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PAWZ AND READ

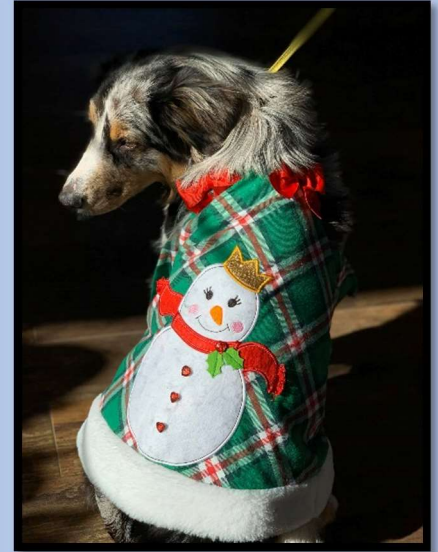
Training tips with Jeff - Down

In this segment of training tips I will offer helpful hints for teaching the down command. This command is a very useful tool in advance training and will also provide opportunities for human and K9 relationship as the down position serves as a submissive behavior to help establish leadership.

The down command is usually taught after the sit command. After your dog is in the sit position start by holding your dogs favorite lure (treat) in front of his nose. Allow them to sniff and try to get the lure and then lower the treat toward the ground towards their front paws. As they follow the treat, say the word YES and allow them to have it when their chin gets to the ground. Repeat 2 or 3 times, at this time you can add the word “down” as a verbal cue at the same time you lower the lure to the ground. Next, take it down same as before giving the verbal cue “down”, but don’t let them have it. This time move it away from them and be sure to keep the lure at ground level. If their rump comes off the floor and they leave the sit position move the lure back towards them and reinforce the sit command. Repeat this movement until your dog stays in the sit position. They will have to move their front paws forward in order to have access to the treat. Remember to reward any progress towards the down position by saying YES and giving the reward. This will signal to your dog that they are getting it right. After being rewarded for effort, withhold the reward in order to make additional progress before giving the reward. Continue in this manner until a complete down is achieved. If this does not achieve the desired results, you can try another method. Sit on the floor with your back against the wall and raise your knees up high enough for the dog to crawl on its belly to get underneath. Use your lure to encourage the dog to go under your knees. Remember to reward your dogs effort. Once they are under your knees say the word YES to acknowledge that they have gotten it right and give them the reward. Repeat this until you can move your legs to the side and your dog will go down. If this is not successful then go back to the previous step and repeat. I like to use the word YES as a marker to communicate when the dog has been successful and then reward them.

Once your dog is beginning to associate the word down with the action and you are able to stand in front of your dog, give the command and lure them in the down position, this way you can reduce giving a treat to every other time, then every 3rd time, and so on. Eventually place your hand out with all fingers extended and your palm down as a hand signal and give the verbal command for down.

December Ugly Sweater Party



Maisy

Atalie Wallace – Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Atalie Wallace - Technician / DayCamp Camp Counselor, for being selected the December 2019 "Employee of the Month".

Atalie has been working at the PawsCienda Pet Resort since October 2018. Atalie has just been promoted to Lead Kennel Technician! She also works as a DayCamp Camp Counselor during the day.

Atalie is a Sophomore Homeschool student and has 4 siblings. In her free time, she enjoys playing soccer and hanging out with her friends.



SAFETY TIPS FOR DOGS IN WINTER

Just because he's wearing a fur coat doesn't mean he's warm.

Yes, your furry friend is wearing a fur coat. But he also wears a fur coat in the summer. That coat helps regulate his body temperature but that doesn't mean he's always warm regardless of the conditions.

Just as some people tolerate cold better than others, some dogs have a higher tolerance for cold. Breed, type and length of coat, and size of your dog are all factors, but his age, health, and individual make-up can also effect how quickly your dog gets cold.

Know your dog's limits.

If he gets easily chilled, get him a sweater or coat to help keep him warm. It's also a good idea to have a couple of coats of each variety, so you can always put a dry coat on him when he comes back in after a romp in the snow.

If your dog is very small, and/or has short legs, he will likely get cold more quickly since his belly is closer to the cold pavement and snow. Consider getting him a sweater or coat that covers his underside as well as his back.

Take more, shorter walks.

Consider breaking your dog's hour-long constitutional into two or three shorter walks. He still will want—and need—to go out, but he'll be better off if you take him for several shorter walks than one long one.

Cold cars can be dangerous.

Most people know better than to leave a dog in a car on a hot summer's day. But as you know from experience, cars cool off pretty quickly once you turn them off. A cold car doesn't help your dog stay warm.

Keep an eye on his paws.

Cold weather can play havoc on your dog's bare feet. Ice and snow can cut his paw pads. Many ice melts are an irritant. Just the raw, cold weather can cause his paws to chap.

Be sure to dry his paws thoroughly when you get in. Snow can collect in the fur between his toe pads and foot pad. Make sure to get all the snow and ice cleared out from between his pads. If he walked on sidewalks treated with salt or ice melt, wash his paws with warm water and dry them thoroughly. You don't want him to lick anything off his paws that might make him sick.

If you treat your own sidewalks and driveway, consider using a dog-friendly ice melt. You can also get different types of boots that will protect your dog's paws from all the dangers the come with cold weather. If your dog doesn't like boots, there are salve-type products you can apply to your dog's feet to help protect them.

Take his age and health into account.

Older dogs' bodies don't always regulate their temperature as efficiently as they did when the dog was younger. Certain ailments, such as arthritis, can also be effected by the cold. If you have an aging dog or one that you know suffers more in colder months, check with your vet for suggestions on how you can make your old friend more comfortable.

GROOMING DOG OF THE MONTH



Chewie Abbott

January Daycamp

Doggie Daycamp
January Birthday Party
January 22nd

to benefit  Henrico HUMANE SOCIETY FREE PARKING!



20th Annual
PET EXPO

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11th
10AM - 4PM • RICHMOND RACEWAY COMPLEX

ADULTS: \$8 online / \$10 at door | AGES 6-12: \$5 | KIDS UNDER 6: FREE
Animals attending Pet Expo must be at least 4 months old, current on all vaccinations and be leashed or in a carrier.

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- Dog Contests • Puppy Races • Family-Friendly Activities
- Lure Course • Dog Adoptions • Silent Auctions

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