



Dog Meadow – September/October 2023

The crisp air of fall is here, although, we've had quite a few hot days in September and October. Nevertheless, the colors are here and the grass in the meadow is rejuvenated and ready for the cold weather. We look forward to the coming holiday season so be sure to prepare for it. As always we 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.



Getting the grass ready for winter.

DOG MEADOW'S ANNUAL GRASS RESEEDING

In September, you may have noticed the gates of Dog Meadow temporarily closing, causing mixed feelings among our loyal customers. Some wondered why we would inconvenience them during this time, while others recognized the importance of the project at hand.

The reason behind this closure is a simple one, but vital for the well-being of our beloved canine companions. To ensure a healthy, lush, and vibrant play area for your pups, we take this opportunity to reseed our grass. With winter approaching, this undertaking is essential for maintaining the high standards of care and comfort that Dog Meadow is known for.

But what about the travel plans, work commitments, and daily routines of our valued customers? We understand the dilemma, and the inconvenience of the temporary closure is not lost on us. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work to enhance your dogs' experience at our daycare.



Tilling the grass is not my favorite part, but the most essential step.

Understanding the Necessity

A beautiful, well-kept grassy expanse is not only visually appealing but also vital for your dogs' well-being. The dogs at Dog Meadow are not just pets; they are part of our extended family. Ensuring a clean, safe, and enjoyable environment for your furry friends is our top priority.



The path to the meadow gets a beating and requires the most maintenance. It is actually seeded in the spring as well and throughout the summer.

Setting Ourselves Apart

In a world where convenience sometimes overshadows quality, we take pride in the choices we make to offer an unparalleled experience at Dog Meadow. We believe that maintaining an exceptional play area year-round sets us apart from other daycare options in Dutchess County.

While other facilities might use wood chips or muddy areas for playtime, leaving your dogs dirty and potentially at risk, we prioritize their safety and happiness. Our commitment to providing a pristine, comfortable, and safe space for your four-legged family members is unwavering.



It might take a few hours to complete the first step but then it's a few weeks of daily watering to ensure the grass comes in nicely.

The Conclusion of September's Grass Renewal

As September turned into October, the grass at Dog Meadow is once again lush and green, providing your dogs with a rejuvenated play area. Your support and trust in Dog Meadow are what motivates us to go the extra mile, ensuring that your dogs always receive the best care possible. We thank you for being part of our loving community.



Antonio at the Millbrook Farmers Market

ANTONIO AND THE REST OF THE BUNCH

As you know, our rescue rooster, Antonio was attacking us for some time and we decided to begin social training in late spring. The training continued through the summer, and he has gotten so much better. It's been a long road for all of us with several visits to the Millbrook Farmers Market and spending time in the house with him to get him to be more socialized. Every morning, he gets brought inside before Laura heads to work. He gets a specially designed, fresh diaper put on him every day and spends the day either in the house or the backyard. Throughout the day, I take a break from the dogs and visit him in the back to make sure he knows we are here, and he gets special treats like fruit and granola. On weekends, he has breakfast with us. After he finishes his tiny buckwheat pancakes we take him on small outings. Talk about being spoiled.

He has gotten quite close to Laura and even snuggles with her now. Recently he started to do the rooster dance, which is very special. The dance shows that he is starting to see Laura as a close loved one.



Laura and I demonstrate how we put a diaper of Antonio. (left) Antonio receives a grape before Laura heads to work.

New members of the flock.

Laura loves her animals, and while at a farm swap, she fell in love with two tiny Cochon Bantam chickens. Of course, they came home with us. We named them Annie and Misty. The first step is to keep them from the flock to make sure that they are healthy. The idea was to put them with the rest of the flock but we later discovered that they are too small to be with them. Thankfully, we have a separate small coop and run in the front yard so they will spend their time there. They will most likely be brought inside during the extremely cold days of winter for their safety and warmth.

Meanwhile, two others were rescued from a friend who could no longer keep hers. Lana, a Rhode Island Red, and Elsa, a Leghorn, were introduced to the flock and made their home right away.



Welcome Nala, Annie, Misty, and Elsa to the Dog Meadow family.

The Nubians

Eddie, Blue, and Sunny were introduced to the rest of the older goats, Yogi and Flip in late summer and have made their home with the rest of the herd. Although Yogi, being the bossy goat that he is, continues to ram the new kids on the block, it won't last long. Eventually, the three will be twice his size! He does it mostly during feeding time. He is beginning to understand that the more he continues to fight them, the more he misses out on getting to the food.



Yogi was not happy with the new guys.

We all have our stressful moments, but we try our best to have everyone live harmoniously. From Antonio and Yogi to all of the farm animals. That includes all of our dog guests, too. It's what we love the most about what we do here—communicating with all of our different species.



The three Nubians stick together like The Three Amigos.



(WO)MAN'S BEST FRIEND NEEDS FRIENDS

Dogs, it turns out, also need their own furry friends.

In a recent study from the Dog Aging Project, researchers discovered that a dog's social circle has a big impact on their health. This influence even outweighs things like money, household stability, and how old the owner is. Over 21,000 dog owners were surveyed about themselves and their furry companions, covering topics like exercise, living conditions, behavior, diet, and medication.

The study identified five main factors for a dog's well-being: a stable neighborhood, the total income of the household, spending time with kids, hanging out with other animals, and the age of the owner. Surprisingly, spending time with other animals

had the strongest connection to good health, trumping financial matters. This might be eye-opening for American dog owners, who spend an average of \$730 a year on their pups, according to **Forbes**.



Like humans, a healthy social life makes an overall healthy life for your dog.

Bri McCoy, the lead author of the **press release**, noted, "This shows that, like many social animals, including humans, having more social buddies can really boost a dog's health."

Noah Snyder-Mackler, one of the co-authors, summed it up: This study adds more proof to the strong connection between the social environment and health outcomes, much like what's known for humans. "We need to focus more attention to the role of the social environment on health and disease, and continued investigation of how each environmental factor can contribute to more years of healthy living (i.e., 'healthspan') in both companion dogs and humans."

Here are five ways you can help your pooch build relationships.

1. Visit a safely managed nearby dog park or dog beach.
 2. Organize a playdate or walk with a fellow dog owner or neighbor.
 3. Take your pup to dog-friendly public events in your area.
 4. Enroll your dog in a doggy daycare a few times each month. Dog Meadow's regular clients are super happy here.
 5. Have the time and energy for another? Consider getting your dog a pet sibling and adopting from a local animal shelter.
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HAVE YOU MADE HOLIDAY PLANS FOR YOUR DOG YET?

When planning a vacation or holiday, consider boarding your dogs well in advance. Make this a new habit for yourself. Dog Meadow has limited slots available for the upcoming holiday season, but they're filling up quickly. If you've been with us before, contact us promptly to secure a reservation and discuss your pet's stay.

For newcomers, it might be too late for this holiday season, as we have specific requirements, including a trial day to ensure a smooth experience for your pet. Responsible pet ownership means planning ahead, so reach out to us early to make sure your dogs are well-cared for while you're away.



Laura and Jack.

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.** 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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