

Is Spring Finally Here????

It looks like we have made it through the long cold and crazy winter. This year we will be more grateful for spring's arrival than in recent winters. We didn't get as much snow as other parts of the country but we certainly had the arctic blast (or polar vortex as the meteorologists like to call it).

Are you ready for spring?

When you are getting your lawn ready, be mindful of the products you choose to weed and feed your lawn. Our animal companions walk barefoot through the grass, roll around in the grass, and eat the grass – so make sure you are using products that are animal friendly.



Have you stocked up on heart worm preventative? What about flea & tick prevention? If you are concerned about flea & tick product ingredients – there are several choices; review them carefully:

Topical insecticides

Tablet insecticides

Essential Oils

Natural powder or spray

Consider the health of your animal companion when selecting a product. A young healthy dog or cat may tolerate a topical insecticide. A senior animal, or one with an immune system deficiency, may do better with a natural powder or spray. Check with your veterinarian regarding the best option for your furry family member.

Say Goodbye to Cabin Fever

If you have been hindered by the winter weather – keeping you from activities and finding yourself spending a lot of time inside - then you must be welcoming the seasonal change!

I'm sure you are ready to get back into outdoor activities – planting flowers or gardening, playing golf, walking/jogging, etc. Your dog or cat must be chomping at the bit to get back outside as well. Your kitty is looking forward to hanging out in the garden, bird-watching, and chasing butterflies, while your dog is yearning for longer walks, chasing balls in the yard, and running and sniffing through the park.

Make sure you don't overdo it when you hit the hiking trail or head to the park. Your dog hasn't stretched her muscles for a while so go for a few short trips before planning a long day of it. You can use those short trips to remind her of a few cues that you need to have in her vault for safety reasons (see the Training Tip of the Month  below).



The mighty March winds are upon us and it has certainly come in like a lion. Not far behind the winds, will come the thunder and lightning. It is never too early to start preparing for storm season. Get your TTouch® body wraps or Thundershirt® out and remind your canine companion what it means to feel swaddled and safe. Put the wrap or shirt on her and give her a bully stick to chew on (nothing like pairing the feeling of safety with a great  treat!). Let's hope that March goes out like a lamb.

Feature Companion for this issue: Dixie



Photo courtesy - Tim Yeaglin

When dealing with dogs who have physical challenges, you must maintain an awareness and you can certainly pamper them (as you would any of your furry companions), but you don't need to treat them as "delicate" or "disabled". Our animal companions have an amazing ability to adapt to their environment, including physical challenges. We have an obligation to keep them safe and healthy.

Dixie has a wonderful "dad" and he offered her a "spa pampering" for her 10th birthday. She is a happy and healthy girl and has developed a strong muscular tone to offset her weakest link – and it showcases her strengths not her limitations.

You can learn more about Dixie and her person in "A Leg to Stand On" by Tim McHenry (at Amazon.com).



You can pamper your own furry family member with a special "spa" day – contact: pat@n2paws.com.

Training Tip of the Month:

Brush up on what Molly already knows (as a reminder), before heading out for spring activities (walks, dog park visits, dog events, etc.). Start in small increments when preparing for long walks or practicing for dog events (agility, obedience, tracking, etc.) - it has been a long winter and your dog may be out of shape but she will be anxious to hit the ground running (the old cabin fever 🐾 kicking in). Molly didn't renew her gym membership in January, so she doesn't have a head start on working out 😊

Once Molly has had a quick refresher course, start in on new cues that you want to teach. Maybe you need to teach "leave it" if Molly doesn't know that one (it can be a life saver on a walk – if she comes across something suspicious on the ground). Maybe you want to introduce her to agility and you need to get her used to stepping on contact surfaces. You can make a practice board: get a 6 foot long 1x12 or 2x12 (heavier board for a bigger dog), paint it, sprinkle sand over it, let it dry then coat it again with paint (this creates a slightly rough contact surface). Once your board is ready to go - encourage Molly to walk down the length of the board. You can give a high value treat 🍗 when starting out – place tiny treats (or treat pieces) down the length of the board to lure her across it. Once Molly masters the board flat on the ground, add the challenge of making it teeter (place a PVC pipe under the center of the board – the larger the diameter the more it will teeter). Lure Molly across the board and it will teach her that she can stay on contact and balance while it moves a little bit. You will be off on your way to more challenges and a lot more fun.



Just for Fun & Heart Tugs

Doga & Meowoga Corner



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Our canines and felines are masters of yoga – stretching, relaxing, and becoming centered.

We can learn a lot from observing and imitating the ease in which our animal companions can stretch and relax. They are masters at living-in-the-moment.

Doga and Meowoga is a good way to teach awareness through movement in a safe way and increase flexibility.

Check out the N2paws schedule of events for the upcoming Doga class. If you are interested in Meowoga, contact pat@n2paws.com for more details.



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Quotes of the Month:

**"The great pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too."
- Samuel Butler**

"It is impossible to keep a straight face in the presence of one or more kittens" - Cynthia E. Varnado

Announcements:

N2paws will be hosting an Open House on April 26th (11am-2pm). If you were not able to make it out for the autumn open house, we welcome you this spring to come check it out. There will be refreshments and treats for you and your furry family members. The N2paws facility is a work-in-progress, but is ready to welcome dogs, cats, and small animal companions. It will continue to mature and grow with time – adding new classes and services.



Feature Adoptable Companion(s) for this issue: Dillon



DILLON is a sweet, energetic, silly, shy young boy. He's what is called a soft-eared, or floppy-eared, German Shepherd and is likely a high mix. He's a gorgeous bi-color boy with a very sweet personality. He was rescued from a high kill city pound where he was absolutely terrified - but he's come around nicely. Dillon is still shy of some people, especially men and small kids. He most likely endured abuse when he was a tiny pup so he needs time, patience, and love to continue getting past it. He's doing great in his foster home and has become a love bug and a "velcro dog!"

Although shy, Dillon is a true German Shepherd dog - he's protective of his home, has a great bark, and like a typical youngster tries to "strut his stuff" if allowed to get away with it. He requires the training and leadership that all German Shepherds need. He loves car rides and

outings, though he'll stick close to you to make sure you're not going to leave him somewhere. Dillon will be a lap dog if you let him: he's a true cuddle bug and can't get enough lovin'! He does very well with the other dogs in his foster home (large & small). He is playful and has a strong ball drive. Dillon needs a home with no children or older children - 13 and up.



If you would like to meet Dillon or any of his fellow foster pals, check them out at Missouri German Shepherd Rescue: <http://mogsrescue.rescuegroups.org>, where their mission is to help animals that cannot help themselves. All dogs are spayed/neutered and current on shots. N2paws offers discounted services to help transition any of the MOGS dogs to their new forever homes. If you aren't able to take in a new canine family member, please consider a donation to help the cause of changing one dog at a time. **MOGS currently has a few special needs dogs in the program who really need sponsorship donations. If you don't have room in your budget right now, please pass the word!**

Upcoming Events for N2paws & other fun stuff

Apr 12 – *Beyond the Big Bang (easing storm phobia), Peculiar, MO 11am

Apr 20 – *Beyond the Big Bang (easing storm phobia), Peculiar, MO 11am

Apr 21 – *Doga, Overland Park, KS, 6pm

Apr 26 – Open House for N2paws, Peculiar, MO 11am-2pm

May 10 – *TTouch for Dogs workshop, Peculiar, MO 12-4pm

***requires registration, please contact pat@n2paws.com to sign up**

Mar 29 – Pawtini (GPSPCA - www.greatplainssPCA.org), Muelbach, KCMO, 6pm

Apr 5 – Downtown Dog Day (GPSPCA), Overland Park, KS, 9am

May 4 – Woofstock (KCPP - kcpetproject.org), Zona Rosa, KCMO, 9am-2pm

May 4 – Chihuahua Parade, Barney Allis Plaza, 10am-1pm

May 10 – Fur Ball (Wayside Waifs - www.waysidewaifs.org), Overland Park, KS, 5:30pm



N2paws carries a nice variety of high quality treats for dogs & cats (liver bites, grain-free treats, bully sticks). Contact pat@n2paws.com or 816-522-7005 for flavors.



N2paws teaches the TTouch® method to influence behavior and well-being.

If you would like to learn more about TTouch, you may contact N2paws by email: pat@n2paws.com or 816-522-7005, for a private session, group workshop or a public speaking opportunity. Also, visit our website www.n2paws.com, for interesting links and current event schedule.

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