



PAW PRINTS

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LEKC meets the 4th Wednesday of
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WHAT'S HAPPENIN' AT LEKC

September 25th Speaker from Jesse Fund for Therapy Dogs
October 23rd Speaker from Wolfgang's Bakery
November 2nd & 3rd Eustis, Obedience & Rally Trials
November 20th, Club meeting
December: 11th, Christmas Party
January 15th, Meeting
January 23rd & 24th, Conformation Show, Ocala

September:

From the Latin word septem, “seven,” because this had been the seventh month of the early Roman calendar.

Name a bird whose name contains the name of another bird. Answer Page 5



Photo by:

Tonja Brandt

BRAGS:



Jonathan earned his CPE Scent Work Level One Title in the very first CPE Scent Work Trial Florida. Despite the VERY HOT day, he earned 5Qs to achieve this-2 in Containers, and one each in Interior, Exterior, and Vehicles!



Rowdy earned his CPE Scent Work Level One Title with placements, 2nd in Exterior and 4th place in Containers.

You Can Quote Me:

Logic will take you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere! (Albert Einstein)

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

Dog wouldn't leave side of canine pal killed by car: Ashleigh Wilde Crestview (Fl) news Bulletin

Dogs are often considered to be man's best friend, but last week it was all about the friendship between animals.

On July 11, the Panhandle Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) received a call regarding a dead pit bull in a ditch. The animal was not alone. A light colored, brindle cane corso and pit bull mix was sitting by the dog who had been killed.

According to PAWS senior animal control officer Andi Warren, an officer responded but was unable to locate the animals on the long road. Warren said she received another call Monday, so she went to meet the call at the dogs' location.

"The dog by the ditch was very skinny and had the most beautiful eyes," Warren said. "He kept looking at me and then looking at the ditch like, "I don't want you near me or him."

Warren said the dog that was lying in the ditch had some road burns, which could indicate that the animal was struck by a vehicle. She couldn't do anything with the deceased animal until she earned the trust of his faithful companion.

"They had been out there for four days, so I knew he had to be hungry and thirsty." Warren said. "It took me about 15 minutes to get him on a leash."

Warren said that as she was taking the dog to the van, he kept looking back at the ditch where his friend was lying.

"For a little while when he first arrived at the shelter, he just howled and howled." Warren said. "It was so sad.

It didn't take very long for him to become friends with all of the animals at the Laurel Hill shelter.

"He turned out to be the sweetest dog," Warren said. "He loves the puppies and other dogs and he likes to lick the cats."

The dog had no name tag, so they decided to name him Mamoha, after the actor Jason Momoa. Warren said the two have very similar eyes. As of July 18, an owner hasn't shown up to claim Mamoha, but they have put his picture on their website.

Forget Me Not Are Dogs at risk for dementia as they age (Family Dog Sept.-Oct.2019)

It seems that increasing numbers of people are worried about whether it is possible that their dog might have Alzheimer's disease or some other form of dementia. The truth of the matter is that aging affects the brain in dogs the same way that it impacts the human brain. As they age, both species accumulate deposits of beta amyloids, a starch like protein that forms islands of plaque, which then clog the brain and inhibit neural transmission. The similarity between the condition in older dogs and older humans is so great that the dog is actually being used as an experimental model for the study of Alzheimer's disease.

When a dog shows signs of this problem, we refer to it as Canine Cognitive Dysfunction or CCD. Dementia in dogs was not a common problem 50 years ago, simply because dogs did not live as long as they do today. Because of advances in veterinary science there are now approximately 7,300,000 dogs who are 10 years or older in the United States, and it is estimated that around 62 percent of these older dogs will experience at least some symptoms of dementia. I became personally aware of CCD a number of years ago when my much loved Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Wizard, was in the middle of his twelfth year of life. It started with a change in his greeting behavior. He always met me at the door, but now his greeting behavior was much

slower and uncertain even though both of the other dogs were already milling around me. There were obvious signs that his mental abilities were slipping. At my dog-training club one of his favorite exercises was scent discrimination, where he had to go out to a pile of dumbbell shaped articles on the floor and retrieve the one that had my scent on it. He had always dashed to the pile and sniffed around with his tail batting from side to side until he found it and proudly returned it to me with it in his mouth.

Now he would move out to the pile of articles, but then stand there as if confused looking as though he had forgotten what he was supposed to do there. If I repeated the command for hi to “find it!” it would appear as though a light bulb had come back on in his mind and he would search and around and bring the article back to me.

These lapses in memory and mental processing were becoming more frequent. For instance, each day I’d let him out through the back door first thing in the morning so that he could eliminate. Normally he would dash down the steps with the other dogs and return to sit by the door when he was finished with his business. Now, however, he would walk out of the door, and simply sit on the porch and watch the other dogs in the yard. When they returned to be let back in, he would come along with them. A few minutes later he would slowly wander to the door and look back at me with that “I have to go to the toilet” look. It became clear that once outside he simply was forgetting why he was there. Ultimately I had to snap his lead on, lead him down the steps, and then give him the “Be quick!” command that I had first taught him as a puppy when I began housetraining him simply to remind him why he was out there.

As is typical in CCD, Wizard was becoming more anxious than usual. He had always been a very placid, easygoing dog. Now he seemed worried, especially at night when he would lie in bed panting heavily and reacting to any slight change in the environment. The memory loss in CCD often leads to distressing situations. I have been told of dogs that wandered out into their own fenced backyard, apparently become lost, and seemed unable to find their way back to the door of the house. I have also heard of dogs that got trapped in corners or behind furniture because they couldn’t remember that they could escape by backing up. Other symptoms are decreased activity level and apparent loss of attentiveness. In Wizard’s case, this would show up as periods of many minutes where he would stare into space or at a blank wall. Another noticeable symptom is changed sleeping patterns, which may be accompanied by increased anxiety, pacing behaviors, or remaining awake for large segments of the night.

Loss of other well-established habits is another symptom. The behavior change that is most apt to be noticed by the owner is housetraining, where a previously houseclean dog will forget his training and make a mess where and when he normally wouldn’t. Treatment of dementia in both dogs and humans is still a work in progress that’s being studied. According to laboratory results from the University of Toronto using aging Beagles as their test subjects, there are some promising drugs and dietary supplements which, when combined with some lifestyle changes, may slow or even reverse the process of the disease.

Stanley Coren, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of British Columbia and a writer for Psychology Today.

IS YOUR CANINE ATHLETE READY FOR A CUSHY RETIREMENT, OR MAYBE JUST ANOTHER SPORT? Bud Boccone Family Dog

In the wide world of dog sports, all owner-handlers wrestle with the same question: When is it time to retire a dog from competition?

There are two reasons to consider easing a dog out of your sport of choice. The first is that after training and competing for a fair amount of time, you and your dog have yet to achieve your goals – and, realistically, you probably never will. “The really difficult decision is regarding the dog who is healthy and young but struggling to reach the goals you have set,” says agility competitor Janelle Smedley, of the English Toy Spaniel Club of America. “This might be a time to ask for input from friends, trainers, and fellow exhibitors.”

It could be that you have the right dog but the wrong sport. For instance, the prey drive that compels your Papillon to chase butterflies when he should be focused on his obedience routine might find an ideal outlet in the AKC Coursing Ability Test, where prey drive is a big plus.

There is no shame in changing sports or recalibrating your goals in mid-career, Smedley reminds us. “Maybe your conformation dog is more suited for performance. Maybe your agility dog has reached his potential, and that advanced title is just not in the cards. Be proud of what the two of you have accomplished, and celebrate the bond you have developed trying to get there.”

The second reason why you might consider retiring your dog from competition is old age. If your dog seems to be physically struggling, the decision should be an easy one: His health and happiness should always come first. “When you reach the goals you have set for your dog,” Smedley says, “it must be clear what the value of continuing may be for both of you. If your dog is healthy and both of you are truly enjoying yourselves, then by all means continue. There is always another title to be achieved. Be aware, however, that they become harder to obtain as your dog ages.”

LOW IMPACT, HIGH REWARD

An option for senior-dog owners who cherish the together time of training and competing is to switch their old-timer to a less strenuous but still rewarding activity. The AKC offers several sports that enable a senior dog to feel he’s still in the game without subjecting his old joints to the kind of pounding that might result in pain or injury.

Here’s a diverse set of dog sports with two things in common: They allow seniors to move at their own pace, and they are low-impact activities requiring little of the running, bounding, and quartering expected in more vigorous sports.

Barn Hunt: Dog-and-handler teams work to locate and mark rats (in safe aerated tubes) hidden in a maze of straw or hay bales. Dogs earn legs toward titles by completing the course within maximum course time.

Rally: A dog and handler complete a course of 10 to 20 exercise stations. At each station, there is a sign with instructions about the skill to be performed. Each team begins with 100 points and deductions are made for errors. In the case of a tie, the fastest team wins.

Trick Dog: Yes, your dog can earn an AKC title for “Speak!” “High Five,” “Shake hands,” and other favorites he might have learned in puppyhood.

Scent Work: Based on the skills of working detection dogs, scent work requires a dog to pinpoint which one or more containers has a target odor. In the Interior class, dogs search indoor areas, like narcotics dogs do. Exterior classes mimic searches dogs might do outdoors, and the Buried class is based on human-remains detections work.

Tracking: A dog follows a trail in rural or urban environment and retrieves scent items along the way. The difficulty level increases as dogs work their way up the sport’s level.

Puzzle answer: Meadowlark

Do the Dew (claws)? M. Christine Zink DVM, PhD, DACVSMR

I am a vet that works exclusively with performance dogs, developing rehabilitation programs for injured dogs or dogs that have had surgery as a result of performance-related injuries. I have seen many dogs now, especially field trial/hunt test and agility dogs, that have had chronic carpal arthritis, frequently so severe that they have to be retired or at least carefully managed for the rest of their careers. Of the over 30 dogs I have seen with carpal arthritis, only one has had dewclaws. The others have all had them removed.

If you look at an anatomy book (Miller's Guide to the Anatomy of Dogs is an excellent one – see figure below) you will see that there are 5 tendons attached to the dewclaw. Of course, at the other end of a tendon is a muscle, and that means that if you cut off the dew claws, there are 5 muscle bundles that will become atrophied from disuse.

Those muscles indicate that the dewclaws have a function. That function is to prevent torque on the leg. Each time the foot lands on the ground, particularly when the dog is cantering or galloping, the dewclaw is in touch with the ground. If the dog then needs to turn, the dewclaw digs into the ground to support the lower leg and prevent torque. If the dog doesn't have a dewclaw, the leg twists. A lifetime of that and the result can be carpal arthritis. Remember: the dog is doing the activity regardless, and the pressures on the leg have to go somewhere.

They can be absorbed by the dewclaw, or they will move up and down the leg to the toes, carpus, elbow, and shoulders.

Perhaps you are thinking, "I never have had one of my dogs have carpal pain or arthritis." Well, we need to remember that dogs, by their very nature, do not tell us about mild to moderate pain. If a dog was to be asked by an emergency room nurse to give the level of his pain on a scale from 0 to 10, with 10 being the worst, their scale would be 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Most of our dogs, especially if they deal with pain that is of gradual onset, just deal with it and don't complain unless it is excruciating. But when I palpate the carpal joints of older dogs without dewclaws, I almost always elicit pain with relatively minimal manipulation.

As to the possibility of injuries to dew claws. Most veterinarians will say that such injuries actually are not very common at all. And if they do occur, then they are dealt with like any other injury. In my opinion, it is far better to deal with an injury than to cut the dew claws off of all dogs "just in case."

Anatomical diagram viewing the medial side of a dog's left front leg demonstrating the five tendons that attach to the dewclaw. (contributed by Katy Pearce)

A tick fell off a dog and someone put it in a bag, where it lived for 6 weeks. It laid eggs and the eggs hatched. This is why you need flea and tick preventative.
photo by Dr. Amy Pajcic at Animal Clinic Northview



*Contributed by Kathy Pearce