

"You can say any foolish thing to a dog, and the dog will give you a look that says, 'My Goodness, you're right I never would've thought of that!'" - Dave Barry

Hi Everybody!

We have some exciting news at Cool Critters! The American Kennel Club now has a Trick Dog Title. There are four levels, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Performer Trick dog titles. As I read through the tricks, I realized that many of those were behaviors that dogs learn in my classes! Therefore, the Trick Dog Title program will be added to my Obedience classes.

The Basic Obedience will now be the Obedience Foundation Class and will include the performance of Novice level tricks. Each student will be given a checklist for their dog which will be completed by the end of the class, and will be sent in to AKC along with the CGC form. It will be so much fun!

I will also be starting the CGCA classes which are the advanced version of the CGC, the AKC Community Canine program. These classes will take obedience to a higher level...the performance of the exercises in the community. The requirement for this class is a CGC title.

I will be starting a daytime CGCA class on Wednesday, at 11AM, and an evening class on Thursday, August 3 at 6PM.

Also Coming Soon to Cool Critters:

AV- Canine, or All Around Versatile Canine is an exciting new canine sport that offers a variety of classes that test the skills and teamwork from many other canine activities. This is a new exciting project from Sharon Nelson of NADAC fame.

The purpose of an All Around Canine event is to demonstrate the ability of the dog and handler to work as a smooth functioning team with an emphasis on enthusiasm and fun for both handlers and dogs. Attitude and willingness are paramount while testing the teams' ability to perform a variety of tests to display the teamwork between dog and handler.

All Around Canine offers a wide variety of classes for every dog and handler. Dogs can earn titles in Canine Tricks (a great way to display your dog's variety of tricks, Push-Ball Classes (from the basics of the dog pushing a ball forward with their nose, to the higher levels showing directional turns, this is a fun class for all dogs), Obstacle Pathwork Class (the dog and handler demonstrate how close to the perfect path they can negotiate a course of obstacles with efficiency and accuracy), Canine Scentwork (the dog demonstrates their ability to find different scents with increased difficulty

using common scents selected by the handler, no essential oils allowed), and the Combo Class that combines skills from rally/obedience and the obstacle pathwork class.

Each level of the classes will offer new and challenging tests for the dog and handler. This is going to be lots of fun for dogs and handlers. I would like to start an AV-Canine group (possibly on Friday PM when I don't have shows).

Check out the AV-Canine Facebook page for some videos and more information. Send me an email to see how many people are interested in doing this with their dogs.

Puppies!!!

Amy San Martin, our Pet sitter extraordinaire, has a litter of beautiful Corgi puppies and I believe she still has three available. The parents are adorable and with great temperaments. Please contact Amy at 813-716-4135

Check Your Dog's Teeth!

From Whole Dog Journal:

Like us, dogs can develop problems with their teeth that can affect their overall health. But in comparison to us, their lives are much shorter - and they develop dental problems much more quickly. In fact, if these problems are neglected, they can actually shorten your dog's life.

Cavities are the biggest problem for human teeth, but the accumulation of plaque and the development of tartar is the most serious dental problem for dogs. Tartar builds up on the teeth, forming a concrete-like crust on the teeth at the gum line. It also forms under the gums, which helps bacteria get under the gums and proliferate. The resulting infection causes the gums to appear red, swollen, and irritated. This condition, also known as gingivitis, can lead to deeper infections. Infection can also damage the ligaments and bone that anchor the teeth, making them susceptible to loss. Because of the rich blood supply to the mouth, the infection can also spread systemically, making your dog quite ill and/or affecting his heart, kidneys, and liver. This chronic condition can prematurely age your dog.

The odd thing is, some dogs can go their entire lives and never need one bit of dental care in order to maintain white, strong, healthy teeth. But others need our intervention and help to keep their teeth in a state of health. Small dogs tend to have more problems with the formation of tartar than large dogs; it's not uncommon for small dogs as young as five or six years old to have very dangerously tartar-encrusted teeth and infected gums.

Dogs may also have other dental problems that can't be seen while the dog is awake, no matter how cooperative. Cracked or broken teeth can cause chronic pain – and the dog won't necessarily show signs of this, such as a reluctance to eat – but he may be cranky and lose enthusiasm for play or work.

If your dog has discolored teeth, and tartar has begun to form along his gum line, he'll need a professional cleaning at your veterinarian's clinic to completely remove the tartar from both the surfaces you can see AND the under-gum surfaces you can't. Your veterinarian might also prescribe and supply you with antibiotics to give your pet after the procedure, to help your pet fight the bacteria that is released into his bloodstream by the cleaning process. The cleaning is done under general anesthesia; there is no other way to do a thorough job.

Once your pet's teeth are clean, you can maintain that state with regular brushing. Use toothpaste made for pets; human toothpaste containing fluoride is toxic to dogs. Use a very soft toothbrush; most pet supply stores sell long-handled brushes with a head small enough to fit into the mouths of small animals. Start out slowly, keeping the process rewarding for your pet. The pet toothpaste usually come in flavors that your dog will like (mine do). Your vet can show you how to do it if you are afraid.

Dog Class Schedule:

Monday:

6:00 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy (Next class starting Sept. 18, 2017)

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Agility (Next class starting Sept. 11, 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 Weaving Proficiency (Next class starting October 17, 2017)

7:00 to 8:00 PM – Distance Class

Wednesday:

10:00 to 11:00AM - All levels Rally Obedience

11AM – Community Canine class - CGCA

6:00 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy (New class starting August 9, 2017)

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Intermediate / Advanced Agility

Thursday:

6:00 to 6:45 PM – Community Canine CGCA (Starts August 3, 2017)

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Obedience (Next class starting July 27, 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

Congratulations to Our Latest Graduates!

Beginning Agility:

Jean Hill & Harley (Shih-Poo)

Carrie Deming & Winnie (English Cocker)

Susan Riffle & Talli (French Bulldog)

Charlotte Glandon & Oakley (Australian Shepherd)

Susan Stackhouse & Holly (All American)

Jim Graves & Dancer (English Shepherd)

STAR Puppies:

Brendan Clare & Molly (Border Collie/Husky Mix)

Bruce Bradley & Deby Gregory with Kody (Kooiker)

Theresa Payne & Dallas (Border Collie)

Sebastian Fernandez & Tempo (Vizsla)

Linda Menekscoglu & Chester (Beagle)

Basic Obedience

Kristy Loman-Chiodo & Rhythm, CGC

Katie Blair & Diesel, CGC (Boxer)

Mark Delibertis & Ziggy, CGC (Boxer)

Deborah Tourtlotte & Tucker, CGC (All American)

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

Ileana