

"There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face"

Ben Williams

Hi Everybody!

We have had some great training weather lately, even though it's starting to warm up! As it gets hotter, dogs start getting tired much quicker, and exercising them during the heat becomes dangerous.

Learning can be stressful and many dogs will become mentally tired before they get physically tired. Overworking a dog when it's mentally tired, will be counterproductive and cause a dog to shut down. With my new dog, I do a couple of 10 minute sessions a day with a lot of playing and reinforcement during those sessions. I always stop before the dog wants to stop. Keep them wanting more and they will never get bored!

Do not practice exercises in the same order. The worse thing you can be is predictable! Take your training toy out and play between exercises, especially after performing those exercises that are more challenging for your dog.

No Class:

There will be no Agility classes on Friday, April 28.

Dog Trainers Referendum Proposed by Hillsborough County

Thanks to all the signatures, letters, and calls to the county commissioners, the Dog Trainers Licensing and Certification referendum did not pass. I want to thank all my students for all their support!

Virtual NADAC Runs

Mark you calendars agility students!

Andrea Entin will be hosting video runs for dogs in NADAC Novice and Intro Sunday, May 21 starting at 8AM.

Video runs can earn titles as well as runs at shows. You will need to bring a cell phone or video camera. If your run is not clean the first

time, you get to correct and use the run as practice. If you run clean, you can submit it to NADAC for credit at a cost of \$5 per run.

The cost of this event will be \$10 per dog (for the whole day)
If you need any more information about the Video Runs in NADAC, let me know. It's really very relaxed and lots of fun!

Andrea's address is:
8206 Tom Gilbert Road
Lakeland, FL 33810
agilitybang@yahoo.com

Rules of Engagement for Playing Tug of War:

"Useful tips from form the Whole Dog Journal"

1. Dog needs to sit politely and wait for the invitation to tug. If he leaps and grabs for the toy before being invited to do so from your cue, take the toy away and hide it behind your back. (In the language of behavior modification, this is called "negative punishment" – the dog's behavior makes the good thing go away.)

2. When he remains sitting politely until invited to tug, he gets to play. (This is "positive reinforcement" – the dog's behavior makes a good thing happen.)

3. If dog's teeth leave the toy and touch human skin or clothing, the games stops with an "Oops!" (no-reward marker) and the toy goes away (negative punishment). Just for a moment – and then we can play again. (If he persistently mouths skin or clothing and/or mouthing escalates with tug play, that's another behavioral issue; I would stop playing tug until the mouthing is under better control.)

That's it! There's just one last really important rule:

4. Have fun!

Congratulations to Our Latest Graduates!

Super Star Puppy:

Charlotte Glandon & Oakley (Aussie)
Susan Stackhouse & Holly (Beagle Mix)

Amy De Souza & Dallas (Boxer mix)
Katie & Mike Elia with Hazel (Maltipoo)
Cynthia Crim & Winston (Maltese)
Cecil & Tommy Banhan with Winston (Lab)
Tammy Lee & Zoe (German Shepherd)
Jerry & Sharon Miller with Maggie (Lab)
Carrie Deming & Lee Walton with Winnie (English Cocker)
Laurie Bumberg & Sky (Lab)
Marlo Thomas Wells & Cooper (Lab mix)

Basic Agility:

Alex & Raelynn Chillurs with Nala (Mini Aussie)
Bruce Bradley & Katie (French Pointer)
Linda Edler & Skky (Boxer)
Theresa Aldrick & Levi (Mini Aussie)
Cheri Scott & Keeper (Aussie)

Dog Class Schedule

Monday:

6:00 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy (Next class starting **May 22, 2017**)
7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Agility (Next class starting **April 24, 2017**)
8:00 to 9:00 PM - Intermediate Agility

Tuesday:

9:00 to 10:00 AM - Advanced Agility
10:00 to 11:00 AM - Intermediate Agility
6:00 to 6:45 PM - Weaving Class (Next class starting **May 9**)
7:00 to 8:00 PM - Distance Class

Wednesday:

9:30 AM - (Super Puppy)
11:00 AM - All levels Rally Obedience
6:00 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy (New class starting **June 7, 2017**)
7:00 to 8:00 PM - Intermediate / Advanced Agility

Thursday:

6:00 to 7:00 PM - Basic Obedience
7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Obedience (Next class starting **May 25, 2017**)
8:00 to 9:00 PM - Rally Obedience

Friday:

9:00 to 10:00 AM - Advanced Agility
10:00 to 11:00 AM - Intermediate Agility

...and now, time for a paws...

Ileana