



Summer Newsletter

Pet Sitter Updates

The addition of Wade to my pet sitting business is going quite well. As many of you have noticed he is around visiting your pets more often. Wade is a regular sitter with My Pet Friends.

You can expect Wade to handle the early morning visits. The two of us are splitting the mid-day dog walks and I am handling the night time visits. This is not set in stone but seems to be working well for the past six weeks or so. As always if you have a preference for either of us feel free to let me know and I will do my best to accommodate you.

Wade is an animal lover like myself.

He is also insured and better than bonded under my insurance policy. If you have any concerns or would just like to meet him, let me know. We will gladly arrange a meeting at no cost to you of course.

As mentioned in a previous mailing, I am now using a Blackberry to keep up with the pet sitting schedule that seems to change on a daily basis. While the Blackberry is a “work in progress” I would like to ask you for as much notice as possible if you need a visit. I know things come up and life is not always predictable but it sure does make sched-

uling easier if I have more than 24 hours notice for a visit. This is not a requirement just a request. I will continue to accept last minute requests.

On a final note, my next improvement will be to my web site. I plan to add a sitter news/update link. You will be able to view past newsletters. I will also post any planned vacations or changes to scheduling for Wade and me. This will keep you as up to date as possible on this pet sitter’s news and changes. I hope to have this up and running in the next month.

Contact Info:

My Pet Friends

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Itchy Skin?

Have you noticed your dog chewing his feet? Is his fur discolored around the face and feet? Does he have chronic ear infections or smelly ears? Your dog may have allergies.

I am certainly not a veterinarian but am on my third dog to exhibit such symptoms. While we have spent lots of time at the vet trying to diag-

nose these problems, all three times have boiled down to food allergies.

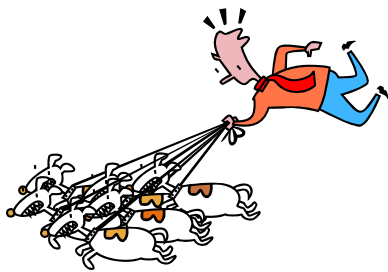
If you suspect your dog may have food allergies simply changing your dog’s food may relieve his symptoms. The best food I have found for allergies is Flint River Ranch Trout and Potato. This food is great for dogs with allergies, sensitive

stomachs or just better health. Within a week you will notice your dog’s coat is silkier and much of that doggie odor is gone. It is a “super premium” food so will cost a little more than premium food at the pet store but it is well worth it.

For more information and to purchase this food go to www.flintriver.com.

WHY DOES MY DOG DO THAT???

Training Tips to Achieve the Perfect Dog



A good friend of mine once made the statement “If you gave a dog 50 feet of rope, they would still be at the end of the rope pulling as hard as could”. She was right of course. Dogs love to get out and explore the world. That is part of their instinct, but domestication means that at times that instinct must be subdued. There are times and methods to put those instincts to work, but out on a walk is not one of them. An out of control dog is a danger to the handler as well as itself.

As a dog trainer two of the most important behaviors that I encourage clients to teach to their dogs are sit with focus and loose leash walking. Loose leash walking is having your dog walking obediently at your side, relaxed and totally under control. It is nothing more or nothing less. Achieving that harmony is sometimes the difficult part.

Before you start to train for loose leash walking you need to honestly assess whether the equipment that you are using on your dog gives you adequate control of your dog with minimum effort. I do not encourage the use of slip collars (choke chains) or prong collars as these may injure your dog or create other behavior problems. Properly used

head collars or harnesses with chest attachments work well to safely control the movement of your dog. Also a 6 ft. nylon leash will give you more control than a retractable one. This equipment will not work for every dog so you may have to consult a professional to help find the perfect solution for your particular dog.

To begin training loose leash walking you will need the time to work with your dog. Never try to teach anything new when you are in a hurry or pressed for time. Start by telling your dog “let’s go” and start walking. If your dog darts out in front of you and the leash becomes tight, STOP IMMEDIATELY. Most dogs love to walk and really want to go, so if you are not moving they will try to figure out how to get you moving again. When they settle down and the leash relaxes, praise them by saying “good dog, OK” then start again with “let’s go” and start moving. Repeat this exercise until your dog maintains a loose leash during the walk. Remember to limit each training session so as not to lose your dog’s concentration. Also by using food rewards to get and maintain your dog’s attention, he/she will start checking in with you to see where you are headed next and make sure that they are giv-

ing the behavior that you want. Food lures may also be used to help keep your dog in position at your side. After several training sessions using this technique most dogs will start to understand that pulling will not get them what they want (a good walk).

All dogs learn differently and may require different training techniques to achieve the desired goal. There are many dog training professionals out there who can work with you and your dog so that you both will have a good relationship. Almost all problems are fixable with a little training, hard work and consistency. A dog that pulls is both dangerous and disrespectful. Teaching loose leash walking will help keep you as the handler to be safe and therefore, your dog also.

Always remember, when you are out for a walk you as a good leader should be taking your dog for a walk, not the other way around.

Submitted by: Julie Diehl, ABCDT
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The Chiropractor and Your Dog

Not many people think of chiropractic for animals, and I usually get a perplexed look from people when I tell them not only do I adjust humans, but I adjust dogs and horses. There were many times before I became a chiropractor that I knew chiropractic was something that I needed for my dog or horses but could not find anyone that was trained that could work on them. After chiropractic school I was very excited to find an accredited program that was dedicated to teaching chiropractors and veterinarians how to properly treat animals through chiropractic. I took the course five years ago and have taken supplemental courses to improve my skills as an animal chiropractor. The best part of my job is seeing the animal improve and feel better and the owner is thrilled to have their "old" dog back. There are a lot of questions on the topic and I would like to answer some of the more common questions below and give you some information about how chiropractic may help your dog.

Chiropractic care is a holistic approach to improve the health and overall performance problems of the dog. It is important to remember that Chiropractic care does not replace veterinary medicine and surgery, but provides complimentary care for many musculoskeletal problems in the dog.

When would my dog need chiropractic care? There are many reasons why a dog may

need chiropractic care, usually there is a restricted movement in their gait or spinal pain. These problems occur as early as birth! Any restrictions that are found in the spine are what chiropractors call a subluxation. This is when the vertebra misaligns out of place causing tension on the nerve root or spinal cord. This leads to restrictions in other parts of the spine and may cause pain or impede the gait and performance of the animal. These changes can cause stress in other joints and muscles. When a dog has problems in its spine, it may manifest as irritability when being touched or as behavioral problems. Owners may also notice that the dog is favoring one side or there is restricted movement going in one direction versus the other direction.

How does a chiropractor adjust my dog? A chiropractor will perform an initial examination of the dog through evaluation with palpation and range of motion. The animal chiropractor will perform an adjustment on the area of the spine that is affected. This is done by hand, applying a gentle, very specific high velocity, low force thrust. Through this type of adjusting the motion of the spine is returned to normal.

How many treatments will my dog need? The number of visits that your dog may need to correct the problem is based on several different factors. The age of the dog and physical condition is very important

to how quickly the dog responds to chiropractic treatment. A healthy, young dog will require fewer adjustments than an older dog or one with health issues. Also, the length of time that the problem has been there and how severe, or if permanent damage has occurred may mean that full range of motion or flexibility may not be possible,

Do you work with veterinarians? I have worked with Old Trail Veterinarian Clinic and Green Glen (Horses) on numerous cases with successful results. As a chiropractor, I can offer expertise in evaluation of back and joint problems that can provide the veterinarian additional means of diagnosis and early treatment options for certain lameness issues. Especially conservative treatments of biomechanically related musculoskeletal disorders. It should be stressed that chiropractic, in no way should be thought of as a replacement for conventional veterinary medicine, but rather as a valid treatment procedure for many back and lameness problems. It is important that with any condition that your dog may experience that your veterinarian be contacted initially so that your dog can be assessed for any underlying medical condition that could be causing similar symptoms.

Why is it important to choose a certified animal chiropractor? Chiropractic for animals is becoming more mainstream for joint related



issues and continues to grow year after year. It is very important to find either a chiropractor or veterinarian who has been certified through courses that are approved by the AVCA (American Veterinarian

Chiropractic Association). These courses train and certify licensed chiropractors and veterinarians in the science of animal chiropractic based on chiropractic philosophy, biomechanics, spinal and extra spinal anatomy, and to provide hands-on experience, utilizing horses and dogs, to develop sound adjusting techniques. If you would like more information about animal chiropractic and if it can help your dog, please do not hesitate to contact me at 227-2227.

Dr. Karen Barclay

**Barclay Family
Chiropractic, LLC**

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Pet Parade!



Saturday, September 19th is the 5th annual New Freedom Fest Pet Parade. New Freedom Fest runs from 10-4 PM and the Pet Parade is at 2 PM. Dress up your pet and parade down the Hike and Bike Trail in New Freedom. Donations will be accepted for the Animal Rescue in New Freedom.

Last year my family attended and entered Ajax (the Doberman) as a fairy. This year we might enter Ajax again or Mr. Buns (the rabbit). Come and enter your pet or just watch all the other

dressed up pets. Don't forget to cheer for Ajax! Last year there were dogs, chickens, a pony, a rabbit and if I remember correctly even a turtle.

The New Freedom Fest is great fun for the whole family. Enjoy games, food and live music in addition to the Pet Parade. I hope to see you there! Visit www.newfreedomheritage.org for more information.

Dog Park Anyone?



Do you know there are 15 acres of fenced in area just for your dog to run around in free of charge? Maybe it is not just for your dog and you might have to share the area with other dogs. Maybe the 15 acres is split into three different fields. Regardless, it is a great place to take your dogs for some off leash fun!

The dog park at John Rudy Park in York offers a fenced in area for dogs 30 pounds and under. There is also a field for dogs over 30 pounds. A third field is usually closed, I'm guessing to let the grass rest. Two of the three fields offer shady

spots to sit and during the summer water fountains for the pups.

Every time I have been to the dog park I have witnessed the dogs being closely watched by their owners. I have seen two dogs have disagreements. As with people not all dogs will get along. Two perfectly friendly dogs could meet at the dog park and not like each other which could result in a fight. A safe way to break up a dog fight is to spray them in the face with a water and vinegar mixture. Try carrying a small bottle of this mixture with you to the park just in

case.

I hope to see you at the dog park but remember leave children under 8 years old at home. You can take them to the nearby playground with an adult. Please visit their web site for additional rules and regulations.

If you are interested in having a dog park closer to home contact the Dallastown Borough Administration Building at 717-244-6626. They are currently accepting donations to build a dog park. You can mail your donations to 175 East Broad Street, Dallastown, PA 17313.

Canine Meadows
 John Rudy County Park
 400 Mundis Race Rd.
 York, PA 17406
 717-840-7440
<http://www.yorkcountyparks.org/parkpages/caninemeadows.htm>