



Canine Learning Centers *Doggie News*

"Winter 2005"

Are you sending your dog mixed signals?

Could your dog improve with its obedience training? Is it having a hard time with the "stay" exercise, or doesn't come when called, or pulls vigorously on the leash? Easy solutions are available to many of these problems, and it's as simple as taking a closer look at how we unconsciously communicate with our dogs.

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Tail Waggin Tips: Doggie 1st aid



Canine 1st aid kit:

- ❖ **Backup supply of any medication** prescribed by your veterinarian.
- ❖ **Water** – To drink and cool down body temperature (pour some over the pads of their feet).
- ❖ **Bandages** – To clean wounds, to stop bleeding, and to prevent licking and scratching.
 - 1 roll gauze
 - Gauze squares
 - 1 roll vet wrap
 - 1 roll sticky bandage
 - 1 roll soft bandage
- ❖ **Hemostat** – To pull out thorns, sticks, ticks etc...
- ❖ **Thermometer** – To take your dog's temperature (normal is 101-102 degrees F).
- ❖ **Saline Solution** – To flush out eyes.
- ❖ **Hydrogen Peroxide or Betadine Solution** – To flush and clean wounds.
- ❖ **Triple Antibiotic Ointment** – To disinfect cuts and scrapes.
- ❖ **325 mg Buffered Aspirin** – To relieve sore muscle pain and reduce inflammation (325mg/50 lbs, consult your veterinarian before use).
- ❖ **25 mg dephenhydramine HCl** – For allergic (consult your veterinarian before use).



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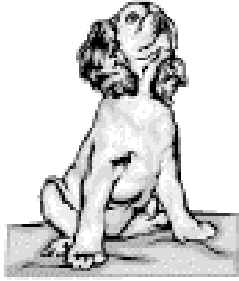
Happy New Year from
all of us at CLC!



New Year's Resolution:
**Take part in fun new activities with
your dog**

Training your dog not only results in a well-behaved animal but it also serves to strengthen your relationship. If you've enjoyed the process of obedience training there's a chance you'll probably appreciate some other activities as well. Consider these ideas:

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Dogs are visual creatures. Our canine friends have an extraordinarily well-developed language, yet their interactions often take place without a single sound. Entire conversations are held as they communicate with their bodies, ears and tails. Therefore, it's no surprise to learn that while we assume they're listening to our words, they're gathering most of their information from how we express ourselves with our body. Armed with this knowledge, unwanted responses from our dog during obedience training can be improved by becoming more aware of our own body language.

1. Begin by examining an owner whose dog has a tendency to get up during the “stay” exercise. In this situation, the handler is most likely a little anxious when doing the “stay” exercise because they anticipate their dog will get up. The handler unconsciously communicates this fear to the dog, and the end result is a dog that's much too tense to remain in position for a prolonged amount of time. A vicious cycle is therefore created: a tense handler makes for a tense dog, and a tense dog is unlikely to stay.

Suggestions: RELAX. Become aware of your body and posture. Breathe deeply and smile at your dog while it remains in position. Rest one of your legs, lean back slightly, and talk to your dog in a low soothing voice. Show your dog that you're not going anywhere, and so it may as well relax and stay put.

2. Another frequent miscommunication between dog and owner is with the “recall”. Common mistakes we make with our body language while we call our dogs back to us include bending at the waist, reaching for them with our hands, and walking towards them in a straight line. All of these actions actually suggest to our dog to stay away, and to most dogs are even considered a direct threat.

Suggestions: To draw your dog's attention make quick repetitive sounds. Don't stand in one place, but be animated by clapping, whistling and making kissing sounds. You can also turn your body away from your dog and actively move away from it. As the leader of the pack, this action instructs your dog to follow you.

3. Another common mistake is how we walk our dogs. A chronic “puller” has become accustomed to the sensation of a tight leash. A tightly held leash serves as a communication device for them, a sort of antenna through which they can read how you're feeling. This is not desirable because it allows your dog to avoid paying attention to you since the leash is keeping track of you instead.



Suggestions: LOOSEN-UP. The simple act of keeping some slack in the leash automatically forces your dog to begin tuning in. Your dog must learn that a loose lead means that it can move forward freely while a tight lead means stop. A loose leash walker is a confident dog who tunes in often and doesn't need to rely on a taut leash for communication. To break the habit of tightly holding your leash, press it against your body and make a mental note to keep it there. As soon as you feel the leash tighten and leave your side, stop abruptly and say “oops” to your dog. Get your dog's attention and coax him back to your side. Now you are ready to move forward once again.

Whether we realize it or not, our dogs look to us for leadership. Since body language is such an important mode of communication for our canine friends, we must present ourselves accurately. If we want our dog to be at ease in a stay position we must be relaxed as well. If we want our dog to come to us we must make ourselves exciting enough for them to want to join us. If we want a dog that's a pleasure on lead we need to let go a little!

Doggie 1st aid, continued from page 1

1st aid kit cont.

- ❖ **Styptic Powder** – To stop bleeding (useful if your dog tears one of its toenails).
- ❖ **Syrup of Ipecac** – To induce vomiting (useful if your dog has ingested something poisonous, 1tsp/10 lbs).
CAUTION: do not use if substance swallowed is caustic.
- ❖ **Muzzle** – Dogs that are usually very friendly may become aggressive when in pain.

Take your dog to the vet immediately if:

- ❖ It experiences a sudden change in behavior (ex: loses its appetite, stops playing and partaking in its regular activities, becomes lethargic).
- ❖ It vomits repeatedly (bring a sample to the vet to help with the diagnosis).
- ❖ It is constantly thirsty and urinates frequently.
- ❖ It has diarrhea for more than 24 hrs.
- ❖ It has a dry cough that lasts more than 24 hrs.
- ❖ Its eyes are red and irritated and its nose is dry and hot.
- ❖ It whines or yelps when you touch a specific area of its body.
- ❖ It has blood in its vomit or urine (which may indicate internal bleeding).
- ❖ It has convulsions or foams at the mouth.

Fun new activities, continued from page 1

Brush-up and Canine Good Citizen Classes:

Brush-up maintains your dog's training as you learn new and interesting things. The class builds on the exercises taught in Beginner Obedience and works to find methods that suit you and your dog. Yearly memberships are offered that allow you to attend all or as many sessions as you like.

Canine Good Citizen is a certificate earned through the American Kennel Club. The class focuses on the following 10 CGC exercises: greeting a friendly stranger, sitting politely for petting, standing for exam, coming when called, walking through a crowd, walking on a loose leash, supervised separation, greeting another dog, reaction to distraction, and staying in place. The test for the certificate is optional on the last day of class.

If you're interested in Brush-up or CGC classes contact:

Canine Learning Center:
Phone: (760) 931-1834
Website: www.k9lrng.com

Agility:

Agility is a sport where dog and handler teams train together to complete an obstacle course. These obstacle courses are made up of tunnels, seesaws, A-frames, jumps, weave-poles, etc... Dog and handler teams compete against one another. The winners finish the course in the shortest amount of time with the fewest faults. Faults occur when a dog does not tackle an obstacle properly or runs off-course.

Any breed can compete but agility dogs need to be energetic and attentive.

If you're interested in agility contact:

El Cajon Dog Quest Agility, Escondido
Phone: (760) 489-0537

Dog Quest Agility, Escondido
Phone: (619) 685-7070

Ups N Downs, San Marcos
E-mail: grifb@rb9.swrcb.ca.gov

Flyball:

Flyball, simply put, is a doggie relay race. Teams are composed of four dogs and their handlers. The course consists of a series of four hurdles the dogs must jump over. After finishing the row of hurdles the dogs must step onto a spring box (flyball box) and catch a tennis ball. Once the ball is caught, the dogs must return over the hurdles and cross the finish line, where the next dog on the team waits to begin. The first team to have all four dogs finish the course without errors wins.

If you're interested in Flyball contact:

INXS, El Cajon
E-mail: INXSFLYBALL@aol.com

Catchers on the Fly, Encinitas
E-mail: john@jrutkowski.com

We Be Flyin', San Diego

E-mail: jan@flyinbcs.com

Pet Assisted Therapy:

Pet Assisted Therapy is the practice of bringing animals into health care facilities. Interactions with dogs and other animals offer many benefits for patients: they help them feel less lonely and depressed, and also provide them with entertainment. Dogs don't judge individuals based on illness or physical state, and accept them as they are. This unbiased attitude improves a patient's mental state and helps to ease their pain. Studies even show that petting animals reduces blood pressure! Therapy dogs should be calm and social, and need to be extremely responsive to their handlers in this environment. Obtaining a Canine Good Citizen certificate is helpful before beginning therapy work.

If you're interested in Pet Assisted Therapy contact:

San Diego Humane Society and SPCA
Pet Assisted Therapy Coordinator
Phone: (619) 299-7012 ext. 2271

Helen Woodward Animal Center
P.E.T. Program
Phone: (858) 756-4117 ext. 322



Class Schedule 2005

Puppy Class

For puppies 8-16 weeks. Maximum 8 puppies per class. Indoor class.

Carlsbad/La Costa	Tues	1/4/05	7:00 pm
Del Mar	Wed	1/05/05	6:30 pm
University City	Mon	1/10/05	7:00 pm
La Jolla	Wed	1/05/05	6:45 pm

Beginner Obedience

For dogs 16 weeks and up. Maximum 8 dogs per class.

Encinitas	Mon	1/10/05	9:30 am
Encinitas	Tues	1/11/05	6:30 pm
La Jolla	Tues	1/11/05	6:30 pm
Del Mar	Thurs	1/06/05	6:30 pm
Del Mar	Wed	2/02/05	6:30 pm
University City	Sat	3/05/05	9:00 am
Pt. Loma	Sat	1/08/05	9:30 am
Carlsbad	Sat	1/08/05	9:00 am

Intermediate Obedience

Canine Good Citizen

Open to graduates of beginner. Prepare your dog to take the AKC Canine Good Citizen test.

Carlsbad	Sat	1/08/05	10:15 am
Del Mar	Wed	2/02/05	7:30 pm
University City	Sat	TBD	

Brush Up/Novelty

Open to graduates of beginner or intermediate. Maintain and perfect basic obedience. Learn new and innovating training methods all year long.

Carlsbad	Sat	1/08/05	10:15 am
Encinitas	Wed	TBD	
Del Mar	Wed	2/02/05	7:30 pm
University City	Tues	3/08/05	10:15 am
Pt. Loma	Sat	1/08/05	8:30 am

WWW.K9LRNG.COM

760-931-1834



CANINE LEARNING CENTERS

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For more information
