



The Dog Scout Scoop

Published for DSA's responsible dog-loving members and for the friends of dogs everywhere



Volume 19 Issue 5 Sept/Oct 2016

**Lace up your hiking boots
and grab your water bottles!
Seize your leash
and your best human friend!**

Thanks to the tremendous support of our Dog Scout members, friends and family, Sparky's Turkey Trot is now an annual event. In 2015 we raised over \$960 for Dog Scouts of America. Our goal for 2016 is to raise over \$1500.

This is a virtual race to fundraise for Dog Scouts of America, a national 501(c)3 non-profit - you can walk or run on your own time and you will receive a medal for supporting this great cause! All proceeds from this race will go to furthering the mission of Dog Scouts of America.

Run or walk a 5K, 10K or 1 Miler and be rewarded with the Dog Scouts of America 2016 Sparky's Turkey Trot race medal.

Register your K9 partner to walk or run with you. Registering your K9 partner(s) is free.

Registration will open October 15th and will close November 15th. To earn your medal, please run anytime during the week of Thanksgiving (November 20-27) and you will receive a medal "on your honor" for supporting Dog Scouts and getting some miles in. Medals will be mailed out after the race.

During the setup of this race, we had to choose a location for the race to be based. The home base is the location of Michigan Dog Scout Camp, the happiest place on earth. But this race can be run from anywhere!

A virtual run is a fundraiser to bring people from all over the world to run together on their own time, in their own towns during the week of Thanksgiving. You can run after work, on the weekend, at your park or on your treadmill. You can also walk!

Watch out for emails, Facebook advertisements and website notifications when registration opens up! You don't want to miss out on the 2016 race medals!

Happy Trails!
Kelly Ford

Deadline

for the next newsletter is
November 15th

Please e-mail your news,
articles, and pictures to
thescoop@dogscouts.org

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Come join us for the 2016 Fall Jamboree!

The annual Fall Jamboree October 21-23 and this year's theme is 'The Amazing Race'. The weekend has been planned by Troop 217 member Elizabeth Najduch and is sure to be a lot of fun.

We will trek around Dog Scout Camp competing in two person, two dog teams. Teams will complete a series of fun challenges for people and dogs alike. When a task is complete the team moves on to their next assigned task.

Want to come but don't have a partner? That's okay! We'll make sure everyone has a partner at the Jamboree. For even more fun there are group activities and crafts too, including a special activity on Friday night.

T-shirts will be available to order once the design is finalized and food prep will be determined as we get closer to the event.

If you'd like to be a part of this amazing event

please email Elizabeth to let her know (chaitea2@hotmail.com)

and

contact Lonnie to arrange lodging (dogscoutcamp@gmail.com).

Looking forward to another great Fall Jamboree
with Dog Scouts of America members and their dogs!



REMINDER

Scrapbooking/Crafting Weekend at the MI Dog Scout Camp

Saturday, October 15 -
Sunday, October 16, 2016

Bring your dogs!

Come join a weekend of scrapbooking, crafting,
whatever your heart desires!
Best of all, your best friend can join you!

DSA Member \$15 + regular lodging fees
Non-DSA Member \$25 + regular lodging fees
dogscouts.org/base/camp-info/mi-dog-scout-camp

All dogs must have their medical forms up-to-date

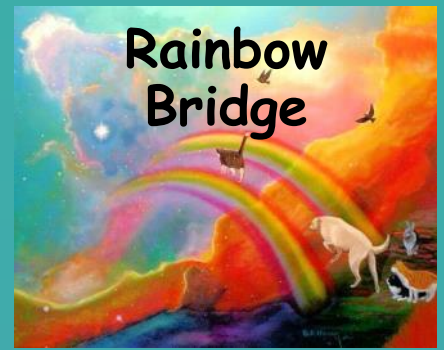
Once we have a list of campers,
we will determine meal plan.
Possible potluck/crockpot meals.

Auction for scrapbooking or other items
proceeds to benefit DSA.

Please let us know if you have any fancy things
like a Cricket, embosser, etc.,
that you are willing to share.

Friday accommodations are also available.

Contact either Amy at puppylvt@gmail.com
or Fay at starpup59@yahoo.com



Rainbow Bridge

**Brandy,
DSA, CGC,**
beloved companion of
**Charles and Barbara
Holmes**
has passed away
and joined those at
the Rainbow Bridge.



**Brandy at Presque Isle
September, 2015**

Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks to Charles and Barbara Holmes for the very generous donation they made to DSA in loving memory of their beloved Brandy, who passed away recently.

Thanks also for doubling that donation by arranging for a matching grant from Williams Companies (Charles' employer). Your generosity is appreciated.

Badge Bulletin & Title Tales

Kelly Ford—Troop Leader, CRN Secretary and Trails Titling Program Coordinator

Hello fellow Dog Scouts!

I would like to put together some articles of favorite hiking gear used by Dog Scouts. Please send me photos of your favorite gear, hiking boots (dog and human), day packs, dog packs, water bottles and more.

Email photos, what the gear is and why you like it to DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com

Happy Trails!

I would like to introduce Dorianne Alman whose Scouts have each earned four Trail Dog Titles in less than a year. I am always inspired by the stories of our members.



Taika (14 month old Rottie) and Jib (9 year old JRT cross) are my pals and with DSA, they're also my TrailDog companions. My sister and her two Akitas had been enjoying TrailDog and PackDog activities and urged me to look into DSA. I did—and liked what I learned about DSA's philosophy.

My canine companions enrich my life. I like experiencing and learning about different dog sports. I believe my dogs enjoy learning new things and spending time with me. And I certainly enjoy being in their company and doing things with them! I believe in training my dogs using positive methods.

TrailDog immediately appealed to me as the dogs and I already were hiking. In early December 2015, Jib, Taika and I started our TrailDog adventure—starting slowly since Taika was just 5 months old. Now, almost a year later, both Jib and Taika have their UT500.

I'm fortunate--there many places to hike where we live in south-western New Hampshire in which leashed dogs are welcome. Daniels Mountain Loop is one of our favorite hiking spots. It's close to the house and offers spectacular views—The photo (above) is of Taika and Jib posing by the cairn on Moon Ledge.

I have a few more items to gather for their packs and we'll start off on our next Dog Scout adventure—PackDog.

Dorianne Alman

I would like to congratulate everyone who has earned a Trails Title from August to September.

TrailDog Excellent (TDX)

Taika Alman
Jib Alman

Utility TrailDog (UT)

Taika Alman
Jib Alman

Utility TrailDog 500 (UT500)

Taika Alman
Jib Alman

Weight Reduction in Dogs

- General Information

Weight loss is tough for anyone: two- or four-legged! However, losing weight and getting in shape can add not only years to you or your pet's life; it can also make those extra years more enjoyable. Shedding a few pounds off of your cuddly canine may be easier than you think. It simply requires understanding the need for weight loss and fitness, attention to details and simple assistance from your veterinary healthcare team.

Why a Healthy Weight is Important for your Dog

As few as five pounds above your dog's ideal weight can put it at risk for developing some serious medical conditions. Unfortunately, when a dog is overweight or obese it no longer is a question of "if" your dog will develop a condition secondary to the excess weight but "how many and how soon!" Some of the common disorders associated with excess weight include:

- ⇒ Type 2 diabetes
- ⇒ Respiratory and Heart disease
- ⇒ Osteoarthritis
- ⇒ High blood pressure
- ⇒ Many forms of cancer – especially intra-abdominal cancers

Further, overweight and obese dogs are expected to live shorter lives than their fitter, normal weight counterparts. Heavy dogs tend to physically interact less with their families and are less energetic and playful. Because they tend to lay around more, it is easy to overlook illnesses since we attribute their lethargy to their "normal laziness." We are just now learning how serious and threatening a few extra pounds can be for both humans and our critter companions.

Start with Calories

For weight loss, the formulas seem simple enough: fewer calories in plus more calories out equals weight loss. Unfortunately, it's not as simple as that formula makes it appear. For starters, you should never put your dog on a diet without the assistance of your veterinary healthcare team. This is due to the fact that there may be a medical condition that is causing your dog's excess weight. Some common diseases associated with weight gain include hypothyroidism and hyperadrenocorticism or Cushing's disease. These diseases, along with others, should be eliminated as possible causes or contributors to your dog's weight issue prior to beginning a diet. Too many dogs start on a diet and fail to lose weight simply because the

diet wasn't the problem – a disease was.

Let's start by calculating the calories your dog needs. You'll first need to have your dog examined by your veterinarian and an ideal weight calculated. Based on your pet's degree of excess weight, you may choose a target weight higher than the ideal weight to start. My general guidelines for safe weight loss in dogs are 3-5% body weight loss per month. A basic formula for weight loss in dogs is:

- ⇒ Ideal weight in pounds divided by 2.2 give you weight in kilograms (kg)
- ⇒ Calculate the Resting Energy Requirements (RER) based on this ideal weight o $70 \times [(ideal\ weight\ in\ kg)]^{3/4}$ or $70 \times [(ideal\ weight\ in\ kg)]^{3/4}$ to the $3/4$ power] or o RER in kcal/day = $30(\text{body weight in kilograms}) + 70$
- ⇒ For weight loss in dogs, feeding the RER calories should be adequate. In cases that fail to respond to this amount of calories, the total will need to be reduced.

Ideal weight (lbs)	Calories to feed (kcal) at 100% RER per day
10	210
15	270
20	340
25	410
30	480
35	550
40	615
45	680
50	750
55	820
60	890
65	950
70	1020
75	1090
80	1160
85	1230
90	1300
100	1430

Note: This is a general guideline only and is not meant as a substitute from your veterinarian's specific recommendations.

For many dogs, the best way to feed will be by offering a diet food fed several times per day. It is vital that you count calories when entering into a weight reduction program. Feeding too much will result in no weight loss and feeding too little can potentially result in serious consequences such as hepatic lipidosis.

The Art of Changing Diet

When you are introducing a new diet to your dog, allow several days for the transition. In general, we recommend gradually adding the new diet over a one week period. Start by substituting one-quarter of the diet for one to two days, then increase to one-half total volume of food for another two days, then three-quarter new food for a final two to three days before completely switching to the new diet.

To enhance the palatability of the diet food, try warming the food, adding ketchup, oregano or garlic and even adding an omega-3 fatty acid supplement or salmon juice over the food.

Exercise the Right Way

Based on observations of people walking with their dogs, the average pace is 20 to 25 minutes per mile. That is a slow troll with frequent pauses (on average every one to two minutes!) to allow their dog to smell an interesting object or mark territory. We're here to shed pounds, people! Walking for weight loss is very different than walking for pleasure. Make your objective to walk briskly and focused on the "out" leg of your walk and then you can smell the roses on the "back" leg. We recommend starting the activity with the brisk or "hard" effort first. Too often if we try to start slowly with the dog, allowing them to sniff and smell everything, we may have a challenging time getting them up to speed when we're ready. People often ask veterinarians, "Shouldn't we do a warm up before you walk them?" The simply reply, "Have you ever seen a fox take a few warm-up laps before an all-out sprint to capture its prey?" Our dogs are built to go from 0-100 miles per hour with very little risk of injury. And besides, we're going nowhere near an all-out sprint when we're walking for fitness. If our dogs' forefathers could see them now, what would they think?

Draw your leash close – generally within two to four feet of your body – pull them close to your left or away from-the street side and set off at a pace you feel comfortable sustaining. This should be about a 12-15 minute per mile pace. It should feel like a brisk walk and you should break into a light sweat. The key is to keep it up! Don't stop. Don't look down at your dog when they inevitably want to stop and smell something or mark a hydrant. Continue staring straight ahead, tighten the leash (don't jerk) and give a command such as "No stop." "Come." or "Here." It is important that your dog understands that you have places to go and that this is different than your usual lolly-gagging affair. Head halters are a great method for training dogs to heel during a brisk walk and to retain their attention on the effort at hand. If they sit or refuse to walk, you may have to return home, crate them or put them in a quiet space without your attention and try again another time. We have yet to encounter a dog that didn't take readily to brisk walking.

Some additional simple tips for getting your dog to move more are:

- ⇒ Move the food bowl upstairs or downstairs and rotate it so that the dog always has to walk to get to its food bowl. Fat dogs are smart dogs and if the food bowl moves upstairs, they'll start relocating upstairs, too.
- ⇒ Move the food bowl as far away from your dog's favorite haunts as possible. Again, many fat dogs will sleep and lay near the food bowl so they don't

have to go far when the eatin' urge hits!

- ⇒ Use toys, balls, laser pointers, squeaky toys, anything that your dog finds interesting to chase. Try to engage your dog for at least ten to fifteen minutes twice a day. There are numerous toys that move and squeak that may also be interesting to your dog. Experiment and understand that what is exciting today may be boring tomorrow.

Rechecks and Weigh-Ins

After you've put your dog on a weight loss program, it's critical that you determine if it's working for your dog. Each dog is an individual and may require many changes in diet or routine before finding the correct approach. In general, your dog should be weighed every month until the ideal weight is achieved. If there is no significant weight loss in one month, typically about one pound, then a new approach should be pursued. There is nothing more frustrating than persisting in a behavior pattern that is not achieving the results we desire when a slight change could deliver significant improvements. Work closely and actively with your veterinary healthcare team to reach your goals faster and more safely.

Reluctant Patients

What about the dog that wakes you at four in the morning to be fed or the dog that stares at you during dinner or television time until you give in and feed them? Our dogs have trained us well and know exactly which buttons to press when it comes to getting their way. Here are some tips for handling the pleading pup:

- ⇒ Do not use a self-feeder. While this seems obvious, auto-feeders are nothing more than unlimited candy machines to a fat dog. If you must, use an automated feeder than dispenses a set amount of food several times per day.
- ⇒ Pet your dog or play with it when it begs for food. Many dogs substitute food for affection so flip the equation and you may find that playtime displaces chowtime.
- ⇒ Walk your dog or take it outside when it begs. The distraction and interaction may be just enough to make it forget its desire for food.
- ⇒ Feed small meals frequently – especially give a last feeding for those dogs that like to wake you up in the wee hours begging for more goodies – divide the total volume or calories into four to six smaller meals – whatever you do, don't feed extra food
- ⇒ When the bowl is empty and your dog is pleading, add a few kibbles to the bowl. By a few, try ten or

fifteen – not a handful.

- ⇒ Give vegetables such as baby carrots, broccoli, celery and asparagus. Dogs love crunchy treats so make it a healthy – and low-calorie – choice.
- ⇒ Offer fresh water instead of food. Many dogs love fresh water so when they are eyeing the empty food bowl, fill up the water bowl instead.

Multi-dog Households

What do you do if one dog is normal weight and the other is fat? While there are countless creative solutions to this problem, here are a few we've found successful"

- ⇒ Feed separately – this is the ideal solution for multi-dog households. Feed the heavier dog its diet in one room while feeding the other dog its food elsewhere. After a prescribed time, generally fifteen to thirty minutes, pick the food up until the next feeding.
- ⇒ Do not leave food out while you're away. In this scenario you can't be sure who ate what and the smart money is on the fat dog.

Most dogs will achieve their ideal weight within six to eight months. If the process is taking longer than this, something needs to be changed. A healthy weight loss would be close to one to five pounds per month based on your dog's size and current condition (weight loss of 3 to 5+% of body weight based on age and current physical condition). Some dogs may need to go slower while others may shed the pounds more quickly. Remember that the reason for your hard effort is to help your dog live a longer, healthier life. For most dogs, the secret to weight loss is a dedicated, committed and concerned family member. Our dogs don't understand that their excess weight is killing them. It's up to us as good stewards to protect them from harm and not inadvertently contribute to their premature death or development of debilitating diseases. Together [with your] veterinary healthcare team, you . . . can help your dog achieve its weight loss and fitness goals safely and successfully.

Walking your dog for weight loss

When you combine exercise with proper diet and lifestyle, you extend the years you'll have to hug and love and snuggle with your four-legged friend. Walk with your dog every day, and you'll enhance the bond you share—and know you're doing both yourself and your pet a world of good. Of course, make sure your veterinarian examines your dog before undertaking a weight loss exercise program with your portly friend.

Get the right equipment

- ⇒ Forget the leash and collar. Collars can compress the trachea (windpipe) when pulled, causing difficulty breathing or even injury. Especially dangerous are choke collars or constricting collars of any design. **A head halter or walking harness is your safest choice.** Look for wide, soft, padded straps and breathable materials. I prefer retractable leashes no longer than 12 feet—you'll be keeping your canine companion close to keep up a steady pace. Save the long leash for those casual strolls around the neighborhood when Daisy wants to catch up on her latest pee-mail.
- ⇒ For winter walks, **protective booties** may be required if you live in a cold climate.
- ⇒ If it's warm (above 80 to 85 F for most dogs) or if you'll be walking longer than 30 minutes, carry water. There are many styles of **portable water bottles** available for dogs on the move.

Set the right pace

- ⇒ Few dogs will naturally walk at a pace that generates the elevated heart rates needed for sustained aerobic activity. Walking for weight loss is very different than walking for pleasure. Make your objective to move briskly on the "out" leg of your walk, and then let your dog smell the roses on the "back" leg. If you start slowly, allowing your pet to sniff everything he sees, you may have a challenge getting him to speed up when you're ready.
- ⇒ Draw your dog close on his leash, generally within two to four feet on the side away from the street, and set off at a pace you feel comfortable sustaining. It should feel brisk and you should break a light sweat. The key is to keep it up! Don't look down when your pooch inevitably wants to stop and smell something or mark a hydrant. Continue looking straight ahead, tighten the leash (don't jerk), and give a command such as "No stop," "Come," or "Here." It's important for your dog to understand that you have places to go and that this is different from your usual lolly-gagging affair. Head halters are a great way to train dogs to heel during a brisk walk and pay attention.
- ⇒ If your pet sits or refuses to walk, you may have to return home, crate him or put him in a quiet space without your attention, and try again another time. I have yet to encounter a dog that didn't take readily to brisk walking.

Set time goals

For most overweight or obese dogs with normal heart and lung function, normal blood pressure, and no other preexisting medical conditions, I recommend starting with 30-minute walks five times a week. Here's a sample schedule:

Week 1	30 minutes	total 10 minutes brisk followed by 20 minutes casual pace
Week 2	30 minutes	total 15 minutes brisk followed by 15 minutes casual pace
Week 3	30 minutes	total 20 minutes brisk followed by 10 minutes casual pace
Week 4	35-40 minutes	total 30 minutes brisk followed by 5-10 minutes casual pace
Week 5+	35-60 minutes	total Two 20- to 30-minute walks per day: 15-25 minutes brisk followed by 5 minutes casual pace

If you can, walk 30 minutes a day seven days a week.

Check weight monthly

Have your dog weighed by your veterinarian monthly until he or she reaches the right weight. Also, have the clinic staff inspect the dog's pads for any injuries or problems and check that the nails are short and healthy. After your pooch hits the desired weight, reweigh every three months.

SOURCE: petobesityprevention.org

Both articles written by Dr. Ernest E. Ward Jr., owner of Seaside Animal Clinic in Calabash, N.C.

Scout Scoop & Troop Talk

Troop 119—TX

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader

In August, Troop 119 had our Doggie Summer Olympics! A tradition we have continued for many years and a troop favorite!

After the playing of the Olympic theme and the lighting of the torch, Mart announced, **“let the Games Begin!”**

We were relieved that we didn't have any last minute drug controversies and all the qualifying athletes were deemed 'clean' by the Olympic committee!



Doggie athletes & their coaches participated in

Track & Field

(relay hurdles with a loofah baton)



Gymnastics (balance beam & rings),



Equestrian

(not-so-high jumps on stick horses),



Troop 119—TX (cont.)

Soccer

(well...
soccer)



& **Cycling** (on Big Wheels!) events!



There was excitement in the air as the Games came down to one last head to head match between Team Spot & Team Rover to determine who went home with gold.

In the end, Team Spot came out on the top of the podium to claim the gold.

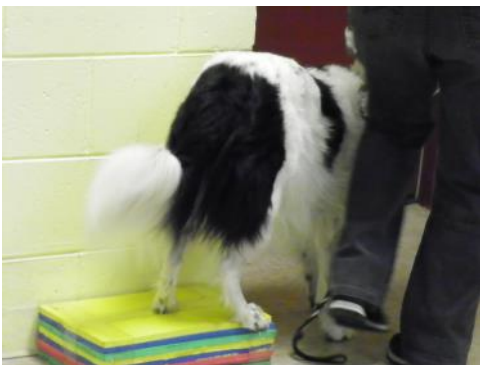
Silver medals were awarded to Team Rover, and Team Fido claimed the bronze.

After the closing ceremonies, athletes and coaches returned to their respective home bases for a well-earned rest before beginning training for the Winter Games of 2018!



Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader



In August we focused on learning how to get our dogs to perform exercises that could be added to their fitness routine to strengthen core muscles, increase flexibility and body awareness. During this video-lead activity our dogs did doggie push-ups, balance work, spins, and step movements using a platform. Dogs were lured into position or some used hand targets which was great in helping us isolate our cues and figure out how we could communicate more clearly to our dogs.

The introduction to the video encouraged us to think about what kind of activities we currently do with our dogs and how different exercises can be beneficial in balancing out muscle use, and how some fitness activities might need to be modified to prevent injury - playing fetch with an avid retriever who doesn't pay attention to his surroundings, or who may pounce on a toy at high speed and cause issues with his neck and shoulders.

An easy way to add intensity to your dog's retrieve or recall game in the back yard is to put out pool noodles as substitute cavalletti poles. To prevent a dog blindly running into unforgiving objects in the environment, make him sit until a thrown toy stops moving then release him to retrieve—it's also a great opportunity to work on indirect access/self-control.

Another interesting game is to have your dog sit facing one direction, throw a Frisbee in the opposite direction and then release the dog to search for it—your dog should check his speed as he starts to use his nose closer to the landing site. A 12-15 second game of tug-of-war or 5-10 small treats fed one at a time while praising and petting should encourage a running return.



Troop 183—FL (cont.)



Over the Labor Day weekend a number of our troop members: Fran w/Bling (Utility), Mary Ann w/LeRoy (Novice), Cyndi w/Casey (Open)—pictured left; Shirley w/Nim (Novice), and Merrilyn w/Link (Open)—pictured right participated in an obedience tournament for the clubs in Central Florida - while there's still pressure to perform when in the ring, this tournament encourages camaraderie and sportsmanship in a competitive venue.



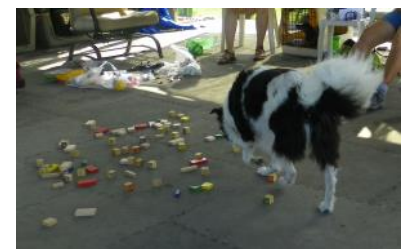
The following Sunday troop 183 headed outside for full day participating in a Targeting Scents workshop where we worked two hours on tracking using Steve White's Hydration Intensified Tracking Training method, two-hours on box games and two hours on scent discrimination.

It was great to see how successful the dogs were in these three areas using positive training methods. We took the time to look at the indication behaviors as our dogs did a short track on a smooth surface then we moved to grass for a 40-50 ft track.

It has been a while since our dogs have done box games, so during this portion of the activity we worked on not just finding the target box with the food in it, but also building up our dog's confidence to push other boxes out of the way in this new location.

During the scent discrimination part of the day we used assorted articles (regulation scent articles from obedience competition, travel cases designed to hold toothbrushes or soap, children's blocks, foam rolls from curlers, to name a few) and used a modified form of Janice DeMello's "Around the Clock" method.

Side Notes: Forgot to mention in the last newsletter that Shirley and Nim earned their AKC Companion Dog title in June. They earned the Art of Shaping merit badge in August. Tachi, Shirley's other dog earned the Intermediate Trick Dog Title in August. We expect Tachi to be ready for his Dog Scout test very soon.



Troop 188—CT

Sheri Throop—Troop Leader

Troop 188 has been busy this long, hot summer holding workshops, visiting camps and swimming. In the next newsletter we will have more details on our new Dog Scouts and badges we have earned.

Several members visited a local summer camp where we talked about being responsible pet owners and showed off some tricks.



It was a hot summer so our gatherings in July & August turned into swimming and water sports events!



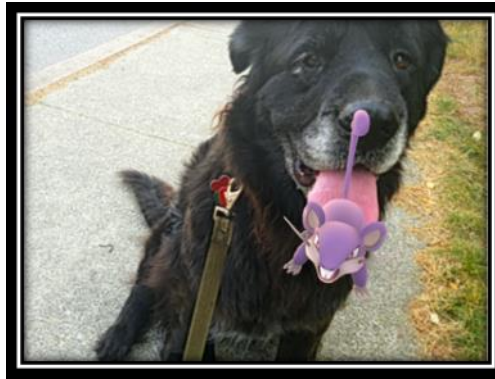
Members Allison with Belle and Michelle with Phantom visited a local school to assist with a Bite Prevention Program.



The kids learned to understand dog body language, practiced asking to pet a dog and the correct way to approach a dog.

Troop 188—CT (cont.)

Pokémon Go! has been a popular activity with our Scouts as well. Ella has been collecting lots of creatures!



The City of Groton, the Town of Groton, the City of New London, the Town of Ledyard and numerous civic organizations and businesses have come together to celebrate our 100th anniversary as the Submarine Capital of the World! 21 Mini-Subs were painted by local artists and placed around these communities.



Once the locations were made public, our Scouts went out in search of them!



Phantom and Kayla were hunting them down too.



Troop 188 would like to congratulate Phantom DSA on earning his AKC Therapy Dog Excellent award with his 200th visit.

Troop 198—CA (together with Troop 233 and Pre-Troops SF Peninsula and SF East Bay)

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

WE MADE THE NEWS!

On July 23rd the East Bay Pre Troop was joined by members from Troop 198 in a DSA Information booth at the Berkeley Humane Society Adoption Event called Bark & Meow Around the Clock. A couple of our well mannered Dog Scouts, Wyatt and Duncan caught the attention of the NBC reporters who came over and interviewed us two different times on live TV during the event, and we told everyone watching what Dog Scouts is all about and what a great opportunity we provide for all dogs and their parents!



On August 5th the San Francisco Bay Area troops came together for our second annual Dog Scout Camping Trip weekend up on beautiful Mt. Madonna in Watsonville. We brought everything we needed for a great time!

One of the highlights of the trip was the ranger led hike and was attended by Debee with Maxwell, Anne with Roxy, Leah with Wyatt & Duncan, Patty with Crystal, Wendy with Mollie, Buddy & Donna with Spike, Judy with Lily and Ranger Blake with Elle Belle.



After the hike, Mollie, Wyatt and Duncan rested while we gathered for a potluck.

After a quick rest, Mollie was back on guard duty watching for squirrels and wolves while the two legged members talked about Dog Scout business.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

We were joined by our honorary Scout Pigs, Buster and Jeff, who helped us practice the Leave It with Critter.



All of our Scouts made us proud in the public campsite, being very quiet and well mannered, especially Frodo and Crystal.

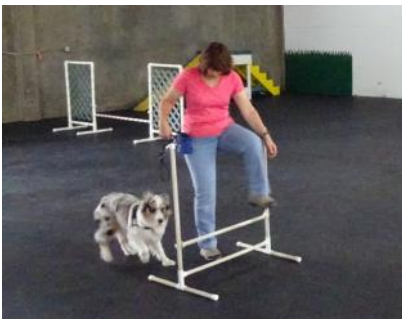


But someone howled at the moon later that night around the campfire as we ate S'mores.



On August 6th the East Bay Pre Troop met for Training at Metro Dog in Richmond, CA. After training, they played "musical cones" and the dogs sat when the music stopped. Little Maurice with Kristie in the foreground won with the admitted advantage of being close to the ground already.

And On August 20th the East Bay Pre Troop had an introduction to agility training at Karen Oliver's Bring Rover Over facility in Martinez, California. Copper and others did the A-frame on the first try.



And here Julia shows Harper how to jump.



And here Harper shows Julia the easy way. Harper later showed how to clear the one foot height jumps with elegant two foot leaps.

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

On Sept 3rd, the East Bay Pre Troop had Nancy Frensley from Berkeley Humane Society gave a talk on K9 Nose work to their group before their regular DSA training.



On September 4th, Troop 198 gathered at Santana Row for a Mall Walk About in San Jose, where we met new and interesting friends.

And practiced our social skills and training. Here Duncan, Waytt, Dayton, Maxwell, Ruby, Venus, Dino and Tacoma enjoy the sunshine while posing for a picture with Judy and Jackie.



On September 14th the East Bay Pre Troop put together a field trip to Bergin University of Canine Studies in Rohnert Park, CA. Bergin University of Canine Studies is the only accredited university in human/canine studies in the world.

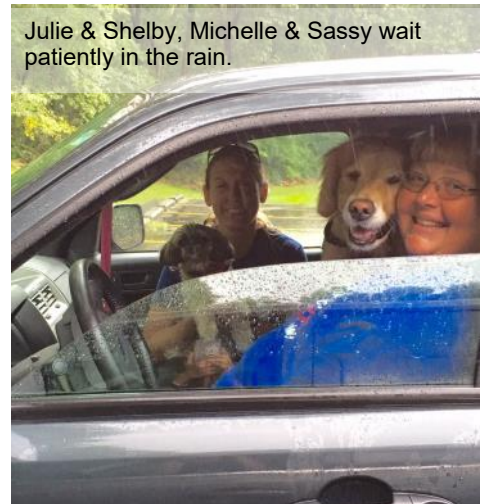
Dr. Bonnie Bergin, who originated the concept of “service dogs”, takes time between classes to discuss the amazing abilities of dogs.



Troop 217—The Motor City K9s—MI

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader with an assist from Katie and Sam

Several troop members got together recently for a spur of the moment letterboxing hike. Though it wasn't planned in advance of that morning we still made sure to check trail maps and the weather before our scheduled meeting time at a nearby park. Unfortunately, Mother Nature forgot to take a look at the weather report and just as we were getting ready to set out from the trailhead the skies opened up! Still, we were determined to not give up on our hike. Dogs Shelby, Sassy, Sam and Katie sat patiently in the cars with us for over an hour as we chatted and waited for the worst of the rain to pass. Eventually the rain let up to just a fine drizzle and we decided to go for it since we would be sheltered from much of the rain by the thick forest. Our patience paid off and though we all ended up a little soggy, we were rewarded by finding each of the seven letterboxes we set out to look for that day.



Julie & Shelby, Michelle & Sassy wait patiently in the rain.

One of our local dog training clubs held a 'fun day' over the Labor Day weekend and several of our troop members were able to get out and enjoy the day with their dogs. Betsy Conway and Bert, Brenda Keiswetter and Merlin, and Dianne Pietras and Fletcher all enjoyed the opportunity to try some new activities and have fun with some familiar ones in a non-competitive environment. Fletcher got to try lure coursing for the first time and all of the dogs took their turns at barn hunt and nose work. It was great for the dogs to be able to practice their skills with these activities and their moms got some instruction from another expert...always a plus.



Merlin had no trouble finding the scent!

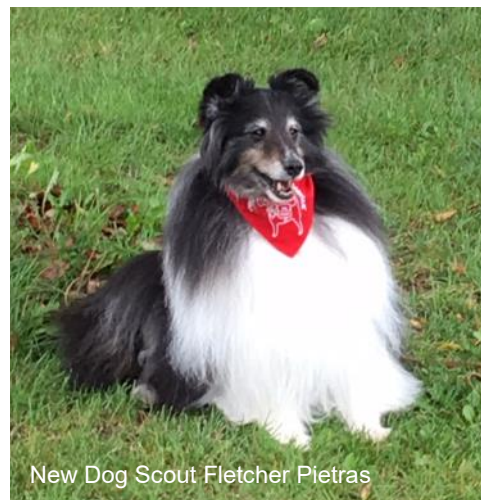
Diane Baughman, her dog Lizzy, me and Katie met on a beautiful weekday morning recently to finish up some badges that Lizzy has been working on. We headed to a local park on the Huron River for a change in scenery and an opportunity for Lizzy to complete requirements for the Puppy Paddlers and Boating Safety badges. Lizzy is a natural in a boat (maybe because she doesn't like to get wet) but also demonstrated that she can swim, even if she would rather not. We also finished the last remaining requirement for Lizzy's kayaking badge and afterwards we all enjoyed a walk in the sunshine.

Our dogs always seem to enjoy getting together. Here, the group has just finished talking about Travel Safety.

A group of troop members got together on a recent Saturday afternoon to work on requirements for the Travel Safety badge and also to do some shaping exercises. Some of the dogs attending have already earned the badge but were able to assist others in understanding the requirements and their intent. Members also recognize that a review on this topic is never a bad thing. Dogs Fletcher, Bert, Sassy, Shelby and Katie attended and we all enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with one another afterwards.



New Dog Scout Darby Jones



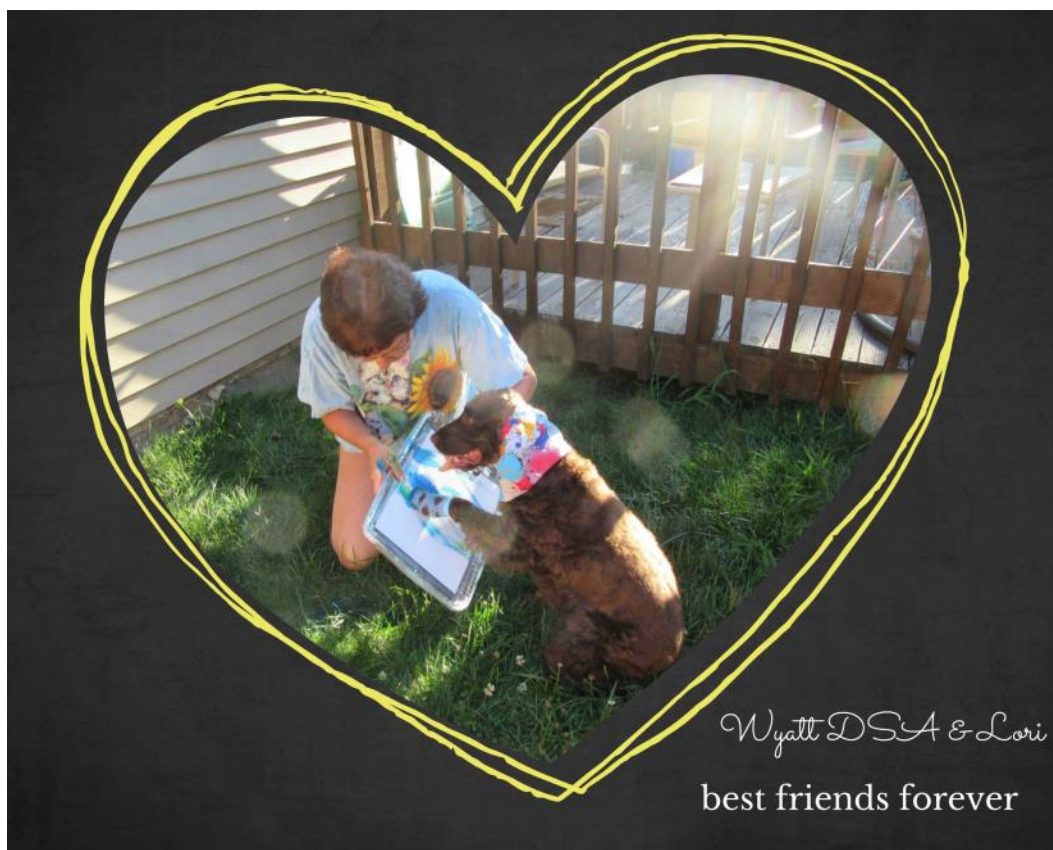
New Dog Scout Fletcher Pietras

Finally, we are very proud to have two new Dog Scouts in our troop! Darby Jones with mom Carrie and Fletcher Pietras with mom Dianne both completed their testing and passed with flying colors. They both look great sporting their new bandanas and will represent our troop well at the many community events we have coming up through the end of the year.

Troop 219—CT—New England Explorers

Kelly Ford—Troop Leader, CRN Secretary and Trails Titling Program Coordinator

We have been continuing to enjoy the summer weather with our Monday evening summer strolls. A couple weeks it has been too hot to walk, so our strolls have become swims. The dogs were very happy with the change in activity. We've visited some old favorites during August, Barn Island in Stonington and Pequot Woods in Mystic. We always love Bluff Point for swimming.



At the end of July, Wyatt DSA earned his Art of Shaping badge after completing a wonderful painting of the beach. He has become the Troop's best pupcasso and we are all very proud of him.

Troop 219—CT

In the beginning of August, Lori and Wyatt DSA invited the Troop to their family cottage for a fun day on the water. Danica Joy DSA worked on swimming and water retrieve. I think she could be a distance swimmer. Zora DSA worked on her tan. Wyatt DSA practiced boating safety. Wyatt learned how to get in and out of a boat from the shore and from a dock. He learned to stay in the boat while Lori paddled. Danica helped demonstrate staying in the boat and took a trip in the boat around with Lori and Wyatt for a while.



Wyassup Lake

Boating Safety Training Day



The Great Duck Race Geocache Event



At the end of August, Wyatt DSA and Lori attended their first geocache event. Zora DSA, Danica DSA and I accompanied them to join the fun. Wyatt and Lori had a great time meeting all of the geocachers that they had been conversing with online. Danica spent some time swimming in the ocean. This was a finish line event for the great geocaching Duck Race. Danica participated in the duck contest and took fourth place as Shark Dog!

Troop 220—NV

Pamela Sauer

Our dogs had fun playing together on the grass in August and learning to paint with their paws in September.

We take turns hosting at members' homes as we don't have a regular training facility in which to meet. Our dogs are finally familiar enough with each other that we have begun to have some off-leash play sessions. We spent many meetings playing "musical mats" where we had dogs lie on their own mats, then move around the room getting to sniff every other dog's mat as a way of getting to know them. Most members joined scouting as a chance to socialize in a non-competitive environment.



"Snazzle!"

Since we plan to help the Salvation Army again this holiday season, we are teaching our doggies some appropriate tricks.

One member wants her Schnauzer to dance for dollars. As our troop leader, Terry Cuyler was trying to explain how to capture a behavior or lure it, mark it and reward it, humans were having difficulty not giving a command. She tried to explain that since dogs don't inherently understand English, it did not give them any information to just state a command like "dance" when the dog had no association with a behavior. So we had an impromptu demonstration. Human was sent out of hearing range while the rest of the members decided on a behavior we want to "teach" her. We brought her back to the group and commanded her to "Snazzle". When she had no clue what we meant and just stood there, Terry explained that that is how our dogs feel when we give them a command we have not associated with any behavior yet. We could explain to the human to keep trying something and as she got closer to the "right" behavior we would reward her by saying "Yes!" and giving her a token kibble (which was to be exchanged for chocolate at the end). She tried many different behaviors, some close (yes!) and some bafflingly unlike the behavior she'd just been rewarded for (just like dogs) and eventually pulled on her ear while we all screamed "Yes!" And jack-potted her. Every human now seems to understand when they tell their dog something and Terry says, "That's a snazzle." It seems people and dogs had fun learning. After this we got to let the dogs play with each other a little on the lawn and socialize.

September 11, 2016

After a brief Remembrance of what we lost on 9/11, we started to learn 'the Art of shaping'. We discussed back chaining and tried capturing behavior. Then we brought out trays on the tarps we'd laid down and took turns capturing behaviors resembling interacting with the tray with a paw. All of us said "Yes!" as a dog put paw onto tray. Then we added paper and held the tray up a little and finally added some paint to the dog's paw. Two out of the four dogs actually put paint to paper, two are not ready for that yet. We will do more when more members are back from vacations. Looking forward to some hikes as the weather cools.

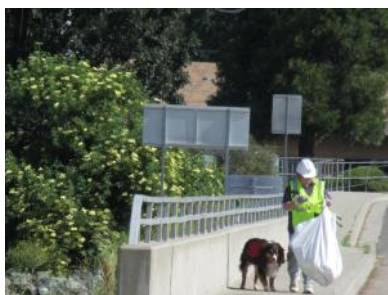


Troop 229—CA—Dogaholics Anonymutts

Mary Blackstone—Troop Leader



One of our meetings we went to the reservoir to take some pictures in our uniforms, hike around it and introduce our newest member to geocaching.



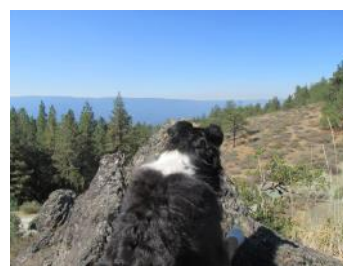
We cleaned our 2 mile Adopt-a-Highway sections 2 more times.

One of the meetings we showed Mic, the 'new' guy, the joys of agility.... and Kip took her Obstacle 2 video test.



IZAR & Mic spent one hot day riding on an old dirt road that crosses 13 little creeks.

izar & I did a little geocaching



We celebrated Lilura's birthday at the local "Waikiki Beach" and the dogs enjoyed a day of swimming and playing in the water. They REALLY enjoyed the birthday treats Jeanne made! and taped some puppy paddler tests and one trial for iZAR's Scent discrimination test.



Kip wasn't able to make it to Lilura's BD party, so we went back to video Kip's puppy paddler.



Vera & iZAR did some demos at the local "Bigfoot BBQ".



Our plans for our OctoBark-Fest are moving right along. We got the kissing booth done and have a whole day of games & demos...but that's for NEXT issue!

Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

Website: Dogscouts.org
Facebook: facebook.com/DogScouts
Yahoo Discussion List:
pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSA_TalkList

Dog Scouts of America (DSA) was established in 1995. It is a non-profit organization with people dedicated to enriching their dog's lives and the lives of others with dogs. Founder Lonnie Olson has made it her life's ambition to experience as many dog sports and skills as possible with her dogs.

If you believe that dogs really enjoy learning new things and spending time with their owners, you're our kind of dog person. Dogs were not meant to be "furniture." Working dogs want to work. Without having an acceptable activity in which to use up all of the energy that comes "built-in" with a dog, our canine companions often get into trouble.

By better understanding how your dog thinks, how he learns, and what drives his behavior, and by participating in a variety of dog sports and activities, you will become a more responsible dog owner.

We hope to prevent misunderstandings, communication failures, and behavioral problems which often lead to dogs being given up as a "lost cause."

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(Starting a troop/Troop Leader Tests)

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