

The Talk at the Walk

~*A newsletter for members and friends of Julington Creek Animal Walk*~



FEBRUARY 2019



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JCAW DAYCARE BLACKOUT DATES

 Friday 3/08 thru Monday 3/25 (Spring Break)



Receive the newsletter electronically.

To be added to our E-mail distribution, please forward your E-Mail address to us at: thetalkatthewalk@gmail.com.

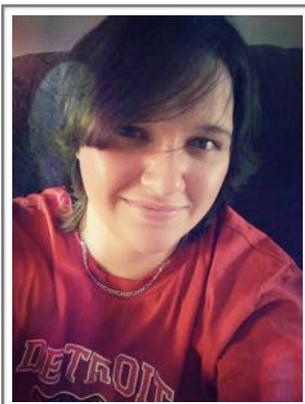
Dog of the Month ~ Sprocket ~ owned by Thomas and Margaret

Sprocket is an adorable one-year-old Brindle Boxer with exquisite markings, a smooth silky coat, and a lean build. His brown eyes sparkle and his ears floppy. Sprocket is upbeat, silly like clown, extremely playful, sometimes a little mischievous, and yet very intelligent. He is lovingly affectionate and a wonderful companion: *He is the whole doggy package!!* He is always ready for a walk, a game, playtime with his canine housemate, Kirbee, or just some quality time on the sofa. He really enjoys playing with all of his toys (stuffed animals, bones, balls, squeakers), and it's quite fascinating to watch him entertain himself. Sprocket's toys almost appear to 'come to life.' Characteristically, he responds to noises by tilting his head from side to side, sometimes quite extremely! Sprocket has a wide vocabulary in addition to just barking - sometimes a gentle howl, a whine, a whimper, a huff, a playful growl, or an attention grabbing yip. He is also quite curious and inquisitive and will appear to investigate as if he wants to figure it out. Like when he discovered blowing bubbles through his nose while drinking from the water bowl! Dog park visits are definitely a highlight and a treat. It is a pleasure to watch him at top speed racing in the field, running through the trails, and frolicking with other dogs at the park. You'd be surprise to know that Sprocket loves to swim in the pool, a trait most Boxers are not prone to possess. Not only a good swimmer, but he can tread water and enjoys retrieving toys from the deep end. Sprocket responds promptly to friendly overtures from other people and dogs alike. "He is truly is a very special companion and we know we are very fortunate to share life with him."



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH ~ ASHLEY BASS

Ashley has been with us since November 2015. She works reception in the Animal Walk lobby. Ashley consistently goes above and beyond for our clients and is always looking for ways to improve our service to clients. She happily assists in the training of new staff. Ashley is very dependable and hard working. We are happy to have her as a member of the JCAH family. Ashley says she saw a job posting on indeed.com and applied for the position. "I had experience with both hospital and boarding related services for animals. I love the fact that I work with animals and am able to spend time with many amazing pets. The work is fun and has a fun atmosphere. I enjoy movies and playing video games with friends, spending time with my family, and playing my guitar. I also love the beach and going out into nature like camping and such." Ashley has 3 pets, Koda, Daemon, and Salem. Koda is a 6 year-old long hair Chihuahua. Daemon and Salem are domestic shorthair cats roughly 5 years old.



Paw Care Tips for Dogs ~ Keep a spring in your pet's step with these paw care tips:

Pedicures, Snip, and Trim: Your dog's nails should just about touch the ground when they walk. If their nails are clicking or getting snagged on the floor, it's time to see the groomer for a pedicure. Your groomer should also trim paw hair regularly to avoid painful matting. **Clean In Between:** Foreign objects can become lodged in your dog's pads. Check regularly between toes for pebbles and other debris. **Moisturize:** A dog's pads can become cracked and dry. Ask your vet for a good pad moisturizer and use as directed. Avoid human hand moisturizer, as this can soften the pads and lead to injury. **Deep Paw Massage:** Similar to giving a human hand massage, a paw massage will relax your dog and promote better circulation. Start by rubbing between the pads on the bottom of the paw, and then rub between each toe. Your dog will be forever grateful for the extra TLC! **Slow and Steady:** If you're about to begin a new exercise program with your dog, start off slow. Paws may become sensitive, chaffed or cracked, particularly when starting your dog out on hikes and runs. **Apply First Aid:** It's not unusual for dogs to suffer cuts or other wounds from accidentally stepping on glass, debris or other objects. Wounds that are smaller than a half inch in diameter can be cleaned with an antibacterial wash and wrapped with a light bandage. For deeper paw cuts, see the vet for treatment. **Wintertime Blues:** Winter is hard on everyone's skin, even on your dog's! Bitter cold can cause chapping and cracking. After outdoor walks, wash your dog's paws in warm water and apply Vaseline. **Practice Prevention:** To reduce the risk of injury, keep your home and yard clear of pointy bits and pieces. Be conscious to avoid hazards such as broken glass and other debris when walking your dog. And keep this simple tip in mind - if you wouldn't like to walk on it barefoot, neither will your dog! Read more <https://dogtime.com/dog-health/general/43871-8-tips-taking-care-dogs-paws>



Valentine's Day is just as much a day for pets as it is for people. While you should show your pup appreciation every day, take some time on Valentine's Day to give them a little extra TLC. Make a point to provide something special for your pets as a heartfelt 'Thank You' for the unconditional love they so generously give to you 24/7/365. Here are a few suggestions to Smooch your Pooch: ♥ Buy your pup a Valentine themed collar and or bandana. ♥ Reward your puppy with special doggie treats for the Valentines holiday. ♥ Plan a special walk. Take your dog out for a longer walk than usual, or even better, find a new route and let the added stimulation be an extra treat for your furry companion. ♥ Give them a new toy. Every dog loves a new toy, and fortunately, they are not picky about whether its brand new from the store or something you created at home. ♥ Have a movie night. Your pup probably wants nothing more than to be by your side, which is why you should give them a gift of your time. One fun way? Curl up together and watch an animal-friendly movie. ♥ Each day that your dogs spend with you is a blessing. They love you at any age. They aim to please, and to remind you that life is precious and meant to be enjoyed. This Valentine's day, show your pet how much you care. Have fun together and your dog will return the Valentine's Day love and attention many times over. After all, your dog is your best friend every day! ♥ ♥ More ideas <https://vetericyn.com/10-valentines-date-ideas-for-you-and-your-dog/>



FOUR REASONS WHY POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT WORKS: 1) **When you train your pet with positive reinforcement, you enhance the human-animal bond.** Your pet won't have to fear you or be confused about why you are punishing them. 2) **It's fun.** Positively reinforcing your pet to learn desirable behavior through playing games and rewarding drills will cause your pet to want to listen to you and choose to do what you like. That's true leadership. 3) **It's easier on you.** For anyone who has ever tried negative training methods, it's heartbreaking. It feels bad for your animal AND it feels bad for you. Fear does not lead to respect, but benevolent leadership does. 4) **With pets, whatever you focus on grows.** One of the greatest things about animals is that they CAN learn. Whatever you pay attention to will get stronger. SO, catch Fido doing the stuff you want, give praise for behaving well, and you'll find it is easier to get along great. For more information, go to <https://www.cesarsway.com/dog-training/choosing-a-professional-trainer/the-dos-and-donts-of-positive-reinforcement>



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