



Mini Doodler

Enriching one Doodle Owner's life at a Time!



Doodle Cuties!



Elections & Annual General Mtg.

Just a reminder that the deadline to submit your resume for ALAA officer positions is March 16, 2009. Along with your resume, please include a cover letter outlining the following points:

- The position you seek
- Why you are uniquely qualified for the position
- A brief list of your goals for the position and the ALAA

Annual general meeting scheduled for March 31, 2009. Details available soon.

Training Hint

Teaching your dog to come can be a fun exercise for both you and your dog. It is important to begin this training in an enclosed environment without other distractions around.

To begin, toss a treat a few feet away from you. Once your dog has retrieved it, call him to you and offer him another treat or two as a reward for coming. Make sure the treats offered give enough incentive for your

dog to want to come back to you when called.

Once your dog is coming consistently, begin practicing in areas with other distractions.

Keep a couple of treats with you at all times when you are out in public. You never know when they will come in handy.

Another Hint

Do you miss your dog's clues that he has to go out-

side to go potty? Hang a bell at the door you use to take him outside. Each time you go out, pick up his paw and swipe the bell. Say "Let's go outside!" and walk him out. As soon as he goes potty, praise him, and go back in. Do this consistently each time, and most dogs will begin ringing the bell on their own in a matter of days to weeks. No more watching, just listen for the bell!

Spring is just around the corner!

This time of year people are itching to get down to spring cleaning chores. Don't forget the spring cleaning for your dog! Wash doggie beds and bedding and throw away any ripped or torn blankets, use an antibacterial soap and scrub your dog's crate in-

side and out making sure it is dry before you put his bedding back inside, walk around and take a look at your yard and fix any gaps or holes in your fence. Pick up loose branches and debris that could be harmful to your dog. Don't forget to check the list of poisonous

plants and make sure your yard does not have anything dangerous for your dog.

This is also a good time of year for making sure you are set with heartworm preventative, flea repellants, and annual vaccinations.

Canine Carrot Cookies

- 2 cups carrots -- boiled and pureed
- 2 eggs
- 2 tablespoons garlic -- minced
- 2 cups unbleached flour, rice flour or rye flour
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1/4 cup wheat germ



Combine carrots, eggs and garlic. Mix until smooth. Add dry ingredients. Roll out on heavily floured surface and cut into bars or desired shapes. Bake at 300 degrees for 45 minutes or to desired crunchiness. The centers will continue to harden as they cool. Brush with egg white before baking for a glossy finish.

Is it time to find a new dog trainer?

All dog trainers are not created equally. All dog trainers are not effective and competent in their profession. If you have been working with a trainer for a few sessions or longer and are not seeing results, it is possibly time to look for another trainer or at least have a frank discussion with your current trainer. A competent trainer will know how to help you solve your problems, not claim that the dog is a problem dog or has a flaw that is not trainable. Too many time trainers will not own up to their inability to understand an issue and solve a problem, so instead they blame the dog, blame the owner, and actually make the problem worse instead of better.

Here are a few questions to ask yourself when trying to determine if it is time to look for another trainer.

- Are you seeing results? The answer should be 'yes' after just a few sessions with your trainer. A trainer should be able to help you resolve problems, and accept responsibility for when mistakes are made. A trainer will set goals and help you achieve them.
- Is your trainer blaming your dog when an issue isn't resolving? If their initial method isn't working, they should be switching gears and trying something different instead of blaming the problem on an "unfixable" dog.
- Does your trainer seem stuck on only one training method? What if that method isn't working? A professional trainer should be willing to have an open mind and to pursue other training tools and techniques if the one they are using is not effective with a dog.

If you are concerned about the results you are, or are not seeing from your training sessions, do your dog a favor and hire a different trained professional to help you with the training or behavioral issues you are having.

A Big Welcome to New Members!

Pet Members:

Anastasia Morsucci
Barbara Knight
Bob and Betsy Hamilton
Bonnie McClure
Carol Orton
Dan & Kim Kissel
Greg Walker
Jeanne and Jerry Derrick
Kathleen Ashton
Laura Mitchell
Mike and Jennifer Ochse

Per and Dorte Knudsen
Renae Jacob
Renee E. Southwick
Suzi LaPorta
Tom Pallarino

Breeder Members:

Tortoise Island Labradoodles
www.tortoiseislandlabradoodles.com
Owner: Wayne Kartzinel

Ivy Hill Australian Labradoodles
www.ivyhilllabradoodles.com
Owners: John and Stacy Houston

Claremont Australian Labradoodles
www.claremontlabradoodles.com
Owner: Terri Abrolat

Pawpaws Poodles and Labradoodles
www.pawpawspoodles.com
Owner: Luke Erb