How to Have Holiday Fun With Your Dog

Having fun with your dog during the holidays is one of the best ways to maintain your sanity and celebrate the good things in your life during the busy holiday season. Getting out or staying in together can be just what both of you need to make your days merry and bright! These are a few suggested activities for some dog friendly holiday fun.

Instructions

Step 1 - Snuggle up on the couch with some popcorn and watch holiday movies together. Reward your dog with some stroking and a treat for laying down next to you quietly.

Step 2 - Lay a soft rug or dog bed next to your computer chair and let your dog lay next to you while you shop online or look up recipes for tasty homemade dog cookies. Reinforce your dog for laying down quietly next to you by letting him have a special chewy item such as a Kong filled with yummies or a food dispensing toy.

Step 3 - If you found a good homemade treat recipe, visit with your pup and practice obedience cues in the kitchen while you are making a batch of "howliday" goodies for your dog and his friends. This is a great time to practice down stay, taking food gently, and wait.

Step 4 - Call up some of your dog loving friends and their dogs to go for a long walk at night to take in the lights and decorations around your neighborhood.

Step 5 - Go to your local pet supply store and buy some doggie presents for your dog and a maybe even a little something for that special cat or fish in your life.

Step 6 - Find a local retailer or photo studio that is offering pictures with Santa and your dog. The actual photo shoot may not be fun for some dogs, but there is the car ride to be enjoyed. You can also make it up to him with a trip to the dog park.

Step 7 - If you've shopped 'til you dropped and now feel like throwing a fit, throw a ball instead. You will be in a great mood again in no time!

Step 8 - Season's Greetings to all and to all a good night!

The November 8, 2013 meeting of the Dalmatian Club of Greater Phoenix, Inc. was called to order at 7:50 PM by President Barbara DiMino. The meeting was held at Phoenix Fire Station #30, 2701 W. Belmont, Phoenix. There were seven members in attendance.

President’s Report: No report.

Vice -President’s Report: No report.

Secretary’s report: There were no minutes for the October meeting as we didn’t have a quorum to conduct any club business. There being no additions or corrections, John moved to approve the September minutes as published in the newsletter; seconded by Linda Fish the motion passed. Correspondence: Secretary received emails regarding the upcoming match, with Superstition’s flyer. They are also promoting our N-S match at the bottom of our flyer. Correspondence also received from DCA 2014 regarding their fund-raising events. Olgie moved we sponsor a first place trophy donation, skip making a basket, and order ten raffle ticket books. Seconded by John the motion passed.

Treasurer’s report: absent. No report.

Committee Reports. Match. There was a discussion regarding supplies needed for the upcoming match. Linda went through the remainder of ribbons from the last match. We need Best Puppy in Breed, Best Adult in Breed, and a Best Adult in Match (we have a Best Puppy in Match from the last time. We also need some more first place ribbons. Sheila will work up judging sheets for Linda. Membership: There was a second reading of the application of Jamie Mercer, who has adopted Nico from Lucky Dog Rescue. Nico had a bout with stones and also spent six weeks with a trainer. She is working hard to rehabilitate him, both physically and mentally. Nico won fourth place in the recent magazine photo contest where we all voted for him. 

Show committee: After discussion it was decided not to place a full page ad in e-Dalmatians as we didn’t seem to increase our entry after placing an ad last year. There was no other business to discuss.

Old Business. None.

New Business. None.

There being no further business, John made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Wymore, Secy

November Brags and Cries

Sheila cried about Libby having several seizures the day of our Oct meeting.

Barbara cried about Trixie’s tail—she is too happy and enthusiastic and keeps breaking it open.

Linda Fish BRAGGED that DJ passed his certification tests and is now a nationally certified therapy dog. YAY DJ and Linda!
1. Avoid carrot sticks. Anyone who puts carrots on a holiday buffet table knows nothing of the Christmas spirit. In fact, if you see carrots, leave immediately. Go next door, where they’re serving rum balls.

2. Drink as much eggnog as you can. And quickly, it’s rare. You can’t find it any other time of year but now. So drink up! Who cares that it has 10,000 calories in every sip? It’s not as if you’re going to turn into an eggnog-alcoholic or something. It’s a treat. Enjoy it. Have one for me. Have two. It’s later than you think. It’s Christmas!

3. If something comes with gravy, use it. That’s the whole point of gravy. Gravy does not stand alone. Pour it on. Make a volcano out of your mashed potatoes. Fill it with gravy. Eat the volcano. Repeat.

4. As for mashed potatoes, always ask if they’re made with skim milk or whole milk. If it’s skim, pass. Why bother? It’s like buying a sports car with an automatic transmission.

5. Do not have a snack before going to a party in an effort to control your eating. The whole point of going to a Christmas party is to eat other people’s food for free. Lots of it. Hello?

6. Under no circumstances should you exercise between now and New Year’s. You can do that in January when you have nothing else to do. This is the time for long naps, which you’ll need after circling the buffet table while carrying a 10-pound plate of food and that vat of eggnog.

7. If you come across something really good at a buffet table, like frosted Christmas cookies in the shape and size of Santa, position yourself near them and don’t budge. Have as many as you can before becoming the center of attention. They’re like a beautiful pair of shoes. If you leave them behind, you’re never going to see them again.

8. Same for pies. Apple, pumpkin, mincemeat. Have a slice of each. Or if you don’t like mincemeat, have two apples and one pumpkin. Always have three. When else do you get to have more than one dessert? Labor Day?

9. Did someone mention fruitcake? Granted, it’s loaded with the mandatory celebratory calories, but avoid it at all cost. I mean, have some standards.

10. One final tip: If you don’t feel terrible when you leave the party or get up from the table, you haven’t been paying attention. Re-read tips; start over, but hurry, January is just around the corner. Remember this motto to live by:

"Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, wine glass in the other, body thoroughly used up and totally worn out, and screaming "WOO HOO what a ride!"
A Dalmatian Christmas Eve
By Marie Dennis

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the place,
All the Spots were abustle, alarm on their face!

For up on the roof such a ruckus arose,
But the Dals were on duty and everyone knows,
No intruder would disturb their calm restful sleep,
"Come on dogs", said the leader, "Let's get rid of this creep".

They each left their crates wondering what was the matter,
Who was this crazy fool making such a clatter?

They tiptoed with stealth through the house without fear,
When what to their wondering eyes should appear?

But a jolly fat man with cookies and bones.
Well, he didn't look so threatening and that changed their tone!

He wasted no time, went to work straight away,
Lining them up in a handsome down-stay.

One by one he called them to come claim their treats,
There were dog biscuits, and cookies, an assortment of meats.

He greeted each one with a pat and a scratch.
He loved them all, black, brown or patch.

When they'd all had their fill, they lay in sweet content,
And he went to the chimney, preparing his ascent.

With love he gazed at the creatures all around,
Knowing their spirits would always abound.

Up the chimney he rose and they all heard him call:
"Merry Christmas, Dalmatians – Happy Spots to All!!"

What You Should NOT Get Your Dog for Christmas

1. A CD of cats meowing popular Christmas songs.
2. A chew toy with the head already gnawed off by his canine brother who chewed his way into the gift box around the 15th of the month.
3. A chew toy shaped like a shoe, which he is immediately going to confuse with the right sneaker of your favorite pair.
4. Central A/C for his Dogloo when you're still using individual wall units that are barely up to cooling a small closet-size area in your house.
5. Anything Garfield.
6. A remote control for the refrigerator door.
7. A knitted pink sweater that makes your macho Doberman look like a poodle.
8. A deluxe pre-packaged treat-filled Christmas stocking that's large enough for you to use as a sleeping bag.
9. Doggie antlers when your near-sighted hunting relatives will be spending the holidays with you.
10. A stuffed toy dog with an angel's halo as a hint as to what he has to do to get more presents next year.
11. A doggie door between you and the suspicious butcher next door.
12. An audition for a diet dog food commercial where they feed him so much during retakes that he actually gains weight.
13. A piece of jewelry featuring a ceramic dog of his breed for you to wear.
14. His own Internet Pet Supplies credit card.
15. A rat

Bon Natalie
fröhliches Weihnachten
Joyeux Noel
Merry Christmas
Feliz Navidad
Vrolijk Kerstfeest
Gladelig Jul
Happy Hannukah
Feliz Natal
Kellemes Karácsonyi ünnepeket
Kala Christouyenna!
Holiday Dangers
By PetPartners, Inc.

The upcoming holidays can pose special health dangers for our four-legged friends. Each year, thousands of pets become seriously injured or ill during the holiday season, while their owners are busy with shopping, baking and entertaining. As the exclusive provider of the AKC Pet Healthcare Plan, we've paid many claims related to the holidays. Some of these have included a Bernese Mountain Dog that ate a tree ornament and a German Shepherd Dog that chewed and swallowed a battery-operated toy. Even more serious claims we have paid include $1,768 for an Airedale Terrier who grabbed and swallowed a turkey skewer as it fell from the kitchen counter and $3,738 for a Labrador Retriever who ate a kitchen towel and a potholder during a holiday meal.

Pets can become very ill from a variety of common holiday meal items, including table butter, meat and candy. These foods can result in gastrointestinal upsets and pancreatitis, a painful and sometimes fatal condition. When these conditions occur, pets might exhibit depression, vomiting, abdominal pain or lack of appetite. Eating tinsel, ornaments and garlands, even drinking holiday tree sap water, can lead to serious stomach irritation. In addition, poisoning from xylitol (a sugar-free ingredient found in baking goods, candy, and chewing gum) can cause a severe blood sugar problem leading to weakness, depression, and seizures.

Chocolate is another common cause of holiday accidents for pets. Many types of concentrated chocolate, particularly baking chocolate or dark chocolate, can cause serious health problems depending on the size of the dog.

During the holidays, prevention is really the key. Place high risk items and holiday foods out of reach. Dogs also like to chew on electrical cords, gift ribbons and strings. Watch for symptoms of restlessness, tremors, seizures, vomiting and diarrhea and seek immediate veterinary treatment for them. Of course, our pets’ health and well-being is a responsibility that goes beyond just the holidays.

Don’t let innocent holiday traditions jeopardize the health of your pet. Evaluate the potential risks of your holiday decorations, plants and meals (see chart below). And, in the hustle and bustle of the season, remember regular feeding and exercise schedules and be certain to give your dog lots of love as you start off the New Year.

Be Aware of These Holiday Dangers:
- Candles and hot wax
- Candles, chocolate and foil wrappers
- Alcoholic beverages
- Electrical cords (uncovered or untapped)
- Ribbon, string and yarn
- Metal ornament hooks
- Tree tinsel and confetti
- Carving and kitchen knives/blades
- Outdoor fireworks and other loud noises
- Rich, fatty foods and table scraps
- Rubber bands
- Beads and buttons
- Poinsettias, holly, mistletoe and greens
- Stagnant tree stand water and chemicals
- Intricate or fragile ornaments
- Rock salt and antifreeze
- Poultry bones and meat drippings
- Small holiday lights
- Angel hair (spun glass)
- Rich food stocks and seasonings
- Artificial snow and snow flocking
- Small toys, especially those with small parts or unassembled parts
- Slippery outdoor ice and snow
- Fireplace flames and color salts
Introducing Woofipedia!

Want to teach your dog some fun tricks? Ringo the Chinese Crested and Scorch the Border Collie (and their human partners Jenn Michaelis and Stephen McKay from AKC member club Port Chester Obedience Training Club) demonstrate the “high-five” and “roll-over”. These videos give you a series of easy steps to follow that will make your dog a trick pro in no time!

These videos are available on YouTube as well as Woofipedia, a new website powered by the AKC perfect for anyone who has a dog, is looking for a dog, or just loves dogs! Check it out at www.woofipedia.com

In addition to fun videos like these tricks, Woofipedia includes breed spotlights, tips about grooming, care, training and behavior, and fun games like Fact or Fiction and Guess the Breed. The Woofipedia app coming soon for iOS and Android will allow dog owners to interact and share photos of their own dogs, play games, and earn “Woof Points” and digital trophies by tracking everyday activity with their dog.

Fridge-Toppers: 5 Good Dog Books We Can’t Even Give Away!

By Bud Boccone, AKC

Books arrive here at our New York offices by the bushel, sent by publishers in hopes of an AKC Family Dog review or a plug in our social media. For every book we review there are dozens more that, for reasons not always connected to their quality, don’t make the cut.

The “reject pile” is stacked atop the refrigerator in the staff kitchen, with the open invitation for our fellow employees to help themselves. Some are snapped up quickly. Others languish for months. Many go unread on merit: They’re lousy books. Always, though, there are some diamonds in the dung heap.

Here are five good dog books sitting neglected in the kitchen right now, awaiting rescue from fridge-top oblivion.

The Second Chance Dog: A Love Story, by Jon Katz
Katz has written several fine books about his life in dogs. This memoir recounts how, at a low point in his life, Katz got his mojo back after meeting his soul mate (and now wife) Maria. Their obstacle to romance is Maria’s dog, Frieda, an abused Rottie-mix rescue who’s a sweetheart with her mistress but a snarling beast with everyone else. Can Jon and Maria recondition Frieda and smooth the path to a happily-ever-after? Second Chance Dog is a worthy entry in the ongoing story of dogs and Katz.

Mimi and Maty to the Rescue: Roger the Rat Is on the Loose! by Brooke Smith; illustrated by Alli Arnold
A mystery about a girl sleuth and her three-legged dog on the trail of an escaped pet rat, this is a sweet little charmer of a kiddie book. The story is cute, the childlike illustrations make me smile, and I love how Maty’s missing leg is no big deal to dog or owner. A nice life lesson imparted without beating young readers over the head with it.

The Perfect Dog, by Dr. Roger Mugford
This is a behavior-and-training manual from Britain’s leading animal psychologist. You might not always buy in to Mugford’s sometimes-controversial opinions, but The Perfect Dog is well worth a look for its commonsense approach to behavior problems and for its delightfully British prose style. It’s also among the year’s most beautifully designed dog books, with loads of lovely photos in handsome layouts.

An Echo Through the Snow, by Andrea Thalasinos
Thalasinos’s ambitious debut novel is more elegant than its clunky title suggests. In one story thread, set in 1990s Wisconsin, a forlorn young woman and her Siberian Husky find redemption in competitive sled racing. In the counterplot, a Chukchi girl in 1920s Siberia faces threats from outside forces to the traditional ways of her people. Telling how the two plotlines dovetail would be a major spoiler, so I’ll just say this is a haunting novel from a new author who bears watching.

Fleece Dog, by Sinco (Nobuko Nagakubo)
“Fleece dog” is the author’s name for palm-sized dogs she makes with raw wool, real dog hair, and a felting needle. This oddly attractive volume features photos of these weird little masterpieces depicting 17 breeds. It’s also a how-to book that teaches you how to make your own fleecy fidos. Recommended for dog-loving crafters, but even impatient klutzes like me will enjoy the pictures.
DCGP Non-Sporting Match held on Sunday, November 24th. A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this a success. We’ll probably be doing this again next year, so keep your eyes open for ways to publicize the event and increase our entry size. And thank you to Superstition KC for allowing us to “piggyback” onto their “B” match and use their equipment.
What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who will not come out of a pear tree have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

"The partridge in a pear tree".... was Jesus Christ.
"Two turtle doves"..... were the Old & New Testaments.
"Three French hens"..... stood for faith, hope and love.
"The four calling birds"..... were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
"The five golden rings"..... recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
"The six geese-a-laying"..... stood for the six days of creation.
"Seven swans a swimming"..... represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit—prophesy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership and mercy.
"The eight maids a milking"..... were the eight beatitudes.

"Nine ladies dancing"..... were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.
"The ten lords a leaping"..... were the Ten Commandments.
"The eleven pipers piping"..... stood for the 11 faithful disciples.
"The twelve drummers drumming"..... symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed.

So there is your history for today.

Christmas Dreams of Hope

Stir together golden dreams of hope.
Add a cup of New Year’s light.
Catch flakes of Heaven’s drifting snow,
To make the mixture pure and white.
Add to it a stirring of Angels’ Wings,
Bearing Joy, Love, and Inspiration.
Blend into the mix a Prayer of Hope
To God for the souls of every nation.
Frost your cake with Loving Kindness,
And then to make it especially nice—
Give a large serving to the world;
And Peace on Earth with every slice!
~Author Unknown~
## Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2-3</td>
<td>Indio, CA</td>
<td>Sand to Sea Non-Sporting Assoc, Thur—Janet Jackson, Fri—Anne Catterson, Bradshaw, Supt (Closes 12/18)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/4-5</td>
<td>Indio, CA</td>
<td>Kennel Club of Palm Springs, Sat—Peggy Haas, Sun—Donna Buxton, Bradshaw, Supt (Closes 12/18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/10-13</td>
<td>Glendale, AZ</td>
<td>Kachina KC, Fri—Ann Hearn, Arrowhead KC, Sun—Anthony DiNardo, Mon—Cecilia Ringstrom, Bradshaw, Supt (Closes 12/25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/31-2/1-3</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>Sahuaro State KC, Fri—Gene Mills, Sat—Johnny Shoemaker, Lost Dutchman KC, Sun—Malcolm E. Moore, Mon—Christie C. Smith, Onofrio, Supt (Closes 1/15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/21</td>
<td>Del Mar, CA</td>
<td>Dalmatian Club of San Diego, Fri—to be announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/22-23</td>
<td>Del Mar, CA</td>
<td>Silver Bay KC, Sat—Brenda Newcomb, Sun—Vincent Chiarese, Bradshaw, Supt (Closes 2/5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/27</td>
<td>Scottsdale, AZ</td>
<td>Dalmatian Club of Greater Phoenix, AM—David Alexander, SWEEPS—Jane Gentzen, PM—David McIntyre, SWEEPS—Diane Landstrom, Ron Wilson, Supt (Closes 2/12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/28-3/1-3</td>
<td>Scottsdale, AZ</td>
<td>Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Assoc, Fri—Janet Sinclair, Sat—Robert Indeglia, Superstition KC, Sun—Molly Martin, Mon—Robert Hutton, Bradshaw, Supt (Closes 2/2)</td>
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## Arizona Dudes and Dals

Dalmatian Club of Greater Phoenix
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