



The Straight Hoop

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The Latest Scoop

Open House 2009

Our first Open House last June was a great success, and you might recall from one of our past newsletters that we decided it ought to be an annual affair...so here's the first announcement of Open House 2009! Plans are to have it on Sunday June 14th from 10am to 3pm. More details will follow. Mark your calendars!



Welcome Lauri!

Last month we put out the call for some help here at Kamp K9. Thanks to a great reference from a customer (whose specialty seems to be radiating positive energy), we found Lauri Haller. She started working here part-time the week of March 23rd and has already been quite a help!

Lauri's been a Veterinary Technician for nine years, who works at the Veterinary Centre of Cape Elizabeth (previously she had tech'ed in Princeton, NJ). She lives with three cats, and has had dogs in her life as well. Because she works in the setting that she does, she already knows a few of our customers, and of course brings some very useful skills and knowledge (and energy!) to Kamp K9, which we are very pleased to have! Also, she does therapeutic massage on animals, and trust me, your loved ones are TOTALLY GROOVING on it.

April Vacation Reservations

It's getting down to the wire to get your boarding reservation on the books, if you haven't already. The April vacation week is traditionally hopping, and the phone has been busy with potential new customers hoping to get their pets in, so be sure to give us a call soon if you need us to care for your pals while you're away!

We Need Info Article Ideas!

We don't just consider ourselves pet caretakers. We're animal lovers, and we feel that we have a responsibility to educate (as well as continue to learn ourselves) whenever possible under our pet care umbrella. That's the function of our "Info Feature" section every month. Hopefully, we sometimes help educate as well as entertain.

Sometimes the hardest part of putting together a newsletter is finding topics that will be of interest or use to our readers. We would love to hear your ideas for topics that you would like to see covered in the Info Feature. What's important to you? What do you feel is a topic more people should be educated about? By all means, let us know!



“Canine Commitment is made up of local volunteers who work with rescuers in TN, AK, and MS.”



Four lucky pups who recently made their way to new homes in Maine (after a brief stay at Kamp K9) thanks to Canine Commitment: Ronan, Tess, Barney, & Spencer

Info Feature: Canine Commitment Rescue

If you've been coming in to Kamp K9 on a regular basis lately, you know that we've had some special guests here. They've included a Border Collie mix, a Beagle/Corgi mix, an Aussie/Hound mix, and a straight Border Collie pup. All of them are dogs who were rescued from various fates (including one last-minute rescue from euthanasia) from Southern and Midwestern states. The other thing they have in common is that they were all brought to Maine by, and have found homes and new lives thanks to, a rescue organization called "Canine Commitment."

Canine Commitment is comprised of three moms - a social worker, a school psychologist, and a marketing exec - and being long-time dog owners of rescued dogs themselves, they have teamed together in their passion toward dogs. They are volunteers who work in coordination with devoted and experienced Rescuers from Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi to help facilitate successful adoptions for dogs needing great homes. They hold a Maine state permit to do so, and therefore all the dogs they sponsor are healthy with well-adjusted and well-socialized temperaments, and those dogs travel with good health status paperwork as signed by veterinarians. They use Alphasdog transport (www.alphasdogtransport.com), a USDA approved transport service for animals. According to Victoria Reynolds, one of the "three moms", Alphasdog transport "are amazing people doing an amazing job, relocating 80-100 dogs every weekend from Southern states to New England drop-off sites."

Using Petfinder.com Canine Commitment has attracted homes for over 220 dogs in the last 18 months. To Maine and New Hampshire, they sponsor many litters of pups, lots of Labs, many Aussies, frequent hounds, and other breeds, including small breed dogs. They've found that our local area has a demand for puppies and family profile dogs. They recently arranged for the Animal Refuge League to sponsor some of their dogs, too, and they've transported 5 litters of puppies and 2 adult dogs to them in the last two months. They're thrilled about this budding relationship, as the ARL is an outstanding animal rescue and placement organization in our area.

So how does Kamp K9 fit into this picture? Services and care at Kamp K9 is sometimes coordinated for dogs who need short-term foster and assessment until their match is made with a qualified applicant, particularly when it sometimes happens that there aren't enough foster homes for all the dogs who have made their way to Maine. Victoria states: "We are very grateful to Kamp K9 as serving as a safe haven for dogs who wait."

Their adoption process includes an application which required references (which are thoroughly checked), including a veterinarian's reference; in some cases a home visit is made for dogs coming from Pickett Paws in TN (per their policy); and collection of adoption/transport fees, which range from \$210-\$300.00.

Adopt and save a life!

Random Factoid

Maine has the highest per capita rate in the northeast, if not the entire country, for adopting rescued animals.



"If Dubin is the mild one, then Tilley is the wild one."



Dubin & Tilly during Tilley's younger days

Kamper Profile: Dubin & Tilley

What a pair we have for this month's profile! These two lovely ladies are the pride of J.C. and Lyndsay Westby-Gibson of Portland. It's a privilege for us to feature them this month, as their mom, Lyndsay, is a Lieutenant in the Navy currently stationed in Kabul, Afghanistan, for the next several months, and we are deeply grateful for the job she does.

They may be sisters, but they're not litter-mates, having come from different mid-Maine households two and a half years apart (although one of Dubin's litter-mates, Jack, started coming here at the same time she did in late November of 2006, until his family relocated due to work).

Dubin (aka Westby-Gibson's Lady Dubinski) was born in April of 2006, and spent her puppyhood living next door to her brother Jack, and attending Dances With Dogs puppy day care in South Portland. When they were both big enough and graduated from DWD, they started attending Kamp K9. Dubin is the mild one, and is a total cuddle-bug, and definitely daddy's girl. Her parents report occasionally having to wrestle her out of their bed first thing in the morning to go potty. She's a total water-lover, as well as a fan of snow deep enough to burrow through like a mole.

If Dubin is the mild one, then Tilley (aka Tilley Thunderpaws Westby-Gibson) is the wild one. Born the day after Christmas in 2007, she made it her mission early on to get big sister, who'd been in a bit of a funk since her brother moved away, to cheer up. She succeeded nicely. Her style in the morning these days is to hop onto the bed and simply stare at dad, until his eyes open and then the kisses begin. She's developed a two-foot-high, all four paws off the ground vertical leap, and dances beautifully at the sight of supper.

Both girls are a lot of fun to have here at Kamp K9, and we're very pleased to have them!

Below: Merlyn F. looking handsome, as always.



Protect Your PETS

Officials from the Maine Emergency Management Agency, County Emergency Management Agencies and Maine Department of Agriculture know that pets enrich our lives in more ways than we can count. In turn, they depend on us for their safety and well being. Here's our message: **Take these steps to be prepared to protect your pets when disaster strikes.**

WWW.MAINEPREPARES.COM

In Other News

We received a shipment of pamphlets from the Maine Emergency Management Agency. These pamphlets have information that will help educate you in the steps to take to protect your pet should a disaster strike.

We all love our pets dearly, but many of us don't even have an emergency plan for ourselves, let alone our little ones. Maybe it's time to think about it.

You can pick up one of these pamphlets from the top of our front counter.

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.

Kamp K9

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*Where all your
pets are treated
like family!*

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On the Web at

www.mykampk9.com



Photo of the Month



*"If I'm quick enough, maybe I can get this out before anyone notices...
but man, opposable thumbs sure would help right about now!"*

That's all for now.

Thanks again as always for your support!