

*"The less you have...the most precious what you have is"*  
*Author Unknown*

Hi Everybody!

Our NADAC agility trial sponsored by The Tampa Bay Boxer Club is coming in two weeks! Save the date: November 5 & 6, and come celebrate the start of show season at Cool Critters! We have a great food concession and other vendors of hand crafted one of a kind doggy items. You will also get to see agility dogs and their owners having fun! If you are in agility classes but have never seen a competition, here is your chance to see it live. We appreciate help as well, so if you're free, come and give us a hand...don't worry, we can train you.

### **No Classes:**

No Friday morning agility classes on November 4, or November 11

### **How we Confuse our Dogs**

Your puppy is home and you immediately begin training and socializing him. Every day, every outing is an opportunity to teach, train and reinforce the learning. And your investment of time and energy is rewarded with a well-behaved dog.

But suddenly you're frustrated. Your dog is acting out. He doesn't come when called. He jumps up on visitors. He growls and barks at well-meaning strangers. And it seems to be getting worse.

What's going on with your perfect pup? Why has he changed?

What if it's not the dog? Could it be you?

- Remember a dog's language is body language, and little movements mean a lot. Leaning forward, raising your eyebrows, stiffening your body - little movements have big effects.
- Human signals may have different meaning to dogs. Do you move toward your dog? He moves away from you. Why? Dogs want to go the way we are going.

- Are you in the habit of repeating commands? You may be reinforcing your dog to wait for the final command, not the first. "Sit. Sit. SIT!" Eventually you will have to increase the number of commands even more.

A new book by Patricia McConnell, PhD [\*The Other End of The Leash\*](#) provides a new perspective on dog behavior and training. So many times the behavior you're seeing is because of what's happening on your end of the leash. The subtle signals you're giving, the tone in your voice, or the inconsistencies in your training.

This book is a fascinating look at our interaction with our dogs. Closely observe how you act, what you say and how you say it. Small modifications in any of this will help you connect with your dog in a completely new way!

### **Should you Medicate Dogs with Separation Anxiety?**

*From Nicole Wilde's [Don't Leave Me!](#)*

"I'm not going to put my dog on drugs!"  
"I don't want my dog to be a zombie!"

I have heard these types of comments over the years from owners of dogs with major separation issues. The sad part is that as much as those folks loved their dogs and thought they were protecting them by avoiding drugs, the dogs were suffering greatly, and could have been greatly aided by pharmacological intervention. Now, I'm the last person to cavalierly suggest that a dog needs to be on drugs; it's not the right solution for every individual, and there are potential side effects with any type of medication. But the side effects of chronic, severe emotional distress must also be considered. Just as with people, constant or even frequent anxiety can cause all manner of physical ills. Dogs can become afflicted with gastric ulcers, atrophy of the lymphatic glands, and even suppression of the immune system, which in turn opens the door for illness and disease.

That said, a course of drug therapy, as helpful as it may be, is not likely to solve your dog's separation issues on its own. Drugs are meant

to be used in conjunction with a behavior modification program, not as an alternative to it.

For additional information on ways to resolve serious behavior issues such as separation anxiety with appropriate please consult your veterinarian.

### **Disposal of Poop Bags**

Please note, poop bags go in the black containers with a lid. There is one next to the porta potti and one by the corner of the front field next to the pooper scooper. Poop bags **do not** go in the yard waste containers next to the light post...those are only for branches and other yard debris.

### **Congratulations to Our Latest Graduates!**

#### Super Star Puppy:

Joanne Borrell & Axel (Miniature Schnauzer)  
Mitzzii Quintana & Kai (Pitbull Terrier)  
Steven & Lauren Warneke with Ben (Golden Retriever)  
Raul Barfield & Melanie Solis with Tars (Malinois/GSD)  
Jim Valco & Noodles (Lab Mix)  
Amber Sheets & Zeke (Mini Aussie)  
Joseph Tharp & Elsi (Corgi)  
Sean Siegel & Hope (Shepherd Mix)

#### Basic Obedience:

Bonny Rundle & Angus (Boxer)  
Joe & Cindy Cavanaugh with Walker (Corgi)  
Matt Creager & Ruby (terrier Mix)  
Dawn Hulting & Daisy (Boston Terrier)  
Judi Zettel & Glory (Golden Retriever)  
Joe & Heather with Apache (Husky)

### **Dog Class Schedule**

Monday:

6:00 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy (Next class starting **November 21, 2016**)

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Agility (Next class starting in **December 12, 2016**)

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 **December 7, 2016**)

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

Thursday:

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Obedience (Next class starting **January 12, 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