

THE WOW WORD

October 2013



This Issue:

FIVE AMAZING FACTS- Dogs!

DOGGONE GOOD NOVELS

LEASH TRAINING

THANKSGIVING- Avoid Table Scraps

MUTT OF THE MINUTE- Meet Ramona and the Martins!

WOW Schedule- Fall

FIVE AMAZING FACTS- Dogs!

1. Dogs drink water by forming the *back* of their tongue into a mini cup.
2. Dogs are capable of understanding up to 250 words and gestures, can count up to five and can perform simple mathematical calculations. The average dog is as intelligent as a two-year-old child.
3. Dogs don't enjoy being hugged as much as humans and other primates.
4. The Beatles song "A Day in the Life" has an extra high-pitched whistle, audible only to dogs. It was recorded by Paul McCartney for the enjoyment of his Shetland sheepdog.
5. "Baks" the blind Boxer has a seeing eye goose named Buttons. The four-year-old goose leads her pup around everywhere either by hanging onto him with her neck, or by honking to tell him which way to go. (See photo)



Doggone Good Novels!

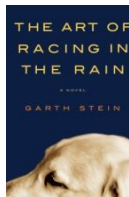
Novels that tell a tale from a dog's perspective are becoming increasingly popular. Here are a few of my favorites for you and your pet to curl up with. You might even learn a thing or two!



THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN

Garth Stein

The novel follows the story of Denny Swift, a race car driver and customer representative in a high-end Seattle auto dealership, and his dog Enzo, who believes in the Mongolian legend that a dog *who is prepared* will be reincarnated in his next life as a human.



ONE GOOD DOG

Susan Wilson

Adam March is a Boston man recovering from the shame of a foolish crime. Chance is a scrappy Pit Bull mix trying to escape the illegal dogfight circuit. Together they find salvation.



A DOG'S PURPOSE & A DOG'S JOURNEY

W. Bruce Cameron

Surprised to find himself reborn as a rambunctious puppy after a tragically short life as a stray mutt, Bailey's search for his new life's meaning leads him into the loving arms of 8-year-old Ethan. During their countless adventures, Bailey joyously discovers how to be a good dog. "A Dog's Journey" is the sequel to "A Dog's Purpose."



Leash Training

I have been asked countless times by clients and other dog owners what the best approach to leash training is. They may have a dog that pulls, or constantly switches sides. Basically, a dog that is walking them. There are a few different methods to leash training. I find that simplicity usually works the best. Here is a very basic "tried and true" method...



***Get rid of any and all distractions!** Put that cell phone away, make sure you are in an area free of other dogs and people, and unplug your iPod. If you aren't giving the dog 100% of your attention, he is likely to try and take charge of the walk.

***The walk should begin the moment you leave your home.**

In the beginning, it's important to follow these "rules" 100% of the time. If you are going to another area for the training, it shouldn't be very far from your home. Once you begin, it's crucial that you treat every walk with the same diligence. It's likely you will be stopping a LOT, so make sure your dog is still getting the exercise he needs in other ways.

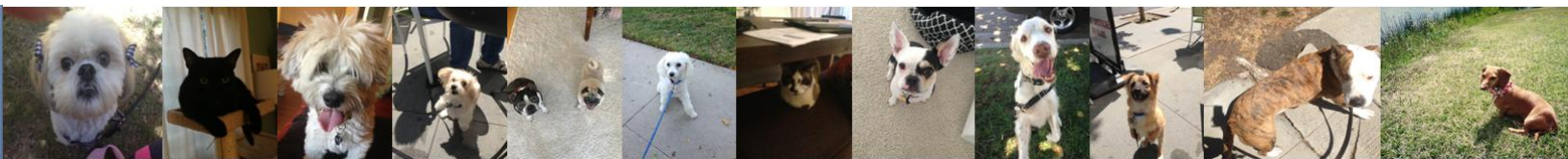
***Start by committing to a side.**

The left seems to be the societal norm for dog walking, but as long as you choose, and stick to a side, this will already help tremendously in terms of routine and direction. Any time your dog sways over to the opposite side, stop, bring your dog to the chosen side, and verbally praise your dog for being on that side.

***Whenever your dog pulls, stop and face the opposite direction.** No matter how hard your dog pulls, don't let him go in the direction he wants to go. If the dog pulls, and you follow it, the dog is learning that pulling can be a very effective way to get somewhere.

***Wait until the dog does anything that loosens the leash.** The dog might stop pulling by leaning back, sitting, or changing direction. As soon as the leash becomes slack, start walking again.

***Patience, patience, patience.** I probably don't have to mention, this will NOT work overnight! Depending on how long your dog has been pulling, it can take weeks or even months to correct the behavior. If your dog is food-driven on walks, use treats as a reward for keeping the leash slack every half block or so. Be sure to verbally praise your dog often. Many dogs are natural people-pleasers and will determine their own success through your body language and verbal cues.



THE WOW WORD



October 2013

Avoid Table Scraps during Thanksgiving!

It's quickly approaching, and it will be one filled with food, family, friends, and of course, expert dog begging. Many of the foods we eat safely throughout the year can cause digestive upset, obstruction, or toxicity to our pets. At Thanksgiving, several of them are all in one place at the same time. From the 'culinary centerpiece' to many of the common side dishes, danger lurks on the Thanksgiving table. Tell any and all guests NOT to feed your pets under the table, and keep an extra special watch. You can also temporarily keep your pet in a room away from all of the temptations. Below is a recipe for dogs that you can create out of your own Thanksgiving dinner. Make sure all of these ingredients are set aside and UNSEASONED, and know your dog's allergies before making any sort of pet meal!

THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR DOGS

Preparation Time: 30 minutes

Makes: 9 1-cup servings

Ingredients

3 lb/1.3 kg **skinless** turkey pieces (light meat)

1 cup oatmeal (cooked)

1 lb sweet potatoes, cubed

2 tbsp sugarless dried cranberries, soaked in water (overnight)

Directions

Use turkey leftovers or roast the turkey:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F/180°C. Lightly oil a roasting pan.
2. For boneless breast, cook 30–45 minutes; boned breast, 45–60 minutes; whole turkey, 1 1/2–2 hours or until the meat juices run clear when pierced with a skewer. Let cool.
3. Remove all the bones and dice the meat into large pieces.
4. If using fresh sweet potatoes, roast with the turkey for about 25–30 minutes or until tender. Let cool, then peel and dice.
5. Meanwhile, cook the oatmeal according to package instructions.
6. Mix together the turkey meat, oatmeal, sweet potatoes, and cranberries.



“ MUTT OF THE MINUTE “

Meet Ramona and the Martins!



Ramona is a 10 month old French Bulldog mix. She lives with her owners, Jason and Julia Martin of Mid-Wilshire. Their hobbies include hiking and traveling, mixed with equal amounts of entertaining over great food and wine.

Julia and Jason took a few minutes to answer our questions and have earned a "Get out of Jail FREE Card" (good for one cancellation or last minute service with no fees). Thanks to Ramona and the Martins for being The WOW Word's "Mutt of the Minute!"

Please see the Calendar

WOW will not be available on Oct. 18th and 19th, and will only be available in the evening on Oct. 20th.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

WOW is available the entire month of November.

October 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 NOT AVAILABLE	19 NOT AVAILABLE
20 NOT AVAILABLE (EVENING ONLY)	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Notes	



Q. Ramona is a "mix," but you found her through a breeder. Why did you choose this particular dog breed?

A: One of our good friends got a Frenchie about 7 years ago that we fell in love with, but knowing that they had health issues and didn't love the heat, we started looking for Frenchie cross breeds that would better suit our lifestyles in LA. When we laid our eyes on Mo, we just knew she was the one for us. This particular breeder has created what she calls a Royal Frenchel, which is a cross of French Bulldog/Cavalier King Charles Spaniel/Boston Terrier and one other European breed she keeps secret.

Q. What advice can you give to anyone looking for a reputable breeder?

A: Do as much research as you can until you're satisfied that the breeder is raising the dogs in the best environment possible - and that the breeder truly loves dogs

Q. What's your favorite family activity with Ramona?

A: Ramona is great in almost any situation you put her in, so part of what we love to do is explore new things with her: new parks, new beaches, new hikes. Our most regular activities are early morning trips to Pan Pacific park where we all work out together.

Q. What (if anything) has WOW taught you about having a pet?

A: It's critical that you find a walker that is committed to the job - not just someone who does it in between auditions. Knowing Megan is coming to walk Mo takes a huge load off of our minds. It's also taught us to be more diligent in our own walks with Ramona - Megan works hard to ensure that Mo is great on leash, and we want to continue to reinforce those good habits.

