

## Meeting summary for April Coffee Morning (04/18/2024)

### Quick recap

The team shared personal anecdotes and discussed their work experiences, with a focus on their pets' behavior and health. They also addressed the challenge of balancing their personal and professional lives, and the use of technology to manage their dogs' routines. Lastly, they discussed Rachel's upcoming physical challenge and her plan to conduct pet trailing sessions, while also addressing the necessity of training their dogs around builders and other potential risks.

### Next steps

- Rachel will create a training plan for Luna to improve her recall and reduce her barking at other dogs.
- Laura will follow up with her husband to ensure the side gate is closed to prevent Luna from visiting the neighbor's property.
- Rebekah will discuss with Mike about setting different scenarios for training sessions to accommodate his busy schedule.

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### Summary

#### Personal Anecdotes and Work Experiences

Rachel and Laura shared personal anecdotes and discussed their work experiences. Laura mentioned her pet-trailing adventure, while Rachel talked about her recent booking for Nantwich. They also discussed a dog named Frenchy, a mix of French bulldog and Labrador, and a previous client named Mel. Rebekah joined the conversation later and mentioned an update she made to an app. Overall, the mood was casual and friendly.

#### Rachel's Determination Amidst Illness, Weather

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Rachel shared that she was feeling unwell due to a cold but was determined to press on with her planned activities, including an ultramarathon and an interview about an award her team won. She also discussed the challenging weather conditions she's been experiencing recently, which included hail and torrential rain. Despite this, she managed to successfully manage her work and personal responsibilities, with support from her team.

### **Team Bonding Over Dog Experiences**

The team introduced themselves and their dogs, with Laura sharing about her dog Luna's food and environmental allergies, and her nervousness around children. Rachel commended Laura on her successful weekend with Luna at a busy event. The team also discussed their experiences with their dogs at the event, with Luna being particularly well-behaved due to being allowed to settle on the sofa. The group also shared insights into their dogs' behavior and issues, including one dog's reactivity to other dogs and people.

### **Luna's Behavior and Barking Concerns**

Laura, Rachel, and Rebekah discussed Luna's behavior, particularly her food-orientedness and an unusual barking issue. They observed that Luna's barking seemed to be triggered by nothing in particular, and they speculated it might be related to her eyes or some other sensory issue. Laura planned to take Luna to the vet in May to address these concerns, but she expressed frustration about the difficulty of finding a trigger for the barking. Rachel shared her experience of witnessing the barking firsthand during a trip to an Airbnb, adding to the puzzle of what might be causing it.

### **Addressing Unusual Dog Behavior and Safety**

Laura, Rachel, and Rebekah discussed an unusual and concerning behavior exhibited by their dog, which includes sudden and brief episodes of anomalous behavior. They shared their observations and concerns over why this was happening and its potential long-term impact on the dog's health. They also discussed the possibility of the behavior being a side effect of the dog's medication. They agreed on the decision to muzzle the dog during public outings as a precautionary measure due to the potential risk of the dog being misunderstood or attacked by other dogs or people. They also planned to monitor the dog's food intake and environment to prevent any potential triggers.

### **Ted's Separation Anxiety Training Progress**

The team focused on the wellbeing of their pets, particularly Ted's progress in separation anxiety training. Mike had been working on the training, with visitors staying at their house to

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assist. They reported significant improvement in Ted's training, with his best time dropping from 6 seconds in October to 5 seconds. The team also discussed a video sent earlier in the week, analyzing its success and areas for improvement, particularly reducing the number of warm-up steps. They agreed to monitor Ted's progress and adjust the steps if needed.

### **Balancing Dog Care and Professional Lives**

Rebekah and Rachel discussed their individual approaches to caring for their dogs, emphasizing the importance of personalized care and present focus. They also addressed the challenges of balancing their personal and professional lives, and the use of technology to manage their dogs' routines. Additionally, they talked about the importance of varying the timing of their dogs' training sessions to accommodate their different behavior patterns and energy levels. They shared their experiences with their dogs' behavior in social situations and clarified that adjusting the training scenarios to their comfort and routine is not "cheating," but a necessary strategy.

### **Pet Trailing Sessions and Fundraising Support**

Rachel shared her plan to conduct four pet trailing sessions in Gloucester with Yogi, a club member, and their respective dogs, Rico and Maisie. Laura emphasized the necessity of training her husband to manage their dog, Luna, around the builders. The team also discussed their recent interactions with their dogs and agreed to conduct more such sessions. Rachel shared her upcoming physical challenge, and the team expressed their support for her fundraising efforts which had already surpassed a significant milestone. A follow-up meeting was planned.

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