

Training Marbles is a refresher course in puppy care



I have received many questions concerning Marbles. So here is an update on Mr. Marbles.

Marbles will be 6 months old on Nov. 6. I am training him myself. We are working on coming and sitting with the lunge line. He does very well so I decided to try him off leash on coming and sitting. This worked well a few times and then Marbles decided that when he comes to me to sit, I will take him to the lunge line. When I say off leash, Marbles is dragging his leash. Because we live in a condo complex he cannot be off leash. When he is dragging his leash I can step on it if needed.

In the past, I have never used food to train a dog. But I have been doing a lot of reading about training dogs with food. When he knows I have food in my hand he does respond faster. But I have to remember I have a 6-month-old pup and he cannot be expected to be perfect. He does well without food but not always as quick.

One of the first words I taught Marbles was STOP. I did this by letting his leash drag behind him and then as I go to say the word STOP I step on his leash. I feel this is very important for him to know. If for any reason I need him to stop suddenly this word could save his life.

Marbles is healing very well on my left side when we take walks. I am not using a choke chain on him in training. Marbles does want to please so

much so he is listening well. Along with heeling, he is learning to sit when we stop at a curb or when we stop to talk to neighbors. If at some point Marbles starts to show a stubborn streak that is normal as pups get older. I will use a nylon choke collar. It is less harsh on a dog's neck than the chain choke collar. Some dogs need the chain in training but not all dogs do.

The breeder of Marbles' litter may have an obedience class for this litter of collie pups when they are 6 months old. If she does I think it would be fun for Marbles to be in class with his littermates. One of the reasons besides Marbles really wants to please me in making his training easier is that I keep him well-exercised. A pup that does not get enough exercise can be difficult to train. You need to get some of the puppy sillies out either in play or exercise. Then the puppy can calmly listen and respond to the learning process of dog training.

The DHLPP vaccinations

These four vaccinations help protect your pup against some potentially life-threatening diseases: distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parvovirus and parainfluenza. A series of vaccinations stimulates the puppy's body to produce its own antibodies against disease-causing agents as the antibodies it received from its mother begin to wear off. The mother's protection lasts up to eight weeks for some diseases, and 18 weeks for other diseases. After that, the puppy's immune system has to take over. Once your puppy is grown, it will need annual boosters.

Roundworms

Roundworms are a very common parasite in puppies and dogs. Most puppies are born with them. Many are infected before they are born from larval worms that travel through the bloodstream from mother to puppies. Other dogs become infected by ingesting worm eggs that have passed in the stool of other dogs infected with roundworms. The long, spaghetti-like adult worms can cause serious problems, especially in puppies. Fortunately, roundworm infection is easy to diagnose through a dog's stool sample, and the roundworms can be eliminated with easy treatment.

It's very important that during treatment you pick up the dog's stool as not to reinfect your dog or infect other dogs.

Nail trimming

How do you know how short to cut them? I trim Marbles' nails when I hear them on tile or pavement. Because Marbles gets regular exercise on rough pavement, his back nails never need to be trimmed. His front nails need to be trimmed about every two weeks. If you let them get too long then the nerve goes out and then it's hard to get the nails cut as short as needed the first cut. The nails should be trimmed until just clear of the floor. Long nails can cause the foot to play or spread. This can cause the dog to walk more on the back of the foot, which is not a natural walk for the dog. In turn as the dog ages the unnatural gait could cause arthritis in its legs. Also, if the nails are left untrimmed, they can curl around and pierce the skin. This happens most often with the dewclaws, which are positioned high on the foot and are often hidden under long hair. I will have

Marbles' dewclaws removed when he is neutered.

Nails should be trimmed with clippers designed for dogs. There are different types of dog nail clippers for different size dogs. Do not use ordinary scissors or toenail clippers meant for humans. Make the cut just outside the pink blood line (the quick) that is readily visible inside the white nail. Trimming the dark nail is a little more difficult; gradually trim small pieces until the hook-like part is removed. Be prepared to stop bleeding with a styptic pencil or styptic powder. You can find these products at the pet store.

Is chocolate poison?

Dogs like to eat chocolate, but it is actually toxic to dogs. Be sure chocolate is always kept well out of your dog's reach. With Halloween coming, be very careful where you place the candy. Remember it can take a very little piece of chocolate to make your dog sick and can even cause death.

Dr. Cornell will answer your pet questions in care of Ask Bristol, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335.



Marbles

Dancers: From left, Mary Linda Calderone, Dawn Geisler, Najwa Al-Qamar, Cassandra Campbell and Sharran flanked Princess Madiba (seated on bench) at the Botsford Inn where the benefit for St. Jude's Children's Hospital will take place on Saturday, Nov. 14.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

Middle Eastern dance workshop benefit Nov. 14

On Saturday Nov. 14, Middle Eastern entertainer Princess Madiba Bishara will present her eighth annual dance workshop and concert at the Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills. The workshop and concert will benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

The day-long Middle Eastern dance seminar is taught by Princess Madiba and Aida-Adawi of San Francisco. The dinner show hosted by John Akouri stars Middle Eastern dancers along with celebrities. Singer Usama Bankhaki will entertain guests. There will be a charity raffle and prizes.

The seminar is open to all levels of dance students. Class registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Class is \$45 at the door for the day-long class with both instructors.

Princess Madiba's benefit has become a tradition with Detroit's

Middle Eastern dance community. Since 1990, she has been raising money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital of Memphis, Tenn. The hospital has helped more than 13,000 critically ill children from across the U.S. and 53 foreign countries. No child is ever turned away for lack of payment.

Tickets for the dinner show are \$25 before Nov. 1; \$30 at the door. Tables will be reserved for parties of 10 with advance cash donations of \$300 or more. There will be a cash bar.

The Botsford Inn is at 28000 Grand River. For seminar and ticket information, call Susan Peel at 248-541-3193 evenings.

Doors open at 7 p.m. Dinner is at 7:30 and the concert begins at 8 p.m. The dinner show is a showcase of Detroit's Oriental dance community and guest artists.

Farmington Artists Club sets agenda

Mark Hall, the principal designer of the 1998 Chrysler Concord and the 1999 Chrysler LHS, was the guest speaker at the Farmington Artists Club meeting last week.

The recipient of the Walter P. Chrysler design award, he has lectured at local colleges and has exhibited his work publicly.

The Farmington Artists Club is an active local group of at least 160 members. The club's fall exhibit is scheduled Nov. 17-18 at the Spicer House in Heritage Park.

'Dracula' opens season at Bonstelle

Steven Dietz's adaptation of "Dracula" opens the Bonstelle Theatre's 1998-99 season on Oct. 23. Witness this live horror event as the good people of England try to fight off the dark and evil count.

Count Dracula travels to England in search of new blood. He weaves his bloodsucking web using his sinister and mysterious powers, preparing to draw people to an eternal and doomed life. Thinking he has accomplished his goal, the British attempt to surprise him with a plan of their own. Who will win? "Dracula" will be directed by Joseph Calarco, Wayne State professor of theater. Senior theater and English major Dejan Radovanovich will appear as the manipulative Count Dracula.

"Dracula" opens Oct. 23 and runs through Nov. 1. Show times are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Ticket prices are \$8 to \$10. Group rates are available. The Bonstelle Theatre is at 3424 Woodward. For more information or to buy tickets, call (313) 677-2960.



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If you dare... visit The Livonia Jaycees REAPER'S DUNGEON at Wonderland Mall Plymouth Rd. & Middlebelt Rd. (In the parking lot in front of Service Merchandise) DATES: October 8-11, 15-18, 22-30 HOURS: Sun-Thurs • 7:30 pm-Midnight Fri-Sat • 7:30 pm - Midnight COST: \$2.00 Adults \$4.00 Children under 10 FRIENDLY MONSTER NIGHT Saturday, October 24-5:00pm-7:00pm "LIGHTS ON" tour for the little ones \$2.00 per person, all ages. SPOOKY NIGHT Saturday, October 17-7:30pm-Midnight Must wear Scout uniform to get in at Scout price. Special Thanks to: The Management and Staff of Wonderland Mall \$1.00 OFF Adult Admission to the Livonia Jaycees REAPER'S DUNGEON

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Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad Just North of Flint, off I-475 at Exit 18 A facility of Genesee County Parks