

The Playful Paws Pulse

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Playful Paws
Pet Services

News and Updates

We currently have openings for daycare on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. For more information on how to sign your dog up for daycare email us at info@playfulpawspetservices.ca



Introducing Stacey Jolliffe - Owner



When I look into
the eyes of an
animal, I do not
see an animal, I
see a living being,
I see a friend, I
feel a soul

Author unknown

Stacey started Playful Paws Pet Services in 2016, but her love for animals goes way back to her childhood. Originally from Edmonton she moved out West as a young child. She spent many years on an acreage in Langley. During this time, she had two German Shepherds and a couple of cats. A couple of moves later she ended up in North Vancouver. She graduated high school in 2001 and from there went to the University of Victoria.

Unfortunately, due to health issues her year was cut short and she had to move back home. Once well enough Stacey decided to enroll in the BCIT Tourism Management program but once again, she ran into health issues that forced her to take a break from school. At the end of 2003 she saw a newspaper ad that a local dog walking company was looking for a dog walker. This is ultimately where her animal career started. Though it could be stated that after 2 dogs, a few cats, a gerbils, hamster, bird, fish, and guinea pigs it started much earlier.

Stacey had an amazing couple of years walking and hiking all types of dogs on the North Shore. She gained hands on experience with numerous types of dogs, some giant dogs, some mini dogs, some dog-aggressive dogs, and some anxious dogs. She also learned leash handling and dog group dynamics.

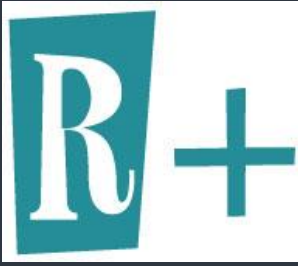
This experience sparked something in her to learn more. She once again saw an ad in the local newspaper looking for veterinarian assistants/receptionists. She applied and through that gained a lot of hands-on experience. Stacey loved working in the veterinary field and was determined to get as much formal education she could. She went on to get her vet assistant diploma and was invited to continue full time at All About Cats Clinic after her 2-week practicum. Stacey spent the next 2 yrs. learning exclusively about cat health and behaviour. The knowledge she learned was invaluable and still uses it today with her cat clients.

Fast forward 7 yrs., a few moves, a marriage, another marriage, blending a family of 5 kids, she was ready once again to enter the veterinarian field. Living in Abbotsford now she started to work at a local veterinarian hospital, even though she loved the work growing up with entrepreneurial parents and a brother as well as many relatives you can say that it was just a natural step for her to start up her own pet service business.

Since starting her business, formal education has been a top priority for her. She is a certified Dog Biz professional dog walker, a member of the Pet Professional Guild, Pet Sitter International, certified in DOGSAFE canine first aid, as well as a licensed Be A Tree presenter (a program to teach children about dog safety) Stacey has attended two yearly BCSPCA Behaviour Synopsis weekend conferences as well as two yearly Pet Professional Guild weekend conferences not to mention the countless hours attending webinars and online conferences. Her shelves are also filled with animal behaviour books from Ian Dunbar, Jean Donaldson and Sophie Yin just to name a few. To say that keeping up to date with the latest in science-based research on dog and cat behaviour is an understatement. At time of this publishing, she is enrolled in the Karen Pryor Puppy Start Right program, Dogsafes Dog Bite Educator course and Bravo Dog Training's Dog Knowledge Course.

With her medical background her 17yrs experience as well as her education in dog/cat behaviour, Stacey can offer well rounded pet care. Her standard of care is remarkably high, and she stops at nothing to give her clients the best she can.

Stacey currently lives with her husband, 5 kids and a large cat named Winslow. She is a canine empty nester due to having her senior dog Kauai cross the rainbow bridge. In her spare time, she loves hiking, gardening, reading, anything crafty and a good psychological thriller.



What is it and what does it mean?

R+ is the short form for Positive reinforcement; You provide something pleasurable (treat or toy) to your dog after they do a behaviour that you like, and it will increase the likelihood of that behaviour occurring again. You are adding (+) a positive reinforcer (R).

So, what does this mean for your dogs at Playful Paws? We believed based on many behavioural studies that R+ is the most humane way to train and care for your animal.

We do not support the use of any device or technique that causes anxiety, fear, distress, pain, or injury such as shock collars, prong collars or choke chains.

This means that when your dog or animal is in our care you can rest assured that they are being treated in the most humane way possible.

There are many rewards that can be used but small sized (think pea size) food rewards tend to be the easiest and quickest way to reward in training situations. There are treats out there even for the dogs who have food allergies or food sensitivities.



Inside Living

Most of us have heard about canine enrichment but did you know that our feline friends can benefit from enrichment just as much their canine companions?

There are around 8 million household cats living in Canada and with a lot of them exclusively living inside why not make their life as interesting as possible. Felines are natural predators and despite thousands of years of domestication the predatory behaviour is still strong today. We can use this natural behaviour to design enrichment toys/games that engage their predatory drive.

Despite all the toys, feather wands and scratching posts we provide for them. I believe we can do better and go one step further. When you walk into any pet store you will see the emerging trend of enrichment toys offered for cats. This excites me for a couple of reasons; we are slowly starting to realize cats like to use their brains just as much as dogs do, and some of our large boned kitties may get some much-needed exercise. Despite some of our seemingly, unmotivated feline friends we are rethinking the idea that cats are lazy, aloof, and antisocial.

So, with so many cats living inside how can we enrich their lives as much as possible? Here are a few ideas:

- **Feeder toys**

These work by making the cat work for their food/treat. They usually must manipulate something on or within the toy to make the food come out or for them to have access to it. You can buy these already made or you can get creative and make them for yourself.

- **Nose work**

Cats are nocturnal by nature, so to tap into this try hiding treats or kibble around the house before bed and let your cat sniff around and 'hunt' for them; added benefit it might help curb that 3am wake up call.

- **Window viewing areas**

Provide a great viewing area where they can see squirrels, birds, and the general great outdoors. If possible, move your current scratching post in front of a window or get a second one for another area in your house. Remember cats like to perch up high.

- **Bring the outside in**

Take a shallow box or cooking tray and fill it with a variety of outdoor items, such as leaves, rocks, small branches or twigs, soil, or any cat friendly plants. Put it on the floor inside and let your feline family member sniff away. This will be especially interesting to cats that have never been outside before.



Who tamed who?

The story has long been that we domesticated the dog. Current scientific consensus is that dogs have been our companions for at least 15,000 years. We have imagined that perhaps a hunting-gathering ancestor came across abandoned wolf pups, raised them, bred their offspring, and eventually found him or herself with reliable companionship.

But now many scientists are questioning that theory, considering another in its place. Called the "domestication hypothesis," it goes like this: Some clever wolves began skirting human encampments to take advantage of scraps. Over time their population grew bolder and less fearful, and they turned their natural social skills toward better understanding of and communication with the bipedal species they had come to rely on. In short, they are self domesticated

Several threads of the self-domestication hypothesis are under investigation. One aspect of study is dogs' social intelligence, their ability to read and understand human body language, and to make their own understood by us. Another is the emotional connection dogs can forge with humans and the role this may have played in early wolf-human relationships. A third point of study is referred to as conflict-management strategy, the idea being that humans would likely have killed or run off more aggressive wolves, while tolerating those who were more deferential.

Regardless of who tamed who, the rest, as they say, is history. We have shared a mutually beneficial relationship ever since, one that in recent generations has begun to transform even our notion of family.

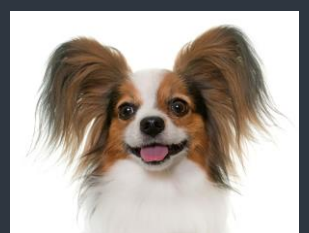
Dogs have moved from table scrapes to their own gourmet diets. We provide them with specialized health care, a place in our homes, their own toys and plush beds—or invite them to share ours. If dogs (or, rather, their wolf ancestors) did indeed instigate domestication, it was certainly a clever move on their part!

Scientists are studying this question not only to better understand dogs, but humans as well. By looking at the processes of domestication and its effects on genes and the brain, scientists hope to gain insight into how we humans came to be as unique from our own hominid relatives as dogs are from their wolf ancestors.

Papillon

To nobody's surprise, Papillons derive their French name from their beautifully fringed, butterfly shaped ears. And it will surprise no human companion of a Papillon to learn that Dr. Stanley Coren, an expert on animal intelligence, rated the breed the 8th smartest of the 138 breeds he assessed. These little dogs are whip-smart and full of cheerful energy, making them an ideal companion for active families able to provide plenty of exercise and mental stimulation.











The Papillon's fabulous ears are no doubt at least partially responsible for their long history as subjects of fine art. The earliest samples are seen in famous Tiziano Vicelli paintings circa 1500, including the *Venus of Urbino*. Papillons make frequent appearances in paintings of royal and merchant-class families throughout Europe, and one even made it into a family portrait of Louis XIV.



FAQ: What are the signs of poisoning?

Every year, hundreds of thousands of dogs suffer from some form of poisoning—and the culprits in most cases are common household and garden products. Drugs such as cold and flu preparations, painkillers, and antidepressants; insecticides and rodent bait; plants like sago palms and azaleas; cleaning agents like bleach, detergent, and disinfectant; and outdoor toxins like antifreeze and fertilizers. Always keep such hazards in locked cabinets or on high shelves, well out of reach of your dog. Also be aware that not all symptoms of poisoning occur shortly after ingestion; some can take 18 to 36 hours to appear.

Look out for:

-  Salivation
-  Vomiting
-  Diarrhea
-  Uncoordinated gait
-  Seizures
-  Muscle twitching
-  Weakness
-  Nose bleeds
-  Rectal bleeding
-  Excessive thirst.

If your dog has ingested poison, bring a sample of the material with you to the vet if you can. To learn more, visit www.petpoisonhelpline.com



When you can't get fido out

The difference between a well-exercised dog and one who hasn't gotten out for a few days can be striking. Where did my nice-mannered, calm companion go? And who does this whirling dervish belong to? Sometimes you just cannot get the dog out—incllement weather, personal or public health conditions, or canine injury can all get in the way. Try these measures to keep your dog's excess energy from driving you both crazy

Inside enrichment – Make your dog think

- **Hide and seek**

Dogs love to sniff and love food. Think Easter egg hunt. Place treats in corners, nooks, and other fun places that they can sniff and reach. Encourage the game by showing him/her a few treats as well as saying 'find it' They will soon catch on.

- **Stuffed Kongs/Lickie Matts**

These are a great way to keep non mobile dogs busy and enriched as they do not require any movement on the dogs' part. There are a variety of recipes or commercially made products that you can stuff them with. I personally like to freeze them to make them last longer. Lickie matts are usually a textured surface in which you can spread peanut butter, canned food or any other spreadable treat on the surface which then the dog licks off.

- **Treat toys and puzzles**

There are lot of different treat toys out there to choose from. Finding the right toy for your dog may take some trial and error with different toys. Do not get discouraged if they do not get it at first, it may take a bit of time for them to understand what to do.

Any of these ideas can replace physical exercise with mental exertion – and keep your dog busy for hours when outside play is not available. For more information on feline/canine enrichment ideas visit

www.companionanimalpsychology.com

Services

Doggy Daycare \$30

Tuesday – Friday 10am-3pm

Pick up and drop off included

In Home Boarding \$45 per night/dog

Special needs, senior dogs, and puppies \$60

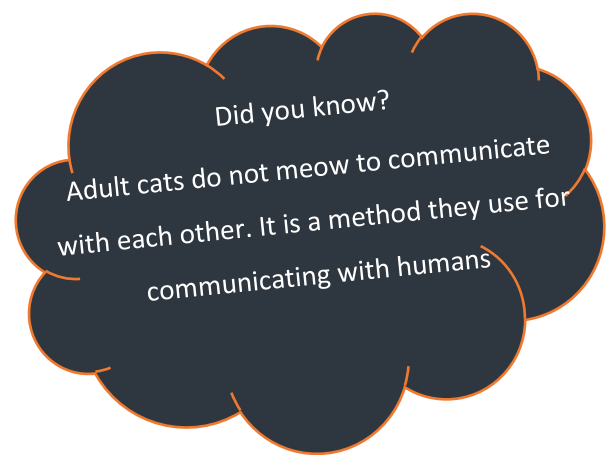
Services currently on hold

Off leash dog hikes / cat sitting

Contact us at:

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