



The Canine SCENTINEL



www.fromtheheart.info

Volume 1/2 Number 4/1 Oct/Dec 2005/Jan/Mar 2006

Santa drives a Hummer!

Thanks to you, we recently made deliveries to the County Animal Shelter, City of Salinas Animal Shelter, and AFRP. We delivered lots of food, toys, money and blankets for the dogs and cats in the shelters, more than last year. We continue to increase our donations during our annual food drive; but only because of you and your generous donations. Thank you!

The Foster Room is the newest addition to the website. As we enter kitten season, we will be adding more cats and kittens to the page frequently. Please check it often to see what animals we have looking for homes. Currently we have two adult cats and two kittens looking for homes. They are ready to go; neutered, shots and tested. Please ask for more information if you are interested in adopting one of these cats/kittens. Last year Monterey County euthanized more than 5000 animals because there were not enough homes for them. Consider adopting a cat or dog.

You may notice that this edition of *The Canine ScENTINEL* is numbered Vol 1/2 Number 4/1 and runs from Oct 2005 through Mar 2006.

Well, you did read it right, with the trip to New Orleans and the Hip surgery I have just fallen a little behind on keeping current with the newsletter. Several people asked when the next one was coming out, so I decided to combine the two quarters rather than drive myself crazy writing two editions. I know, short drive! I hope you enjoy this edition.



What does positive training mean verses traditional type training? What is the difference between a behaviorist and a behavior counselor or a behavior specialist? These were some of the questions I was recently asked to define for an article for *The Rottweiler Quarterly*. Well, if Rottweiler people want this defined maybe you, too may have questions, so here is a portion of the article. Positive training has become a popular term over used lately. Originally the term was thought to mean not using compulsion type training. There are many trainers who use compulsion training that wanted on the bandwagon so they said they used positive training because they would correct the dog using a training collar (choke collar) or a prong collar then they would say “good dog” when the dog did the correct thing. They would say they were training positively because they rewarded the dog with praise. This method was different from the positive trainer who helps the dog do the correct thing and rewards them for the correct response, without any punishment. Old type trainers say that positive trainers just toss cookies at the dog and that, too, is incorrect. What a positive trainer looks for is a behavior that can be rewarded. A common training axiom is “*reward behavior you want to see repeat and ignore behavior you don’t want to see repeat*”, this is one of the Thorndike’s laws of behavior. It does work; however, it puts most of the responsibility on the owner and not on the dog. This is why some people don’t like it; it does take a little more time if you aren’t consistent with **your** behavior. But it’s about relationships, and I count that as a very important aspect of training.

Continued on back page. Positive training

Dog Day at Fort Ord...

is one event you don't want to miss. This is one of the fastest growing dog events in Monterey County. Plan to attend Saturday, April 1 from 8:30 ~ 11:30 am. Find out about your BLM lands, where the trails are, what you should know about walking your dog on Old Fort Ord. There will be adoptions agencies present, vendors and artists, merchandise booths, activities and much, much more. See the map on the board or pick up flyers for more information on the entrance table. See you then.



Tax time is coming, ugh! In April we will be offering our tax time savings for daycare dogs again this year. **Buy 10 days and get one free**, up to 10 sets of 10 days...that's 10 free days. Remember we also accept all major credit cards if you would like to take advantage of the April savings. Ask for more details.

As a reminder, daycare people, please remember to pay in the mornings, this gives us a chance to post our books and let you know if there is a problem with your account at the end of the day. Since some dogs only come once a week, a whole week may pass before we can discuss your account with you. Thank you. Also, checks should be made out to **From the Heart Dog Training**.

March and April are flea products months. Buy any flea products and receive a free flea comb. Why would you comb a flea?



On a personal note, I would like to thank all who wished me well with the hip replacement. But mostly thanks to Amanda, Casey, and Kyle for picking up the ball and running with it during my recovery, you guys ROCK!

Continued from front page. Positive training

After all, why else would a dog want to do something it doesn't want to do? As many people I count my dogs among my friends and I wouldn't hit a friend to have them do something they didn't want to do. Many years ago I think we got off track and thought it was fine to harm animals if they didn't do what we wanted. Luckily for the animal kingdom this way of thinking is changing.

So what's the difference between a behaviorist and a behavior counselor or behavior specialist? To be perfectly correct a Behaviorist is a person who has completed many years of advanced schooling, most of it specializing in behavior, they can also write prescriptions for pharmaceuticals, if needed. Someone who has spent all those years schooling should have the honor of being identified by their credentials or title. A counselor or specialist should be someone who has extensive learning in the concept of behavior; regrettably there are neither regulations nor guidelines for what constitutes extensive learning. Unfortunately, some people call themselves specialist or counselors without any formal background in behavior. How does one sort through all these discrepancies? With ease one can access the internet you can check what associations a person belongs to and see if they have a Code of Standards or Ethical Conduct that is in line with your way of thinking. Then go see that person and see if they actually adhere to the Code of Standards, are they someone you can train with, will they let you observe their class, do you like what you see, are they willing to answer some questions for you (don't ask for a full consultation, after all this is their livelihood, be prepared to pay for their time and/or schedule an appointment), do they answer your questions in a way that you understand? I must admit when I am speaking to a group of pet owners who just want to know why something happens, I will use more everyday terms verses speaking in terminology and concepts I might use when addressing a Veterinary group.

So, this is just a short portion of the article, I hope that I've answered some questions for you and perhaps made you think about some others. If I can help in any way, please ask. That's why we are here; for you and your dog. Enjoy your pup for now.