



The Fire Hydrant

Welcome to the October 2013 issue of The Fire Hydrant, brought to you by Mutts With Manners! We will help you have a more pawsitive relationship with your dog, based on mutual trust and respect.

Greetings fellow pawsitive friends! We hope that your summer has been great and you and Fido have been able to find creative ways to stay cool and still get outside to play and exercise. We have been undergoing some amazing transitions and plan on sharing them in more detail later in the newsletter. Please check out our current events and class schedule, find out what new additions we have to our family, and other fun changes we have planned.

As always, you can unsubscribe from this publication. Just let us know and we'll remove you from the list. It is only sent out quarterly though, so to stay informed on classes, discounts, and events you and your dog can participate in, stay tuned in.

Classes for 2013

Our upcoming classes for the remainder of 2013 are: Basic Obedience, Intermediate Obedience, Reactive Rover, and Mutt and Mingle. Basic obedience covers sit, down, come, leash walking, stay, off, leave it, and a fun trick. Intermediate obedience covers those basic behaviors in a more distracting environment as well as longer distances for stay and come; also learn how to meet strangers, new dogs, and a variety of novel objects and sounds. You will be prepared to take AKC's Canine Good Citizen test or Pet Partner's Therapy Dog test after this passing this class. Reactive Rover is for the socially inept K9 (stressed and shy or over reactive and vocal) with other dogs but by the end of class most dogs are usually quite comfortable and relaxed around the other dogs. Mutt and Mingle is our K9 playtime and social hour for dogs that play well with others.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mutt & Mingle at Galveston Vet Clinic 6-7pm- Oct 6 and 13

Reactive Rover at Bone Voyage 5:30-6:30pm (4 weeks)- Oct 8, 15, 22, 29

Basic obedience at Bone Voyage 5:30-6:30 (4 weeks)- Oct 9, 16, 23, 30 *LAST Basic Obedience class until January 2014!*

Intermediate Obedience at Galveston Vet Clinic 3-4pm (6 weeks)- Oct 20, 27, Nov 3, 10, 17, 24

Mutt & Mingle at Galveston Vet Clinic 4-5pm (5 weeks)- Oct 20, Nov 3, 10, 17, 24

Reactive Rover at Bone Voyage 5:30-6:30pm (4 weeks)- November 5, 12, 19, 26

Saturday 19 October 9-5pm- Pet Partners Evaluation. Want to volunteer during the evaluation or sign up to take the evaluation? Contact Sherry Kirwin at 409-789-0311 or sherrykirwin@gmail.com.

Sunday 27 October 4-7pm- 1st Annual Bone Voyage Halloween Party and Fair. All proceeds benefiting the Galveston Island Humane Society! We'll be there and hope you will too! www.bonevoyage.net/spooky

Did You Know?

Mutts With Manners is growing and we have you to thank for it! We are excited to announce new additions to our pack. Laura Hafferty is our newest business partner at Mutts With Manners. We also welcome three interns: Brice Knight, Cheyenne Cash, and Bella Oliveres! Read on to find out a little bit more about them.

Laura Hafferty:



When I was a child, my mother was instrumental in developing my love and interest in animals. Growing up we always had a houseful of various critters such as cats, dogs, ducks, parakeets, turtles, and guinea pigs just to name a few. I was always drawn to animals and spent a lot of time not only caring for them but getting to know them and figuring them out. As a registered nurse, the last twenty years of my life have been dedicated to taking care of people. Yet, I began to recognize and could no longer ignore the impact that animals have on our well-being. I have been studying the training of dogs for the last five years and recently I enrolled in Animal Behavior College and graduated as a certified pet dog trainer. After graduating, I began my mentorship with Mutts With Manners. I have been working with them since March of 2013, and recently joined Heather and Trelle as their business partner. I look forward to helping grow Mutts With Manners in the coming years. My family consists of three dogs, Spanky, Darla, Bunny and a talking conure named Rasta. Recently, my dog Darla and I became a registered Pet Partner team!

Brice Knight:

Never have I been without a dog. After working at an animal shelter for about a year and a half I decided that many of the reasons dogs end up abandoned are due to lack of training and information. I enjoy working with the Mutts With Manners team and learning as much as possible. Trelle is my dog training mentor. I am certified through Animal Behavior College and I am currently taking continuing education courses. Reward the dog when it's doing the correct behavior!

Cheyenne Cash:

Cheyenne is a full time student at Texas A&M Galveston. This summer she began an internship with us learning about dog training hands on at the Galveston Island Humane Society. After graduating in May, she hopes to pursue a path with exotic animals.

Bella Oliveres:

Bella also started this summer with Mutts With Manners. She is an enthusiastic 16 year old who is already on her way to learning training methods to use with her rescue dogs. She is constantly rescuing dogs, training them, and re-homing them. She is fine tuning her skills with us during classes and at the Galveston Island Humane Society. Her parents are extremely supportive of her endeavors and we commend them for allowing Bella to pursue her passion!

Whale Done!

We'd like to recognize our agility class K9s Sammy, Izzie, Sam, Oakley, and Lucy. Whale Done to all the owners for teaching your dog some fun (but sometimes scary) new skills all with positive reinforcement!



Training Tips

Looking for a dog trainer? Have you ever wondered what questions to ask? Here are a few suggestions from the Association of Professional Dog Trainers (www.apdt.com) and some further explanation from Mutts With Manners in *italics*.

1) What kind of training programs do you have?

2) What kind of training methods do you use on dogs? Ask specifically if they use negative reinforcement, compulsion or any form of punishment based training methods. Dog trainers who use these methods do not typically advertise them, and they do not use them for marketing either.

Seriously, could you imagine it? "Please bring your dog to me and let me 'train' it for you and return it to

you as a robot". Animals are not robots, just like we are not robots, so they will have good days and bad days and do not deserve to be shocked (or the now PC version "electrical pulse "...same thing), pinched, forced, coerced, or choked into doing anything. Punishment and pain will only cause your dog to do things out of fear of what may happen to them if they don't. Also, these methods can actually make the dog's behavior worse and cause fear and aggression.

3) Ask about their experience, request a resume, what professional organizations do they belong to, who were their mentors, and most importantly, "Can I observe a class, and just drop in?" Any reputable trainer will allow you to just drop in and observe a class or two. Look over their website and their mentor's website. *Good positive reinforcement based trainers are usually affiliated with (but not limited to) APDT, CPDT, IAABC, and mentor trainers such as Jean Donaldson, Karen Pryor, Ian Dunbar, and Nicole Wild.*

4) Is there an age criteria for my dog to enter into training? You can begin training using positive reinforcement with your puppy the day you bring them home. It is never too soon! And never too late for that matter, old dogs love learning new tricks! *If there is a stipulation that your dog must be at least five or six months old to enter training, there is a high likelihood that this trainer is using compulsion or punishment based training methods.*

Be an educated consumer and look out for buzz words like: "Be the pack leader", "pack theory", "alpha", "submission", "dominance", "balanced" (although it is a good word and a good place to be, it is used a lot in describing why dogs behave certain ways and is not descriptive of the behavior or what you actually would rather your dog be doing), " and countless more.

The truth is, dogs are not wolves. There are countless behavioral research studies to back up that dogs and wolves are completely different and even when feral, dogs behave completely differently than wolves do socially.

Ask questions, be informed, and put yourself in your dog's place and ask, "Could I learn in this situation and leave with a healthy mind set and a healthy relationship with my human?" We have to be responsible for and advocate for our dogs. They are counting on us.

Until next time...Keep it pawsitive!

Trelle, Heather, and Laura

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