

NEWSLETTER



Spirit and Cay playing ball last April.

Bark Your Calendar: There will be no classes at D - Tails on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, April 22-24 while Donna is on vacation.

On-Going Classes:

Monday: Agility Fun, 6:00-7:00 P.M., Drop-in Obedience, 7:00-8:00 P.M.

Tuesday: Handling 6:00-7:00 P.M., Beginner Obedience 7:00-8:00 P.M.

Wednesday: Beginner Obedience 6:00-7:00 P.M., Advanced Obedience 7:00-8:00 P.M.

Check our website ***dtails.biz*** and click on the *Monthly Calendar for Handling instructors*. *New classes beginning in May!*

Going Green for the Health of your Dog

In honor of Earth Day, here are some healthy ideas to ensure a healthy dog. Last month Donna talked about healthy dog food. Carry that information over to treats too. Many treats have been recalled for making dogs sick. There are many healthy recipes that are really easy to make on your own. Have you ever thought about the dishes you use to feed your dogs? Stainless steel, made in the USA is best. There are recalls on dog dishes sold in dollar stores that are leaching lead and other harmful chemicals. Filtering your tap water is also a good idea. How about your dogs' toys? Does he chew them to bits, and even ingest a lot? Consider buying organic toys made from pesticide-free fabrics and stuffings, and BPA-free plastics. Consider using natural products to clean your pet, his bedding, and to repel pests.

Green Companies to look into.

www.cybercanine.com

www.dogbedworks.com

www.doggiedooley.com

www.earthdog.com

www.earthdoggy.com

www.onlynaturalpet.com

www.seventhgeneration.com

Going Green with your Dog for the Environment

Reduce your dog's carbon paw print for the sake of the environment. There are many ways that you and your dog can make a difference. One of the biggest is by reducing pet over-population by adopting a homeless dog and spaying or neutering. Always clean up after your dog, and use biodegradable bags. Bags that say natural or recyclable are not biodegradable. Biobags is one brand that is. There is also a lot of information about composting poop at <http://voices.yahoo.com/how-compost-dog-feces-2405584.html>. Instead of driving your pet around, walk to the park if possible. Follow leash laws so as not to disturb wildlife or fragile ecosystems. Has your dog grown out of collars and sweaters or has toys he doesn't play with? Consider donating them to a shelter for dogs in need. You help the planet and other dogs! Also consider buying products from "Green" companies.

Tick Season is Upon Us and our Dogs!

Have you seen the Facebook post about a nurse and safe tick removal using dish detergent? We have too. I researched the story and found out that is basically folklore. I am sure you remember some removal tips too, like burning the tick, tickling the tick, or stabbing it with a needle. More folklore! If you want to safely remove ticks from you or your pet, follow these instructions and visit these sites for more information!

<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm049298.htm#THERESATICKATTACHEDTOME.WHATDOIDO> and http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/removing_a_tick.html

Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.

Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.

After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub, or soap and water.

You want to remove the tick quickly, and not wait for it to detach on its own. Certain ticks carry diseases like Lyme, and if you or your dog are bitten by a disease-laden tick, it takes 12-24 hours for the disease to enter your bloodstream.

Super Simple Homemade treats for your Dog

Courtesy of Isabelle Genest, Modern Dog Magazine, Spring 2013

Yogurt Drops

- Low fat, natural yogurt (live culture is best for the probiotic benefits.)
- Ziploc bag or cake decorator bag.
- Cookie tray that will fit in your freezer.

Put yogurt in the Ziploc or cake decorator bag. If using a Ziploc, snip a small hole in one of the bottom corners. Squeeze the yogurt out onto the cookie tray in penny-sized dots. Put in the freezer for about an hour. Once they are frozen, they are ready! You can keep in the freezer and take out as needed.

Win a Beautiful Portrait of your Dog!

We are holding a raffle for a one-of-kind portrait of your dog to raise funds to offset costs for our Puppy Up/2 Million Dogs, Doggy Fun Zone, fundraiser in June. We are only selling 130 tickets. Tickets are \$10.00 each. Tickets will be available at D Tails along with samples of the artist's works. Drawing will be held the morning of May 10, 2013, and you need not be present to win.

Portrait commission of one dog by Diane Blasius, Mungo Works (see www.mungoworks.com for more samples) done in watercolor underpainting with pigment pencils for all the detail. The actual art size (the head of the dog) is approximately six inches wide by nine inches tall,



Actual photograph



Diane's portrait

Look for more Puppy Up/2 Million Dog events coming in May!