

PDX Post

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Howl-O-Ween Party!

Although we humans think it's a hoot, lots of dogs don't like Halloween, and with good reason. Imagine how you'd feel if suddenly hordes of extremely bizarre strangers descended on your home, shrieking and flailing about, making incomprehensible demands. Your dad makes them go away by shoving food at them, which mostly works, but has the unfortunate side effect of attracting more of the freaky little boogers. What's fun about that?!

Much better to treat your dog to a special Howl-O-Ween bash, where she can play with her buds, get lots of extremely yummy treats, and best of all, plenty of attention and a worry-free evening with YOU!

See our web site for details, and come on down!

When: October 31st from 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Where: Play Dog eXcellent at 4113 Dayton Blvd in Chattanooga
How much: \$5 per dog; proceeds benefit the Animal Care Trust & the Animal Care and Adoption Center
Info <http://www.playdogexcellent.com/HowlOWeen.htm>

Home for the Holidays

Since most folks have Thanksgiving and the day after off, PDX will be closed on November 24th and 25th. We are also thinking about closing on December 26th, since many companies are giving their employees that day off, and we're thinking you'll want to stay home with your dogs. Please help us decide by letting us know if you'd want to bring your dog for daycare on Monday, December 26th.

Bordetella Shots – Highly Recommended!

Bordetella, aka "kennel cough" or "canine cough", is one of the most prevalent infectious diseases in dogs. It is an extremely communicable bacterial illness caused by any number of different airborne bacteria and viruses, and is most likely to occur when a dog spends time in close quarters with many other dogs. We work hard at PDX to do our part: keeping the community water dishes and toys disinfected and providing good ventilation indoors. And we strongly recommend that you get your dog vaccinated using the injectable vaccine twice a year. Like the flu shot, getting the bordatella vaccine doesn't guarantee that your dog won't develop kennel cough since such a wide variety of bugs are potentially involved, but it's still a good idea to protect your dog as best you can.

Canine Flu

Much to-do has been made in the press and over the internet about a new strain of canine flu. The good news is that no cases have been reported in Tennessee or Georgia. The bad news is that the virus itself is highly contagious and it's likely that all dogs are susceptible. Because the situation changes nearly daily, we're monitoring it via the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida (www.vetmed.ufl.edu/) and Cornell University (www.vet.cornell.edu/). The bottom line is that you need to get your dog to the vet right away if he exhibits signs of respiratory illness. In the meantime, use common sense to boost your dog's immune system: good food, lots of fresh water, plenty of exercise and sleep. You might want to consider adding vitamin and mineral supplements, antioxidants, and omega-3 fatty acids to prevent problems and maintain health. Cris gets his Osteo-3 and flax seeds every day!



New class session begins November 15

If you're looking to spend some quality time with your dog, learn many new things, and do some creative problem solving, consider taking one of our group training classes. We offer obedience classes for puppies as well as older dogs. Once your dog has the basics down, you can REALLY have fun with any of several performance classes including Rally, Agility, Freestyle, Canine Good Citizen, and Flyball. Please check our web site for updates: <http://www.playdogexcellent.com/Training.htm>.

Notes from our Relationship Manager – Be Hudson

YIKES!! Here it is October and we have been open for ten months. In that time, we have seen many changes occur, all of them geared toward making Play Dog Excellent more comfortable, more exciting,



more accessible, and most of all, more fun. We have hosted a Freestyle Competition, seminars, obedience Show 'n Go's, a Canine Good Citizen Workshop, as well as offering a variety of evening classes for dogs and their handlers. Our dog roster has grown to well over one hundred dogs, and we have about seventy regulars. We have watched the dogs as they have perfected dog dynamics, pack etiquette, a variety of games involving skill and focus, power napping, and many other helpful abilities. Each dog has its own personality, quirks, likes and dislikes moods and character traits; although the dog books say that we should not anthropomorphize dogs, I find that very hard to do. Especially since they grow, learn, change and adapt much like their human beings do. We are looking forward to our first Howl-O-Ween fest; we are hoping the owners have as much fun as their dogs do. We are very close to having our "little" dogs move into a larger area, as their numbers are growing also; that's a good problem to have. I have especially enjoyed teaching "doga" to the small dog population; they are very expert in downward

facing dog, up dog, dog tilt, fire hydrant lift, and legs up the wall pose. Thank each of you for sharing your buddies with us - they enrich our lives, and make us laugh a lot!

**!! THANK YOU FOR LETTING US
PLAY WITH YOUR DOG!!**

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