



Dog Meadow – April 2022

Welcome to our April newsletter. On our cover are a few dogs enjoying the beginning of warmer days. Not much talk is happening these days about the pandemic and more people are traveling. We're all happy about that. Get out there and have a great time as the weather becomes more pleasant for you and your pups. Incidentally, we will be closed at certain times of the year for property maintenance. More information is given toward the end of the newsletter. Thank you for being with us and supporting us. Join us for a summary of some of the goings-on at Dog Meadow.



Laura spends a few moments with Antonio inside the coop run to let him know she is top rooster.

WELCOME ANTONIO

One of the things I love about Laura is her tenacity for research. Every time she gets an idea, she has to be certain that it will work or figure out a way to make it work. One day last spring at a local event, we ran into the folks of *Dreaming of a Chance Farm Animal Sanctuary Corp.* and they mentioned a rooster bachelor pad. Apparently, the idea struck a chord with her, and she researched the idea of having free-range roosters in our front yard. Therefore, in my continuing effort to support Laura's ideas, a year later, I find our first rooster to start this bachelor pad.

Enter Antonio. Antonio is a Brahma Rooster. They are often referred to as the gentle giants of roosters. They have disproportionate wings to their body and can be over 12 lbs. He will spend about two weeks in the coop and then will be let out to free-range. He will be joined by another as soon as we can find one. I guess I will have to post signs instructing everyone to drive even slower when entering and exiting the property.

There have been studies that show that in the wild, roosters will willingly spend time together in a flock away from hens, so being sequestered in a bachelor flock is not completely unnatural for them. It's important to understand something about rooster behavior so that accessing the bachelor colony is possible. Just like our dog pack they too need a leader. The roosters have to know that you are the boss when you are present. This way you can access their food source and water without threats or attacks.

Roosters, when trained and treated well, can become excellent companions. You can train them to jump for a treat held just above their head and soon they'll recognize you and your treat container as a pleasant way to interact with you. It's important to maintain your head rooster status with the flock by picking them up

frequently and carrying them around or stroking their chest and wattles. If the rooster is excited, they have to be held until his heart rate slows to normal before putting him back down. Handling roosters frequently and gaining their trust will make them happy, calm members of the rooster flock.



Photo by REGINE THOLEN on Unsplash

LITTERMATE SYNDROME

You've heard the term mentioned and asked yourself: What is Littermate Syndrome?

Littermate Syndrome is an anecdotal term that refers to a host of issues that tend to present when dog siblings are raised in the same household beyond the normal 8-10 weeks. Experts advise that this can even happen with any dogs of a similar age that are raised together under the age of one. For example, you are looking into a golden retriever but you can't decide between two males so you buy them both. They spend every minute together. Good idea, right? Well, now they won't listen to you, and they have even developed a little bit of aggression toward other dogs.

We had a case of littermate syndrome a while ago, and it is something that can create a stressful situation among the pack. Imagine, if you will, the two "tough kids" sitting on the bleachers at the local playground that are bonded closely together. Along comes the innocent child that becomes the target of bullying. Not good.

What is so bad about adopting siblings or similarly aged pups?

1. Siblings will lack socialization and training.

Training, socialization, house training, and caring for 2 young puppies can be more difficult than you imagine. Often certain components of puppy rearing are lost or done

half-heartedly when there's more than one pup, as so much time is dedicated to "surviving the madness."

2. The puppies will develop hyper attachment.

Pups will develop an unhealthy bond with each other. Littermate puppies can quickly become hyper attached and unable to cope without the presence of each other. Often one pup suffers from this more than the other. If this happens you'll generally see frantic panicked fearful or even aggressive behavior when the pups are separated. This deep bond can also cause them to fight with each other.

3. Inter-dog Aggression

Because many sibling pups are only socialized with each other, they may develop aggression and fear toward other dogs.

How to prevent it

What could you have done differently? Are you ready for the answer? OK, you shouldn't have gotten both pups. But since you did, here are some tips.

1. Separate during activities.

Give the puppies periodic time apart every single day. That means they should be regularly walked separately, played with separately, and be trained separately.

2. Crate Separately

Do not allow the pups to share a crate.

3. Fed Separately

Feed meals separately, and out of two separate bowls. Remember that both dogs are individuals. They will have unique personalities, they may be motivated differently, and may have different energy levels and quirks.

4. Bond separately

Bond with the puppies individually, so that they are able to focus on you and not solely on each other.

5. Socialize Separately

Socialized the puppies heavily between 8-16 weeks of age. They must meet people and other animals without their sibling present and should be taken to new locations separately.

BUT... the biggest tip would be to not get siblings or pups close to the same age.



This trick works to prevent your dog from pulling you.

PULLING OFF A TRICK

Do you have a dog that constantly pulls? Well, that just means he needs training. But who has the time, right? Well, read on with this cool tip.

During the summer I came across an advertisement for a leash that wrapped around the lower abdomen of a dog. Like most ads these days, they are click-bait that lead to other things that waste time. I forgot about it. But one day during my usual walk to return one of the dogs, the dog just kept pulling hard. It was a 130lb dog and the ground was wet. BAM! At that moment, the ad came into my head. I quickly wrapped his leash around his abdomen and immediately the dog stopped pulling. It lifted his hind legs just slightly to prevent him from stepping forward. I guess that leash is based on this idea. I didn't even give it a second thought though. Now every time that I get a dog that pulls, no matter what the size. I simply wrap its leash around its belly and walk calmly to deliver him to its owner. Of course, they ask me what I am doing and I am happy to demonstrate its magic.

Try it for yourself. It may be especially useful when confronting another dog. (Although, don't quote me on it). Nevertheless, I am sure if you reward him and praise him while doing it, eventually, he will learn not to pull.



SOUL OF THE DOG

NOW VIEWABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.

For those that can't physically visit the art show, the photos are now available to view online. Also, you will find sizing and pricing. (So sorry that I have to put PROOF on them.)

Soul of The Dog has been a success. Thank you to all that have visited and given me feedback and support. Some folks have even contacted me to have a photo session of their dog.

Soul of the Dog is on display through April 30 at the Millbrook Library in Millbrook, NY. It features many Renaissance-inspired studio portraits of the dogs of Dog Meadow as well as photos of its magnificent rural setting.

All photos are available for purchase and come beautifully-matted and framed and ready to hang. Featured is the winning photo from the HVNY Summer '21 Photo Contest which will soon be available for purchase in their marketplace. Please contact us via email if you are interested in purchasing any of the photos. All profits go to the Millbrook Library.

You can view the photos via: dogmeadow.com/soul-of-the-dog

—Please note that it is illegal to download images that you do not own, have not purchased, or do not have permission to use.—



Laura cuddles with Jack in the meadow.

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.

In order to maintain the beauty of Dog Meadow...

Please note that we will be closed for property maintenance on the following dates during the year: July 21 - August 2 and September 9 - October 8. Please ensure that you make other arrangements for your pup ahead of time. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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 will be requiring

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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