



## Dog Meadow – October 2022

Welcome to the Dog Meadow October 2022 Newsletter. The grass is greener now—and long. With new grass comes renewed interest, and we have quite a number of trials in the next few weeks with people interested in daycare as well as boarding. 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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*A favorite thing to do at Dog Meadow is to roll in the lush green grass.*

## **WATCHING GRASS GROW – Part 2**

When I decided to close for the month of September to rejuvenate the meadow, I knew I was taking a big chance. Not only were all the regulars relegated to finding a temporary location, but there was no guarantee that the grass would grow to be as rich as it is now, mostly because of the very little rain we have been receiving this year. In fact, the very little rain continued through September, so purchasing the portable sprinklers was a smart idea. Watching the grass grow made me very anxious. If you read last month's newsletter, you read about the process that was involved. After that, every morning and evening I turned on the sprinkler throughout the property and shook my head. Laura assured me that it would be fine. Sure enough, below are some before and after photos. I just had to be patient.



*Same area on the left is from the first week in September. On the right is from second week of October*



*Same area on the left is from the first week in September. On the right is from second week of October*



*Photo on the left was taken on a cloudy day in late August. On the right is Thursday, Oct 13.*

As you can see from the photos above, the grass has grown quite beautifully. Certain areas were simply devoid of any blades, and when the dogs ran through them, there was dust produced by their paws. Now the grass is long and will stay mostly around 4.5", while other areas will stay longer. As of this writing, we are getting our first rainfall in October. The cloud cover is pretty intense and makes for some dramatic photos.

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## **CRITTERS**

As time passed during the month we were closed, we noticed that there was some unusual activity going on in the chicken run—unwelcomed guests, mostly raccoons.

They were caught on camera rummaging through the run searching for food. I know some people have them as pets, but they will kill our chickens without a second thought. As I closed the coop on a particular night, one of them happened to be caught inside the coop. Thankfully, I was able to trap it and get it out of there without any of the chickens being harmed. They aren't very intelligent. Well, maybe this one wasn't. I was able to relocate it. I realized that they were after the chicken feed, and knowing that it had been there, they kept returning. After that, I was on a mission to make certain that the run was critter-proof, the feed was removed every night, and I set to work patching every area of the run that I could find where they could make an entry. It took a few nights, but in the end, I was successful. They have not made an appearance since mid-September.

Encroaching critters had not been an issue before closing. This means that merely the presence of the dogs certainly plays a role in keeping these pests off the property. Other animals that made an appearance were groundhogs. They have now relocated knowing that the dogs are back. Even a pheasant made a surprise appearance. Although I wouldn't consider a beautiful bird such as this to be a pest.



*Without the dogs regularly occupying the meadow, we had more than a few interesting visitors.*

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*The main house has a new look. The porch is being rebuilt and a terrace will be added.*

## **HOME REFRESH**

When I was twelve years old I recall my dad acquiring a bureau that wasn't exactly in the best of shape. It was definitely solid wood, though. It had been painted a rather dirty white, and he thought he could repaint it another color. My dad went out and bought a couple of gallons of paint—beige and brown. Having been in the design field for over thirty years, I learned that color is very subjective. I didn't realize this at the time, but I know that to this day I am not particularly fond of both of these colors—at least not the brown that he had chosen, which was basically the color of poop. Since he had purchased a few gallons of the colors, he then painted the walls beige and the bureau, you guessed it, ugly brown. There was a lot of the brown left over. Not wanting to waste, he proceeded in painting a lot of the furniture the same poopy brown color. The funny thing was that I had found an old rusty bike in a vacant lot and had taken the time to rebuild it. I decided to paint the bike brown. HA! With a paintbrush, no less. I still laugh about it.

The color of our house wasn't exactly that same poopy brown, but neither I nor Laura liked the color that it was. She had always wanted to paint it a low-chroma blue. One day, while driving in the neighboring town of Amenia, and passing the restaurant Serevan, she saw the color that she wanted. So I walked up to the house, and (ripped off a piece of the siding... I'm kidding!), but we did ask the owner what the color was when we went there for Laura's birthday. The color of choice was Hale Navy by Benjamin Moore. The young, but pretty experienced painter we hired is doing a great job, and I learned that there are different grades of exterior paint. Now it's a matter of deciding if we paint the barn the same blue or do red and keep the trim in blue.



## CHRISTMAS IS BOOKED

I'm sure we've all been there. Time passes, and the holidays kind of sneak up on you. A trip is planned, and then you have to find someone to take care of your dog. We are currently booked for the Christmas holidays. We are filled to capacity with our regular daycare kids as well as boarders. Honestly, we may have booked a few more little guys because they are on the smaller side and easy to manage.

While we would love to take every dog and save a lot of people the trouble, your dog's safety is important to us. This is why we have to take a select number of dogs because if we fill up the house with too many guests we would be asking for a possibly unmanageable situation.

So, 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. We had a couple of people that had booked back in 2021.

On the plus side, we do still have a few openings for the Thanksgiving holiday. However, that can change in a matter of days so, please make sure to contact us as soon as possible.

**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.

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*The faces behind Dog Meadow. My wife, Laura is the better looking one.*

## **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.

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### **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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## **Bookings**

**We have limited bookings available for Thanksgiving (Christmas is booked).** 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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