

For Fidos & Felines

And other household pets

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Pet Sitters Gone Green

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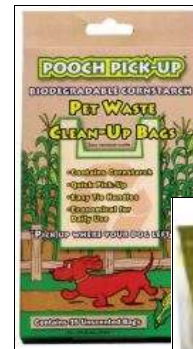
The challenge is on...change your ways or destroy the environment. Pet sitters can do a number of things to reduce waste and/or recycle.

1. Use biodegradable bags to pick up waste. Many people find that using grocery bags to pick up pet waste is a good way to dispose of two unwanted items. The grocery bags, if not biodegradable, can preserve a recyclable product (pet waste) for a long time. Using bags made from corn starch provides a simple way to dispose of waste in an environmentally friendly way. Another approach is to purchase a

septic system and recycle the waste at home.

2. Give pets nutritious foods and treats. Nutritional products have less filler and are more highly digestible. That means less waste to dispose of! Read your food and treat labels and beware of those containing fillers like wheat, flour, rice, etc. These are not as easily absorbed in the pet's system and tend to produce more waste.
3. Become more electronically inclined. By going practically paperless, it not only reduces expense for

the pet sitter's business, it reduces waste for the clients.



Saying Goodbye is Hard To Do

Our mission:

To provide exceptional, trustworthy services to clients and their pets, treating their pets as we would our own and providing clients with peace of mind when away.

We had a number of clients who said goodbye to their loyal pets in 2009. When that happens, we feel like we have lost a very dear and wonderful pet, too, and we make a donation to a local rescue group in that pet's name. In 2009, Fidos & Felines donated over \$700 in money and items in honor of our furry friends.

Organizations that have benefitted from our donations:

**Furry Kids Refuge
Wayside Waifs**

When you are looking for another furry kid, please remember these organizations and check there first. Furry Kids Refuge has adoption events every Saturday at the Lee's Summit PetCo. Wayside Waifs offers adoptions at their location in Grandview and through various adoption events throughout the city during the year. The pets they have available for adoption can also be found on the Internet at www.furrykidsrefuge.org, and www.waysidewaifs.org



Canine Conscious Training Tips

By Skip Daiger

- A Tired Dog Is A Good Dog** -- Give the dog the exercise he needs, and he will spend much of his day resting. This will help discourage things you don't want him to do such as chewing, barking, digging, escaping, or destroying things.
- Dogs Do What Works** -- Dogs will act in ways that they've learned are successful. They will do things that bring them *Good Things* and avoid things that bring them *Bad Things*. Behavior that is rewarded is most likely going to be repeated.
- Your Reactions Affect Your Dog's Actions** -- Your dog is great at sensing your emotions and reacting to them. For example, if you're nervous when you approach a strange dog, your dog will sense it and be more likely to react badly. Try to stay relaxed and happy - it will help your dog react the same way.
- Communicate Clearly To Your Dog** -- Remember that it is unfair to correct your dog until you have shown him what you want him to do. Your dog does not speak English. You must teach him what "SIT" means before expecting him to respond to the command.
- Prevent (Manage) Bad Habits** -- If you let your dog get a reward for an activity you don't want to encourage, he's likely to repeat it. For example, if he jumps on the counter and grabs a steak, he's likely to do it again. Try to manage the environment so that your dog is not rewarded for things you don't want him to do. Keep him inside when you're not around to prevent digging in the yard, stand on the middle of his leash to prevent him jumping on guests when they arrive, etc.
- ALWAYS Set Your Dog Up For Success** -- Choose times and locations for training when you are most likely to command his full attention. Avoid times when your dog may be too tired to focus, or too over-stimulated to think logically. Choose locations without too many distractions, and gradually add more stimulation. Also, teach cues, like "STAY" in small, incremental steps so that you are always rewarding for successful behavior.
- Keep Training Sessions Short & Fun** -- Keep early training sessions short and sweet. Maintain an upbeat tone. Your dog should feel as if he has your full attention during training, and since your attention is something he craves, he should look forward to the time you regularly work together. Finish each training session with some light play or a short walk as a reward, but nothing so stimulating as to overshadow what was just learned. We strongly recommend keeping your training sessions to about 10 - 15 minutes per session with at least an hour or two break in-between sessions.
- End All Training Sessions On A Positive Note** -- Always end your obedience sessions on a positive note, with praise for a job well done. Make sure that the last thing you ask for is something your dog will successfully accomplish. Then praise lavishly!!
- Be Consistent With Training And Rules** -- It is unfair to the dog to change your rules depending on what you're wearing, who's visiting or the kind of day you've had. If your dog is allowed on the furniture, he will be confused when you yell at him because Aunt Bess is visiting and she doesn't think dogs should sit in chairs! If he's allowed to jump up when you're wearing jeans and a sweatshirt, don't be surprised if he can't tell the difference between that and your best evening gown. Whatever your rules are, keep them consistent. The same goes for training. So don't say "OFF" when you mean off the sofa one time and then say "DOWN" when you mean off the sofa the next time. Dogs get confused too!!
- Allow A Dog To Be A Dog** -- Often, what owners consider problem behavior is simply normal dog behavior that they find unpleasant or annoying. For example, digging is a natural canine activity but distressing to a proud garden owner. Instead of scolding for what comes naturally, it might be kinder to set up an area in which you have buried small treats to make it more attractive than the rest of the yard, and praising your dog for digging in "his" garden.



Daiger Dog Training specializes in training family friendly dogs for basic obedience and to resolve behavioral issues such as chewing, barking, pulling on leash, housetraining, digging, jumping, nipping, running away, etc. We only use Positive Reward Training techniques as our core training methodology. Skip and Kay's involvement with the foster program at Wayside Waifs has provided extensive experience with fearful & shy dogs, as well as aggressive dogs.

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Class are available at Wayside Waifs and Green Summit Animal Clinic



One of the most valuable uses of target training is to teach your dog to ring a bell when he/she wants to go outside.

Targeting Exercise With Your Dog

Targeting is a way to get your dog to do something to get a treat. It is useful in helping your dog focus and even to overcome fear of an object or person. Here is how it works.

Start with your hand as the target and two treats. Hold one treat between two fingers on your left hand, but do not use this as the reward...this is just to attract the dog to touch that hand. Hold the reward treat in your right hand. Hold out your left palm to the dog and say "touch." As soon as the dog touches your palm with his/her nose, say "good" and give a treat with your right

hand. When you have repeated this exercise with the dog a few times, you will find that he/she will touch without you saying anything.

If there is someone in your house, or a friend the dog doesn't care for, you can use targeting to get the dog used to the scent of the other person and relate that scent to a reward. Select an object to use as the target, e.g., a hat, glove, shirt, etc., that has the scent of the person on it. Hold the object out and use the command "touch." Make sure you have a treat in the other hand. Again, as soon as the dog

touches the object with his/her nose, say "good" and give a reward.

As you continue this exercise, the dog will become more used to the scent of the other person and will relate it to a treat. When that person is in the house, make sure he/she has treats for the dog and uses the first exercise to have the dog touch his/her left hand and give a reward with the right hand.

While this sounds easy, it may take a while to target the object, but it will eventually help your pet overcome fear or apprehension of the person.

Ice Melt and Pets

By Warren B. Jones, DVM

Here in the beautiful mid-west we are graced with the changing of the seasons; this season brings with it snow and ice. With this snow and ice come slippery conditions forcing many of us to the hardware store to purchase ice melt pellets or solutions. You probably stare at the different jugs and bags wondering, is this stuff safe? It must be or they wouldn't sell it, right?

There are multiple ice melt products available for use. Potassium chloride (good to +25 degrees F), urea (good to +20 degrees F), rock salt (good to +10 degrees F), magnesium chloride (good to -22 degrees F) and calcium chloride (good to -25 degrees F). All of these products have detrimental effects on driveways, decks, wood floors and they can be potentially harmful to children and pets. Salt

(used by 60% of ice melt purchasers) is a corrosive compound and its residue can damage lawns, plants, and even contaminate well water and water supplies. Salt can also severely damage and permanently discolor brick pavers, stones, asphalt, concrete and wood decking. When tracked inside, it can damage rugs, carpets and wood floors.

How do these products affect pets? How bad can it be, they just walk on the stuff a little? According to the American Veterinary Medical Association and American Animal Hospital Association exposure to salt and salt-based ice melt is a common occurrence and can cause dogs severe dermatitis, inflammation of the paws and serious gastrointestinal problems including vomiting and internal burns of the mouth and digestive

tract. The problem is that dogs go outside to play or "do their business." Later when they are inside with warmer temperatures, the ice crystals on their paws melt and dogs lick their paws, ingesting the salt. The salt can heat up to 175 degrees and not only burn their skin but their mouth and digestive system.

There are alternative products available to help provide traction such as sand or cat litter, but they have no ice melting properties. There is a product Safe Paw (www.safepaw.com) made up of crystalline amide core infused with special glycols that is non-corrosive. The best policy in dealing with ice melt and your pets is to limit contact if possible and wipe their feet off when they come inside.

Dr. Jones is a 1999 graduate of the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine and resides in Lee's Summit with his wife Julie and four children. After practicing in the Lees Summit and Blue Springs area for the last ten years, he started Strothertowne Pet Hospital in December 2009.



Did you know...1,100 35-lb pails of Safe Paw has been shipped to British Columbia where they will be used at five Winter Olympic venues, including high in the Canadian Rockies at Whistler Mountain where many of the ski events will be held? It has been named the "official environmentally safe ice melter."



Safe Paw Testimonial

Safe paw is the only ice melt product we use. We carry it with us during the winter and use it on our own driveway, steps, and deck, as well as those of our clients. It works great; and we appreciate that it is gentle on our pets' feet. We don't have to worry about dermatitis, inflammation, or burns in the gastrointestinal system of our pets.

This has become a more widely available product. We have seen it for sale at PetCo; Bed, Bath, & Beyond; and other local retailers.

Welcome to Our New Pet Clients

- Sadie (Jack Russell), Chloe (Chihuahua), Lilly & Lucy (cats)
- Shadow (Husky)
- Dozer & Dazey (Mini Dachshunds)
- Mama & Sweetie (Cats)
- Opie (Mini Dachshund), Beau, Bailey & Lassie (Shelties), Wynn (Golden Retriever)
- Maizy (Cairn/Lhasa Mix)
- Cocoa (Border Collie/Sheltie mix), Rascal (Cairn), Mallory (Maine Coon Cat), & Rhino (fish)
- Silas (Boxer)
- Kit Cat & Baby (cats)
- Angel (Westie), Jack (Yellow Lab)
- Chester & Teddy (Poodles) & Emily (cat)
- Pupper (Cocker Spaniel)
- Millie (Sheltie)
- Sammy (Cocker Spaniel) & Maisie (Bichon Frise)
- Sam (Golden Retriever mix) & Sophie (Lab mix)
- Max (Australian Shepherd)
- Tomahawk (Chow/Shepherd Mix) & Sadie (Chesapeake Bay/Golden Mix)

- Lucky (Rat Terrier)
- Mattie & Lucy (Westies)
- Holly (Golden Retriever)
- Frank (Bernese Mountain Dog), Newman (Golden Retriever), Lucy (Lab mix)
- Rudy & Shannon (Mini Poodles) & Steve (cat)
- Gertie (German Shorthair) & Ricci (Vizsla)
- Kirby & Kenzie (Airedales)
- Teddy (Pomeranian), Bella & Raja (cats)
- Baxter (Mini Schnauzer)
- Bonsai & June (Cats)
- Jade (Chihuahua), Murphy (Lhasa Apso) & Monty (Cat)
- Phoenix & Killian (Labs)
- Frank (Siamese) & Elmer (Doberman)
- Rowdy, Diesel, & Sarbear (Blue Heelers)
- Penelope (Pug), Cosmo (Keeshond), Haley (Ragdoll) & Oreo (cat)
- Terry (Cairn), Athena (Sheltie), Midnight (Cat), Cuddles (Hamster), & Sarah (Gerbil)

- Mystic (Shepherd), Arizona (Shepherd mix), Mike, Meadow, & Elvis (cats)
- Kylie (Mini Australian Shepherd), Sugar (Greyhound/Lab mix) & Legolas (cat)
- Speedy, Itchy, Stubby (Jack Russell/Rat Terriers), Zoey (Lab)
- Wink, Lulu, Sassy (Pugs)
- Pepper (Shepherd mix), Trigger (Lab mix)
- Jackson (Black Lab)
- Pigeon & Jesus (Jack Russells)
- Jasmine, Any, Gracie (cats)
- Beau (English Mastiff), Diesel (Landseer/Sharpei mix)
- Fluffy (Bichon Frise)
- Reba, Molly, Haley, Jenny, Buddy, Yang & Yin (cats), Molly (Great Dane)
- Brandon (English Mastiff), Ciaya (Bull Mastiff), Angel (Lab/Chow mix)
- Loosie, Callie (Australian Shepherds), Truman & Kelsey (Shelties), Gracie, Annie, Zoey (cats)

- Cody (Chow mix), Clancy (Great Pyrenees)
- Maggie (Mini Schnauzer), Trixie (cat)

We love all of our pet clients and enjoy caring for them. Please give them a hug and kiss from Larry & Jayne!





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We're on the Web!
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**The best place for your pet is
in your own home.**

Introducing and Reintroducing Our New Independent Contractors

2009 was a very busy year for us and our business. We met many new clients and have enjoyed watching our pet-sitting business grow. Last year we introduced you to four Independent contractors we use to help us with the business. This year we have two more we are happy to introduce to you.

We do take our business seriously and have a commitment to you to ensure that your "stuff" is safe while you are away. Before contracting with any person, we conduct a complete criminal

background check. After all, it is our reputation and your "stuff" that is at risk here; and we don't treat either lightly.

Tammy Hanson decided to accept a package from her previous employer and is seeking full-time employment. Meanwhile, she is assisting us with overnight pet sits and has enjoyed your pets.

Becky Allhiser is employed full-time at St. Lukes and was looking to do something part-time. While she is studying to be a basketball referee,

she is taking on some of our overnight pet-sits. Her first job was with an English Mastiff and a Landseer/Sharpei mix. That's a lot of dog!

Continuing with us are:

Sue Rigsby is a retiree who loves pets. She continues to help us with jobs in the Lee's Summit area.

Holly Bunyard likes the energetic dogs and loving cats. She enjoys caring for your pets so much that I have to remind her to go home!

Mary Alice McGill is the most patient, kind and caring person with your pets. She even slept on the floor with a sick dog while her owners were away. She's a sweetheart and works wonders with shy pets.

Jenel Moline just laughs when I call her. She stays at one client's home with five male dogs. She jokingly says she is staying "with the boys."

Please know that before assigning any of these individuals to care for your pets, we will discuss it with you.

Referrals Make You Money

We love our clients and their furry kids. We liken our time with other's pets to being Grandparents; we get to spoil them and give them back to Mom & Dad. No matter what type of pets we are caring for...we love our jobs!

If you know someone who could benefit from our service, please let them know about us. We will gladly give you a **\$10 referral certificate** to use on any future pet-sit with your pets, and we will give your friend **50% off** their first day of pet-sitting (minimum of three day pet-sit required). It's a win-win for everyone.

Just A Word About Training

You may look at this newsletter and think there is a lot of information about training in here. We believe strongly in training dogs. They should be a well-behaved part of the family and they can be with some work. One of the most common reasons for dropping a dog at a shelter is behavior issues. These can be fixed or controlled with a little effort from the owner.

I have been attending an obedience class with one of my friends and clients. There are two other dogs that attend regularly— Frank, an overactive Bull-terrier mix, and Sophie, a very shy Sheltie. After missing one week, I went back on a Saturday and could not believe the change in those two dogs. Frank is listening to his owners and is becoming much better behaved. Sophie is becoming more confident, wants to play with Frank, and even is more comfortable when people approach her.

From my own experience, my dog, Farleigh, whom we adopted from Wayside Waifs a number of years ago, had a problem with housebreaking. My husband gave me the ultimatum...get her trained or she goes back. He enrolled me in a training class. While we did not really discuss housebreaking in the class, by establishing myself as her leader, she began to listen to us and respond. Very quickly she began to respect our home and consider it an extension of her space. End result...problem solved, Farleigh was housebroken.

There are times when re-homing a pet is the best option. But, with some time and effort on the owner's part, fewer pets will need to be re-homed and remain in their current homes as happy, well behaved members of the family.

