



GDF Suncoast Puppy Raisers Newsletter

June 2016



Suncoast Puppy Raisers
Saturday Puppy Meeting
Date: June 11, 2016
Where: Parking Lot
Coachman Park # 5 on map
301 Drew St., Clearwater
Time: 10:00 – 12:00pm

Hi everyone,

What better time to take your puppies to the beach than in the heat of June! Actually, our true exposure is going to be riding the “Downtown Ferry.”

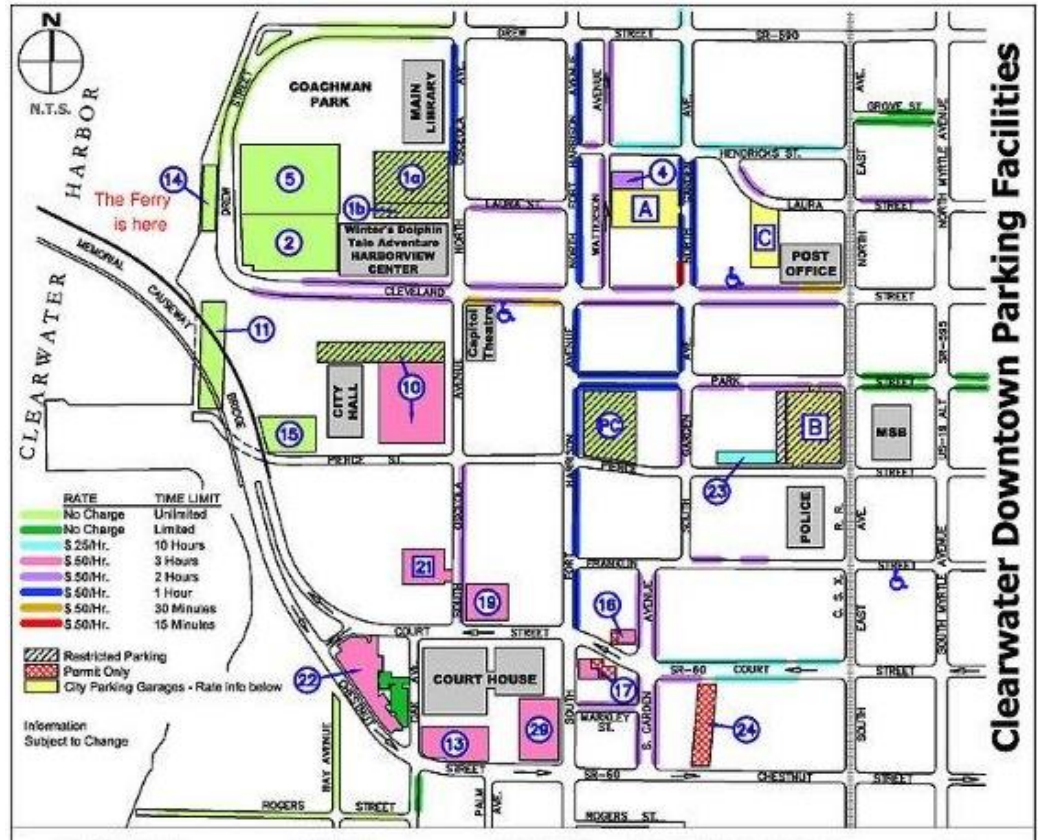
Even on a good day, the traffic to get to Clearwater Beach can be a challenge. The Ferry Taxi service offers a more enjoyable way to get there without having to feed a meter every couple of hours. The Ferry docks at several

locations including downtown Clearwater, Clearwater Beach Marina and North Beach. We plan to meet in the Coachman Park parking lot and gather up before boarding the Ferry. We will get off at the beach, enjoy some beach time and then return. More than likely we will need to stop for a cool beverage or snack along the way.

Currently, the cost of the Ferry is \$4.00 one way and \$3.00 for seniors over 55. We are actively working with the owner to work out a deal. Be prepared to bring some pocket change but I think we’re going to be given a free ride. So wear your beach shoes and bring suntan lotion and plenty of water for your pups.

Directions: From north Pinellas get onto Us HWY 19 head south to Drew Street exit in Clearwater turn right or west on Drew street stay on Drew thru downtown Clearwater once you cross Osceola it will go down a hill when Drew curves to the left the parking lot will be on your left and Ferry terminal on your right. From South Pinellas take I 275 to Roosevelt Blvd take Roosevelt Blvd to US Hwy 19 turn right or north on 19 to the Drew street exit in Clearwater and follow directions above to parking. From Tampa take the Eisenhower expressway from the south or Veterans from the north to State Road 60 Courtney Camble Parkway, take Courtney Camble across Tampa bay to Mc Mullen Booth road turn right or north on McMullen booth and work your way into the left lane. First light you come to is Drew street turn left on Drew and follow the above directions to the parking lot. If you have any questions or need different directions call Chuck. For more information on parking go to the Ferry’s website

www.clearwaterferry.com



Suncoast Pups watch the train go by at last Month’s meeting.

Last Month

We appreciate everyone making the long drive to meet at the Shops at Wiregrass for May's meeting. Despite the drive we had excellent attendance and even a few guests. I want to especially thank Laura and Jenna Ash for surprising us with their attendance. In 1996, the Ash family was one of six families that started our original "Suncoast Puppy Raiser" group. It was so good to see you guys and we invite you to come back anytime!

After announcements and some obedience, the pups and raisers went shopping. The mall had everything from Macey's to the Outdoor Recreation store. While walking around the Mall's mini train designed for kids made its way all around the pups. Even the conductor tooting the horn didn't even disrupt the puppies from having a good time.

As usual, after the meeting several raisers went to lunch while Chuck, Shannon and I had a golf tournament to go to. We played a very successful round of golf while raising money for the Teamsters Scholarship Fund. We just can't figure out why we didn't get an award for having the highest score!

On May 25th, the pups received a kayak lesson. It may sound frivolous to some people, why would anyone want to take their dog kayaking? But, you'd be surprised how many people do want to take their dogs with them kayaking, canoeing, and boating. Teaching the pups how to properly enter and exit a boat is just as important as sit and stay. It is a control issue and they need to learn they are not allowed to randomly just decide to get on or jump off a boat without permission and under supervision. This would be true with any child as well. Believe it or not, they do make doggie life vests and I do see many pups out there wearing them.

Don and Donna have made the kayak meeting at Philippi Park an annual event and we haven't lost any one yet although we did have some unexpected swimmers. Thanks for the fun while we teach our pups about safety.

In For Training

It's great that we can have so much fun taking our pups on outings, but eventually the day comes they have to return to New York to go to college.

This month, Joe and Fran Merle are sending Mac off for his advanced training so he can become the best dog guide ever! We all will miss you Mac, but we will be keeping up with your progress. Stand by Beatrice and Essie, you'll be next returning to NY in July.

Training Tip- New Manual

Perspective puppy raisers always have a lot of questions and apprehensions about taking on the responsibility of raising a puppy. What we always like to tell them is "unlike kids, our puppies come with a manual!" However, very much LIKE kids, the manual is constantly being updated and is always a work in progress.

We have just received the latest update on GDF's manual, "a Guide to Helping Your Puppy Lead the Way." While each of you will be receiving a copy, we have included in this newsletter 2 topics we believe our raisers have the most questions about what to do.

The following are excerpts from the new manual addressing Verbal Cues and Age Expectations. We hope this helps and please bring your questions to our next meeting.



Above Mac & Joe work by the train. Below Rugby and Mickey take Francis and Karen shopping during last month's meeting.



Verbal Cues used for guide dog puppies

Each of these verbal cues are necessary for guide dog puppies to learn before coming IFT. Please do not teach your puppy any extra verbal cues or “tricks”. Teaching them anything extra can affect their formal guide dog training and cause them to be released from our programs.

1. Sit: The verbal cue used to make your puppy place their bottom on the floor.
2. Down: The verbal cue used to make your puppy lie on the ground in a relaxed manner.
3. Stand: The verbal cue used to make your puppy stand with four feet on the floor, usually from a sit or down position.
4. OK: The verbal cue used to release your puppy from any prior verbal cue.
5. Under: The verbal cue given to get your puppy under a table or chair and lie down.
6. Forward: The verbal cue given to make your puppy start walking forward on your left side.
7. Come: The verbal cue given to make your puppy come directly to you
8. Stay: The verbal cue given to make your puppy stay in the position and spot that you told them to until you release them
9. Leave it: The verbal cue given to make your puppy stop whatever they are doing and pay attention to you.
10. About: The verbal cue give to completely turn around and walk in the direction you were coming from.
11. Heel: The verbal cue given to make your puppy move into the proper heel position
12. Kennel/crate: The verbal cue given to make your puppy move into their crate or kennel
13. Enough: The verbal cue given to make your puppy stop playing or being too active.
14. Go busy/get busy/busy: The verbal cue give to tell your puppy to relieve themselves.

When training and teaching your guide dog puppy it is important that you are setting them up for success and that they are absorbing what you are trying to teach them:

- Make sure you can always follow through with a verbal cue given.
 - Always give praise if your puppy did what you asked them to do.
 - Use an excited, quiet voice and hold a relaxed leash.
 - Start in a quiet, low distraction environment. Once your puppy is older and more reliable you can start asking for verbal cues in more stimulating environments.
 - Say the verbal cue once and give your puppy time to respond. They need to hear the verbal cue, process what you said, and then move their body into the correct position.
 - Make sure you have your puppy’s attention before giving a verbal cue. Say their name, make a quick noise, or pat your thigh if you aren’t sure they’re attention is on you.
 - Keep learning sessions short. If your puppy was struggling and finally got something right end with that.
- Always end on a positive note!
- Stop the session if you become frustrated.”

Age Expectations.

A brief overview of what is expected at each age range for Guide Dog Foundation puppies.

Three- to Six-Months Age Expectations

At this age your pup should be exploring their environment with your support. It’s important that the pup become acclimated to real-world situations with short, positive experiences. Your pup will begin to trust you and learn behaviors through your shaping, praise, and correction. Very little emphasis needs to be placed on obedience during this time. The expectations at this time are primarily socialization and showing the pup your expectations for their behavior.

- Trained behaviors and patterned responses
 - o Responding to verbal cues: At this age your pup should be learning to acknowledge your verbal cues in low-distraction, familiar environments. They should not be expected to respond to verbal cues in public where they are stimulated or will not be successful.
 - o Food reward acceptance: At this age you can start teaching your pup to take food politely from your hand.
 - o Petting and verbal praise: Your pup should be comfortable with petting and verbal praise.

- o Basic obedience: You can start introducing the pup to their name, Sit, and Down. Remember that pups have short attention spans, and this is an age where they should be exploring and learning about their environment.
- o Stay: Your pup can start learning Stay at levels 1 and 2.
- o Come: By 6 months your pup should eagerly respond to this verbal cue in a low-distraction environment.
- o Forward: Introduce the verbal cue by saying it when you move forward.
- o OK: By 6 months your pup should fully understand and respond to OK to release them from a verbal cue.
- o Kennel: By 6 months your pup should kennel quietly for up to 4 hours without accidents.
- o That's enough: By 6 months your pup should understand and respond to That's enough.
- o Equipment acceptance: Your pup should learn to be comfortable with wearing the leash and collar, puppy vest, and brief exposures to a head collar.
- Life skills and house manners
- o Public settling: Settles for brief periods (30 minutes or less) without a toy. Will settle for longer if needed with a toy.
- o Home settling: Learning not to roughhouse, charge through the house, and occupy themselves with playing or resting.
- o Tie-down acceptance: Comfortable with up to 30 minutes on tie-down. Remember that no pup should ever be left alone on a tie-down.
- o Transportation: Comfortable being held on new transportation by 6 months and rides politely in the foot well of the car.
- o In-home play: Learning not to roughhouse with That's enough and redirection.
- o Unsupervised at home: At this age your puppy should not be left home alone for more than 1 hour in the crate.
- o Sharing: Pup should be comfortable sharing toys and allowing raiser to remove empty food bowl.
- o Greetings: Pup should be learning to sit when meeting people and other dogs in public. At this age pups are easily stimulated and excited so brief greetings (under 1 minute) with a calm pup is a success.
- o Busy: Pup should be learning the Busy verbal cue and responding within 5 minutes. Infrequent accidents may still occur. Should be learning to busy in spots other than designated home busy spot.
- Care and grooming
- o Grooming/exam: Briefly brush and exam your pup every day. Check their ears, paws, teeth, and eyes.
- o Nail trimming/ear cleaning/pilling: Start acclimating your pup to these activities by touching their ears, paws, and opening their mouth.
- o Bathing: Pup should be bathed at least once during this age period.
- Environmental skills
- o Distractions: Pup should be learning what distractions are and how to Leave it and ignore stimulation. Only work with one distraction at a time and reward and redirect your pup frequently at this age.
- o Surfaces: Your pup should be learning to comfortably walk on all surfaces including grates and shiny floors. They might need support from you when being introduced.
- o Stairs: Your pup should be introduced to different types of stairs. They will often need to be carried or only attempt walking up and down a couple steps at a time.
- o Doors: Your pup should be learning to wait before walking through doors by 6 months.
- o Traffic: Introduce slowly by starting in your neighborhood on a quiet street.
- o Noise: Curious with recovery.
- o Objects: Investigation and exploration without fear.
- o People: Exposed to all sorts.
- o Odors: Curious but not fearful.

Six- to Nine-Months Age Expectations

This age period is a time to teach obedience, teach your pup how to consistently be polite, well behaved, and conquer distractions. Many pups will go through a fear stage during this time, so expect some setbacks and be patient! Remember that distractions are not an excuse for poor behavior. Setting your pup up for success will help overcome challenges.

- Trained behaviors and patterned responses

- o Responding to verbal cues: Acknowledging and responding to verbal cues in a timely manner. Introduction to verbal cues in more stimulating environments. At this stage, if they are not responding to the verbal cue they should be given a leash correction.
- o Food reward acceptance: Pup should reliably take food politely from handler's hand.
- o Petting and verbal praise: Pup should willingly accept petting and verbal praise as reward.
- o Basic obedience: Pup should reliably know Sit and Down. Stand can start being introduced.
- o Stay: Pup should be comfortable with distractions level 1-2 and introduced to the remaining levels.
- o Come: Pup should reliably come in low-stimulation environment. Random reinforcement can be introduced.
- o Forward: Association with the verbal cue should be understood.
- o OK: Pup should release from previous verbal cue with OK.
- o Kennel: Pup should be comfortable staying in kennel up to 6 hours without vocalizing or accidents.
- o That's enough: pup should understand verbal cue and respond appropriately by calming down and stopping play.
- o Equipment acceptance: Pup should readily accept all equipment for extended periods of time without chewing, scratching, or trying to remove the equipment.
- Life skills and house manners
- o Public settling: By 9 months the pup should settle quietly for extended periods of time. They might take several moments to settle or need a toy at first.
- o Home settling: Should settle and remain calm in home
- o Tie-down acceptance: Pup should willingly accept the tie-down for extended periods (more than 30 minutes) of time. Remember that no pup should ever be left alone on a tie-down.
- o Transportation: Pup should politely enter and exit all transportation and be comfortable traveling in the passenger foot well of vehicles.
- o In-home play: By this age period the pup should not be charging through the house, engaging in rough house play infrequently, and settle when That's enough is given as a verbal cue.
- o Unsupervised at home: Depending on the pup's maturity, you can start leaving your pup alone for short periods of time around 9 months of age.
- o Sharing: Pup should be comfortable sharing toys and allowing raiser to remove food bowl.
- o Greetings: Pup should be sitting calmly for greetings with people and remain calm when greeting other dogs and animals in public.
- o Busy: Pup should no longer be having any accidents by 9 months old. They should be comfortable going busy on any hard surface within 5 minutes when given the Busy verbal cue.
- Environmental skills
- o Distractions: Pup should be comfortable with a stimulating environment, and recognizing or ignoring distractions with minimal redirection by 9 months of age.
- o Surfaces: Pup should confidently walk on all types of surfaces without avoidance.
- o Stairs: By 9 months the pup should calmly walk up and down all types of stairs with a loose leash.
- o Doors: Pup should wait calmly when door is opened by raiser in a sit or stand before walking through the door.
- o Traffic: By 9 months pup should be comfortable with heavy traffic coming in front of and behind them.
- o Noise: Pup should ignore or not acknowledge unfamiliar noises by 9 months.
- o Objects: Comfortable with unfamiliar objects without having to investigate.
- o People: Comfortable with all sorts of people and trusting of handler.
- o Odors: Not excited or fearful of unfamiliar or strange odors.

Nine- to Twelve-Month Old Age Expectations

By this age your pup should be reliable and consistent with their behavior and basic obedience. At this age your pup should be focused on you and ready to learn. Start raising your expectations and make obedience more challenging so your pup remains stimulated and learning.

Trained behaviors and patterned responses

- o Responding to verbal cues: Acknowledging and responding to verbal cues in a timely manner. Pup should be responding to verbal cues in stimulating environments with distractions.

- o Food reward acceptance: Pup should reliably take food politely from handler's hand.
- o Petting and verbal praise: Pup should willingly accept petting and verbal praise as reward.
- o Basic obedience: Pup should reliably know Sit, Down, and Stand.
- o Stay: Pup should be reliable with distractions level 1-3 and learning to stay with the remaining levels of distractions present.
- o Come: Pup should be reliably responding to the verbal cue while on long leash or drag line. If pup is reliable, then off-leash recall in safe, enclosed areas can be introduced.
- o Forward: Pup should start being asked to take initiative in taking the first step forward.
- o OK: Pup should release from previous verbal cue with OK.
- o Kennel: Pup should be comfortable staying in kennel up to 6 hours without vocalizing or accidents.
- o That's enough: Pup should understand verbal cue and respond appropriately by calming down and stopping play.
- o Equipment acceptance: Pup should readily accept all equipment for extended periods of time without chewing, scratching, or trying to remove the equipment.
 - Life skills and house manners
 list of 9 items nesting level 1
- o Public settling: The pup should settle after a few moments without a toy.
- o Home settling: Should settle and remain calm in the home.
- o Tie-down acceptance: Pup should willingly accept the tie-down for extended periods (more than 30 minutes) of time. Remember that no pup should ever be left alone on a tie-down.
- o Transportation: Pup should politely enter and exit all transportation and be comfortable traveling in the passenger foot well of vehicles.
- o In-home play: By this age period the pup should not be charging through the house, engage in roughhouse play only infrequently, and settle when That's enough is given as a verbal cue.
- o Unsupervised at home: Depending on the pup's maturity, pup should be left alone for up to 4 hours at a time without being destructive.
- o Sharing: Pup should be comfortable sharing toys and allowing raiser to remove food bowl.
- o Greetings: Pup should be sitting calmly for greetings with people and remaining calm when greeting other dogs and animals in public.
- o Busy: Pup should only be given five to seven times to relieve throughout the day and remain accident free. Pup should busy only when given the opportunity without indicating need to busy.
- list end nesting level 1
 - Environmental skill
- o Distractions: Pup should be comfortable working with handler regardless of environmental distractions. Little to no redirection or leash correction should be needed. Raiser should only have to use verbal Leave it or pup should exhibit self-control.
- o Surfaces: Pup should confidently walk on all types of surfaces without avoidance.
- o Stairs: Pup should be walking up and down all types of stairs. Based on pup's maturity, advanced Find the steps can be introduced at the instruction of advisor.
- o Doors: Pup should wait calmly when door is opened by raiser in a sit or stand before walking through the door. Based on pup's maturity advanced, Find the door can be introduced at the instruction of advisor.
- o Traffic: Pup should remain comfortable and confident with all types of traffic at close distances.
- o Noise: Pup should ignore or not acknowledge unfamiliar noises by 9 months.
- o Objects: Comfortable with unfamiliar objects.

We hope to see you all at the Ferry, You're A/C's Debbie & Chuck Hietala



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