



The Straight Poop

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The Latest Scoop

Welcome new Kampers!

Since our last edition, we've had a large crop of new clients come to us, ranging from baby Labradoodles to adult Pugs. It's been a lot of fun getting to know them all – their personalities and quirks that make each dog and cat here so identifiable. All are doing well, and we're of course pleased as punch to have them!



Tick Season

I suppose it's kind of misleading to speak of a tick "season," as there really isn't one in Maine; we are affected by them year-round. It doesn't hurt to have a reminder once in a while, though, that all our kampers are required to be on some kind of flea/tick preventative like Frontline, K9 Advantix, or Zodiac. This is going to be a huge deal especially this spring, as we had a really mild winter with a lot of moisture but no deep ground freeze.

Repeat Re: Facebook & Contact Updates

As a reminder, we're on Facebook now, so if you're a member and haven't become a fan of our page yet, we invite you to do so! Here's the link:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Scarborough-ME/Kamp-K9-Scarborough-ME/431759685486?ref=ts> Becoming a Fan enables you to add commentary to photos and upload pictures of your own. We also put advisories on there, such as closures, doggie "Amber Alerts," and so on, which can be useful for those whose email servers reject our messages for having too many recipients.

Vote for Kamp K9!

Downeast Dog News is having their first reader's poll, and there's a category for "Best Maine Daycare/Boarding Center." While we're a bit of a David up against a couple of Goliaths, we have a very special place here which focuses on quality over quantity, and we'd love it if you showed your support for our "non-industrial" care business! Unfortunately, there's no online poll; you have to pick up a copy at a pet store and send in the form, or email your choices to them (to email, click this link to their home page, and look for the "Contact" tab in the upper right of the page. www.dognewsisgoodnews.com). You can vote as many times as you want (limit once/day if by email, one per envelope if by regular mail). Meanwhile, we've emailed the paper's new owners and requested that they have new copies here once again. (While you're at it, you might want to consider voting for Sooper Dogs in Saco as "Best Maine Pet Store!") There are also categories for groomer, trainer, vet, Maine-made pet product, Sitter, Rescue/Shelter, pet-friendly lodging, and "other" dog business.

“It’s a mistake to regard ANY dog as a little human in a dog suit.”



Inside this noble head lies a brain which doesn’t experience the world the way humans do.



When Angus smiled, it didn’t necessarily mean that he was having a humorous moment.



These little canines are much tougher than you think!

Info Feature: Dogs are DOGS!

Three very simple words summarize this whole article. The idea is not complicated, but it’s *deceptively* simple, so let’s explore the meaning behind this tiny platitude.

Let me start with an example. Many of you remember the recent doggie “Amber Alert” that was sent out regarding Lita, a Yorkshire Terrier who had recently been rescued and had been let out of her new home by mistake on Tuesday February 16th (a snowy day where she was). She spent 5 days and nights loose, in a wooded area, in the Maine February outdoors, before being found and returned on day 6 to her home.

Lita, who had been rescued from a puppy mill (and therefore already knew something about how hard life can be), proved that she was tough enough to survive nearly a week in the wild, while many of us in the same circumstance would curl up and die. Now, remember that she’s a Yorkie – one of many very small toy breeds that a lot of people go for because they are so very small and cute. What the majority of those people don’t realize is this: though the body be small, the spirit is mighty. It may be a cute little fuzz ball you’re looking at, but it’s still a dog. Of course I don’t say that to belittle dogs; my point is that it’s a mistake to look at ANY dog and regard it as a little human in a dog suit.

Dogs (and all other animals) view the world differently than we do. Nature has given them far superior instinct, and auditory and olfactory senses, and the ability to read body language and use it as a form of communication, while we do better in the optical department, use verbal communication rather than body language, and tend to analyze a bit before we respond to a situation. Where we SEE what’s in front of us, a dog’s brain will develop a mental picture based on sound and smell, on top of what they can see.

Given the fact that their world perspective is so different, and their means of communication is so different from ours, why, then, do we insist on trying to deal with them as we would other humans? Why do we wonder when our dogs continue to misbehave even after we’ve told them a million times “No, no, we don’t do that!” Why is it shocking to us when they don’t respond the way we want them to as we try to command them to stop behaving a certain way, yet our every physical aspect screams out “I’m weak”?

Say it once with me: It’s not a little human in a dog suit. Say it once again. And again! Until you know how to communicate with and direct a dog using language, attitude, and psychology that they’ll understand, you will continue to be frustrated – and so will your dog. When we attempt to use human words and psychology in an attempt to train, direct, or otherwise try to get what we want out of our dogs, we’re setting them up for failure and anxiety.

That’s a mistake that I’ll admit to committing in my early days of pet care. Once I stopped trying to deal with dogs as children, though, and tried to get the pack leader mindset going, I noticed that the play yard was quieter, less nutty, and when I needed to get a dog to stop a certain behavior, I was listened to a lot better. It was a major turning point, and has contributed to my success as a dog dad, and the quality of the care YOUR dogs receive here.

Random Thought

A dog is not “almost human” and I know of no greater insult to the canine race than to describe it as such. ~John Holmes

Take Me Home

Welcome to the newest feature in *The Straight Poop*! We felt that it would be a good idea to feature pets who are in need of a loving forever home, particularly since we here at Kamp K9 often hear about animals displaced by the misfortunes of so many people and families in these times. If you know a pet who needs a new home, and who doesn't have the benefit of much publicity, let us know, and if we can help, we will by featuring them here. Information given here is preliminary only and comes from rescue organizations; contact them for more information.

"MAMIE"

Taken in by H.A.R.T. (Homeless Animal Rescue Team, a rescue group specializing in cats based in Cumberland), Mamie is a lovely lady who isn't sure why she still isn't lounging on her owner's lap. She was with the same owner since she was a kitten, but unfortunately her owner moved into senior housing and could not take this beautiful girl. Mamie is a little nervous about her move to HART and hopes that someone will take the time to see how much she has to give. She has very good manners and is looking for the same in an owner!

Mamie is house trained, up to date on all routine vaccinations, and has been spayed.

Email H.A.R.T. for more info at info@hartofme.com.



"AMOS"

Amos, currently in the care of Tender Touch Rescue (a "division" of Tender Touch Animal Hospital), is a loving senior dog living an active lifestyle for his age! A Dachshund who's a whopping 17 years old, you would never know it with his chipper, playful attitude and great activity level. Amos likes short to medium walks, bumper beds, and a good snuggle. A devoted companion, he loves to follow you everywhere! He has just had some dental work, and is up to date on all his routine shots. He is also house trained and neutered.

You can email Tender Touch Rescue at tendertouchrescue@gmail.com

Kamp K9's Mission:

To provide pets with a safe, fun, comfortable and active haven for boarding, day care, & grooming, with the comforts of home, and without the stress of confinement.

Photo of the Month



Medical terminology: *Tranquillitus Herbivoratum*

Common name: *Catnip Coma.*

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*Where all your
pets are treated
like family!*

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That's all for now.

Thanks again as always for your support!