



Spotted News

MAY 2007

This year's SOS Reunion will be held on August 4th
The idea submitted most frequently was NASCAR, so NASCAR it is. See how creative you can be in having your pups get into the racing theme. Please mark your calendars now to attend. It is always fun to see all the humans and their wonderful Dals.

- *Puppy Mills in WI*
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PUPPY MILLS IN WISCONSIN

Channel 4 Today's TMJ in Milwaukee has been working on an investigative report on puppy mills for over a month. The TMJ 4 investigative team traveled all over Wisconsin and got "inside" some mills. They did interviews with shelter people, rescuers, people who attended the Thorp Dog Auction, Vets and advocates for new regulation.

Please go to the following sites for coverage and information. Check out the link for I-Team at www.todaystmj4.com for their stories, and also www.NoWisconsinPuppyMills.org

Wisconsin does not have laws regulating puppy mills, thus, puppy mill owners are now setting up in our state from other states that have enacted laws.



DALLY UPDATE

LOOKING FOR A HOME

Perdy completed her 8 week training class and learned a lot. She continues to improve her social skills with new people, places and noises. She is going to require a fenced-in yard, and a person who will have the patience and experience to work with her.

Mickey is a 9 year old male who came into rescue because his family no longer had time for him. He is very sweet and affectionate and looking for a family who will be with him forever. (see his picture to the left)

FOUND A HOME

Copper came back into rescue, and already found a home with Gordon and Darlene in New Berlin. We are so happy for Copper!!!

“SPOT SOS”

Southridge Pet Fair will be held at Southridge mall in Greendale on May 5th from 10-2. We will be in the center court, 1st floor between Penny's and Boston Store. Stop by and say hi!

Muskego Pet Fair will be on **May 19th** from 10-4 at Alpine Lanes, S80 W18700 Apollo Dr., Muskego. This event is put on by the Calhoun Clipper and Good Shepard K9 Rescue. This Fair will be dedicated as a fundraising event to benefit area rescues. All profits from booth rental, exhibits, raffles, food and games will be donated to rescues participating in the days' events. If you'd like to help out or just stop by, we'd love to see you.

ADOPTION SPOTLIGHT



**For those of you who may not remember, Sheba is the mom to the litter of mostly black puppies.
SHEBA**

Thanks for the newsletter. I always enjoy the educational and fun articles. I look forward to reading it to Sheba every month. Sheba is well and happy. She looooooves having three of us around now to spoil her. She's still training "Grandma" and "Grandpa". Her sweet personality has made it toooo easy for her to train them. It is sometimes tough keeping her under 50 lbs, but I find if I hide the treats so Grandpa can't find them, Sheba does MUCH better on the diet stuff. We are taking walks and keeping healthy together. Bringing Sheba into my life has been a wonderful experience. I worried a bit about her front leg last fall when she strained a muscle, but she's doing fine now, and we're all careful not to let her jump up on the furniture, because jumping down is too much weight. She's not happy at sleeping on the floor at night (Yes I spoiled her and let her sleep with me) but she's getting used to it and is fine as long as we cuddle for a while at bed time. I see the other dogs in need of loving homes and wish I had more space. I do think that Sheba needs to be reminded that she's a dog. (or at least Grandpa needs to be reminded that she's a dog. :-)

Gerry Traxler and Sheba

FEAR IN DOGS

British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Fear is a normal emotion that engages animals to respond to a threat. Fear prepares the animal for running away or fighting something they perceive as dangerous. Most dogs are accustomed to normal situations such as traffic, household noises, being approached by friendly strangers and many other every day events. Some dogs, however, experience fear over things that are not truly dangerous and that do not put them at risk of injury. Dogs that are fearful have a difficult time adjusting to new situations and people. As dogs get more fearful they develop behaviors that could include aggression to cope with their fearful emotional state. There are techniques that will build your fearful dog's confidence, which are outlined below.

When dogs are fearful they may:

- Hide
- Run away
- Keep a low posture
- Tremble
- Keep their ears back or flattened
- Lick their muzzle repeatedly
- Have dilated pupils
- Tuck their tail between their legs
- Threaten and bark at a person while backing away

TRAINING OPTIONS

Gradual exposure. Reducing fear requires gradual exposure to the situation they fear and rewarding (using food, toys, praise etc.) any sign of relaxed behavior or voluntary approach of the feared object or person. Do not force a dog to accept the people, objects or situations he fears. While this may seem efficient because your dog obeys, it will cause him stress, which can lead to other behavior problems, or stress-related disease.

Do not reinforce the fearful response. Do not sooth, pet or say things such as "it's ok" or "don't be scared" in a soft, sympathetic voice during your dog's rehabilitation. This will simply reward the fearful behavior and make him think you are frightened too. Always use a "happy," "upbeat" and "high pitch" tone of voice or be very "matter of fact" when your dog is showing fear. Sometimes this is enough to change the emotional state of your dog. They take their cues from you.

1. **Changing your dog's response to feared objects.** Place the feared object (brush, bicycle, nail clipper or other) in full view somewhere in the house. Over the next few days (sometimes weeks), move the object to different locations until your dog stops avoiding it and walks by. Place the object in the room where he is fed and eventually near the food bowl. If your dog refuses to eat in the presence of the object, go back to a previous step.

Do this until your dog is willing to eat next to the feared object. You can then hold the object, or place it near you. Call the dog to you with your happy voice. Reward his approach by throwing a treat on the ground near him. He may not approach too close at first. That's OK. Reward him for the smallest effort (this is called shaping). Do this in various locations

The "Touch" Game. To teach your dog the command "Touch" you can use a [clicker](#). You want to get him to touch a stick or wooden spoon with his nose. You may need to put some food (e.g., peanut butter or cheese) on the stick to encourage the touch. If he is scared of sticks get him to touch your finger. Once he touches his nose to the stick or your finger on command, place it on or near the previously feared object and ask him to touch. Make this game very upbeat and fun. Be very enthusiastic when your dog touches the stick near or on the previously feared items and reward him with a treat and say "good touch"!

Take it outside. Ask your dog to touch all sorts of objects outside (i.e. trees, statues, walls, bench parks, etc.) Always start with objects that don't frighten your dog and in the daytime. Fearful dogs are usually more

frightened when there is reduced visibility. Your dog should reach a level where he wags his tail in anticipation of the “let’s touch new things” game.

- 2. Changing your dog’s response to feared people.** Fearful dogs may be scared of all unfamiliar people or a type of person (i.e. tall, men, women, people in uniform, etc). It is important to minimize contact with people that are frightening to your dog while undergoing this behavior modification.

The “Go Visit” Game. Start to teach your dog the “go visit” command with familiar people that he does not fear such as family members or friends. Explain the “go visit” game to your helpers and set a meeting place such as your house, front yard or familiar park. When the helper approaches and your dog sees him or her, say “go visit” and let go of the leash (or use a long leash). Your helper should also encourage your dog to approach with a happy high pitch “visit” and a little tap on their thigh. Your helper may want to crouch as the dog approaches if he seems hesitant. Once your dog is close to your helper say “good visit” as you walk over and give him a treat. Repeat this exercise with as many familiar people as possible. Reach a point to which your dog seems excited and runs toward familiar people with his tail wagging when he is asked to “go visit”.

Visit with strangers. Ask a person that is unfamiliar to your dog to accompany the familiar helper. Repeat the exercise above. Eventually you will ask your dog to visit with people that your dog does not know. These may be other dog guardians that are willing to help you out. You can visit the dog park without your dog. Meet a few people and set up a “go visit” game time.

People who are scared of dogs or do not like them may behave in ways that frighten your dog. It is best to avoid approaching such people with your dog whenever possible.

- 3. Changing your dog’s response to feared sounds.** You can desensitize your dog to sounds he fears by recording those sounds and playing them on a tape recorder at very low level and gradually increasing the volume. During play, when your dog is relaxed or while eating, play the sounds (i.e. fireworks, sirens and thunder). You can slowly increase the volume until your dog is able to play or eat with the sound at a normal level. Some dogs are more relaxed in the car. This may be a good place for this exercise. You can purchase a sound effects CD's at music stores or on the Internet.

CAUTIONS/REMEMBER

It is important not to rush fearful dogs through the process on desensitization to the triggers of fearfulness. Forcing a dog into a situation he finds frightening can set back his rehabilitation by weeks. Patience and making incremental gains in the dog's confidence will net long-term results.

Remember, never hug, pat or give a treat to a dog experiencing fear. This will reward the fearful response and will result in reinforcing the behavior that you are trying to reduce.

The final point to be aware of is that fearfulness is a very stable personality trait. While you can help your dog respond less fearfully to many situations, he is likely to experience fear with every new situation.



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