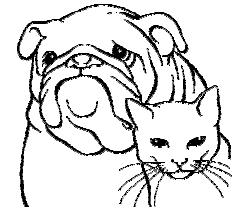


Kildaire Animal Medical Center Doggie Daycare Newsletter- May



Benefits of Daycare

Let's face it; our pets are like our kids. We want the best for them, and we want them to remain safe and healthy. Dogs are also like children in that they usually play well with friends, but at times their behavior can surprise you. Proper supervision and training can go a long way to insure that your dog has a healthy relationship with others.

Unfortunately, proper supervision can be hard to find when it comes to canine playtimes. When you visit a dog park, you are at the mercy of other owners who may not be supervising their pets as well as they should. At Kildaire's Doggie Daycare, we always have someone monitoring the dogs; we provide the equivalent of a referee who calls fouls, and may even penalize unfit behavior by means of a doggie "time-out." We do let the dogs be dogs – they run, they tussle, and they tug to their hearts' content; but we also calm them down when their play gets too rough or inappropriate. Our staff is trained to look for tell-tale signs of trouble brewing. This is one of the major benefits of letting your dog come play while being supervised. Our goal is to allow the dogs to play without anyone getting hurt.



What can you do?

This brings us back to training, and how we go about correcting a dog when necessary. Most dogs play together well but some can get a little carried away – this is not necessarily a bad thing, we like them to play hard! If the play gets too rough; however, it helps if a dog responds to its name and to the command "NO." Tension between dogs is usually broken by calling their names and saying "NO." Most times they will go right back to playing. If one or more of the dogs does not respond, we step in and break up the disagreement

The point here is to encourage you as dog owners to make sure your dog knows its name and responds to the person calling. It is helpful (but not required, of course) if your dog also knows and responds to the words "NO", "SIT", "DOWN" or "STAY." This is not so much for the benefit of the Daycare staff as it is for the dogs and their safety. These four simple commands can mean the difference between peaceful interaction and physical altercation. All it takes is a bit of your time. Repetition and positive reinforcement can work wonders!



🐾 Training Tips 🐾

Patricia McConnell is an accomplished dog trainer and behavior expert. She has laid out 10 basic tips for training your dog. While many of you have dogs that are already trained, many of you are just getting started, or you may know someone else who has just taken on a new dog. Below are the training tips from Ms. McConnell's website: <http://www.patriciamcconnell.com/top-ten-training-tips.html>

#1. **BE POSITIVE!** Dogs learn much faster and are more reliable if they learn to feel good when they do what you ask. You'll have a much better behaved dog if you learn to use positive reinforcement rather than forcing your dog into a behavior.

#2. **LEARN TO "SPEAK DOG"** Dogs don't come speaking English, and they don't read minds. Communicate less with your voice and more with your body (like dogs do), and your dog will understand you better.

#3. **BE A BENEVOLENT LEADER TO YOUR DOG** Your dog is dependent on you, and needs to know she can count on you to be responsible. That doesn't mean you should be a tough taskmaster, far from it. Think of the best teacher you ever had, and try to emulate that with your dog.

#4. **LEARN ABOUT LEARNING** Training animals isn't intuitive, and we're not taught how to do it in school. Don't assume you know how just because you love your dog!

#5. **LEARN TO "READ DOG"** Dogs have remarkably expressive faces, but we often fail to pay attention to what they're trying to tell us. Look for relaxed bodies and open mouths on happy dogs, and stiff bodies and closed mouths on dogs who are, at best, concerned about something.

#6. **TRAIN THROUGHOUT THE DAY** Avoid long training sessions every evening by scattering training exercises throughout the day. That way you'll always have time to train your dog, and your dog will learn to listen wherever and whenever you ask.

#7. **MASTER A FEW EXERCISES** You're much better off teaching your dog a few, simple exercises and practicing them in a variety of contexts, than teaching your dogs lots of signals that only work if he's not distracted.

#8. **BE CONSISTENT** Don't say "Ginger Come!" in the morning, and "C'm 'ere, Ginger" at night. Our dogs are trying to learn a foreign language, and we just confuse them if we keep changing the words!

#9. **TEACH GOOD BEHAVIOR** If your dog consistently does something you don't like, figure out what you DO want him to do, and teach him to do it, rather than correcting him for doing what's wrong.

#10. **LAUGH A LOT!** Why not? Training should be just as fun for you as it should be for your dog. You'll both do better if you make it all into a game and have fun with it.



Thanks for your time, and your trust in our services. It is our goal to send you home each afternoon with a dog who would love to be able to tell you what he/she did in school today. See you in the back yard!

*Article written by Ed Vennik
Design & photography by Jillian Verbic*