



Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

National Train Your Dog Month



The most important lesson in training is that training is communication. As much as we love our pets, and our pets love us, it's important to remember that we don't speak the same language. Dogs communicate much differently than we

do by using body language and subtle cues. Imagine trying to communicate with someone who is speaking a language you don't know. If they scream that language at you, are you more apt to understand what they are trying to say? No. The same goes for dogs. In the same scenario, what if someone showed you an item that was recognizable to you and then spoke a word to you in a foreign language? You have a much better chance of understanding what they are trying to convey to you. Dogs learn our language through using word association and incentives. These incentives don't always have to be food but they do have to be something your pet highly values. Maybe your pet is food driven and a taste of a treat motivates them. Great! However, if a toy motivated dog gets a treat, it may not have the same response.

The second most important lesson is train not pain! [Aversive training equipment](#), such as choke chain, prong collars, shock collars, spray collars and e-collars collars, can cause lifelong [psychological and physical damage to a pet](#). Always teach your dog with positive reinforcement training and if you

[Health Tip for the Season](#)

Aversive training equipment is not just harmful for your pet's mental well-being, it can cause permanent and long lasting physical harm as well. Choke chains and prong collars put pressure on a dog's throat and can cause a collapsed trachea or thyroid damage leading to hypothyroidism.

[Training Tip for the Season](#)

Our pets are family and such integral parts of our lives that sometimes we forget we don't speak the same language. When training your pet, remember to build trust by communicating with them in a way they understand. Teach them what is expected of them and don't wait until they do something you don't want them to do to punish them.

[Pet Sitter Tip for the Season](#)

choose a trainer, make sure they are a modern, scientific based, positive reinforcement trainer!

Lastly, let your pet know what is expected of them. To use another example, you walk into someone's home and they immediately run over to you and start screaming. Afterwards, they tell you shoes are not allowed in their home! It would have been nice to know that before you entered, right? If you want your pet to walk at your side, show them how with loose leash training. Don't wait until they are pulling to yank them back and yell at them because you never communicated what you want.

Training can be a great bonding and trust building time for you and your pet if you are aware of how they learn and work with them to teach them what you want from them before punishing them for doing something wrong afterwards.

Your Professional Pet Care Specialist is best resource to recommend a professional, modern, scientific based, positive reinforcement trainer. It's also important to keep your Professional Pet Care Specialist informed of any training for your pet so they can work to keep them on track with their training. When training a pet, consistency is the key!

Featured Organization of the Month



Crisis Response Canines

Crisis Response Canines (CRC) is a non-profit 501c3 organization comprised of members throughout the United States who have dedicated thousands of hours comforting individuals impacted by personal or community crisis events with their certified K-9 partners. CRC volunteers services that are provided by the handlers and their canine partners' offering a level of comfort and calmness that only a canine can afford.

The mission of Crisis Response Canines is to provide strength, comfort, and emotional support to individuals, families, communities, and first responders experiencing intense emotions in the aftermath of critical incidents. Our highly trained K9 teams are experienced in psychological first aid and certified to work effectively in crisis environments supporting any affected by mass shootings, largescale accidents, violence, abuse, tragic death, suicides, terrorism, natural disasters (fire, flood, hurricane, etc.), and more. Our goal is to establish a nationwide network of canine crisis response teams who can be deployed immediately where they are needed most.

Our volunteer members and their canine partners have achieved national therapy dog certification, AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Certification and Crisis Response Working Dog certifications.

CRC Members Have Participated in the Following National Crisis Deployments:

- Orlando, FL | Pulse Nightclub-mass shooting
- Las Vegas, NV | Mandalay Bay Hotel/Route 91 Harvest Festival-mass shooting
- Sutherland Springs, TX | First Baptist Church-mass shooting
- Parkland, FL | Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School-mass shooting
- Paramus, NJ | East Brook Middle School – Tragic Bus Accident
- Pittsburgh, PA | Tree of Life Synagogue – mass shooting
- Virginia Beach, VA | Municipal Center | Mass Shooting
- El Paso, TX | Walmart | Mass Shooting
- Dayton, OH | Ned Peppers Bar/Oregon District | Mass Shooting

Donations can be made to Crisis Response Canines at paypal.me/crisiscanines

January Birthdays



January Staff Birthdays

Christina Thompson
Justina Czekaj

January Pet Birthdays

Penelope Katz
Siena DeGore
Lucy Kirby
Tucker Griffith
Louie Howard
Nico Borrasso
Basil Fitchwell
Butterfly Fitchwell
Livie Iredale
Max Gardonis
Phoebe Smith
Callie Botts
Bella Favocci
Truman Kearns
Scout Botts

Happy Birthday, all! Paw-ty hard!

Healthy Homemade Treats for the Season

Ginger Snaps Dog Treats

Ingredients

- 4 cups whole wheat flour
- 1/4 cup freshly shredded ginger
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup molasses
- 1/4 cup olive oil



Directions

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

In a large bowl, combine flour, ginger, cinnamon and honey. Stir until combined.

Add water, olive oil and molasses. Knead dough until stiff.

Roll out on a floured surface to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut with cookie cutter and place on non-stick cookie sheets.

Bake for 20-25 minutes

Cheese Cookies for Cats

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup cheddar cheese
- 5 Tbsp. Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup plain yogurt
- 3/4 cup white flour
- 1/4 cup cornmeal



Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Add a small amount of water as needed to form dough.

Knead into a ball. Roll to 1/4 inch.

Cut into small cookies using a small cutter or just cut into small squares.

Bake for 25 minutes on greased baking sheet.



Comfort at Home Pet Services has been featuring many different types of contests on our social media pages! Our contests are fun and educational! Make sure you are following us on all our social media pages for your chance to enter to win fun prizes like a copy of our cookbook or e-gift cards!

You can't win if you don't play! So join the fun!

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Please email suggestions

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