

City Dog Country Dog



News
[WINTER EDITION]
2013
SERVING PORTLAND &
OREGON CENTRAL COAST

TRAINING SOLUTIONS FOR BUSY LIVES

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

[Call of the Wild - Calling More Dogs!]

Summer seems a long way away – but it will be here before we know it! And when it comes, we have some fantastic new opportunities for dog enthusiasts and their dogs!

This summer, in addition to the annual Call of the Wild Dog Camp we are adding two new special interest camps: a weekend camp for reactive dogs and a day camp for senior dogs.

Call of the Wild Reactive Dog Camp. September 13-15, 2013, Yachats, Central Oregon Coast

Dogs who over-react to other dogs (tugging on leash, growling, snarling, barking, lunging) often miss out on fun dog stuff like dog camp. Not anymore! Now there's a call of the Wild Dog Camp especially for reactive dogs! It's modeled after our annual summer camp, with a special twist. Every moment of the program is designed with reactive dogs' needs in mind – especially the need for space, solo activities, carefully structured training sessions, and a high instructor-to-participant ratio. The program weaves together training activities that foster calm, relaxed responses to other dogs, handler skills practice, nature games, and other activities (including forest agility, barn games, treasure hunts, scent work, toy making, hiking, swimming and creek paddles).

It's a team thing! We know first-hand and from our clients that living with a reactive dog can be a stressful and sometimes lonely experience. So the camp is designed to build connections between people and offer emotional support, as well as provide skills training and information on the latest approaches to working with dog-dog reactivity and aggression. The organization of the camp reflects this collaborative spirit. Hosted by City Dog Country Dog and Synergy Behavior Solutions, the camp is run by a team of experienced instructors and dedicated support staff. Working teams and auditors will engage in skill-building exercises and nature adventures that benefit everyone back home, whether or not you bring a dog to camp. We also aim to generate a network of peer support that will continue beyond the camp, allowing ongoing skills practice and safe outdoor activities in other contexts.

It's the vacation of a reactive dog's dreams! Save the Date!
Registration opens March 1st!

Note: Pre-screening is required for all dogs, to assess whether the camp environment will suit them. This camp is not suitable for dogs with severe reactivity/aggression issues, or dog who are uncomfortable around unfamiliar people.

For more information & registration
for all Call of the Wild Camps
www.citydogcountrydogtraining.com/upcoming

Every summer, Call of the Wild Dog Camp attracts fun-loving dogs and their people for a three day program packed with dog sports, nature games, training workshops, health and information sessions, and more.



This year's camp will be held on August 23-25th



GOLDEN OLDIES DAY Summer Fun for Senior Dogs

July 13, 2013, 11-4pm
Yachats, Central Oregon Coast.

As our old dogs get older, we become keenly aware of how precious our time with them is, and how we might want to remember them. This is a special opportunity to savor time with your old friend and make some lasting memories. Bring your camera and capture golden moments!



"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole." - ROGER CARAS

[Living with Dogs]

Let Sleeping Humans Lie...

Some dogs don't appreciate a good lie-in—or know the difference between workdays and weekends. Young puppies and senior dogs can't be expected to hold it all night and are legitimately excused, but adult dogs should know better. If your dog has taken it upon himself to be your personal alarm clock, here are some tips:

Visit the vet. The first step is always to rule out a urinary tract infection or other medical conditions that might be causing bladder discomfort.

Increase the workouts. It can't be said often enough: a tired dog is a well-behaved dog. This includes early morning manners. More time spent hiking the trails, chasing a ball, and playing with friends at the park or doggie daycare may well translate into a full night's sleep.

Delay evening toilette. Make your dog's last potty trip as late as you can and if he gets an evening meal, serve it on the early side. If you'll pardon the mental image, it gives the food more time to travel through the system. That way, you can be reasonably sure he isn't desperate to go in the morning.

Don't feed first thing. If your dog knows that one of the first things you attend to in the morning is his breakfast, you have provided powerful motivation for him to get you out of bed. Don't set this trap for yourself and if you already have, change it.

Don't reinforce the alarm-clock habit. When the pawing or whining begins, turn onto the other side (provided, as per the previous tip, you're fairly certain it isn't a potty emergency). Whatever you do, don't reinforce your dog's behavior by acknowledging it with eye contact, soothing noises, a groan of exasperation, a scratch on the head, or—worst of all—by getting up.



[Dogs in Action]

Goose Management

In many parts of the country, populations of nonmigratory Canada geese have become a public nuisance. These adaptable birds colonize areas that offer open, green vegetation and permanent water—for example golf courses, college or office campuses, city parks, housing developments, greenbelts, and recreational areas. The geese cause a number of problems for the landowners or communities they invade. They damage crops and green spaces by grazing and trampling seedlings, and by the sheer amount of droppings they leave. The droppings degrade water quality and may cause excess algae growth. Flocks of geese are also often involved in car collisions or in hazardous situations at airports.

Enter the goose management dog. In what's a thriving niche business, specially trained dogs—usually herding dog breeds like Border Collies—harass the geese several times a day at carefully chosen times of the year, i.e. before nest construction and egg laying. Harassment may sound bad, but is in fact a wholly humane practice when done right. The dogs are trained never to harm the birds, who simply dislike continual disturbance enough that they give up and leave the area.



[A World of Dogs] To Be Or Not To Be... A Dog's Dog

We all want our dogs to play nice with other dogs—and shouldn't it come naturally? Dogs are social, after all. So why does an otherwise sweet-natured canine buddy turn into a killjoy at the park? Well, dogs can be introverts, too. Like humans, they can have bad days and they occasionally form instant dislikes to new dogs. But where we get to choose our friends and are free to avoid anyone we can't stand, dogs pretty much have to go wherever we take them. What's more, they are territorial creatures, protective of their favorite things, their home turf, and us. Adding another dog to the equation, familiar or not, always holds the potential for fireworks.



Why are some dogs more social than others? Genetics and breed play a role, and so does early socialization. Here, too, the human analogy is apt. Some of us come out of the womb gregarious, others are born shy and unsure of how to negotiate the dynamics of social groups. We also are greatly affected by our earliest experiences. An otherwise confident and social child finding herself the target of bullies on the playground could be forever changed as a result. Similarly, dogs are the sum of their parts: DNA and experiences thrown into a pot. Some herding or hunting breeds, for example, were bred for the ability to work independently and might find playtime at the park a monumental waste of time.

[Healthy Dog] When Dogs Eat Greenery

It's a rare dog that never partakes of a tender stalk of juicy grass—and some dogs practically graze. Dogs are omnivores and it's likely their diet in the wild would include fruit, berries, seeds, herbs, and a variety of grasses (despite lacking the enzyme to digest grass). On occasion, grass-eating is an attempt to induce vomiting or otherwise soothe a digestive issue, and it's speculated that dogs also instinctively seek out certain herbs as a cure for other ailments. Because of the connection with gastric upset, it's always worth paying extra attention if your dog suddenly develops a ravenous appetite for grass. Look for vomiting that lasts more than a few days, blood or mucus in the stool, and lethargy. Any of those should trigger a visit to the vet for a full checkup.

Absent any other symptoms, don't worry if your dog snacks on the foliage—and perhaps a bit of soil in the bargain. If nothing else, it's good roughage.

[Tips & Tools] How To Reduce Your Dog's Carbon Paw Print

Dogs have quite an impact on the environment. America's estimated 73 million dogs produce around 10 million tons of poop annually—and no, far from everyone scoops. Then there's the product packaging for dog products (the pet food bags alone...), not to mention the heaps of brightly colored plastic toys that end up as landfill.

Fortunately, there's much you can do:

- Use biodegradable poop bags and always clean up after your dog.
- Dispose of drugs, pesticides, shampoos, and chemicals safely.
- Choose products with no or minimal packaging and check any packaging for recycling information.
- Buy local (or at least American), green or natural products, including high-quality food.
- Use stainless steel or ceramic food and water bowls.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT *Boxer*

Theories abound about the Boxer's name—did it come from the alleged tendency to stand on hind legs and “box”? Is it a permutation of a German word? Whatever the answer, the Boxer we know today is a smaller, faster version of a Mastiff-like working dog used for deer and boar hunting in 19th century Germany. Depending on the day, Boxers can be clownishly silly or stoically dignified. These versatile middleweight athletes are among the top 10 of popular breeds in the US, Canada, and many other countries, and no wonder. They excel at work (from police duty to service jobs), at play (from Schutzhund to agility), and at home—despite the brachycephalic breed's propensity for snoring. Boxers are energetic, easy to motivate, prone to exuberance, and famous for their patience with kids. The Boxer fan club over the centuries includes artists (Pablo Picasso), baseball players (Joe DiMaggio), musicians (Nat King Cole), and actors (Humphrey Bogart).

To re-home a Boxer, visit your local shelter or rescue group.



[City Dog Country Dog]

City Dog Country Dog is a training and behavior consulting business, serving dogs and their families in the Portland Metro area and on the central Oregon coast. We strive to provide effective and enjoyable training and life enrichment opportunities for companion dogs, therapy dogs, and service dogs. Our range of services includes: In-home private training and behavior consulting, day training, Walk & Train, Play & Train, city and country Board & Train programs, puppy socialization and training, Call of the Wild Dog Camps and other nature adventures, K9 Nose Work groups, Canine Good Citizen training and testing, and more. We are passionate about quality of life for dogs and people – whether you live in the city or the country.

[Coaching for Puppies]

You brought home a new puppy! Is the cuteness wearing thin?

Don't worry, help is at hand! We offer private and semi-private coaching sessions to help you and your puppy start off on the right paw. We can help with all kinds of puppy-raising challenges!

Contact us today for an appointment!



Caroline Spark owns and operates 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, an AKC Canine Good Citizen evaluator, and a licensed presenter for Family Paws Parent Education (Dogs & Storks; Dog & Baby Connection).

WELCOME!!!

Julia Provonchee has joined City Dog Country Dog as an intern. She is currently completing a Master's degree in Anthropology at Canisius College, Buffalo NY. Her four month internship is a final requirement for this degree program. Julia already completed the Animal Behavior College dog trainer program. She is interested in all things dog, especially canine communication, behavior problems, dog bite prevention, and the human-canine bond.



Heather Ohmart Heather 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 provides board & train services, Puppy Social events, and in-home training and behavior consultations in the Portland metro area. She is also developing an innovative therapy dog program in cooperation with local health service professionals.

Karolin Klinck completes the City Dog Country Dog training team. Karolin offers private and semi-private puppy coaching, day training (in-home training while owners are absent) and in-home coaching and problem solving sessions. She is also an instructor at Play & Train Days and Call of the Wild Dog Camps in Yachats, OR.

Mary Williams

Mary is City Dog Country Dog's Office Manager. With Office Dog Suzi by her side, Mary keeps things running smoothly, coordinating one million and one things with warmth, efficiency and good humor.

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