



Dog Meadow – November 2021

Welcome to our November newsletter. The frosty weather has arrived and we're ready for some great days ahead. Thank you for being with us and supporting us. Join us for a summary of some of the goings-on at Dog Meadow.



Whether you have a Labmix, Pitmix, or an exuberant doodle, your dog will probably require a trial day to see if they are ready to join our pack.

COVID -19 | NEW PUPS | TRIAL DAYS

At Dog Meadow, we provide dog daycare and cageless dog boarding for all types of well-socialized dogs. Your dog may have gone to a dog park or perhaps stayed at home with a family member overnight, but that does not mean they are well-socialized. Additionally, the covid pandemic has brought an influx of new dog adoptions and with it, dogs that may not have had the opportunity to learn proper socialization. The pandemic has also created a lapse in the ability to provide continued socialization for many dogs. Therefore, your dog may have a trial day to evaluate if he is a good fit. During the trial, we look for not only signs of aggression but other behavior that indicates he is not a good fit. These signs may even include puppy-like exuberance, which is often expressed by leaping on us (not a problem at all) but also expressed often by leaping on other dogs. Due to this lack of social experience, when dogs correct him with a growl or bark at times when they don't feel up to playing, he may not get the message and may continue to throw himself at them continually. Sometimes, when a dog gets comfortable in a situation, this kind of behavior can accelerate before he learns to control it. We may recommend a dog go to a more controlled environment to acquire social skills. Other signs can include

anxiety, fear, resource guarding (possessiveness), and simply being over dominant. Prey drive plays a deciding factor as well since we are a farm and have quite a few farm animals in proximity to the Meadow. If a dog continually charges the animals then he will more than likely not be a good fit. Finally, during a trial, if your dog lacks the basic command of coming when called, they may be put on a line. (We explain why we do this on our website). Our goal is to create a stress-free relaxed environment where all dogs can play safely.



Parents Weekend brought Eliza's dad to Dog Meadow. Her mom was in Hong Kong at the time.

PARENTS WEEKEND

We welcomed the parents of our interns during Parents Weekend at The Maplebrook School in Amenia. Eliza first came to us in the summer, while Morgan recently joined us at the start of the school year in September. Both play a huge role in assisting with the dogs. Helping with socialization and correcting behavior as well as playing with them are important to all of these pups. More importantly, is the human connection that is added on a daily basis. They give the dogs lots of attention and love and plenty of belly rubs.

While visiting Dog Meadow, both sets of parents were very pleased with what their child was experiencing. According to Eliza's dad, "This is the best thing that's happened to her. It has completely changed her. She so happy and enthusiastic." I can add that she has become a great multi-tasker and continues to learn the skill of watching for details pertaining to each dog. Additionally, she has learned some management skills. Morgan's parents were ecstatic about the dogs and the beauty of

the property. Her dad's reaction was that "Morgan loves it here so much! She can't stop talking about it." Morgan does, in fact, love it here. She loves that she continues to learn skills in dog interaction: the difference between rough-housing and the fine line being crossed into a possible fight; how puppies interact with older dogs and their "corrections" of them; and simple dog training with the dogs that lack recall.

My past experience with interns in the corporate world was very different as most came with experience. Training these young students has taught me patience and fine-tuned my decision-making on what to delegate. Whether teaching them simple training methods or what to look for when playing with a kong, it's important that they receive clear direction on what should be done. I also put them into possible scenarios and quiz them to ensure they are learning.

The Maplebrook School is designed for students that may take different paths to achieve the goals of other students. The school provides a nurturing environment where each student can feel comfortable to succeed each day with positive support and an exciting, challenging curriculum. We're happy to be a part of Eliza's and Morgan's education.



Jack, who is very careful with meeting new people, quickly warms up to Morgan's parents.



Eliza takes the opportunity to teach/reinforce the command sit and down while playing fetch.

DOG TRAINING

Training tip: Practicing fetch will accelerate your bond with your dog and give you the simplest possible way to get the excess energy out on your terms. However, next time you're out playing fetch, take the opportunity to teach and/or reinforce commands such as wait, sit and come.

If there is one thing that can be said about "proper" training, it's that every trainer believes they use the best method. Whether the person is educated, famous, has years of experience, or simply reads a lot, they will believe that their ways of training are the most effective ones. However, properly training your dog has little to do with your knowledge of dog training, and more to do with how well you know your dog.

Like children, every dog will learn differently, and you must work with their capabilities to train them successfully. Without first understanding your dog, you are setting everyone up for failure. Once you feel like you know your dog, his behavior, what needs to be addressed, and how he retains information the best, you will be able to begin the training process.

There are many labels for different methods of training such as “positive reinforcement”, “correction”, “negative reinforcement”, “behavior adjustment training”, etc. Many people believe that one, some, or none are better than others, but the key to properly training your dog is combining them based on what you know about your dog’s learning capabilities.

There is a large difference between behavioral adjustment training and abuse. You should never inflict pain upon your dog as a means of training. If you are unsure of whether or not you are capable of training your dog properly, consult a professional.



FRANNIE

We had a couple of medical issues with our farm animals this month. Candy, Laura's beloved chicken, suffered from an illness that ended up being unknown to the vets that treated her. We nursed her for a while and had one nice last afternoon with her, but had to have her put down in the end. Frannie, our one-year-old Peking duck, was suffering from bumblefoot, which is a specific foot infection, so Laura soaked her foot in epsom salts daily, followed by a long warm bath with French folk songs playing in the background. She is doing much better.



Deep litter method. Twice a year we clear out our self-composting stalls. NO SMELL!

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

We are booked solid for Thanksgiving and the Christmas holidays. Please remember to book your dog's stay early at Dog Meadow. Booking requests must be made and confirmed via email. If you are receiving this newsletter, you have filled out a form that is used to gather information on your dog. It does not mean you are reserving a date. We will not reach out to you. It is up to you to reach out to us if and when you are ready to book your dog's stay. 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.



Dog Meadow asks that if you have not been vaccinated that masks be worn as recommended by the CDC when dropping off and/or picking up your dog.



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