



Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

Respect your Pet



Thankfully, more families than ever before consider their pet a part of their family.

According to a survey conducted by [Kelton Research](#), 9 in 10 pet "owners" regard their pets as family members, with 81 percent categorizing them as equal family members.

This new status raise in the familial hierarchy has come with better, safer

products, cutting edge veterinary care and an increase on how much money American families spend on their pets. While all of these things are indeed positive, thanks to decades of "alpha" thinking, there is still a long way to go on how to properly respect your pet!

In her article "[How Do I Make Him Do What I Say?](#)" for [Positively.com](#), author and owner of Pawsitive Reactions LLC writes "Respect is important for everyone. You don't need to make your dog do anything. You can teach him to do pretty much anything with mutual fun. One of my most requested behaviors from clients is a recall. "My dog won't come when I call him." Think about how you sound when you call him. If you wouldn't pay attention to your tone of voice, don't expect him to do so. Be the fun! Be the best thing that ever happened to your dog! Build a relationship with

Health Tip for the Season

May is Pet Cancer Awareness Month and according to The Veterinary Cancer Society, cancer is the leading cause of death in 47% of dogs, especially dogs over age ten, and 32% of cats. Dogs get cancer at about the same rate as humans. Fortunately, there are many organizations researching new treatments and cures. For more information on prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment, visit:

[The National Canine Cancer Foundation](#)

[AKC Canine Health Foundation](#)

[Paws 4 A Cure](#)

Training Tip for the Season

The best way to respect your pet is to let them know what is expected of them through modern, scientific based, positive reinforcement training.

mutual respect and love, not a dictatorship. Your dog should not “obey” you just because you want him to.”

As pet parents, we know every dog has their own unique personality and the most important way we can bond with our pets is to show respect to their personalities. Some pets don't like to be picked up, hugged or held closely and some thrive on it. If your pet isn't the cuddling type, forcing them into uncomfortable situations is a sure way to put a wedge in a budding relationship.

Another way to respect your pets needs is their energy level. While it's true all pets need exercise and mental stimulation, your pet's breed, age and personality will play a role in their activity levels. Forcing a low energy, older dog into long hikes will cause them to try to avoid the leash and could even be causing them physical pain. Additionally, forcing a young, high energy pet to be a couch potato could result in destructive behavior.

Gone are the days of the alpha and pack leader mentality, and thankfully, the archaic tools of that type of thinking. Our pets are intelligent and should only be trained with modern, scientific based, positive reinforcement training. Never physically strike your pet, scream loudly in an attempt to provoke fear, rub their nose in their waste or deny them food or water as a form of punishment. Never take away a pet's food while they are eating to “show who is boss.” It doesn't work, it irritates the pet and it increases the chances of a serious bite.

Do unto others. It's not hard to imagine treating our pets as we wished to be treated. Respecting your pet, their space, their personality and their communication style will go a long way to forming that unbreakable pet bond.

Training is a great way to form a bond with your pet and it allows them to think for themselves and make informed decisions. Training takes time, patience and allows pet and owner to work together as a team. For more information on how to make training fun for you and your pet, visit our linked training posts at the bottom of this newsletter.

Pet Sitter Tip for the Season

It's the season for planting flowers, shrubs and bushes. Last month during pet first aid month, we wrote about what flowers are poisonous to our pets, but there is another danger hidden in our flower beds - mulch. Be sure to check the ingredients and type of mulch when making purchases for your yard. Some mulch contains toxic mushrooms and chocolate mulch can be extremely deadly to pets if they try to eat it. Even non-toxic, pet safe mulch can cause a choking hazard or intestinal blockage. If you are using mulch, make sure it's in an area not easily accessible to your pet.

Featured Rescue of the Month



FurKid Rescue

FurKid is a foster network rescue – meaning all of our rescues are temporary members of our families. Our fosters can give you insight into the personality and needs of our FurKids because they are in our homes, versus you meeting them in a stressful environment where they haven't had a chance to let their fur down and their true personalities shine through.

We officially started in 2008 rescuing Pit Bulls because they needed to be rescued the most. However over the years with the increase in puppy mills and backyard breeders, we have become an all-breed rescue because we want to save all dogs. We don't discriminate. We take dogs that other rescues won't. We have rescued and rehabilitated pups starved from the brink of death, pups with parvo who were given almost no chance, dogs who have been shot, dogs with disabilities or mange that are deemed undesirable, or not worth saving. We rescue elderly dogs left on chains for the majority of their years, puppies with minutes to spare before being euthanized for no reason other than no one is paying attention. We love and rescue them all.

We do not have a physical location. We try to give our animals the best foster experience possible, not only for their comfort, but to implement positive reinforcement training methods and to make sure they are getting the best care imaginable. Please read about our adoption process.

We work on a volunteer basis and this rescue work takes time away from our families, friends, and pets. Our strength to continue rescuing animals comes from finding one of our adoptable dogs a forever home where they will be loved, cherished and treated as a member of the family. It is those moments that make our hearts full and give us the drive to continue.

To learn more about FurKid Rescue, below are links to their website and social media:

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Adoptable Pets](#)

[FurKid Rescue's Amazon wish list](#)

Below are ways to make monetary donations to FurKid Rescue:

PayPal: furkidrescue@hotmail.com

Mailing Address: PO Box 5, South Park, PA 15129

During the month of March, Comfort at Home Pet Services will be collecting donations of blankets, toys, food, treats and cleaning supplies for FurKid Rescue. If you have a donation, please mark it FurKid Rescue and leave it out during your

Featured Pet of the Month

Titus



Titus didn't have the greatest start in life but thankfully, FurKid found him and gave him a chance at a new life! Titus was in pretty bad shape when he came to FurKid from Memphis. After a consultation, FurKid had to transfer him to Mississippi State University for surgery for severe facial wounds, including injuries to his jaw. During the extremely lengthy surgery, this boy had several metal plates inserted and he has healed amazingly well! Titus is without a doubt, one of the MOST SPECIAL DOGS FurKid has ever rescued. FurKid loves all of their rescues but this boy's sweet and gentle disposition has touched them all.

Titus is a 6 year old adult, weighs 75 lbs and he is fine with children. However, Titus is dog selective and would require a meet and greet with any perspective canine sibling. Titus needs a home WITHOUT

cats.





May Birthdays

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



Jessie DeCesare
Daisie Mae Favocci
Henry Floro
Sophie Tobin
Pewam Golden-Trist
Nebby Golden-Trist
Hissy Golden-Trist
Thor Gottschall
Loki Gottschall
Allie Griffith
Annie Herrington
Tully Karelitz
Ashley Karelitz
Cally Liebmann
Flopsy Petrie
Colby Russell



Happy Birthday, all! Paw-ty hard!

Healthy Homemade Treats for the Season

Delectable Turkeyballs

Ingredients:

1 pound ground turkey
1 egg
1 teaspoon chopped parsley
¼ cup shredded cheese (optional)
½ cup chopped veggies (optional)
To prepare:

Preheat oven to 350oF



Mix all ingredients in bowl
Shape mixture into bite-size balls
Bake for 10 minutes or until brown

Cool and serve or seal in airtight container and store in fridge or freezer until ready to serve

Cat's Delight Homemade Treats

Ingredients:

1 lb. ground Organic Chicken or Turkey
3.75-oz. can Sardines in water with no salt added
2 Egg Yolks
1/3 Cup Nutritional Yeast
1 Tbsp. of Your Cat's Favorite Catnip
1/4 Cup Water



A gallon size Ziploc baggie or a piping bag
Parchment paper & a baking sheet

Directions

Preheat your oven to 350° F. Place a sheet of parchment paper on the cookie sheet and set aside.

If you have a food processor, you can put the chicken or turkey, sardines (including water in can), egg yolks, nutritional yeast, water and catnip in and blend until it becomes the consistency of a thick paste.

If you do not have a food processor, dump the sardines in a bowl and mash up with a fork. Add the egg yolks, chicken or turkey, nutritional yeast, water and catnip and mix until all ingredients are blended together well.

Put your Ziploc baggie in a glass and fold the opening over the top. Fill the baggie with the blended mixture.

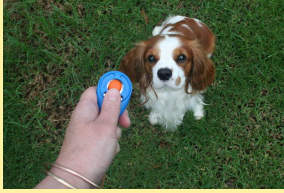
Take out the baggie and carefully cut one of the bottom corners so that you have about a small opening, about 1/2-inch big.

Pipe treat-sized dollops of the mixture onto the parchment paper about an inch apart, using the back of a knife to help slice as you go.

Put the cookie sheet in the oven and bake for 20 minutes, until treats are cooked through and no longer bubbling liquid.

Let cool completely before storing in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to two weeks

Check out our latest blog posts



[Clicker Training](#)



[Obedience Training](#)



[Can You Teach An Old Dog New Tricks](#)

