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October 2018 Newsletter

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Whether your more of a dog lover or cat lover, most of us can agree there is something so regal, beautiful, and mysterious about black cats. This makes the fact that they are one of the most overlooked animals in shelters across the U.S. hard to believe. Even today, the bad luck stigma that was bestowed on them long ago still “haunts” them today.

The nationwide epidemic of overlooking black colored adoptable pets even extends to black dogs and is often referred to as black cat or black dog syndrome. Reasons vary, from black pets not photographing well to superstition. Black cats are even the target of cruel abuse around Halloween time- some shelters won’t even adopt them out during this time!

This month is an opportunity for all of us to show how pawesome they really are! Do your part by spreading awareness, donating, adopting a black cat, or if you already have one- share their photo in honor of black cats awaiting forever homes across the country.

Beating the Back to School Blues

School bells have rung! Back to school is in full force and class is now in session! With the kids gone, it's awfully quiet at home. The days full of activity and buzz are over. Afternoons in the yard are gone and a constant playdate is a thing of the past. Now that those dog days of summer are a recent memory, where does that leave your family dog? Is your dog bored? Just laying around without much gumption? Are they whining at the door, hoping that noise they hear is the school bus coming down the street? Try these fall pet tips to cheer up those doggy blues.

Be the Substitute

Your child and your dog have an amazing relationship. After having spent every waking moment playing this summer together, back to school will be stressful for your dog. To help them overcome this, step up as the substitute for your child and here's how:

- Get up early and spend additional time with your pet, hug them, love them, and help them work off some extra energy early in the day.
- Schedule in an additional walk or two at some point during the day. Soon, they will be looking forward to this new routine instead of pining for the school bus.
- Have someone stop in at lunchtime to check on, walk, and visit with your dog to break up the day for them.

By making more time for your dog and helping them burn off the energy in the morning, it will help distract them from the change in routine when dealing with doggy back to school blues.

New Toys

New dog toys will help to distract your dog from the lack of kids around. Leaving those new toys behind, when everyone leaves for the day will help beat the boredom that may ensue.

New Quality Time

A great fall pet tip is to allow this change in routine to be a good thing and not just a time of stress for the family (including your dog). Understand your dog still needs family time, this may mean thinking outside the normal parameters of what you do with your family and your dog. Include your pet in your activities and find ways to continue to have playtime with your dog, after everyone is home for the day.

Back to school time is full of hustle and bustle. It's important to not lose sight of your dog's needs at this time of year. They've enjoyed a busy house with lots of flurry and activities all summer long and now it's dead quiet. Ease this transition with several simple fall pet tips to beat the doggy back to school blues. This new routine will be enjoyable as you embrace the new fall season routine with your dog's well-being in mind! Contact Professional Pet Sitting Etc. to help make the transition easier on you and your pet.

DogFest New Jersey 2018

DogFest New Jersey is celebrating the community of people and dogs that make it possible for Canine Companions to place assistance dogs with children, adults and veterans free of charge. These highly trained assistance dogs make a profound impact through the jobs they do, including opening doors, picking up dropped items, alerting to sounds and much more.

Grab your friends, family and dogs and head to Roosevelt Park in Edison, NJ on October 7 for the 4th annual DogFest New Jersey benefiting Canine Companions for Independence. Furry friends and families are invited to join us for a day of fun, festivities, graduate speakers, dog demonstrations, music, food and more! Registration is free. Visit the site here to learn more!

For more pet friendly events in New Jersey click here and here.

Dog O' Lanterns

Enjoy this collage of incredible dog o' lanterns and other pet-related pumpkin carving creations!

Credits: Andy Manoloff, sawyer_the_doodle/Instagram, woodythecavalier/Instagram, texasranger_gsd/Instagram, Wayne (spirit635)/Flickr, lavocedeiconigli/Instagram

Autumn Allergies in Dogs

True, spring is usually the culprit of most seasonal allergies in people and pets, autumn has its fair share of allergens as well. Think about it, all those piles of leaves harboring pollen, mold, dirt, dust, and insects, scary right?! Well, hopefully, your dog doesn't suffer from fall allergies since jumping in piles of leaves is a favorite past time for many dogs but if you're not sure, here are some symptoms to look for:

- Asthma symptoms
- Bumps
- Chewing on affected areas
- Coughing
- Ear infections
- Hair loss
- Itching
- Nasal congestion
- Obsessive licking
- Red and itchy eyes
- Redness
- Scratching
- Shortness of breath
- Sneezing
- Thickened skin
- Ulceration of the skin

Knowing what fall allergy symptoms to look for will help in ensuring your pet enjoys all the wonderful activities the season has to offer.

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