

NEWSLETTER



HAPPY SPRING!



Cay, from the archives, back when things were green!

On-Going Classes:

Monday throughout March: Agility Fun 6-7 P.M.

Drop-in Obedience 7-8 P.M.

Tuesday throughout March: Handling 6-7 P.M.

New Classes

Beginner Obedience: Tuesday, March 12, 7-8 P.M, Wednesday, March 13, 6-7 P.M.

Learn leash work for you and your dog, plus socialization and problem solving, as well as the basics. Material covered: focus, heel, automatic sit, patience, stand, down, stay and come.

Advanced Obedience: Wednesday, March 13, 7-8 P.M.

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. Pre-requisite: Beginner Obedience at D Tails.

Book Reviews:



Jack: A book about a dog where the dog doesn't die at the end by Ray Braswell

Jack is a quick read and a very light, comical tale. Ray (simply known as the tall guy or TG) is a blogger and so is Jack, a silly yellow lab. It is a story from both of their viewpoints. It also includes some fun pictures of Jack. And, the title does not lie; no tissues needed here☺

A Letter to My Dog: Notes to Our Best Friends

Photographs by Robin Layton, Created by Kim Culp, Lisa Erspamer, and Robin Layton.

This book is a testament of the love between humans and their dogs. You will be sobbing after the first letter, but don't put the book down. The letters and photographs are worth the tissues! What would your letter be to your dog?



Through Gilly's Eyes, Memoirs of a Guide Dog by Matthew VanFossan

This is a coming of age story where the author learns to come to terms with his disability with the help of his ever-faithful guide dog, Gilly. This is a fictionalized autobiography told from the viewpoint of the dog. It showcases the amazing bond that has to exist between guide dog and human, the powers of acceptance, courage, and humility. Simply, a good read!



Donna Recommends:

How to Identify Superior Quality in Dog Food

Below are some tips to help with your dog food purchasing. Buying the best for your dog can be confusing with all of the new foods on the market.

1. Whenever possible, start your shopping at a small, well trafficked, independent store. In this area, I would recommend either Pet's Choice in Deep River or Feed Bag in Old Saybrook. The staff at these stores is well versed in the best products they carry that will fit your budget. That is their business. Once you have gathered that information you can price shop your product preferences.
2. Read the label! If you need glasses to read, don't forget them! This is important!
3. Ingredients are listed in descending order.
Guaranteed Analysis is where protein, fat, etc. is listed. Ask your veterinarian or your breeder how much protein and fat you should be giving and then find a food that meets that need. If there is a huge difference between what you have been feeding and what you are switching to, make the switch very slowly.
4. Check the "Best Buy" date. That date should be at least 6 months out so that you are feeding fresh. Foods containing synthetic preservatives such as BHA, BHT, and ethoxyquin, may have a date up to 2 years away. AVOID!!
5. When looking for quality you want to find the protein source within the first few ingredients. The animal protein should be identified. The label should read chicken not poultry or animal or meat protein. Do not purchase foods with by-products.
6. Look for fresh fruits, vegetables and grains that have not been processed to less recognizable forms with far less nutrient value.
7. When reviewing the label, look for a defined fat source. Chicken fat or poultry fat even, is traceable and definable rather, than animal fat.
8. Avoid sweeteners, artificial colors and preservatives. The best natural preservatives are tocopherols, (vitamin E), vitamin C and rosemary extract.

Mark your calendar...

Puppy Up 2013 has been scheduled for Sunday, November 3, at Hammonasset Beach State Park. Rain date: November 10, 2013.

It is not too early to volunteer to help on a committee, join the D Tails team, or form your own team to fundraise for the walk!

We will have more information in the coming weeks on our D Tails FaceBook page and in our monthly newsletter. You can also call D Tails for more information.

