

NEWSLETTER



February 2011

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Winter is almost over. YIPPIE!!! I have cabin fever; my dogs have cabin fever. Lack of exercise is the main problem during this time of the year. I'm so lucky. My dogs get a lot of exercise without having to take them many places. I'm not a lover of the cold so we don't go out when it's windy and cold. They enjoy their sports activities but their main exercise is play. Spring is on the way. Until then, do the best you can to provide mental and physical exercise for the furry members of the family. One way to do this is the new Nose Work classes we are now offering. See the article in this newsletter.

The Spay-ghetti Dinner for Safe Harbor Humane Society will be on February 13th at the Moose Lodge in Kenosha. Check out their website for more information. www.safeharborhumane.com.

The biggest dog show in the area will be at McCormick place Feb 26th thru Feb 28th. <http://www.ikcdogshow.com>. You won't regret going!

We have another entrepreneur in the Loving Paws circle of people. Marianne Mertes, Tanner's mom, will be hosting a Private Quarters open house on February 12th and 13th from 10am to 2pm at the Salem Business Center. For more information go to www.privatequarters.net/mariannemertes or email mjmerter@yahoo.com or call 262-206-5419.

Two of the Loving Paws circle of people jumped into photography. Lori Pallamolla, some of you know her as Bauer's mom, can be reached at 262-770-0083. Denise Trocio, some know her as Sammy, Buddy and Lucky's mom, can be reached through her website <http://dtrociophotography.com>. Contact these ladies if you have any upcoming events or just want some professional pictures taken.

The Hartford Financial Service Group has become an exclusive sponsor of the AKC Canine Good Citizen and Star Puppy Program. AKC has changed one of their rules for the CGC test. Dog can now be tested wearing a body harness. This is a good step in the right direction. Through this new sponsorship, The Hartford will be able to offer Auto and Home insurance solutions to all AKC registered dog owners in the near future.

MERRICK PET CARE RECALLS JR TEXAS TAFFY PET TREAT (ITEM # 27077, ALL LOTS UP TO AND INCLUDING 10364) BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE SALMONELLA HEALTH RISK.
http://www.merrickpetcare.com/about_us/news_article.php?tid=438

The Dangers of Dog Toys with Squeakers

by Laura Yurchak

Dogs tend to love toys with squeakers. All I have to do to get my dogs attention is grab a toy and start squeaking it. I went crazy buying toys for Harley and Lucy, my two dogs, this past Christmas. Almost all of them made some kind of noise.

The cheaper toys tear apart but the high rated Tuffy toys from VIP tend to stay together for quite a while. I broke down and bought them a fox that I knew wouldn't last too long. Within a few days, Harley and Lucy had the head off and stuffing all over.

It looked like it snowed in the front room. My rule for the toys that will tear apart easy is that I must be home to pick up the mess as soon as they make it.

That particular day I was distracted by a phone call so the mess was on the floor longer than usual. I laughed as I picked up the stuffing letting the dogs play with the remaining part of the unstuffed toy.



A day or so later my Harley became very sick. His gagging woke me that Friday night. He made it outside before vomiting.

It was so dark out; I couldn't find what came up. We both went back to bed getting no sleep due to Harley's restlessness. He would lay by my legs whining at times, stretching and moving constantly. He started gagging again. We dashed out the door just as he vomited again. I still couldn't see what he was bringing up. I thought he might be sick from his food or something he ate in the yard.

He settled down next to me and we both fell asleep for a little while.

Morning came. Harley wasn't himself but seemed better. He ate most of his breakfast and trotted around a bit outside. I found that he vomited up a squeaker from a toy. I couldn't believe that he swallowed such a big round thing without it getting stuck in his throat. I thought back wondering if this was a squeaker from that darn fox. It must have been. It was the start of the new Saturday morning training classes so I counted on my husband George to watch him. By the time I got home from work Harley was in bad shape. He couldn't get comfortable, whining, stretching, and constantly moving around. I called the emergency number of my veterinary office. Dr. Brewer told me that he most likely still had something in him that was working its way out. Since a squeaker already came out, he thought it might be some of the stuffing from the toy that balled up inside him. He put Harley on pain meds explaining that he would be in pain as it worked its



way out. Worried about him bloating, I got my essential oils out and rubbed some Di-Gize on his belly. I know that dogs can die from bloat so I wasn't going to let him out of my sight until this was over.

The pain pill kicked in on Saturday night and he was able to relax. He would stretch and whine at times and then close his eyes for a while. It was another sleepless night for me but Harley rested much better than the night before. Thank you pain pill! Sunday morning he seemed hungry so I gave him a little breakfast. He ate some of it but not all. Anyone that knows Harley knows he would never leave food behind. Still very concerned, I took him outside watching his every move. Finally, he pooped; just what I was waiting for. I ran over to see if any foreign objects came out and there it was; another squeaker! I couldn't believe it. Harley quickly became himself again.

Dogs experience a lot of the world through their mouth.

Supervision and management is needed to keep our pets as safe as possible. In this case, I should have picked up the toy's stuffing as soon as the toy was ripped apart. Be aware and be prepared.

K9 Nose Work: What Is It?

By Laura Yurchak

What is K9 Nose Work? It is a new sport in the dog world. In the words of the founders of this sport, the K9 Nose Work® class concept and sport was created to provide an opportunity for the companion and sport dog to have an outlet for their natural hunting and scenting abilities and was inspired by the model of working detection dogs. The dog uses its nose to locate a target scent or odor. This can be done anywhere, anytime; thus a new sport for dogs living in any setting.

The purpose of the class is to engage the dog in the game of nose work and to teach the handler how to read their dog and build a team relationship all while having fun. Nose Work is a great skill to develop in the dog that can build the dog's confidence, reduce environmental sensitivity and provide mental and physical exercise through teamwork with their handler.



Loving Paws introduced these classes in September 2010. Stephanie and I are in the certification program enjoying every step of the process. Our training allows us to offer these fun and exciting classes to you. There are four levels on the curriculum. You can attend the classes to have fun and enjoy seeing your dog do something they enjoy. You can also work toward competition.

We added some video of the classes for you to enjoy. Check out the webpage at <http://www.lovingpawslc.com/group-classes/k9-nosework>. Class schedules are listed on the website home page under "upcoming classes". <http://www.lovingpawslc.com/home>. Contact Laura if you are interested in any upcoming classes.



The Impact of the Kenosha Explosion on a Loving Paws Client

By Eva Locke

You may have seen the news that an unoccupied home blew up at 11:30 pm on Monday night. Our family lives or lived (I'm not sure which) two doors to the south of that building. Through God's intervention all of our family-including both our dogs-were sleeping at the time--so we were under covers when all the windows in our house imploded from the explosion. Except for some cuts to bare feet, no one was hurt.

When we viewed footage of the New Orleans flood a couple years ago, my husband and I declared that we would not leave our animals during an emergency. So when a fireman on the street told us that the houses on our road might be evacuated, I hurried back into our dark, cold and windy house (the electric and gas were cut immediately) to try to figure out what to do. Believe me, when you are woken up by a sonic boom, your brain short circuits so I understand what happened in New Orleans better now.

A couple things really helped us when handling the dogs. Both of our dogs (Chip and Tempi) have been in Laura's classes. Chip started in classes when he was only one. One of the first things Laura "preached" about was the value of crate training. So our dogs sleep in covered crates right by our bed. First of all, the crates protected the dogs from raining glass. Secondly, they provided a critical shelter for the dogs while we ran through the house assessing the damage. If you don't have a crate for your pet, get one!

Years ago, Laura recommended a dog groomer named Darby. At midnight, it's hard to reach any dog boarding places. I went through the few phone numbers on my cell phone and Darby's came up. I called her at midnight and she--not only took the dogs--but her husband met us near our home to pick up the dogs. He even spent 10 minutes just acclimating our frightened dogs before loading them into his car. One of our dogs, Tempi, is very skittish--those of you who took the "reactive dog" class will remember her, so it is not just anyone who can handle her.

Darby kept our dogs for two nights while we got settled. Well, it's going to be awhile until everything is settled. I can't tell you how much it meant to know that the dogs were receiving the compassionate care from dog savvy people while we were trying to put the pieces back together. I understand Tempi barked non-stop most of the first night. Darby and family--you all are saints!

We're staying at a hotel and the dogs are now at Woofman's Lodge. That's another place that we learned about from Laura. Felicia, at Woofmans, is one of the only people outside of our family who Tempi will allow to touch her.

There are people who care for dogs because its a business. Then there are people who care for dogs passionately and incidentally happen to run a business. Our family want to thank some of those people including:

- * Darby and family of Darby's Doghouse on 52nd Ave in Kenosha. If you're looking for a groomer, visit Darby. She's a fantastic groomer.
- * The folks at Woofman's Lodge including Howard, Lesley and Felicia
- * Laura of Loving Paws. We've taken your advice over the years to heart!

Sincerely,
Eva Locke