



NEWSLETTER

January 2009

New For 2009

Happy New Year to everyone!!! I want to thank you again for a wonderful 2008. I am so blessed to have met and worked with so many great dogs and owners.

The move out of the Sheridan Road location went well. I had the help of Amy, Jennifer, Kerry & Charlie, my brother Randy and my husband George to thank for that. I couldn't believe some of the things we had to deal with, but as a team we got it all done in 5-1/2 hours. You should have seen George driving this huge 24' truck through Kenosha dropping stuff off to three different locations. He did great even though he hated every minute of it! A BIG THANK YOU to all of you!

We will be holding classes at Woofman's Lodge starting January 5th, 2009. They are located at 5914-128th Ave, Kenosha. The folks at Woofman's are kind enough to let us conduct our classes in their training area for the upcoming months. Their training area is 2000 sq ft and they have a fenced in area for the dogs to go potty. I should be able to hold classes on a couple of weeknights and on weekends. I am still looking for a permanent location so we can expand our services. Please let me know if you see something out there that may be of interest to me. I check out every lead I get.

Please let me know if you are interested in any of the following classes: Manners and Etiquette I, II, and III, CGC class and testing, beginning agility, canine freestyle, game night and play groups. Due to limited space, the agility class will be more for fun and it will be a mini course set up. When you attend Game Night you and your dog play games as a team in a group setting. Some of the games of interest are the doggie limbo, musical chairs, doggie wave etc. Play groups will be held with a minimum and maximum attendance limits. Everyone in the groups will receive an update on a few changes that will take place. Let's have some fun together in 2009. Call me!!

The previous 262-764-2032 phone number for Loving Paws will be disconnected soon. This number currently appears on the website and in the phone books. The brochures and business cards are in the process of being changed. Please contact me at 262-652-0652.
-Laura Yurchak

Correction to Last Month's Newsletter

Last month we printed the wrong phone number for the new individualized pet care business called *C'est Si Bone*. Lori Mendelsohn Thomas services ranging from pet sitting, dog walking, transportation and anything in-between. You can contact Lori at 262-764-0823. Yes, this is the correct phone number this time.

Don't Forget to License!

City of Kenosha residents can now apply for licenses for their dogs by filling out an application and mailing it to the City Clerk. The cost is \$4.00 for neutered dogs and \$10 for intact dogs. You will need to include a copy of a current rabies vaccination certificate with the application. The printable application can be found at:
<http://www.kenosha.org/departments/clerk/dog.pdf>.

Mark Your Calendars

SPAYghetti & Meatball Dinner – All You Can Eat!!
Paul Deluisa of Luisa's Restaurant will be serving his signature sauce that makes his pasta so special!!!! Includes all you can eat spaghetti, meatball, bread, butter, salad & dessert.
Saturday January 24th from 4:00 – 8:00pm
Held at The Moose Club Lodge at 3003-30th Ave in Kenosha
This benefit will help fund the Safe Harbor's Spay/Neuter Program.
Tickets are \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children under 12 and children 3 and under are free.
Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance from Safe Harbor or Laura Yurchak.
I'm not missing this one!

Boredom Busters

By Amy Wence

Winter can be a challenging time of year for many dog owners. Due to the extreme weather, most dogs don't get out as much and can suffer from boredom during our long winter months. Boredom can many times result in destructive behaviors. If your dog doesn't have something constructive to do, he will find his own source of entertainment, such as counter surfing, dumpster diving, cat chasing, etc. Fortunately, there are some fun indoor games that you can play with your dog to burn his predatory energy and provide mental stimulation.

Hide & Seek: The object of this game is to hide a toy or treat and cue the dog to find it. You can use treats, a stuffed Kong, tennis ball, or anything that motivates your dog. You can even hide yourself! Start the game with your dog in a sit-stay position where he will not be able to see the hiding spot, or you can shut the dog in another room. Start off with easy hiding spots and gradually make them tougher. Once the object is hidden, you can kick off the search by asking him, "where's your toy?!" You may need to help him out the first few times and coach him towards the hiding spot. Upon finding the reward you can allow the dog to play fetch or tug with the toy, or let him enjoy the treat before starting another round. It doesn't take long for your dog to learn that he is looking for something of high value to him. Once your dog gets the hang of it, stop helping and allow him to find the object on his own. This will help build his confidence and allow him to use his nose to make the find. If you continue to bail him out, then he may learn that giving up is the best strategy. Play this game for 15 to 30 minutes with your dog and you will be surprised how much energy he burns. You can also plant toys and treats around the house before leaving. This will give your dog something constructive to do while you are gone. This game allows your dog to use his predatory search instincts, which is why he finds the game so stimulating. The other great thing about playing hide n' seek with your dog is that you are also proofing his sit-stay and teaching him self-control when he is excited. Therefore the game doubles as a fun training tool!

Tug-of-war: Tug-of-war is one of the best energy burners and outlets available to your dog. It's a perfect activity to play indoors on rainy days or when it's cold outside because it doesn't require a lot of space. It's an intense game and burns lots of predatory energy. Contrary to popular belief, tug does not increase aggression or dominance in your dog. In fact, it should do just the opposite because



your dog will be both exercised and stimulated after playing tug. In her book, "The Culture Clash", Jean Donaldson states:

Played with rules, tug-of-war is a tremendous predatory energy burner and good exercise for both dog and owner. Like structured roughhousing, it serves as a good barometer of the kind of control you have over the dog, most importantly over his jaws. The game doesn't make the dog a predator: he already is one. The game is an outlet.

As Donaldson states, the game should always be played with rules. The dog must know the following commands before engaging in tug: sit-stay, take it, and leave it or drop it. I would also suggest having a special toy just for playing tug. The dog will learn to associate that toy with the game and become excited upon seeing the toy. They sell tug toys with handles for the owner and some have two ends to play with more than one dog at a time. You can also easily make your own tug toys (see attached instructions). Begin the game by presenting the toy and asking the dog to sit-stay. Once the dog is in a sit-stay, you can invite him to play by excitedly asking him to "Take it!" However, if your dog's teeth come into contact with skin during the game, then screech, "OUCH!" Abruptly put the toy away and end the game for at least a few minutes. This will teach the dog that any inappropriate behavior always ends the game. The dog will quickly learn the rules and to control his jaws. You can also frequently interrupt the game by asking the dog to "leave or drop it." You can practice his obedience skills by asking him to perform a trick or task before inviting him to play again. The dog must learn that he can only take hold of the toy when invited. When played with rules, Tug-of-War can be very beneficial and provide a great outlet for your dog's energy.

Source: *The Culture Clash* by Jean Donaldson

The Meaning of Growl

By Jennifer Lueck



Casey Lueck

This year my mom and I decided Casey needed a Mrs. Claus costume. My mom bought all the fabric and sat down the Sunday before Christmas to make it. I was feeling a little under the weather, so I was reading in bed and Casey was resting at my feet. The costume was almost done; my mom just had to put it on Casey to figure out where to place the Velcro. She reached down to Casey to sit her up and Casey growled at her! This is the first time Casey has ever growled at my mom, so we were both shocked and scolded her and told her she was a bad girl. After it happened, I remembered an article I had read in *The Whole Dog Journal* and I knew we had done the wrong thing. I went through my back issues and found the article I was looking for, "The 'Gift' of Growling." In the article, Pat Miller explains that a dog's growl is a cry for help. She says, "It's your dog's way of telling you he can't tolerate a situation – as if he's saying, 'I can't handle this, please get me out of here!'" She says a growl should *never* be punished:

When you punish a growl or other early warning signs, you may succeed in suppressing the growl, snarl, snap, or other warning behavior – but you don't take away the stress that caused the growl in the first place. In fact, you increase the stress, because now you, the dog's owner, have become unpredictable and violent as well. Worst of all, and most significantly, if you succeed in suppressing the warning signs, you end up with a dog who bites without warning. She suggests the first response should be to calmly move the dog away from the situation, and make a mental note of what may have triggered the growl.

The dog then needs to be counter-conditioned to the trigger so he wants the trigger to happen.

In our situation, Casey was probably quite stressed by all the fuss we were making with her all day. It was -6 degrees when we got up in the morning, with a wind chill of -30. The cold temperature, wind and snow were affecting her paws, so not only did she have to put up with being stuffed into a coat, she also had to put on dog booties to protect her feet. On top of that, she was disturbed many times throughout the day to try on her costume. Casey is a sensitive dog and I think it became too much for her. If I had been paying closer attention, I probably would have seen stress signals before she growled, such as yawning, looking away or licking her lips and been able to help her. But I didn't. After it happened, she still had to try on the costume a few more times, so I told my mom to get a treat and ask her to stand, rather than picking her up, and to give her treats while she was putting the costume on to give it a more positive association. This worked well and we didn't have any more growling. To make sure I assessed the situation correctly, we're going to test her in a few days – without the costume – to make sure Casey wasn't guarding me. Then my mom is going to practice disturbing her every once in a while when she's resting – but she will give her treats to make it a good thing.

Follow-up: Since I wrote this, we have disturbed poor Casey many times when she's been resting and we haven't gotten even a hint of a growl. I, too, have been poked and prodded while Casey was on the bed with me and she was fine with that, too. I think it was just the circumstances of the day.

I definitely learned something from this experience! In telling my friends and fellow trainers about what happened, I found out that a lot of people's dogs growl when they are disturbed. I guess that's where the saying "let sleeping dogs lie" comes from. Don't panic if your dog growls briefly when disturbed, but if your dog is growling, snapping or snarling for other reasons, please seek help in assessing the situation and dealing with the problem.

Source: "The 'Gift' of Growling" by Pat Miller, *The Whole Dog Journal*, October 2005.



Made in China

By Laura Yurchak

Did you make a New Year's resolution? I made mine after reading the last FDA report about dog treats imported from China. I must admit, since the dog food scare a while back, I pay attention to all "country of origins" on all products I buy for my pets. I will not purchase anything that is made in China. There are great products out there that are made in the USA. B&J Bakery treats are made in Kenosha. If you remember, we carried some of B&J's products at the training center on Sheridan Road. You can visit B&J's booth most Saturdays at the Harbor Market, which is being held inside during the winter at Rhode Center For The Arts at 514-56th Street. You can also call them at 654-5407 to place any size order. Did you know that Charlee Bear dog treats are made in Madison, WI? Most, if not all, of the Nylabone products are made in the USA. The Kong Rubber products are made in Denver, but the tennis ball toys and squeaky toy are not. Jones Natural Chews, Pegetables, and most of the Planet Pet products are made in the USA. Below is a link to the latest FDA bulletin about Chicken treats imported from China. <http://www.fda.gov/consumer/updates/jerky122408.html>



News from Safe Harbor Humane Society

Kenosha's Safe Harbor Humane Society thanks everyone that

helped with the donations we collected in December. They were very happy to get all of the items and the money from the first aid kits. Safe Harbor has more of the first aid kits for \$5.00 at the shelter. As I mentioned in the last newsletter a good friend and pharmacist told us the following about a couple things in the kit:

- Biocaine - expired 12/07. It won't do any harm if used, but possibly might not work. Replace it with Lidocaine which pretty much lasts forever, depending on the formulation.
- Opticlear - expired 06/08. Should be fine if seal is unbroken.
- Operand - expires 11/08. Povidone iodine really doesn't outdate.
- Triple antibiotic - expires 01/09. Should be good for 6 months past expiration.
- Gauze pads - OK pretty much forever if sealed.
- Cold compress - OK until you break it.

It is a great little kit for only \$5.00. You can purchase one or more at Safe Harbor HS 7811-60th Ave in Kenosha.

What is Canine Freestyle?

By Jennifer Lueck

Canine-Freestyle.org defines it as "a choreographed performance organized with music, illustrating the training and joyful relationship of a dog and handler team." I decided to learn Canine Freestyle after watching a YouTube video of Carolyn Scott dancing with her Golden Retriever Rookie to "You're the one I Want" from *Greece*. I loved the way they moved together and the fun they were obviously having. I borrowed a book from Laura and quickly realized Casey already knew a lot of the moves from her puppy classes! Heel, back, through, over, spin, twist, shake, high five, down, roll over, around. These are the types of moves a dog does in Canine Freestyle. Sound familiar? You probably learned a lot of them in your class, too! Ok, so here's what everyone's worried about: Do you have to know how to dance to learn to Canine Freestyle? No! I can't dance! In fact, I'm terrible at it. But I can move my feet to music and ask Casey to perform some behaviors at the same time. That's all you have to do! Casey and I will never perform in competitions or in front of large audiences, but we sure have a great time together in our living room! If you ever hear Paul Simon's "Me and Julio Down by the Schoolyard" coming from my house and you look in my living room window, there's a good chance you'll see me and Casey dancing our hearts out.

If you are interested in learning Canine Freestyle with your dog, please contact Laura. Classes will be taught to music so they should be a lot of fun.

Want to see the video? Go to youtube.com and search for "Carolyn Scott & Rookie."



Carolyn Scott and Rookie from youtube.com videos.

The Best Thing I Did In 2008

By Kerry Anderson

2009 is here. Like many, I have been thinking about the things that I would like to accomplish in the New Year. Take up cross-country skiing. Pay off my credit cards. Drink less Diet Coke. End world hunger. (For those that know me, I would have a better chance of ending world hunger than drinking less Diet Coke.)

As I think about these goals, I find myself reflecting on 2008 and the things that I managed to accomplish. While I did not pay off my credit cards (rather I managed to increase my balances), I realized that I did do some good stuff. I donated services to my church. I secured some good accounts for my company. I made some really great new friends (at Loving Paws, by the way.) And, I sort of learned how to give Olive a haircut that I don't need to cover with a doggie sweater.

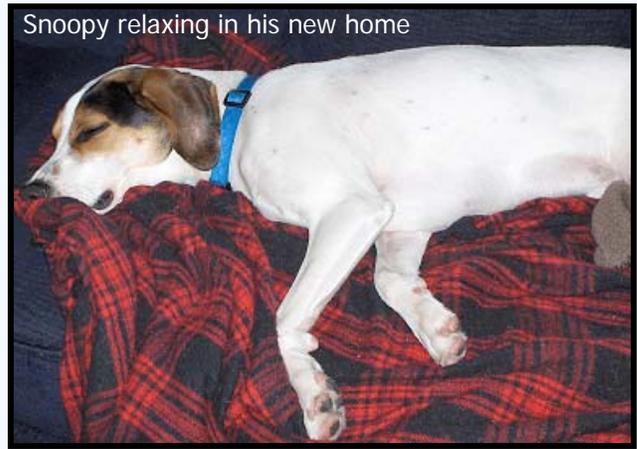
And yet, while all of these things are fun and wonderful, nothing compares to what I did for a very special friend of mine—Snoopy.

Snoopy was a family dog. He did all of the normal family dog stuff. Let the kids ride on his back. Stole food from the counter. Provided his family with a slobbery welcome every time they walked in the front door. And, of course, chewed a favorite toy every now and then.

Unfortunately for Snoopy and his family, life as he knew it came to a sudden end. The family learned that the toddler boy was severely allergic to dogs. "Remove the dog from the house—immediately." Those were the doctor's orders. Without time to find this wonderful guy a home, the family was grief stricken to think that they may have to surrender their family dog to the local animal shelter.

When I heard the situation, the words "I'll take him," escaped my lips before I even had a chance to consult my husband. (Don't worry. He is used to it.) Within the wag of a tail, Laura was in my driveway on a very cold dark night, helping me introduce my own furry clan to their new foster brother, Snoopy.

The next week was anything but easy. Bear didn't like Snoopy. Snoopy liked Olive—too much. As a result, I couldn't leave the dogs alone together. Our daily routines were totally thrown off. Snoopy only got fed two meals a day and gobbled down his food. Bear and Olive, who normally pick at their food dish



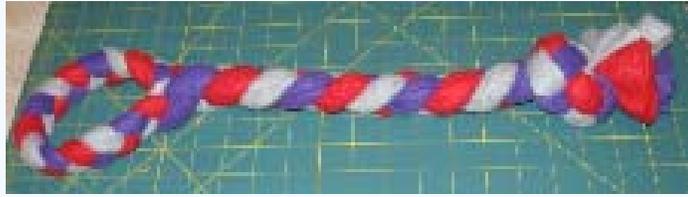
all day, were forced to eat two meals a day or lose it to the intruder. Even potty time was a challenge. My dogs use a litter box. So, I wasn't used to standing out in the frigid temperatures, coaxing a dog to poop. I had to hire a dog sitter to let Snoopy out in the afternoon. And, my "free time" was spent making and distributing Snoopy's sell sheet, and meeting with potential owners. But, the most difficult thing was yet to come.

Snoopy and I bonded. Maybe it was his big, soft brown eyes. Or, his silly ideas about being a 45 pound lap dog. Or, perhaps it was the excitement in his face whenever I held out his walking harness and oversized sweater that Laura so willingly offered up. But, there was something more. Somehow Snoopy knew that I was there to help him. Sure, he did not know that he was never going back to his original family. And, he didn't know that I was looking for a new home for him. But, he knew that I brought good things. And that was all that mattered to him.

It wasn't long before the phone started ringing. People wanted to meet Snoopy. Lucky for us, one woman stood out from all the rest. Melinda was perfect for Snoopy in every way. And he was perfect for her. I knew in my heart that we had found Snoopy his forever home. I couldn't have been happier. Or, sadder.

Today, I am pleased to report that Snoopy is doing fabulous in his new home. Melinda frequently emails me updates on his new life. She sends me funny stories and great photos. Moreover, she shares with me the happiness that Snoopy has brought to her life. And, while I still feel the occasional tear pool in my eye when I think about how much I miss him, I find comfort in knowing that fostering Snoopy was the best thing I did in 2008.

How to Make a Polar Fleece Tug Toy



Just about every time I'm in a store that sells fabric, I check the remnant bin for polar fleece for making tug toys. Remnants are generally reduced to half of the original cost. Jo-Ann Fabrics reduces remnants even more when the item is on sale. I made the toy in the pictures with three colors to show the different strands, but it can be made with one color. Using remnants is a great way to make a fun toy and save a few dollars. And your dog will be amazed by your new skill.

-Jennifer

You'll need:

1/3 yard polar fleece

Scissors

Yardstick

Using a yardstick and scissors, cut the fleece into three 4-inch wide by 60-inch long strips.*

For the handle:

- Hold all three strips and fold in half to find the center.
- Begin braiding from center toward one end for about 5 inches.
- Turn over and braid in the other direction for about 5 inches. (Fig. A)
- Fold in half to form the handle.

For the tugging part:

- You will now have 6 strands. Pair the strands together to form 3 sets of strands.
- Use the 3 sets of strands to braid the remainder of the toy. (Fig. B)
- Braid all the way to the end, braiding as tightly as possible.
- Tie a knot in the end and pull tight.
- Trim the ends with the scissors.
- Go play with your dog. (Fig. C)

*Small dog owners may want to cut thinner strips.



Remnant from Jo-Ann Fabrics. This piece is marked \$1.33 but I got it for 67 cents because polar fleece was half off that day. This remnant is 1/3 yard – just enough for one toy. Where else can you get a toy for 67 cents?

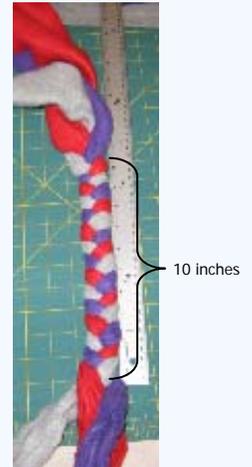


Fig. A



Fig. B

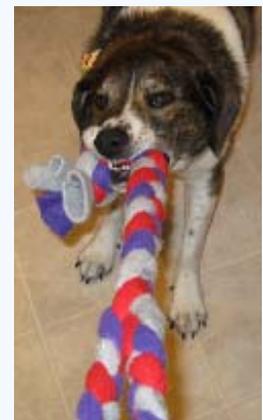


Fig. C

GRADUATES HIKING CLUB

We haven't been able to meet weekly because of the holidays and the weather, but we did get in a nice trail hike at Pets on December 13th and a brisk walk around Lake Andrea on New Year's Day.



Sheila and Arena and new members Dave and Riff in the back.



Does it look cold? It was! Remember when Lake Andrea was liquid? Ah, the good old days of summer.



Bauer looking handsome as always.



Casey, Bear and Olive enjoying a group sniff.



Who's this guy? I'll give you a hint. He belongs to this dog. Yeah! It's John and Rufus! Welcome back, guys!



I think Charlie is pretty safe from hunters in this coat.



The Hiking Club is free for graduates of Loving Paws. If you're not already a member and would like to sign up, just email Jennifer at jenn_web@lovingpawslc.com. Please include your name and your dog's name in the email. Invitations with the time and location for our hikes are sent out through evite.com.

-Jennifer & Casey