

Rockin' Roxy's Newsletter # 19

News, links and shameless propaganda!

Mid-Summer 2010



PLAY.



LEARN.



THRIVE.

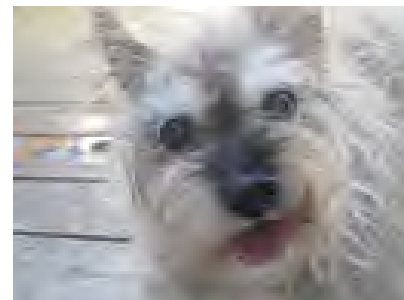
The Playing Part

Or how to guarantee your dog stays happy

"I want your job!" I can't tell you how many times I hear this. "It must be great to play with dogs all day!" Um-hum, that's what we do, play with dogs all day... or at least that's what it looks like from outside our 14 windows.

We take our position as your family dog-care providers very seriously. That's why we take so many steps before bringing a dog into the playroom. And it doesn't stop at the initial evaluation.

Every time your dog comes to Rockin' Roxy's we consider the dynamics of the playroom before entering. Is it better to move a couple of dogs outside or to the opposite side of the fence before we introduce a new playmate? If there are balls in the room do we need to remove them first to prevent a squabble, or in some cases (*Zeus and Kimba!*) ball digestion?



Before

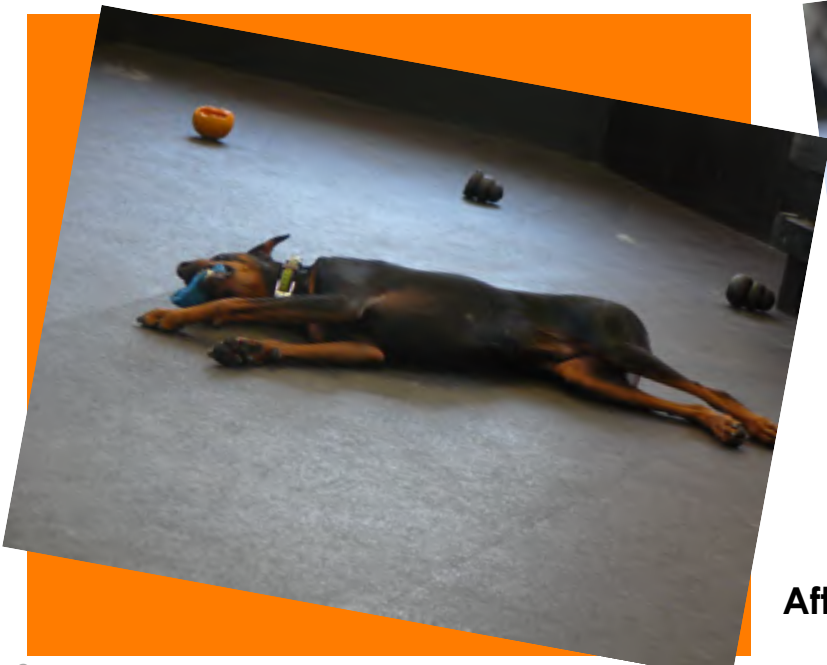


And when is enough, enough?
Dogs, left to their own devices,
sleep a good part of the day.
That is why we encourage
naptime and give timeouts in our
boarding area - NOT to punish,
but to facilitate the daily rhythm
that comes natural to a canine.

During



And when naptime is over, we
play. We play and play and play.
After all, it's their world – we're
just here to keep them happy.



After

“Words can only hurt you if you try to read them.” [Derek Zoolander](#)

The Learning Part

Or how to guarantee your dog stays loveable

“*Tamela! Help!*” I said, in a frantic phone call one recent Saturday morning this summer.

“What’s the problem, Tricia?” Tamela Cantor, of [My Dog Trainer PDX](#) asked me calmly.

“You know [*insert your dog’s name here*]? He’s making me crazy! He has been boarding this week and for some reason he won’t listen to me this morning. He’s running amuck, destroying balls, bottles... and he’s growling like he’s going to bite me!”

Every now and then one of our charges finds his inner Cujo and I lose my cool. Generally this happens at the end of a long boarding period or with the younger dogs: one- to three-year-olds who haven’t had enough consistent training.

Which is why it’s important for us to keep running our dogs through their paces. And even if we have taken our pooches to a class or two it’s recommended to take a refresher class now and then.

Remember that dogs don’t misbehave because they are angry with us or want to dominate us – they aren’t wired like that. It’s more likely that misbehavior is an issue of desire for attention or lack of motivation, plain and simple.



“The most common problems we have with our dogs can be managed through consistent training. Even a 10-minute training walk every day, with a focus on reminding the dog who is in the lead, will make a noticeable difference in many cases.” Tamela said.

But, as Tamela reminded me, even professionals need refresher courses. That’s why continuing education classes are offered at all levels of learning. Training classes help to keep your dog happy and sharp and the marked benefit of this is that it helps keep us all sane. Dogs, just like humans, love a challenge and will rise to the occasion.

Overall the best behaved dogs are those whose schedules include a good mix of activities – daily walks, playtime at dog daycare, park play and agility courses, training classes, and lots of downtime, especially as the dog grows older.

The solution to my problem boarder? First I needed to give the dog a time out so I had a chance to regain *my* composure. Then I spent 15 minutes running him through his paces on leash, which included heavy rewards for listening – in this case, treats. This dog felt the need for some attention. I gave it to him. His behavior improved. See? Even I can learn!

“Training is the very quintessence of the dog-human relationship. Training opens up communication channels. [And] ...socialization and classical conditioning must continue indefinitely.”

-Dr. Ian Dunbar, founder, Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT)

The Thriving Part

Or how to guarantee a long, fulfilling life

"He's a different dog!" I never get tired of hearing how much dog daycare has improved the quality of life for my clients and their owners. Here are a few samples from Rockin' Roxy's reviews on [Yelp](#).

"Since she started going to Roxy's, she has mellowed considerably at home. Some of her more destructive tendencies have been tamed and she is getting great at playing with other dogs." Alanna S.

"When I ask her in the morning, 'wanna go to Roxy's???' she jumps up and practically vibrates with enthusiasm." Elizabeth R.

"Doggie day care was the last hurdle for Babe...in making her feel comfortable with other dogs and other people." Raye R.

It isn't for every dog, but for many daycare allows for socialization and facilitates bonding with both humans and other dogs. It offers a solution for the problem of boredom and the destruction that often goes with it. And it gives shy dogs a safe place to learn how to be a dog among dogs.

From a selfish perspective it gives us the chance of a lifetime to meet and get to know more dogs than most people can imagine. They say people who have pets live longer lives... which means Tristan, Jessie, Michael and I should live forever!



Stella and
Mr. Kibbles

Otto

Boarder of the Month



Otto was a cute and floppy puppy who would play for a minute, then fall asleep in your lap. Now he's a full-grown doodle who, when tired, will still try to sleep on your lap.

Otto is a wonderful friend who never gets into trouble, is always ready to play, and who makes you feel like the best human ever with one press of his gentle head against your leg. Thank you, Sue, for trusting us with your precious pooch!

Thank you to [Facebook](#) friends of Rockin' Roxy's who answered my survey. I hope you see the results of your answers in this newsletter.

If you have any suggestions, questions or would like to contribute an article or photos, the best way to reach me is by email: tricia@rockinroxys.com.

Bonus time! If you recommend someone who joins Rockin' Roxy's make sure to tell us so you can collect your free day of daycare or night of boarding.

I only get to the [blog](#) about once a month, but if you like the newsletter and want more, check it out!

And if you become a friend of ours on Facebook, you'll get to keep up on the daily news and check out our photos and videos!



I feel pretty darned lucky to live in Sellwood, and nothing brings that home like wandering through our Wednesday farmer's market and finding [Padam Padam](#) performing while I peruse the local fare and fauna.



Padam Padam plays the tunes of Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht, Eddie Cantor, Xavier Cugat, Tom Waits, Jacques Brel and Edith Piaf as well as original music. Vocalist Lisa Berkson Platt is

accompanied by radio personality, Barbara Bernstein on viola, Venezuelan cuatro, guitar and vocals, Kathy Fors on accordion and Jaime Leopold on bass, guitar and piano.

Look for Padam Padam in front of the [Looking Glass Bookstore](#) August 7 between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. as part of the Sellwood Passport event.

Other dates: August 15, Laurelhurst Park, 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. and again at 9 p.m. at Mississippi Pizza, 3552 N. Mississippi Avenue. \$5 Tickets at the door.

Closer to home, catch Padam Padam August 27, 8 p.m. at The Muddy Rudder Pub, 8105 SE 7th Ave.

Good-byes

We bid a fond farewell to Brooklyn and Emme (pictured left) and wish them and their owners well in their new home, Baltimore, Maryland.



I am sad to announce the loss of a Rockin' Roxy's old-timer. The quintessential boxer, Sneakers was friendly and feisty, and displayed a confidence that belied her disabilities. Her hind legs were stiff with arthritis, but her owner, Trese, told me that never stopped her from escaping away down the street when given the chance to test her speed.

Sneakers loved her family and they loved her. She will be missed.

Another faithful friend and companion, Meesha the Pomeranian was a frequent visitor this past year. Her mom, Tonya, spoiled her in the manner she deserved and Meesha rewarded Tonya with unconditional love. Meesha died in Tonya's arms and leaves a hole in our hearts but we are comforted to know she will be in good company when she reaches the grassy field and finds Sneakers waiting for her.

