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Paws & Effect

JUNE 23, 2008

Bark Heard Around the World

by Marjorie Wentworth

Paws Across Oswego County joined many Animal groups at the Bark event held at the Yates County Fair Grounds on May 17th. It turned out to be a wonderful event.

We met groups from all over some new faces to us as well as some groups we were honored to met for the first time. So many people with the same problem. Too many dogs that need homes and not enough homes or money to house them. All these people open their hearts their hearts and their pocketbooks to save as many as they can, but it is a task that seems never to end. A few of the groups had just received over 68 dogs taken out of a puppy mill in

Texas. Almost every one had health problems that had to be addressed, not to mention none were vaccinated, groomed, or had been altered.

Fighting against the over population of dogs is hard enough without these "businesses" keeping dogs in cages and breeding them over and over just for the money. If there was any other business that operated with this kind of practice we would never support them. We certainly would never buy their products. Every time someone buys a puppy from a pet store or on line they may be supporting a dog torture center. Yes, they may have "saved" that puppy, but for the busi-

ness they have given them the money to continue. If the "product" (puppies) stopped selling and the business would end.

Congratulations and thank you goes out to the Puppy Mill Rescue and their supporters for that day that brought together the community in that area and let them know what they are fighting for. They were able to stop the puppy mill there from getting a permit for a 260 dog kennel for a year.

Hopefully in a years time we can end all these "businesses" that produce endless pain and loneliness for it's "producers". Help us help them and think before you buy.

Selecting the right dog

by Kathy Shumway

Owning a dog is a commitment that should not be taken lightly. According to Brian Kilcommons and Sarah Wilson, authors of the book *Good Owners, Great Dogs*, many questions should be answered before you decide to bring a dog into your home. Below are a few areas that they recommend you consider:

- ◆ What type of dog is best for your lifestyle? Whether you are picking a purebred or an All American Dog, you should consider the characteristics of the breed or the predominant breeds when making a selection. We will talk more about this topic in the next edition of this newsletter.
- ◆ How much time to you have? Bringing a puppy into your home requires a considerable commitment of your time. If your schedule is less flexible, perhaps an adult dog is a better

choice. However, if you are gone all day, do not have time in the mornings or in the evenings to spend with your dog, please choose another pet. All dogs, adults and puppies, need your time.

- ◆ How athletic are you? All dogs need exercise. If your idea of exercise is a short walk around the block, pick a toy breed or a dog with low energy. If you like to run marathons, pick a dog that can keep up with you.
- ◆ Do you have children or plan to have children? Too many dogs are turned over to shelters, re-homed or abandoned when the new baby comes home. Dogs are commitments, too. Make sure you pick a dog that will be compatible with your children.
- ◆ How much experience do you

have? All dogs need training. If you've never trained a dog before, it is best to stay away from tough, territorial breeds. Start out with a dog that is more easygoing.

Take the time to evaluate your lifestyle, as well as your likes and dislikes. Then select a dog that is compatible. Don't rush your decision. Owning a dog is a wonderful experience. But with that comes responsibility and commitment.

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A Closer Look At Barking - Part 6

by Kathy Shumway



Training Classes:

Behavioral /Obedience Classes — Classes are scheduled Monday or Thursday Evenings 6:30—7:30 PM. Classes are seven weeks in length. Registration is required. Call 343-0001 to for more information or to register.

Game Night – Every Tuesday evening from 6:30—7:30 PM. No registration is required, but we ask that you call 343-0001 the day of the class to let us know you are coming. Games are selected based on the number of attendees.

Puppy Kindergarten—Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM. For puppies up to 6 months of age. No registration is required.

Basic Obedience Class—Saturday morning 10:00—11:00 AM Registration is required. Please call Andrea at 439-2594

Fun with Agility—Wednesday evenings at 6:30—7:30 PM. Call 343-0001 for more information.

Our complete training schedule is located on our website:

www.pawsandeffectinc.com

We're on the Web!!!
www.pawsandeffectinc.com

Learned Barking— Dogs are intelligent creatures and they learn by association. If your dog barks at you and you get up to let him outside, let him back inside, feed him or give him some sort of attention, he quickly learns that he can get what he wants by barking. It may have been happenstance at first. He just happened to bark and you responded. However, as you continued to respond to his barking, he learned that barking gets him what he wants. At this point, his barking has become a learned behavior.

Since you reward your dog's barking by giving him what he wants, the best treatment for curtailing learned barking is to completely ignore your dog when he is barking just to get your attention. When your dog is barking so you will pet him, give him a treat, or play with him, totally, completely ignore him. Do not talk to him. Do not touch him. Give him absolutely no eye contact. Leave the room if possible. Pretend he is just not there. I realize this is easier said than done. However, if you want to successfully stop learned barking, you must ignore your dog's barking 100% of the time and everyone in the family must follow suit. Like I said earlier, dogs are smart creatures. When your dog learns that his barking no longer gets him what he wants, he will stop.

One word of warning. There's a phenomenon called the "extinction burst" that you need to be aware of. When the reward suddenly stops, it's likely that your dog will not immediately give up the barking. He may initially be confused because you are not responding as usual. He will likely bark louder, faster and more emphatically. It's a burst of activity. If the behavior remains unrewarded, the barking will eventually extinguish, or become extinct. This burst of barking before extinction is called an "extinction burst".

People are prone to extinction burst as well. Have you ever noticed that, when your computer is slow to respond, you start pressing the "Enter" key again and again, usually pressing it harder and harder each time. Sooner or later you realize that you've totally "confused" your computer and you either shut down or reboot. This is another example of an extinction burst.

So before things get better, expect them to get worse. When this burst of barking happens realize you are likely close to the end. When you reach this point, it is even more important that you do not give in. If you do give in, your dog will learn that if he barks loader and longer, he'll eventually get what he wants. You've then exacerbated the problem. So be strong and outlast your dog. He will, if unrewarded, stop barking for attention.

When your dog is not barking, give him the attention, the treat, the toy or whatever he was previously barking to get. Let him know that quiet behavior is rewarded.

This is the last article in our series on barking problems. I hope you have found the information helpful. If you have further questions, feel free to contact me at dgtrainer@twcny.rr.com. I will respond to you as quickly as possible.

World Records...

by Kathy Shumway

OK - I admit I truly do not know how accurate these are, but they do make interesting reading...

- ◆ World's largest dog.... The world's heaviest as well as longest dog ever recorded was an Old English Mastiff named Zorba. In 1989, Zorba weighed 343 lbs and was 8 feet 3 inches long from nose to tail!
- ◆ World's tallest dog.... The tallest dog on record was named Shamgret Danzas. He was 42 inches tall (at the shoulder!) and weighed 238 lbs.
- ◆ World's smallest dog.... The smallest dog in history was a tiny Yorkie from Blackburn, England. At two years of age and fully grown this little dude was an incredible 2.5 inches tall by 3.75 inches long! He weighed only 4 ounces! He was approximately the size of a matchbox.
- ◆ World's oldest dog.... The oldest dog that has been reliably documented was an Australian cattle-dog named Bluey. He was put to sleep at the age of 29 years and 5 months.
- ◆ World's Best Drug Sniffing Dogs....A US Customs Labrador named "Snag" has made 118 drug seizures worth a canine record of \$810 million. The greatest number of drug seizures by dogs is 969 in one year. In 1988, the team of "Rocky" and "Barco" patrolled the Texas and Mexico border, alias "Cocaine Alley." They were so good that Mexican drug lords put a price of \$30,000 dollars on their heads.

Meet the Fosters

Note: We foster dogs through Paws Across Oswego County. They are a not for profit group made up of volunteers who work on donations and fundraisers. If you are interested in meeting any of our fosters, please call the shop to make arrangements.

Studies have reported over 8 million animals are euthanized in shelters across the US. PLEASE spay and neuter.

Looking for a new member of the family? Check out petfinder.com

If you would like to make a donation in memory to Paws Across Oswego County send a picture and tell us about your much missed and loved pet and we will place it in our next newsletter



Otis

Otis is a Pomeranian Cairn Terrier mix. He is a small dog with a big personality. He can melt your heart with one look, but don't let that little sweet face fool you. He is full of energy. He also is a bit aggressive with other dogs and will chase cats. We are working on the dog aggression. He just needs to be more socialized and learn dog etiquette.

Otis has been neutered, heartworm tested, wormed, and has had all his shots.

Because he is a runner, the adoptee must have a fenced yard. He has been good with his house training, but still has some accidents.

Otis loves to play ball. He has learned to bring it back and drop it. He is very smart and eager to learn.



Bob

We are happy to announce that Bob has been adopted. He is in his forever home and is very happy.

"If you cannot decide between a Shepherd, a Setter or a Poodle, get them all—adopt a mutt!" ASPCA



Sherman

Sherman is a beautiful black cat with the most interesting silver necklace of fur.

He is very sweet and starved for attention. He follows the girls everywhere while they are cleaning and doing the laundry and tries to hold their legs as they leave the cat room.

Sherman is very gentle natured and seems to love everyone. He has been very clean in his room and when he is out and about he goes back to his room to find the litter pan.

Sherman has been neutered, feline leukemia tested, and has had all his shots. He is waiting for the perfect forever home and someone to follow.

Dog Days of Summer



The period from July 3rd to August 11th is called the "Dog Days of Summer." But where does this term come from? Why do we call the hot, sultry days of summer

"dog days?"

Excluding the sun, Sirius, also known as the "Dog Star", is the brightest star in the heavens. The name "Dog Star" came from the ancient Egyptians who called Sirius the Dog Star after their god Osiris, whose head resembled that of a dog. Because of its brightness, ancient Egyptians and

Romans believed Sirius helped to heat the earth. During the summer months, Sirius is in conjunction with the Sun. Because Sirius rose and fell with the Sun during the summer months, the ancient Egyptians and Romans believed that Sirius' heat added to the heat of the Sun, making the summer months hot and sultry.



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"We have more in store for your best friend."

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself.

-Unknown

Meeting new friends Week 10

Here I am at week ten of integrating a new Shih Tzu ("Arthur") and two new adult cats into my home with my two adult labs and two adult cats.

We have actually seen all four cats lying on the kitchen floor at the same time. They have become accustomed to each other and like any siblings have learned how to tease each other successfully and when to back off. I think they have worked things out pretty good. Butch, the older of the two new ones still spends most of his time in the bedroom, but as time progresses he stays out longer and longer. He poses no threat to any of the others so they don't mind him at all. Lance on the other hand has decided that racing through the house at top speed is the best of fun. That is until it sets off the labs, who hearing the commotion, ran at him and bark. He will usually retreats into the bedroom until his next burst of energy. Both the new cats are declawed. My dogs still can't figure out why when these cats hit them it doesn't hurt. You can almost hear Samantha thinking as she quickly jumps back from a hit from a cat's paw only to stop and slowly go back until hit again. I'm sure now every time she meets a new dog she tells them how tough she is because not even a hit from a cat hurts her.

Arthur has always adjusted very well. He is a carefree guy who seems to like everyone he meets, people and animals. He has learned the schedule of the house and now he has learned that chasing me to the door every time I leave doesn't change the fact that I still leave. Giving him a treat and telling him to go lay down works now. I have always done that with the labs and he gets the idea.

The oddest thing I've found is that every time I cough or even clear my throat Arthur jumps up, even from a sound sleep, and runs over to me. I have no clue why he does this. My mom had allergies and coughed all the time so he should be used to someone coughing. I find myself stiffening coughs just so I don't panic him, I feel so guilty that the poor guy is so traumatized by a cough. Especially at night I don't want to wake him and then have him run up to my face and stare at me. The up side as that Arthur doesn't come quickly when called so now all I have to do is cough and he comes running.

I think we are all going to be fine. I'm sure there will still be some adjustments, and a few more tiffs between cats, but nothing we can't handle together.

Marg

De-shedding Tools

by Marjorie Wentworth

When your short haired dogs comes in for a grooming we first wash them twice then condition the coat. They are then dried with a high powered drier that blows out some of the shedding fur. After they are brushed and dried under a low powered drier. When they are dried we use a de-shedding tool to pull out more of the shedding coat. The tool we use removes the finer under coat (the stuff you find blowing around your house like tumbleweeds) and leaves the guard coat undamaged.

This tool can also be purchased in our store. Bring your dog in and we can show you how to use it and how well it works.

Dog 's coat grows and falls out or sheds when it gets to its full length. That is why short haired breeds shed more than long coated breeds. Their coat will get to it's full growing length much quicker. Even long coated breeds or so called non-shedding breeds still shed, just not as often as their coat takes longer to get to it's full length. In the warmth of the summer and the longer light source makes fur grow more quickly, so the coat will shed out

more in the summer months.

Coat that has detached and tangles into the remaining coats can cause matting, which in turn can cause the skin to be damaged due to the lack of air getting to the skin. This can also form hot spots in the hot summer weather.

Using a de-shedding tool once a week will keep your dog's coat and skin healthy and the shedding fur from taking over your home, clothes, and car.



Coupon

\$1.00 off

Furbuster

De-Shedding

Tool

Reg. Price \$25.00

