



The Right Steps

To A Well Behaved Dog

"DOGGY DIGEST"

Summer Newsletter 2012

Summer is Officially Right Around the Corner



Whether it is just taking your dog out for a walk, car ride, a summer adventure, or dog sport competition, thoughts of our area's heat must be a priority! Let's face it, the Sacramento and surrounding areas get HOT!

Unfortunately, what you hear is true, heat does kill!

Remember to carry your regular Veterinarian and Emergency Veterinarian's phone numbers with you in case of your dog overheating. If in doubt, call your Veterinarian A.S.A.P.—As they say, better safe than sorry.

If you are out running errands, think ahead and leave your dog at home inside where it is cool and safe—not baking (quite literally) in a HOT car. A warm 70 degree day in a car

can still cause deadly temperatures to your pet inside a vehicle.

When walking, carry water not only for you, but for your dog. Touch the ground before heading out to make sure the surface you are asking your dog to walk on is cool and safe for paws (pavement retains heat, and can blister the pads of their feet and not allow them to sweat to cool off).

Remember if your dog is not used to walking on rough terrain and pavement, take it slowly, allow over time for their pads to acclimate (soft pads, used to grass/soft ground for example, can be worn away quickly).

Thinking of taking your dog swimming or boating? Invest in a quality Doggy Life Vest! Remember to let them warm up

between swims and avoid fast moving water like the river for safety.

Be on the lookout for other summer potential dangers: rattlesnakes, foxtail stickers, other sharp stickers, and ticks. Do full body checks.

When driving with your dog remember to safely secure them in a backseat dog harness seat belt or crate.

Do you have a black or dark dog coated dog? Think about a Saratoga Horseworks Cool Coat for dogs for walking and dog events. They are white, reflect heat and can get wet to keep dogs cool. Find at

www.cleanrun.com

Remember keep summer fun by thinking ahead and keeping your dog safe and cool!

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Coming Soon: Offering Seminars & Classes at Trends-n-Treats

In the spirit of promoting Small Businesses, The Right Steps will be offering fun short Seminars at Trends-n-Treats in Fair Oaks.

Also, we will plan on taking some of our more Advanced Classes on location to Trends-n-Treats for a fun shopping and training experience!

Summer schedule coming soon—Stay tuned for more!

Trends-n-Treats is located in the Safeway Shopping Center in Fair Oaks on the corner of Madison & Hazel at 8929 Madison Ave Ste. 200 / 916-536-0000.

www.trendsn-treats.com

Thank you Millie & Trends-n-Treats for supporting The Right Steps! Cindy C. Smith



Puppy Socialization 101: Getting Started Early

Congratulations, you are thinking of getting a new puppy or may have already brought home your cute ball of fluff! Be proactive, now is the time to begin to think about and start early and safe socialization with your puppy!

It starts first with researching your Veterinarian. Choose one who not only knows their Veterinarian Medicine, but one who promotes using positive methods and has patience, takes time handling your new puppy and knows the benefits of early safe socialization!

Shy or fearful puppies may be scared at their Veterinarian visits and may growl or snap. This is an important place for them to refer you to a Positive Professional Trainer or Behaviorist (P.H.D.) who can help your puppy and you get on the road to safe and proper socialization.

Avoid using harsh methods with your puppy, such as treating aggression with aggression. This is likely to result in increased aggression as the puppy ages and leads to heartache for you and your puppy.

Socialization is all about fun, safe, positive experiences! Negative experiences are not socialization.

So you may ask, if my puppy does not have all of its vaccinations, how do you socialize my puppy?

First you need to do your homework and research what quality socialization is and how to weigh the pros/cons of doing it early versus waiting until your puppy has all of its vaccinations.

Keep in mind the peak socialization window is rapidly closing by 12-14 weeks of age. Continued socialization after this window, throughout adolescence and into adulthood is important, but the early window is the best oppor-

tunity to convince your puppy from the beginning the new world is full of things that equal fun and yummy treats and toys! Then you have a nice jump start to continue socializing your puppy. Socialization does not stop!

We have 3 fantastic articles (2 written by Veterinarians) on our website, under [Helpful Tips & Articles](#) about the benefits of early socialization. Please take the time to read them ([Messer Socialization](#), [Unwanted Dogs](#), and [Socialization](#)).

If you are unsure how to start socializing your puppy early please contact your Veterinarian and a Positive Puppy Trainer. [The Right Steps](#) has been specializing successfully in [Puppy Socialization and Training Classes](#) for well over 10 years! We have a great track record of helping those shy puppies, with the help of their families, become much more confident happy puppies.

So what do puppies need to have positive exposure to? Here are a few ideas to get you started.... People (adults and children of all different ages, shapes, sizes, and colors), puppy safe healthy dogs (dogs that are safe with and friendly with puppies), car rides (in secured crates or doggy seat belts in the middle back seat of your vehicle), different types of footing to walk on (stairs, cement, tile, carpet, grass, rocks, safe but unstable surfaces—like puppy safe ground level agility equip-

ment, a bunch of hula-hoops on the ground overlapping, and a tarp), other animals (cats—that are puppy safe/friendly), crates, exercise pens, your friends, family, and loved ones, new environments (taking your puppy secured in and supervised 100% in a shopping cart on a blanket, while shopping at your pet friendly local hardware store for example—call ahead and see if the places you go are pet friendly and if it is okay to bring your new puppy while shopping in your cart or bring a blanket and take the puppy out to an outside café or coffee house to hang out with you.

Keep in mind you are your new puppy's protector. It is solely up to you to keep your puppy's experience fun and safe! Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Don't feel obligated to have to let people fawn over your new puppy or to let unknown dogs say hi. For your puppy, safety and a positive experience always comes first. It is okay to say no.

Envision your puppy's happy body language at home (relaxed body posture, happy puppy grin, gentle tail wag, etc.), then when you are out and about you will know if you are going at your puppy's speed or pushing too fast.

Never force your fearful puppy onto what it is afraid of. Step back and take note.

Remember the importance of keeping it fun and safe for your puppy, to maximize socialization/positive exposure. Sometimes you have to go slow to go fast, especially for shy puppies!

Have a blast with your new puppy, enjoy every moment as time passes so quickly.



Loose Leash Walking—Back to the Basics



Do you hate going for a walk with your puppy or dog? Tired of being dragged down the street or look like your walking a wild animal on the end of your leash?

Don't despair, training can help! That said, training will take commitment, patience, and time.

Avoid harsh equipment like prong collars, choke chains, and shock collars as they can be dangerous and/or painful in the wrong hands.

Look to positive safe equipment to help you on your walks like [The Original Front Clip Sense-Ation or Sense-Ible Harnesses by Soft Touch Concepts](http://www.softouchconcepts.com). — www.softouchconcepts.com.

Think ahead before you start your loose leash exercise—set your dog and you up for success! Exercise them before training, work them before breakfast/dinner, take the best of the best treats/toys out with you on your walk! Remember you are competing with the exciting real world! Need help? Seek the help of [a Professional Positive Trainer](#).

Pick areas to work that are at your dog's level of training. Use distance from distractions to help get and keep their focus. Only increase difficulty as your dog is

ready—work at your dog's level.

Remember not to be afraid to reward good behavior like eye contact and loose leash walking, acknowledge and pay with WOW yummy treats and more fun walking! Teach them these behaviors are worthwhile as they pay well.

Whereas any pulling/tension on the leash gets all fun and walking to come to a stop every time! Only a loose leash will get you walking forward (wait for them to come back to you and check in or sit), the continue to walk. If they don't check in or sit to produce a loose leash, say "lets go" and change directions, until the leash is loose, then repeat and head back the direction you wanted to go originally.

Be consistent and take the time to train right. Have patience. You can do it!



Have you heard the news? Bob, John, and [Sbarkles](#) in Folsom recently moved to their new location! Stop by and check out their new location next to Trader Joes at: 850 E. Bidwell Street, Ste # 150, Folsom / 916-984-0102 / www.sbarkles.com Please let them know [Cindy C. Smith, CNWI](#) at [The Right Steps](#) sent you in to shop and/or bathe your dog!

Car Safety 101

Do you take your pets with you on vehicle rides around town or on long road trips and vacations with you?

If yes, anytime your pet is in your vehicle, they should be safely secured to protect them and you from auto accidents! Time to do your homework and go shopping....

Like small children, first think where

they should ride? Avoid placing in front of air bags, instead have them ride secured safely in the back seat middle.

Secure them with a Safety Rated Doggy Seat Belt Harness or a Crate securely fastened in your vehicle.

Avoid loose animals in the car—whether it be a fast stop or an accident, they can be severely injured or even

Noise Sensitive Pets?



The year is flying by and 4th of July is rapidly approaching!

Do you have a puppy/dog or kitten/cat who is noise sensitive? Loud noise send them shaking and running in terror? Or are they running around barking or meowing?

We want to think safety first! Make sure your pets have updated tags, licenses, and microchips. Do you have current photos of your pets with you?

Check your gates, fences, garages, and home doors to ensure they are secure and safe.

Think ahead and exercise them earlier in the day, so they are nice and happy/relaxed.

Talk to your Veterinarian and/or Positive Professional Trainer in advance to help you prepare. Talk about the benefits of natural aides like: Thundershirts, Pet Rescue Remedy, and D.A.P. or F.A.P. Diffusers. Also, training may take time, but can help.

Plan to potty and bring your pets in well before dark, before the noise starts. Close your windows, turn on you're A/C, and a radio or television to help block out the worst of noise.

Stay home with them. Get out the best of best treats/toys and plan to have



killed; as well as hurt you as they propel through the car at high velocity! Also, if not secured, animals may escape when doors are opened.

We all love our pets. Please be proactive and keep them and you safe!





The Right Steps

To A Well Behaved Dog

The Right Steps / Cindy C. Smith, CNWI

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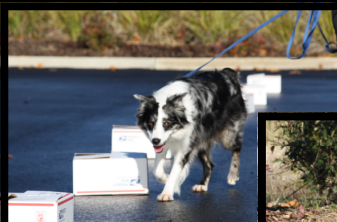
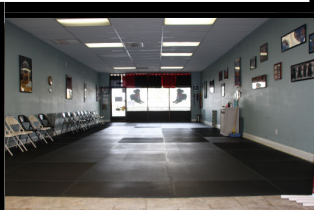
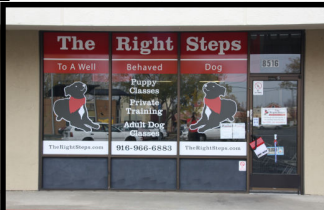
Services: Pet Dog Supplies & Fittings, Dog Training, Cat Clicker Training, & Photography.

Physical Location:

Madison Plaza
8516 Madison Ave.,
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1717
Fair Oaks, CA 95628



Summer Classes & Private Training:

Surviving Puppyhood Classes: Saturday Afternoons (12:00p.m. or 1:10p.m.) or Thursday Evenings (7:00p.m. or 8:10p.m.)

Dates: Sat. 06/02/12, Thurs. 06/28/12, Sat. 07/28/12, & Thurs. 08/16/12 — Only 6-7 puppies maximum per Class.

\$185.00 for 6 Weeks / Small Class Size / (Puppies 9 to 16 Weeks of Age) - Each Class is 45 Minutes of Training plus an encouraged, but optional, 15-20 minute complimentary off leash or on leash play time.

Surviving Adolescence & Adult Dog Back to the Basics Classes:

Saturday Afternoons (3:00p.m. or 4:10p.m.) or Wednesday Evenings (7:00p.m. or 8:10p.m.)

Dates: Sat. 06/02/12, Wed. 06/27/12, Sat. 06/27/12, & Wed. 08/15/12 — Only 6 puppies maximum per Class.

\$185.00 for 6 Weeks / Small Class Size / (Adolescent Puppies 4 Months and Older including Older Adolescents, Adult Dogs, & Seniors) - Each Class is 1 Hour of Training Time.

K9 Nose Work Classes: By Cindy C. Smith, CNWI (Certified Nose Work Instructor with the NACSW) - Offered: Sunday, Friday, & Saturdays (Times Vary) - Explore helping your dog turn on its nose to better hunting and searching abilities! The sport is built on the same foundation as training narcotics/explosive dogs, but on a fun and safe public sport level. Builds confidence, helps environmentally sensitive dogs, reactive dogs, dogs of any age & limited mobility, & provides great mental stimulation. **Fantastic Sport!**

\$185.00 for 6 Weeks (each class week is 1.5 Hours) - Great summer & winter fun for those too hot or wet days! Check our Website, call, or e-mail for current starting dates! **Openings Available!**

Private Training & Day Training: Offered Wednesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays by Appointment. **Positive Training Methods offered for puppies/dogs of all ages and kittens/cats!** For puppies/dogs they may be located in your home, off-site, or at our training facility; kittens/cats in-home only. Great for families and/or those with limited time! Training customized to your specific goals and needs. Train with us or choose that we train for you! **Training bought to you.**