

The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

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

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Kismet Olson heard she might become a Super Princess if she goes to Michigan Camp.

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Deadline: for the next newsletter is
July 15th

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

OUR CAMP BUILDS SUPER DOGS!

Lonnie Olson—President

Shhh! It's the best kept secret around.... We have a summer camp in St. Helen, MI which offers fabulous opportunities for you to bond with your dog(s), learning fun stuff together in the beautiful woods of Northern Michigan.

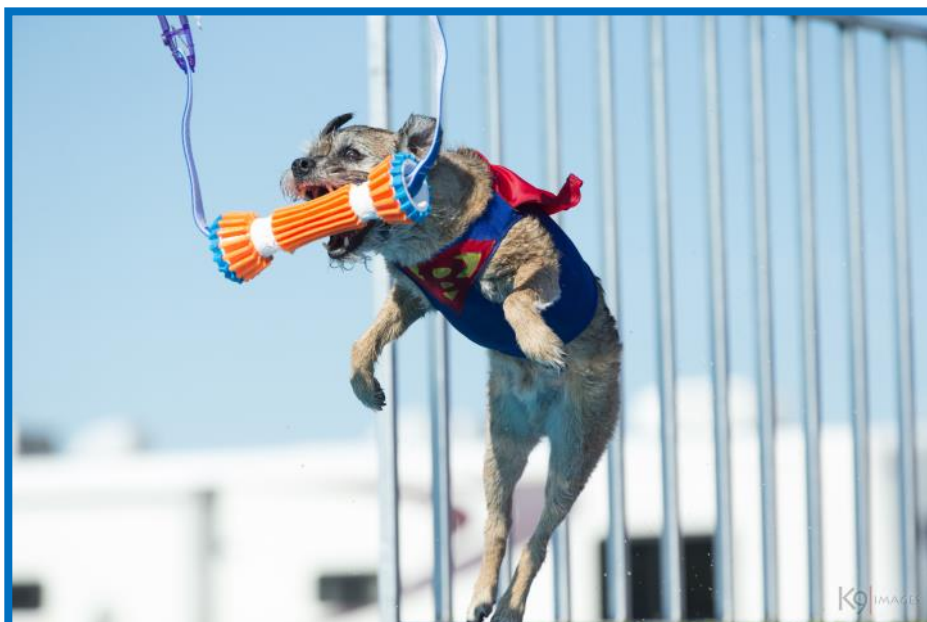
No, seriously... Sometimes I forget that we need to promote our CAMP a little more. A lot of people are active with our Facebook page, or discussion list, and some even read the newsletter! But we forget that every now and then, we need to promote the idea of coming to camp for this great learning experience.

Every now and then, I get these great emails, cards, and letters telling me that their dogs are “super-duper” because of what they learned at dog scout camp. They may have had super-duper potential all along, but, until they came to Dog Scout Camp, learned something fun, and had it become their new “super power,” they never knew they had it in them. I love reading these letters. I love even more that we helped dogs and their parents find a new passion and go on to become really good at it.

We can't take all the credit, of course, but it makes my heart swell with pride, each time someone tells me that their dog has found their true calling because of something they learned at Dog Scout Camp.

So, why not make a plan to attend Dog Scout Camp? It's a great experience for you and your dog. We'll soon be taking registrations for next year's camps, which will be June 14th – 20th, and July 12th-18th, 2020. If you wanted to, and have the time available, you could still sneak into this year's camps which are June 17th-22nd, and July 15th-20th, 2019. You may be the owner of the next “Super Hero!”

Here's a photo I couldn't resist sharing (from one of those glowing letters), of a favorite nephew of mine, Banzai Bergeron, from Minnesota, using his super powers to fly through the air with the greatest of ease. Banzai was recently inducted into the North American Diving Dogs Hall of fame at the national AKC show in Orlando. Thank you, Ann Bergeron, for your praise, and for sharing this cool photo of Banzai!



2019 Leadership Retreat

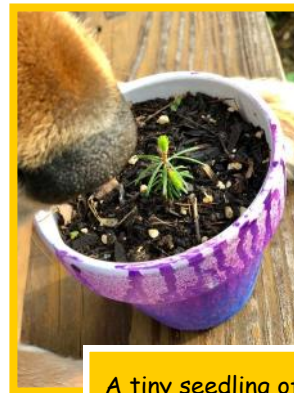
Sally Hoyle—Vice President

This year's Leadership Retreat was held May 17-19 and was attended by 10 leaders all ready to learn and share from one another. We started the Retreat with an icebreaker where we created wind chimes using found objects and wooden shapes. Participants were asked to decorate the shapes with words and/or pictures descriptive of what DSA means to each individual. The idea took off really well and though the activity was designed to be complete on Friday evening, we didn't complete it until Sunday! Once everyone had decorated as many hearts, circles and diamonds as they wanted we strung them on twine and then through holes drilled in wooden bowls and metal pots. We created many beautiful wind chimes so be sure to check them out next time you are at camp.

The format of this year's Retreat was quite different from previous years. The schedule for the weekend was designed to ensure that each person added significant value to each session by sharing their personal experiences, successes and challenges. This encouraged sharing at every opportunity guided by the session facilitator. As a result, the level of learning, sharing and engagement was increased. Instead of each participant delivering a required presentation, everyone was asked in advanced if they had something in particular they would like to share with the group. These topics were worked into the schedule where they most made sense and rather than a series of formal presentations we had a much more organic, yet cohesive retreat.

There was no shortage of activities for our dogs either! We played games like "My Dog knows sit!" and "Beat the Clock". We had a session called "My Dog's Best Trick" where we each chose a behavior that we have taught our dogs, demonstrated it, and then demonstrated all the steps we used to train the behavior. We talked about our 'unicorns', by which we meant the things that we were finding difficult to train or places we were getting stuck. This allowed each of us to get many more eyes on the situation and helped us to come up with some solutions and even led to some major breakthroughs! All of these sessions were great for showing us different approaches to use when helping others.

We learned all about creating a sensory garden for our dogs that stimulates all of their senses and includes new and different things for them to see, hear, touch, smell and even taste. We dyed pots to get our garden started and each took home a plant suitable for dogs to smell and taste. As an added bonus, each of us took home a tiny balsam fir tree dug up from garden beds on camp property. Though these trees could never have survived the inappropriate places they were trying to grow, they are thriving at our homes. In this was each of us was able to take a tiny piece of camp home with us.



A tiny seedling offered a way for participants to take a little piece of camp home with them.



The seedlings worked perfectly in our hand dyed pots.

We had sessions on leadership and communication where we recognized that no two people are alike and people operate with good intentions most of the time. We demonstrated how misunderstanding occur and ways in which we can seek to better understand others. We talked about ways in which troops can work more closely together to meet the needs of our members. We recognize that no leader has all the answers or holds all the knowledge and in this way we are better as a whole rather than a sum of our parts. This holds true in the ways we can support one another, even across geographical distances.

Leadership Retreat (cont.)

In all this year's Leadership Retreat was a great success. Much of the credit for the weekend goes to Troop Coordinator Barrie Lynn Wood in her first ever Leadership Retreat. But the true success of the weekend could not have occurred without each and every person and dog who attended and the significant contributions of each one. It was a pleasure for me to attend and I'm still thinking about all the great things I've taken away from the weekend.

If this type of learning is something you enjoy, please keep the Leadership Retreat in mind in the future. Leaders exist at all levels of the organization and we'd love to have you join us!

This year's Retreat was a GREAT experience and I wait until next year!



After returning home Katie and I took a trip to the nursery to get some additional plants to build on our sensory garden. We might need a bigger yard.!

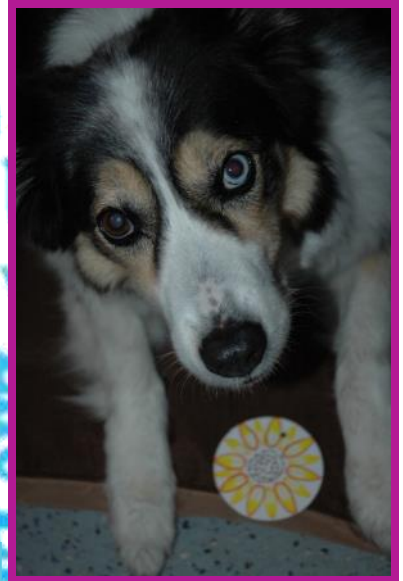
This graphic represents many of the words that we used when describing what Dog Scouts means to us.

Participants were asked in advance to submit their words and we used them in a number of ways throughout the weekend. Each person was given a personalized bandana for their dog, with their word in the largest type.

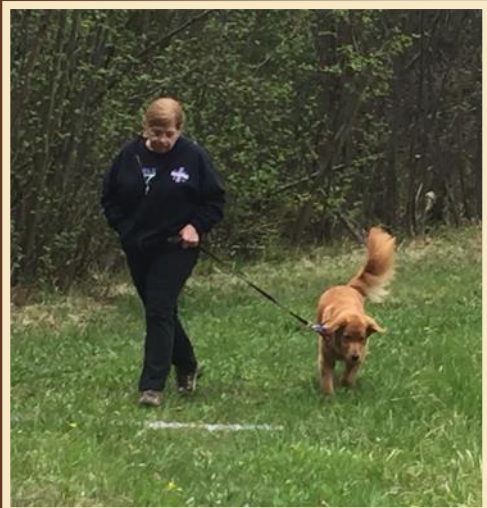
We also used this graphic on mugs and canvas bags as a part of a fundraiser for DSA and a way to begin a Leadership Retreat fund.



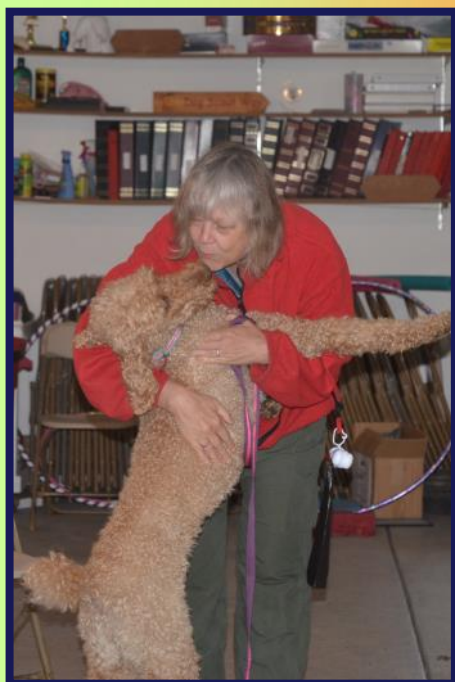
Leadership Retreat (cont.)



Leadership Retreat (cont.)



Leadership Retreat (cont.)



Michigan Spring Fling!

Sally Hoyle—Vice President

The first ever, and we hope annual Michigan Spring Fling was held April 27-28 in Goodrich, MI. The event was hosted by Troop 217 and took place on the farm of troop member Barrie Lynn Wood. This is a beautiful location and it offered us a variety of locations to use for various activities.

The event was conceived as a way to provide opportunities for troop members to work different skills and it grew to include members of Troops 101 and 236, as well as DSA members not affiliated with a troop. It was pretty awesome to take advantage of the strengths and talents of other troop leaders and members to be able to offer a wide variety of activities to everyone attending.

After introductions and a quick icebreaker we got down to business starting with some work on skills required for the [Dog Scout test](#). We had several people attending who were brand new to Dog Scouts so this was a great way for them to get started off on the right foot. Those with new puppies or young dogs as well as some whose dogs are very practiced enjoyed the work as well. The number of dogs and variety of skill levels was excellent practice for Barrie Lynn since she is working on becoming a [Dog Scout Evaluator](#).

For those choosing not to participate in the Dog Scout class we tried something a little bit new. We played with creating some mazes and teaching our dogs to maneuver through. Initially we used objects like boxes and platforms but as the dogs picked up on the concept we were able to use small soccer cones to create the mazes. This is a great activity that keeps a dog's mind very active and is good for dogs of all ages. Our mazes were pretty simple since our dogs were just learning but you can search the internet if you are interested in seeing dogs successfully completing some pretty elaborate mazes.

Next we were on to shaping where people were free to work on various things based on the level of their dog's understanding of the concept. We had dogs learning to [paint](#) with their paws and paint with their noses, dogs learning [tricks](#) and practicing behaviors for the [Manners](#) badge. Some people were working with their dogs to develop trick routines and the most advanced dogs were working on behaviors at a distance for the [Naked Dog](#) badge. It was a great session for everyone to get some practice and people found it beneficial to get another set of eyes on things they've been working on at home.

We worked on [Parkour](#) skills and had dogs practicing 2 paws on and 4 paws on, getting in boxes and going through tires of all sizes, and going around trees and stumps. All of the dogs really had a great time with this and people were surprised at how their dog's confidence grew in just a short time.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the [Tracking](#) class taught by Fay Reid, Troop Leader of Troop 101. Tracking was new to most everyone so it was really interesting to see how it's taught starting with the simplest of behaviors using just a glove and some high value treats. Fay is an excellent teacher and by day two some dogs were following a short trail. It was a very simple trail but nonetheless the dogs caught on and their noses didn't leave the ground. It was also pretty exciting to watch Fay's dog, Goldy follow a much longer trail. Fay and Goldy have been working on Tracking for some time and their work really inspired us all to give it a try.

MI Spring Fling! (cont.)

We worked on shaping some more and introduced the Copy Cat badge. Everyone seemed to have fun with this and we laid the foundation for future work on the badge. We had an awesome pot luck dinner and then sat down with our dogs for a massage session. The dogs were ready to relax and all truly enjoyed their massages, but by this time the humans felt like a massage was in order for them!

To end the day a small group set out to attempt the Overnight Camping badge. Early in the week the weather had looked perfect for this but by the day of the event I had to make some decisions based on what Mother Nature had in store for us. With our gear on our backs we set out on our required hike. While hiking we began to talk through all of the things everyone needed to know to earn the badge. Our hike was an out and back, which was necessary because weather conditions required quite a bit of extra gear. The weather was calling for snow!

After we got back to our campsite and pitched our tents everyone grabbed their extra bedding, coats for dogs and anything else they might need to make it through a very cold night. We discussed critical aspects of cold weather camping, built a fire and ate s'mores and headed into our tents ahead of the snow. Now I can't say for sure whether any snow fell that night but I do know that when we got up in the morning our tents were all covered in ice! Not only did our canine campers earn their badge, but I also awarded the human campers a very special 'Polar Bear Camping' patch. I really love teaching camping skills and taking groups out overnight but that is an experience I never want to repeat!

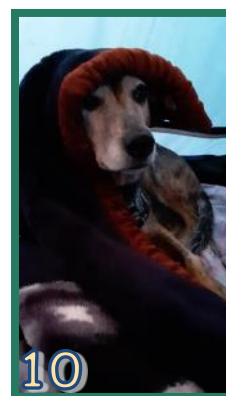
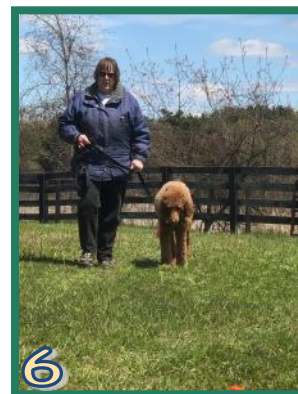
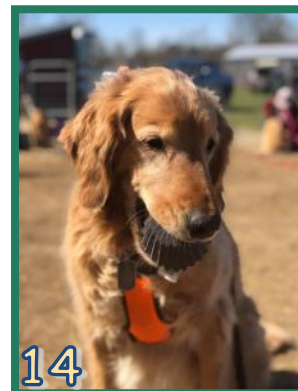


On Sunday we continued building on the things we learned on Saturday and two dogs were able to complete the requirements to become Dog Scouts. Congratulations to Tavvi Thompson and mom Jean from Troop 101 and Pirate Szeremet and mom Sue from Troop 217 on their accomplishments!

Overall, we were so pleased with the way this event played out. As with anything done for the first time there are things I will do differently next time. One thing that I won't change is the level of involvement outside of our troop. In fact, I'd like to see this grow in the future. We all benefited so much from the experiences of others and having other leaders and members able to help out by teaching classes really made the event so much more enjoyable for me. As Dog Scouts we have troops for any number of reasons, the biggest of which is geography. But where we can come together and share our skills and talents we discover that we are better together than we are apart.

I can't wait for Spring Fling 2020!

MI Spring Fling! (cont.)



1. Barb Foy and Honey practicing Parkour skills.
2. New DSA member Ken Cook practices a heeling pattern with Tula.
3. Booker works with the tires for '2 paws on'. Isn't he handsome!
4. Sunny and Moose show off their skills on the tires.
5. Jean Thompson and Shelia work on Tracking.
6. Cheryl Ashford and Marley work on a heeling pattern.
7. Fay Reid and Goldy (center) were excellent Tracking instructors!
8. Katie and I look on as Fay introduced elements of Tracking. Saturday was a very cold day but it gave way to a beautiful Sunday.
9. Sue Szeremet and Pirate work on Tracking. Pirate passed the Dog Scout test at the Spring Fling!
10. Caper thought we were nuts to camp when it was so cold!
11. On such a cold morning we were eager to get the fire started.
12. After such a cold, snowy and icy night, it was a gorgeous morning.
13. Tavvi Thompson became a new Dog Scout at the Spring Fling!
14. Each dog got to select a toy to take home. Here Sunny proudly holds the toy he chose.



Troop Recognition Program

The Troop Recognition Program runs from Jan 1 through Dec 31 each year and started in 2008. This optional program consists of various activities for which the troop can accumulate points. Recognition would be given for reaching a certain level of points within the year. Most of the activities focus on troop member achievements and troop growth. This focus of this program is to reward troops for being active and helping in their communities, not for competition between troops!



Congratulations to the following Top Dog troops who earned a blue ribbon for their activities in 2018:

Troop 177 - 634.30 points

Troop 188 - 608 points

Troop 101 - 514 points

Troop 217 - 368.2 points



And lighting the way for others are our Torch troops of 2018:

Troop 230 - 192 points

Troop 219 - 102.5 points



Indianapolis Troop 177

Left to right: Robyn with Hallie, Gail with Daisy, Anita with Sophie, Amy with Star and Piper, Emily with Lucy and Sharon with Zena

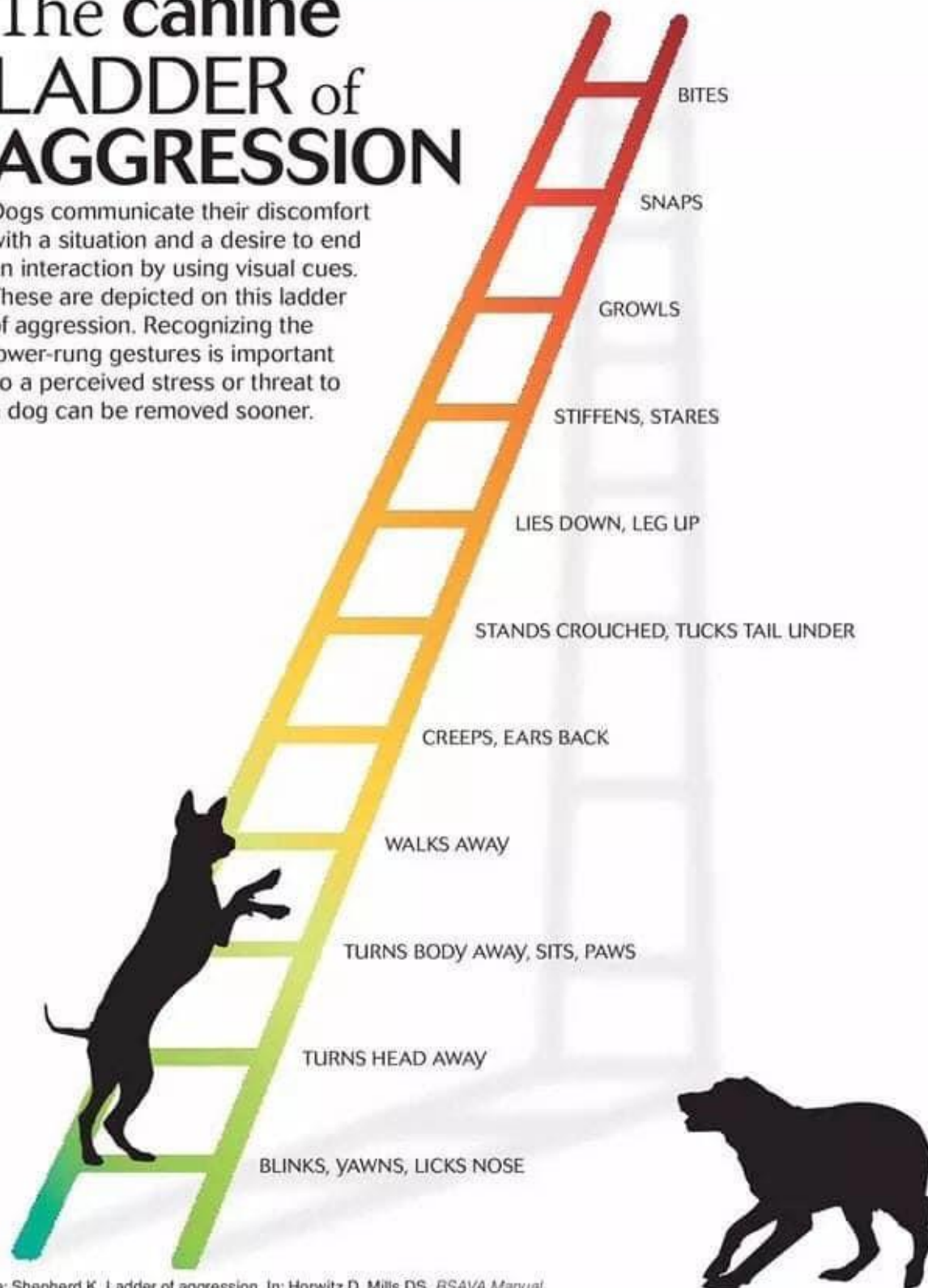
Check out the website (dogscouts.org/base/troop-recognition-program-guidelines) for more information on participating in this Troop Recognition Program.



Here's a reference recently found on Facebook. These are not the normal behaviors you'll see when using positive reinforcement methods of training, so if you start seeing them and they're outside your dog's norm, you'll want to get your dog checked out by a vet in case there's a physical reason. It's interesting that the calming signals found on the lower rungs of the ladder may also be employed by our dogs when they're in physical discomfort or fatigued—something to think about as K9 fitness becomes more popular and as we step out of our normal routine and try new activities with our dogs. Editor

The canine LADDER of AGGRESSION

Dogs communicate their discomfort with a situation and a desire to end an interaction by using visual cues. These are depicted on this ladder of aggression. Recognizing the lower-rung gestures is important so a perceived stress or threat to a dog can be removed sooner.



Source: Shepherd K. Ladder of aggression. In: Horwitz D, Mills DS. *BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Behavioural Medicine*, 2nd ed. 2009.

Attitude of Gratitude

"When we focus on our gratitude, the tide of disappointment goes out and the tide of love rushes in."
- Kristin Armstrong

We would like to thank Chriss Bradley, of Troop 237 (California), for the donation she made in memory of "Star," (*pictured right*) the beloved pet of her Troop Leader, Ruth Robinson, whose short time with us ended in April.

Chriss is also submitting for a matching grant from the company she works for, which will double her kind donation.

Thank you so much, Chriss!



Rainbow Bridge



Our condolences to Michelle and all those affected by the passing of Sassy Neu. Sassy was very active with Troop 217 and she served many hours as a therapy dog. She will be missed.

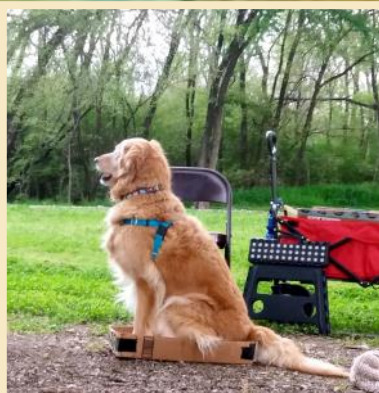
Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

Troop 119—TX

Cindy Ratliff—Troop Leader



Alex demos backing onto a height



Alex demos in a box



Austin in a box

Troop 119 had a fun time in the park for our March meeting.

We did a walk around the park looking for interesting items to interact with in the environment, then had a meeting to introduce Parkour.

Alex was kind enough to demo the parkour behaviors and then we had all sorts of “props” to practice the behaviors on.

Most of the dogs took right away to several of the behaviors. They practiced learning new behaviors and will work on converting that knowledge to new objects.



Austin practicing 4 feet up on a ledge



Blitzen practicing 2 feet up



Millie in a box



Mozzie gets 4 feet up on a stump



Rouen practicing 2 feet up



Tripoli in a box

Troop 119—TX (cont.)

In April we had a troop favorite: **our annual Easter Egg Hunt.**

We had to move to a smaller venue this year due to lots of storms and flooding on the weekend of our original date, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm for the event!

Dogs and their humans searched out for over 600 plastic eggs filled with freeze dried liver treats.

We ended up having a beautiful day for the hunt and the dogs recovered every egg on the property!

Prizes were awarded for the most festive teams, the most eggs found and for those who found the special prize chicks in the eggs.

It was great to be out on a beautiful day with our troop friends and watch the dogs get excited using their nose skills to find rewards!



Chuck seeks another while stumbling onto one



Cooper does distance searching for eggs



Justin & Casper keep their noses to the ground sniffing out eggs



Kira sniffs out the treats inside



Little Roger finds an egg but tells mom it's too big to pick up



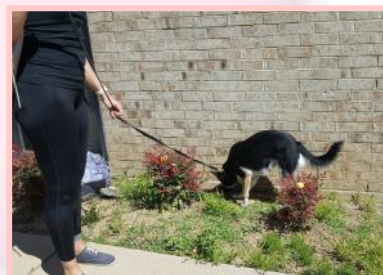
Mozzie gets rewarded for sniffing out the eggs



Team Stella was egg-cited to win first place for most festive



The brush isn't fooling Lacey in finding the eggs



Troop visitor, Kiya, searches low but not high

Troop 157—FL

Teresa Irvine

DSA Troop 157 Monthly Meeting – Planning meeting for Q2-2019

On March 16th, 2019 our troop held our monthly meeting and planned the upcoming quarter events, plus we had a walk after-ward working on “Leave It” with a live animal (horse).

It is always a fun time to get together to catch up and decide what the troop wants to work on in the coming months.



We helped to raise a lot of money for a great cause and made a lot of people happy.

Aston Gardens – Alzheimer’s Walk

On April 6, 2019 our troop, for the 3rd year in a row, was invited to participate in an Alzheimer's Walk at Aston Gardens Assisted Living Facility in Park-land.

We had a great turnout and were graciously welcomed by the residents. We greeted every resident as they made their way around the lake to where we ended the walk to find a delicious breakfast buffet waiting for all who walked.



Troop 157—FL (cont.)



Rocky



River and Dawn



DSA Troop 157 Olympics

On April 13th, 2019 our troop's Dog Scout Olympics took place at Heritage Park. Our troop looks forward to this event each year as it is fun time for everyone to interact with fellow troop members and play games with their Dog Scouts. This year we had pot luck and everyone brought something, which made it a perfect lunchtime meal enjoyed by all. There was a game for everyone, which made for a fun time for all participants. Training should always be a game!

Recall Race

1st Place - River Hanna

2nd Place - Cody Robins

Spoon Race

1st Place - Oreo Hain

2nd Place - River Hanna

Tunnel Race

1st Place - Chaos Smets

2nd Place - Penny Hain

Hot Dog Dunking

1st Place - Lucy Romero

2nd Place - Peanut Skenandore

HM - Oreo Hain

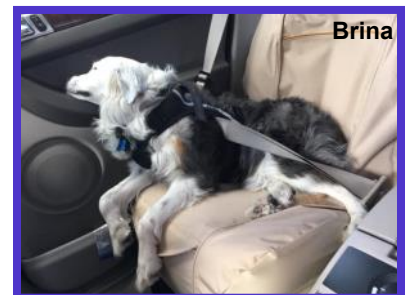
Rocky and Susan



This was the second year we had a fundraising raffle that included a dozen awesome baskets filled with goodies with the proceeds being donated to our troop fund, which will off-set some of the costs of activities and events in the coming year.



Peanut



Brina







Troop 157—FL (cont.)



DSA Training – Reactivity Training

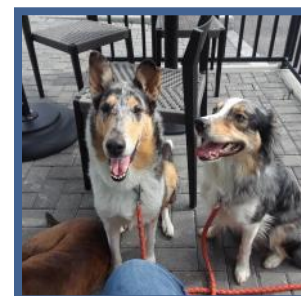
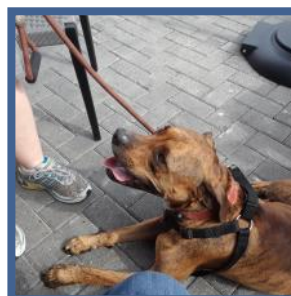
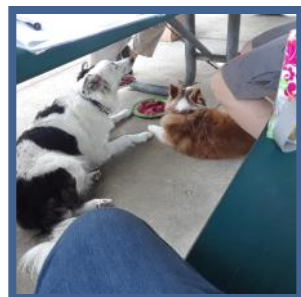
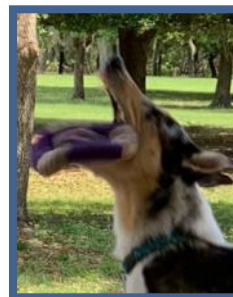
On May 9th and 14th one of our own DSA Troop members and trainers Monica Pajuelo kindly offered training for dogs reacting because of excitement or they didn't want to interact with the subject (fear). They worked on decreasing the distance of the subject while keeping the dog calm. If the dog was reacting because of excitement, they worked on keeping the dog calm before a short interaction. The reward was the interaction but the dog needed to learn that acting crazy will not get them anywhere. If the dog is reacting because of fear they would let them know that the subject is not scary. They did this with positive associations and started at a far distance.

Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

For our April activity we had lunch under the shade of the pavilion and chatted then did a little frisbee. The plan was to do some scent work or tracking as well, but the heat already had most of us not wanting to be too active. Bling insisted that he'd rather play [Frisbee](#) than cool off in the shade while Tachi took his Frisbee and headed for the closest "body" of water—the first time was a puddle of spilled water under one of the picnic tables, the second time was a drainage ditch—thankfully we weren't close enough to the lake for him to become gator bait! Thanks Mary Ann for the funny shot of Nim opening wide to catch the plushy Frisbee. Plans for summer definitely will involve being indoors with A/C!

Afterwards Marvin, Nim and Tachi took there mums to Starbucks for a cool beverage, a pup-a-chino and some latte-flavored ice.



In May, a few of us braved the stormy weather and did some Doggie Yoga. We focused on some basic exercises outlined by [TotoFit](#) and supplemented additional suggestions from the DSA [Doga](#) merit badge requirements. Following are some tips from our activity:

- If dogs are new to Doga then exercises should first be performed on a solid surface to ensure proper form and prevent injuries.
- Beginning focus should be on developing the best topline the dog can achieve for its structure. This means most exercises should focus on strengthening the muscles of the dog's core (all those muscles along the spine - between the shoulder blades and hips).
- Pet parents should be aware that just like in humans, trying to do too much too quickly will set a dog back - fatigued muscles increase the likelihood of joint injuries, and if a dog is compensating for pain then it increases stress on other parts of the body through overuse. If the dog's topline starts to dip, elbows or stifles start to turn out, if the dog shows reluctance to participate, sits, lies down, fails to respond to a cue or leaves, then let them take a break.
- Using a portion of the dog's regular meal will allow the dog to be rewarded for performing exercises without increasing the dog's regular calorie intake.
- Exercises can be added throughout the day as you interact with your dog, so you don't have to set aside an additional block of time to what may already be a busy schedule. Every time your dog exercises safely they are gaining a physical, mental and emotional benefit.
- Anyone whose dog enjoys chasing things in the yard, jumping on furniture, participating in any dog sports (whether competitively or just for fun) will benefit from strengthening exercises being added to their daily routine. In addition, body awareness and flexibility should be included in a dog's daily routine.
- Stretching should be done after a dog's muscles are warmed up for maximum benefit. Active stretching run less risk of injury than passive stretching.

Our troop is planning a massage activity in July which will be a great addition to any exercise program as it gets our hands on our dogs and a should give us a better understanding of what is "normal" for our dog and therefore an insight into when an appointment with a professional might be required when our dogs appear to have an issue with a range of motion.

Troop 198—CA (together with Troop 233, 237, and Pre-Troops San Francisco Peninsula

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

We have some amazing members in our group and we are broken hearted that some of our beloved furry members cross the rainbow bridge in the last couple of months.

Lyn and her partner Joe, who helped found our first San Francisco Bay Area Troop, Troop 198, and start us on the Dog Scout path, lost her beloved Aussie, Cloudy, a few months ago and a short while later, Dave and Patty lost Frodo another loved, long time troop member. Pictured here in the center of the shot at one of our troop's first booths, Lyn rests her hand on her beloved Cloudy who is lying next to Frodo with Dave and Patty and dog sister Crystal, it was a happy day and is a cherished memory, and as usual, Joe is not in the shot because he is taking the picture.



Here is Lyn and Joe with Cloudy, and dog friends Crystal and Cora at a mall walk training, a rare occasion when Joe is in the picture and not behind the camera.

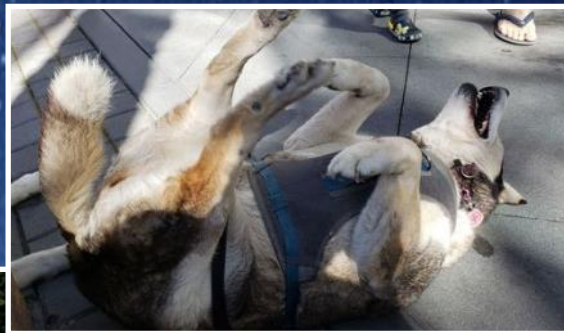


And here is Frodo, with sister Crystal resting on a tarp at Dog Scout Camp at Mt. Madonna.



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

In April right after this Mall walk-in we lost Halley; here she is happily living in the moment



Here is Halley enjoying the sunshine lying next to her mom Susan and brother Comet



Then just last week Ruth and Mike, leaders of San Francisco East Bay Troop 237, lost their young beloved Star. Here is Ruth with Star at one of their Dog Scout training meetings, showing everyone how it is done.



They knew from the beginning Star's stay on this earth would be short, so they made the most of her time and sweet temperament, training her to be a therapy dog. as is the Dog Scout Way. We all mourn our loss of these sweet souls and cherish the time they graced our lives.

Troop 198—CA (cont.)



On March 26th, Troop 198 had our monthly meeting at Sports Basement in Campbell and we discussed our business, then worked on some training. We also took some time to get ready for the Easter Bunny.



Maxwell and Dayton are ready for the hunt!



Wyatt & Duncan are too!



Donna is getting Spike suited up!



Odin is ready to go

Scout and Sadie sniff the air for Easter Eggs



Sprocket is ready to hunt, and sister Crystal is ready to lose the ears



Goldens Crystal and Bailey also think the ears are unnecessary, but worth it if a treat is involved.

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

On April 6th, East Bay Troop 237 had a special guest, Peter Pay for the first of a two-part instruction on [First Aid](#) for Dogs, he put on a wonderful demonstration and taught troop members life saving skills. Peter covered many topics in his class such as basic first aid, fractures, snake bites, staunching bleeding, applying bandages, taking pulses, taking temperatures, improvised muzzles, stretchers and transporting injured dogs.



Here Peter demonstrates strapping Ruby on a stretcher for Kim as Chriss records the action.



Here Liz practices taking Mona's pulse



Here Ruth takes Kobi's temperature, what a good dog!



Here Christy takes a picture of Pearl in a rope muzzle with Steve. Karli is in the background with Connor.



Here making rope muzzles are Karli with Connor, Kristie with Maurice, Pat with Copper and Liz observing with Mona



Here Teresa makes a muzzle from rope for Lulu.



Poppy also demonstrates a rope muzzle.

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

On April 7th, Troop 198 had our Mall Walk Training at Santana Row in San Jose. We started with a 10-minute discussion on punishment versus reward training, we practiced walking through crowds, going up and down stairs and elevators, stays with distractions and even enjoyed listening to an impromptu Ukulele concert, then finished up with some refreshment at Starbucks.



Dogs and handlers really enjoyed the Ukulele concert.



One of the group down stays, from left to right, Molly, Stretch, Raylan, Crystal, Sprocket, Sadie, Wyatt, Duncan, Zen, Crystal and Spike with Donna



After the walk we refreshed ourselves in the courtyard outside of Starbucks, from front to back we have, Sadie with Lennie, Sprocket and Crystal with Patty, Wyatt, Duncan and Crystal with Carlotta, and Halley and Comet with Susan.

Then down the other side of the planter from front to back we have Stretch with Rod, Zen with Nicole, Molly with Janet, Spike with Donna and Ava with Angela on the left



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

On April 14th, Troop 198 had their training at Calero Park and after training, we had our Easter Egg hunt, so much fun!

Here is Patty pointing the way to more Easter Eggs while in the background from left to right is Donna with Spike, Janet with Molly and Rod with Stretch searching out those treat filled Easter Eggs



Lennie is waiting for Sadie to find the eggs "hidden" on top of the cones



Jan with Buddy are hot on the hunt!



Liddy with Snow are working on filling their Easter Bag



Sharon helps Scout open an egg with Sadie and Susan, Cowgirl and foster dog Flash are hunting in the background. About a month after this Susan adopts "Flash" and re-names him Scout!



Candy and Penny search the grass for more treats



Left to right, Lennie with Sadie, Dave with Sprocket and Patty with Crystal hunting them Easter Eggs!



Foster dog Flash, (soon to be adopted dog, Scout), was nervous at first, but began to relax and venture out to meet new people, here he is getting brave and approaching Leah, Wyatt & Duncan



His confidence builds as he is rewarded with soft encouragement and treats, and he moves even closer, what a good dog!

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

On April 20th was the Healthy Parks, Healthy People walk at Martial Cottle Park. New to our group, Scout and Buddy, continue to build their confidence by attending our different events.



Here is Jan with Buddy and Susan with Cowgirl and new brother Scout taking a break on the walk.



Kozmo and Sondra also came to socialize on the walk and here is Kozmo getting ready to show his tractor skills. After the showing off here, Sondra took Kozmo to the pet store for a special birthday treat.

Happy Birthday Kozmo





On May 4th, we turned out for a Walk & Wag Fund Raiser for the Monterey SPCA. It was a beautiful walk, starting at the wharf, then down by the bay thru part of cannery row. Here is Scott with Bailey, Carlotta with Crystal, Duncan and Wyatt taking a break toward the end of the walk for a photo op.

After the walk we sat and rested a minute before the activities and the contests started. Here is Christina with Crystal, Scott with Bailey, and Leah with Wyatt & Duncan



Here is a shot of Carlotta taking Crystal through the agility course

And here is Angela with Ava wowing the crowd during the tricks contest, aren't they awesome!



Troop 198—CA (cont.)

On May 9th we had another Mall Walk training and this time Donna, our troop leader, who is also an AKC certified evaluator invited us to take the CGC Urban test. We had 6 dogs pass the test that day, here is a shot of five of them practicing their stays.



From left to right is Zen, Wyatt & Duncan and in the back ground is Jackie with June and Rusty. June is a therapy dog and Rusty is a Dog Scout!



Here is Sadie, the sixth dog to pass the test!

After the walk, we hung out and socialized, here from right to left is June, Rusty, Wyatt, Leah, Sadie, Duncan, Donna and Patty with Sprocket hidden at the end



Susan with Cowgirl at her side and Scout at her feet also take a rest after the walk

Troop 198—CA (cont.)

Here is a picture showing pup scout Sprocket, from right to left, Wyatt hugging Leah, Sadie and Duncan at her feet, Donna doing the paperwork for the test and Patty with pup scout Sprocket at her feet



On our May 12th training in the park, we worked on the commands, Watch Me, and Leave It with Critter and Leave It with Food. Here is a picture of most of the group that worked that day.

From left to right is Blake with Yeti and Tribble, Donna holding Duncan, Spike and Wyatt, behind her is Sondra with Kozmo and on the left is Lennie with Sadie, I was sorry not to get pics of new member Gigi and her Corgis who did great working on and improving their socialization skills.



As spring turns to summer, we hold in our hearts the love of our furry friends that have left us to cross the rainbow bridge letting the memory of our happy times together soften the pain we feel. We also look ahead to more adventures with the friends still here and the ones we haven't even met yet. The [Dog Scout Way](#) of life is filled with happiness and promise, we can't wait to see what comes next!

Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

Our troop has been so happy to get outside with some of our recent activities, starting with a beautiful spring hike! We met at one of our favorite parks and introduced our youngest troop member Jaxson the Corgi to some of the group. Jaxson may be little but he had no trouble at all keeping up with the bigger dogs! We are very happy to have Jaxson join our troop and have his mom Diane more active with the troop once again. It was a beautiful day for a hike and some of the bigger dogs were able to get in some Parkour practice along the way.



Our first Spring hike! From left, Sally with Mackenzie, Julie with Katie, Diane with baby Jaxson, Barrie Lynn with Moose and Sunny.

One of our favorite community events is the Health Fair at the Ephworth United Methodist Church in Toledo. This event was on hiatus last year so we were thrilled that it was back on for 2019. This year's focus was mental health so we chose to highlight some of our therapy dogs and talk about the differences between therapy dogs and service dogs. We were able to demonstrate some of the tasks each perform since we had both types represented. The church members were so welcoming and were thrilled to see and interact with our dogs. Sam, Katie, Mackenzie and Jaxson all enjoyed the attention. Sam has a love of music so he was thrilled to go into the sanctuary and listen to the choir.

Sam, with Julie at right and a young girl learning about Therapy Dog work. Sam was in his element!



Troop 217—MI (cont.)



Our troop was very excited to host the first ever Michigan Spring Fling. It was a very fun two day event with lots of activities including Tracking, Parkour, Shaping, K9 Massage and even Overnight Camping. We invited the other Michigan troops to participate and opened it up to those not affiliated with a troop as well. It was great to have such widespread participation and we have talked about making this an annual event. It was a great success and although it was a lot of work it was really exciting to see so many dogs try new things!

Little Jaxson (with mom Diane at center) attended his very first community event and really enjoyed the attention he received at the Health Fair.



Katie at the Health Fair

Several of our troop members attended the annual Leadership Retreat held at the MI camp. It was a great weekend full of idea sharing, games and training. We know how lucky we are to be geographically close to camp and take advantage of these opportunities as often as we can. Many troop members are looking forward to attending camp in June or July, with some of our newest members attending for the very first time!

Our troop was very sad to lose one of our long time Scouts, Sassy Neu. Sassy was a special girl who certainly lived up to her name at times. Sassy did so many community events with us over the years and some of my favorite memories of Sassy are from these events. I have so many pictures of Sassy where she and Katie are touching one another as they seemed to do particularly at the end of a long day. I also will never forget working with Sassy on paddle boarding. Sassy was so peaceful on the board while I paddled around and her mom Michelle watched from shore. That was a special moment. Sassy did so much good work within the community both with Dog Scouts and with her work as a therapy dog. Sassy was a good friend to all of us and her passing leaves a hole that no other can fill. We love and miss you Sassy.



Sassy Neu
11/7/2007 - 4/28/2019



Sassy performed countless hours of therapy work.



Sassy will always be a cherished member of Troop 217.

Troop 219—CT ~ The New England Explorers

Kelly Ford—Troop Leader

We attended the third annual Letterboxers Easter Egg Hunt in Rhode Island in April. Wyatt, Zora and Danica Joy love this event and had a blast this year. The hides were especially devious with decoy hides amongst the real hides. We highly recommend this event to all [letterboxers](#).

LETTERBOXERS EGG HUNT



SEARCH HIGH
AND LOW

Leave no Skull unturned



DSA Troop 219



Troop 219—CT (cont.)

Keeping with our egg hunt theme this spring, we went on a Geocache Egg Hunt in May. Each geocache was a different color egg. We only found two, but the pups didn't seem to mind. They had a great time.



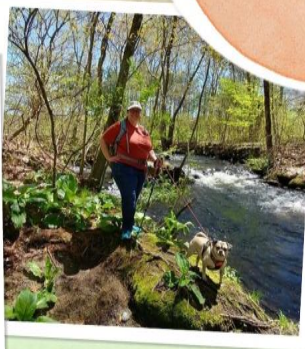
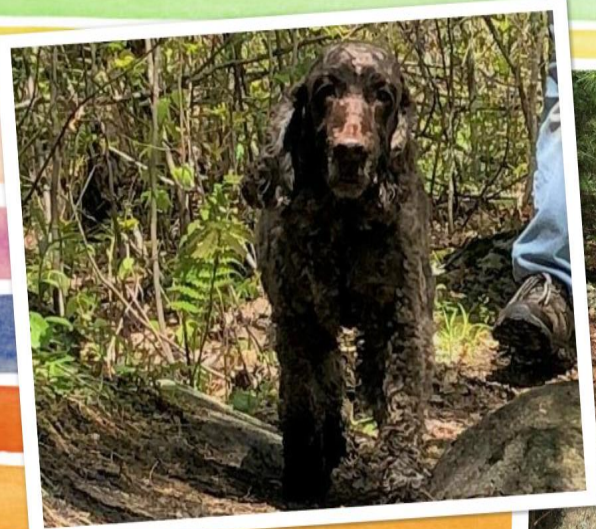
Spring Geocaching

DSA Troop 219

Hunting high and low,
to an fro for easter egg
geocaches.



We love to hike and explore new places. We discovered Browning Mill pond and the trail that circles the pond in RI. The weather was perfect for a day of [hiking](#), letterboxing and exploring. The trail is very well marked and the scenery is beautiful. The pond has a sandy bottom, perfect for dipping your feet in. Wyatt loved going for a dip in the pond. Danica's favorite spot was the mud bog.



Browning Mill Pond RI ~ DSA Troop 219

Troop 229—CA ~ Dogaholics Anonymutts

Mary Blackstone—Troop Leader

Our troop members have been busy with other STUFF, and my allergies have been CRAZY since about January, so we've changed our schedule to 1 meeting and 1 hike a month.

We'll be focusing on bringing the new dogs up to take their Dog Scout tests.



I still haven't worked on iZAR's 2nd [Scent](#) badge, and want to do that. Right now iZAR and I are participating in a FB group: '100 miles by Summer Dog Walking Challenge'. iZAR and I are both under doctor orders to walk a mile a day, and this is great for motivating me. We have a lot of fun, and honestly, it takes all my 'extra' energy & time. We've walked 74.2 miles since the first day of spring (as of May 15th)....well, I'VE walked 74.2 miles.... iZAR has probably walked more than that, since we mostly walk off-leash.

OH! Something kind-of cool.... Since I seem to always make long posts... I had a great Mother's Day Adventure! And it's kind of Dog Scout themed...

There is a missing terrier in our area. The little dog has been missing for almost a month now. The owner had a K-9 team come out and track it, but the team had to go to another job after a few days. But they did find the trail the dog had gone, and people think they are seeing the dog play with their dogs before moving on. The dog seems to be following some main creeks and the sightings are progressive. It's thought that the little terrier is making his way back home now.

I've taught iZAR some scent basics, and he know 4 scents and is learning more. I've played a game where I'll hide from him, and watch/wait for him to find me. It's interesting, because I haven't taught him to "track". He mostly air-scents, but when looking for me, he air-scents, finds my scent and then sticks his nose to the ground and follows his nose.... right to me! I love playing this game with him, altho' it's hard now, he's gotten pretty good at it, and he doesn't usually let me out of his sight.

ANYWAY.... on Mother's Day, I took him and Sharon's dog Mackie for a 3 mile hike to/back to my FAVORITE place, Philpot Waterfall. On the way back from the hike, iZAR started air-scenting like CRAZY and tracking down into the creek, ALONG the creek (I thought they couldn't smell scent in the water??) and up the other side and back again. He's NEVER had his nose on the ground like that. AND I had to INSIST he stop (like a dozen times!), and then a minute later he'd be back at it! He's NEVER done that! And he doesn't respond to bear or cat (bobcat or Mountain Lion) poop. He's walked right over warm bear poop like it wasn't even there! Didn't even sniff it! He does sniff coyote & fox poop, but has never tried to follow it. So I was PRETTY sure it was a DOG!

By the time my old brain ran this around in my skull, I thought about that missing terrier. This WAS in the general area, and it was possible he had come here. So I called Sharon and asked her to call that guy (I didn't have his number) and let him know, that iZAR was acting like there was a dog around here. She did and the guy was 2 hours away and asked me if I'd go look and call his name.

We were almost back to the car by then, but if it WAS that dog, I HAD to go and try!

I didn't have the dog's scent to even show iZAR.... I don't know ANYTHING about tracking.... or how to get my dog to go find a scent I don't know how to give him.... So I asked for his attention, told him

Troop 229—CA (cont.)

I knew he probably wouldn't understand... but I wanted him to "FIND" that scent he was sniffing back up the trail.

He looked back at me for a minute like... what are you talking about woman.... the I SWEAR he figured it out, spun around looked back at me and trotted off back up the trail. when I saw his nose go up I told him 'FIND' and OFF WE WENT! WHOO HOO! I had NO idea if we were following anything or if he was just having fun, but he did look like he was on a mission, and kept air-scenting and tracking. I was really getting tired of trotting up the trail to keep up! (That must be why they use those long leashes!!!!)

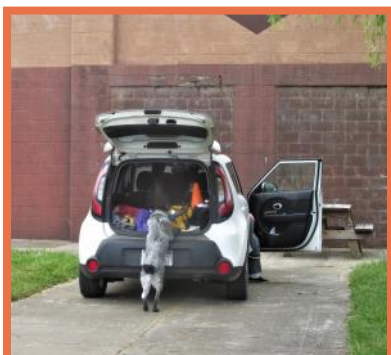
We finally got back up to the spot in the picture and he looked back at me and crossed the creek and went halfway up that hill. He was circling around a big shrub, so I thought maybe the little dog was hiding there! I crossed over and scuttled (like a crab) up that hill. But didn't see anything. I thought it looked like he was off-target or lost the scent and got sidetracked, so I thought if we walked down the road, we might pick the scent up again.

So we got up onto the road and he immediately looked for scent again, and I saw scratch marks by a bush (like when they scratch with their back feet to leave scent). iZAR took off air-scenting down the road. At least it was easier to keep up with him! We got down to the waterfall shortcut parking, and there was a truck parked there, so I put the dog's leashes on while iZAR was looking at me and looking in front of the truck, looking at me and looking in front of the truck.... When we got around the truck, we saw a man, sitting a chair and holding onto a dog! But not a terrier.

iZAR found a dog! Just not the one I was hoping to find. STILL.... I was impressed. And it made a memorable Mother's Day.



These pictures are from our meeting May 14th. In the far right picture, the dog laying down is still on PT from having knee surgery; she got tired of waiting for me to finish taking pics and decided to relax! LOL We also had a visitor come to see if she might like to join our troop. She's joined in for this picture also. ☺



This was Mick at the back of the car.... We were loading up after our meeting, he was looking for a tennis ball in my scent bag! I don't know why he liked that old tennis ball so much, it must have smelled good. ☺

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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