

City Dog Country Dog

TRAINING SOLUTIONS FOR BUSY LIVES



News
[FALL EDITION]
2011
SERVING PORTLAND &
OREGON CENTRAL COAST

A quarterly newsletter bringing you informative treats from the dog world, and keeping you up-to-date with our services

Call of the Wild Summer Camp 2011

Dog Camp has come and gone in a blaze of summer glory! Campers said they specially enjoyed "the sunshine and stunning location; games and workshops; hikes and walks to the creek and river - so beautiful and the dogs loved them; hanging out with people and dogs; superb food; cool instructors, people, dogs, places; people's enthusiasm - both campers and staff; seeing my dogs let their hair down! Everything!"

In celebration of the camp's first half-decade, we plan to revamp the program and make Call of the Wild Dog Camp 2012 the best ever! Keep the date free! Next year's camp will be held on August 24-26th. Email us if you would like to be on our mailing list, so you don't miss out when registration opens in early 2012.



A Dog's Dream is a new non-profit project that provides vacations for service and therapy dogs, and their human partners. The first Dream Vacation was held over Labor Day weekend, in Yachats on the Central Oregon Coast. Yepa (a 7 year old Standard Poodle), her partner Anton Borisov, and his caregiver, Iraida Lopez, enjoyed 3 days of relaxing activities on the coast. Yepa loved exploring the 804 Trail and the forest pathways at Cape Perpetua and Heceta Head, running free on the beach, and snoozing on her own Queen-sized bed at the super dog-friendly Fireside Motel.

A Poodle Plus Party was held in Yepa's honor at Caroline Spark and Julie Diamond's country property. Guests included two other poodles, a Corgi and a Great Dane, and Yepa particularly enjoyed playing forest agility with them. She also watched with interest as Anton did some fishing off a bridge - the realization of a dream Anton had held onto through the many years he spent in hospitals in Russia. A highlight of the vacation for Anton was watching Yepa "just being a dog" in nature, away from city stresses and the constraints of service dog life.

A Dog's Dream is a community project, which floats buoyantly on the spirit of many good hearted people who love dogs, and want to honor service and therapy dog teams. It is sponsored by Oregon Coast Therapy Animals, under the directorship of Caroline Spark. City Dog Country Dog, Alvin Ohls, the Fireside Motel, Jim Parker, Steven and Michelle Bursey, Julie Diamond, Jerry Grant, and the Poodle Plus party-goers all helped to make this first vacation a memorable success.

A Dog's Dream will offer a vacation for Psychiatric Service Dogs and their handlers in early 2012, and is currently raising funds for this. If you would like to contribute funds, energy or time to A Dog's Dream, please contact caroline@citydogcountrydogtraining.com. Donations are tax-deductible.

Please make checks to OCTA-A Dog's Dream; mail to 5331 SW Macadam Avenue, Suite 258-210, Portland OR 97239.

"If you can look at a dog and not feel excitement and affection, you must be a cat." - ANONYMOUS

[Did You Know]

Your Dog Makes You Healthier

Lower blood pressure. Dogs (and other pets) relax us, it's that simple. This is true even in stressful life situations like job change, illness, or divorce.

Better heart health and fitness. Through the beneficial effects of dogs' companionship and because we have to get them out for a walk several times a day, dog parents are generally healthier than dogless folks.

Fight the blues. Dogs lift the spirits of people around them, from trauma victims to autistic children and people suffering with depression.

Lower health-care costs. Why? Because of all of the above. People who have a dog (or other pet) make fewer visits to the doctor's office.

[Living with Dogs]

Are You Ready For This?

In addition to being joy-spreading, frolicsome, heart-stealing little creatures, puppies are also a great deal of work, and preparation is key to making your puppy's entry into your life a success all round.

Buy puppy equipment. At a minimum, you will need: Food (everyday meals, chews) and bowls. Puppy crate. X-pen or baby gate. Kong and treat ball. Flat collar, and harness or head halter for walks. Long and short leashes. Canine toothbrush and toothpaste, nail clippers, dog shampoo, and brushes. Enzymatic cleaner for puppy accidents. A variety of toys.

Set up puppy areas. Create a confinement area (a cozy den and safe play space for your puppy) for resting, alone time, and potty training. The area should be easy to clean and easy to close off with a baby gate. Think kitchen, laundry room, or bathroom. Furnish the area with a bed or crate, a water bowl, and several toys.

Decide on routines and responsibilities. Call a household meeting to discuss with other family members who has responsibility for what and when. Agree on set routines and procedures for consistency. For example: Who will be in charge of the puppy's house-training routine? Where will the puppy be allowed—on the bed? The couch? Who will walk the puppy? Take the puppy to classes? Practice homework?

Find good dog professionals. Seek out a veterinarian right away. Your dog may also need a groomer, trainer, daycare facility, dog walker, or pet sitter. Choose and register for puppy class or hire a private puppy trainer to make sure you get a spot with a top professional. Are you getting your puppy close to a holiday? Plan well ahead for any sitting or boarding arrangements. The best sitters and facilities get booked up far in advance and you don't want to risk your puppy having a bad experience.



[Healthy Dog] Skin Problems

Skin insulates, regulates temperature, and protects against water loss and pathogens, so skin health is important. Skin also serves as a barometer of many internal conditions, and keeping a close eye on your dog's skin condition is a must. Things to look out for include scabs, rashes, redness, lumps, swelling, dry or bald patches, sores, and hair loss. Also be aware of behaviors that suggest skin problems, such as scratching, licking, or chewing. Often an allergic reaction is the culprit. Common allergens include seasonal allergens such as pollen, weeds, or mold; food ingredients such as wheat, corn, beef, chicken, or soy; or household chemicals.

For good skin health, use dog-friendly soaps and shampoos, feed your dog a healthy diet, and brush your dog's coat often. If you spot a skin problem, it's important not to self-diagnose. Take your dog to your veterinarian.



Conservation dog, Tsavo, is praised for finding a rare plant

[Dogs in Action] Conservation Dogs

Among the many important jobs held by dogs today, conservation work is a small but crucial niche. Conservation dogs are trained to find wildlife and plant samples using modified Search & Rescue and narcotic techniques. The perfect dog for the job is high energy with a compulsive play drive and toy focus—the more, the better. (Many conservation dogs are shelter rescues, given up by families who couldn't cope with an always-on dog.) This drive is necessary both for high-level training and for working alongside biologists and wildlife researchers in the field roughly 300 days out of the year.

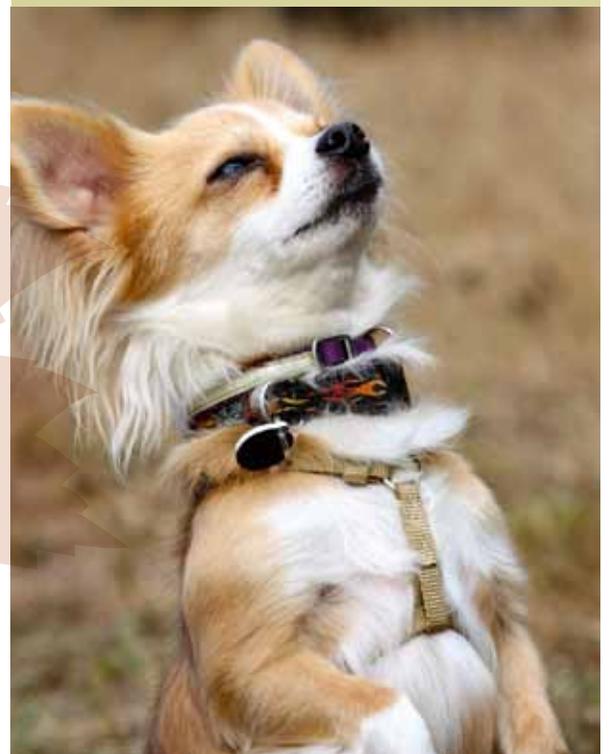
One primary job function of conservation dogs is finding wildlife scat and hair. To a biologist, such samples are treasure troves of information, revealing—through DNA analyses—a species' presence, population size, reproductive status, and food habits. Other vital priorities are searching out invasive species (e.g. yellow starthistle, a weed that overruns native plants and can kill horses), and endangered species (e.g. Kincaid's lupine, a near-extinct plant that is also the one place where the rare Fender's blue butterfly lays its eggs). For more info about conservation dogs, visit www.workingdogsforconservation.org

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT *The Chihuahua*

Chihuahuas, also known as Chis, probably hail from Mexico (there is some controversy about their origins). Certainly the breed is very old—and very popular. Chis are typically bright, alert, and sensitive to cold weather, and often possess a terrier-like disregard for their own lack of size. As Dorothy Hinshaw Patent put it, "Even the tiniest Chihuahua is still a wolf at heart."

The breed inspires strong loyalty in its fanciers, known to get together at events with names like Chihuahua Palooza. Due to diminutive proportions and a sky-high cuteness factor, Chis are sometimes treated as accessories instead of real dogs with real training and socialization needs. In reality, and in contrast to their high-society image, Chis thrive on size-appropriate versions of activities like agility, flyball, obedience, and tracking.

For a Chi to snuggle up with, search online for a rescue organization near you.





[Tips & Tools] *How to Remove a Tick*

1. Dab the area with rubbing alcohol.
2. With a pair of tweezers, grab the tick close to your dog's skin (don't grab it by its body).
3. Pull straight upward. Don't twist, jerk, or squeeze the tick.
4. Disinfect the area, wash your hands, and sterilize the tweezers.
5. Monitor the bite site for the next few weeks, especially if any parts of the tick have been left behind. If you see redness or swelling, take your dog to the vet right away.

City Dog Country Dog *is Expanding!*

City Dog Country Dog specializes in providing training, behavior and quality-of-life solutions for dogs and their families in Portland, Oregon and on the Central Oregon Coast.

Caroline Spark is the owner of City Dog Country Dog. With a PhD in psychology and a background in counseling and adult education, Caroline has nearly 30 years of experience in helping people solve problems, meet learning goals, and achieve positive change. Caroline is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer (CPDT-KA) through the Association for Pet Dog Trainers, a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant (CDBC) through the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, a Karen Pryor Academy Certified Training Partner, and an AKC Canine Good Citizen evaluator.

Recently, City Dog Country Dog welcomed two new members to our team of dedicated professionals and interns.

Heather Ohmart is a Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT-KA) who specializes in "all things puppy" – raising and training puppies to be family companions, and for therapy and service work. Heather also offers board & train services in Portland to complement our board & train program on the Oregon Coast. **Karolin Klinck** recently signed on as an intern with City Dog Country Dog, as she furthers her dog training skills through The Academy for Dog Trainers <http://academyfordogtrainers.com/>. Her enthusiasm and talent are already adding to the scope of our services on the Central Oregon Coast.

You can read more about the City Dog Country Dog team at <http://www.citydogcountrydogtraining.com/aboutus.shtml>.

How can we serve you and your dogs? Please contact info@CityDogCountryDogTraining.com for solutions to training and behavior problems and to find out more about City Dog Country Dog's services.

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