



Dog Meadow – September 2022

Welcome to the Dog Meadow September 2022 Newsletter. We are closed this month for the purpose of rejuvenation of the meadow. Hopefully, our efforts will not be in vain because the time we have to accomplish this is short. But you know what they say: The road to success is always under construction. 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.



THE LOSS OF LILY

When we lose a pet we lose a significant part of our lives. They are often a vital source of support and comfort. Our poodle-mix Lily was adopted at the age of 3 years old by Laura and was with her for 13 years. Lily was probably closer to her than anyone else she knows. She was full of energy and always ready to greet everyone, especially children. She loved sitting beside Laura's piano students and being petted. Her only enemy was the mailman. However, I did hear a story that she did once manage to get close to him, and what happened next remains questionable. Apparently, it is believed that Lily actually allowed the mailman to give her a belly rub. I doubt that she would have ever admitted to that. I knew her to be a very easy dog and quick to adapt to any environment. I found it fascinating that she could easily communicate with her body language and silent grunts to other dogs that she was to be approached carefully and respected.

As many of you know, Laura is the writer behind the Dog Meadow blog. She has written a beautiful piece about Lily and dealing with grief. Please take the time to read it [here](#).

Lily will forever live in our memory, and a special place for her will be saved in our hearts. A short video was posted on our Dog Meadow Instagram feed and can be viewed, if you wish, by clicking the image below.



This short video tribute to Lily captures her energy and happiness. It's how I will remember her.

I love the song Fields of Gold. The short tribute film is adapted from the original video of Dog Meadow which is viewable on our YouTube channel by clicking [here](#).

We thank those that supported Laura and me through her loss and we also thank those that made donations in her name to animal rescue organizations. It means a lot to us.

WATCHING GRASS GROW



Tilling the ground is no fun by hand. However, spreading the seed is easier with a dialed-in spreader.



Covering the new grass seeds with shaved straw helps keep the ground moist and prevents birds from eating the seeds.



It's nice to know one can purchase portable sprinkler heads.

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.

When I was a kid, I lived in the projects in the heart of the Bronx. The idea of large fields of grass was a foreign thought as I looked out of the window at vacant lots

alongside dilapidated brick tenements. There was broken glass everywhere and garbage collected in the sewer drains. It was not a pretty sight. These things I will always remember because it makes me appreciate what I now have.

As resilient as grass is, it isn't always easy to grow. Perhaps there are better ways to do it, but we are on a budget and don't want a big, overpriced, commercial company to come in and use big machines and chemicals to make it unsafe for the animals we care about. So, it is done mostly by manpower. After aerating it with a behind-the-mower device that in the end was not as effective as I had hoped (a bad review will be coming for it), a lot of the tilling was done by hand. Seeds, organic (pet-safe) fertilizer, and straw were spread. Believe it or not, we had an unexpected, drenching rainfall the same night that the work was finished. That was followed by more rain the following day. That was wonderful since all we have had this summer is nothing but heat and dryness. That's why portable sprinkler heads attached to hoses are being used to water daily. A pump is also being used to help push the water more efficiently through the sprinklers. This is necessary because we are using a well and the pressure we have is much lower than usual. I just hope we have plenty of water in the well.

The cover photo shows a portion of the bare spots where the grass needs to regrow. We've had one rainfall since the seeding. Our fingers are crossed as we hope for more rain. Anyone interested in knowing what supplies I used, please email us, and I will be happy to provide the information.



It is obvious to Jack and Ashley that a lot of work is being done. They are bored, yet watch patiently from the deck and wonder when all their friends will return. Below is

a video of what they were watching on the first day of reseeding.



Take a look at a minute-long version of a day's work at reseeding the grass on our YouTube channel.



A sneak peek of the new colors of the main house.

Another large-scale project is the repainting of the house. Hale Navy is the color of choice. The trim will be barn red. It has yet to be decided whether the barn itself will be red or if it will be navy. Let us know what you think.

Other projects are being delayed due to a low supply of materials and eventually will be started and completed. One thing is for sure, In three days' time, I put in more than the target steps that are suggested by the phone health app (see below). However, I don't think the calories burned are accurate since it doesn't take into account the twisting and turning and lifting, etc.



Frankie gets his grapes and sits with Laura while she has her breakfast. Afterward we head over to the market where he says hello to all of his fans.

FRANKIE-BABY GOES TO MARKET

Frankie, our Buff Orpington Rooster has been going every Saturday to the Millbrook Farmers Market in the Millbrook Village. The main reason for the excursions is to improve his socialization. It turns out that he charging at Laura every time she made an appearance in the front yard. He would peck at her feet and continue to follow her. It turns out that a lot of roosters will do this simply to get attention. They are not necessarily attacking in a menacing way. They want the person to acknowledge them and maybe even pet them. So he gets grapes, treats and gets picked up and brought to market.

Occasionally, he is brought inside and helps with breakfast. He has to wear a diaper, of course. Those that have been following us on our social media feeds know that Frankie is one of the rooster rescues we have roaming the property. Antonio, the Brahma rooster is senior to Frankie and is the leader in the rooster pad.



Frankie-Baby always takes a back seat to Antonio.



Laura enjoys time with many of our guests who become part of our family.

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.

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. We will resume daycare and boarding on October 9. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Bookings

We have limited bookings available 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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