

Fidos & Felines

and other household pets

F I D O S & F E L I N E S , L L C

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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.

Tug-Of-War, is it good to play with your dog?

Tug-of-war seems like a reasonable game to play with your dog. After all, it comes so naturally to a dog that you don't even have to teach him...right? Some trainers believe that tug-of-war teaches or encourages aggressive behavior in a dog. If your dog is taught to play the game properly, this should not be an issue. This is a game of control; and the controller must be the person, not the dog. Here's how to properly teach the game:

Step 1: Teach the dog the "Wait" command. No matter how much he wants the toy, he must wait until you tell him it is all right to take the toy. Your dog must master this command to engage in the game.

Step 2: Use the command "Take It!" to encourage the dog to put his teeth on the toy. Then use "Pull" to let your dog know it is OK to tug on the toy.

Step 3: "Drop It!" is the command for the dog to let go of the toy. The dog must willingly release the toy on this

command. There are a couple of cautions if you want to play tug-of-war with your dog:

- Do not use anything that is for use by a human as the "toy" (e.g., socks, old T-shirts, shoes). Your pet is not able to distinguish old from new and may ruin perfectly good clothing by treating it as a toy. There are plenty of dog toys available that are appropriate for the game.
- Do not skip any of the command training. If your dog has not learned the "Wait" command, do not continue to play. Likewise, if the dog does not willingly surrender the toy at the end of play, do not play the game again.
- Do not play this game if you have leadership issues or if your dog is likely to become overly aroused. You may be inviting trouble.



Rules of play:

The human:

- Initiates the game
- Makes the rules
- Decides when to end the game
- Keeps the toy when the game is over

Understanding A Cat's Facial Expression

Cats are highly social animals and tell us a lot about what they are thinking just by their facial expressions. And if we learn to interpret these expressions, we will understand our cats better.

While a contented cat may close its eyes, a fearful one will flatten its ears back and hiss, its eyes wide open, its pupils clearly enlarged. However, when

a cat is facing up to a rival—a new cat in the household, for instance—it will assert its dominance with a face of passive indifference: ears upright, whiskers straight out, eyes looking directly and fearlessly ahead. It is almost as if by not acknowledging the new cat, it doesn't exist. A more ambivalent cat, torn between flight and attack, will twist its ears sideways and give an almost cross-eyed stare, with

its pupils moderately enlarged. And if your cat looks "stoned"—its mouth agape, its eyes half closed—that's because it has sniffed some unusual odor or the urine of another cat.

So, what is your cat's expression telling you?



Rabbits, are they the right pet for your household?



Rabbits can be great pets. They are loving and cuddly. As with any pet, they require time to train, care for, and clean up after. Unlike other caged pets, they are crepuscular, meaning they are most active during twilight hours, around both sunrise and sunset.

Easter was last month, and with Easter comes a boom in the purchase of cute bunnies as family pets. As with any pet, though, rabbits require special care and training.

Homes & Bedding

Pet rabbits can be kept in cages in homes with some freedom to run free in the house (of course, after you have rabbit-proofed your house). They can be litter trained; however, some accidents may still happen, so keeping them in cages when not supervised is probably the best practice.

Cages come in a variety of sizes, but the general rule is to have a cage at least 4 times the size of the rabbit. A 24" by 36" cage would be appropriate for a small rabbit, weighing less than 8

pounds. For larger rabbits, a 30" by 36" cage would be best. Some cages have ramps leading to a second level. Rabbits seem to like these.

For bedding, Grass or Sisal mats are a great solution and they provide traction for the rabbit on solid floored cages. Fleece blankets, pieces of carpet, or towels could also be used, provided they are not unraveling and the rabbits aren't eating them.

Food and Treats

Fiber is vital to the normal function of a rabbit's digestive system. Vegetables and fresh grass hay should be a regular part of the rabbit's diet. Pellets found at the pet store may result in obesity and increase the possibility of digestive problems. These may be

used as a supplement, not as a regular diet.

Anything besides hay, vegetables, and pellets should be considered a treat and used in moderation. Hay should be available at all times; vegetables should make up a large portion of the diet, with 2-4 cups of fresh vegetables given daily. Recommended vegetables are carrots, carrot tops, parsley, broccoli, collard greens, dandelion greens, turnip greens, endive, and romaine lettuce.

Training

Rabbits can be trained fairly easily to use a litter box. For some training ideas, please check with the House Rabbit Society at www.rabbit.org.

ASPCA Poison Emergency Center is available...

...24 hours/day, 365 days/year. If you think your pet has ingested poison, contact them at 888-426-4435. A \$60 consultation fee may be applied to your credit card. If you have questions, check the ASPCA Poison Guide:

www.asPCA.org/pet-care/ask-the-expert/ask-the-expert-poison-control/people-foods.html

Poisonous Situations

My dad says if we learn something new every day, we will eventually be smart. In our business, we are always learning from a variety of sources and we try to pass information on to our clients.

Last year we acquired a new client who told us about their puppy who ate some pennies that fell on the floor. They discovered this when the dog began with diarrhea, vomiting, and other symptoms. After taking her to the vet, they discovered the pennies in her stomach. Then the diagnosis was clear...zinc poisoning. Pennies

have a very high zinc content and will kill a pet if the pet is not treated.

This time of year there are many chemicals used to make lawns green, plants grow, and bugs die, most of which are dangerous to our pets. Keep these chemicals away from your pets and their "stuff," especially their food. If you think your pet has ingested anything that could be poisonous, get your pet to your veterinarian's office quickly and have him/her checked out. Swift treatment can mean the difference between life and death.



Cat Breeds May Determine Personality



Left: A beautiful Maine Coon Cat



Below: A sable Burmese

People often generalize about cats. They think all cats are aloof or independent. As with dogs, there are many cat breeds and many distinct temperaments. Here are some of the most popular breeds and their general personality characteristics.

Long-Haired Breeds

Persian: Loving, companionable, quiet
Balinese: Lively, loving, sociable

Maine Coon: Adaptable, active

Somali: Easy-going, loving

Siberian: Loving, playful

Short-Haired Breeds

British Shorthair: Quiet, aloof

American Shorthair: companionable, easy-going

Manx: Affectionate, smart

Siamese, Smart, active, doesn't like to be alone, "high maintenance"

Burmese: Smart, playful, loyal

Bombay: Likes to be petted, quiet, easy-going

Russian Blue: Companionable, gentle, affectionate

Abyssinian: Active, playful

Lee’s Summit Ordinances on Licensing, Leashing, and Noisy Pets

City ordinances are in place to protect both people and pets. Two ordinances (Licensing and Leashing) assist in monitoring and controlling the dog and cat population as well as protecting them from harm through restraints. Part of being a responsible pet owner is knowing and abiding by these rules.

Licensing

All dogs and cats must be licensed prior to May 1 of each calendar year. Pet owners must bring a certificate of rabies vaccination to City Hall or the Municipal Animal Shelter showing that their dog or cat has been immunized against rabies by a licensed veterinarian

within the previous twelve-month period. Licenses for both dogs and cats cost \$45 for an animal capable of breeding and \$10 for an animal that has been surgically altered. All licenses expire on December 31 in the year for which they were issued. Failure to renew an animal license prior to May 1 will result in a \$1 penalty being assessed.

Pets that are altered and permanently identified with a microchip are eligible for a Lifetime City Pet License for a fee of \$50. Lifetime Pet Licenses are not available for pets capable of breeding.

Once a license has been issued, it is the pet owner’s responsibility to make

sure the animal wears it, along with a rabies tag, on a collar or harness anytime the animal is outdoors.

Leashing

Pets that are outdoors must be effectively restrained by a chain, leash, or other device, or must be kept in a completely enclosed area from which they cannot escape, even when they are on their owner’s property.

Noisy Pets

Any dog that barks, howls, or whines in an excessive fashion so as to disturb the sleep of a neighbor is a nuisance. A formal complaint may be filed against the owner of the animal if the

complainant is willing to appear and testify in court. As with any noise complaint, this one is handled by a Police Officer when an Animal Control officer is not on duty.

Walking Benefits Both Human and Canine

Have you ever watched the shows with Cesar Milan or Victoria Stillwell on Animal Planet and heard the common question, “How much exercise does your dog get each day?” Or an alternative question might be, “How far do you walk your dog each day?” No matter how the question is phrased, the subject is walking your dog.

Dogs are animals who like to explore and discover the world. If they are simply confined to their own yard, this limits their world and their enjoyment of life. Walking also helps dogs become more socialized and accepting of new experiences.

As for humans, walking will help lower blood pressure, increase blood flow and oxygen in the body, and help you to feel better overall. If weight loss is a goal, then walking 12,000—15,000 steps each day will help toward that goal.

There are some precautions to take during the hot summer months to protect both human and canine. First, apply sunscreen to yourself and your short-haired or thin coated dog. This will prevent sunburn and discomfort. Don’t walk during the hottest part of the day. An early morning or evening walk will reduce the likelihood of

heat exhaustion. Before starting your walk, give the sidewalk a test with the palm of your hand. If it is too hot to touch, it can burn your pet’s pads. If you suspect your pet has burned its paws, go to the vet immediately. Always take water for you and your pet.

To help cool you and your pet at the end of a long walk, apply cool, wet washcloths to the food pads of your pet and the back of your neck. Finally, sit in the shade with a cold drink; relax and enjoy the companionship of your best friend.

“Remember that dogs are animals and animals need to travel and discover the world. A back yard is no substitute for a good walk.”

Cesar Milan

Welcome To Our Newest Pet Clients

We have added these pet clients during the 1st quarter of 2009.

Sugar (Pomeranian), Milton (Shih Tzu), Mojo (Pug)

Dozer & Dazey (Mini Dachshunds)

Mama & Sweetie (DSH Cats)

Mazie (Cairn /Lhasa Mix)

Cocoa (Border Collie/Sheltie Mix), Rascal (Cairn Terrier), Mallory (Maine Coon Cat), Rhino (Fish)

Jack (Yellow Lab), Angel (Westie)

Sam (Retriever Mix), Sophie (Lab Mix)

Poco & Snickerdoodle (Pomeranians)

Holly (Golden Retriever)

Ellie & Eddington (Jack Russell Terriers), Benjamin (Jack Russell/Welsh Corgi Mix)

Rudy & Shannon (Miniature Poodles), Steve (DSH Cat)

Gertie (German Shorthair), Ricci (Vizsla)

Terry (Cairn Terrier), Athena (Sheltie),

Midnight (Cat), Sarah (Gerbil), Cuddles (Hamster)

Jackson (Lab Mix)

Speedy (Jack Russell Terrier), Zoey (Lab), Itchy & Stubby (Terriers)

Reba, Molly, Jenny (DSH cats), Haley (long haired Cat)

Yin & Yang (Siamese Cats)

Molly (Great Dane), Buddy (DSH Cat)

Welcome to the Fidos & Felines family. We love you all!

Available for adoption:

2 short haired Dachshunds, 12 weeks old. Male is red with shaded saddle, Female is dapple. Parents are on the premises; Father is AKC registered, Mother is UKC registered. Both parents have great dispositions. To make an appointment to view them or to find out more about them, please call Laura Hillman, 816-524-1353.



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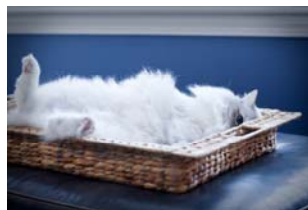
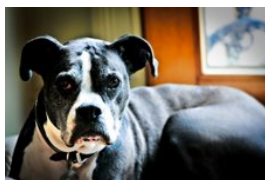
Did You Know...

Fidos & Felines donated almost \$700 in cash, products, and services to local shelters and rescue groups in 2008?

About half of these donations are memorials for clients' deceased pets?

Fidos & Felines services over 300 pets in Lee's Summit each year?

Have you ever noticed your pet with a contemplative expression, or in a position that is just too cute, but you never had a camera to capture the moment? Chad Jackson of Jackson Photography has a great eye for just the right image and captures it in photos. If you are interested in scheduling a pet portrait shoot, contact Chad Jackson at 816-985-2157 or send an e-mail to chad@cjpimages.com.



Billion Step Challenge

Lee's Summit Chamber members and friends embarked on the Billion Step Challenge on January 1st. We have surpassed 100,000,000 steps in June, but obviously have a long way to go to achieve our goal.

If you want to be part of this incredible challenge, just sign up at www.kcfit.net for the Lee's Summit challenge.

I have free pedometers available to our clients who want to participate. Please call me (816-529-2921), and I will get one to you.

Vacation Time Is Here!

Vacation time is upon us! Please let us know when you have scheduled your vacation so we can accommodate your pets' needs. We are happy to care for our existing clients and have a loyalty to you before taking on new clients. And the more notice you give us, the better job of scheduling we can do. Please call us (816-824-4735 or 816-529-2921) to schedule your pet's staycation.

Please note...our vacation is planned for

July 13—19. If you need someone to care for your pets during that week, with your approval we will schedule one of our independent contractors to take over.

Gift Certificate for The Coterie Theatre

I have a gift certificate for The Coterie Theatre available to the first person to contact me. It is good for two (2) individual admissions (value up to \$28) and must be used by August 30, 2009. If you are interested, please contact Jayne at 816-529-2921.

One show remains for this season,
 U:Bug:Me June 23—August 2

