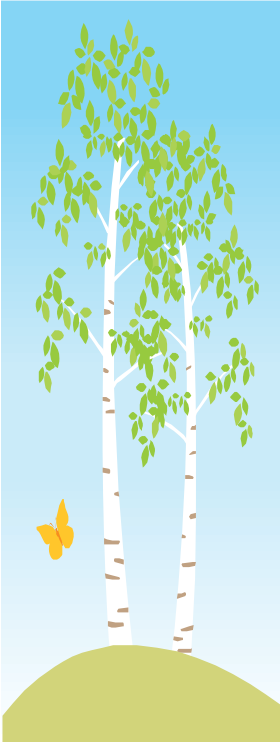


Mid-Summer News Update!



Special Feature

What's inside this issue?

- Special feature article by Dr. Andi Kohler MS, DVM, CVA
- Fall Family Dog Class Schedule
- Our new Therapy Dog International members
- Animal Shelter Volunteer Orientation
- New Book Review - Love Has No Age Limit!
- What we learned on our summer vacation - Continuing Education
- Summer Puppy Training

We're going to be featuring articles written by our local Veterinarians on subjects of interest. A special thank you to Dr. Andi Kohler MS, DVM, CVA for providing this information!



Dr. Andi, Am I really saving money buying pet medications online? What happens if my dog gets sick or has a reaction? The box looks the same. Am I really getting the same medication that I can get through you?

This is a great question that comes up a lot during exams. We don't recommend purchasing any pet medications or supplements online, unless that item is specifically prescribed through a pharmacy that your veterinarian has an affiliation with and trusts. The reason for this is because, although the packaging might look exactly the same, many pet products sold online are being purchased after-market or through non-reputable sources. Also, you can not completely trust how medications and especially vaccines are shipped, stored or handled through online retailers thus potentially making them unsafe or ineffective for your pet.

What this means for you is that if your pet should have an adverse reaction to a medication purchased from an online retailer, the pharmaceutical company that makes the medication will not back up the product nor provide any financial or technical support for your pet. A good example is Rimadyl®, which is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory made by Pfizer. If Rimadyl® is purchased through your veterinarian and your dog has a bad reaction to this medication, Pfizer will provide technical and financial support towards medical treatment for your dog. If you purchased Rimadyl® from an online pharmacy and your dog has a bad reaction to it, Pfizer will provide no support. Examples of online retailers that pharmaceutical companies do not support include: 1800PetMeds, Amazon, PetCareRx, Fosters and Smith and more.

Another reason to avoid purchasing medications or supplements online is that they may not be the best choice or may even harm your pet. Purchasing medications through your veterinarian ensures that you are choosing the

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safest and most effective option for your pet because your veterinarian can recommend products based on your pet's physical exam and medical history. There are a lot of medications and/or supplements that are not safe to be used together, and this potentially life-threatening mistake can be avoided by good communication with your vet.

Additionally, many veterinarians now match online prices for commonly sold medications because we want only the very best for your pet's health, so there would be no price benefit to purchasing these items online. Please contact your vet if you have additional questions or concerns about purchasing medications online.

Wishing you all a happy, safe and peaceful summer!

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(cell/emergency) email: andi@sacredpets.com website: www.sacredpets.com

Calling All Dogs!!! It's time for Family Dog Training! Our FALL class schedule is starting to take shape.

Here's what we have scheduled so far:

Craig Family Dog Class - Tuesdays starting on September 13th 6 pm to 7:30 pm - no dogs tonight (orientation) Sept. 20 - 27 - Oct. 4 - 11 - 18

American Kennel Club - Canine Good Citizens class starting Oct. 25th

Steamboat Family Dog Class - 6 pm to 7:30 pm - September 15 (no dog night) - 22 - 29 - October 6 - 13 - 20

We will offer a second class that will start at 4 pm to 5:30 pm if we have enough students.

Meeker Family Dog Class - 6 pm to 7:30 pm - Monday September 19 (no dog night) - 26 - October 3 - 10 - 17 - 24

We are also available to do private training and other small group activities on other dates. Give us a call or send an email to: dogs@totalteamworktraining.com

Therapy Dog International

We now have 4 new registered therapy dogs in the valley. Arlene Estes, Toby Smith and Ann Franklin from Meeker have worked together and formed a new therapy dog team. Congratulations to Arlene and Deuce (Border Collie) Toby and Max (Standard Poodle) and Ann and Lucy (Labradoodle). YAY!!! Way to go you guys!

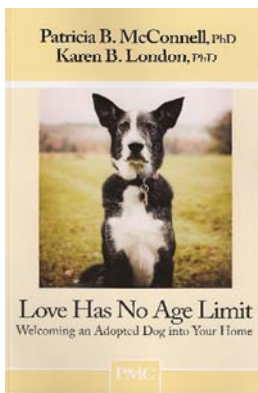


Along with their therapy dog activities these ladies also head up the 4H dog program in Meeker. Kudo's to all of you! We're so glad to have you as part of our amazing team of instructors and assistants! Oh, yea, Skippy and I got our TDI too! We've been visiting elementary schools and Downtown book store sharing time with kids and adults who love dogs. I love my Skippy dog!

Shelter Volunteers

In February we held a seminar for the Humane Society of Moffat County. We featured the "Open Paw" program for shelter dogs. This amazing program was developed by Kelly Dunbar along with the help of Dr. Ian Dunbar DVM. It features a total program for positively impacting the lives of dogs that live in animal shelters. It teaches volunteers techniques to help shelter dogs become more adoptable. It also enriches the lives of these dogs while living in a shelter environment.

Our program was so well received that we now offer it on a bi-monthly basis as part of the Animal Shelter orientation program.



Book Review

Love Has No Age Limits

By Patricia McConnell Ph.D. & Karen London, Ph.D.

This book contains a wealth of information to direct you through a successful adoption. It will help you create your "to do" list and show you how to prepare your home for the arrival of your new canine friend. Everyone should have this book! It's never too late to help a shelter dog!

This new book is now for sale at Downtown Books in Craig. A portion of sales from each book will be donated to the Humane Society of Moffat County.

Continuing Education

July 22nd the instructors and assistants from Total Teamwork Training LLC, including Sandra Kruczek, Arlene Estes, Toby Smith, Clancie Guinn, Lisa Mason, Janet Hruby and yours truly (Laura Tyler), attended a weekend seminar in Denver. On Saturday, Dr. Patricia McConnell Ph.D. Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (CAAB) presented a day long workshop titled "Trouble Between Dogs": Reactivity and Aggression between familiar and unfamiliar dogs. Dr. McConnell outlined several different options for the treatment of reactive dogs.

On Saturday evening, Dr. Dan Estep Ph.D. CAAB and Dr. Suzanne Hetts Ph.D. CAAB outlined a very informative program for those of us that do behavior consultations. Additional methods for providing information to our clients and their veterinarians will enable us to better facilitate communication between those of us working to help our companion animals.

Sunday provided a rich and interactive environment working through various methods for problem solving. Dr. Hetts outlined a seven step plan to address behavioral issues. Dr's. Estep and Hetts spoke on "The Dangers of Dominance". Some of the misconceptions of dominance and the application of dominance in human/dog relationships can create a multitude of problems. The use and misuse of punishment was another focal point of discussion.

All in all, we learned new things. We all took tons of notes and will apply new ideas to continue to improve our teaching techniques and our programs.



Puppy Training

With summer finally here many people have decided to add a new puppy to the family. That means someone is at home and puppy is getting some attention. Take the time to socialize that new puppy but only after a thorough health check by your veterinarian.

After the initial, "she's just perfect" stage, puppy behavior can become somewhat destructive and annoying. It's time for a consistent routine and manners training. Don't wait until things really start to unravel.

Long term studies reveal the principal reason for relinquishing dogs to shelters is misbehavior. Destructive chewing, barking, digging, house soiling, and developing aggression are at the top of the list. The sooner you start training that new puppy the better chance he has for staying in his original home and becoming the best possible companion dog. Many shelters are filled with dogs from the age of 9 months to 3 years. These dogs were perfect when they came into the home as puppies. It's easy to say, he doesn't need training when nothing is going wrong. Then the slow and tricky process of becoming a very naughty dog sneaks up on you! Everyone gets tired of their shoes and clothing being shredded. The neighbors complain about the barking. He's digging holes in your flower beds and the screens on your doors are non-existent. You can't walk her on leash anymore. Or the worst possible offence has taken place. She bites someone.

Scientific research is teaching us that there is a premium time in your dogs' life when socialization and training your new puppy has the greatest impact. That time frame starts when she's still at home with her mother. Breeders can do much to begin the process of creating a happy well adjusted puppy. The second phase of this premium learning opportunity is between eight and sixteen weeks! Yes, you can train puppies that young. What you teach and how you socialize during this time will have a lifelong effect on your puppy's development.

Summer is just flying by! If you got a new puppy or adopted a new dog please help them get used to being alone before school starts. Help them to feel safe when the kids head back to school and the house feels empty.

The trainers at Total Teamwork Training LLC have the skills and knowledge to help you get the best possible start with that beautiful new puppy! Give us a call (1-970-629-1507) or email us here on our website. www.totalteamworktraining.com

Sign up for our training class! It's fun for the whole family including the dog!

Happy Tails!