



Dog Meadow – January 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I recently came across this quote by Arwa Mahdawi, a Columnist for The Guardian U.S.:

The year is "2033." Elon Musk is no longer one of the richest people in the world, having hemorrhaged away his fortune trying to make Twitter profitable. Which, alas, hasn't worked out too well: only 420 people are left on the platform. Everyone else was banned for not laughing at Musk's increasingly desperate jokes. _

In other news, Pete Davidson is now dating Martha Stewart. Donald Trump is still threatening to run for president. And, British tabloids are still churning out 100 articles a day about whether Meghan Markle eating lunch is an outrageous snub to the royal family._

After using this quote on a social media post, a client of ours added: Meanwhile, the dogs at Dog Meadow are happy, playful, and well cared for...

Thank you for that and thank you for your support. We're happy that you are joining us for a summary of some of the goings-on at Dog Meadow.



BUT I LOVE MY DOG JUMPING ON ME

The thing is, others don't like that so much. It can be frustrating when your pup jumps all over grandma or nearly knocks over a stranger on the street. So how do you stop your dog from jumping on people?

First, let's think about WHY they're jumping.

1. It's fun! Jumping up is a normal part of their behavior, and how they often play with others.
2. It's learned over time. Every time your pup jumps, they got attention and pets! So of course, they're going to keep doing it. Saying no, pushing them away, etc.—even that kind of "negative" attention—is still attention!

Let's work on this behavior.

Pick a human who WILL FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS!! This is very important. If your friend says "oh it's ok, I don't mind if they jump" or will shout at your puppy to get down if they jump, this person is not going to help with your initial training!

Start with your dog on a leash, and have the person approach him. You're going to play "red light, green light!"

If your dog offers the behavior you like, ie: four paws on the ground, allow the person to approach and offer him treats or pets! If you use a clicker while training, you can click to reward any behavior that is not trending toward a jump.

If the dog starts to jump up, the person must step back (out of leash range, where the puppy can't jump on them).

NOTES: you want to make this as fun (and not stressful!) as possible for your dog. You can cue them to do their behavior like a "sit," and focus on the person giving treats versus attention if the attention is too exciting for them.

Once your dog is rocking this, add more people! This way they learn "oh, this game applies to ALL humans, not just the one I practiced with!"

Things to NOT DO:

If your dog jumps and you have them sit, DO NOT provide a treat or pet. Start over and try again. If you provide a treat, your dog has learned that if they jump up, then sit politely, they'll get a treat! Not good! A treat or a pet must not be associated with the "sequence" of jumping and sitting. Start fresh. If a treat is provided, it must be given within a time that rewards him for sitting politely. It's a tricky situation.

Finally, be patient and be consistent. It isn't easy, especially with an older dog that has learned this behavior over time.



Our poodle, Lily, loved wearing her cozy sweater because she was easily chilled.

TO WEAR A SWEATER OR NOT WEAR A SWEATER

At Dog Meadow, the door to the outside is open most of the day, even in the winter months. Inside, it's nice and cozy. The dogs are free to go in and out as they please, and we don't have time to put on a sweater or coat. There are no hooks for them to hang their outerwear or backpacks. No lockers, either. And that's OK because we're too busy being active. The activity level is quite high at times and the sweaters or jackets that they might wear will get filthy and wet if there is inclement weather, or worse, be destroyed with claws and teeth during play. If it was a place where we just walked them around on a leash then I suppose it would make sense for them to perhaps wear one.

That's not to say we don't want your dog to wear a sweater. After all, we do have a few that come with a sweater simply because they sleep more comfortably with it. Our late poodle Lily loved her little sweaters in the winter.

Each dog is unique, with unique needs. If you're considering whether you should get a sweater for your dog, look to its winter behavior for clues. Do they shiver uncontrollably when they're outside, or maybe even when they're inside the house? Are they reluctant to go outside in the freezing cold to take care of business? It's natural for dogs to hibernate a bit more during the winter, but if your pet doesn't want to leave the house—or even leave their bed—then a sweater might be a good thing to consider.

A few things to consider:

Size

The bigger the dog, the more muscle mass they have – and therefore the more heat its body can produce. For this reason, large healthy dogs typically don't require a jacket in normal winter conditions. Smaller dogs tend to benefit from extra insulation during the winter, as they have a harder time retaining body heat.

Age

Medium or large dogs who have lost muscle mass due to age or illness may also need sweaters to help them retain the heat they do produce.

Breed

Breeds that are thin-bodied such as Greyhounds and Whippets will benefit from sweaters during winter. Short-legged breeds – like Corgis and Basset Hounds – may need outerwear to protect their bodies from the cold snowy ground.

Fur/Hair Type

Dog breeds with thick, heavy, long coats (such as Great Pyrenees, Samoyed, Husky, or Golden Retriever) don't necessarily need coats or sweaters during winter. In fact, some of these breeds will want to even sleep outdoors during winter. Short-haired dogs will benefit from outerwear because they have less natural insulation and can quickly become too cold in winter conditions.

Other Factors

Consider your dog's overall health. This will determine whether or not they need winter wear. Dogs that are elderly or sick will be more sensitive to extreme temperatures and may require more insulation. If your pup suffers from arthritis or other joint conditions, a coat can help make them more comfortable. Additionally, the amount of time you spend outside and the activity level of your dog will also make a difference. For instance, a dog who is playing and racing around at full speed will stay warmer than a dog going on a leisurely walk.

One thing that outerwear can help with is dryness, especially if your dog is being exposed to rain or snow for a good length of time. The alternative is to simply bring a fluffy towel to dry them off.



A 10-minute training session with Ashley.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RECALL

At Dog Meadow, it is very important that our boarders have experience with the recall command. While we don't expect one hundred percent mastery, our clients do need to be somewhat responsive in this manner. Since our play area is large, we cannot outrun a dog, and things may occur, such as bad weather, that necessitate our bringing the dogs in quickly. Teaching your dog to come is invaluable in any case, especially if you find yourself in a situation where there might be a quick necessity such as impending danger.

What you will need:

- ~ A quiet space
- ~ A long leash (10+ feet)
- ~ High-value treats
- ~ 15 to 20 minutes per day (maybe less)
- ~ Patience
- ~ Enthusiasm

Step 1: Start in a safe, quiet spot.

Find an area with as few distractions to begin training. It can be your backyard or somewhere in your home. Allow your dog to wander and explore. (Use a long line if you are in a large yard. We use a 30 ft line.)

Step 2: Say your dog's name, then tell them to come to you.

After a few minutes, say your dog's name and then give your dog the "come" command. As they start moving toward you, encourage your dog by cheering them on. Try to make eye contact and you can even praise your dog for looking in your

direction after saying "come." Some use the word "touch," but "come" is the most commonly used command. Body language is important, so be relaxed and have fun. If you are stressed, the dog will notice and will be anxious and refuse to approach you. If they hesitate and do not come to you, simply try a few quick tugs on the leash, praising as they start to move forward.

Step 3: Give your dog a treat.

Reward your dog with a treat (high-value treats are best) once they approach you. Let them know they did a great job by giving them happy scratches, pats, and rubs. We use the word "yes" along with praise. Some trainers may use a clicker as they reward the dog. This is optional if you want to go this route.

Step 4: Repeat

Let your dog go back to explore some more, and then repeat Steps 1-3. Aim for a 15- to a 20-minute training session. Repeat every day or two so that it becomes routine and ingrained in their head. Once he continually comes, increase the distance between you and practice at times letting him drag the leash instead of holding it. At this point, you can begin to add distractions such as another dog or people. Consistent training sessions can produce reliable recall within one to two months. Each dog is different so be patient. Some may take longer or, if you're lucky, shorter to achieve a reliable recall.

Step 5: Practice

Just because he has learned the command doesn't mean you should assume that he will continue to do it. We continually practice with our dogs every chance we get whether we are inside or out.

Things to avoid:

- ~ Don't rush it. It takes time and patience.
- ~ Don't start a training session if you are already stressed or in a bad mood. Sessions should always be positive.
- ~ Don't call your dog to punish them. This is the worse thing you can do. It only confuses your dog.
- ~ Don't call your dog in upsetting situations. Your dog needs to be in a calm state just like you.

BOOKING REMINDERS



DON'T MISS OUT

Just to remind everyone, we're already booking into mid-2023. Believe it or not, soon we'll begin booking for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

If you are in need of boarding services during peak times with us, please note that we take a small number of dogs, and booking early is key. So, book early for graduations, Independence Day, and yes, even Christmas.

REMEMBER: All new dogs require a trial day (no exceptions) so planning ahead is important. We list our required vaccinations on our website. We always ask for a deposit for all bookings. We do not guarantee nor hold a spot if the deposit is not made. **It is recommended to pay the deposit immediately** or you just may lose the spot—kind of like purchasing concert tickets on Stubhub.

CHANGES IN REQUIREMENTS AND POLICY

Dog Meadow has a policy in place for the benefit and safety of our dogs. From requirements, drop-off times, trial days, the packaging of food when boarding, deposits, etc. We've put a lot of effort into being fair to everyone. Therefore, we ask that you read our FAQs and Terms and Conditions before booking with us. If we do not fulfill your needs, we're happy to recommend a place that might be more suitable for your dog.

Our most recent change in policy is:

As of December 1, 2022, due to insurance and liability issues, we regret we can no longer accept dogs of the "bully breed" classification or mixed breeds that have the appearance or characteristics of one of these breeds.

We remind you that Dog Meadow is not a kennel per se, but a home and a farm, with only a small number of dog customers, and without a large staff.



Laura enjoying breakfast with Frankie-Baby, one of our rescue roosters.

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.

Bookings

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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