

Dog Bytes

WVESA Newsletter

January 2010

If Dogs Could Talk: A Dog's Top Ten New Year's Resolution List

New Year's Eve traditionally is a time to reflect on our past, and more importantly, look forward to the changes we want to make in the coming year. In addition to your own New Year's resolutions, your dog might have a few of his own. The American Kennel Club (AKC), the dog's champion, reflects on some resolutions your dog might be thinking about for 2010.

Top 10 Resolutions by Dogs include:

1. Owner on floor, dog in bed.
2. Stop begging and actually get a seat at the dinner table.
3. Give up the dream of ever catching my tail.
4. Bark like a big dog but still get cuddled on lap like a little dog.
5. Get back at cat for litter box incident.
6. Find every bone I ever buried.
7. No more haircuts! (come fall, I can go as a Komondor for Halloween).
8. Become alpha dog in my house. Well, at least stop letting the cat push me around.
9. Invent goggles that allow me to see the electric fence.
10. Finally pass that darn AKC Canine Good Citizen test.



Future Meetings

January Meeting

Saturday, January 30, 2010 at Baja Fresh in Tigard at 1:00 p.m.

Directions

From I-5 north or south, take the Hwy. 217 exit and head towards Tigard. Stay on Hwy. 217 until the Scholls Ferry/Progress exit.

Head west on Scholl Ferry Road, stay on Scholls Ferry until right after the 5th stop light. After the 5th stop light there will be a mall called Greenway Town Center on the left side of Scholls Ferry, go to the 2nd entrance into Greenway Town Center.

The Baja Express is the 2nd business (right next to Baskin & Robbins Ice Cream) after coming in the entrance. If you go past McDonald's you've have gone too far.

Braggs & Wags

- Ch Donahan's Definitely in Style, UD, JH, NAJ, WDX has added another title for 2009. He earned his Novice Agility Jumpers title in 3 trials with perfect 100 runs and a fourth, third and second place. He added a 4th perfect 100 and another second place 2 weeks later. Duffy is owned by Don and Carol Callahan.
- CH Oxbow's Bedazzled is our newest champion at Oxbow. Shania completed her championship on December 5th at the Greater Clark County shows by going WB, BOW for a 3 point major from the Bred-By Exhibitor class. Shania is owned by Dave and Janeé Kemp.

Show Results

Willamette Valley KC, 11/7

BOB CH Cerise Signature Of Telltale CD RN

BOS/WB Alynn's Solitaire TD MH OA AXJ

BOW/WD Oxbow's Gold Medal

RWD Mar-Ric Sir Jackson Stonewall

RWB Marcur's Dear Prudence

Willamette Valley KC, 11/8

GP4/BOB CH Cerise Signature Of Telltale CD RN

BOS/BOW/WB Alynn's Solitaire TD MH OA AXJ

WD Oxbow's Gold Medal

RWD Vanity Fair's Malfeasance

RWB G&J's Apache Spirits

Umpqua Kennel Club, 11/12

BOB CH Cerise Signature Of Telltale CD RN

BOS/WB Ramblewood Luck Be A Lady II

BOW/WD Winamere's Chip Off "D" Ol Block

RWB Fairhaven Wildrose Read My Lips!

Umpqua Kennel Club, 11/13

BOB CH Cerise Signature Of Telltale CD RN

BOW/BOS/WB Fairhaven Wildrose Read My Lips!

WD Winamere's Chip Off 'D' Ol Block

RWB Ramblewood Luck Be A Lady II

Rogue Valley Kennel Club, 11/14

GP3/BOB CH Cerise Signature Of Telltale CD RN

BOS/WB Fairhaven Wildrose Read My Lips!

BOW/WD Winamere's Chip Off "D" Ol Block

RWB Ramblewood Luck Be A Lady II,

Greater Clark County KC, 12/5

BOB CH Ramblewood Believe

BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy

BOW/WB Oxbow's Bedazzled

WD Ramblewood My Way At Glenneire

RWD G&J's Navajo Spirits

RWB Ramblewood Make A Memory

Greater Clark County KC, 12/6

BOB/BOW/WD Tri- Ste's And My Daddy Is

BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy

RWD Oxbow's Gold Medal

WB Ramblewood Luck Be A Lady II

All Hands on Deck

The 2010 National Specialty is approaching and because we are a small club, we need all the help we can get.

You can visit the national specialty's website committee page at:

<http://www.essftnational.com/committees.html>

You will find the various committees and their chairpersons. There are many committees that need your help.

Annual Awards

All club members are responsible for applying to receive an annual award. Applications must be received no later than February 12, 2010 and should be mailed to the awards chairman: Carol Callahan at 5310 S. Bates Rd., Spokane Valley, WA 99206 or e-mailed to donahan@aol.com.

Awards for titles earned will only be given to those who apply for the award(s). It is not necessary to apply for Springer of the Year, Best of Opposite Sex to Springer of the Year, Obedience Springer of the Year, Agility Springer of the Year, Rally Springer of the Year, Amateur Handler of the Year, or Junior Handler of the Year.

The criteria for Rally Springer of the Year and Amateur Handler of the Year will follow in an email, as soon as they are approved by the Board of Directors.

2009 Awards Application

Dog's Registered Name: _____

Title Earned: _____

Date Completed: _____

Title Earned: _____

Date Completed: _____

Title Earned: _____

Date Completed: _____

Owner's Name: _____

Mail To:

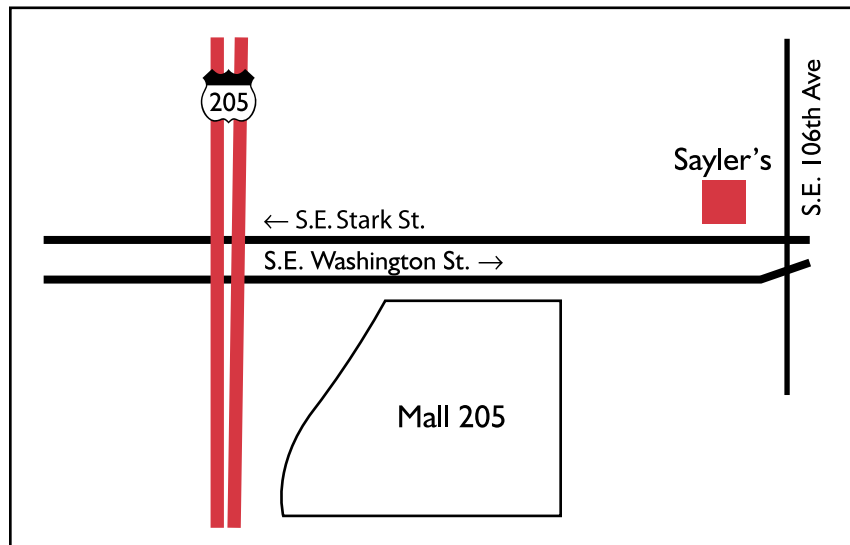
Carol Callahan, Awards Chairman
5310 S. Bates Rd.
Spokane Valley, WA 99206
email: donahan@aol.com

The Annual Awards Dinner

The Annual Awards Dinner will be Saturday, March 13th at Sayler's Old Country Kitchen. Cocktails at 6:00 and dinner at 6:30. RSVP Cathy English at (360) 887-8139 or Englishkc@aol.com by March 1, 2010.

Sayler's address is 10519 SE Stark Street, Portland. The instructions might seem confusing, but Stark and Washington are one way only streets.

From the North take I-205 South, take the Glisan/Stark Street exit, turn left on Washington Street, left on 106th and left on Stark Street. From the South I-205 take the Washington Street exit, turn right on Washington, left on 106th and left on Stark Street.



10 Tips for Problem Behavior

10 basic rules that will help you teach your dog more desirable behavior.

by Suzanne Clothier

At one time or another, every owner has to deal with problem behavior. Understanding why your dog does what he does, and how to handle the situation correctly can help resolve problems quickly.

Here are some basic guidelines that apply to nearly all problem situations:

Control the dog and you control the situation. By putting on a training collar and lead, you can control the dog. For many dogs, their training equipment means business, not playtime, and this can help in a problem situation. A dog who is on lead cannot run away or chase people or other animals, and his owner has a chance to help him understand what he should do by guiding him with the leash and collar.

Be positive. Instead of saying "NO", try giving your dog something positive that he can do for you, such as "Sit", or "Heel". This positive approach means you can praise generously for his good actions, instead of simply yelling at him. For example, a dog who jumps up can be told to sit, and helped if necessary, then praised for sitting.

Allow a dog to be a dog. Often, what owners consider problem behavior is simply normal dog behavior that they find unpleasant or annoying. For example, digging is a natural canine activity but distressing to a garden proud owner. Instead of scolding for what comes naturally, it might be kinder to set up an area in which you have buried small treats to

make it more attractive than the rest of the yard, and praising your dog for digging in "his" garden.

Whenever natural behaviors conflict with what you might like, be creative and see if you can find an outlet for those interests and activities that is suitable for you both.

Be consistent. It is unfair to the dog to change your rules depending on what you're wearing, who's visiting or the kind of day you've had. If your dog is allowed on the furniture, he will be confused when you yell at him because Aunt Bess is visiting and she doesn't think dogs should sit in chairs! If he's allowed to jump up when you're wearing jeans and a sweatshirt, don't be surprised if he can't tell the difference between that and your best evening gown. Whatever your rules are, keep them consistent.

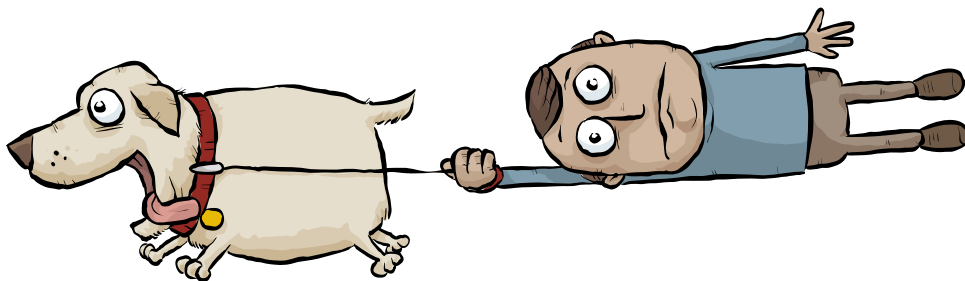
Have your dog earn what he wants. While everyone needs a few freebies now and then, your dog will not think you are a wonderful owner if you play with him, walk him, feed him and pet him whenever he demands it. In fact, this often creates problems since from the dog's point of view an owner who can be "trained" this well is not one who deserves much respect. Teach your dog to say "please" by sitting, laying down or following some other command before he gets what he wants.

Be clear. Owners often confuse dogs by changing the words or commands, repeating them over and over again without showing the dog what is meant, and worst of all, assuming that the dog understands.

When in doubt, gently show your dog physically exactly what you mean, giving the command at the same time so that he can associate the two. Use clear, matter of fact commands when addressing your dog, and be sure that your praising tone is excited, enthusiastic and upbeat.

Remember that while we use words to communicate, dogs are masters of reading body language. If your body language tells the dog one thing, but your voice tells the dog something else, chances are he will believe your body language. This is why people who bend towards their dog and shake a finger at them while scolding "No, no, no" often receive a playful bark - their body posture is much more like a dog inviting play than a dog who is annoyed or angry.

Exercise, exercise, exercise! The most common cause of problem behavior is boredom and a lack of sufficient exercise. While you work or go out, your dog has little or nothing to do, and his need to exercise will not go away. A familiar yard or house is boring, and few dogs exercise on their own without interaction with their owners. Take the time to play with your dog, jog with him, walk in the woods, swim or take long brisk walks each day. A tired dog is always a well behaved dog!



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Provide mental stimulation. Dr. Roger Abrante's suggestions regarding using 1/3 of your dog's diet for treats to be earned during training, 1/3 to be given as usual in a food bowl, and 1/3 to be "hunted" (try a Buster Cube, an ingenious toy which the dog must persistently work with to receive a few kibble at a time. Even a border collie will be amused by this for hours! Buster Cubes are available from your local pet store or from DogWise.com.) This "home alone" 1/3-1/3-1/3 program helps your dog expend some energy and provides much needed stimulation.

Understand your dog's genetic heritage. Whether you own a Doberman or a Beagle, a Samoyed or a Westie, it is important to understand what your dog was bred to do. Owners often forget that the behavior that prompts a dog to run or stay close, hunt or guard, chase and kill or herd, work with people or work independently are all the result of generations of carefully selected traits. Research your breed's history, and talk to people who understand your breed's characteristics. You may find that Rover's tendencies, while annoying or amusing, are precisely what makes him what he is. You can then decide how best to work with your dog's instincts and where you need to concentrate training efforts.

Train your dog. Every dog should have basic manners, but dogs are not born knowing how to behave. Take the time to train your dog on a consistent basis using kind, positive methods. Find a class near you whose methods and philosophies you like. If faced with a behavior problem you can't solve, ask people you trust for a recommendation of an experienced trainer and get professional help fast. The sooner you begin working on a problem the sooner you will have it solved.

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Coming Events

Conformation & Obedience

February 13-14, 2010

Linn County KC
Albany, OR
Saturday: Dr. Alvin Grossman
Sunday: Christina Hubbell

March 13-14, 2010

Seattle Kennel Club
Seattle, WA
Saturday: Clay Coady
Sunday: Robert L. Vandiver

March 27-28, 2010

Peninsula DFC
Bremerton, WA
Saturday: Jerry M. Watson
Sunday: Barbara Dempsey Alderman

April 3-4, 2010

Chintimini KC
Albany, OR
Saturday: Stephanie Hedgepath
Sunday: Dr. Wanda V. Spediacci

April 10-11, 2010

Timberland Valley DFA
Centralia, WA
Saturday: Robert D. Ennis
Sunday: Honey Anne Glendinning

April 17-18, 2010

Ephrata-Moses Lake KC
Moses Lake, WA
Saturday: Larry J. Sinclair
Sunday: Donald B. Harris

April 23-26, 2010

Lewiston Cluster
Lewiston, ID
Friday: Carolyn Thomas
Saturday: Elliott B. Weiss
Sunday: Terry Stacy
Monday: Nancy D. Simmons

AKC Agility

February 5-7, 2010

Ridgefield, WA

February 19-21, 2010

Auburn, WA
Caldwell, ID

February 26-28, 2010

Lynden, WA

March 5-7, 2010

Auburn, WA

March 13-14, 2010

Seattle, WA

March 19-21, 2010

Ridgefield, WA
Caldwell, ID

March 26-28, 2010

Auburn, WA
Moses Lake, WA

April 2-4, 2010

Albany, OR
Rigby, ID

April 16-18, 2010

Auburn, WA

Tracking

March 7, 2010

TD: Bow, WA

March 14, 2010

TD, TDX: Palisades, WA
VST: Portland, OR

April 4, 2010

TD, TDX, VST: White City, OR
April 18, 2010

TD: Eugene, OR

April 25, 2010
TDX: Yelm, WA

Hunt Tests

March 27, 2010

Rochester, WA

April 5, 2010

Scio, OR

April 25, 2010

Rochester, WA

Field Trials

February 26-27, 2010

Albany, OR



Dog Bytes is bimonthly newsletter published by the Willamette Valley English Springer Spaniel Association.

Any questions, comments, or article submissions can be forwarded to the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit or to refuse any copy.

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