




Meeting summary for Christmas Members Session (12/21/2023)

Quick recap

The team discussed pet behavior and health issues, with a focus on Laura's concern about her dog, Luna's itchy skin and large appetite. They shared strategies to manage and mitigate discomfort and stress for animals during training sessions. The conversation also touched on the importance of understanding and support within the pet owner community. Towards the end, they participated in a Christmas-themed quiz and shared their holiday plans.

Summary

Dog Training and Q&A Session

Rachel initiated the monthly Q&A session, but noticed lower attendance. The main topic of discussion was Laura's concern about their dog, Luna, who has a large appetite and itchy skin. The team discussed ways to manage and mitigate discomfort and stress for animals during training sessions. Rachel emphasized the need for short-term solutions to address immediate issues while ensuring a positive experience, using treats and other

incentives as rewards. The team also discussed the importance of a long-term approach and strategies to help a dog get accustomed to medical equipment and treatments. Laura agreed to these suggestions and mentioned that they could use a vegan plant-based cheese triangle as a reward for the dog. Towards the end of the meeting, Kirsty and Linda joined the conversation.

Pet Behavior and Resource Guarding Issues

Kirsty and Rachel discussed their pets' behavior, with a focus on potential resource guarding issues. Rachel suggested trying different substrates and provided a handout on dog aggression. They agreed to monitor the pets' behavior and try different solutions. Rachel shared an incident of their dog staring at the other while eating, emphasizing the importance of timing in managing such situations. They acknowledged the difficulty of managing these situations due to human tendencies. Rachel and Kirsty also discussed the impact of external stressors on their pets' behavior, noting the importance of avoiding escalation. The conversation concluded with affectionate remarks about their pets.

Dog Behavior Support Group Proposal

Rachel shared their experience with a client's reactive golden retriever, highlighting the challenges the dog and its owner faced due to the dog's behavior. The team discussed the importance of supportive environments for dogs with issues and the negative impacts of judgment and abuse. Rachel proposed the idea of creating a Facebook group for their membership to facilitate peer support and moderation. Laura and Kirsty offered to help moderate the group if needed.

Pet Owners' Community Support and Training

Laura, Rachel, Kirsty, and others discussed their experiences with their pets, emphasizing the importance of understanding and support within the pet owner community. Rachel mentioned plans to run a session in Glasgow and another one in Newcastle. The group also touched on the topic of pet training and management, including the use of muzzles and other techniques. Kirsty shared their experience with Buddy's muzzle training for their visits to the vet, while Laura recounted Luna's foot grooming sessions. The group also discussed the need to schedule routine pet care, such as nail clipping, in advance.

Pet Allergies and Holiday Plans

The conversation primarily revolved around pet allergies, particularly those of Laura's pet, Luna. Laura shared Luna's allergy test results and the difficulties of managing their allergies, which included restrictions on protein sources and environmental allergens such as dust mites. The participants also discussed their preferences for understanding the

reasons behind medical tests and procedures. Towards the end of the meeting, they shared stories about their holiday plans and showed pictures of their festive pyjamas.

Next steps

- Laura will consider using a chin rest and other training techniques to make ear drops less stressful for Luna.
- Rachel will look for and send Kirsty the handout on dog aggression within the home.
- Rachel will consider setting up a Facebook group for the membership and may ask Kirsty and Laura to moderate it.
- Rachel will add pet training to her to-do list after Christmas.

