



The Fire Hydrant

Welcome to the April 2012 issue of The Fire Hydrant, brought to you by Mutts With Manners! We will help you have a more pawisitive relationship with your dog, based on mutual trust and respect.

Well the first quarter has now ended and Spring is finally here. Our dogs are chomping at the bit to get out and burn some energy after the chilly winter! Hopefully you were able to include them in your weekend festivities for Easter.

Bark in the Park is quickly approaching. Don't forget to submit your dog in the 2nd Annual Galveston Island Dog Show (www.galvestonislanddogshow.com). There will be lots of events for you and your dog to participate in, dog demonstrations from our local flyball team, agility, trick and costume contests, and more! WANT TO BE A FRIEND OF THE DOG SHOW? Contact: Allison Schoenvogel at 409.771.1747 or email her at allisonschoenvogel@gmail.com.

It is free to come walk around, only \$10 to enter your dog in the dog show and just \$75 to be a sponsor. Mutts With Manners is proud to be a sponsor as "a friend of the dog show". You too can have your name and/or company name printed in the program and on the website. All proceeds of this event will benefit the Galveston Island Humane Society. Last year we raised over \$12,000 for GIHS! Help us make this year even bigger! Also, anyone interested in volunteering in any way can contact Alison at the above information.

Don't forget to keep reading for the "Whale Done" and "Training Tip" of the Quarter!

If you are on Facebook, like our page today at: www.facebook.com/muttswithmannerstx. We have more training tips and other helpful information in our Notes section, keep it up to date on our events, and more!

DATES TO REMEMBER

28 April (Saturday)

2nd Annual Galveston Island Dog Show-A Bark In The Park, 10-4pm: Come join us as we help kick off the second annual Galveston Island Dog Show-A Bark In The Park! It will be a really good time for your entire family! Enter your dog in one of the many breed, mutt, and rescue categories! There is even a

senior category! Go to www.galvestonislanddogshow.com for more information or call or email Allison Shoenvogel at 409.771.1747 allisonachoenvogel@gmail.com .

Wild About Wine at The Aquarium at Moody Gardens, 7-10pm: Dog days and wild nights! If you love animals and wine, you do not want to miss this event! It is the 7th annual Wild About Wine, and just like wine, these events get better and better as the years go on. This year all proceeds will benefit bats, specifically the [Lubee Bat Conservancy](#) and [Bat Conservation International](#). There is a new food and wine pairing seminar on Friday night, 27 April. Hotel packages are also available. Visit www.gcaazk.org for more information or contact Heather Leeson at 409.354.3327 or heather@muttswithmanners.com .

2 June (Saturday)

Pet Partners Evaluations: To sign up for the evaluation or to get more information about getting evaluated and what it takes to be a therapy dog, call Trelle Dandridge and she will put you in touch with the evaluators. This is a great, low impact way to get involved with your community and your dog. It can be very rewarding for you and your dog to do something together. Depending on how you test, you and your dog could go visit people in the hospitals, children in children's hospitals, nursing homes, or rehabilitation centers. Contact Trelle at 281.685.7601 or trelle@muttswithmanners.com. More information about therapy dogs can also be found at www.deltasociety.org.

3 June (Sunday)

Basic Obedience Class, 5-6pm

Socialization, 6-7pm

Intermediate Obedience Class, 7-8pm

Come and join the fun this summer! Whether you and your dog need the basics or you just need some extra "oomph" in the intermediate class, Mutts with Manners has designed these classes to cover all of your training concerns and then some! We are the only trainers in the area that will continue to be there for you even after you complete our class. We offer one free hour of problem solving for the life of your dog when you complete one of our group obedience classes. Our socialization classes are loads of fun as well. Dogs love to romp and play with each other to burn off that extra energy and we have two pools we keep filled up with water so they can cool off when needed, along with shady areas.

Contact us if you are interested in either of these classes at 281.685.7601 or trelle@muttswithmanners.com

15 July (Sunday)

Basic Obedience 5-6pm
Socialization 6-7pm
Intro to Agility 7-8pm

Intro to Agility is also a 6 week class to introduce your dog to agility equipment. This is a class for people who think they may be interested in agility or just want to have fun with their dogs in a structured manner. Contact us if you are interested in either of these classes at 281.685.7601 or trelle@muttswithmanners.com

Did You Know?

Free Eye Examinations for Service Dogs

The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists and Merial cordially invite your service animal to receive a complimentary, no-strings-attached, eye examination screening conducted by a board certified veterinary ophthalmologist. Ophthalmologists participating in the 5th annual "ACVO/Merial National Service Dog Eye Examination" event will donate their time to provide free examinations across the US and Canada during the Month of May, 2012. [Check here to see if your service animal qualifies.](#) Registration begins April 1st and promptly ends April 30th. Exam appointments will occur during the month of May and at the discretion of each participating clinic. For more information or to see if a doctor is participating in your area visit the website, www.ACVOeyeexam.org and consider ['Liking' the event on Facebook.](#)

Whale Done!

We'd like to recognize owners and their dogs that have done a great job with something. Whether it's a major milestone or a baby step, positive reinforcement fuels us to keep up the hard work! Keep sending us feedback; we love to hear from you!

Whale Done Mary Ellen and K9 Toto for making it through "puppyhood". Little Toto had many issues as a pup and with Mary Ellen's dedication and patience, Toto is now a well mannered adult. Whale Done!



Whale Done to Becky and K9 Shasta for slowly and positively applying skills to build confidence. We thank you for your updates and are thrilled to hear of the progress you both make. Baby steps do work!

Training Tips

101 Things To Socialize To
By Trelle Dandridge
www.muttswithmanners.com

First of all it would be helpful to define what we mean by socialization. This does not just mean tossing a bunch of dogs in a yard and letting them play. All that means is that all of these dogs get along and understand the rules they have set for each other, AND they abide by them. When these rules get violated is when owners see aggressive outbursts towards each other. This can stop and just be a bunch of noise, or can lead to something more serious. So, what is "socialization" anyways? Introducing and familiarizing a canine to new experiences - including people, places, objects, other animals - in ways that help the dog learn how to respond to and interact with these experiences appropriately and without fear. The puppy's brain is most inclined to accept new stimuli from 4-12 weeks of age. This period is often referred to as the critical period of socialization. Beginning the socialization process after 14 weeks has been shown to significantly impact the dog's ability to adapt to new and novel stimuli. It IS possible to socialize an adult dog, it just takes longer, mostly due to the counter conditioning that has to be done to reduce anything the dog has interpreted as something fearful, or threatening. With saying this, it is far better to prevent, rather than rehabilitate. So, if you have the opportunity to socialize during the critical period, do it and take advantage of it. You and your puppy will be glad you did!

Things to keep in mind:

1. Plan these socialization experiences to people, animals, places, events, objects, noises, and situations when you can do it in a controlled manner. They should always be positive experiences, and should increase in level of difficulty slowly, and you should always have control over the experience.
2. It is our job as animal caregivers to protect them, and make sure they know we can and will protect them. If your dog is frightened by something or someone and begins hiding behind you or adopting a fear-aggressive posture and/or growl, it is your responsibility to correct the person, situation, or stimuli so the dog learns he can trust you to protect him. This goes back to controlling the experience, always making it positive, and taking it slow.
3. Keep it healthy. Make sure the places you are taking your dog are places where the animals are not sickly and/or are current on their vaccinations. Keep your own puppy's vaccinations in mind as well.
4. Interact with your dogs at home. They are social animals who need social structure. Interact with your canine and never isolate them. This will only lead to problems in the future. Place their crate and play pens in areas of the home with the most traffic. They should get used to the dynamics of the home environment, both visual and auditory. Companionship really IS vital to your dog's emotional health and well being. Your dog should never be teased, tormented, agitated, or harassed by other dogs or people and children should ALWAYS be supervised. You are setting your child and your dog up for utter failure if you leave them alone together. It is absolutely not fair to set your dog up for failure and put them in situations where they may be prompted to use their teeth.
5. Carefully select who will be caring for your dog/puppy in the event that you need to be gone. They should be someone you trust to take care of your dog/puppy and should abide by your instruction if you are in the middle of socializing your dog/puppy. It only takes seconds to install fear into a canine but can take years to uninstall it.

6. Play groups between dogs should begin small and slowly get bigger. Bullies should be removed in a time out fashion for a couple of minutes (no more than two) and never physically reprimanded or verbally scolded. In this situation, don't use the ole "they will work it out" adage. Rough and rowdy play is fine, as long as both dogs are having fun. Intervention may be needed if it gets out of hand, or one of the dogs appears fearful or aggressive. Keep hormones out of the equation by spaying and neutering at appropriate ages deemed by your vet. Hormones (as we can all remember) confuse and cloud situations.

7. Dogs and puppies should not have to be expected to tolerate ears and tails being pulled, yelling, hitting, fur being pulled, etc. Instead we should teach children how to appropriately interact with animals, explaining that they are not toys, they should be touched nicely or gently, and never picked up.

8. Keep the interactions positive by using praise, tactile interaction, and food to reward when the dog has behaved in a confident and acceptable manner.

9. Keep your dog on a leash, and practice meeting other dogs on leashes with other puppies and/or dogs you know and trust to act appropriately. Keep the leash loose, and make sure you are aware of what is happening on your end of the leash.

10. Register for an obedience class. Group classes (especially puppy kindergarten or puppy basics) can help during the socialization process. Any reputable trainer will allow you to observe a class before registering. This will allow you to see how the trainer interacts with dogs and people, and if/when two dogs do not get along. The classes should always be positive reinforcement based.

So, what kinds of things should dogs be socialized to? Below is a list. A game we like to encourage puppy owners to play is 100 things in 100 days. Make a list of things ahead of time so you can check them off day by day. Here are some ideas to get you started and to get your creative juices flowing!

1) Other Dogs

- small dogs
- big dogs
- Giant dogs
- dogs whose coats typically cover their eyes

2) Other animals the dogs will be expected to live with

- cats
- ferrets
- fish
- birds
- horses, cows, chickens, and other farm and ranch animals

3) Children of all ages, but especially under the age of 7

- children in costumes
- groups of children

4) People

- strangers (invite one or two strangers over to your house a couple times a week and have them hand feed your dog their dinner, this has nothing to do with personal protection, more on that in another tip)
- women (typically not a problem but should be accounted for)
- men (with and without beards and facial hair, long and short hair, with and without hats, sunglasses)
- people in general with and without hats and sunglasses, different races of people other than yourself, with and without canes, crutches, wheelchairs, umbrellas, bikes, motorcycles, scooters, skateboards, roller blades/ skates, etc.

-firemen, police officers, mail men, Fed Ex, UPS (They will thank you! Dogs can be aggressive only towards people in uniforms)

5) Different clothing

-Mimes, clowns, and other people in costumes

6) Trucks, big trucks, especially moving ones, or trucks passing by on a walk

7) Walks

-vary the routines, patterns, times of day, and people encountered

-include dog parks, child parks, and busy city streets like The Strand in Galveston. Keep in mind that you should stay on the outside of these parks and while the puppy is still young. If you take him to busy city streets, start with a dead time of day, working toward your favorite pub.

What are some items that are left off of this list? Go ahead, get creative! Use the Facebook link below to post anything you can think of that should be on your list of things to socialize to. Don't be shy and fearful, post away! www.facebook.com/muttswithmannerstx

Shelter Spotlight

Meet Bailey, a true lab. This big boy is ~4 years old and loves to play fetch more than anything. He is currently living at the Galveston Island Humane Society and would love to live with someone who has either an active lifestyle or another dog that would like a playmate. We have some video clips of his wonderful personality and playing fetch with his favorite ball. We have done some training with him too- he's an excellent off leash dog and has a terrific recall. If you'd like to see him in action just let us know or stop by GIHS for a personal meet and greet.



Until next time...Keep it pawsitive!

Trelle and Heather

www.muttswithmanners.com