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CALLING ALL RESCUES!



There's still time to enter the **Rescued Pet Calendar Contest for Pets Without Parents!**

Here's what you need to do:

- Email a high resolution picture (the higher, the better) of your rescued pet (dogs and cats only) to pwp1@columbus.rr.com.
- Include your name, email address, where he/she came from, and a very brief statement about him/her.
- Tell all of your family and friends to vote for your pet. Voting started Aug 1st, and each vote costs only \$1! Pics are posted at http://www.petswithoutparents.net/calendar_contest.html

Check out the pets already entered!

- Voting ends October 1, 2009!

Teaching an Old Dog New (Potty) Tricks

I recently adopted an older dog named Matilda. She was a scared little bag-o-bones (with 6 pups in tow) who, like many saved from the pound, had some issues. One in particular, was not being potty trained. Some older rescue dogs may have at some point learned this behavior, and it will just be a matter of "retraining" them. Most of them are traumatized and are in a transition state from their home - to the mean streets - to the shelter, etc. Mattie on the other hand, was a "start from scratch" project - because any home she may have had, was not a pleasant one, and I don't think she ever made it "inside". So, this piece serves a dual purpose - the healthy state of my carpet and my mind, as well as your education/enjoyment!

First and foremost, to teach any "patterned behavior" you must be **patient, understanding, and consistent!** Teaching a behavior is what we are doing - we are the ones that require dogs to learn acceptable potty behaviors by our own perceptions and demands... "don't potty in the house" seems simple to us. Dogs on the other hand need to learn that one place is acceptable, and one place is not - as determined by us. Many dog owners have experienced potty training a puppy - small bladders, no clue... and they know that they should take them outside OFTEN, and try to create a routine as much as possible. Older dogs are no different. Dogs LOVE routine - they want it - they need it! It makes them feel safe and content - not much different from their owners, really. With puppies, the times when you can be sure that "its coming"... after drinking (10 min.) or eating (30-40 min.), during play (10 min), as soon as they wake up from a nap or night time (hurry - may even want to carry them). The only difference when it comes to older dogs - is the size of their bladder. Playtime potties may be less frequent, and you won't have to carry them from sleepy time, but don't dilly - dally (I learned this one the hard way).



Teaching any "patterned behavior" takes time, so hunker down for the long haul! We discussed the consistency part, which is really the easiest. Now comes the "patience" and "understanding" ... which can be a bit tricky. Especially when dealing with an older dog, who may have many issues. Keep this in mind - every part of the success of this adventure is dependent on YOU. No matter how smart your dog is, he/she will never understand the "what & why" behind going outside as opposed to in the house. They are simply pattern trained to a specific behavior - much like any other tricks they may do. Let's think about that - when a dog does a trick, they get praise and if their lucky - a yummy treat. Approach this "trick" in the same way. My neighbors think I am crazy by now, but we have a small celebration every time Mattie potties in the yard. She loves it - and it shows in her strut back to the deck every time. My Mattie, like most dogs - wants to please. Potty + outside = party (wahoo!) Easy enough, assuming your neighbors already like you. Now, potty + inside = @#%\$#@!! (drat)... much harder to handle. This is very important - if you **DO NOT** catch them in the act - **DO NOT SCOLD THEM** (patience and understanding, remember?) I made this mistake with Mattie at first, because I had not started my potty research! I had always been told to take the dog/puppy back to the crime scene, show them, and scold them - then take them outside to potty. This messed Mattie up big time, and now it makes perfect sense to me. She was doing what comes naturally - she had to go, and she did. I am the one that dropped the ball - by putting her in a situation to fail - waiting too long, missing her walking by the door, etc. Instead, when you find the spot - clean it up as quickly as possible (quietly), but do not scold them. By scolding her, and then putting her outside - she became afraid of the backyard - especially the grass. Then, she began hiding her "mistakes" in the house - going in closets, etc - no where near the door. Makes sense, doesn't it? Historically, after we get in trouble - we are placed somewhere that is bad, from the chair in the corner, to the principal's office, to prison. Who would willingly go back to those places by themselves - the next time they had to potty, or ever? Now, if you happen to catch them in the act, or walking away - **DO SCOLD THEM**, but then when you take them quickly outside - be happy and excited. "Let's potty outside, its fun - Wahoo!" This way they get the "inside-bad/outside-good" scenario. This is harder than it sounds - first, to not scold, and then to be mad, scold - and then be positive. Tough, but doable, because like my Mattie, they need someone to finally care enough not to give up on them.

Mattie and I are proof that you **can** teach an old dog new tricks. As you can see from the picture above, she is doing very well, and after 6 weeks of pottying only in the front yard and a lot of "wahoos", we are finally back to going out back and playing with her sisters and her beloved tennis ball in the grass! I, on the other hand, still drop the ball every now and then - but I'm learning!

~ Laura Reding, Editor

(source: Come, Sit, Stay... Canine Etiquette, by: Deb Duncan 2006, & Mattie, of course)

Back to school... but don't forget about dog-time!

- **Thurs, September 10th - Pooches on the Patio - 5pm - 8pm**
@ the Clintonville Panera Bread - 4519 N. High St, join **WNCI** and sample **NEW** bagels, brownies, and blondies! Benefits **Pets Without Parents Animal Shelter**
- **Friday, September 11th - Wine, Jewelry & Shelties! - 6pm - 9pm**
Join **Central Ohio Sheltie Rescue at Wyandotte Winery** - 4640 Wyandotte Dr., Cols, 43230
Enjoy fine wine, browse the **Lia Sophia** jewelry collection - with 30% of sales benefitting **COSRI**
- **Saturday, September 19th - Pedal for Pets - Reg opens @ 7:30am**
Join us @ **3765 Corporate Dr, Westerville** for a fun day of riding! Adults \$25, Children \$10
For race info, start times and registration go to www.pedalforpets.com, benefitting **CHA**
- **Sunday, September 27th - Friends FurEver - 10am - 6pm**
Road Trip to Pawsitive Energy! 15649 Myers Rd, Marysville for a day of celebrating the Human/Animal bond - what's not to love about that! Canine SAT test, adoptable, vendors, food and more!
For more event info, check out www.pawsitiveenergy.com, benefitting "SNIPs" rescue group

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- ½ cup finely chopped celery
- ½ cup finely chopped carrots
- ½ cup finely chopped green pepper

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix hot water, oil and bouillon. Add flour, cornmeal, and veggies. Mix well. Knead dough on floured surface for a minute or two. Roll out to ¼" thick. Cut into shapes. Place on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake for 30 minutes.

Makes 3-4 dozen

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(For those pups who enjoy softer treats, bake for only 20 minutes)

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ROCCO'S RANTS...



Did you know that there is a nerve connected to every hair in a cat's coat? So, when you pet a cat, or they rub up against you - they are really feeling the "love"! It has even been proven that by stroking us, it actually decreases our heart rate! Pretty cool! Rumor has it, it slows yours down too! So people... relax and stroke a cat today!

(source: kibblekat.com)

PAWSOOTHINK

Happy Tails...

I met Rhino at your shelter in January. You guys called him 'Max' but I had to change his name due to Disney's movie 'Bolt', because HE'S AWESOME! I have never owned a dog before, and you took care of all of my questions and he turned out to be Perfect for me. You gave him to me housebroken, and he has Never had an accident in my house - NEVER! I love how he's always hyper and happy to see me when I get home. We go to the dog park all the time where Rhino walks around like the Mayor - he greets everyone when they first come in, plays with everyone, and every once in a while comes back to check on me. I was able to train him to only chew on his toys using the green apple spray, so now he can roam the house when I am at work, but he still escapes to his crate for a private nap every once-in-a-while. He is very smart! He learns new tricks almost every day! The best part of having Rhino join my family is that he loves to play with my 2 kitties. He knows how to play 'gently' with them, but for some reason he always tries to sit on them - I think he thinks he's cuddling! His favorite toy is his baby blanket with a frog's head, and his favorite treat is the big bone with the brown stuff in the middle - and if he's extra good, I give him one with frozen peanut butter - mmmm! I even took him on a road trip to NYC - he was sooo good! As long as the window was open, he was in heaven - except for the couple of times when a bug flew into his mouth! Overall, Rhino is the happiest dog I've ever met and I am the happiest 'parent' - thank you so much for introducing us!



More Play & Fewer Band-Aids®!

All kittens and young cats need to play. Play is normal behavior that provides young animals with opportunities to develop their physical coordination and problem-solving skills. It also gives them a chance to hone their social skills with members of their own species. It's very common for kittens and young cats to engage in rough, active play because all feline play consists of mock aggression. Cats stalk, chase, pounce, swat, kick, scratch and bite each other - all in good fun. Sounds like my brother and !! However, people often misinterpret this kind of behavior as aggression when it's directed toward them.

Cats display two different types of play behavior: solitary play and social play. They direct solitary play toward objects, like toys, paper bags, boxes and scrunched-up paper balls. Social play is directed toward fellow cats, people or other animals. Unfortunately, problems can sometimes arise when feline play is directed toward people. Despite the playful intentions of a cat, he can cause injury to his human playmates. Cat scratches and bites are painful and can easily become infected.

True aggression is most likely to occur in cats who are easily frightened or when they react to the sight, sound or scent of another cat outdoors. If you live with a cat who's under one year of age and you're his only playmate, it's likely that he's playing roughly with you rather than actually behaving aggressively. It might help to observe your cat's body language. Two behaviors that cats frequently display when playing are the "play face," where a cat holds his mouth half open, and the sideways pounce or hop, which a cat often

does with his back arched. Cats also tend to play quietly. During aggressive encounters, however, they often growl, hiss and spit.

We recommend that cats always be adopted in pairs if possible - because of their need to play! So, when that is not the case, and you are the playmate, how can you reduce Fluffy's rough play behavior? Provide a variety of toys for your cat to investigate - things they can stalk, things they can "bat" - even paper bags for them to hide inside. Remember to remove any cords or handles, because they could get caught or choke themselves. Do not encourage your cat to play with your hands, feet, etc. It may be fun when they are little - but as they grow, so does their strength and claws! If they do get rough, instantly give them a "time out", and end the game by leaving the room. Don't attempt to pick up your cat and put him in another room for the time-out as this could provoke more bites. If he likes to "ambush" your legs as you go by, keep a toy or crumpled paper in your pocket - and throw it out in front of you. This will redirect his play towards the toy, and away from your ankles! NEVER physically punish your cat for rough play. If you hit or slap your cat, he may perceive your actions as play and become even rougher. Alternatively, he might become fearful of your hands and respond by avoiding you or changing from play to real aggression.

It may take a bit of time and effort, but in the end, "playtime" will be much more fun for both of you, and you'll need fewer Band-Aids®!

(source: aspcbehavior.org)



Preparing For "Baby Makes 4" ...

No matter how much you plan ahead, the addition of a new family may be difficult for your pet. Remember, your dog or cat was your first "baby" and is used to being the center of your attention. She may experience something similar to "sibling rivalry" - much like adding a second child to the mix. Its best to start working with her **before** you bring Junior home. Gradually accustom your pet to spending a little less time with you. The drastic change **after** the baby comes will be very stressful for them. So, if Mom is the parent who spends the most time with your pet - Dad needs to step up - and increase his contact time, so your pup can still feel loved when Mom is busy with Junior.

A few tips: First, spay or neuter - this is proven to make your pets calmer and less likely to bite! If they jump on your lap without an invite, start working on using a command for this behavior - soon there will be a baby there. Invite friends with children/infants over - a new, small, noisy thing in their space will be a good test (*closely supervised, of course*). Finally, bring out the infant swing, rattles, stroller, play recordings of crying babies, use the rocking chair, etc... and follow this up with treats or playtime - to make it a positive experience. You can even carry around a baby doll, or sprinkle baby powder and oil on your skin - so they get used to your new scent!

Good luck until next month... "When Baby Makes 4" - stay tuned!

(source: petsforlife.org)

Joy does not just happen to us. We have to choose joy & choose it everyday.

~Henri Nouwen



IZZY SEZ...

As most of us know, dogs (and cats, I guess) need to stay busy and engaged. Unfortunately, unlike myself, most pets are unemployed - they sit at home, chronically bored, waiting for their humans to return from work. And as we all know, an idle pet can quickly turn into a naughty pet when restlessness becomes overwhelming. Healthy adult dogs need at least 30 minutes of aerobic exercise twice a day. Walking, jogging, swimming, and playing at a local dog park are all great ways to burn excess energy. Don't have a park near you? Try some games, like fetch, and tug-of-war - they're not only great exercise but also teach your pet impulse control and strengthen the bond between you. Personally, I don't care what my mom and I do, I just love to be active, and be with her. She always says, "a tired dog is a good dog"! So, get your pups good and tired this month!

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