



Redfern Ramblings

Pre-Thanksgiving Edition

Special Events

Mark your calendar NOW and plan to attend the following special events:

- **Holiday Party**
Dec 8 (Sat) 1 PM
- **Rally Show & Go**
Dec 15 (Sat) 12-5
- **Obedience Show & Go**
Dec 22 (Sat) 12-5
- **Games Night**
Dec 28 (Fri) 7-9 PM
- **Redfern Therapy Group**
Jan 2 (Weds) 6:30 PM
- **Mutt Movie Night**
A Feature-Length dog-oriented movie, with popcorn — bring your comfy chair!
Jan 20 (Sun) 6:30 PM

HOLIDAY PARTY

Pooch looking forward to some holiday fun, including games, refreshments, and a visit from Santa?

Bring your camera for a picture with Santa.

There is no admission charge, but we will be accepting donations for the Central PA Food Bank. See the Food Bank website for info on how this special organization helps to feed thousands of people throughout the year.



www.centralpafoodbank.org

Puppy Watch

Scarlett is the proud (and doting) mother of 7 yellow and black puppies, 2 girls and 5 boys, born on Halloween.



(Temporary "Bewitched" names include Samantha, Endora, Darrin, Stephen, Arthur, Larry and Tate.) You can track their growth on the redferncanines.com web site — we'll try to keep you posted weekly.

If you have a strong need for a "puppy fix" please stop by and become an official Puppy Hugger. Please call ahead to arrange a time for your visit.

Current Class Listing

Class Title	Beginning Date/Time	# of Classes
Agility -- Level 1	November 16 (Fri) 7:45 PM	6
CGC/TDI Preparation	November 17 (Sat) 10:45 AM	5
Rally Obedience -- Level 1	November 20 (Tues) 7:45 PM	6
Rally Obedience -- Level 2	November 25 (Sun) 1:00 PM	6
Beginners Class	November 25 (Sun) 2:15 PM	6
K9 Sampler	November 29 (Thurs) 7:45 PM	5
Attention Class	December 7 (Fri) 6:30 PM	3
Tricks Class	December 20 (Thurs) 6:30 PM	2

See our website for classes beginning in January (coming soon)

Tools of the Trade: Toys

There are dog toys and then there are dog toys! Dog toys are much more than things to occupy Fido's time. They can be a source of education, stimulation, a reward, group play, and more. With the holiday season upon us, we'll be tempted to spend heavily on goodies for our favorite 4-legged friends.

Good toys are durable, able to withstand repeated chewing and handling. Some of the good "rope toys" not only are good for retrieving and playing games of tug, but also help to "floss" the dog's teeth and keep them clean.



Some hard rubber toys like Kongs, Squirrel Dudes and Waggles are not only meant for chewing, but they also can be treat dispensers that can reward the dog for many hours while they try to

extract treats or peanut butter. Other chew toys such as Nylabones come in different strengths from soft for teething puppies to hard for the aggressive chewer.

Frisbees, tennis balls and other "throw toys" are great for exercise, and to teach the retrieve, as well as "give".

Some stimulating tools that teach the dog problem-solving skills include the Tug-A-Jug and Buster Cube. The dog will spend endless hours trying



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Is your pooch ready to be a DOG SCOUT?

We've recently learned of a new activity for the serious dog lover: **Dog Scouts of America**. It's a great organization of dogs and their humans, with the opportunity to enjoy fun and learning activities, earn Merit Badges, and participate in a variety of activities.



Activities include meetings, hikes, camps, community activities, charitable events, and lots of things you may already like to do with your dog.

The Dog Scout Motto is "Let us learn new things that we may become more helpful."

There are more than 60 merit badges including First Aid, Camping, Hiking, Therapy Dog, Swimming, Dock Diving, Agility, Obedience, PhoDOGraphy, & lots more.



If this sounds like something that would interest you, please let us know.

www.dogscouts.org

Visit the DSA website for info. We plan to hold an information and Troop Formation event Tuesday January 8, 7 pm.

CGC/TDI Evaluations

November 17

By Pre-Registration only,
call 717-805-1310
additional info at
www.redferncanines.com

Clicker 101 — Baby Steps

A friend once asked: "How do you eat an elephant?" *Answer? One bite at a time!*

That concept carries over to dog training. One reason some people find training to be difficult or frustrating is that they try to "eat the whole elephant" in one sitting. That's setting ourselves — and our dogs — up for failure.

If we want to teach our dog to "stay", our first attempt should not be to sit the dog, walk 20 feet away and expect the dog to sit motionless for 2 minutes!

Instead, we first define the goal ("To have my dog sit for 1 minute off-lead with me 10 feet away."). Then break the training down into baby steps over many days or weeks with each session geared to helping the dog to SUCCEED.

The first session might involve having the dog sit for 2 seconds while we are right next to them. We gradually increase the time or distance, and STOP while the dog is SUCCEEDING — not pushing them until they fail.

Rome was not built in a day, and neither is good dog training. The concept of SHORT training sessions with SMALL incremental steps, using POSITIVE reinforcement gets better results. And the student (Rover!) is much more enthusiastic about the whole experience.

TOYS

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to figure out how to get the toy to dispense treats or just plain dog food kibble.

The numerous stuffed toys offer a real challenge. Many dogs want to disembowel and dismember them, so consideration should be given to durability that matches your dog's size, strength and chew strength.

Well-chosen toys can provide hours of pleasure, exercise and mental stimulation.

Redfern is proud to have available several quality toys for the dog owner who wants something special. You've seen the durable and stimulating Tug-A-Jug during class, plus the Squirrel Dudes, Waggles, Chuckles and other throw and chew toys.

Quantities of some items are limited, so get your stocking stuffers early. Descriptions and prices can be found on our website at

www.redferncanines.com/toys.html

Scenes from the Halloween Party



Musical Hoops, The Limbo and Tic-Tac-Dog were some of the fun activities at our recent Halloween party. Hope YOU can make our Holiday party on Dec 8. (Santa will pose for pics with your pup!)



COMPETITION Obedience? *(What's up with THAT?)*

In addition to Basic Obedience Training, we offer classes in Obedience Competition. While designed to prepare dogs and handlers to compete in the show ring, this class can also be used by the family pet owner to take their dog to a higher level, even if you never intend to compete on a formal level.

The class focuses on handling and fine-tuning for the exercises in the Novice level of AKC obedience. The exercises include

- Heel on Leash
- Figure 8
- Stand for Exam
- Heel Off Leash
- Recall
- Log Sit (1 minute)
- Long Down (3 minutes)

Loose leash heeling, attention, hand signals, and exercises to improve the ability for the dog and handler to "move as one" will be given special emphasis. Classes will be offered in the future for more advanced levels.

Let it SNOW, Let it Snow, Let

... but will we have class?

We try not to cancel classes because of the weather, but if roads are not passable, or if an emergency has been declared, we will probably NOT have classes. (Classes will be pushed back a week so you will not miss any sessions.)

If class is cancelled, we will try to contact you. If you do not hear from us, call Betsy (717-805-1310) or John (717-979-2143) on their cell phones to be sure.

Above all, please drive safely on winter roads. In an accident, your unsecured pooch could become a missile, causing serious damage to him AND you!

Training Aids Available

Redfern has high-quality Training Aids and Toys available, at prices below retail. Included are

- ↔ Tethers (steel — "un-chewable")
- ↔ "Gentle Leader"® head halters & "Easy-Walk"® no-pull harnesses
- ↔ Treat Pouches & i-Click Clickers
- ↔ Ultimate Puppy Toolkits®
- ↔ Leather & Cotton Leads
- ↔ Premier Collars
- ↔ Busy Buddy®, Bouncy Bone™, Squirrel Dudes, Waggle™ & Tug-a-Jug™ toys

Pictures and prices are available at www.redferncanines.com. Items available at classes, or send an Email to redfern@ioweb.com