



Come Bark With Me

Conneaut Lake Bark Park Newsletter

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Martin

Dog License – It's the Law

In Pennsylvania, all dogs three months of age or older, must have a current year dog license. The license should be in place by January 1st., but there is still time to purchase a license for 2015. There can be a fine up to a maximum of \$300 for not having a license on the dog.

There are several reasons why getting a dog license is important.

It's the law.

If your dog is missing, having him licensed greatly improves your chances of getting the dog back.

Even if your dog is always on your property, accidents happen and dogs do get out of fenced areas, etc.

The cost of the license is less than the penalty for being caught without one.

Licenses support the efforts of local animal shelters.

You can purchase a dog license at your county courthouse and generally at various locations through-out the county. For first time purchase, you will have to show proof your dog has been vaccinated against rabies. All dogs and cats over 3 months of age must be vaccinated against rabies.

The cost for a license is \$8.50 for a male dog, \$6.50 for a neutered male, \$8.50 for a female and \$6.50 for a spay female. There is a \$2.00 fee reduction for a person with a disability or a senior citizen. If you are applying for a license as a senior citizen or a person with a disability, generally you must do this at the County Treasurer located at the courthouse. Check your individual county requirements on this.

Many dog owners choose to purchase a lifetime license for their dog. To purchase a lifetime license, your dog has to have permanent identification verification from a veterinarian indicating the dog has been tattooed or micro-chipped. The tattoo is generally done on the inside of the dog's upper leg and a microchip is a computer chip about the size of a grain of rice, inserted by the vet between the shoulder blades of the dog. If the dog is found, many police departments, shelters, and of course veterinarians, can scan the pet to get the reading on the microchip.

Lifetime license fees are \$51.50 for a male dog, \$31.50 for a neutered male, \$51.50 for a female dog, and \$31.50 for a spayed female. There is a \$20.00 reduction in price on the costs for senior citizens and persons with a disability.

Protect your dog and get a dog license. It is the law.

Dogs 101

Instructor Robin Peterson trainer with Groovy Pooch

The seminar offers a great opportunity for the dog owner to find out answers to those puzzling problems on dog ownership. Topics will include curbing bad doggie behavior, crate issues, behavior warning signs, proper play, leash aggression, socializing your dog, and most any other questions presented by those in attendance. This is a two hour seminar, on February 28th, 9:00 am – 11:00 am. and will be held at the Dog House at the Bark Park on Foust Road. The cost is \$9.00 and includes plenty of coffee and donuts. Pre-registration is required due to limited seating space. To register for the seminar or for additional information contact the Dog House at 814-382-2267, or call Sue at 814-382-2478, or email at petcem23@windstream.net. All Bark Park seminars are open to the public.

2015 Bark Park Membership

The Bark Park Membership prices for 2015 have been posted. Renew your Bark Park membership or purchase a membership prior to April 15th, and receive a 10% discount. All new and renewed memberships must include updated health records. New members must also complete all membership forms, which can be downloaded from the Bark Park website at www.conneautlakebarkpark.com. For additional information on memberships and to sign up for a free membership temperament evaluation, contact Melanie at 814-382-2267.

Breed Week at the Bark Park

During the week of February 16th, the Bark Park will celebrate Breed Week with special discounts for our favorite dog breeds at Doggie Day Care. Below is the schedule:

Monday, Feb. 16 th	Pug Day
Tuesday, Feb. 17 th	Husky Day
Wednesday, Feb 18 th	Lab Day
Thursday, Feb. 19 th	Doodle Day
Friday, Feb. 20 th	Golden Retriever Day



All breeds are welcome every day, but the breed for a particular day has a special ½ price rate. Regular Doggie Day Care prices are: full day rate is \$21.00; half day is \$14.00 and a quarter day \$7.00. If we get 5 or more dogs on their special breed day, each dog will receive a free week at the Bark Park to be used the first week of May. Come and check out the Doggie Day Care and give your canine companion something to bark about. Call Melanie at 814-382-2267 to make reservations for breed week and to find out more about Doggie Day Care.

Pearly White Canine Teeth

February is National Pet Dental Health Month, but good dental health for your pets should be a daily ritual for owners all year long. According to the AVMA, "more than 85% of dogs and cats that are at least 4 years old have a condition in which bacteria attack the soft gum tissue". This condition is called periodontal disease. Periodontal disease is the final stage in a process that begins with plaque, or a bacterial film on the surface of the teeth. In early stages, plaque can be easily dislodged when you brush your dog's teeth or when he chews on hard toys or food. If the plaque is not removed the bacteria will attach to the teeth and become calcified through the calcium in your dog's saliva. The hard surface becomes tartar and more plaque will accumulate. Once this stage of plaque has occurred, it will take a professional cleaning to get the tartar off the teeth and heal the gums. If the plaque is not removed, infection by the root of the tooth can occur. Progression could include the deterioration of the tissue surrounding the tooth, the erosion of the tooth socket, and a loose tooth. The warning signs of gum disease include bad breath, red and swollen gums, yellow-brown crusts of tartar along the gum lines, and bleeding or pain when the gums or mouth are touched. Pets with developing gingivitis and periodontal diseases often paw at their face or mouth frequently, have excessive drool, and may exhibit an unwillingness to eat harder foods. Because dental problems can affect other areas of your dog's body, including the lungs, kidneys, and heart, it is essential that you care for your pet's teeth right from the start of his life.

Your veterinarian may recommend a professional teeth-cleaning for your dog or cat once a year or as needed. Performing a thorough oral exam requires the use of general anesthesia, so your vet will first give Fido or Fluffy a pre-anesthetic exam. Once the anesthesia is administered your pet's vitals, including respiration, temperature and heart rate, will be monitored while the veterinarian takes dental radiographs and uses instruments to scale and polish your pet's teeth, removing tartar and plaque build up that could otherwise lead to dental issues. In cases of serious oral disease, your veterinarian may recommend a tooth extraction. Keeping on top of your pet's dental health has lasting positive effects — some studies suggest that maintaining oral health can add up to five years to your pet's life.

February is National Pet Dental Health Month, so now is the perfect time to call your veterinarian and schedule a dental check up for your furry family member. While nothing can take the place of regular visits to the veterinarian for checkups and cleaning, ongoing follow-up oral care at home can include brushing your dog's teeth. Be sure to check with your veterinarian for more information on what you can do to control the buildup of plaque on your dog's teeth.



Therapy Dog Testing - 2015

Become part of Paws Hand Delivered/Therapy Dogs Incorporated and share your special canine companion with those in a variety of situations around the community. The 65+ therapy dogs are involved in sharing their special love with the residents of several local nursing homes, TCU, the Tales that Wag Library Reading Program, Women's Services, Yolanda G. Barco Center, MMC Liberty Street, CHAPS, Crawford County Hospice, Active Aging, special needs students in the Crawford Central School District, and several other organizations in the community. To be tested, a dog must be at least one year of age. Information on our testing procedure can be found on the web at www.therapydogs.com located in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The next testing date is scheduled for Saturday, February 28th, from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm at Conneaut Lake Bark Park. For additional information contact Sue at 814-382-2478. To schedule an appointment for testing contact Robin Peterson at 814-425-7185.

Zoey

Zoey is a one year old Australian Shepherd/Blue Heeler mix belonging to Penny Doherty. We are still convinced Zoey has some Spaniel mixed in somewhere. She has the softest ears I have ever felt.

When I retired I was looking for ways to volunteer and help other people. I have always had dogs in my life and one day my husband came home from the Yolanda Barco clinic and told me about the therapy dogs he had seen. That gave me an idea that would fill both of my desires. I started my search for a dog that I thought would be a good match. There was an ad in one of the local papers for Australian Shepherd/Blue Heeler puppies so we took a drive to Sherman, New York just to look and came home with Zoey. She was 10 weeks old at the time.



Our first year together has had many ups and downs. I had forgotten how much work a puppy could be and, as many of you know, a herding dog needs to be kept busy. Thankfully we found the Conneaut Lake Bark Park. I don't know how we would have made it without all of the help we have received from them. Zoey loves to go and take advantage of the fenced in areas to run. She has met many friends there the first of which was Buddy Boy. They instantly started playing and both went home exhausted. Since then Zoey has become a regular at the park and has made many more friends like Ivy, Possum and Indie just to name a few.

For more information on any of the activities at the Bark Park, and to be on the mailing list, send your email information or questions to: petcem23@windstream.net or keep checking the Bark Park website at: www.conneautlakebarkpark.com for updates on various activities. You can also call Sue Anderson at: (814) 382-2478. Martin and all of the other dogs remind you to visit us on Facebook too.