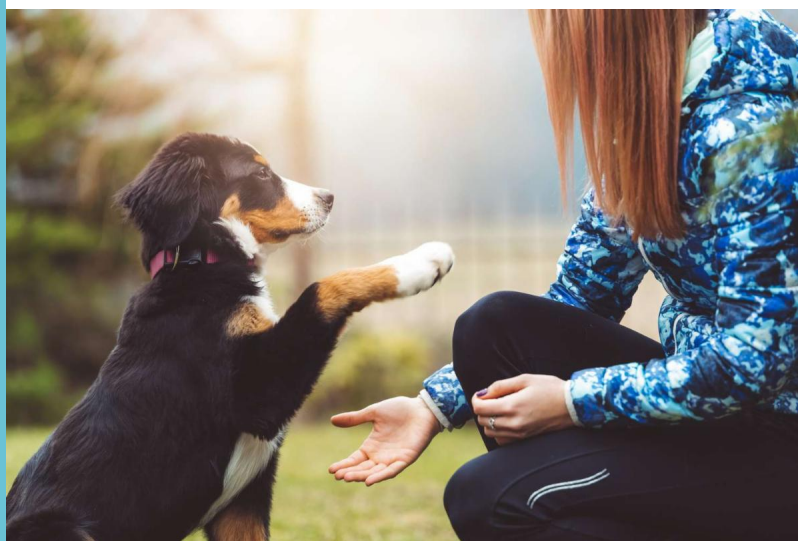




Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

Lifelong Training



As the old saying goes, "if you don't use it, you lose it" and the same is true for our furry friends! Training our pets must be a lifelong commitment.

Before all else, a pet must understand what is being asked of them and training is that key. Pets communicate much differently than we do, and learn mostly through word association. Yelling the 'stay' command to a pet who hasn't been properly trained as to what stay means will have the same effect as yelling the word banana. Pets need to associate a word with an action and those words must be consistent to keep a pet from becoming confused. Commands should only be used for one action, if down means lay down, that's the only time it should be used. If a pet needs to get off the furniture or stop jumping, another command word should be used, such as off.

As pets learn, it's wonderful mental stimulation for

Health Tip for the Season

Visiting the groomer or veterinarian can be a stressful experience for some pets, but it doesn't have to be! The first step is to make going to the vet or groomer a positive experience for the pet. If your vet or groomer will allow it, visit them when the pet doesn't have an appointment. Most pets are fearful due to the association of being handled or examined when at the vet or groomer. A pet parent can help a pet create a positive experience by taking treats with them and providing positive reinforcement during the visit.

Training Tip for the Season

Training is communication. If the pet doesn't know what is being communicated to them, it's not training. Communication must be consistent, if it isn't the dog will get confused on what is being asked of them. If the down

them to be taught new training commands or tricks at higher difficulty levels, but the basics shouldn't be forgotten. Some commands will be used much more frequently than others, like sit, down, leave it or stay, but if a pet isn't using a command often, they can forget. For this reason, it's crucial to refresh the lesser used commands. Refresher games can even be a mix of new training with basic training to keep the pet interested and engaged. The pet will not only enjoy playing a game with you, but it's keeping the basic commands sharp.

While great for socialization, group training classes normally only last a few weeks and if the training isn't reinforced at home or in different environments, a pet will easily forget. Group training also comes with numerous distractions, making training more difficult for a pet to remember what they just learned. Think about the last time you were in a room with multiple people talking and moving around and you were trying to learn something new. How well did it go? Now imagine you're in a new place, anxious and bombarded stimuli. If your pet is in group classes, refresh the new behaviors at home where they have less distractions and are comfortable and alert.

As pet parents know, our pets are highly intelligent and want to please, but time can take its toll on their memory too! Work with your pet often to keep their knowledge sharp and keep your pet safe.

command is used to instruct the dog to lie down, it can't also be used to tell a pet to get off the furniture. This will create confusion for the pet and frustration for the pet owner.

Pet Sitter Tip for the Season

If your pet is working on training commands, inform your Professional Pet Care Specialist, explain what your pet is learning and how those commands are being communicated to the pet. This will allow your Professional Pet Care Specialist to help positively reinforce those commands while on a walk. Additionally, if there is something you would like your Professional Pet Care Specialist to address with your pet, they can help and even offer advice to keep training consistent.

Featured Product



Canine Noise Phobia Series

The Canine Noise Phobia Series is a set of 4 individual audio CDs which combine three distinctive elements for the treatment of noise-phobic and sound-sensitive dogs:

- progressive sound effects
- specially-designed psychoacoustic music
- reward-based reinforcement protocols

The dog first learns to associate positive feelings with the music on the CD. Once he is calm and relaxed, specific sound effect noises (fireworks, thunderstorms, and city sounds) are slowly introduced alongside the music at gradually increasing levels while the owner continues to provide positive experiences. Eventually, the dog is able to function normally despite the presence of a previously offending noise or sound.

By combining progressive sound effects, the specially-designed psychoacoustic music of, and Victoria's reward-based reinforcement protocols, the Canine Noise Phobia Series is an innovative desensitization tool that not only helps reduce the anxiety suffered by noise-sensitive dogs, but also reduces the likelihood of common sound phobias or general anxieties from ever developing.

Description credit to Positively.com.

For more information on the Canine Noise Phobia Series, please visit [How Does CNP Work?](#)



January Birthdays



These pets will be celebrating a birthday in the month of January!

Siena DeGore
Gus Gettelman
Dottie Gettelman
Ozzy Findlay
Lucy Kirby
Tucker Griffith
Artica Burroughs
Louie Howard
Basil Fitchwell
Butterfly Fitchwell
Thor Wheeler-Dubas
Loki Wheeler-Dubas
Max Gardonis
Carter Tomko
Phoebe Smith
Bailey Barsevich
Callie Botts
Karla Rissler
Bella Favocci
Bailey Flynn
Neiko Flynn
Moe Costelnock
Winston Ward
Truman Weber
Scout Botts
Bobi Ruggear
Junebug Manning
Willie G Borrasso
Dunkin Budilovsky

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.

Barking Truth

Clients, followers and friends have voiced their appreciation of our educational blogs and monthly newsletters and have urged us to release a pet care podcast. We are excited to announce that we have answered the call with Barking Truth, a podcast exposing the truth in the pet industry to keep all pets safe, healthy and well.



Barking Truth

By Comfort at Home Pet Services

We will be releasing a new podcast every Wednesday and hope you can tune in and support pets everywhere by uncovering the truth of pet care.

Be sure to follow us on Anchor, Spotify or your favorite podcast service.



Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner strives to provide educational, informative and fun content to our readers! We love hearing your feedback on our newsletters and blogs and want to know what you, dear reader, would like to see in future newsletters and blogs. Are there topics you are interested in that we haven't covered or you would like more specific information? Please feel free to let us know. We'd love to hear from you!

Please email suggestions

to Jen@comforthomepetservices.com

Check out our latest blog posts



[Choosing a Dog Trainer](#)



[How to Find a Positive Based Trainer](#)



[Positive Reinforcement vs Aversive Training](#)



Sent by byjen@comforthomepetservices.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!