

## February 2007 newsletter

**Some exciting changes**—I am very excited to tell you of some wonderful changes we are planning to make around here. It is very clear to me that we need to be able to offer more boarding especially during peak vacation times. So to that extent, I have decided to move the grooming room back to what is now our kitchen/break room and to build out what is now the spa into 11 more sleeping spaces for our friends. We already have 3 smaller rooms in that room that are 4'x4' in size and many of our smaller guests really love staying in there. We will be adding 11 more spaces exactly like the three that are already in there later this month. These rooms will be referred to as our spa suites and will be rented for \$20 per night with the requirement that your dog play in daycare all day as if they were staying in the kennels out back. These rooms will be reserved for our guests under approximately 40-50 pounds.

Catherine is excited for the relocation of the grooming room as it will be much closer to the bathing room which will help with timing and efficient care of the dogs in general. We will still ask that you bring your dogs through the front door for grooming and Jo will get Catherine or will take your dog back to the new spa herself.

It is my fervent hope that this small addition will help to alleviate some of the stress we feel at peak travel times when you need to have your dog taken care of. This addition will be completed in time for spring break and I don't expect these rooms to take long to book up.

**Why is my dog sick?**—In my recent issue of Pet Services Journal published by the American Boarding Kennel Association of which Paws In Time is a member, there was a very informative article about Canine Influenza virus. The article defines Canine Influenza virus (CIV) as a highly contagious virus accompanied by coughing and general malaise. While the virus itself can not be treated, secondary infections need to be treated with antibiotics. It is important to have your dog vaccinated with the Bordatella vaccine but that does not mean that your dog is protected against CIV. This is a virus and is highly contagious but there is no vaccine at this time. So, like humans, dogs are out in the world whether you take them to daycare or have them groomed or boarded, they are still out in the world and, therefore are still susceptible to the spread of disease. Similarly, they do not carry the disease indefinitely. They are only contagious for about 7 days after which time they stop shedding the virus and can not infect another dog. They may continue to cough for 10-30 days due to respiratory inflammation and damage to the respiratory tract but they are no longer contagious to other dogs. Most importantly, if your dog is sick or seems to show any signs of the virus, please keep them home for a week or so until they are well again and will not be contagious to their friends at school. We all have seen how quickly things spread from one dog to another so if you think your dog may have picked something up somewhere, don't worry it will pass but please be thoughtful to others and let them stay home on the couch with the remote control and some orange juice!!!

**Training tip**—I would like to share with you one tip on training your dog that I think is quite important. The general underlying rule is that dogs do not get grey areas. In other words, they don't understand sometimes it is ok to do something and sometimes it is not ok to do something. So with that in mind, let's talk about jumping. If you allow your dog to jump on you upon greeting etc. then your dog thinks it is generally ok to jump on everyone when they greet them. Your dog does not understand that it is ok to jump on you but gets confused when you don't want him/her to jump on your guests when they come in the door. You are also "teaching" your dog to jump if you are telling them to get down, get off etc., etc., as you are paying attention to them when they are jumping. The very best thing you can do when your dog chooses to jump is to wait until their feet are back on the floor and to praise them then as that is really what you want. **DO NOT PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR DOG IF THEY ARE JUMPING IF YOU DO NOT WANT THEM TO JUMP ON YOUR GUESTS/THE NEIGHBOR KIDS ETC. ALWAYS PRAISE THE POSITIVE ACTION THAT YOU REALLY WANT WHICH IS FOR THEM TO PUT THEIR FEET ON THE FLOOR.** Also remember it is cute and not too offensive for your young puppy to jump but what they learn as little pups, they will continue to do when they grow up. Think about that. That is true whether it is a positive behavior or a negative one.

**Dog of the Month**—For our Ms. February we would like to feature Ms. Lili Sheridan. Lili is a beautiful, shiny sleek black lab mix who comes to play with us each week as she has for the past 2 1/2 years. Lili started to come to play with us because her energy level was driving her mom Heidi crazy and causing her to eat her dinner in the bathroom just to have some peace and quiet away from Lili. She is a delightful young girl who just has a lot of energy. Lili, like several of our kids, welcomed her baby brother this past year which brought a whole host of changes to her world and she has handled them well as any big sister should. At first when Thomas arrived, I think Lili came to "school" looking for what she knew as familiar and to take a nap!!! Now her home is settled down and she is once again happy and going with the flow. Lili loves to come play with the largest balls we have here and Lord help you if you are a dog and you try to steal it from her. Lili especially loves it when she gets to have a ride in the doggy limo with Mary. She thinks that is pretty special. Please say hi to Lili when you see her.

**New Editor**—I would like to welcome Gail Sullivan, our creative director (you know, the one who does the really funny, creative "Dog of the Month" posters) as the new person who will be making the monthly newsletter fun and creative. Welcome Gail and thank you for making the newsletter look great.

**Sorry to see Linda go**—Linda Frary was my original editor of the monthly newsletter and she will be leaving her post to be a grandma to her growing number of grandchildren. We are sorry to see Linda go but wish her well with her grandkids.