



Dog Meadow – November 2022

Welcome to the Dog Meadow November 2022 Newsletter. With the last warm days happening this month we begin preparing for the colder days of winter. Big holidays are upon us with Thanksgiving at the forefront and we look forward to caring for your dogs as you enjoy your family gatherings. 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.



Annie is a dog we fostered and placed successfully with a young couple who already owned two dogs. She is great at car rides, hiking, and napping and comes back to Dog Meadow for occasional boarding.

I WANT A PUPPY! DO YOU, REALLY?

Many people ask us for advice before adding a dog to their family. People are concerned, first and foremost, about the personality of the dog that will be part of their family. Sometimes, they have already gone out and purchased an expensive purebred or hybrid “hypoallergenic” whatz-it-fluffa-lab-a-shep-a-herd-adoodle, and sometimes, they have given up this dog due to behavior issues that weren’t yet apparent at twelve weeks of age. Or sometimes they’ve lost this dog due to cancer or another genetic disease at a young age, (which most say is much more likely in intentional purebred and hybrid breeding). We can tell you many stories that we have heard like this. We can’t think of one story like this where someone has adopted a mature mixed-breed dog from a rescue organization.

If you must have a purebred puppy, purchase it from a reputable breeder. A reputable breeder will belong to a breed club and will have good referrals from other breeders. The breeder hopefully will have a long-established love of the breed and ethical practices that will ensure that you purchase a puppy from sound breeding lines. If we didn’t have authentic reputable breeders breeding purebred dogs, dogs wouldn’t even be at all as we know them today, so we don’t eschew purchasing purebred dogs by careful means. You may have your heart set on a hybrid-bred Doodle-type dog, and that could be fine too, but It’s a good idea to do your homework: hybrid breeds, such as doodles, can be even more inbred, especially in subsequent generations such as F3. Make sure, if you must have a doodle, that you research the breeding techniques of your breeder

Some people pursue doodles because they want to adopt a purebred “hypoallergenic” dog, but dogs are no more hypoallergenic than the surfaces they play on and the pollen in the air they walk through anyway, and you will pretty much

get the same “hypoallergenic” tendencies in a wiry hair or curly haired mixed-breed dog that you adopt. (See next month's newsletter for more tips about owning a dog when you have allergies).

While there's nothing wrong with purchasing the expensive dog breed of your dreams, when you buy a puppy, you have no guarantees of personality. Anytime you purchase a puppy, you are taking a chance on what that puppy will grow up to be personality-wise. However, when you adopt a mature dog from a shelter, you have a pretty good idea of the personality. Even better, when you adopt a mature dog that is being fostered by a rescue organization, you have an extremely good idea of its personality. Some shelters or rescues will even allow you to foster and decide whether the fit is right for you. If the dog isn't the right fit for your family, at least you showed it some love and taught it a few things and got it used to being in a home again, and evaluated its personality type for someone else. Adopting a dog that is fostered by someone else is a very easy way to adopt. The foster parents of a dog that you adopt can always tell you whether the dog gets along with children, or cats, is a watchdog, is a quiet dog, is playful, is a couch potato, etc. You will know what you are getting, plus, you will be doing a very good deed. You may have heard the slogans “adopt, don't shop” or “don't buy while others die”. Puppies tend to fly off the shelves of pet stores, backyard breeders, and reputable breeders for price tags of thousands of dollars. It is adult, mixed-breed dogs ages one year and up that linger in shelters, waiting to be adopted or for foster homes. Particularly, in the Southern states, many of these dogs will be put down due to the lack of space.

So, buying a puppy is a financial and emotional gamble, but adopting a mature dog from a foster home through a rescue organization is a pretty safe bet, and much less expensive. Your donation upon adoption, which covers all kinds of costs of rescue and spay/neuter, rarely runs much more than four or five hundred dollars, sometimes much less, leaving you a couple of thousand to spend on maybe fencing in your yard for mixed-breed Buster that you otherwise would have spent on a purebred. If you are interested in adopting a dog from a rescue organization, send us an email, and we will send you a list of local rescue organizations that you can contact. You usually have to fill out an application that includes references, and then let the organization know what kind of dog you are looking to adopt in terms of physical features and personality type. Just like a dating website, you will be able to meet the dog in person before committing, until you find the right one.



Brodie (who we temporarily named Tyrion) was another foster of ours who was both active and a lap dog. He was perfect for this family with children who live on a farm.



This pill pouch comes in different flavors and is large enough for the largest pill.

POCKET FULL OF...

Medications aren't the easiest to administer—especially those not-so-tasty pills. Some of us are lucky and have that one dog that will eat anything you put in a bowl (even a sock) and will take his medication with a meal without a problem.

Certainly, you can take the approach we take, which is usually opening the dog's mouth and placing it far back in the throat. We then close their mouths so they don't

spit it out, and proceed to gently stroke their throat. That works every time.

One of the methods some pet owners try is using pill pockets. My experience with the pill pocket is that they are usually small or crumble and fall apart. It turns out that Milk-Bone makes a “pill pouch” that is soft and pliable and larger than most, which is great because it will hold even the largest pills. They come in different flavors and do the job perfectly each time. Finally!

If you aren't comfortable stuffing the pill into your dog's mouth, I say go out and get some of these. I'm sure you'll be really happy with them.



Photo credit: Priscilla Du Preez on Unsplash

THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS ARE BOOKED

We are currently booked for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. And, we're already booking into 2023.

So, if you are in need of boarding services during peak times with us, please note that we take a small number of dogs, and booking early is key. So, book early for graduations, Independence Day, and yes, even next Christmas.

REMEMBER: All new dogs require a trial day (no exceptions) so planning ahead is important. We list our required vaccinations on our website. We always ask for a deposit for all bookings. We do not guarantee nor hold a spot if the deposit is not made. It is recommended to pay the deposit immediately or you just may lose the spot—kind of like purchasing concert tickets on Stubhub.

CHANGES IN REQUIREMENTS AND POLICY

Dog Meadow has a policy in place for the benefit and safety of our dogs. From requirements, drop-off times, trial days, the packaging of food when boarding, deposits, etc. We've put a lot of effort into being fair to everyone. Therefore, we ask that you read our FAQs and Terms and Conditions before booking with us. If we do not fulfill your needs, we're happy to recommend a place that might be more suitable for your dog.

Our most recent change in policy is:

As of December 1, 2022, due to insurance and liability issues, we regret we can no longer accept dogs of the "bully breed" classification or mixed breeds that have the appearance or characteristics of one of these breeds.

We remind you that Dog Meadow is not a kennel per se, but a home and a farm, with only a small number of dog customers, and without a large staff.



Laura, as she finishes her walk in the back field with our small herd.

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.

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 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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