

Canine Music Preferences

The University of Glasgow and the Scottish SPCA have studied how music affects stress levels for kenneled dogs. Regardless of the genre, the dogs appear less stressed with background music playing than without.

<http://trueviralnews.com/stressed-dogs-prefer-reggae-and-soft-rock/>

If you are not familiar with the subject, previous studies have shown that music can lower heart rate and sequences of classical music have been designed to move dogs and cats into deeper stages of relaxation. The most famous collection is titled "Through a Dog's Ear" and is available for purchase. They even have music tailored for "senior" dog hearing ranges.

<http://throughadogsear.com/>

How to be Adopted

A research study at Texas Tech University found that the behaviors mostly likely to increase shelter dog adoption rates were if the dog would lie down near the potential adopter, or interact via a toy. Using this knowledge, shelter workers and volunteers created structured training programs to encourage 250 dogs to interact with strangers through knowledge of favorite toys and getting the dog to lie down using treats. This resulted in increased adoption rates where the program was implemented.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/11/161103151956.htm>

Maryland & Virginia Pet Food Pantries

Here is a partial list of local organizations which will accept and redistribute dog and cat food for needy families. If you are on the Petco and PetSmart mailing lists, they sometimes send e-mail coupons for a free bag of dog or cat food or treats as promotions. I always take advantage of these offers as a way to help others.

Humane Society of Fairfax County

<http://hsfc.org/outreach/ani-meals-program/faq/>

Loudoun Pet Pantry

<https://www.loudoun.gov/petpantry>

Montgomery County

<http://www.awlmc.org/foodbank.html>

<https://www.mcpaw.org/the-mcpaw-pet-food-pantry-coming-soon/>

Pet Dental Health Month

February is pet dental health month. We all know a professional cleaning is expensive. What can we do to avoid cleanings or even tooth extractions?

Tooth brushing works well, especially your Sheltie is trained to accept this at an early age. Find the preferred flavor of toothpaste. Virbac comes in beef, poultry, seafood, malt and vanilla mint flavors. You might start with a less expensive brand in the smallest size to experiment. NutriVet sells chicken flavored paste in 2.5 oz size for just a few dollars. Your vet may be able to give you a few samples to try as well.

<https://topdogtips.com/best-dog-toothpaste/>

Also, look for the Veterinary Oral Health Council ratings. Dog treats and chews are listed.

http://www.vohc.org/VOHCAcceptedProductsTable_Dogs.pdf

Do the dental treats actually work? Yes! This study found positive results for decreased plaque bacterial counts and sulfur compounds concentration (causes of stinky breath.)

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27227499>

Rutgers University at Camden, NH also tested and found that brushing with CET paste, VeggieDent chews, bully sticks and raw marrow bones could reduce plaque and tartar bacteria by 55-70%. Each was found to be effective to some degree.

http://jbs.camden.rutgers.edu/gallagher_canine_oral_bacteria

New Canine Flu Vaccines

University of Rochester has developed two new canine flu vaccines against H3N8. These live-attenuated vaccines provide better immune response and longer protection than killed vaccines. They are using their findings to work on a similar vaccine for H3N2. No word yet on commercial availability.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/01/170126162919.htm>

Sheltie Grooming Videos

The PVSSC conformation show is coming in March. All those Shelties will be looking very sharp and beautiful. Here are some videos with Sheltie grooming tips and demonstrations.

Grooming the ears

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkwLtuDT_1Q

Grooming the “pants”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_WsqiFB6cM0

Feet and hocks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbjfgfZZpBw>

And for those who missed hearing the grooming speaker Masha Bartell last June, she recommended “Cowboy Magic” conditioner, and she likes the Safari line of grooming tools available at Petco. She dilutes shampoos and conditioners using about 15% of product and 85% water.

Another good tip – disinfect your grooming tools on a regular basis.

Ringworm – the Fungus

The name is misleading. Ringworm is actually a fungal infection. I recommend you view this AKC video to be knowledgeable about the symptoms and appearance. Hopefully you don’t encounter any surprises while conducting your grooming.

<http://www.akc.org/content/health/articles/ringworm-in-dogs/>

Hows and Whys of Howling

I had an uncle who was very proud that he had taught his miniature Schnauzer to howl along when he decided to sing. In this case, the dog howled as a learned behavior. But why do dogs howl of their own choosing?

Because a howl is long and sustained, it carries farther and can be used for locating. A wolf howl can be heard as far as 6 miles in forest or 10 miles on open terrain. Howls are distinctive to individual animals in the same way that their barking is.

We often associate howling with loneliness and distress, but humans encourage Huskies and Malamutes to howl for hunting and sledding activities.

Researchers at the University of Cambridge used computers to analyze and categorize 21 howl types based on pitch and fluctuation. A Timber wolf howl is much different from a red wolf howl.

<http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/wolf-species-have-howling-dialects>

Further studies are being conducted by Montana State University at Yellowstone National Park.

<http://www.montana.edu/news/16014/msu-researcher-helps-untangle-the-language-of-wolf-howls>

This lovely tutorial from the Smithsonian Channel is a good introduction to howling for humans. She notes that it’s good to start low, build in volume and pitch, and include an octave switch on the build and the decrease.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYoXzZxEa9g>

Boy Scout Dog Care Merit Badge

The Boy Scouts were out in force for the Obedience and Rally Trials on February 4 and 5. They assisted in moving equipment, setting up jumps and mimicking fence posts during the exercises. There is a Scout Merit badge for Dog Care with an impressive list of requirements, including grooming, first aid, vaccination schedules and knowledge of local laws and ordinances.

https://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Dog_Care



Why We Love Dogs

Everyone has a different take on this, so here are a few versions:

http://www.petmd.com/dog/pet_lover/WW_top5_reasons_we_love_dogs

<http://stories.barkpost.com/video/myth-sniffers-5/> (I like #3.)

This article makes the point that dog ownership facilitates face-to-face human interaction in an era when we are relying increasingly on digital/virtual interactions. I think the point is well taken, so come to the PVSSC meetings and events to interact with other dog owners!

<http://health.usnews.com/health-news/health-wellness/articles/2015/08/03/do-you-love-your-dog-more-than-humans>

This article about one of my favorite authors and bloggers Patricia McConnell also points out that we may love a dog but not be able to provide the right sort of home that a particular dog needs. She is in favor of re-homing a dog that's a bad fit for a particular owner.

<http://stevedalepetworld.com/a-tale-of-two-species-patricia-mcconnell-explains-why-we-love-dogs/>

And a fun movie for us this Valentine's month - "Must Love Dogs" with Diane Lane and John Cusack.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASWRj-8da9o>



Dogs Predicting Weather

From 1969 onward, Punxsutawney Phil has only been accurate 39% of the time. In other words, he's not even as accurate as flipping a coin would be. Although they cannot forecast long-range, dogs and other animals do seem to have an extra sense for impending bouts of bad weather. So pay attention!

<http://www.pedigree.com/all-things-dog/article-library/dogs-can-predict-storms-fact-or-old-wives-tale.aspx>

Another helpful tip from the Old Farmer's Almanac:

Expect rain when dogs eat grass, cats purr and wash, sheep turn into the wind, oxen sniff the air, and swine are restless.

By the way, the Farmer's Almanac online version also offers a 2 month weather prediction by zip code, so here it is for Reston. Let's see if they are right.

FEBRUARY 2017: temperature 29° (1° below avg.); precipitation 3" (0.5" above avg.); **Feb 1-4:** Sunny, cold; **Feb 5-8:** Rainy, mild; **Feb 9-10:** Flurries, cold; **Feb 11-15:** Snowstorm, then flurries, cold; **Feb 16-19:** Snow showers north, snow to rain south; **Feb 20-23:** Sunny, mild; **Feb 24-28:** Rain to snow, then sunny, cold. **MARCH 2017:** temperature 37° (3° below avg.); precipitation 3.5" (0.5" above avg.); **Mar 1-4:** Snow showers north, sunny south; **Mar 5-10:** Rainy periods, cool; **Mar 11-14:** Sunny, cool; **Mar 15-21:** Rain, then flurries, cold; **Mar 22-31:** Rain and snow showers, cool.

Landscaping for Dogs

Since spring fever is taking hold, I thought these articles contained good suggestions for planning to landscape your yard for the best likelihood of peaceful co-existence between plants and pets.

<http://www.sunset.com/garden/backyard-projects/dog-friendly-gardens>

<http://moderndogmagazine.com/articles/gardening-101>

<http://www.mnn.com/your-home/organic-farming-gardening/stories/how-to-create-a-dog-friendly-garden>

DIY Valentine for Your Sheltie

Follow these general directions to make a nice graphic like the one on the following page. "Frames" are found at this web site:

http://imikimi.com/main/view_kimi/7TwR-1hS

Choose a frame style. Click where it says "Add photo here". Select a picture on your computer to be inserted into the frame. Click the "save" button. Then click the "download" button to save to your computer. Don't forget to post to your Facebook page too!



Do YOU Have a NEW Email Address?

Send email address changes to
Donna Richards, PVSSC
Corresponding Secretary at
dlrcpa@verizon.net to
assure you receive club news.



February Events

- Valentine's Day February 14
- PVSSC Meeting February 20

Meeting Refreshments

Fran Beacham is our Refreshment Coordinator. *Thanks to everyone who volunteered refreshments for 2017*

2017

February meeting – Maribeth Keitz
March – no meeting
April meeting – Nancy Murray
May meeting – Cathie Skoog
June meeting – “potluck picnic”
July – no meeting
August meeting – Patrick Keough
September meeting – Marilyn Manser & Rich Gurney
October meeting – the Greens
November meeting – Chris Demoncada
December – no meeting
THANK YOU!

Reminder, beverages are not provided; water is available and there is a water/soda machine.

PVSSC Breed Referral Services

For information on
puppy and adult Shelties,
contact PVSSC members



Jan Stanley

703-281-2828
janstanley@verizon.net

or

Doey Blount

301-567-3933

jimjandoey@aol.com

Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue (NVSR)



NVSR rescues, rehabilitates, and places lost, abused, and abandoned Shelties where they will be loved, protected, and well cared for.

Visit the NVSR Website <http://www.nvsr.org/> to find out about activities, dogs for adoption, to support their activities, or even to see how you can volunteer!

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