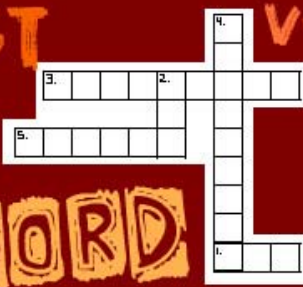







**HILLCREST** **VETERINARY CLINIC**  
 E-NEWSLETTER  
 SEPT 2009



**CROSSWORD**

1. Scientists now believe that \_\_\_\_\_ have been living with people for 100,000 years
2. A \_\_\_\_\_'s heart beats twice as fast as a human heart and 110-140 beats per minute
3. Your favorite veterinary clinic?
4. What is the breed of dog that can reach speeds of 45 miles an hour?
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ can have a litter of babies every 31 days, and the number of babies per litter can be up to 10-15.

Hello everybody! I guess summer is officially over; hope everyone had a good one! I bet after last month's newsletter and all the fun parasite pictures, everyone wants to de-worm their pets, huh? If you have any questions or would like to de-worm your pet, please feel free to give us a call.

This month we are going to talk about something that is very important for your pet, especially if your pet is a dog. We are going to talk about obedience classes. Obedience classes are great for puppies and we highly recommend them at this age; but they are also good for dogs of any age. It's never too late for a class!



### PUPPY CLASSES:

The addition of a puppy is an exciting time for any household. Before long one will see that a cute and cuddly puppy will have some not so cute behaviors. Your new puppy is entirely dependent on you to help him fit into your household. Your guidance and leadership will help decide what kind of dog your puppy will grow up to be. This is a good time to shape your puppy's character, temperament and behavior habits that he will have for a lifetime. Puppy classes offer basic obedience commands like 'sit', 'stay', 'lay down'. It also teaches socialization with other dogs and with humans, and leash training. Most puppy classes use positive reinforcement to teach the puppies. Lots of praise, encouragement and rewards are used to teach your puppy the fundamentals. You have to be patient with your puppy and remember that it may take some time for him to catch on completely. Make sure you have fun with your classes, because if you don't have fun your puppy will not have fun either.



### OBEDIENCE CLASSES:

Obedience classes are good for dogs of any age. These classes help build or strengthen a healthy and appropriate relationship between your dog and you. Obedience training also opens up a clear line of communication between you and your dog, knowing what to expect of your dog, and your dog understanding and respecting what is expected of him/her. You can set boundaries for your dog to properly relate to other dogs, animals and people. All this will help prevent the development of unacceptable problem behavior. It is never too late to take your dog to obedience classes. Most facilities offer a wide range of classes starting with basic, then intermediate classes, agility and rally.

### **PLACES THAT OFFER OBEDIENCE CLASSES:**



The Mountaineer Kennel Club has been helping dogs since its incorporation in 1945. It is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that encourages the responsible breeding, training, handling and maintenance of dogs by both current and prospective dog fanciers. They offer a full range of obedience classes, as well as puppy training, conformation, agility and therapy dog work.

The Mountaineer Kennel Club offers puppy and intermediate obedience classes. Their methods of teaching are based on motivational learning theory and emphasize the relationship between the dog and his handler. The curriculums emphasize positive reinforcement and step-by-step learning. The classes are open to dogs from 10 weeks of age and are open to both pure breeds and mixed breeds. Proof of vaccination is required for all dogs enrolled in class.

Classes meet for 50 minutes once a week for a total of 6 weeks. Classes are typically held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

evenings between 6-9 p.m. Cost is \$85 per dog per 6 week session.

The next obedience class is scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup>.

The MKC also offers a variety of agility classes. They have:

- Puppy Agility
- Agility Fun for the Family Dog
- Contact, Weave and Basic Jump Training
- Fundamentals of Agility 1: Agility Obedience
- Fundamentals of Agility 2: Obstacle Skills
- Novice Agility
- Intermediate Agility
- Advanced Agility
- Master Agility

Dogs must be at least 5 months of age and past all critical growth periods and must not be aggressive to dogs or humans. Dogs also must demonstrate proficiency in basic obedience skills including sit, stay, down, come and walking on a loose lead. Handlers must demonstrate that they have control of their dog in the presence of extreme distraction.

The cost is \$85 for six- 1-hour classes. Classes are usually held Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons, but please visit their website for classes offered and their schedules. <http://www.mkclub.org/> You can also download the necessary forms to participate in the classes.

MKC also works with Therapy Dogs Incorporated. Therapy Dogs Incorporated is a national organization for dog/handler teams who wish to become certified therapy dogs in order to visit hospitals, extended care settings, schools and other similar facilities.

In order to take a Therapy Dog class your dog must be at least 12 months of age, have basic obedience skills, and show no fear or aggression towards children, adults or other dogs. If you are interested, please visit the website for more information.



Dog Tags is owned by two instructors, Carol and Cliff Harvey. Carol currently teaches English Composition at WVU and Cliff is a WVU professor Emeritus of Graphic Design. They started teaching people and their pets in 1994. They are both dog training professionals and members of the International Association of Pet Dog Trainers.

They believe that pet dog training should use positive reinforcement and gentle techniques. They believe in positive, gentle training, and show the owner how to establish clear, effective communication with their dog.

They offer both puppy and beginning group classes, which teach good manners, socialization, attention exercises and basic obedience commands. Cost is \$95 plus tax for 7 classes (1 hr. each). These classes are offered on Thursday evening and Saturday morning.

They also offer Intermediate Group Classes, which teaches a little more than basic commands. It focuses on increasing reliability, mastering and refining skills, home management and etiquette and continuing socialization. Cost is \$70 plus tax for 6 classes (1 hr. each).

They also offer private classes that are tailored to your needs and at your convenience. Cost is \$120 plus tax for 3 hours instruction.

Classes are held indoors at BOPARC's recreation center in Marilla Park in Sabraton. There is plenty of room; so all family members are encouraged to attend.

Please visit their website at [dogtagstraining.com](http://dogtagstraining.com) if you have any questions or would like to check dates of classes.

### **DR. TIDBIT BY DR KELLEY OWEN:**

Obedience training not only helps to have a well-behaved puppy or dog, it will also build self-confidence in your puppy or dog. I recommend setting aside at least 10-15 minutes a day for just training. These sessions are best done after exercise. So after a 30-minute walk, work on sit, down, stay or tricks. Choose 1-2 skills to work on, make the session happy and positive and ALWAYS end on a positive note. One other key- DO NOT move too quickly for your pet- make sure he/she has the basic skill accomplished before progressing to more complex skills.

### **WHATS NEW ON THE HILL:**



I am happy to report that baby Madeline Howell was born to her proud parents, Megan and Dave, on Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup>. She weighed 7lbs 13 oz and was 21 inches long. Her and her parents are doing well and are all adjusting to each other. ☺

We are now offering the new flea tablet, Comfortis. This tablet kills 50% of fleas within 30 minutes and 100% within 4 hours and then continues to kill fleas for 30 days. It is only for canines at this time. Please call us if you have any questions.

### **ADOPTIONS:**

I am also happy to report that our mommy kitty has been adopted! Thanks Levi Stombeck for opening your home to this special kitty.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

We do not have any upcoming events until the annual Animal Friends Halloween costume contest in October. We will give you more details next month.

Lucky's Attic, which is Animal Friends' thrift store, has moved. It is still located at the Mountaineer Mall but is now located down the hall towards the old Wal-Mart. It is across from Goodwill. It is going to have more room and be even bigger and better, so go check it out! And remember, if you were summer cleaning and have items to get rid of, they would be happy to take them!

### **RECIPE:**

Here is a good positive reinforcement treat for class!

## Tempting Training Treats:

2 1/3 cups flour (all-purpose or wheat)

1/4 cup olive oil

1/4 cup applesauce

1/2 cup grated cheese- like Parmesan

1 large egg

1 tsp garlic powder

1/4 cup powdered milk

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl; mix well; Roll the dough out to size of cookie sheet; Pat the dough into a lightly greased cookie sheet, bringing it to the edges. Using a sharp knife or a pizza cutter cut desired sizes into dough. If you're using them as training treats, cut them into small pieces; Sprinkle a little extra cheese if desired for flavor. Bake in a 350° oven for about 15 minutes until golden brown. Turn off the oven and let cool for a few hours. They will keep hardening the longer you leave them. Break them apart; store tightly covered or in the freezer.