

"A dog teaches a child fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down"
-Robert Benchley

Hi Everybody!

This weekend, Virtual NADAC Runs will give your baby agility dogs a great opportunity to get some ring experience!

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 it 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.

If you have a beginner and you want to get them some ring time come on out to Lakeland. We are going to be running just novice and intro courses. Come and practice or if you have your NADAC number for your dog we will record your run for a potential qualifying score. If you don't have your number you can visit NADAC.com and get your number in time for Sunday. Agility area is completely fenced. Bring a place for your dog to chill between runs and a device to record your runs. Please bring \$10.00 to donate for the day. Breakfast goodies will be provided. Tentatively we are planning on regular, touch and go, jumpers and hoopers...all dependent on the heat and our energy levels. Should be a great time. It's really very relaxed and lots of fun!

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

No Classes

We will have no class Monday May 29, Memorial Day

No Sandals

Effective immediately, **no flip flops or open sandals** will be allowed when students are training their dogs. Closed or running sandals are fine. This is a safety precaution since dog training is an activity that requires the owners to walk at a brisk pace and run with their dogs in the case of agility. This is a requirement of all dog training facilities recommended by the liability insurance companies.

Controlling the Ouch!

Puppies spend all their time exploring and learning about the world around them. We marvel at their curiosity and playfulness – until we experience The Teeth.

Puppies explore with their mouths, which nature has equipped with rows of teeny-tiny hole-punchers. It's no fun being at the receiving end of a bitey pup. It hurts! It's no wonder that the leading complaint from puppy owners is "How do I stop him from biting?" There are a number of things you can do to manage a nippy puppy until your puppy outgrows this important developmental stage. **Yes! They do outgrow it!** Trying to correct this painful behavior can be difficult for some dogs.

The following is a list of things you can do to keep your skin, clothes, and other belongings intact while your puppy works through the biting phase:

1. Get lots of chew toys. Don't skimp on the number or variety of chew toys your puppy has access to. Make sure that there is an ample supply of appropriate things your puppy can pick up with his mouth as he explores his home. (Remember that to a puppy, literally everything in his path is a chew toy, so it's up to you to ensure your things – shoes, plants, remote controls, etc. – are safely stored.)

Also, when your puppy does pick up a toy, take advantage of the moment to reinforce this good behavior by showering him with attention. Think about it – if you ignore him when he picks up the correct item, but shout and jump around when he grabs your toes (or shoes), he'll quickly learn that biting toes (or shoes!) is a sure way to get your attention. Showing him that picking up a toy, instead, is indeed the best way to get your attention will pay off in the long run.

2. A trainer I know, introduces her puppies to "latch ropes." This doesn't have to be anything special; the term describes any long item that can be dragged behind you as you move through your home.

Moving objects are an open invitation for puppies to latch on with their teeth. Feet, pant legs, bath robe hems – they're all fair game! She makes several "latch ropes" and keeps them handy, all over the house. That way, when walking from the living room to the kitchen, you can grab the closest latch rope and drag it behind as you move. Puppy is more likely to latch onto that than to moving human feet. This is especially useful for kids who may feel terrorized by the puppy each time they walk or run through the house.

You don't need to buy a bunch of these toys; they are easy and inexpensive to make. You can cut an old beach towel or large bath towel in half (lengthways) to make two separate toys. Tie a knot in the center, then two smaller knots on each end. Or, ask your friends and family members to donate their old pairs of jeans. Cut the pant legs off, and then cut each pant leg into several long strips of fabric that you can then braid to make a denim rope. All of these homemade toys can easily be tossed into the washer when needed.

3. Redirect your pup to a "legal" object to bite. Simply petting your puppy can sometimes prove difficult. He may view your hands on him as an invitation to play – and that means using his teeth! Scrambling to save your fingers from a chomping puppy mouth can be a challenge– as soon as you free one hand, the puppy has latched on to the other! Try holding a chew toy for your puppy to gnaw on while your other hand gently strokes him. When done correctly, this is an excellent bonding experience.

4. Toss his treats on the floor. Delivering a treat to a bitey puppy during training requires some skill. Avoid pinching the treat between your thumb and index finger, or your puppy's teeth may clamp down on your fingers. Instead, offer the treat in the palm of your open hand, or, better yet, toss it to the floor.

There's an extra advantage to tossing treats directly on the floor: it is especially helpful in keeping children's tiny hands safe.

By far the best plan of action for dealing with puppy biting involves being well-prepared. Manage your puppy's environment by storing anything you don't want him to chew, including plants, wires, and anything else within his reach. Have lots and lots of appropriate objects available for your puppy to wrap his teeth around, and remember to praise him every time he puts the right item in his mouth. Be patient; this shall pass!

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 **June 26, 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

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Distance Class

Wednesday:

10:00 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:

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 10:30 AM - Advanced / Intermediate Agility

Congratulations to Our Latest Graduates:

Super Star Puppy:

Matt & Beth Gray with Sadie (Mini Aussie)

Jessica Schweitzer & Sadie (Yorkie)

Raun Spranger & Wrigley (German Shepherd)

Karen Vivolo & KonaJo (Catahoula Mix)

Lisa Boudreaux & Star (Golden Retriever)

Phil & Mary Massie with Jackson (Wire Fox Terrier)

Robert & Jayden Fedor with Cody (Irish Setter)

Jacqueline Fox & Ketchup (Moyen Poodle)

Robin Carey & Chula (Catahoula Mix)

Beth Feverston & Emmy (Lab Mix)

Tyler Feijod & Rocky (American Bulldog)

Stacey Larsen & Penny (Chihuahua)

Janelle Gravette & Molly (Rottweiler)

Helen Shamblin & Abby (Glen of Imaal Terrier)
Nikki Dykstra & Bauer (Goldendoodle)
Jill Simpson & Phoebe (Cavalier King Charles)
Carmen Hufstetler & Rain (Irish Setter)

Basic Obedience:

Deb Pratt & Cooper (Golden Retriever)
Phillip Hughes & Bella Grace (Goldador)
Janet Hall & Stella (Cavachon)
Christine Peters & Dancer (Golden Retriever)
Dee Crescini & Berkely (Springer Spaniel)
Kimberly Norman & Trinity (All American)
Eva Demarest & Bogey (Dutch Shepherd Mix)
Andy & Tim Schipfer with Thor (German Wire Haired Pointer)
Katie Stitham & Peanut (Boxer)
Bonnie Calhoun & Cocoa (Mini Aussie)
Steve & Diane Burnett with Brady (Lab)
Scott Higgins & Gunner (Boxer)
Cheryl Higgins & Rosie (Boxer)
Cole & Megan Curran with Gidget (Papillon/Chihuahua)
James Graves & Dancer (English Shepherd)

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

Ileana