

PAW PRINTS

The Newsletter from The Lucky Dog Complex



BOARDING & TRAINING CENTER

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the Marshmallow Foundation



218-847-9040



Patriot Assistance Dogs

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Hello and Welcome to the Lucky Dog Complex newsletter, "Paw Prints". Our goal is to keep the clients, supporters, volunteers, and employees of our four entities up to date on the current happenings.

Lucky Dog Boarding and Training Center, Marshmallow Animal Shelter, Patriot Assistance Dogs, and Muddy Puppies have all contributed to this month's newsletter. Be sure to read through to find out about Lucky Dog's Library, the Volunteer of the Month, fostering with Marshmallow Animal Shelter, how Patriot Assistance Dogs picks it's canine candidates, making the grooming experience a great one (Part Two), The Joy of Herding with Dogs, and Crate Training (Part Two)!

We welcome your comments and ideas as we grow this newsletter.

Be sure to scroll to the end of the letter, which is where you will find February's Special!

Lucky Dog

Boarding and Training LLC

Lucky Dog's Library

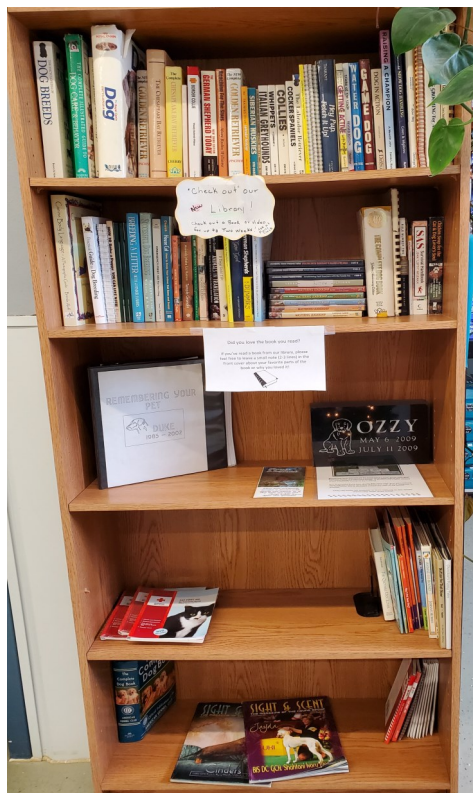
Written by Linda Wiedewitsch

For those who are not aware of it, Lucky Dog has a small but growing library of dog and cat related books. Mostly dog related at this point, but that conceivably could change. The books have been donated by a variety of individuals who are interested in sharing the wealth of information still available from sources other than the Internet. The latest contribution is a copy of the book "Heaven Sent" that was featured by Georgia The Pet Sitter in last month's newsletter.

A quick glance at the shelves reveals books on dog and cat care, first aid, encyclopedias of dogs and dog breeds, training techniques, show handling tips, breed specific books, stories of pets, and a few children's books. There is also a small selection of videos dealing with dog behaviors and training tips.

All items are available for checkout. And opposed to most libraries, Lucky Dog's library encourages readers to write a short (two to three line) book review inside the cover, then sign and date it. Maybe you took the book on vacation with you, or perhaps a particular chapter was very helpful. If a training tip or handling technique was the "ah-ha moment" for you, direct other readers to it. As these books take on their own lives and travels, please help document their contributions.

If you have an animal related book hanging around that you would like to donate to our library, we would be delighted to have it. But before you drop it off, please contribute to its history by adding a message inside that front cover!



Volunteer of The Month

Who is Sheila Hamlett? Chances are that few Patriot Assistance Dogs supporters, dog recipients, or other volunteers have even heard her name. Sheila's work is so far behind the face of PAD that we only get to see her on Monday nights after 1700 and, most years, at PAD Graduation. Yet Sheila is perfect for the job she does for PAD; maintaining the veterinary records on the 270 plus dogs that have come through our program.

What makes Sheila so right for this particular position? Let's start with her military career. She is a Veteran of 15 years with the US Army. She has two MOSs, Animal Care Specialist and Food Inspection Specialist. Her job for the Army included caring for and documenting the health of the Army dogs at each base she was assigned. Sheila deployed three times, once to Kuwait, once to Djibouti, and once with the Navy on the USNS Mercy.

While stationed at Ft. Knox, Sheila spent 3 years as the NCOIC of the AIM-HI (Animals In the Military – Helping Individuals) service dog program. The program, located inside Ft. Knox Regional Correctional Facility, had military inmates train shelter dogs to be service dogs for Veterans or their family members. Dogs were trained for hearing alert, seizure alert, diabetic alert, wheelchair assistance and other needed tasks. Unfortunately, this program no longer exists.

During her career, Sheila like many Vets sustained injuries serious enough to merit a disability rating. She used that rating to further her education in food safety and obtained a Master's Degree in Food Science. Sheila currently works as the corporate Food Safety Director for KLN Family Brands, makers of NutriSource Pet Foods and Wiley Wallaby Licorice, in Perham, MN.

Written by Linda Wiedewitsch, Adjusted by Sheila Hamlett





Marshmallow Animal Shelter



Fostering

Written by Connie Hammes

“Be the change you want to see in the world.” *Mahatma Gandhi*


Where homeless domestic animals are concerned, life is full of danger and hardship. They struggle against the weather, forage dumpsters for food, and dodge the kicks of unfriendly people. For those lucky enough to find their way to a shelter, they wait for weeks, months, sometimes years for their forever home. In the last year, Marshmallow Animal Shelter took in 246 cats and 174 dogs. Of those, 12 cats and 86 dogs were reunited with family. That means 234 cats and 88 dogs needed to be cared for at the shelter. While at the shelter, all of the animals get basic care – food, water, clean bedding and exercise. Marshmallow tries to make their accommodations comfortable... but a cage isn't a home. Marshmallow staff does their best to provide each animal with enough love and affection...but there's only so much you can do in the shelter environment and there are just so many hours in a day. Imagine how stressful life is for new arrivals at the shelter. Many of them have just lost their homes, their people, their friends, and their toys.....virtually everything they've ever known. Sadly for some, life as a stray has been hard and has left them scared with a general distrust of people.


Do you want to make an immediate difference in the life of a shelter animal? Then foster! Free a dog or a cat from its cage and bring it home with you. Marshmallow Foundation provides the dog or cat, the food, the cat litter, and anything else that is needed! You provide the home, the love, and the nurturing. Fosters learn so much in a foster home – they learn how to relax, trust, and play. The exposure and training results in better “meet and greets” and quicker adoptions. Fostering also saves lives by freeing shelter space so that more animals can be taken in.

So many people say “I could never foster. It would break my heart to let them go.” Well to be honest, there is always some sadness in letting a foster go.....but the momentary sadness of departure is nothing compared to the laughter, the joy, and the love each foster animal brings into your life. And besides, there's nothing like bringing home a **new** foster to dry up those tears!

Some of Our Adoptable Pets!



Eddy is a sweet fellow—We are told that he lived with a dog and other kitties and kept the peace. He was also keen on riding around with his owner in his wheelchair! 

Poppy is available for adoption through Marshmallow Animal Shelter. She is 9MO and so good. We are still working on potty training but for the most part we have been accident free. She gets along with other dogs, loves to play and stays nearby when we go outside. She is GOOFY and full of joy!!! 



Patriot Assistance Dogs

Patriot Assistance dogs is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing dogs, then training them as service dogs for Veterans who struggle with psychiatric disabilities.

The Process of Picking a Patriot Assistance Dog

Written By Sara Dohrer

Last month we discussed how veterans qualify to become a part of the Patriot Assistance Dogs program. In this article, we're taking a different perspective, looking at how the dogs themselves qualify. While we do guide veterans who are training their own dogs, the vast majority of our teams are with PAD-supplied dogs and it is that faucet that we're looking at today.

In order to source the dogs we use, PAD focuses on rescue; the idea being to aid two lives, both veteran and dog. Around 75% of the dogs we use come from shelters, rescues, reservation roundups, unfortunate rehoming situations, and the like. On occasion we will also accept dogs donated from quality breeders provided that the pup passes requirements and we have an experienced foster home available to raise them in.

When thinking of an ideal (canine) candidate, we look for a dog roughly 1-2 years old. This will allow us to complete medical testing, train the dog as it matures naturally, and get it placed with a waiting veteran as effectively as possible. The candidate ought to be in sound health and must have rabies and distemper vaccinations at bare minimum prior to being allowed in our facility. It may not show any signs of aggression, guarding, or other behavioral issues. We screen for temperament above all else as the personality of the dog is really what is going to make or break its functionality as a psychiatric service dog. We can easily train a dog to "do the thing," but taking a dog that just isn't people oriented and training them to be responsible for psychiatric work would be doing a disservice to man and beast alike.

The temperament test we utilize is a brief screening to see the dog's as they are. We can address training concerns down the road so at this point we are not concerned as to if it has basic obedience or not. Would the dog rather come visit this new human in the room or find a new corner to mark? Does he already display a willingness to please? Would he like to snuggle and receive affection or would he rather go make his own adventure? Is he reactive to other dogs, suffer from undue kennel stress, or resource guard like his life depends on it? Nobody is perfect- we weigh the strengths of each individual in our endeavor to make a better life for all. If a dog shows us a few tendencies that benefit service dogs, like their willingness to please and people orientation they may be a good fit for our program!





Muddy Puppies Dog Grooming

How to Make Grooming Easier on Your Dog – Part 2

Written by Dawn Hutmacher

(continued from January 2020)

6. Being handed over to a stranger to be poked and prodded can be scary for your dog. Try not to make a big deal about it. Remain calm and confident. They may balk at going into their grooming appointment, but don't see this as dislike for the groomer. Normally they just aren't fond of the grooming process.

7. Many clients would love to stay and help. However, this can be even more stressful for your dog. They expect you to rescue them from the things they do not like. Believe it or not, nearly every time you leave, the dog will settle into acceptance of their grooming. Many of them even enjoy it.

8. We make every attempt to make your dog comfortable during their grooming. We usually have music playing, we talk to your dog, we reassure them, we pet them and try to be sensitive to their reactions. Unfortunately, things like having their toe nails trimmed are just not things that they like, but must be done.

9. Understand that the restraining noose that we use serves two purposes - first it is there to keep the dog in the general working area and second, and more importantly, it is there for the safety of the dog. Suddenly leaping out of the tub or off a grooming table can lead to serious injuries.

10. Speaking of safety, we do require that your dog is vaccinated for rabies and distemper. We also highly recommend the bordetella vaccine. Please make sure to tell us of any allergies your dog has (skin or otherwise), if they have any medical issues, or bumps they may have under their fur.

Most of all, just try to make the trip fun for your dog, just like you would if you were taking them to the lake or dog park.



The Joy of Herding with Dogs



Written by Emily Steffen

Herding is, by definition, the moving and gathering of livestock, or to keep and look after livestock. But the sport of herding with your dog can be a lot more in depth and fun than that!

Herding with dogs can be an enjoyable, challenging mental and physical task for dogs and owners alike, and is beneficial for those who are looking for a new way to engage and learn with their dog. Herding breed owners often see the same disruptive behaviors from their dogs at home that actually benefit their dog during herding- behaviors like running in front of the kiddos to round them up, nipping at moving objects (and maybe people!), getting into the trash or places they are not allowed, and more. But while these behaviors are not good for a home environment, they are wonderful for helping your dog herd! Herding requires your dog to think and move quickly, solve problems, and yes, even nip occasionally if needed. Herding can be a fantastic outlet for you and your dog to relieve stress, get moving, and learn to work as a team.

Dogs with low confidence may also benefit greatly from herding, where the use of problem solving and movement can help them to feel confident in their decisions and that they can accomplish other tasks that may cause stress in their daily lives. Herding livestock comes with a unique set of challenges with lots of moving parts, including you, your dog, and the livestock.

Herding is usually started with sheep, but you may see other livestock as well, like ducks, goats, cattle, pigs, and more. If you and your dog are new to herding, you will likely start your dog in a smaller pen, possibly on a long line. Don't be upset if your dog becomes excited or ignores commands he may usually be stellar at- for a lot of dogs herding can be a very exciting and stimulating game that can make it hard for your dog to focus at first. Don't worry, this gets better with time! One of the great things about herding is that every dog learns at their own pace- so it is often beneficial to attend a clinic where others are also learning with their dogs, to see what other teams are doing as well. It is also a good idea to watch a professional in action, not only to see what your working towards, but also to learn!

More often than not, herding with your dog teaches you a lot about how your dog thinks, learns, and reacts to different types of situations and can help strengthen your relationship outside of the herding pen. I've found that even after years of working with my dog, we teach each other a lot and this not only deepens our relationship-it also gives us a lot of trust not only in what we have accomplished, but what we will do in the future as well. To me, this level of companionship and loyalty is the greatest reward of all.

Be aware, many describe herding like eating a bag of potato chips- once you start you can't stop!

Trainer's Corner

My Dog Doesn't Like the Crate and Isn't Afraid to Say So

Written by Paula Anderson

You've selected the proper size crate, now where to put it and how to get them to enjoy it....

Barking or whining when adjusting to a crate is not uncommon. They take time to adjust to being left alone. It's a new experience and your shaping it will set them up for success. Be cautious in unintentionally rewarding the behavior by releasing them when they may be barking or whining. If you've given the pup or dog a chance to relieve themselves before putting them in the crate, you can be pretty sure it's not the reason they may be vocalizing. If vocal protesting wins and gains them attention from you, say hello to sleepless nights and probably some difficulty with house training.

If ignoring them and giving them the opportunity to quiet on their own doesn't work, one of your next best tools is a spray bottle. Each time they begin to bark or whine, squirt them with the water until they stop. Here's where you get to challenge yourself. It's best if they don't see what direction the spray comes from. Let them think the house is doing it. Since it's a little harder to aim when we're being sneaky with the spray bottle, you probably don't want the crate right next to something that might suffer from water landing on it.

Selecting a place for the crate in an area where the family spends time is one option. A family room or kitchen if you wish. Many prefer a crate in a bedroom at night. Depending on the size of your crate, you could move it or have multiple crates. Outside of the bedroom, selecting a place that takes minimal time to get outside to their relief area for elimination is also a good choice.

When they learn crate manners and being quiet while still being able to be around the family activity is successful, you've set the dog up to succeed in learning to control their impulses. A future "place" command (basically a version of a crate without walls) will be much easier to teach if you've laid the groundwork.

So, you've selected the spot and have tools to help deal with any vocal opinions. With consistency, a fair approach and patience, you're on your way to success. Congrats!



February Special

Half Off the Self Serve Dog Wash!

Get your pup squeaky clean with our Self Serve Dog Wash. We supply everything you might need including a raised dog washing station, shampoos, conditioners, towels, hair dryers, brushes, nail clippers, and more!

All dogs are required to be up to date on their Rabies and Distemper vaccines and a printed copy must be on hand with Lucky Dog to use the Self Serve.

