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# NEWSLETTER



## January Classes!

**Beginner Obedience** starts on Thursday January 3, 2013, 6-7 P.M. This class encompasses all the basics including heel, automatic sit, stand, down, stay, come, focus, and patience. Plus, this class has socialization and problem solving as well.

**Advanced Obedience** begins on Thursday, January 10, 2013, 7-8 P.M. This class is only for dogs that have passed Beginner Obedience. Your dog will have what he learned earlier, reinforced, plus learn the basics for getting off leash and reliable.

**Beginner Agility** starts on Tuesday, January 8, 2012, 6-7 P.M. This is a great class for you and your dog after obedience training. Your dog will learn stretching and how to use the weave poles, pause table, dog walk, see-saw, tunnel, tire, chute, and different jumps.

**Sunday Hikes:** January 13 & 27, 1-3 P.M. Call for location and directions.

**Handling Class:** Wednesdays, January 9 & 23, 6-7 P.M.

**Drop-in Obedience:** Mondays in January, 7-8 P.M.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

From Donna and the D  
Tails staff.

## Bark Your Calendar!

We will be closed on January 1, 2013. Enjoy your day!

Anne Jordan will be back on Thursday, January 10, 2013 between 4-6 P.M. for drop-in nail clipping. No appointment is necessary.

## Do you have a New Year's Resolution? Does your dog?

Living a healthier lifestyle is always a good New Year's resolution, but did you know it's also good for your dog too? Overweight and sedentary dogs can have a multitude of health problems including heart disease, diabetes, orthopedic issues, respiratory weaknesses, and various forms of cancer.

Certain breeds are predisposed to be overweight. If you have any of the Bulldog breeds, Beagles, Dachshunds, Cocker Spaniels, or Dalmatians, you may need to be extra vigilant regarding weight gain. Some signs that your dog may be overweight are not being able to feel the ribcage, no upward tuck of the abdomen, and from above, no narrowing of the waist.

If you suspect your dog is too heavy, consult with your veterinarian for the best plan of action. Make sure you are feeding a good quality, low-fat food, and feed the correct portion for your dog. Feeding table scraps and constant treats are not advised. Have your dog work for treats, and use a low-calorie option. Exercising is a key component in weight loss. Take your dog for brisk walks, hikes, play a rowdy game of Frisbee or fetch, go to the dog park, get involved with agility, or treat your dog to day-school a few times a week. Exercising with your dog is not only good for you and your dog physically; it is great for your relationship with your dog as well.

### Donna Recommends:



[Show Dog: The Charmed Life and Trying Times of a Near-Perfect Purebred](#) by Josh Dean.

This non-fiction novel is for anyone who has, or is, showing dogs. Author Josh Dean spent a year with a champion Australian Shepherd, Jack. This is the inside story of the show dog world, oftentimes funny and touching. If you enjoyed the movie [Best in Show](#), this is a must read!



# Hiking With Your Dog

Hiking is a great exercise for you and your dog. Barring snow storms, winter is a great time to take up this activity. You can always dress you and your dog for the cold, unlike trying to stay cool in oppressive heat. Here are some tips to remember when you go for a hike: Make sure you dress for the weather. Staying warm and dry is important. Let your dog carry some of the weight with a dog backpack or saddle bag. Always carry a collapsible bowl, water, and food for longer hikes. Carry a towel or travel wipes for the ride home. Make certain you have your dog's ID tags and carry a first aid kit. Remember to obey the rules where you are hiking; dogs may not be allowed off leash. If your dog is off-leash, be mindful of other hikers who may not appreciate dogs, and do not allow them to chase wildlife. Always pick up after your pet. Most national forests and state parks allow dogs; most national parks do not. Two books offer hiking info for Connecticut, [Best Hikes with Dogs, Boston and Beyond](#) by Jenna Ringelheim and [Doggin' Connecticut- The 57 Best Places to Hike with your Dog in the Nutmeg State](#) by Doug Gelbert.

***D Tails also offers hikes in the winter.*** Our first hike will be on Sunday, January 13, 1-3 P.M. We are planning to hike in Old Lyme. Meet us at the end of Meetinghouse Lane. Call us at 860-388-1819, if you need directions.

# Upcoming Special Event!

## Do you have a furry Valentine?

Get his portrait taken by professional pet photographer, Kathryn Schauer. This is for a wonderful cause: 2MillionDogs.org. Appointments start at 10:00 A.M.

## Valentine Mini Sessions

photography by Kathryn Schauer

When: Saturday January 26

Where: D'Tails  
4 Center Rd  
Old Saybrook

All proceeds benefit 2MillionDogs.org

to book email [kathryn\\_schauer@yahoo.com](mailto:kathryn_schauer@yahoo.com)

### Package One - \$15

15 minute session\*

1 Facebook size image

1 Full size digital image\*\*

\*One subject

\*\*Photographer's choice

### Package Two - \$30

15 minute session\*

1 Facebook size image

1 Full size digital image\*

1 5 x 7" print\*\*\*

\*One subject

\*\*Photographer's choice

\*\*\*Print available in approx 2 weeks



**2 MILLION DOGS**  
CANCER. TOUCHES. EVERYONE.

**D. Tails**

*Kathryn Schauer*  
PHOTOGRAPHY