



## Dog Meadow – August 2022

Welcome to the Dog Meadow August 2022 Newsletter. Currently, there is very little space for new boarders, and we will be closed for the month of September. The heat has been relentless and we have had very little rain all summer. We're sure looking forward to Fall and hope that this weather pattern will change during the reseeding of our meadow. Thank you for your support, and we're happy that you are joining us for a summary of some of the goings-on at Dog Meadow.

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*These two pups enjoy a rare moment in the rain this summer. I just had to take them out to cool off from the intense heat.*

## **RESTORATION — UPCOMING CLOSING**

**Note that we are closed for maintenance and construction from September 9th through October 8th so that we can keep Dog Meadow in tip-top shape.**

This summer has been one day after another filled with intense heat and very little rainfall. This causes the grass to go stale and turn yellow. Some spots have actually died due to a lack of water. Weeds are abundant, and this will cause a problem come the winter months. September is when we will close for an entire month to aerate and reseed. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate with some water. However, we may have to purchase some watering equipment since watering such a large area would simply be inefficient.

A large window will be installed that will have a view of the outdoors from the interior of the Dog Livingroom. This will allow more natural light into the space which we all love. Additionally, a new door, also with a window will be installed. All of this light will, of course, mean that the dogs may wake up sooner as these new openings face East. Oh boy!

As for daycare and boarding during that time, please make certain that you prepare with alternate daycare and boarding during the period that we are closed. We will resume on October 9. Let us know if you will need any recommendations. Phone calls and emails will be on a very limited return when we are closed.

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*The wee-wee command has been one that Lily has known for many years. Now that she is older and moves around less, it sure comes in handy because we can have her go outside to do her business before she has an accident.*

## **WEE-WEE COMMAND — THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING**

If you've ever had to wait for your dog before they would go to the bathroom or walk them for miles before they would go pee and wish you could tell them to go pee, well here is a really awesome little lifehack for you. Some people take their dogs out multiple times a day, yet their dog will refuse to relieve himself. He will want to chase bunnies or chase squirrels or birds and do other things. This command will cut down the time spent outside when it is necessary to do so.

It's actually one of the simplest things to teach a dog. Every time your dog goes to the bathroom, as soon as he's about to let loose, all you're going to do is say is "go wee-wee". People may look at you strangely, so you can use any word you want to forr the command. It is very important that you silently let them finish the task before praising them. As soon as they stand backup, reward them with a cookie or whatever treat is of high value to them.

Pretty soon they will make the connection and start to go to the bathroom, and actually come to you to get the cookie before you bring it out. With a puppy, it can take anywhere from 3 - 5 days. With older dogs, it can take a few weeks. Training is persistence and consistency. Keep at it and you'll both succeed. Then, one cold, rainy night when you are hoping to get the job done quickly, you can give the command and be on your way. Some other popular commands are "get busy" or "hurry up". Try to use a word that you don't normally use for other things.

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*ZOE and her Angel Wings.*

## **GOODBYE ZOE – QUEEN OF THE FLOCK**

Sadly, we lost our beautiful big white Pekin duck, Zoe, on Friday, August 5th. She was only two years old. She was the queen of the flock of 11 chickens and ducks. She told them when to go to bed and comforted them when they were frightened.

She was a truly special animal, as all animals are, and had a special bond with Laura. She was the reason that Laura became vegan. Her illness was a mystery that came on quite suddenly, paralyzing her, and although we rushed her to the hospital, euthanasia was the only course to take. Her illness was such a mystery that her body was sent to Cornell for research, and our fingers are crossed that the rest of the flock will stay healthy. We will be building a duck pond next year in memory of Zoe.

The night after she died, Laura's daughter who lives in California had been playing a board game called Bananagrams with a friend, and it was her turn to draw random tiles from the bag. The tiles that she drew were: Z - O - E. She sent a photo to Laura.

(Laura discusses Zoe, grief, and age in this month's blog, "Today-Years-Old", which you can read here: ***Today-Years-Old***.)



*Laura tries to get Ashley to participate in some water play, but she won't have any of it.*

## **Dog Meadow Blog**

Laura Evans, Lady of Dog Meadow, writes a Dog Meadow blog entry on a weekly basis (more or less). She shares life at Dog Meadow as well as trials and tribulations in life as a whole. Every entry includes an easy-to-follow recipe at the end. We encourage you to read it ***here*** and please subscribe.

### **Did you know...**

You can do something to help Dog Meadow? Yes, you can! And it takes less than a



minute. If you follow us on Instagram or Facebook, "liking" and/or sharing our posts greatly increases our exposure and ensures that your dog will always have doggy friends to play with here at Dog Meadow.

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### ***IMPORTANT – CLOSINGS – In order to maintain the beauty of Dog Meadow...***

Please note that we will be closed for property maintenance from September 9 – October 8. Please ensure that you make other arrangements for your pup ahead of time. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

### ***Bookings***

We're already taking bookings for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please remember to book your dog's stay early at Dog Meadow. **Booking requests must be made and confirmed via email.** As of January 2022, we require deposits for all stays. It is up to you to reach out to us if and when you are ready to book your dog's stay. Booking requests must be made and confirmed via email. If you do not have an email confirming a reservation for specific dates, you do not have a reservation.

**With that said, we remind you to make sure that your dog's vaccinations are up-to-date. We encourage you to check your records and make appointments with your dog's vet, if needed, to ensure that he is in good health.** You can find our **requirements** on our website.

Finally, let's all be safe and kind to one another.



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