



# Dogs Speak Secret Lake Dog Training, LLC

October 2008



Fall is here and the holidays are just around the corner. Are you and your dog ready? Check out our schedule of upcoming classes on the web.



## Keeping Your Dog Safe on Halloween

Keep your dog (and cat) confined and away from the door while you're greeting trick-or-treaters. Many reasons exist as to why this is the best plan.

Your dog can dart out the door and:

- ◆ knock children down
- ◆ be frightened by the strange costumes and people
- ◆ eat candy (chocolate is toxic)
- ◆ run away
- ◆ growl and possibly bite someone

Accustom your dog to costumes BEFORE Halloween and do it gradually. Start now by letting your dog see you and your children wearing costumes.

If your dog is frightened, show him the costume and encourage the dog to check it out and sniff it. Try dropping treats near the costume to get your dog to check it out. Practice this exercise with your dog daily to get him or her ready for the sights of Halloween.

Keep Halloween candy out of your pet's reach because it can make your pet sick. In fact, chocolate can be fatal to dogs!

Dogs generally don't like to be dressed up in costumes. Please don't force your dog to wear a costume if he or she is afraid or uncomfortable. Instead, dress your dog up with a Halloween collar or bandana.

Halloween dress up is not one of the activities we do at Secret Lake Dog Training because not all dogs enjoy it as much as their owners do.

## Mattie's Safety Tips

**Off leash puppies are in danger!**



Never let your puppy off leash if you are not in secured fenced-in area. Young puppies stick close to you for survival. However as they mature, part of their development and learning is to check out the world on their own. You never know when your puppy will hit this phase. When the puppy does, he or she will take off and be in danger of being hit by a car, lost, stolen, or attacked by another dog.

Most puppies and dogs do not really know what "Come!" means. You may think your puppy does. Can you call your dog or puppy away from a running squirrel or cat? Will your

puppy or dog come when you call no matter what? I doubt it *unless* you have worked daily for weeks on end teaching your puppy or adult dog to come when called no matter what.

All puppies and most dogs do not belong off leash. Simple fact. Most towns have regulations that forbid off leash dogs.

Please keep your puppies and adult dogs safe.

Keep the following tags on your dog at all times:

- ◆ Rabies Tag
- ◆ Town Dog License Tag
- ◆ ID Tag. Put your cell number on the tag so you can be contacted if your dog is missing.

At night, walk wearing reflective clothing, carry a flashlight and even put a reflective vest on your dog.

Stay safe!



**Sienna of Secret Lake died in her sleep on September 13, 2008.** Sienna was a dog with heart, courage, intelligence and a sense of humor. Her career as a search and rescue dog began at the age of 10 weeks. Sienna was a once in a lifetime dog with whom I was blessed to have shared 10 years.

Donations in her memory can be made to: Connecticut Golden Retriever Rescue, Inc. P.O. Box 322 Canton, CT 06019-0322

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