

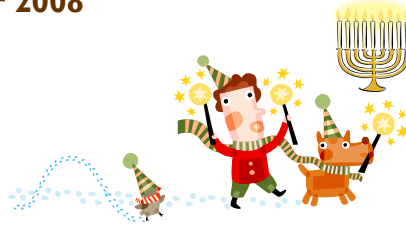


# Dogs Speak Secret Lake Dog Training, LLC

December 2008



**Holidays mean visiting with family and friends. Make the holidays enjoyable for all. Survival tips for the Holidays for you and your dog.**



## Holiday Manners for Dogs!

In the last newsletter, I talked about keeping everyone safe on the holidays. In this newsletter, manners are the topic of discussion.

Dogs do whatever works for them. If jumping on people gets them any attention, dogs will continue to jump. If dogs are successful at stealing food, then they will continue to steal.

You can teach your dog to have good manners. Start now to prepare for the upcoming holidays!

### **Jumping**

Ignore the jumping dog. Do not pet the dog who is jumping on you and do not shout at her. Instead, fold your arms and ignore the dog completely. Once the dog puts four feet on the floor or sits, praise her! Praise the desired behavior and ignore the undesired!

## **Stealing Food**

Of course a dog will steal food if it is available. We have all experienced the sudden loss of a sandwich or bagel and the disappointment that it brings. Once the food is stolen and gone, let it go; don't continue to verbally punish the dog. It is actually your fault that the dog stole your food.

With proper training and management, you can eliminate food stealing. Plus it is simple!

If you do not leave food out where your dog can steal it, food will not be stolen. That's management and prevention. Teach yourself, family members and guests NOT to leave tempting food where the dog can reach it.

If you teach your dog a rock solid "Leave It", your hors d'œuvres should not disappear in front of your guests.

Work on teaching your dog to "Leave it" and on increasing the

difficulty gradually as your dog understands the command. "Leave it" is used to tell the dog not to touch or take something—to leave whatever it is alone. Then if you must step away from a plate of food, issue a strong "Leave it" command to your dog. If you have worked to train your dog to do a solid "Leave it", you will be able to step away.

## Mattie's Safety Tips

This Thanksgiving weekend a Golden Retriever was shot and killed by hunter in CT. Please be safe during hunting season by dressing yourself and your dog in hunter safety orange clothing.

Inexpensive orange vests with reflective tape can be bought for your dog and should be on the dog whenever you are out hiking or walking. Your dog will be visible to hunters and to traffic.

*Mistletoe, holly, and poinsettias are poisonous to dogs!*



## **Fun with Obstacles Classes**

December 13 to January 10 at 9am

January 17 to February 14 at 9 am



Emphasis is on playing with your dog to build teamwork and attention, learning the obstacles, and having fun. Course is not geared toward agility competition. Goal of the course is to teach you and your dog one more way to work as a team and have a blast!

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