



# ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ FEBRUARY 2019

## Happy Tails Helpful Training Tips

By Sheri Logan

### I don't know what you are saying!!!



It happens to all of us. We call out to our beloved dog and he simply looks at us as if we are speaking another language. Well, in fact, he is exactly right! We do speak another language. We speak English and the dog speaks "Doggish".

Dogs communicate primarily through their ears, eyes, mouths, tails, and bodies. Unlike us humans who prefer words, this is how they communicate with other dogs. Dogs are constantly watching our body language and listening to the sounds (words) we make that "might" sound familiar to them. It is truly a miracle we can communicate at all with our dogs!

So how can you effectively communicate with your dog so he understands what you are saying?

- First off, recognize that he is a dog and unless he has been taught what a particular word means, it sounds like nothing but gibberish to him no matter how many times you may say it.

- Use LESS words when talking to your dog. He is constantly listening to your words; hoping to hear something that "might" sound familiar, so don't cloud it with too many words that he doesn't know the meaning of.
- When teaching your dog a new word, make sure to teach the "behavior" first. Then, after he gives you the desired behavior successfully (for example food luring him into a "sit") then you can add the word or command right before having him give you the behavior. Soon he will learn the association of the command with the behavior and give you the behavior on command.

Just because you say the command over and over again to your dog, doesn't mean he understands it more. You should only give a command "one time" and allow your dog to give the correct behavior. If you give the command more than once like, "Kirby, Sit, Sit, .....Sit!", he will start to learn that he doesn't need to give you the behavior until he has been asked multiple times.

- Lastly, be patient with yourself and your dog! Practice and reward your dog for giving the correct behavior. Dog's LOVE treats and if motivated they will do just about anything you ask!

FINAL NOTE: It takes a lot of work on your part as a dog parent to effectively communicate with your dog. By

giving clear signals, soon your dog will understand your expectations. As a result, you will be building a loving, communicative relationship with your dog.

Sheri Logan, ABCDT – Certified Dog Trainer  
Logan's Happy Tails  
[www.sherilogan.thedogtrainer.org](http://www.sherilogan.thedogtrainer.org)



## Dear Miss Penny Paws



Dear Miss Pennypaws,

My mom makes me the best treats in the world! But now she's worried they may not be good for me. She

takes plain yogurt and puts it in an ice cube tray, then sticks treats in each cube and puts it in the freezer.

Each night after dinner (if I'm a good dog) she gives me one. She calls them Frosty Toes 'cause they're smaller than Frosty Paws (and cheaper too!).

Do you think Frosty Toes are bad for me?

Signed,  
Frosty Toe Fetish

Dear Fetish,

It would actually be better for your mom to make you Frosty Toe banana slices with a little water instead of the yogurt, which can cause some indigestion problems for some dogs.

Your mom can also give you some cold veggies for a treat, or put some peanut butter in your Kong, but make sure it doesn't contain Xylitol sugar substitute!!

Happy and safe eating,  
Miss Pennypaws



## Health tips by Doc Hopper



Doc Hopper wanted to share the following article from the BARK magazine as he'd never seen this type of affliction around his pond!

### What is Happy Tail Syndrome in Dogs? By Elizabeth Chaney, September 2018 Bark Magazine

Happy tail syndrome may sound appealing, but this syndrome is no walk in the dog park. It's painful for dogs, messy for owners, and a challenge for veterinarians to treat.

Happy tail syndrome occurs when a dog repeatedly whacks his tail against hard objects (walls, doors, furniture) until the end of the tail becomes an open wound. Large dogs with thick, powerful tails and short hair are the most susceptible. It's common in Labs, Pit bulls, and hunting breeds. If you have a boxer, a pug, or any breed with a curved tail, then you can breathe a sigh of relief.

In addition to breed, happy tail syndrome also has "everything to do with personality," says Carrie Uehlein Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at The Veterinary Hospital of Davidson in Davidson, North Carolina. Dogs with happy tail syndrome, says Dr. Uehlein, are "bright, energetic, and super excited to see people. They will not stop wagging their tails no matter how much it may hurt them."

A dog's tail can have anywhere from five to twenty vertebrae, depending on its length. If you've ever been hit by the long, strong tail of a large breed dog, you know it packs a powerful punch. It feels very much like the lash of a whip. The tip of a dog's tail is often thin-skinned, and it has a good blood supply. It's not uncommon to discover the wound after

finding the walls of your living room newly decorated

What's a conscientious and caring pet owner to do? Explain to them nicely that they need to refrain from wagging for four to six weeks so that their tail can heal? Tape bubble wrap to all the walls and pad all the furniture in soft, fluffy blankets? Probably not. So, what *can* we do? Dr. Uehlein uses an integrative approach. She believes that "K-laser treatments work the best." She describes this therapy as "a class 4 warm light laser that increases oxygenated blood flow to the region you are treating to quicken the healing time." When asked about medications, she says, "We only use antibiotics if the tail becomes secondarily infected, and some dogs need anti-inflammatory medications,"

Wrapping the injured tail in a soft bandage also helps keep the tail protected, but dogs can be persistent and quite masterful at pulling the bandages off. If this happens repeatedly, an Elizabethan collar may be helpful. It certainly not fun for your dog, but because these tails take up to six weeks to heal, it may be a helpful option.

We dog owners understand that a dog's tail is an important part of his personality. It's also a crucial method of communication. Fortunately, for most families, a capable veterinarian along with plenty of patience and perseverance will bring this tale to a happy ending.





## Rattlesnake Aversion Training

Hello Everyone,

We are happy to announce that Sierra-Tuolumne Kennel Club (STKC) is again hosting the annual Rattlesnake Aversion Training for Natural Solutions this April. Training dates will be Friday April 19th and Saturday April 20th.

As many of you are aware, there were an abundance of snake bite issues in 2018. We are very happy to offer this wonderful aversion training to keep your dogs out of harm's way. If you hike, camp, hunt or just hang out in the garden with your dogs, then you are in snake country. We've already received several applications so get yours in soon. The desirable morning spots are always the first to go.

You'll be happy to know that there have been no price increases this year and we are returning to our original training site at 23298 Brewster Columbia, CA, located off of Parrott's Ferry Rd. This location has easy access and plenty of parking.

If you have any questions please email me or call/text me at (209)401-8269. I've attached a copy of this year's application form for your convenience.

Thank you,

Ree Anderson  
Sierra Tuolumne Kennel Club (STKC)  
[dorriya@gmail.com](mailto:dorriya@gmail.com)

If you are interested in this training (and I've taken my dogs 3 times and found it to be extremely professional and well worth the time) but can't make

this particular weekend, just check out the Natural Solutions website at

<http://socalrattlesnakeavoidancetraining.com/>

for additional locations and times. They offer this training in a variety of locations, each training typically sponsored by a local club.

For your convenience, the registration form for this particular weekend is on the last page of this issue.



## Kibbles and Bits

A HUGE thank you to Blue Oak Veterinary Hospital in Jackson for their generous policy of giving FOCAS a big discount on all veterinary costs. These discounts allow us to help just that many more animals with medical needs. Additionally, Blue Oak has offered FOCAS the same pricing on the RTF kitties as APal pays for the same services. THANK YOU Dr. Mary Allen!!

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An update from Kathleen Morse regarding the OHS program: *FOCAS got 193 kitties into OHS - all adopted (not counting the recent trip). Thank you as always for the support!*

So glad this program is working so well for the kitties!  
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The January meeting saw a change in the FOCAS board. After countless hours spent on our behalf – and we wouldn't be a 501©3 without her efforts!! – Michele Rugo has resigned from her position as Secretary but we look forward to continuing to see Michele at our board meetings whenever possible.

Viktorea Martinez is our new Secretary and she brings some amazing skills and wonderful new ideas and enthusiasm to the mix and we are extremely happy to have her join our group!

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Report from Ed and Delores Ransom:

January may be a record month – volunteers contributed 359 hours to evaluate, photograph, walk, bathe, and socialize dogs! And there were 13 dogs adopted from AS plus 17 of our dogs were transferred to rescues and been adopted from there. AWESOME news!!

And February started out with 3 adoptions on February 1<sup>st</sup>!



## Critter Corner



### Maddie and the Hidden Kitten



When Maddie came to the shelter almost one year ago, she was down and out. Lying in her litter box, not interacting, just looking as sad and forlorn as can be. She adapted slowly, but became a beautiful, big, creamy, sweet girl, hanging out in her three-story cage, and sitting in your lap to be brushed. A big girl, not a jumper, sweet and lovable. The vet estimates she's 14, and she has diabetes, so she's on a diet and moves kinda slow.

A couple of months ago she was relocated to her own private room at the shelter, with a little more space to stretch out and roam, which she did, taking her time. So now she has more space, and the volunteers can interact with her in the room, so we thought, let's dangle a toy on a string in front of her and see what she does. And what does she do? She pounces, she jumps, she grabs, she runs around, she rolls, and she fights with this unrecognizable toy animal at the end of a string. Swish it around the room, and she runs after it, she slides, she goes up on her hind legs, and she just shocks everyone with her quick and enthusiastic play. So after almost a

year, we find that this senior beauty with a quiet way about her has a very young kitten inside.

The following are some of the comments from the volunteers that know Maddie best:

Maddie has love to give and life to live she would like to share both with the right person. We know you are out there! Come meet Maddie.

I love Maddie!!! When she was up at the Arnold Adoption center we bonded! When she jumps up on my lap to be brushed, she makes a little chirp noise. She wants the full treatment so she will turn around so you can brush her other side. She may be a senior kitty but she has a young energy. She loves to play with the dangly toys on a string!! Maddie is an old soul and who ever adopts her I know will be charmed by her!

Maddie is a true lap cat. She loves people so much. She will jump into your lap and your heart! She purrs incessantly and rubs her head against you. I fell in love with her ♡

Everyone adored Maddie at the AC! \* She greeted everyone and was passed around to be held. She thrived there because of all the attention she was getting. The only holdback it seemed was her age.

Independent, sassy, lovable, princess of the realm.

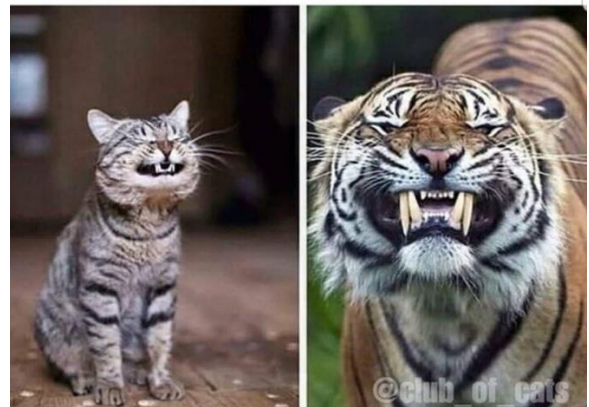
Maddie's dream...a warm and loving home for her golden years, good food (but not too much of it), a nice soft lap to sit on, and lots of brushing. Kitty heaven for this gentle, affectionate senior.

In the morning Maddie greets me by standing on her hind legs (like a meerkat) and tapping on the window while giving her Maddie meow. It's a delightful way to start a day.



**Come meet this sweet, sweet girl and let's FINALLY get her a forever home!**

When you meet your brother from another mother. 😊





# Rattlesnake Aversion Training by Natural Solutions

www.rattlesnakeaversion.com

**Hosted by Sierra-Tuolumne Kennel Club**



**Dates: Friday, April 19, 2019 & Saturday, April 20, 2019**

**Location: 23298 Brewster Dr., Columbia, CA**

*Please indicate your preferred day below. Let us know if morning or afternoon is best for you. We will get as close to your preferred choice as possible. Please note: Morning time-slots fill quickly, so get your application in as soon as possible.*

Training takes approximately 15 min per dog, and training will be held RAIN OR SHINE. All dogs should be at least 6 months of age so they are mature enough to make the correct association during training. To reserve a spot for your dog(s), please complete this form & send with payment to the address listed below.

**\*\*NOTE: Make check payable to Natural Solutions. Your check will be held and will not be cashed until after training has occurred.**

### OWNER INFORMATION

|                                           |               |            |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| <b>Your Name</b>                          |               |            |
| <b>Email</b><br><small>(required)</small> | <b>Phone#</b> |            |
| <b>Address</b>                            |               |            |
| <b>City</b>                               | <b>State</b>  | <b>Zip</b> |

### DOG INFORMATION

(please circle to indicate whether this will be each dog's first time going through Rattlesnake Aversion Training or a Re-Train)

|                                                                                                                       |              |            |                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------------------|
| <b>Dog 1 Name</b>                                                                                                     | <b>Breed</b> | <b>Age</b> | <b>New or Re-train</b> |
| <b>Dog 2 Name</b>                                                                                                     | <b>Breed</b> | <b>Age</b> | <b>New or Re-train</b> |
| <b>Dog 3 Name</b>                                                                                                     | <b>Breed</b> | <b>Age</b> | <b>New or Re-train</b> |
| <b>Dog 4 Name</b>                                                                                                     | <b>Breed</b> | <b>Age</b> | <b>New or Re-train</b> |
| <b>Please name any: Behavior problems (i.e. Aggression towards people or animals, etc.) that may affect training</b>  |              |            |                        |
| <b>Health problems (i.e. current meds, physical handicaps, recent surgery, etc.) that may be affected by training</b> |              |            |                        |

**Cost:**  1 dog \$80  2 dogs \$155  3 dogs \$230  4 or more dogs (same owner) \$75 per dog

Please circle your preferred date below. Appointments are scheduled every 15 minutes so please indicate if you prefer morning or afternoon. Please let us know in the comments section if you need special consideration for your appointment time. **Important: approximately two weeks prior to training, you will be emailed a reminder of your scheduled assigned training date and time. Your appointment could be on the quarter or half hour.**

**Friday, April 19th:** Morning Afternoon Comments:

**Saturday, April 20th:** Morning Afternoon Comments:

**Make Check payable to Natural Solutions. Mail form and check**

**STKC  
PO BOX 1256  
Soulsbyville, CA**

**\*\*please DO NOT make checks payable to  
STKC**

Questions? Call 209-532-9118 (landline)

**Training Information** (Please circle Y or N; if different for each dog, please indicate): Besides rattlesnake training, I have used an electronic training collar on my dog(s) before: Y N

If yes, for what purpose: BARKING RECALL OBEDIENCE HUNTING INVISIBLE FENCE  
OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

My dog(s) is accustomed to walking on a leash: Y N

My dog(s) has been through Rattlesnake Aversion Training: Y N

If yes, how long ago was last training? \_\_\_\_\_ By Whom: \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, how many times total? \_\_\_\_\_

My dog(s) has been inoculated with rattlesnake vaccine: Y N If yes, how long ago? \_\_\_\_\_

Besides rattlesnake training, my dog(s) has come in contact with a rattlesnake: Y N ?

If yes, how long ago? \_\_\_\_\_

Was he/she/they bitten and envenomated? Y N

If yes, what treatments were given if any? \_\_\_\_\_

### NATURAL SOLUTIONS SERVICES AGREEMENT

May I thank you for selecting me to provide animal management and training services for your pet. You have asked me to perform training with your pet named above for purposes of reducing the likelihood that your pet will purposely encounter and approach a venomous rattlesnake. This program is called Rattlesnake Aversion Training. I would like to define my scope of work, the costs, and some of the risks and limitations of this work before we proceed.

**Scope of Work:** It is anticipated that I will provide the services specified in this agreement with the pet(s) named above according to the following scope of work.

- 1) I will obtain a history of your pets age, health and behavior. Based upon the information provided to me in the Pet Health and History Questionnaire (above), I might ask need to ask you further follow up questions. Prior to commencement of this aversion training it is important that you advise me of any known health problems that might make this training ill advised. It is suggested that you have your pet examined by a licensed veterinarian before we begin this work to make sure that there are no health limitations that would make this training contraindicated.
- 2) I will provide the necessary training equipment for purposes of implementing the aversion training. This will include electric stimulus collars, leashes and live rattlesnakes.
- 3) Using this equipment, I will train your pet named above in one session by use of behavioral aversive training techniques to have an aversive behavioral response to a rattlesnake. Any additional or reinforcement sessions are certainly recommended, but are beyond the scope of this agreement.
- 4) During this training I will advise you of and allow you to observe the outcome, and then counsel you regarding recommended follow up reinforcement training that would be advisable in the future.

### Limitations and Risks

Before you agree to have me perform the scope of work outlined above, it is important that you understand the limitations and risks of this proposal, and that you give an informed consent.

- 1) All behavioral training techniques including the work defined in the above scope of work have limitations, including but not limited to the following major limitations.
  - a) There may still be a small risk that, after training, your pet will encounter and fail to avoid contact with a venomous reptile.
  - b) Behavioral training may lose effectiveness over time unless reinforced with further training sessions.
- 2) The specific technique I will use may have the following risks of harm to your pet.
  - a) The venomous reptiles I will use in this training will be muzzled. All precautions will be taken to ensure the safety of your pet, our trainers and the snakes. Although the risk is **VERY SMALL**, there is still a chance the snake can envenomate and can possibly inflict other injury to your pet.

### Conclusion and Agreement to Provide Services

If the above scope of work meets with your approval in light of the limitations and risks involved, I will be very pleased to commence my work. Please then sign this services agreement below, and upon receipt of the fee for the costs and expenses I will commence the training.

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Owner Print Name | Date |
| Owner Signature  |      |