

LUCKY PAWS NEWSLETTER

Fall 2015

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Did You Know?

Dogs don't enjoy being hugged as much as humans and other primates. Dogs see putting a limb over another animal as a challenging gesture. It can also be seen in play, usually close to a play bow which says "I'm just kidding!"

Howl-o-ween

Halloween is a fun and exciting holiday for many people, and it makes perfect sense that you would want to let your dog join in on the celebrations! While Halloween may be a blast for us, certain Halloween traditions can prove dangerous and scary for our dogs. We at Lucky Paws want to give you some tips to ensure that your dog is safe and stress-free this Halloween.

Trick or Treaters

It can be difficult for our dogs to recognize that there is a person behind some costumes, especially those with masks. Even when they do recognize it as a human, the human often looks VERY different than they are used to. This can cause a fearful or even aggressive response from your otherwise very friendly dog. If you want your dog to be comfortable around people wearing costumes, it's a good idea to allow the dog to see you or other people without the mask or costume first, then allow your dog to watch them put the mask on (maybe even let them sniff the mask beforehand too). We recognize that this may not be a very convenient way to introduce your dog to your guests, so if your dog is scared of people in costumes, and you don't have time to condition him before Halloween this year, it is best to keep your dog in a separate room with a bone or stuffed Kong during the time when trick or treaters or Halloween guests are visiting.

If your dog is comfortable with people in costumes, the next step is to create a dog who can calmly watch as you open the door for trick or treaters. Teaching your dog to go to a bed or mat near the door and stay there while you deliver goodies is a great idea.

Costumes for Dogs

One of the cutest things in the world is to see a little Dachshund in a hot dog costume! But for dogs that have never worn any type of clothing before, being suddenly forced into a costume can be very stressful. Your dog may end up ripping the costume to shreds, or even lash out and bite you in fear. If you want your dog to wear a costume, be sure to take a few weeks before the big night to condition your dog to like wearing the costume. Take baby steps, first giving treats for looking at the costume, and then touching the costume, etc. If you don't have enough time to get your dog ready this year, most dogs will tolerate a festive collar or bandana. Just be sure that whatever your dog wears, that it doesn't have small dangly pieces to be chewed up and that it doesn't prevent him from comfortably walking, sitting, or lying down.

Halloween Treat Dangers

Of course we can't forget about the dangers of the candy bowl. Remember that chocolate is extremely poisonous to dogs as well as a common artificial sweetener called xylitol. Even simply too much sugar can cause pancreatitis, which is a very painful and potentially fatal inflammation of the pancreas. Also watch out for raisins - a





Dog Friendly Orchards



Fall brings so many excellent comfort and warm weather foods. Wouldn't it be great if you could go pick up apples and pumpkins with your dog by checking out a local orchard? Great news, you totally can!

Below are a few local dog friendly orchards. To make sure we can continue to enjoy this wonderful tradition with our dogs, be sure you BYOPB (bring your own poop bags), and only bring your dog if you feel he or she can behave appropriately.

LUCELINE ORCHARD: Watertown

Hours: 10am – 6pm Thursday through Sunday

AAMODT'S APPLE FARM:

Stillwater

Hours: 10am – 6pm daily

WHISTLING WELL FARM:

Hastings

Hours: 9am – 6pm daily

APPLEWOOD ORCHARD:

Lakeville

Hours: 10am – 6pm daily

DEARDORFF ORCHARDS & VINEYARD: Waconia

Hours: 10am – 6pm Tuesday through Sunday

MINNETONKA ORCHARDS

Minnetrista

Hours: 10am – 7pm daily

SPONSEL'S MINNESOTA HARVEST APPLE ORCHARD:

Jordan

Hours: 10am – 6pm weekdays;
9am – 6pm weekends

Pups are allowed on orchard grounds only, not in buildings. And don't forget to BYOPB.



common healthy alternative to candy on Halloween. Enough raisins can cause kidney failure in dogs. Be very careful to keep all Halloween candy out of reach for your dog.

Some fun Halloween treats that you *can* give your dog include Kongs stuffed with canned pumpkin or dog biscuits made with pumpkin cut into fun Halloween shapes. *You can find a simple 3-ingredient recipe on our Facebook page!*

Make Halloween Great

Whether your dog is out marching in full costume, or hunkering down with a toy to avoid scary monsters, Halloween can and should be a fun and stress-free event.



Holiday Safety & Training Tips

Food and family are the best things about the upcoming holidays. Since our dogs are members of our family too, many will likely be included in these festivities, but the truth is an ill or ill-mannered dog can quickly turn a wonderful holiday into a stressful situation. If you don't want your dog jumping all over your guests, or getting sick from consuming things they shouldn't eat around the holidays, read on!

Good Eats!

It can be tempting to want to treat the furry, tail-wagging members of your family to some of your delicious concoctions. Before giving them goodies, it's important that you know about some very toxic foods that could cause immense pain, neurological issues, and even death if enough of these foods are consumed by your dog.



Many people know that chocolate, raisins and alcohol are dangerous for dogs. But don't forget about the onions and garlic that you may use to season your meal. Other potentially dangerous spices and foods include, sage, nutmeg, cinnamon, macadamia nuts and walnuts. Over consumption of sugar from cakes, puddings, pies, and even cranberry sauce can cause pancreatitis. Even the turkey skin can be dangerous due to the high fat content (which can also cause pancreatitis). Also, cooked bones are much more likely to splinter than uncooked bones, and can not only cause stomach upset, but can also get stuck in your dog's throat or digestive tract which can be very dangerous.

While all this may make us sound like party-poopers, there are some healthy snacks that you can give your dog as a special Thanksgiving treat. Raw or cooked carrots and green beans are healthy and low calorie treats. Also, fresh or canned pumpkin is proven to help dog's digestion. You can even treat your dog to a small amount turkey if it is skin-less and not heavily seasoned. Keep in mind that some dogs' digestive systems are more sensitive than others, so even healthy treats can sometimes cause stomach upset.

Holiday Training Tips

Food isn't the only thing to think about if you are hosting or attending a big family get together over the holidays with your dog. Common behavior problems that might put a damper on your dinner are jumping on or mouthing guests, counter surfing, and begging at the table.

Jumping and mouthing are attention seeking behaviors. This means that the best way to train your dog to not jump and mouth is to completely remove any possibility of attention by walking away and completely ignoring your dog. Your dog behavior may get worse before it gets better (this is called an extinction burst), but





dogs only do what works, and so over time, your dog will figure out that jumping and barking no longer work as a means of getting attention. Once your dog has learned to not jump on you, invite guests over to help with a training session so your dog can learn that the no-jumping rule applies to everyone, not just you. If your guests are unwilling or unable to ignore your dog's attention seeking behaviors, it is important that you immediately remove your dog from the greeting to reinforce that jumping and mouthing never gets them attention. It also helps to reward calm behavior by giving treats and attention anytime you see your dog greeting with four paws on the floor, politely asking for attention by sitting and waiting in front of you, or laying down in the presence of guests.

Keeping food out on the counter or table can often prove to be too tempting for your otherwise polite pooch. To prevent counter surfing and begging, you can teach your dog to stay out of your kitchen and dining area, or even a "Place" or "Go Lay Down" command. It is equally as important to avoid feeding your dog from the counter or table, and instead feed any goodies in their dog bowl. If you catch your dog counter surfing or begging, immediately remove them from the area and encourage them to instead go to their "Place" or "Go Lay Down."

Just imagine your dog showing your family what a polite and calm dog they can be. You CAN enjoy the holidays with your dog if you take the time to teach them the important skills needed to be that polite pooch!

Happy Holidays from all of us at Lucky Paws!



Winter Grooming: Important Tips

Many people decide to let their dog's fur grow long in the colder months, and opt to not give baths because it is cold outside. But, imagine if you stopped showering and getting haircuts for the four, sometimes five months of our Minnesota winter. You probably wouldn't feel too great, and your dog probably won't either!

Dogs of all fur types still need a certain amount of grooming all winter. Wet fur from playing in the snow causes a greater risk of mats and walks in the dirty snow along streets and sometimes mud when the snow melts, will build up dirt in your dog's coat. Regular brushing year-round helps to remove dead hair and skin, distribute natural oils that keep your dog's coat healthy, and also acts as an opportunity to check over your dog for bumps, cuts, mats, fleas, and anything else that may cause a concern about your dog's health. Regular baths year-round are also recommended to keep your dog's coat in tip top shape, you just need to be sure your dog is completely dry before going outside. Simply let your dog out to potty right before a bath to avoid any conflicts of a wet dog that needs to pee. If your dog is otherwise clean, but is getting a little smelly, a good option to avoid a wet dog is to use a dry shampoo.

Dogs that normally get their hair cut every 6 weeks or so during the warm months like poodles and many breeds of terriers should still be properly groomed in the winter. You may choose to keep your dog's coat longer to keep him warmer, but regular grooming is even more necessary with a long coat, so even if you skip the cut, you should still bring your dog in for a bath, brush and blow dry, or you may end up with a badly matted and uncomfortable dog come spring, and you may need to fully shave your adorably fluffy dog!

In addition to taking care of your dog's coat, pay attention to their feet. To keep your dog's pads from cracking in the cold weather, dry them off every time they come inside, and moisturize them regularly with a paw protection wax. Dog's nails also need to be trimmed more often due to being inside more and not having as many opportunities to wear down their nails. Clipping the long hairs between your dog's toes can help prevent matting, and also prevents ice balls from



Cold Weather Around the Corner

We have just begun to enjoy the crisp, cool autumn weather, but considering the unpredictability of Minnesota weather, we should also be prepared for a sudden jump to much colder weather very soon.

Some dogs are more tolerant of the cold than others (some even love it), but even double-coated breeds are affected by cold temperatures. Cold weather brings the risk of hypothermia, frostbite, greater risk for poisoning from chemicals like anti-freeze, and more. Puppies and elderly dogs of all breeds are less tolerant of the cold. Arthritic dogs often have more difficulty navigating snow and ice and dogs with medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, and hormonal imbalances such as Cushing's disease can have more trouble regulating their body temperature, and thus are less tolerant of extreme temperatures.

To keep your dog safe and healthy...

- Check your dog's pads frequently for cracks and bleeding.
- Clip the hair between your dog's toes to prevent buildup of ice chunks.
- Wipe your dog's feet after walks to remove chemicals used to melt ice.
- Shovel out a potty area in the yard for your dog when it snows.
- Get a sweater or jacket for your dog that covers the belly.
- While many dogs may object initially, doggie booties can help make winter exercise more bearable for your dog.
- Keep your dog inside as much as possible. If you have an outdoor dog, make sure your dog has proper shelter that protects against the wind and sits a few inches above the ground.

If your dog doesn't like wearing his winter gear at first you can use the same conditioning steps described in our section about dogs wearing Halloween costumes.

When the weather does inevitably turn, go over our safety tips again so that you and your dog can enjoy a safe and fun winter together!



forming. Taking the extra time to groom your dog during the busy holiday season may feel like a burden. To make it feel less time-consuming, schedule a 5 minute grooming session at each meal, rather than taking a half-hour or hour each week. Avoiding cracked paws and matted coats—or worse, a shaved dog in the middle of winter—is worth the effort.



This newsletter was created by Lucky Paws Dog Training.



Our Services

Lucky Paws offers simple & convenient training dog training programs that fix your dog's unruly behaviors or prevent them in the first place! No need to put up with a pooch with poor manners. We can help!

In-Home Boot Camp

Are you feeling short on time and your dog isn't getting enough training as a result? Our In-Home Boot Camp Programs offer a simple & convenient way to create the dog of your dreams! We come to you & do the hard part of the training for you in your home & neighborhood achieving faster results than private training or group classes. Programs are fully customized to fit your needs and are great for puppies and adult dogs.

In-Home Private Training

Are you tired of dealing with your dogs out of control or possibly dangerous behavior? Does your dog ignore you completely when distracted? Private training is a great way to solidify or teach obedience and address behavior problems including things like fear, reactivity and aggression.

Group Classes in St. Louis Park

Are you ready for a well behaved companion? Group classes are a great place to learn how to train your dog quickly & effectively. We've created our classes around the things our students really need such as working on jumping, leash pulling, impulse control and more. These convenient open enrollment classes provide you the opportunity to get started right away, and enjoy a fun learning environment. We keep our classes small to create the best possibly learning environment for puppies, adult dogs and their humans.

Board & Train

Have you tried training before, but are still frustrated with a lack of results? Do you feel like you could use a jumpstart with your dog's training? Our Board & Train programs offer accelerated learning while your dog stays in the home of a professional trainer. At Lucky Paws, training dogs become a part of our family and live as our dogs do in our homes. Achieve fast results with a customized program made to fit your family. Puppy or adult dog, we've got you covered!

**Are you ready for a dog who will be the envy of the neighborhood?
Give us a call and tell us about your dog and your goals.**

612-388-9656
www.luckypawsmn.com



“Dog’s do
speak, but only
to those who
know how to
listen.”

Orphan Pamuk,
My Name is Red



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