



Courteous Canine, Inc.



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COURTEOUS CANINE, Inc.
Dog School and Doggie Gym!

May/June 2008 Newsletter

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1. Courteous Canine Inc. Cheers!

Party Boy Ace, Border Collie, and Ann Farmer won first place in the Quadruped Canine Frisbee Disc Competition women's division! They also snagged the award for longest catch of the day in the women's division with a 50-1/2 yard toss and catch! This was Party Boy's first big frisbee win.

This year Quadruped is holding competitions in Indianapolis and Denver in addition to the one that was held in Lakeland, FL in April. To learn more about this event log on to <http://www.thequadruped.com/>.



Lauren Goldsworth and Tipper, her Miniature Longhaired Dachshund, got four first places at h Baldwin NADAC agility trial in Ocala in April.



Zoomie, a Border Collie, and Angelica Steinker got a first place in Open Standard at an AKC trial in Palmetto in April.





Bella, a Papillon, and Angelica Steinker got three out of four qualifying scores with first or second places and has moved up to Open Jumpers with Weaves.



- ◆ LD Wethington and her German Shepherd, Roxie, got first place their first time out in Advanced Rally O. They completed their title of Novice with scores all in the 90s and placements. LD and Roxie are new to dog sports so this is a true accomplishment!

2. Ask a Cat Trainer

By Jacqueline Munera

Question: My cat will sometimes go potty right next to the litter box? Why does she do that and what can I do to stop it?

Answer: This is one of the most common complaints from humans living with cats. Unfortunately there is no easy answer to this because there are so many different things to consider when trying to uncover the reason your cat has chosen to 'think outside the box', so to speak. Medical issues such as urinary tract infections and diabetes can trigger urination out of the box, as can stress, soiled litter, and kittie's personal preferences. Some of the same issues can trigger what we humans like to call inappropriate defecation. Keep in mind, the cat doesn't consider this behavior inappropriate. She is trying to tell you something in the only way she knows how.

Some of the solutions may involve increasing the number of litter boxes, changing litter types, switching locations, using Feliway diffusers, and of course a veterinary check up. The longer kitty uses an alternative spot, the more challenging it can be to get her back to using the box, so don't delay in calling for help!

3. Chance Hits the Big Screen



Staff Member Mary Ann Campbell's Chance has a role in an independent feature film that is being filmed in Tampa. Chance, a male Yorkie, portrays a female dog named Cornflake, which reflects on his acting abilities.

To see pictures of Chance in action, visit the website for the movie, specifically the blog page <http://www.julesdongu.com/blog/index.php>.


Chance was cast after production started when the original Cornflake was unavailable for additional scenes. The film is in post production and is expected to be ready for release in the fall. If you like comedies, you will love *Jules Dongu Saves the World!*

4. ASPCA's Top Ten Tips for Safe Car Travel With Your Pet

From the ASPCA: http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pets_cartraveltips

For some pet parents, a trip's no fun if the four-legged members of the family can't come. But traveling can be highly stressful, both for you and your animal companions. With thoughtful preparation, you can ensure a safe and comfortable trip for everyone.

Planning a road trip? Traveling with a pet involves more than just loading the animal in the back seat and motoring off—especially if you will be driving long distances or plan to be away for a long time. The ASPCA offers the following tips to help you prepare for a safe and smooth car trip:

1. Keep your pets safe and secure in a well-ventilated crate or carrier. There are a variety of wire mesh, hard plastic and soft-sided carriers available. Whatever you choose, make sure it's large enough for your pet to stand, sit, lie down and turn around in. And P.S., it's smart to get your pet used to the carrier in the comfort of your home before your trip.
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2. Get your pet geared up for a long trip by taking him on a series of short drives first, gradually lengthening time spent in the car.
 3. Your pet's travel-feeding schedule should start with a light meal three to four hours prior to departure. Don't feed your furry friend in a moving vehicle—even if it is a long drive.
 4. Never leave your animal alone in a parked vehicle. On a hot day, even with the windows open, a parked automobile can become a furnace in no time, and heatstroke can develop. In cold weather, a car can act as a refrigerator, holding in the cold and causing the animal to freeze to death.
 5. What in your pet's traveling kit? In addition to travel papers, food, bowl, leash, a waste scoop, plastic bags, grooming supplies, medication and a pet first-aid kit, pack a favorite toy or pillow to give your pet a sense of familiarity.
 6. Make sure your pet wears a collar with an ID tag imprinted with your home address, as well as a temporary travel tag with your cell phone, destination phone number, and any other relevant contact information. Canines should wear flat (never choke!) collars, please.
 7. Don't allow your pet to ride with his head outside the window. This can subject him to inner ear damage and lung infections, and he could be injured by flying objects.
 8. Traveling across state lines? Bring along your pet's rabies vaccination record, as some states requires this proof at certain interstate crossings. While this generally isn't a problem, it's always smart to be on the safe side.
 9. When it comes to H₂O, we say BYO. Opt for bottled water or tap water stored in plastic jugs. Drinking water from an area he's not used to could result in tummy upset for your pet.
 10. If you travel frequently with your pet, you may want to invest in rubberized floor liners and waterproof seat covers, available at auto product retailers.

5. Delta Society Pet Partners

Many of our students are becoming Delta Society Pet Partners—animal and handler teams that are certified to enter facilities to cheer people up. If you know of a facility that would enjoy visits please contact Info@CourteousCanine.com. We are gathering a list of interested facilities so that we can pass this information on to our students that have passed their Delta testing.

6. Kollars By Kathryn



Those of you who play agility, will be familiar with Kathryn Clark as the Italian Greyhound person. Kathryn has started a really cool business of making martingale slip leads with matching tug leashes. They are works of art and are being clamored over at the agility trials. The best part is that she will custom



design a collar and lead for your dog! Please visit her website: www.KollarsByKathryn.com

7. American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB) Position Paper on Puppy Socialization

The primary and most important time for puppy socialization is the first three months of life.^{1, 2} During this time puppies should be exposed to as many new people, animals, stimuli and environments as can be achieved safely and without causing overstimulation manifested as excessive fear, withdrawal or avoidance behavior. For this reason, the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior believes that it should be the standard of care for puppies to receive such socialization before they are fully vaccinated.

Because the first three months are the period when sociability outweighs fear, this is the primary window of opportunity for puppies to adapt to new people, animals, and experiences. Incomplete or improper socialization during this important time can increase the risk of behavioral problems later in life including fear, avoidance, and/or aggression. Behavioral problems are the greatest threat to the owner-dog bond. In fact, behavioral problems are the number one cause of relinquishment to shelters.³ Behavioral issues, not infectious diseases, are the number one cause of death for dogs under three years of age.

While puppies' immune systems are still developing during these early months, the combination of maternal immunity, primary vaccination, and appropriate care makes the risk of infection relatively small compared to the chance of death from a behavior problem.

Veterinarians specializing in behavior recommend that owners take advantage of every safe opportunity to expose young puppies to the great variety of stimuli that they will experience in their lives. Enrolling in puppy classes prior to three months of age can be an excellent means of improving training, strengthening the human-animal bond, and socializing puppies in an environment where risk of illness can be minimized.



The Process of Socialization:

Puppies should be handled from birth, learning to accept manipulation of all body parts. Every effort should be made to expose them to as many different people, well-socialized animals, situations, places, etc. as possible. Puppies should be encouraged to explore, investigate, and manipulate their environments. Interactive toys and games, a variety of surfaces, tunnels, steps, chutes, and other stimuli can enrich the puppy's environment. Puppies should accompany their breeders/owners on as many car trips as possible. These exposures should continue into adulthood to maintain an outgoing and sociable dog.

Puppy socialization classes can offer a safe and organized means of socializing puppies and more quickly improve their responsiveness to commands. Each puppy should have age appropriate vaccinations (see side bar) and be disease and parasite free before entering the class. Where possible, classes should be held on surfaces that are easily cleaned and disinfected (e.g. indoor environments). Visits to dog parks or other areas that are not sanitized and/or are highly trafficked by dogs of unknown vaccination or disease status should be avoided.



Classes and at-home training should be based on positive reinforcement with frequent rewards praise, petting, play and/or treats. Positive and consistent training is associated with fewer behavioral problems and greater obedience than methods that involve punishment and/or encourage human dominance.^{4,5,6}

Time must be scheduled for puppies to play alone with their favorite toys (such as stuffed food toys) or take naps in safe places such as crates or puppy pens. This teaches puppies to amuse themselves, and may help to prevent problems of over attachment to the owners. Continuing to offer dogs

a wide variety of experiences during their first year of life is also helpful in preventing separation-related behavior.⁷

Proper confinement training using pens or crates helps to ensure that puppies have safe and secure places for rest and confinement. Puppies that are used to being crated will be less stressed if they must be hospitalized or be confined for travel by plane or car. Crates should serve as comfort or play areas.

Early and adequate socialization and programs of positive training can go a long way to preventing behavior problems and improving bonding between humans and dogs. While the first three months is the most important socialization period in a puppy's life, owners of puppies that have passed this milestone are strongly encouraged to continue to socialize their puppies to as many people, pets, and locations as is practical. However, owners of puppies displaying fear should seek veterinary guidance.

In general puppies can start as early as 7-8 weeks of age. Puppies should receive a minimum of one set of vaccines at least 7 days prior to the first class and a first de-worming, and should be kept up-to-date on vaccines throughout the class.

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If you have something to cheer about, ideas for newsletter content or pictures you would like to contribute please e-mail Info@CourteousCanine.com.

Happy Clicker Training!

The Staff of Courteous Canine, Inc.