

Pets without Parents

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www.PetsWithoutParents.net



Ewok is very endearing with his special "old man" look and his loving ways. He is 8 years old and weighs 15 lbs. Ewok is quite spry when the heat and humidity aren't bad. He gets along great with other dogs and cats and is housebroken. Give this guy a home for the Holidays!



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Life Lessons From My Pets

I have many dogs (I never really say the number out loud), and a cat that thinks she is a dog. They are all rescues. Just thinking about them as I write this makes me smile. They also make me yell, and say "eww". They cost a lot of money. Most importantly, they make me laugh every single day. I think when a person gets a dog, or any pet for that matter, they THINK they are doing some huge favor for the animal. In reality, our animals teach us as much, or more, than we teach them. These are just a few of the golden nuggets that came to me - and I thought I would share...



Wag Your Tail. When you are happy, you should show it. If someone you love walks through the door, wouldn't it be cool to let them know! As long as it doesn't involve jumping up on them and leaving muddy paw prints on their shirt.....I'm just sayin'..... A hearty tail wag and a smile might go a long way in making someone else's day. I know it lifts my spirit every time I come through that door.

When You Want Something, Go After It. If what you want lies buried, or hidden... dig until you find it. My dogs are relentless, they bark, they chase, they search until they get what they want. We as humans tend to give up before putting out full effort into getting what we desire. Izzy will sit staring at a hole in the yard for 20-30-40 minutes until that chipmunk sticks his head out again! Everyone else has moved on to other games, other distractions... not Izzy. She is a machine.

Just Play. We need to stop being so darned serious all the time. Take time to play - enjoy - romp. I can't tell you how many time I have been racing around, doing laundry, putting things away... and turn to see Jordie following me around with a sock in her mouth. Waiting until I notice her - hoping I will chase her. Its her favorite game ever - "Is That My SOCK!?" So, no matter how crazy it is - I take a few minutes to play the game!

Just Listen. When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close and just listen. Words sometimes are not necessary, a hug, a pat, a knowing glance can express what we could never find the words to say.

Be Tolerant. Sometimes we need to realize that the world does not revolve around US. So many different ages, animals & breeds out there, and most of us are just mutts! Put others first when you need to, and hope that they will do the same. Putting up with the young ones and teaching them. Learning from the oldies, and taking care of them... every dog has their day!

Get Comfortable. Put on the old jeans and the ratty sweatshirt. Curl up in the comfy chair. Roll up in a blanket in front of the TV. Scratch your belly... you get the idea.

Protect The Ones You Love. Protection comes in many forms. Many of us think/know that we would "fight" to the death to protect a loved one. So often though, we fail our friends when we do not defend them as others speak badly of them in front of us, or gossip, or joke. Standing up and doing what's right takes as much, or more strength as any physical fight. Always remember, never bite when a growl will do.

Be Patient. Whether it is for a walk, a treat or a belly rub, sit quietly and wait for your turn.

Be Loyal. As they say... don't bite the hand that feeds you... or rubs your belly... or applies your flea meds. Dogs get this. Its a very simple concept that we can't seem to remember. Even when you treat them crappy, come home a little late to let them out... they love you and wag their tail when you FINALLY get there. Or, maybe you are playing at the dog park, and they don't come when you call... and they get in trouble. Do you think they are going to catch the next ride out of there with someone else?! No way - they want to go home with YOU!

Shake It Off. I am always amazed at how quickly my dogs "get over it". Whether they just got corrected for jumping up, or left behind when I go somewhere for the day... they move on, and are ready for the next adventure. You can almost see it in their eyes, like ... "What?..." "What are we doing next?..." "What's for dinner?..." "I missed you!" No sense wasting time worrying about what happened 10 seconds... or 10 minutes ago. Live & love in the moment!

One of my favorite quotes ever, is by Josh Billings "A dog is the only thing on this earth that loves you more than he loves himself." I believe this with all my heart. Contrary to another famous quote, I do not strive to be the person my dog thinks I am... I strive to be more like them. Full of energy, love, loyalty, and forgiveness. Dare to dream & happy holidays!

MINGLE WITH THE MUTTS

The weather may be getting colder - but Mingle with the Mutts is still the HOT place to be if you are ready to adopt! Mingle is the best place to look for your new best friend!

Meet hundreds of dogs and puppies all in one place! (cats and kittens, too!)

Every 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month ~ Noon - 2 pm

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COLD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS!

Ah, fall...the crisp, cool air, falling leaves - I just love the changing seasons! My dogs agree & enjoy the break from the hot, sticky weather. Here are a few tips to keep you and your pups happy & healthy as we approach winter.

- If you **must** use rodenticides to keep those little mousey critters at bay - please do so with extreme caution, and place them in areas inaccessible to your pets.
- Fall and spring are mushroom seasons. 99% of mushrooms have little or no toxicity, but the remaining 1% are highly toxic and can cause life-threatening problems for your pets. Keep an eye out for them in your yard, and on your walks!
- Autumn is the season snakes are preparing to hibernate, and become much more "grumpy", increasing the possibility of bites for unlucky pups that find them. Be aware of common hiding places, and possible treatments.
- Pets who exercise heavily outdoors, or who **UNFORTUNATELY** live outdoors, should be given more food during the colder seasons. This will help them generate body heat.

(source: aspca.org)

GET IN THE SPIRIT!

Foster A
Shelter Dog
For The
Holidays!



PAWS & THINK

Happy Tails...

Henry has been a model cat since we adopted him Sept. 15. I think his former owners said he was doing his business not in his box, but he is fastidious about where he does it at our house. Henry is a loving, joyful cat who loves people and enjoys playing with us. He already had a trick in his bag when we got him. He fetches string that you throw. We found this out accidentally when a string we had lying on the floor was retrieved by him and laid gently at our feet. Of course he was rewarded with a treat! He has a Florida room from which to watch all the backyard activity. When the crows land on the big feeder, you should see Henry's eyes bug out! He has fun "hunting" from the ledge in the Florida room where both he and the birds, chipmunks, etc. are safe. Henry has changed our life for the better since we lost our Cinderella in March. We are so thankful we found each other.



IZZY SEZ...

I get asked all the time, "Izzy, why do dogs lick?" As you may know, from birth that is how the mother communicates with her new puppies, how she stimulates them to start breathing and how she cleans them when they are born, so it's very important to the puppies. In the wild and in domestic dogs, you'll find they will lick around the mother's mouth as newborns and puppies still retain that instinct. It's also sort of a submissive gesture - the more subordinate members of a pack will lick the more dominant members and that's important in maintaining pack harmony. Something you may not know... licking releases pleasurable endorphins which gives dogs a feeling of comfort and pleasure - like the feeling people get when they are biting their nails - it relieves stress. So, take it as a sign of affection... we lick because we love!

Hectic Holidays - Dangerous Decorations!

Ahhh, the holidays. A time to celebrate with family and friends, reflect on the past year - and doggie-proof your decorations. Yep, it's true: The holidays don't just stress out humans - they present many possible risks to the dogs and cats in your life. Tinsel, ribbon, wrapping paper, ornaments (& ornament hooks), candles, holiday lights and the Christmas tree are just a few of the things that you need to keep an eye on during the festivities. Tinsel ribbon and string-like objects can play havoc on your pets intestines if eaten. Glass ornaments and bulbs look a lot like balls or toys, and could do some serious damage to a playful pup who gets a mouthful. If you are crazy enough to own dogs with "all or some" of a herding breed, you will want to avoid flashing tree light - because they are known to attract them... and your tree will soon be herd(ed) and not seen!



A final thought which should really be considered all year long - but definitely during the hectic holidays. Please keep identification tags on your pets - with relatives, delivery men/women, and carolers at your doorstep and in and out of your home, many pets get spooked or simply slip away in the confusion and excitement. So, here's hoping you enjoy some pet-friendly holiday cheer - and no matter how hectic things get, take time to smell the cookies and pet the dog!

Well, Color Me Surprised!

Probably one of the most frequently asked questions about dog's vision is whether dogs see colors. The simple answer - namely that dogs are colorblind - has been misinterpreted by people as meaning that dogs see no color, but only shades of gray. This is wrong. Dogs do see colors, but the colors that they see are neither as rich nor as many as those seen by humans.

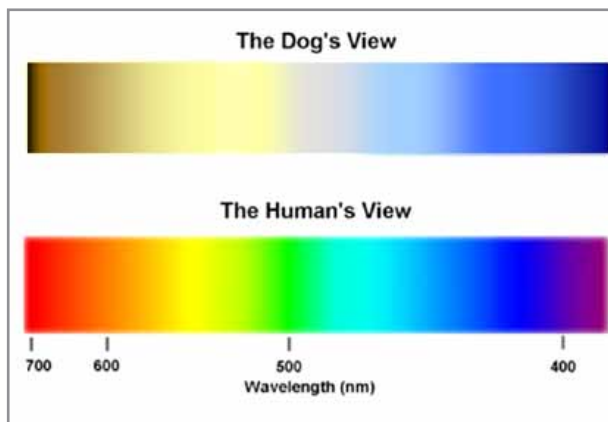
Jay Neitz at the University of California, Santa Barbara, tested the color vision of dogs. Instead of seeing the rainbow as violet, blue, blue-green, green, yellow, orange and red, dogs would see it as dark blue, light blue, gray, light yellow, darker yellow (sort of brown), and very dark gray. So, dogs see the colors of the world as basically yellow, blue and gray. The color spectrum here will give you some

idea. Kinda funny, considering many of the most popular colors for dog toys today are red or safety orange. However, red is difficult for dogs to see. As you can see, it appears as a very dark brownish gray or perhaps even a black. This means that the bright red dog toy that you just spent big bucks on for

your pup is very hard for them to see - sort of like using a green golf ball, or maybe playing baseball in the snow. Your best bet is to go with yellow

and blue. Just think, all this time you were blaming them for being stubborn - or maybe not so bright. Well, now you know - so choose wisely and see if it makes a difference!

(source: psychologytoday.com)



courtesy of PsychologyToday.com, Canine Corner



"If dogs could talk it would take a lot of the fun out of owning one."

- Andy Rooney

TEACHING DOG SAFETY JUST GOT EASIER!

bite prevention rhymes for kids

Ask the owner before petting Rover.



Petting the chin is where you begin.



Respecting his space will save your face.



If he has a bone, leave him alone.



Quiet and slow is the way to go.



If you run and shout, he's gonna freak out.



He'll think you're the bomb if you act very calm.



Whether girl or a boy, never tease or annoy.

Provided by Pete @ Pet Butler
Illustrated by Canine Caricatures
www.CanineCaricatures.com

ROCCO'S RANTS...



Have you ever noticed that a cat will sometimes open its mouth when it is smelling something? A cat's sense of smell is fourteen times that of a human. In addition to being able to smell with their nose, cats also have a special sensory organ called the vomeronasal organ or Jacobson's organ. (reptiles and other mammals have it too!) Located in the roof of the cat's mouth behind the teeth, the Jacobson's organ consists of two fluid-filled sacs that connect to the cat's nasal cavity. Your cat may look like it's smiling or grimacing when it takes a big whiff. Essentially, the cat is opening her mouth to suck in the air into the Jacobson's organ and take a really deep sniff of the odor. Now, if she grimaces AFTER she takes a whiff - you might want to do some cleaning!
(source: answers.yahoo.com)

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