

MISSION EMPAWTHY NEWSLETTER

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MISSION EMPAWTHY, LLC



Welcome!

Thank you for signing up for our newsletter. We hope you find some useful tips and tricks and learn a little something along the way!

Now that June is here, school is out for the summer, which means Quinn is on break too! As the resident therapy dog for Edison Elementary school, Quinn loves her part time job! In this issue we will remind you of some summer safety, a few fun facts, tips on finding the perfect dog trainer, and how you can strengthen your dogs recall (or their 'come when called' cue).

Upcoming events!

FREE EVENT! Service Dog 101: Join us at the Willoughby Hills Public Library on Tuesday June 25th, 2024 at 6PM for an educational session on the often misunderstood world of Service Dogs. Be sure to register as seating is limited. Scan the QR code here to register:



Visit us at
www.missionempawthy.com



Tips to strengthen your dog's recall cue

You know those old dressing cups you recycle? Save a handful of them, fill them with small treats (ones that won't need refrigeration of course), and put them near every door in your house. Practice calling your dog to the doors and reward EVERY time for coming when called. This will help to develop a really strong recall, and since there are treats at every door, it will help you to be consistent too!



Did you know?

- That the Lake County Council on Aging has an awesome program called "Pet Meals on Wheels" ? This program piggybacks off of the human "Meals on Wheels program," to help feed pets in our community. It encourages seniors to enjoy a balanced meal, rather than sharing it with their pets. Consider donating today! Donations may be Pet food (cat or dog, wet or dry), scholarships for veterinary service, pet treats and toys, monetary gifts to the Pet Meals on Wheels program, or become a sponsor! Contact Linda Llewellyn at: lllewellyn@lccoa.org or call her at 440-205-8111 ext. 241

Avoid burnt paw pads!



Since summer is finally here, always remember that the outside air temperature is likely not reflective of the asphalt temperatures your dogs walk on! Be sure to use the "Seven Second Rule" - place the back of your hand on the asphalt for seven seconds, if you can't hold it there for 7 seconds, it's TOO hot for your dog to be walking on!





How to choose a dog trainer?!

With so many choices, how do you choose the right trainer for you and your dog?

Choosing a dog trainer can be outright daunting. There seems to be thousands of trainers out there. A quick Google search can lead you to become overwhelmed and stressed, so let us help you to narrow down some options.

The first thing you want to do when selecting a dog trainer is understanding which type of trainers there are. If we simplify this process, there really are only two types:

1. Positive Reinforcement Trainers (think marker training, or 'clicker training')
2. Negative Reinforcement Trainers (think shock collars, prong collars, choke collars), these trainers may refer to themselves as "balanced trainers"

The most current scientific literature

References:

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fvets.2020.00508/full?fbclid=IwAR3tedKFmvPYmY>

indicates that Positive Reinforcement training is the most ethical, humane, and effective method of training. It also poses fewer risks to animal welfare and doesn't destroy the human-animal bond by introducing fear, pain, and anxiety into the learning process.

Next, you want to find a positive reinforcement trainer who has legitimate credentials. In the USA, dog training is a widely un-regulated field, so you must rely on trainers who have gone above and beyond to educate themselves so that they can provide you and your canine with the best possible assistance. Look for the following:

- KPA-CTP - Karen Pryor Academy Certified Training Partners
- IACP CDT - International Association of Canine Professionals Certified Dog Trainer
- CPDT-KA/SA- Certified Professional Dog Trainer - Knowledge Assessed/ and Skills Assessed
- IAABC CDBC - International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants Certified Dog Behavior Consultant

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How to Choose a Dog Trainer (Continued)

who is uniquely qualified for your situation. Do you have a dog that is severely anxious and resource guards their food? Then perhaps you want to consider reaching out to a behavior specialist instead of a trainer. Do you want to train your dog to become a therapy dog to visit schools and nursing homes? Seek someone who specializes in that work.

Since you will be working very closely with this person, likely for an extended period, this interview will help you determine if you're a good fit for each other.

Happy Training!

–Victoria R. Brody, MPH, KPA-CTP, FFCP



- CBCC-KA- Certified Behavior Consultant Canine - Knowledge Assessed
- ACAAB or CAAB- Associate Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist or Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist
- VSA-CDT- Victoria Stilwell Academy for Dog Training and Behavior
- NADOI- National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors Certification

Bonus Credentials:

- FFCP- Fear Free Certified Professional
- AKC CGC- American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen Evaluator

Now that you understand the alphabet soup of dog training credentials, start to narrow down your search. Once you've narrowed down the list of trainers that agree with your training philosophy and ethics, and are well educated in the field, interview them! Some trainers specialize in puppies, some in field trial work or agility or service dog work, find someone

