



NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year!



Bark your Calendar!

JANUARY 12 TH.:

NAIL CLIPPING \$12

NON- ANESTHETIC TOOTH SCALING \$140

CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY! (860) 388-1819

Please give a warm welcome to our newest members of day school.

Augustus & Zoe

English Bulldogs



Augustus (left) and Zoe (right) are dressed up in their Christmas finery.



OBEDIENCE AND AGILITY CLASSES:

Beginner Agility starts January 9th:

6:00-7:00: Build your dog's confidence and burn off some energy, learn a new sport, have fun or acquire skills to compete.

Advanced Obedience starts January 5th:

7:00-8:00: Beginning with intense review of all on-leash work covered in the beginners class, we move on to basics for getting your dog off-leash and reliable.

Prerequisite: Beginner Obedience Class.

Beginner Obedience starts January 5th:

6:00-7:00: Basic leash work for you and your dog. As well as socialization and problem solving. Material covered: focus, heel, automatic sit, patience, stand, down, stay and come.

Prerequisite: Dogs must be at least 16 weeks of age.

Equipment needed: 6' Leather or cotton leash

Don't forget our drop-in obedience class on

Mondays: 7:00-8:00 p.m.



A pain in the ear

**Causes, symptoms, and
treatments for three
common canine ear troubles.**

Dogs' ears come in many different shapes and sizes, but they're all targets for a variety of problems. Here's three of the most common culprits:

Otitis Externa

Otitis externa is categorized by inflammations of the external ear canal. It is the most common ear problem and is caused by foreign bodies, ear mites, allergies, irritation (from over-cleaning, over-treatment, or hair-plucking), and excessive moisture. Dogs who have floppy ears, excessive hair around the ears, narrow external ear canals, or spend a lot of time outside are more susceptible. Symptoms of otitis externa include itchiness, redness, pain, swelling, discharge, and odor. Treatment includes a thorough ear-cleaning under general anesthesia; topical medications; and/or antibiotics and other medications for infection, inflammation, and pain. Uncontrolled or untreated otitis

externa can spread to the middle and inner ears, causing permanent deafness and neurological problems.

Ear Mites

Ear mites are caused by direct contact with infected animals. Symptoms of ear mites include darkness, dry discharge, inflammation, head-shaking, and itchiness. Treatment involves topical medication; ivermectin injections; and/or spot-on flea and tick preventives that also kill ear mites.

Foreign Bodies

Foreign bodies such as grass awns and burrs are obtained by exposure to heavy weeds, brush, and other potential sources. Symptoms of foreign bodies include irritation, redness, and pain. For treatment, remove the awn or burr. Relieve pain and irritation with a topical medicine. If you cannot see the foreign body, or your dog resists your attempt to remove it, consult your veterinarian.

Most ear problems are easier to prevent than they are to treat. When possible, avoid situations that lead to foreign bodies or excessive moisture in the ear. Keep your dog's ears dry by inserting a cotton ball before bathing and using a pet-specific astringent after swimming. Don't pluck hair from your dog's ear canal or apply medication unless directed by your veterinarian. Seek prompt veterinary care for all but the simplest problems, then treat as instructed.

Things To Do With Your Dog!

Duck Tolling!

What is Tolling?

Their prancing, dancer-like gait gives rise to the expression "tolling." We've all heard that curiosity killed the cat, but curiosity has been no great friend of the duck either. Ducks are curious - so curious that they will swim straight into a trap simply to find out more about it. Duck tolling, luring ducks closer, takes advantage of this trait - and the first skilled duck tollers were probably a pair of wily foxes.

The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever gets its name for its ability to "toll" or lure waterfowl (ducks, etc.) with their unique color coat. Their prancing, dancer-like gait gives rise to the expression "tolling." After the bird has been lured, a hunter will call the dog back and then shoot the bird. The dog will then retrieve the query. Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers were developed to toll (lure) ducks in the manner of the fox.

The Toller's rather unusual job is to lure ducks and geese within shotgun range, and to retrieve them from the water after they have been hit. From his concealed blind near the shore, the hunter tosses a stick parallel to the shore, and with great liveliness, but without barking, the Toller retrieves it. It may take a dozen or more throws before the ducks or geese become curious and approach the shore. When the overly inquisitive ducks are within shooting range, the hunter calls his dog back to the blind, stands up to put the birds to flight, and shoots. The Toller then acts as an efficient retriever. Indians utilized this mesmerizing practice by stringing a fox skin across a length of shore and yanking it quickly back and forth, simulating the movement of the fox.



Did You Know?

Your dog no longer has to be an intact purebred to participate in competition events. Don't have a Toller? There are many jobs involved in field trials and hunt tests. Pointers, spaniels, and retrievers are all important. If you are interested in hunting with your dog visit <http://www.akc.org/sitesearch/index.cfm?q=field+trials> and <http://www.akc.org/sitesearch/index.cfm?q=hunt+tests&submitsearch=> for more information.

And the fun doesn't stop with hunting. You and your dog can participate in activities such as canine good citizen, obedience, rally obedience, agility, drafting, tracking, canine therapy, flyball, triebball, lure coursing, and much more.