



The Right Steps

To A Well Behaved Dog

“DOGGY DIGEST”

1st Quarter Newsletter 2011

The Right Steps Training Facility has moved to Fair Oaks!



We are excited and proud to announce The Right Steps Training Facility has moved from the prior Orangevale Location of 12+ years to our new Fair Oaks Location! We are now located in Madison Plaza, at 8516 Madison Ave., Fair Oaks, CA 95628.



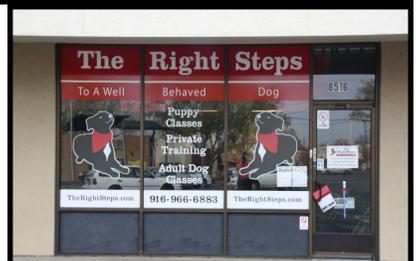
Our New Inside Training Facility offers a great central location for our Clients, spacious parking in a large lot, more working floor space, rubber flooring and tile, tall visual dividers when needed to help shy pups/dogs, inside litter box for young puppies, much nicer acoustics, flexibility to work outside for advanced classes, and all in all a fantastic, safe, and re-

laxing training environment!

Same great training enhanced by a fantastic new location!

Along with our new location we have a completely new and professional look. We now have an official logo for The Right Steps and Professionally designed Website.

Clients will find the new website easy to navigate and packed with great information about us, what we offer, Class & Private Training Details, Upcoming Schedules, Helpful Training Tips, Links, and much, much more. Check out our new website at: www.therightsteps.com



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The Doggy Bag In Granite Bay

As a true small business, The Right Steps likes to give back in a small way by referring to other local small businesses....

For this issue I would like to spot light “The Doggy Bag” in Granite Bay. They are located in the Raley’s Shopping Center in Granite Bay

on the corner of Douglas Blvd. & Auburn Folsom at 6881 Douglas Blvd. / 916-791-9663.

Are you looking for: A quality and fun shopping experience, where the owners know and care about you and your dog? Healthy Dog Food, Treats, Cookies, and Chews?

Do you enjoy your dog having the latest and greatest in accessories and fashion? Looking for Cool Toys, Leashes, Harnesses, Doggy Beds, and much more?

Have a blast shopping with your dog.... Please stop by and let Sherrie, George, & Jessie know we sent you!

Holiday Puppies & Dogs in the Year: Help for the frustrated and lost!

At the time you thought getting that cute little puppy or even perhaps an older dog for the family for Christmas seemed like a great idea! Perhaps the decision was a wild impulse or on the flip side you tried your best to research and make an educated decision on what breed and type of dog to add to the family.

When adding a new doggy member it seems to those who have had dogs before (especially if it has been a long time) that adding a new puppy or dog to the family should be a breeze.... Yep, "Old Shep Syndrome" hits again! Old Shep my childhood dog was perfect and gee he must have just come that way, he never had any issues! Or to those who are new dog owners the "Oh how hard can it be to raise a puppy Syndrome"....you may watch old reruns of Lassie on T.V. and it looks so easy and fun!

Unfortunately, reality sometimes differs from our memories and/or expectations and you are left scrambling trying to figure out what you got yourself into! Yikes instead of being a breeze it is work, work, and more work.

Is your new best friend peeing and pooing around the house and ruining your carpet or hardwood floor? Has he eaten grandma's irreplaceable antique furniture? When called runs away faster and believes sit, stay, or down is a foreign language?

We have the answer for you! Have us come to you for Private Training

Sessions. When coming to you I am able to see first hand what you are dealing with and evaluate, discuss your goals, and from there create a training plan.

Now what if after the evaluation you stop and think "wow" that will take up a lot of my time and gee I do not have it! No worries, do not lose heart, we have an answer that will work for you, it is called "Day Training". Day Training you say, hmmm what's that? Think of a Board & Train Program in the comfort and safety of your own home....How cool is that for your best friend!

For Day Training a plan is created based on your specific goals for your dog, then we train for you. Let's say you want your dog to walk nicely on the leash instead of dragging you, come when called, stay at the doorway versus bolting out, not jumping to give a few examples. No worries, here's how it works: First comes the initial consultation, from there we start the training for you....we come in 2-3 times a week and train your dog, plus once a week we have an owner transfer session, the program runs 3 to 4 weeks.

The owner transfer session each week are paramount, as this is where we show you how to apply the training to your dog, so it works when we are not there!

The benefit of Day Training versus a Board & Train Programs is it is stress free, your dog stays in the comfort of it's own home where you

need the training to work and we include you in the process so it does work!

What if in the new year you have a new little 10 week old Border Collie, German Shepherd, Chihuahua, or a shy puppy of any breed and size? Look at starting our Surviving Puppy Hood Classes A.S.A.P. These classes are specifically geared to begin in providing you with the tools to raise, train, and socialize your puppy. These classes teach handlers how to work with their pups with distractions, how to begin to get a foundation on basic training, and most importantly begin to safely socialize their puppy with other people and puppies of different shapes, sizes, and voices. This great class not only offers training, but a complimentary off leash play session with other pups! We offer an Inside Training Facility, Inside Litter Box, we vacuum and mop before the pups arrive, and have very strict health and safety requirements to help new puppy Clients and their Veterinarians confident to have your puppy train with us.

The Right Steps has over 12 years of having an outstanding reputation for working with puppies as early as 8 weeks of age at our Training Facility! Wow, yes that is a long time and a fantastic record we are proud of.

Please keep us in mind to assist you with your training needs, whether you need puppy or adult dog help, are looking for Private Training, Day Training, or Group Classes.



Back to the Basics: Good Manners ~ Please Be Polite....

First catch on basic manners is having a foundation in some basic training cues such as: Sit, Down, both Sit & Down Stay, and a Recall (a.k.a. Come).

You may ask why are the basics so important? In a nut shell it gives you options of asking for nice behaviors in place of those behaviors that drive you nuts!

Changing our thought process comes in handy....instead of just reacting, think ahead of those annoying things your dog does, and think what would you like him to do instead?

For example what drives you crazy? Door rushing? Barking at the doorbell? Door bolting and not coming back? Jumping? Demanding while you watch T.V. with throw my ball or pet me just one more time so you do (in reality means “gotcha” how about another 101 times ~ woof)? Begging while you are eating dinner?

Once you have those behaviors in mind, think hmmm what are my options of an alternate behavior that would bring peace to my home?

Instead of barking, jumping, and going nuts on your guests how about training him to go lie and stay on a dog bed? Or if you have a toy crazy dog, go retrieve a toy and sit politely.

Instead of running out the door create a solid sit or down stay on a bed away from the door anytime it is opened. **Also**

teach a release word (example: free, release, break), so there is no confusion on when he is released.

As back up for those runaway dogs take time to work on a solid recall (a.k.a. come) with distractions and/or an emergency/reliable recall.

First priority for demanding dogs is to make sure you have honestly met his exercise needs—a must!)

During dinner time teach him to stay on his bed or other ‘go to’ place while you eat.

What about that throw my ball throw my ball or pet me pet me? Don’t! Ignore him, don’t even think about throwing that ball or petting! You ask why? Easy—it accidentally is rewarding the annoying behavior you don’t want to occur! Wait him out until he gives up and goes away, later when you are ready to interact (play or pet), call him to you, ask for a nice behavior like sit or down, then engage in play or petting. When all done, give an all done word like “enough” or “all done” or “game over” to let them know you are disengaging play or petting. Sounds easy enough right? It can be harder than you think as you fight your own automatic impulse to engage or your dog’s “What? You are kidding right, this always works, so let me try harder to get your attention!”hang in there it can and will get better if you stay consistent.

Jumping? Teach him an incompatible behavior like a Sit or a Down.

Basic Barking? Teach a Speak and a Quiet Cue (think of it as an on and off switch). **Demand Barking?** Ignore and only reward the quiet nice behavior.

Last but not least....I realize we love our dogs, they are so cute and cuddly, but take the time to have them work for what they want most (example: play, pets, toys, access to outside/inside or leash for a walk, treats, food bowl, etc.). How you ask? You initiate, ask them for a nice behavior like a Sit or a Down or Sit/Down Stay, even a trick, then reward them with what they like or enjoy most....you will over time be amazed at how their listening skills and response times will begin to improve.

Need to Improve those Basic Training Cues first? Ready to make a commitment, now is the perfect time....

Sign your puppy or dog up for The Right Steps Group Puppy Class or our Adult Dog Basic Training Class. Crazy schedule? Limited on time? We also offer Private Training Options (including Day Training) in the convenience of your own home.

www.therightsteps.com

916-966-6883

Review of Nina Ottosson’s Interactive Puzzle Toys for Dogs (& Cats)

At an Agility Trial vendor booth over the summer I saw my first Nina Ottosson Puzzle for Dogs (& Cats) and was intrigued. As fate would have it the following Monday a fellow student in my agility class offered, out of the blue, to let me take hers home to try with my dogs, it was the plastic DogFinder.

My dogs were instantly hooked, they found it quite easy to solve and quickly get the treats, yet were ready to play again and again!

Off to Amazon.com I went and bought the wooden Turbo Dog Puzzle. This one slowed them down quite a bit, more frustrating, but kept their interest. The key is

using small treats or it will jam.

Our newest puzzle purchase was the plastic Tornado. Found this puzzle in the middle of the two in difficulty and so far seems to be their favorite! Quite addicting for the dogs (although my cats haven’t caught the bug yet).

Puzzles must be supervised at all times.



The Right Steps

To A Well Behaved Dog

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Mailing Address:

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Upcoming 2011 Group Classes (1st Quarter):

Puppy Social Hour: Saturday Mornings. 4 Consecutive Weeks.
\$40.00 ~ **By Reservation.** (Puppies 8 Wks to 12 Wks)

Surviving Puppyhood Classes: Saturday Afternoons (12:00p.m. or 1:10p.m.) **or** Thursday Evenings (7:00p.m. or 8:10p.m.)

Sat. 01/15/11, Thurs. 02/03/11, Sat. 03/12/11, & Thurs. 03/31/11

\$135.00 for 6 Weeks / Small Class Size / (Puppies 10 Wks to 16 Wks)
~ Each Class 45 Minutes of Training plus 15-20 minute complimentary off leash play time.

Surviving Adolescence Classes: Saturday Afternoons (3:00p.m. or 4:10p.m.) **or** Wednesday Evenings (7:00p.m. or 8:10p.m.)

Sat. 01/15/11, Wed. 02/02/11, Sat. 03/12/11, & Wed. 03/30/11

\$135.00 for 6 Weeks / Small Class Size / (Puppies 10 Wks to 16 Wks)
~ Each Class 45 Minutes of Training Time plus 15 minute complimentary on leash fun time.

Adult Dog Basic Training Classes: Sunday Afternoons/Evenings ~ Dogs 9 months & Older (Adolescents, Adults & Seniors)

Sunday Evenings Starting: 04/03/11 (5:00p.m. **or** 6:10p.m.)

\$135.00 for 6 Weeks / 1 Hour Each / Small Class Size

Seek & Find For Fun Classes: Sunday, Friday, & Saturdays (Times Vary) ~ These for fun Nose Work Classes are all about the fun of teaching your dog to enjoy searching using their nose! No obedience here...just following their nose to fun, fun, and more fun! Great bonding time. \$180.00 for 6 Weeks (each class week is 1.5 Hours) ~ Great winter & summer fun for those too wet or hot days! Starting: Sun. 03/13/11 9a.m.-10:30a.m. & Sat. 04/02/11 at 7:30p.m.-9p.m.

Private Training & Day Training: Offered Wednesdays, Thursday, & Fridays by Appointment. Offered for puppies and adult dogs of all ages. May be located in your home, off-site, or at our Training Facility. Great for families and/or those with limited time! Training customized to your specific goals and needs. Training brought to you.