



Dog Meadow – July 2022

Welcome to the Dog Meadow July Newsletter. Summer is in full swing, and we are busy with both boarders and daycare. We're always updating our website with FAQs, and our previous newsletters are available there as well, so please visit us every now and then to catch up on things. Our Social media accounts, particularly Facebook and Instagram, are where you will see photos of your dogs. This month we have more tips on safety for dog owners. 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 grass will be greener on every side.

UPCOMING CLOSING

Note that we are closed for maintenance from July 21st to August 2nd so that we can keep Dog Meadow in tip-top shape.

Every now and then I get asked how it is that we keep Dog Meadow nice and green. Well, the answer isn't very simple. We DO NOT spray the meadow with chemicals that can make our dogs sick. So we end up with quite a bit of weeds throughout the property. Add to that the dogs going wee-wee, and you have a recipe for grass not doing too well. Sure it looks great when you're standing outside of it, but we have to put in some work to keep it beautiful. We will take some time this month to make some adjustments. The large-scale work will be in the month of September when we will close for an entire month to aerate and reseed. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate with some water.

Please make certain that you prepare with alternate daycare and boarding during these times. Let us know if you will need any recommendations. Phone calls and emails will be on a very limited return when we are closed.



Every day is a training day. Ashley is getting a daily refresher lesson in commands. We continue to brush up on recall, stay, down, spin and many others.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING

Many people train their dogs when there are particular behavior problems at home, but training your dog is so useful in so many ways. Many don't realize that any training at all is helpful for many reasons. Whether you teach your dog to give you his paw, go to his place, sit, stay, roll over, or spin around, you are accomplishing a few important things:

- 1) you are strengthening your relationship with him
- 2) you are practicing communication with him
- 3) you are setting him up to be a "task-master"

This means that he will be well prepared in his life going forward with you to listen, learn, observe, and understand what is being requested of him. Part of what you are training your dog to do is to learn how to learn.

We have some clients that have started to practice agility with their dogs. This has inspired us to perhaps add some of this equipment to Dog Meadow to challenge our active guests in the future. In the meantime, we have a few interns now who play with the dogs during the day and structure some activities to keep them busy.



Lily enjoys (Xylitol-free) peanut butter on her lick pad.

OUR LILY (LICK) PAD

While our athletic guests are busy, our very senior poodle, Lily, is turning 16 this fall and is declining rapidly. She is deaf, losing some strength, and suffers from dementia, a lung condition, and some incontinence. Fortunately, Laura is off work for the summer and is able to spend time with her. Lily still enjoys kisses, and most of all, eating. We've ordered her a lick mat for a special treat now that she doesn't get around much. Lick mats are an amazing invention in that they can occupy dogs for quite a while. Not only do they come in handy when crate training, but they are a great way to entertain a sedentary dog like Lily or one who is on restricted activity.



Laura teaches Yogi to leash walk by rewarding him with pumpkin seeds – a natural treat that he loves.

WATCH THEIR DIET

Most people make sure that they are either feeding their dog a well-balanced commercial dog food or a home-cooked balanced diet according to recommendations. However, many people give their dogs a lot of treats that are not nutritious. When you give someone a lot of treats, you are throwing off that balanced diet—much like when you eat balanced meals, but snack on too many chips and cookies in between.

The same goes for farm animals, who can be very sensitive to items that are not natural to their diet. Many people feed goats and sheep too much grain when they are better off just eating grass, hay, and weeds with barely any grain. In fact, goats and sheep are so sensitive that when fed the wrong thing, even on a single occasion, they can end up with deadly consequences. Yeah, I still hear about sheep and goat owners feeding them cookies or white bread, but that's not what is best for them.

As pet owners, we can responsibly control our pets' diets. The best way for us to do that is to choose a healthy balanced diet for them and to use pure food in small amounts for treats. Healthy treats would include tiny bits of leftover meat. (Not processed deli meat). We never throw a piece of meat away in our house. We recently took the roast beef from our intern's leftover sandwich, rinsed it well to get rid of any spices, and minced it up for dog treats. In moderation, fruits and vegetables make good treats as well, and with time you can usually get your dog to learn to like carrots, apples, or even zucchini. Cheese is another good occasional treat, only if used in moderation. Most of us would be better off if someone snatched the bag of tortilla chips out of our hands and gave us a carrot stick! The same goes for dogs.



Our interns from the Maplebrook School in Amenia, NY. Clockwise from top-left: Eliza, Sheridan, Jaime, and Gus.

SUMMER INTERNS

I can't stress enough how important it is to have job skills at a young age. I wish I had these kinds of opportunities as a young man. The Maplebrook School in Amenia, NY does a great service to its students. Most of you know Eliza who has been here for a couple of years. She has been a great help and loves dogs. She is now certified as a dog sitter and is also learning to groom these little guys. Maybe we'll offer a few dog owners some free grooming as she gets deeper into her education. Three other students have joined us as interns. There is Gus, who I was told won just about every award at the end of the school year. We also have Jaime, who is eager to learn and brings her own sunscreen (smart thing to do as we're out in the sun A LOT!). Finally, Sheridan was here at the tail end of the school year and is joining us for the summer. All of them are learning what it's like to be an employee and have responsibilities of caring for the dogs as well as learning general tasks that they can carry onward.



Laura lets the duck and chickens join the sheep and the goats in the back paddock. A daily routine enjoyed by all..

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 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

We're already taking bookings 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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