



# The Fire Hydrant

***Welcome to the March 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.***

Well, it has been awhile since we've published The Fire Hydrant. We had a very busy last half 2012 and the start to 2013 is just as active. We added three new classes to our curriculum, sent Trelle to China (who is doing very well, by the way), completed the Home and Gardens show, and are preparing for the third annual Bark in the Park and the opening of Galveston's prestigious pet resort, Bone Voyage! More on Bone Voyage later. We have also added some changes in payment methods. We are pleased to announce that Mutts With Manners now accepts credit cards! Don't forget to check out The Doggy Digest in the monthly Islander Magazine. Trelle writes training tips and would love your feedback. If there is ever anything you would like to see covered in The Doggy Digest or The Fire Hydrant, email Trelle at [trelle@muttswithmanners.com](mailto:trelle@muttswithmanners.com). However, if you would like to stop receiving this publication, please email Heather at [heather@muttswithmanners.com](mailto:heather@muttswithmanners.com).

## **DEALS AND SPECIALS**

Do you know about our *refural* program? ReFUR a friend, and when they become a client you get \$10 off of any of our services!

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

5 May (Sunday)

Basic obedience at Galveston Vet Clinic, 5-6pm. This is our outdoor training location and we will cover sit, down, loose leash walking, stay, come, off, leave it, and a 'fun trick' behavior during this 6 week class. We also cover health and grooming topics, and a socialization exercise every class.

Leash walking 201 at Galveston Vet Clinic, 6:15-7:15pm. This 4 week class will meet in a different location each week to practice leashing walking in "real world" scenarios.

## 7 May (Tuesday)

**Socialization class at Bone Voyage 5-6pm.** This is at our new indoor/outdoor facility and we will cover skills for dogs to cope with being off leash around other dogs. Bone Voyage offers doggie daycare and requires all campers to pass a temperament test. This 4 week class will review everything from body language to exercises on building strong, positive socialization between dogs on and eventually off leash so dogs can participate in doggie daycare, dog parks, or K9 play dates.

**Basic obedience at Bone Voyage 6-7pm.** This is at our new indoor/outdoor facility and we will cover sit, down, loose leash walking, stay, come, off, leave it, and a 'fun trick' behavior during this 6 week class. We also cover health and grooming topics, and a socialization exercise every class.

## 27 April (Saturday) 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bark in the Park

In 2011, we raised over \$10,000 for Galveston Island Humane Society. In 2012 it was almost \$20,000! Join the community as we attempt to raise even more for our local shelter. Galveston Island Humane Society works so hard to fight pet over-population, educate the public on the importance of spaying and neutering, and so much more. This is a way you can give back. A lot of people can't provide monthly support and may not be able to come volunteer, but you can enter your canine friend into one of the many categories of the fun filled dog show. There are even rescue, Heinz 57, and senior categories! Go to [www.thegalvestonislanddogshow.com](http://www.thegalvestonislanddogshow.com) and sign up today! Check them out on Facebook and share the page with your friends.

## Did You Know?

There is a new pet resort on the island and the name is Bone Voyage. Their philosophy is that pets should get to go on vacations too! Dogs and cats can be boarded at their luxurious facility! You will have nothing to worry about as there will always be someone on site, 24 hours a day and Dr. Brechtel's veterinary and animal chiropractic clinic will be conveniently located inside the resort!

They have an extensive selection of packages including executive suites, doggy day care, personal attention time (for the dogs who would rather not play with others), grooming, and so much more. They will also have training at their facility where yours truly, Mutts With Manners, will continue to use their pawisitive training methods to teach your dogs while you are away on a relaxing cruise or land excursion.

Don't worry, it won't be school 24/7. Like we mentioned, Bone Voyage believes the pets should get to relax and be on vacation too. They will romp with other canines in the play yard, wade in the bone shaped wading pool, lay in the sun and get stuffed Kongs for a snack at the end of the day. Call Bone Voyage now and book your temperament testing, schedule a board and train, sign up for a group training class, or just take a tour. Contact information is: 409-740-2663 6928 Harborside Drive Galveston, Texas 77551 [www.bonevoyage.net](http://www.bonevoyage.net)

## Whale Done!

We'd like to recognize all our great clients who graciously wrote a business review . We will use these on our brochures, website, and social media. Thank you for helping us grow! Whale Done, Nikki, Becky, Melissa, Kristi, Marte, Mary Jo, Sherry, Caroline, and Heidi!



## Training Tips

Licky Lou by Trelle Dandridge

Most dogs lick. It is just a very common and natural thing for dogs to do. Getting them to NOT lick almost seems harsh, however, there comes a point where you do need your dogs to know when enough is enough. We will undoubtedly encounter a person who is not as enthralled with your dogs welcoming behavior, or a child who has allergies.

Why do dogs lick?

Licking is a natural behavior puppies learn early on from their mothers. The mother dogs lick the puppies to stimulate breathing, clean and communicate to their deaf and blind offspring. Licking in these phases of life is a pretty important behavior for survival, so it isn't so surprising that the behavior doesn't extinguish very easily, and that most dogs keep doing it to their human counterparts!

Licking gives dogs information. It isn't a big surprise anymore that the olfactory nerve is the largest nerve in a dog. It is said to (if you unraveled it) to be three times the length of the dog. That is impressive! Due to the overwhelming amount of scent receptors the dogs have in their noses (why they sniff) and their tongues (why they lick), it is now becoming oh so clear as to why we have a slobbering stalker when we come home after being gone all day at work. These receptors and large nerve coupled with our sebaceous glands, sweat glands and more make us a vast of knowledge for our dogs to investigate when we walk through that door.

I actually like to put my stuff down and encourage my dogs to sniff me. I think it is incredibly rewarding for them to be able to get to know the places I have been without them. Do they smell their dog friend I visited without them? Do they smell that yummy Indian food I ate for lunch? Perhaps it is the smells on my shoes from walking on The Strand this afternoon, endless possibilities with the horses, hundreds of people and variety of restaurants.

It relaxes them and just feels good!

The act of licking releases endorphins in the dog and gives them a feeling of pleasure and a sense of comfort and security. This is mostly due to the licking and grooming they received early on as puppies.

They like the taste. We can be incredibly salty creatures, dogs do enjoy the taste of salt.

It IS a sign of affection. They do love us, and this is commonly used (accompanied with a sideways, tail wagging rear end) to let us know! In the wild, subordinate members of a pack will lick the more dominant members of the pack. Not to get too wrapped up in “pack theory”, but this is seen as an appeasement behavior between the individuals and the licking in this manner is usually on the mouth.

What does veterinary behaviorist Dr. Lore Haug say?

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“Excessive licking is common. It may be people, other animals and/or environmental objects. Generally falls into one or more categories depending on the presentation:

1. Medical issue (neuro, GI)
2. Attention seeking (common)
3. Submission (common)
4. "comfort" behavior -- normal grooming behavior that is soothing and self rewarding and the dogs appear to "zone" out a bit and just keep up a rhythmic licking of whatever is nearby until disrupted.”

Which category does your licker fall into?

So, how do we stop this licking maniac? The easiest answer is to just stand up and walk away. This is “ignoring” the behavior and you are doing it in the nicest way possible. I don’t believe that we should be mean about it. Making your dogs feel like they can’t show you affection, or you don’t want their affection is just not conducive to having a relationship. By standing up and walking away will subtly tell them, now is not the time. Stay kind.

I actually taught my dogs the word “stop”. They have generalized this to “stopping” whatever they are doing. Whether it is licking, excessive covering of eliminations, or pawing at an area to make it more comfortable. If you are interested in how I trained this behavior in my dogs, call or email.

Until next time...Keep it pawisitive!

Trelle and Heather

[www.muttswithmanners.com](http://www.muttswithmanners.com)