

collar and lead

The Newsletter for the Bayshore Companion Dog Club, Inc.

Editor
Jill Bergmann



2022-2023

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June 2022

ATHENA TUNDRA

Owner/Handler: Bonnie Smagacz – Starnes

SE RATCHX MI AN AHD MC ATHENA TUNDRA RN NA NAJNF CAX4 BCAT SWM SHDA
RATCHX CZ8PB CGC TKP CL-1 CL1-R BID SSB NW2 ETD

Athena Tundra... a name that means the world to me. This girl came into our lives as a little puppy 10 years ago. The moment our eyes met, I knew she was the one and Athena became part of the family. Initially she was for my daughter Summer. However seeing her high energy and intelligence levels, I made it a mission to find activities for her to do and keep her occupied. Our path of exploration led to the discovery and excitement of performance sports.

A whole new world opened up to us. Our journeys began with Lure Coursing. She became the first Siberian Husky to earn her CAX, CAX2, CAX3 and CAX4. Approximately half of her runs were done in non-fenced open fields. Agility was next. She finished her AKC Novice Level and is halfway through Open. We also have competed in CPE and UKI Agility.

In NJ, we were fortunate enough to discover the world of Sled Dog Racing. We competed in the Canicross Division whenever we could, loving every moment. Barn Hunt became another favorite. We had no idea that it would lead to where she is now; the 3rd Siberian to earn a RATCHX and the 2nd for a CZ8PB

Scent Work tops Athena's list. Not only does she enjoy it tremendously, she has reached our ultimate goal, finishing her AKC Overall Master Level, November of 2021. She is one of the top AKC Scent Work Siberians. Being that this is what she loves to do best, we plan on trying for a Master Elite. We are also in high levels of UKC Nose Work and involved in NASCW.

Athena loves tricks and had fun earning her titles. She even won a tricks competition at the MCSPCA Dog Walk and Fair. We also tried virtual Rally when first offered and plan on exploring other virtual programs. We are currently training in Tracking and always look forward to practice.

Athena shows how versatile a Siberian Husky can be. She shows that one Husky is capable of so much. She is my Novice A Dog who has forever changed my life. Our accomplishments stress the importance of being a team. My husband Bill is an important part of Team Athena, supporting us in whatever direction we go. The fantastic people that we met along the way were an added bonus. Looking back I see that it is all about the journey... In short, there will never be another Athena. She is more than I had ever hoped for. Athena Tundra is my dream come true.



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Such A Marvelous Day

copyright Charles Messina
Submitted by Denyse Salmon

Sitting in my backyard on a mild evening

A tint of coolness breezes in the wind

Watching the clouds show their shadowy faces

I close my eyes and rest awake

I sit with my head tilted back...

Waiting for the hot sun to redden my face

With my neatly cut grass a lay

The smell of green touches my nose

Sitting beside me, my pup MALTIPOO lays in comfort...

Resting as the sun warms her mane-like hair

The forest behind my slatted fence...

Echoes, from the fluttering of blowing leaves

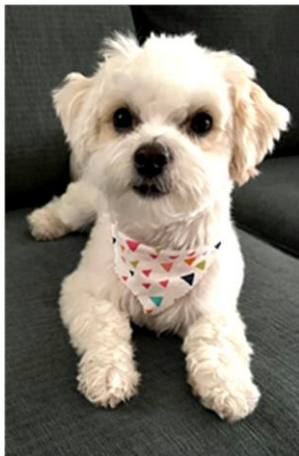
Shadows are everywhere

Hidden in the bushes...sparrows sing in rhythm

As my hair blows...

I open my eyes; thinking

Such a marvelous day

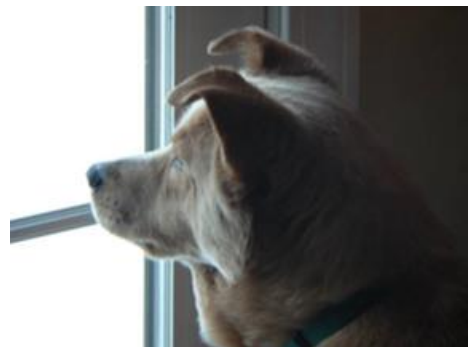


Remembering my best friend...

(By Denise Marden)

This is my dog Honey who I always say was my "Lassie"! I rescued Honey from a local shelter where she lived for an entire year before she came home with me. I guess she was waiting for me to walk in ! She was already approximately 5 years old by then.

It was a long time since I had a dog and I never rescued one with such an awful history. But I took this dog who was a Golden/Chow mix to obedience school where she graduated basic, advance obedience and therapy dog with flying colors. We would revisit the shelter during the year to give back. They knew she was a hidden gem and was amazed at her accomplishments. She was a gentle soul!! I only had her for four years. Then I had to make the most horrible of decision, but I did it for her. I lost her to throat cancer. I loved her so!! But because of Honey, her gratitude to us for taking her in and how she completed our family allowed us to welcome a new rescue! Her spirit lives on with me and my family ..



My Own Teaching and Training

Philosophy

by Brenda Fluet

After teaching for over 30 years and dog training for about 25 years I have developed my own teaching and training philosophy that I would like to share. It has worked for me so hopefully it will help for others.

Firm - say it like you mean it but don't say it mean.

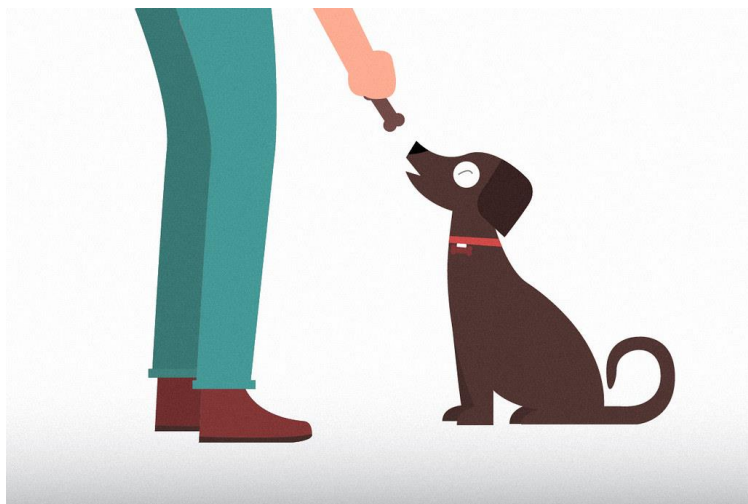
Fair- teach the behavior before you correct it , they should not be corrected for something they don't understand.

Fun- make it fun at all times using treats or toys.

Consistent- it's always or never dogs do not understand sometimes or maybe. It's yes or no.

This was my philosophy for teaching kids, the same for dogs but in the dog world you need to add a 2 second rule, dogs understand the moment. Give a treat within 2 seconds of the behavior if you want them to repeat it, or a correction (example eh, eh)

At the time of the behavior if you don't want them to do it again.



LETTER FROM GOD

author unknown

Our dog Penny died Aug. 23, and the day after Penny died, my 4 yr. old, Meredith, was SO upset. She wanted to write a letter to God so that God would recognize Penny in heaven. She told me what to write, and I did.

Then she put 2 pictures of Penny in the envelope. We addressed it to God in Heaven, put two stamps on it (because, as she said, it could be a long way to heaven). We put our return address on it, and I let her put it in the drop box at the post office that afternoon. She was absolutely sure that letter would get to heaven, and I wasn't about to disillusion her.

So on Labor Day, we took the kids to the museum in Austin, and when we came home, there was a package wrapped in gold on our front porch. It was addressed to Meredith so, she took it inside and opened it.

Inside was a book, "When Your Pet Dies" by Mr. Rogers (Fred Rogers). On the front cover was the letter we had written to God, in its envelope (opened). On the opposite page was one of the pictures of Penny taped on the page. On the back page was the other picture of Penny, and this handwritten note on pink paper:

"Dear Meredith,

I know that you will be happy to find out that Penny arrived safely and soundly in heaven. Having the pictures you sent to me was a big help! I recognized Penny right away!

You know, Meredith, she isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me (just like it stays in your heart) young and running and playing.

Penny loved being your dog, you know. Since we don't need our bodies in Heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep things in-- so I am sending you your beautiful letter back with the pictures--so that you will have this little memory book to keep.

One of my angels is taking care of this for me. I hope this little book will help. Thank you for your beautiful letter. Thank your mother for sending it. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you.

God blesses you every day and remember, I love you very much. By the way, I am in heaven and everywhere there is love.

Signed,

God, and one of his special angels (who wrote this letter after God told HER the words)."

How wonderful is that! I never knew there were angels working the post Office!

Don't Let Anyone Steal Your Joy

permission from Connie Cleveland



As a fifth grader, I was so excited to be selected to play Mammy Yokum in the school wide production of the musical, Li'l Abner. That is, until the popular, blond headed child, cast as Daisy Mae, told me, "You got that part because you're not very pretty, and you can't sing." When I tearfully relayed the conversation to my mother, she said, "She's a joy stealer. Don't ever let anyone steal your joy."

What is Joy Stealing?

At the Dog Trainers Workshop, in addition to helping owners train their pets, we compete in the sport of obedience and teach many of our students to do so as well. Competitors are often oblivious to how the comments they make steal the joy of other competitors.

"You won that class? I can't believe it!"

"You know if my dog had not laid down on the sit stay, I would have won the class!"

"Boy, aren't you glad Mrs. Winallthetime was not here today or you might not have won."

It happens in all aspects of our culture. My godson had been chosen to play quarterback on his middle school team, and I had the pleasure of driving him to his first game. On the way, as I was telling him how excited I was for him, he told me his mother, an absentee parent, had called him and said, "They must not have any real football players to choose from."

My anger and revulsion were immediate. Fortunately, after a few deep breaths I was able to explain to him what it meant to steal someone's joy, and that we were not going to give her the power to do that.

Many years later, as a young man, he called me to say he had passed the lesson of what it means to be a joy stealer on to his younger brother who was bereft over the unfeeling remarks that someone had made when he excitedly told them where he had chosen to go to college.

Are You a Joy Stealer?

Stealing joy is not always an unfeeling comment made after an accomplishment. It can be a doubt placed, or a negative statement given in response to a stated dream or goal. If you have ever told anyone that their dream or goal is "too lofty" for someone of their age, size, race or background, count yourself in as a joy stealer. If you are willing to destroy someone's dream, perhaps you don't realize that it is the joy of pursuing the dream that motivates the dreamer; not simply reaching the accomplishment.

Don't Ever Let Anyone Steal Your Joy

My first Labrador Retriever, Ezra, had already earned his field championship, his amateur field championship, and 65 of the necessary 100 points needed to become an obedience trial champion when a fellow competitor said to me, "No dog will ever be capable of earning field championships and an obedience trial championship. It can't be done!" My jaw still drops when I think about what this fellow competitor said to me. I remember this attempt at stealing my joy more than I remember all the congratulatory cards and letters I received when those last 35 points were earned and Ezra became an obedience trial champion.

When we compete in the sport of obedience, our dogs must earn at least 170 points of the 200 points available in order to qualify. The top four scores in the class receive placements. Occasionally a student will sheepishly report to me that they won first place, but add that no other dog in the class qualified, as if somehow this diminishes their accomplishment. My response is always this: "Perhaps worse than allowing someone else to steal your joy is stealing your own joy. The other competitors had an opportunity to pass. This does not mean you won by default, it means you won by a landslide. Celebrate!"

How to prevent Joy Stealing -- by our self or by others?

I think every single one of us has been a Joy Stealer, even if inadvertently. The sad thing is that we are all victims of Joy Stealing and perpetrators of Joy Stealing at some point in our lives.

Usually our Joy Stealing is inadvertent. We're often myopic and focused on ourselves -- our own performances, successes, and disappointments. So rather than respond to another's successes with encouragement, we focus on our failures.

Besides focusing on our own problems, we also find it difficult to look at the world from another's point of view. We don't recognize that we are saying something that might undermine another's accomplishment.

Often, too, we crush people's dreams out of a misplaced kindness. We don't want them to be disappointed if they fail.

And of course, sometimes Joy Stealing comes from simple malice. Often, the person who is engaged in that kind of Joy Stealing has a long history -- perhaps lifelong -- of sadness and anger. Sometimes life can do that to people, because life is hard and full of losses. Those people get comfortable knocking others down, as they have been knocked down.

When confronted by your own tendencies towards Joy Stealing, focus first on the other person's triumphs, not your own disappointments. Then go back through your own life and notice the things for which you are grateful. I guarantee that even the worst of times will include some kindness, some good people, some unexpected blessings and benefits.

If you're the victim of Joy Stealers -- forgive them. And then move on to the other people in your life who are confident, secure, and other-focused enough to congratulate your triumphs. And be sure to be that person for them, too.

Every dream, turned into a goal, involves a journey laden with set-backs, disappointments and milestones. There is joy in that journey. Guard that joy well so that in the end you rightly celebrate the accomplishment as well as the memories of the trip.

THEN THERE WERE THREE

by Pam Larson

A new puppy Darkover's Rays of Sunshine "Rays". Yes a puppy such a clean slate all the fun of training to be had. He arrived at 8 weeks and is now 17 weeks. Working hard with him, as is my 4 year old Rosie is in roughing him up, to train him in many ways. Then this happened:

This morning I came in for another cup of Java. Rays is on where I put a blanket down for me to sit, play, and work with him. This morning was special. As I poured the Java he moved from where my spot was on the blanket over to his bed which he is frequently snuggling in.

Awe such an invitation. I sat down on my blanket, (ugh hard at times,) and he eagerly hopped out of his bed grabbed a no stuff toy and ran eagerly to my lap to snuggle and chew. So I stopped, cuddled, and let him chew while being pet, snuggled and loved on my lap. A special moment I could have missed if I didn't take the time out this morning!

He is a very special pup, loves to learn, play, bond with me and the elder Fizz, and the rouser pup Rosie. Thanks to my breeder Dott, from Darkover miniature poodles, for raising such a fine pup!



DOGGIE DELIGHTS



Pink Electrolyte Bites

INGREDIENTS:

11.11oz (315g) Cottage Cheese, 4% fat

5.29oz (150g) Coconut Water

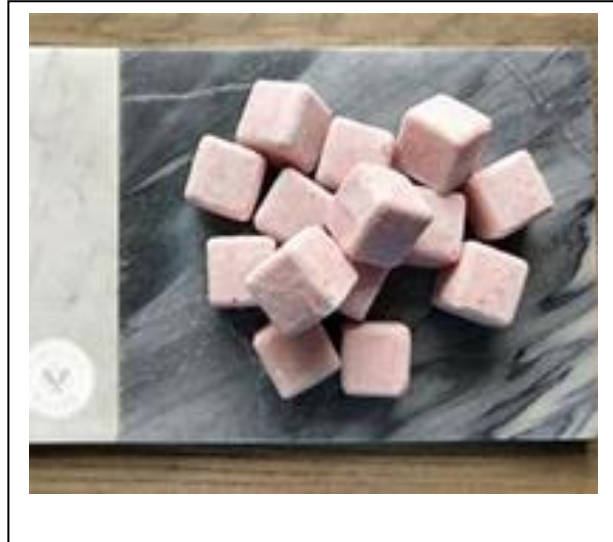
3.5oz (100g) Raspberries

1.76oz (50g) Almonds, raw, presoaked

1oz (30g) Coconut Oil

1 tbsp Honey, raw

1/8 tsp Eggshell Powder



Combine Ingredients

Combine all ingredients into a blender and blend on high until it is thoroughly mixed and has a creamy texture.

Portion & Freeze

Pour mixture into ice cube trays or into silicone molds for portion sizes then freeze.

Serve & Watch Your Dog Enjoy!

The pink electrolyte bites are an ideal snack after activity. Once the dog's heart rate has decreased to a normal pace, provide the blue electrolyte bites in the recommended feeding guidelines provided below:

Small & Medium Breeds

0.5oz (14g) – 1oz (28g)

Large & XL Breeds

1oz (28g) – 2oz (56g)

Giant Breeds

2oz(56g) – 3oz (85g)



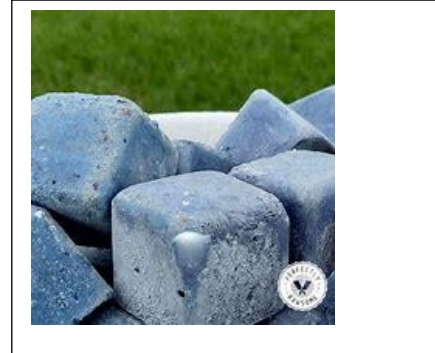
DOGGIE DELIGHTS



Pink Electrolyte Bites

Ingredients

- 10.7oz (302g) Cottage Cheese, full fat
- 0.5 cup (120g) Coconut Water
- 3.5oz (100g) Blueberries
- 1.6oz (45g) Sunflower Seeds, raw, pre-soaked
- 2.25tbsp (30.6g) Coconut Oil, cold pressed
- 1 tbsp (21g) Honey, raw
- 0.2oz (5g) Chia Seeds, freshly ground
- 0.5tbsp (3.5g) Wildly Blended Blue Spirulina
- 1.25g Egg Shell Powder



Instructions

Combine all ingredients into a blender and blend on high until it is thoroughly mixed and has a creamy texture.

Portion & Freeze

Pour mixture into ice cube trays or into silicone molds for portion sizes then freeze.

Serve & Watch Your Dog Enjoy!

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Giant Breeds

2oz(56g) – 3oz (85g)

UPCOMING EVENTS-ITEMS OF INTEREST

July 17, 2022- Novice Only Obedience Trials- 2 trials in 1 day

July 30-31, 2022- Anne Andrie Agility Seminars

August 5-6, 2022- Obedience Trials

August 7, 2022- Rally Trials- 2 trials in 1 day

August 8, 2022- Club Members Meeting

August 14, 2022- Scent Work Trials- 2 trials in 1 day

August 26-28, 2022- Bayshore/Lower Bucks Agility Trials

September 13, 2022- Club Members Meeting

September 30, October 1-2, 2022- Agility Trials, Fast CAT Trials, CAT Trials, Dock Diving

October 22-23, 2022- UKI Agility Trials

November 11, 2022- Rally Trials- 2 trials in 1 day

November 12-13, 2022- Obedience Trials

November 25, 2022- UKI Agility Trial

December 30-31, 2022 and January 1, 2023- Agility Trials

