or rolling over. We exclusively use positive reinforcement while teaching all special programs and this is particularly useful in teaching tricks,. The dogs gladly give us their undivided attention and offer full efforts to perform! Positively Shaping, Luring or Capturing dogs into desired behaviour and then rewarding, the program gives great results!

Wednesday's are our **Scent Games** day! We encourage and help teach the dogs how to use their nose and their natural ability to scent out hidden treats and toys! The treats or favourite toy can be hidden under a box, or on top of it or under a blanket, maybe just around the corner, who knows!

Beside the special programs, we set aside time every day to practise Obedience, Impulse Control, and DAWG Good Manners.

We currently have a few spots open in PlaySkool, Maybe you and your dog would benefit from the programs offered?

If you are interested in signing your dog or pup up for PlaySkool, contact us today to book a consultation!

Stephanie and Chris will welcome your dog with open arms and will work with you to achieve your dog's happiness, fitness and training goals!

Raw food corner



from the desk of the food hound!

our store has been selling the [Mountain Dog](#) raw food for your pets for quite some years now. We are happy to let you know that we are now also a supplier of [Pet Lovers Choice](#), an Island company providing quality meats for you pets.

Starting September, you will be able to place your orders directly through our 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:

September 20 / 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:

<http://www.nanaimopetservices.com/#!/contact-us/cscq>

Helping your dog to be a better companion

Is your dog suffering from a mild or moderate form separation anxiety?

Does he start pacing or worrying or jumping up on you when you get ready to leave? Does he whine and bark or become destructive in your absence? Maybe he will soil in the house?



There are many ways to help your dog remain calm and be comfortable while you are away for a short period of time.

Treating separation anxiety requires us to break the cycle of anxiety. Every time a dog with separation anxiety becomes anxious when its owner leaves, the distress he feels is reinforced until he becomes frantic every time he is left alone.

The first step is identifying the triggers that alert your dog to your impending departure. Maybe you have a routine where you put the coffee cups away, or brush your hair, or put on those special shoes.

Make a list over one week's time and then start adding those triggers into your daily life, without actually leaving!! Try something like; picking up your keys, and then go sit down to read a book, or picking up your purse and then going to take a shower! Once your dog realizes that the usual triggers are no longer always followed by you leaving, he will start to relax more.

Of course you will still have to leave the house from time to time. Consider leaving 5 minutes early, only to return after 20 seconds, go back out, then come back in after 50 seconds, followed for instance by you sitting down for 1 minute, leave again and come back in once more, but making sure to **totally ignore** your dog every time you walk back in the house!! The normal routine is totally broken up, your dog will be able to start a new habit of ignoring or at least being calmer about you leaving the house! Many repetitions and variations to that theme will help your dog.

Just before you start such a training session, place a nice big bone or a "frozen" Kong toy filled with a mixture or your dog's food soaked in water, and give that to your dog in his kennel or his usual resting area. This will help to get his focus off of your departure and onto good and rewarding things!

There is a training method called: 'the relaxation protocol', where we ask nothing of the dog but to remain calm, while we perform simple tasks such as waiting for 5 seconds, clapping your hands, taking a step to the left and right etc. Each small segment will be followed by a reward delivered to your dog, this is usually a treat or food reward, since that tends to make a dog calmer and usually has high value. This protocol is very detailed and outlined in 14 day program and does absolutely wonders for reducing your dog's separation angst!

A good alternative for your dog may be PlaySkool, where we will work with your dog to gain confidence and calmness while you are away from him.

Want to learn more?

Contact Bernadette for a behaviour consultation or information.

Doggie humour

Doggy Dictionary

LEASH: A strap that attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your person where you want him/her to go.

DOG BED: Any soft, clean surface, such as the white bedspread in the guest room or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.

DROOL: A liquid that, when combined with sad eyes, forces humans to give you their food. To do this properly you must sit as close as you can and get drool on the human.

SMELL: A social custom used to greet other dogs, similar to the human exchange of business cards.

GARBAGE CAN: A container which your neighbors put out once a week to test your ingenuity. You must stand on your hind legs and try to push the lid off with your nose. If you do it right you are rewarded with margarine wrappers to shred, beef bones to consume and moldy crusts of bread.

BICYCLES: Two-wheeled exercise machines, invented for dogs to control body fat. To get maximum aerobic benefit, you must hide behind a bush and dash out, bark loudly and run alongside for a few yards. The person then swerves and falls into the bushes, and you prance away.

DEAFNESS: This is a malady which affects dogs when their person wants them in and they want to stay out. Symptoms include staring blankly at the person, then running in the opposite direction or lying down.

THUNDER: This is a signal that the world is coming to an end. Humans remain amazingly calm during thunderstorms, so it is necessary to warn them of the danger by trembling uncontrollably, panting, rolling your eyes wildly and following at their heels.

WASTEBASKET: This is a dog toy filled with paper, envelopes and old candy wrappers. It is important to evenly distribute its contents throughout the house before your person comes home.

BATH: If you find something especially good to roll in, humans get jealous and they use this degrading form of torture to get even. Be sure to shake only when next to a person or a piece of furniture.

LEAN: Every good dog's response to the command "sit!" especially if your person is dressed for an evening out. Incredibly effective before black-tie events.

BUMP: The best way to get your human's attention when they are drinking a fresh cup of coffee or tea.

GOOSE BUMP: A maneuver to use as a last resort when the regular bump doesn't get the attention you require...especially effective when combined with the sniff. See above.

CHILDREN: Short humans of optimal petting height. Standing close to one assures some good petting. When running, they are good to chase. If they fall down, they are comfortable to sit on.

LOVE: A feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction. The best way you can show your love is to wag your tail. If you're lucky, a human will love you in return.

Grooming for the season

If your pet a puppy, teenager, adult, middle aged or senior? They all benefit from regular grooming session!

Home grooming in between visits to the Grooming salon is very important!

You could be the first person to notice something is different or wrong with your pet. Unfortunately many households are so busy that often a weekly scheduled home grooming session with Fido dog or Fifi cat is easily overlooked.

That 5 minute session, where you brush and comb your pets hair, check the ears for excess wax build up, look at the nails and check the teeth can save you hundreds of dollars on vet bills and prevent great discomfort for your beloved pet.

For cats we recommend you use a stainless steel comb just like this:

The trick is to insert the comb and make short strokes with the lay of the hair and ensuring the tines of the comb are all the way down to the skin.



If you have a short haired cat, a furminator tool can be useful removing any loose hair, or you can use a latex dishwashing glove and stroke your cat with the lay of the air.

A slicker brush can be useful, but always make sure the tangles and mats are removed first.

For longer haired dogs, a good once-a-week brushing with slicker brush and stainless steel comb will help you find tangles and knots or grass seeds and burrs.



cont'd from page 7

Particularly this time a year we see a lot of spear grass seeds firmly imbedded in the dogs skin. This can lead to serious infections. If not spotted and treated in the early stages, this will require veterinary attention and possibly surgery.

Burrs are another problem that can lead to discomfort. Once they are gripping on to the hair they quickly become big wads and massive mats that may be hard to comb out and may have to be removed by clipping the hair. If not done promptly, the skin underneath could get very irritated and possibly infected.

Hot spots are a serious problem for some dogs. If I knew the exact cause of a hot spot, I would be a multi-millionaire! Unfortunately, there are so many variables that it is impossible to predict and often impossible to prevent a hot spot from forming.

These hot spots start with a small area that feels very hot to the touch, and quickly the dog will start licking or chewing the spot to get some relief, that will lead to further irritation and sometimes infections where the skin will ooze and feel burning hot to the touch.

Clipping the hair down and starting treatment immediately is crucial to stop this often very painful problem.

Your Nanaimo pet Services Groom team is always available to assist you in taking care of your Dog and Cat's grooming needs!



And the winners are:

Grooming Package (value of \$55.00)

Rena Ruttan & Dizzy

Session of Training Classes (value of \$130.00)

Janine Stokoe

1 Full days of Play Skool (value \$36.75)

Mr. & Mrs. Dieno & Eddie



Up and coming events at Nanaimo Pet Services

2014

October 24, 2014–5:30pm start

Registration on site from 5pm on

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

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



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

Regionals Practice
Friday April 24

Regionals Practice
Friday May 1

Regionals Practice
Friday May 8

Regionals Practice

Friday May 15

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

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)

Nationals Practice
Friday July 24

Nationals Practice
Friday July 31

Nationals Practice
Friday August 7

Nationals Practice
Friday August 14

AAC 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

Basic manners that every dog should know.

1. Go to bed
2. Sit politely to meet people
3. Wait at the door
4. Walk politely on loose leash
5. Pay attention

If you are having trouble with any of these you may want to consider taking our Canine Good Neighbour Classes!

Basic manners that every owner should know.

1. Ask if your dog can meet the other dog
2. Keep your dog with you when out walking
3. If you bring it out for a walk, it should come home with you or be disposed of properly.
4. When your dog does something you don't like, you are at fault also (dog chewed shoe, owner left shoe available).
5. In order for your dog to succeed you must be prepared!



Cat humour

Why don't cats play poker in the jungle? Too many cheetahs.
What is a cat's way of keeping law & order? Claw Enforcement.
Did you hear about the cat who swallowed a ball of wool? She had mittens.
What do you call the cat that was caught by the police? The purrpatrator.
Why is the cat so grouchy? Because he's in a bad mewd.
What do cats like to eat for breakfast? Mice Krispies.
Where is one place that your cat can sit, but you can't? Your lap.
Why did the cat run from the tree? Because it was afraid of the bark!
How many cats can you put into an empty box? Only one. After that, the box isn't empty.
How do cats end a fight? They hiss and make up.
What does a cat like to eat on a hot day? A mice cream cone.
If lights run on electricity and cars run on gas, what do cats run on? Their paws.
What do you call a cat that lives in an igloo? An eskimew!
Did you hear about the cat who drank 5 bowls of water? He set a new lap record.
Did you hear about the cat who swallowed a ball of wool? She had mittens.
What is the difference between a cat and a comma? One has the paws before the claws and the other has the clause before the pause.
What do you get when you cross a chick with an alley cat? A peeping tom.
What is a cat's favourite song? Three Blind Mice.
How did a cat take first prize at the bird show? He just jumped up to the cage, reached in, and took it.
Why did a person with an un-spayed female cat have to go to court? For kitty littering.
Why are cats better than babies? Because you only have to change a litter box once a day.
What is the name of the unauthorized autobiography of the cat? Hiss and Tell.
What is a moggy's favourite colour? Purrrrrrrple!
What do you use to comb a cat? A catacomb.
Why is it so hard for a leopard to hide? Because he's always spotted.
Cats are like potato chips. You can never have just one.
I got rid of my husband. The cat was allergic.
For a man to truly understand rejection, he must first be ignored by a cat.





and another issue in your “mailbox”!
Let us know what your think of it!
nanaimopetservices@gmail.com

Your Nanaimo Pet Services Team