



THE HAPPY HEELER

AUGUST 2020



DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER IS AUGUST 28, 2020

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Some of our classes started up again this week, and it was great to see everyone there! Thank you so much for signing our waiver and following the club protocols. If people keep vigilant, we can keep adding back classes. Intermediate obedience started on Tuesday, July 28th and Beginning, Rally, and Drop-in Rally started again on Thursday, July 30th. We plan to start having scent work and add back our other drop in classes, scent work, conformation, and obedience, in August and other classes once this round of Beginning and Intermediate finish up. So stay tuned for even more classes!

We realize that we usually have some fun club events and meetings in the fall such as our Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas & Awards parties in addition to our annual meetings. We will be discussing how and if we can hold these and what modifications will be necessary at the next board meeting, but ideas are welcome. Please email ideas to aly.deines@gmail.com.

If you are planning on attending any of the classes, or show up at drop in, or just coming down to socialize your dog and yourself, please read our guidelines below and sign this updated waver: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciNf7rEmQ52ua6QwPqH0GBS8Vr15qR0-RgEZn4exrvpmo3cw/viewform> The waiver is now online so we don't have to use paper. If you've signed it once, you are good to go for the rest of the year!

For drop-in rally, we will additionally have sign up on our Facebook group so our drop in trainer knows if we have enough people to hold class or not: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/501686653582241/> If you plan on coming, please sign up and tell the instructor what level course you would like to run.

Again, it would be a catastrophe if we lost our training site at the zoo. For this reason we ask that you please sign the above waiver and that you follow our club protocols listed below. Happy training!

Club Protocols:

In order to ensure everyone's safety the OCSDC will be following some new guidelines:

If you are ill, or have been around anyone who is ill, please do not come to class. Contact your instructor for make-up options.

Everyone will be required to wear face coverings during class. **No face mask, no class.**

Practice Physical Distancing: We always practice physical distancing in our classes and do not allow dogs to greet or play with each other. More than ever, we will enforce a minimum of 6 feet distances between all people and dogs.

Leashes should be no more than 6 feet. As always, retractable leashes are not permitted.

Please do not pet or interact with other people's dogs. Physical distancing applies to dogs too.

Additional family members are welcome to attend class, but expected to maintain physical distancing outside your family unit.

Please bring your own hand sanitizer. Feel free to wear gloves, bring wet-wipes, and partake in other precautions.

If your dog is ill or in heat, please do not bring your dog to class. Contact your instructor for make-up options.

Please leave one parking space between you and other vehicles.

In classes with shared equipment, only instructors will touch the equipment.

In classes where students bring equipment, only the students will touch their equipment.

Instructors will not touch or handle any student's dogs.

Paperwork should be completed before the first class and as much as possible online or electronically. If there are changes to the shelter in place order that change how we hold classes, we will notify you via e-mail or phone call.

We know this is a lot, but most of it comes down to being thoughtful and considerate: giving everyone space, wearing a mask, and not touching things. If we work together we can keep ourselves and each other safe and still do fun things with our dogs.

DOES YOUR PUP KNOW ANY FUN TRICKS.

Maybe you've taught them to "sit" and "shake" on command — or maybe you've got a whole song and dance choreographed.

Either way...

The act of learning a trick can be HUGELY beneficial to your furry pal.

Tricks can boost your pup's self-confidence — which helps them stay calm in unfamiliar situations.

They can also improve your dog's listening skills. This helps your pup pay attention to you and stay safe.

And best of all, learning a trick together can strengthen the bond between the both of you.

That's because your dog learns that when they trust and obey you, good things happen.

Not to mention, YOU get to see your dog do some downright adorable things.

So today, I want to show you one cute, EASY trick you can teach your furry pal.

It's called "Kisses." The best part is, any dog, regardless of their age, breed, or size can do this one... and it's always a big crowd pleaser!

Here's how you do it:

The "Kisses" Trick

You will need:

1 Sticky note

Your dog's favorite treats

A quiet place without distractions

How to do it:

Step 1: Hold the sticky note in front of your dog's face. When they sniff or bump it with their nose, say "good dog" and give them a treat.

Repeat this exercise a few times. When your dog has learned to touch their nose to the sticky note for a treat, it's time to move on. Tip: If your dog doesn't seem to be interested in the paper, hold a treat up beside it to encourage them.

Step 2: Hold up your sticky note (just like you did before) and say "kiss."

When your dog touches it with the end of their snout, say "good dog" and give them another treat.

Practice this until your dog knows exactly what to do when you say "kiss."

Step 3: Sit or kneel at your dog's eye-level. Stick the little paper to your cheek, point to it and say "kiss." When your pup touches it with the end of their snout, say "good dog" and give them a treat. (If you need to lean over to encourage them, that's fine.)

When your pup is an EXPERT at "kissing" the paper, it's time for the last step.

Step 4: Remove the sticky note and point to your cheek (in the same spot.) Then, say "kiss."

Reward your furry pal when they give you a peck on the cheek.

Now, just keep practicing until they know it by heart.

And if your pup doesn't get it right away, that's okay too.

You can go back a step and give them a refresher if you need to.
And that's how it's done! How doggone CUTE is that?

Plus, this is more than just a really sweet trick.

Every time you practice the "kisses" command, it's a chance for your dog to flex their mental muscles...
Just don't be surprised when you get a few sloppy dog kisses, too :)

To you and your best friend,

ROAD TRIP

Your worry-free summer road trip with your dog is only a few, simple preventive steps away

Are you planning a local road trip to get out of the house and taking your dog along? Before you head out for some fun in the sun, there are a few things you should do to ensure an easy, breezy, joy-filled trip.

If your dog is a senior or living with a chronic condition, start off by checking in with your pet's health care team. They can help you determine whether your dog is up to the trip.

If it's decided that your dog is good to go, make sure that they are protected from parasites and diseases that can be picked up when traveling. Vaccines and preventives are available for the following:

Rabies virus

Rabies is not only deadly to pets and people, it's carried by wildlife all over the United States. Because it's so serious, many states require traveling dogs to carry proof of rabies vaccination. So always be sure to keep a copy of your dog's vaccine record with you or download the myVCA app to access your dog's health records anytime.

Leptospirosis

Stagnant water harbors all kinds of nasty bacteria, including leptospirosis, a potentially fatal disease that affects pets as well as humans. It's important to double check that your dog's "lepto" vaccine is up-to-date, especially if they will be spending time in places with lots of water and/or wildlife.

Heartworm, fleas and ticks

Fleas, ticks and heartworm have been reported in all 50 states. Talk to your veterinarian about your vacation destination so you can ensure your dog is on the right parasite prevention.

If your local getaway may happen to cross a nearby state's border, ask about getting a health certificate, which is required by some states for all dogs who travel across state lines. You can find state-by-state travel information on the USDA website.

A little planning can go a long way to making your trip an enjoyable, worry-free experience for both you and your dog. Book an appointment with your health care team so you're prepared.

SIMPLE SAFETY RULES FOR CRUISING WITH YOUR PET

Hitting the open road with your best bud by your side is a great way to get a change of scenery while staying socially distanced from others.

Make sure your excursion stays fun and relaxed by following a few simple road trip safety rules.

Check in with your veterinarian to make sure that your cat or dog has the preventive care they need for your destination and to get advice on how to combat motion sickness.

Buckle up! Be sure that your pet is restrained either in a comfy crate or carrier for cats and small dogs or with a doggy seat belt for larger dogs. This rule still applies if you are traveling in an RV.

Keep head and legs inside the vehicle at all times. Your dog may love sticking their head out the window, but they can easily get struck by flying debris or even jump out if they are excited enough by what they see. Cats have also been known to dart out car windows, too.

Never leave your pet alone in the car! The interior temperature can rise to a dangerous level quickly, causing heatstroke.

Bring plenty of water and a sturdy, unbreakable water dish for your pet to stay hydrated on long trips.

Make regular pit stops to let your cat out of the carrier or take your dog on a walk, giving them a chance to stretch their legs and relieve themselves. Remember to bring waste bags along for your dog and a litterbox for your cat. Lining your cat's carrier with potty pads may be a good idea in case they are fussy about using the litterbox in the car.

Always put a leash on your dog and your cat in the carrier before opening the car door. You are in new territory and your pet may be eager to take off and explore it, running the risk of getting lost or hit by a car.

Keep identification up to date, including collars and tags as well as information on the microchip database, in case of any mishap.

Call ahead to your final destination and any stopovers, including campgrounds and hotels, to double check that they are open and accepting travelers from other counties and to verify their pet policy and social distancing rules.

FIVE REASONS YOUR PET MAY HAVE BAD BREATH

Did you know that even though people like to playfully refer to stinky pet breath as doggie and kitty breath, bad breath is actually not the norm? In fact, if your pet's panting makes you squirm, you know that something is going on.

Here are the top five reasons why your pet's breath might turn smelly.

Periodontal disease. This is the most common reason for funky pet breath, and we can blame the smell on bacteria. These bacteria start out in plaque and tartar found on the surface of teeth, but they are not content to stay there. The bacteria will slowly spread to your pet's gums (a disease known as gingivitis) and then work their way farther into the ligaments and bones surrounding the teeth. This infection can be uncomfortable and over time can lead to bone loss and even loose teeth.

Abscessed tooth. When bacteria reach the root of a tooth, they set up a pocket of infection surrounding it, which can lead to swelling in the jaw or under an eye. Tooth root abscesses are often caused by periodontal disease, as well as by chipped or fractured teeth that expose the pulp, allowing bacteria to enter the tooth. Broken and abscessed teeth are common problems for dogs who chew hard items like bones.

Foreign body. Our pets love to eat sticks and all kinds of other strange things, and sometimes these get stuck between their teeth. Since our poor pets can't simply use a toothpick or floss, these foreign bodies will stay stuck for quite some time, causing inflammation, infection and even ulcers of the tissue. Imagine the relief they must feel when these are finally found and removed during a dental cleaning!

Oral mass. Unfortunately, masses and cancers can happen anywhere in the body, even the mouth. This is a tough spot because owners often can't see that there's a problem until the mass is rather large and cumbersome. In many cases, bad breath will be the very first sign that something is wrong.

Systemic disease. Not everything that makes pet breath stinky happens in the mouth. Several systemic diseases can affect your pet's breath, making it smell decidedly odd. The classic examples are kidney disease and diabetes.

So, don't just chalk up bad breath to something your pet ate! Talk to your veterinarian to make sure your pet's mouth is healthy.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

August 29 & 30 - German Shepherd Dog & Basset Hound Obedience & Rally
ENTRIES CLOSE AUGUST 12 - Basset Hound - Rally only on Aug 29
German Shepherds - Rally AND Obedience

KEEP SAFE AND KEEP TRAINING.