



Redfern Ramblings

Winter 2007 Edition

Our Latest Litter: 11 Strong

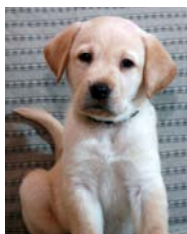
Scarlett gave birth to 11 healthy pups on Dec 13 — 6 boys, 5 girls.

Follow their growth on their web page at redferncanines.com/dec_2006_litter.html.

Scarlett has been a wonderful mom, and her younger sister Wendy (8 months old) has been a very supportive "auntie", giving them lots of attention and socialization.



Many of them left this week for their new homes, with a few more leaving next week. There are only a few yet available for adoption.



If you need to get your "puppy breath fix", give us a call before they're all gone!

Clicker 101

Our basic training philosophy is positive reinforcement, based on "operant conditioning" methods.

One of the "tools of the trade" is a clicker (OR you can use any *consistent* sound), to rapidly reinforce a behavior that we want a dog to continue.

A few basics are important in using this method of training:

- The sound must NEVER be used to INITIATE a behavior, or to "get the dog's attention".
- The sound must ALWAYS be followed promptly by a reward (usually a treat).
- The sound must be consistent (a device like a clicker always sounds the same). If you use a word or other vocal sound, it must be consistent in volume, pitch, tone and "attitude".

See our website for a list of suggested readings on a variety of training methods and techniques.

8-mo-old Puppy Available

Male, neutered, a sweetheart. A Redfern puppy returned because family was unable to continue to care for him. Contact us if you know of a potential home.

The Proposed PA Dog Law

— We need YOUR Help! —

A radically new dog law is being proposed which could drastically change the way dogs are bred in PA, and could put lots of small breeders out of business.

While the intent of the law is to clean up the "Puppy Mill" problem that causes so much unnecessary pain and suffering for puppies and those who obtain them, a number of provisions in the law would make it impossible for small home breeders and "hobby breeders" to operate at all.

Small breeders are primarily interested in producing quality puppies according to breed standards, and with special attention to health, temperament and physical structure. The parents are specifically selected for health and temperament, and considerable attention is paid to the entire process. For the most part the puppies are raised in a home environment, with lots of attention to socialization.

The new law would require the breeder to provide a separate area for each dog or puppy expected to be handled during a given year. If the total number of puppies cared for (including the parents) was 25 in a year, there would need to be 25 pens of specific sizes with concrete floors with drains (even if no more than 10-12 dogs/puppies were on the premises at one time).

Training Classes begin March 19

Classes run for 6 weekly sessions. Included this semester are

- Puppy Class (6 months or younger)
- Beginner Obedience
- Manners Class

Classes are held at the Susquehanna Twp Municipal Building. Register by calling the Susquehanna Twp Parks & Recreation Dept at 717-909-9228.

So much for raising puppies in a home environment! While those conditions would assure cleanliness as opposed to the cramped unsanitary conditions in many puppy mill farms, the space requirements alone would be cost-prohibitive to the small home/hobby breeder (who already goes out of their way to control sanitation & health).

The dogs would not be allowed to spend exercise time on grass!

Read more about the proposed law and its implications by going to the PA Federation of Dog Clubs page at

<http://home.paonline.com/pfdc>

There are links from that page to additional information.

Please help by writing your representatives/congressman, and sending a letter to the PA Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement to be received not later than March 16.

Quick Fix

Cut a toenail too short and it's bleeding? Here are a few ways to stop the flow:

- "Qwik-Stop®" is a commercial product of Styptic Powder which will immediately stop bleeding. Available at pet stores. Just a small "pinch" will do the job.
- FLOUR or CORNSTARCH will work almost as well if they are handy.

Training Tools Available

We've got some training tools available, usually at prices below retail.

- "Gentle Leader®" head halters
- "Easy-Walk®" no-pull harnesses
- Treat Pouches
- Premier Collars
- Leather Leashes
- Cotton Leads

See us at class, give us a call or an Email for more information.

GREAT RESOURCE: Looking for books and supplies for Dog Training? Go to www.dogwise.com. (These folks are always at the Harrisburg Kennel Club dog show in April)