



April 2010

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Upcoming Classes

Trick İ starts on April 8th CGC class starts on April 12th Puppy class on April 17th. There are more new classes listed on the website as well. Please contact Laura if you are interested in any of the new classes.

SPRING IS HERE AT LAST!

Spring is upon us and our dogs are just as excited about it as we are. They will be mesmerized by the changes in the environment. New smells, new sights, and new sounds, Oh my! This makes the outside more fun to explore than we can imagine. Your dog may not listen well when they are focused on a scent from another animal, watching the birds above, chasing the squirrel up the tree, or listening to the barking dog in the neighborhood. Don't get upset about it; consider this a new stage for training. Embrace it with your dog and make your training fun.

You may want to revisit some of our past newsletters articles. For example, there is an article on fleas in the March 2009 issue, heartworm disease is featured in April, and we discussed ticks in June. All of the issues are available through the Loving Paws website at http://www.lovingpawsllc.com/newsletters.

The Safe Harbor Humane Society Pancake Breakfast will be on April 25th and held at the Moose Lodge in Kenosha. Watch for specifics on their website at www.safeharborhumane.com.

Some of you may be familiar with the toys from VIP Products. The Tuffy Toys are one of the strongest soft dog toys I have seen. We have dogs stay with us from time to time. My

Harley and his friends enjoy playing with these toys. Harley will be laying on the floor holding on to one end in his mouth while the other dog drags him across the room. It's hysterical!

Unfortunately, some dogs can destroy even the highest rated toy



they make. The Tuffy toys are rated by strength with 10 being the strongest. I will be placing an order for some of these toys on April 10th. If you are interested in any of them, I will give you a discount on the items you want. The items have different price ranges so it is hard for me to be specific on the price. Look at their website www.vipproducts.com and let me know what you would like a price on.

Enjoy spring and have fun training and playing with your dog.

Hiking Club News



Grab your dog and your pooper scooper and join us for the first annual Poop Pick-up!

Who: the Hiking Club and all other Loving Paws Clients

When: April 11th at 1pm

Where: Kenosha Marina, 58th St and 3rd Ave, Kenosha, WI. We'll meet by the playground. Why: Jennifer contacted Keep Kenosha Beautiful a couple of weeks ago about organizing a trash clean-up. The coordinator, Catherine, asked if we would mind picking up dog poop as a way to send a message to dog owners about the importance of picking up. Everyone who participates will get a poop bag dispenser from KKB and two hikes toward their next bandana.

Hiking Club members, please RSVP via the invitation or email. Non-members please RSVP to Laura or Jennifer at Loving Paws, LLC Kenosha, WI 262-652-0652 www.lovingpawsllc.com

If it is raining on April 11th the alternate date is April 25th

Fundraiser Annoucement!

By Amy Wence



My husband, Jose, is running the Wisconsin Marathon on May 1st in hopes of qualifying for the 2011 Boston Marathon. We thought it would be a good opportunity to give back to the community by collecting pledges from people supporting his training efforts to give to Safe Harbor Humane Society.

In the summer of 2007, we visited Safe Harbor Humane Society in hopes of finding a companion for ourselves and our dog, Ella. While browsing through the kennel, we came upon a scared and lonely puppy. He looked up at us with big brown eyes and a wagging tail and we knew it was meant to be. Almost 3 years after bringing Comiskey home he has proven to be the perfect addition to our lives. Not a day goes by that he doesn't bring a smile to our faces or make us laugh out loud. We can't imagine life without our best friend.

Safe Harbor Humane Society takes in almost 4,000 homeless, neglected, and abandoned animals each year. Donations help to cover the care for these animals. In some cases, they receive sick or injured animals which require costly medical treatments. Currently, Safe Harbor is in the process of expanding their facility to accommodate an increasing number of animals. In addition to the continuous need for food and supplies, your contributions may be used to provide heartworm treatment for dogs like Quato, purchase a washing machine, or to help with additional renovation costs.

Please join us in supporting our local humane society for all of their efforts in uniting homeless pets with loving families. Your gift is 100% tax deductible! Please visit: http://www.giveforward.org/safeharbor/Thank you!!!

Electronic Containment Systems Continued

By Laura Yurchak

I received a few comments on my request for feedback about using an electronic containment system to contain a dog in a specified area of the yard. I reduced some of the comments to give the specifics only. thers are the actual comment. I removed all names. Comment #1: In your next article on electronic containment systems, please consider highlighting the fact that many dogs are good at ignoring these "fences," especially if there is something on the other side that is exciting to them- such as a squirrel. I know that for many huskies, the desire to run, coupled with their high prey drive, can make these "fences" useless. Some huskies have been known to figure out that if they put their head down just right, they can get their thick fur in the way and significantly reduce the amount of shock that they feel. I am sure many other thick-coated breeds have figured this out as well.

I know many people see an electronic containment system as their only option when they cannot have a traditional fence and install them without properly educating themselves. Maybe you could include information on other options, such as trolley systems and tie outs. Of course, if you discuss tie outs, please be sure to include the hazards of using metal chain.

Comment #2: (Rescue Organization) is opposed to electronic fencing and I won't adopt to anyone who would use it for our dogs. Reasons include, it does not keep the dog confined if it is determined to cross it. At that point, it is zapped and is afraid to come back in. It also doesn't protect

them from coyotes, strays etc from entering the yard and hurting them. Once inside, your dog is trapped.

We ask adopters to never let the dogs outside without being there with them, but in case they don't follow that rule, electronic fencing is not acceptable.

Comment #3: PetSafe system was their choice, not the deluxe kit. They cut through the wire a few times while doing yard work. The alarm notified them of the cut wire, which it also does when the batteries need replacing. It doesn't have the surge protector so they unplug it during storms. It was easy to install; it took an afternoon. The system didn't work when there was a foot or more of snow.

Training went quickly. They adjusted the perimeter to approximately a foot, so the warning signal activates to give the dogs enough time to correct themselves before the shock. Their dog has gone through the fence when tempted by certain stimulus. They turned the signal up high and the dog was receiving the shock in the house! They adjusted it so that didn't happen again. It is hard for them to get her to cross the boundary to take a walk. Comment #4: We have the original "Invisible Fence" and I highly recommend it. We have it around 18 acres! The training is excellent, which is key to having it work. If a dog is not respecting the fence, they will work with the owner, adjust the collar, etc. They now start you off in the home with a system to get the dog used to the cues and then move you outside. The warranty is great, even if your dog chews a collar, they

replace it. Our "board" was hit by lightning and it was also replaced at no charge. We have had at least 6 personal dogs use it and many of my employees have it as well. Comment #5: The brand purchased is the Invisible fence. One dog broke through the barrier after 2 years and it scared the living daylights out of her. She seemed to just loose her sense of where the cutoff point was. She waited for us to come and get her. The other dog was beeped at where it crosses the driveway. No flags could be put there during his training and thus it is a hard place to teach. It is amazing if used correctly, and if you take the time to train the dog properly for success. It really takes about 2 weeks of constantly walking the lines for a puppy to make visual landmarks so that when the flags are removed they understand what their safe area is. A lot of my neighbors think that after their dog doesn't go through that they are trained. They remove the collar and they quickly learn that their dogs constantly test the fence and when they don't hear the beep, they go through and end up miles away. Our dogs are only without theirs if they are going in the car and down the driveway off the property. Also, having the fence should never be used as an excuse not to have your dogs within sight or within hearing distance. The cost was about \$2500 if I remember correctly. We got a ½ acre done and we had it customized a bit as I wanted there to be 7 feet between the beep and the shock so that the dogs had a few feet to change their mind and turn around before they got shocked. Also, the cost

comes with training, collars that are warranted for life and reasonable/quick repairs if you cut through the line by mistake.

Comment #6: The brand is the Invisible Fence. Boxer Rebound will not adopt anyone a dog who does not have a fence. It HAD to be Invisible Fence brand and it HAD to be installed by Invisible Fence. One of the dogs did break through one time at the beginning of a thunderstorm. She was sitting scared on the neighbors step. We went and got her, took her collar off, and carried her home. I am not sure how long she had been trained on fence when this happened. I let her out and did a load of laundry. While I was upstairs, there was a loud crack of thunder, and a flash of lightening. Invisible Fence came out and determined that she was scared and it probably would never happen again. She has never gone through the barrier again. I don't let her out if it looks like a storm is coming. I think she had just been trained on fence when this happened. If something scared her now, I think she would retreat to the back door. During the training with the other dog, he went through the fence and we brought him back into the yard with collar on. He got shocked again! What a mess! After the training sessions, we never had another mishap. We love it! For sure would purchase another one if we move. Also, love it because I don't have to worry about the dogs getting out and getting hit by a car. Front door, or back door, it doesn't matter they are always protected! The correction isn't as bad as people think. It scares the dog, it doesn't hurt the dog (I have tried the collar

myself). If they get too excited playing with other dogs and get too close to boundary they just retreat back to the house. It takes them at good 6 months to get too close to boundary again. I think it cost about \$1500.00.

Comment #7: Brand: PetSafe Deluxe. It's the kind you lay out in your yard, push a little in with stakes to hold the wire down and then the grass grows up over it. It was installed in an afternoon. The box part is plugged into our garage. (Pets name) learned very quickly where the boundaries were with the flags we set up. They say it takes three weeks to get used to it, but she learned with one shock. You are supposed to bring her into the area several times to teach her (she'd get shocked,) but thankfully we did not have to do that!!! She also learned that the beeping on the collar means she is getting close to the boundary line and she should not go any further. She has gone through the barrier about three times in three years, but that was only because the battery on the collar was dead, or the line got cut during construction on our house, and when it was accidently cut it with the rotertiller. Nothing has happened in the past year. When she went through, she did not wait, she just took off after some other dogs. Yes, she was hesitant at first to go back into the yard. She has learned now that when she has on a regular leash, it's time for a walk and she can go through the barrier with us. There's no hesitation anymore. In the beginning she was scared, but I always said "OK, we're going for a walk now," to cue her it was okay. We are very satisfied! I especially like that there's warning beeps so she

doesn't have to get shocked. Sometimes when another dog comes by, she gets so excited that she gets a little too close to the boundary and then she hears the beeps and backs off. I also like that you can put it anywhere. We did just our backyard at first, and then due to construction, we did the front yard. It's pretty simple to change without having to dig up your yard. One thing that is annoying is that she will run along the boundary line, back and forth, when other dogs come by. Because there are so many dogs going by our yard, it's making a path in the grass. Also, sometimes I feel like she has too much freedom and I have less control. However, you may have these issues with a regular fence too. I don't really remember the cost, but I know it was less than \$200. We paid less than it costs at Petco by buying it online.

Comment #8: Invisible Fence installed in May 2009. Professionally installed. The dog has never broken through it. Yes, we are very satisfied. He is much happier that he can run around the yard without being on a leash. Comment #9: I wanted to send you a reply on the dog containment. We have one for (pet's name) that has been the best thing. It is the Innotek Ultrasmart Contain and Train. It contained all the underground wiring, the transmitter and the wire for that, the collar that is rechargeable so we don't have to buy new batteries every year(charge lasts about 2 months and system comes with charging base), hand held remote control that I can take anywhere(we have property up North and can use this system there to contain her), and DVD that explains all the set-up and use and training for the system. We got all of this for \$350.00,

which is a great deal. I had a quote from Invisible fence that did not include the remote for \$1200.00, so I saved a lot of money. We installed the system ourselves. It took about 5 hours from start to finish, but it was also raining off and on that day so I think without the rain it would not have taken so long. It was a pretty easy process. She has not broken through at all. The system works very well. She has plenty of temptations, but will not go close to the boundary line. The remote has worked very well at our property up North. It's just like having the system at home. She has not had any behavior issues from the fence, and many people who visit can't believe how well it works. I would highly recommend this product, not because it works so well, but it is also very affordable. If fact, my husband and I are planning to install this system for a friend of ours who would like the system too. There you have it. That was all of the feedback I received. People have mixed emotions about the Electronic

Containment Systems (ECS). I am lucky to have a traditional fence, which is my preference.

I just listened to Dr. Patricia McConnell on the Diane Rehm show. A caller explained that she is in a neighborhood that has many dogs, some of them in an ECS. She asked Dr. McConnell her thoughts on the systems. Dr. McConnell said that they work very well for some and cause a lot of problems for others. They should not be installed in front yards because the dogs are constantly stimulated. Since dogs can be territorial, this can be a problem. Picture this from the dog's point of view. The dog in the ECS sees someone walking their dog. They get close and closer. The dog starts to bark at the person and dog passing by. The person and dog continues on their walk and the dog in the containment system concludes that their barking made these two go away. The dog is reinforced for barking. This can escalate and get out of hand. Here's another one to

consider. A friendly dog in a containment system sees a person walking their dog. As they get closer, the dog begins to walk toward the boundary to greet the visitors. Zap, the dog gets shocked. The dog associates the zap to the person and-or dog passing by. This experience leaves the dog associate people and-or dogs to pain.

If using an electronic containment system, please take these two previous scenarios seriously. I personally feel that all fences, not just ECS, shouldn't be in the front yard or right aside of a public sidewalk. Mine is and I hate it. I am seriously considering moving it back 15 feet from the sidewalk. Although my Harley is guite the social butterfly, I don't want him barking at people and dogs passing by. By moving the fence back a few feet, I am confident that his training would go much faster and stay consistent. Trolleys and tie out also have their pros and cons. This would be a topic for a future article.

Book Review: **Reaching the Animal Mind: Clicker Training and What**It Teaches Us about All Animals by Karen Pryor

I've read a lot of dog training books in my life, but I've never read one that was a page turner... until now. Reaching the Animal Mind by Karen Pryor was absolutely fascinating and really hard to put down! In this book, Pryor explains how she got into the business of training animals (as a favor to her husband) and how she ended up revolutionizing animal training by introducing event markers (whistle, clicker, light, etc.) to communicate with animals.

She provides a lot of information, but she does it in an almost conversational way. The technical stuff is there, it's just mixed in with anecdotes of the various animals she has worked with in her 40-year career. These animals include dolphins, whales, a hermit crab, a wolf, dogs, ponies, and even humans! She writes in the first chapter, "My goal is to show you the depth of awareness in many animals, not a special few; to identify the processes that can let you experience real communication with whatever animal is sitting in front of you; and finally, to show you how you can use reinforcement-based technology to reach and communicate with the nonverbal side of the human mind."

If you've ever wondered how they train animals to do the things they do or want to develop a new method of communication with your dog and teach some exciting new behaviors in the process, this book is worth a read!

Review by Jennifer Lueck

The Reality of Lyme Disease Hits Home By Amy Wence

My Experience A recent annual health analysis for my dog Comiskey, revealed some upsetting news. He tested positive for Lyme exposure. This means that an infected deer tick (Ixodes Scapularis) bit Comiskey and transferred the Lyme disease causing bacteria, Borrelia burgdorferi . Last year, we visited wooded areas on several occasions. I was naïve about the dangers of ticks and had no prior experience with them. I had never even seen one before. I thought Lyme disease was uncommon and that I didn't need to worry much about it. I did not want to use Frontline on my dogs because it is a pesticide, so I tried an herbal pest protection spray thinking that would be enough. Well, unfortunately the product I used failed and I did find attached ticks on my dogs. Early last summer we found an engorged deer tick on Ella after recent visits to Potawatomi

State Park (Southern Unit). My vet at the time told me we'd have to wait a few weeks before testing her for Lyme, so we did and her test came back negative. Not long after, I found a dead tick that had been attached to Comiskey. It looked pretty old and we had just had him tested, so I thought we were ok since his test was also negative. Needless to say, I was a bit shocked by the recent news of his Lyme exposure. Apparently, Lyme disease may take several months to develop and present itself. Comiskey and Ella may not have formed an immune response yet, which would explain why the tests came back negative last year. Ella will be going in for her annual health analysis very soon and we are hoping that she does not test positive also.

Diagnosis & Treatment Is Complicated The annual health analysis test includes a quick, in-house

screening test (usually the State Park and Kettle Moraine

Comiskey & Ella at Potawatomi State Park May 2009

SNAP 3Dx or 4Dx) for parasitic diseases. This test simply yields a positive or negative result for exposure, but does not distinguish between inactive or active infection. If a dog tests positive for exposure, then a second test is necessary to determine the level of infection, or to tell if the dog has possibly fought off the infection on its own. This second test is performed by an outside laboratory and is called the Quant C6 test. The Quant C6 test is the major diagnostic tool used in the human field. This is a relatively new quantitative test that measures the level of C6 antibody produced by the immune system to fight infection against B. burgdorferi. If the test yields a response of >30 U/mL (units per milliliter), treatment is often recommended. However, if the dog is not showing any clinical signs of Lyme disease, then the treatment path is not so clear. It is very common for dogs to show no outward symptoms of the disease, which was the case with Comiskey. Even his blood work appeared normal. This is why annual testing for parasitic diseases is so important. They can easily go undetected and if left untreated, can become chronic. Comiskey's C6 antibody level measured at 67 U/mL which revealed that he does have a subclinical infection, (meaning he is infected with the disease but showing no symptoms). My veterinarian recommended treatment and I agreed. Although it is possible for subclinical dogs to never show signs of disease, I did not want to risk him developing chronic Lyme disease later on. Comiskey was prescribed Doxycycline for 30 days, which is the typical treatment plan.

After his antibiotic treatment is completed, we will repeat the Quant C6 test in six months to determine if his antibody level has dropped at least 50%. If so, the treatment will be considered effective and his disease rendered inactive. Unfortunately it is difficult, maybe impossible, to completely eradicate the Lyme causing bacteria from the body. B. burgdorferi is a master of disguise because it has a way of avoiding the immune system. This often makes it difficult to diagnose and treat. B. burgdorferi is an infection of the tissue, not the blood. It often attacks connective tissue such as joints and synovial fluid. The immune system keeps the disease in check but this can sometimes be disrupted by coinfection of another parasitic disease, stress, or other disease processes. Therefore, it is possible that Lyme disease cannot be cured only managed. There is a possibility that Comiskey will have this disease for the rest of his life. My job now is to keep him as healthy as possible so that the disease remains dormant after treatment.

Prevention

In 2006, the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) conducted a national survey to over 1,000 dog and cat owners to find out their knowledge of parasitic diseases and treatment. They found that only 32% of dog owners use a monthly flea & tick preventative. They also found that pet owners are not as concerned about parasites as they should be and they are not using effective parasite prevention.

With Lyme disease becoming more prevalent, it is important to take preventative measures for yourself and your dog. Also, no prevention is 100% effective, so be sure to test your dog every year! Facts

- Lyme disease has been detected in dogs in all 50 states.
- Lyme disease takes 24 to 48 hours for a feeding tick to transmit.
- Currently in North America, only deer ticks, Ixodes scapularis and Ixodes pacificus, have been shown to transmit Lyme disease to dogs.
- Lyme disease infections are most common in the Northeast, Upper Midwest, and West Coast

states.

- Most common signs of infection: Lameness, Fever, Swollen joints, Kidney failure (rare)
- There are 3 phases of Lyme Disease:
- a. Acute phase: fever or lameness
- b. Subclinical Phase: no outward signs
- c. Chronic Phase: re-exhibit clinical signs
- There is a vaccine available for Lyme disease, but its use is controversial because it may not protect against all strains of B. burgdorferi and has some potential adverse side effects associated with it.

For information about tickborne diseases and prevention, please visit:

http://www.capcvet.org/index.html &

http://www.dogsandticks.com/index.html

Sources:

http://www.capcvet.org/index.html, http://www.dogsandticks.com/index.ht ml.

http://www.idexx.com/view/xhtml/en_us/smallanimal/reference-laboratories/testmenu/innovative-tests/quant-

c6.jsf?selectedTab=Resources&SSOTOK



Casey's Corner

The snow is all gone and we can't skijor any more. So we are going to try another sport called dog scootering! It's like skijoring but we don't need snow to do it! This is how it will work: Mom will be on a scooter and I will be attached to the scooter. She will kick the scooter and I will pull and we will go fast!!! Mom ordered a scooter but we won't get it until the end of April so we are rollerblading for now to get in shape.

When we are rollerblading Mom still uses gee and haw to tell me where to go but now she also uses "my side" so I know that I have to stay on her side of mailboxes and lightpoles. She says if I go on the wrong side she will fall and get hurt. Falling on rollerblades is not like falling on skis because the ground is not soft like snow. Mom is better at rollerblading than she is at skiing, but she can't stop very good. She says it's because she doesn't have brakes. I think it's really because of the wheels on her feet.

Running in the street is easier than running in snow, but now we have to watch out for cars and Mom says we have to keep my toenails short so they don't hurt me when I run. I don't like to have my nails trimmed, but I like to run fast so it's worth it. Especially if I get liver treats while we trim my nails.

When we get our scooter Mom says we will run on the bike trail and on the trails at Pets. Then we won't have to worry about cars or keeping my toenails trimmed. Right?!

Choosing the Right Vet

By Stephanie Challand

We all strive to keep our dogs happy and healthy but despite our best efforts they are bound to get sick or injured at least a few times in their lives. When the unfortunate event does happen it is important to consult your veterinarian immediately so they can help you choose the best course of action for a quick recovery. Choosing the right vet is critical for the overall health and wellbeing of your dog. With so many options out there how do you choose the right one?

How Do I Choose? It is important not to wait until there is an emergency to choose a vet. If you are looking to adopt a new dog you should begin looking for a vet as soon as you bring her home or even before. Most people choose a vet by location alone. They simply find the one closest to their house and go with them even though this may not be the best choice for them or their dog.

The world of pet care is changing rapidly. With growing new trends like holistic care. changes in vaccination recommendations and new information about nutrition, it is important to select a vet who is knowledgeable and up to date on the newest information. policies and procedures. When looking for a vet, you should make sure their views about healthcare are in line with your own. Some vets will recommend surgery for certain ailments while others will prescribe a more natural approach including physical therapy and only choose surgery as a last resort. The most important thing is that you feel comfortable discussing your dog's health and wellbeing with them. If you feel uncertain or unable to ask

questions then they are not the best fit for you.

What to Look For Be sure to schedule an initial consultation to tour the location and discuss your questions and concerns with the veterinarian prior to making your decision. Remember during this visit to pay attention to everything including the way the receptionist greets you and other clients. Pay attention to how they interact with the animals. Make sure the facilities are clean and up to date. Take notice of the informational packets or handouts they provide in both the waiting and

Ask plenty of questions. Remember you are going to be entrusting them with your dog's life, this is your chance to interview them and make sure they are the right fit. Ask about their views on different medical issues. Ask about the staff and how they handle their clients. If your dog has any behavior issues be sure to ask how they approach them and what you can do to help.

examination rooms.

Technical knowledge counts for a lot when choosing a vet but it is only part of the equation. You have to make sure that you and your dog are comfortable with whoever you choose. Hopefully the three of you will have a long and happy relationship together.

Things to Consider

- 1. How do they interact with your dog? How does your dog feel there? Dogs pick up on a lot and can tell us much through their body language and actions.
- 2. What overall feeling do you get from being there? Do you feel at ease or rushed?
- 3. What is their emergency protocol? Do they have a 24-hr emergency care?

- 4. How do they handle overnight stays should your dog need one?
- 5. Are things explained in terms you can understand?
- 6. Will your dog always see the same vet or is it a team approach?
- 7. Unfortunately, money does play a part. Ask what payment options they have especially if something major is needed that you cannot afford on the spot. I Already Have a Vet If you found yourself reading the paragraphs above and wondering if your vet is really the right vet for you, chances are they might not be. If you have any doubt, concerns or issues with your current vet, remember you are not obligated to stay with them. If they do not take the time to answer your questions and work with you feel free to explore other options. If you find a vet you are interested in schedule a consultation. Follow the steps above and see how they make you feel in comparison to your current vet.

Choosing a vet is really a personal choice. The right vet for one person is not necessarily the right vet for someone else. The most important thing is to choose a vet that makes you feel comfortable, will answer your questions, address your concerns and will work with you to improve the life of your dog. Remember healthcare is a partnership you should always have the ability to make a choice. After all no one knows your dog better than you do, so be their voice and stand up for them. They deserve it!

http://www.my-dog.info/getting-a-dog/choose_right_vet.asp http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/dog-care/dog-care-how-to-find-the-right-vet.html

The Holistic Dog Book by Denise Flaim