

Obey-U News



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Winter Time Blues

Exercising your dog in the winter can be a challenge. Bundling up on those dark and cold evenings isn't always enjoyable. But your dog needs that exercise and stimulation. Think about how you would feel if you were cooped up in the house all day. While Daycare is a great option, there are other things you can do at home to keep your dog mentally challenged and out of trouble!



Here are some ideas to keep your dog happy for the rest of the winter:

***Provide King Toys** stuffed with yummy treats for him to chew on. Make sure the treats don't fall out easily. Use peanut butter or squeeze cheese to keep your dog busy.

***Instead** of feeding his meal from the bowl at night, hide his food around the house. Scatter it behind furniture or under area rugs or chairs (in a bowl if need be.) He will spend lots of time searching the house for every bit of food.

***Brush** up on his obedience skills or make it a goal to teach your dog new tricks this winter (yes, you can teach an old dog new tricks.) Making your dog sit before meals, or before going in or out are easy to teach and reinforce with yummy treats.

***Always** rotate your dog's toys once a week. We always hear "He has a basket full of toys." Take 1/2 of them and put in a closet. Every week replace some of the toys with the ones that are put away. Trust us, he will be interested in them again and more likely to play with them.

Cheyenne is the Winner!

Cheyenne Kulick is the winner of a free day of daycare. Cheyenne is a beautiful German Shepard who comes all the way from Madison two days a week. We are lucky to know Cheyenne and she has made lots of great pals on Mondays and Thursdays. Be sure to sign up as often as you would like, you may be the next winner!

Spring Break

Spring is right around the corner. If you will be boarding your dog during **Spring Break** be sure and let the kennel know if you would like your pup to spend an afternoon at Daycare. We will pick them up after their nap and they can play until 6:00 p.m. This is a busy time of year and we want to make sure that we save room for all our friends!



Tell Your Friends!

If you refer a new client to **Obey-U**, you will receive one free day of daycare if that person purchases a daycare pass. Tell your friend to indicate that you referred them on their information sheet that they fill out the first time they come in.



Fun for You!

Here is a fun idea just in case **you** get a case of the winter blahs.

Watch the **134th Westminster Dog Show**, shown on USA Network on **Monday and Tuesday, February 15 and 16 at 7:00 p.m.** You can cheer on your favorite breed !

Reminder:

If you are not going to bring your dog on their regular day, please let us know ASAP so that we can make room for other dogs.

Thanks!

Communicating and being consistent with your dog

Naturally, as human beings we communicate differently than our canine friends. Does this fact get in the way of successful dog training? Dogs have a complex language that consists of communicating with a variety of body signals and very little verbal communication. Humans on the other hand have a complex language that consists mainly of verbal and very little body language. Here in lies the language barrier that so many times gets in the way of successful dog training.

Read any dog training book, ask any trainer and you will always hear the same points being repeated. When training, be consistent, don't repeat commands, and have one word commands for each behavior. We repeat the same mantra to our students in class every day. "Choose one word for each behavior, say it the same way, and stick to it." Most would agree, a simple concept to understand. Regardless, this simple concept is still a struggle for many because were human and as human beings were stimulated by being able to say words in a variety of ways that ultimately have the same meaning.



The way we sound words can also effect communication with our dogs. For example; If we are happy, sad, or angry, this can cause inconsistencies in how we may pronounce words.

How frustrated dogs must get trying to decipher our language. They are simply not wired to understand our complex language. From a dogs perspective, imagine trying to understand someone who is speaking a foreign language. While you closely monitor what is being said you look for any clue of information that has some resemblance of familiarity. Dogs do this as well, they monitor our every move trying to pick up clues so as to anticipate what we may or may not do. For all this is it any wonder why dogs tend to tune us out?

To avoid all this confusion, consistent communication is crucial with your dog when training. A common example of inconsistent communication is the use of the word down. For many dog owners the command "Down" has more than one meaning. Its often used for getting down from multiple places. From furniture to people. "Down" could also have the same meaning but said differently by putting the word lay in front of it. Consistent communication could also mean when giving commands don't speak slower, or louder? Subtle differences in sound can make commands sound differently. If your dog doesn't respond to you the first time you will not get your point across any better by speaking louder with more intensity.

Pay attention to how you communicate and make those necessary changes. You will have less frustration and more success, and your dog will thanking you for it.

Training Never Stops

John's favorite saying to all our Obedience Graduates is "Training never stops." Just because your pup has moved on, they can still slip back into old habits if we aren't consistent. If you would like to hear more about our classes or if you need a refresher course, please call John or Sara today!



A Giant Thank you!

Thank you so much for all the treats that have been given to us! Our dogs love them (and expect them) and it helps us out so much. We are so lucky to have such great clients and dogs!



Any new Vaccinations?

Bring them in please! Rabies, Distemper and Bordatella. Thank you.