



THE SCOOP

POPE MEMORIAL FRONTIER ANIMAL SHELTER NEWSLETTER

Adopt A Friend Today!



Baby is a 9 year old short haired cat. She has lived with children.



Big Red is about 9-10 years old and is good with other cats.

Lincoln is just under a year old. He would do best in a home with someone that was home often. He needs a home without other dogs.



Angus is about 10 years old. He is good with people of all ages and other dogs over 30 lbs.



Neptune is about 4 years old and is good with other cats.

Bandit is a local stray and is about 2 years old and is good with other cats.



Bagel is a 4 year old female short hair cat. She is good with cats and dogs.

Pawsitivity! Achieving Good Behavior through Positive Reinforcement

When bringing a new dog into your home, think about your own role as a pet parent and remember that it is your responsibility to teach your dog what you expect in your home. It is not his responsibility to know the rules in your house. Before you even bring your dog home, look at your house from your dog's point of view. "Puppy proof" your house even if your new furry friend is already an adult. For example, if there is a low shelf in your food pantry, move the items for now. If there is a towel hanging on the oven, it can be a great tug toy for a bored dog in a new home, so remove it. Remove foods from kitchen shelves that might be tempting to your new household member who can easily smell them and possibly reach and eat them. If you don't want the dog on the couch when you are away, put some chairs upside down on the couch. This prevents your home from having different rules and games when you are not home.

There are other lessons that your dog can learn to help life become smooth and relaxed in your home after your new family member arrives:

- A crate can be a safe and rewarding place for your dog. Give your new canine friend the opportunity to be successful in an unfamiliar place like your home by using a crate that is large enough for him to stand and lay down comfortably. Put a comfy pillow in it along with a treat or a favorite toy. Your dog will see it as his own safe place. Crate training can be a positive experience, allowing small amounts of time in the crate at first, and increasing over consecutive days.
- Use activities that help your dog focus on you and what you are doing. A dog's first language is body language. They pick up on gestures and movements with our hands and they tend to avoid direct eye contact. Teach your dog to take a treat after a glance toward your eyes. The more comfortable a dog gets looking directly at you – and the more rewarding the behavior – the better they will be able to focus on you when distractions arise. Use soft treats that are very small (about the size of the tip of your little finger) so your dog doesn't get distracted by spending time chewing on the treat.
- Early in the relationship, establish routine. Routine tells your dog that there is security, logic and order to life with you. Pleasant routines like going outside at specific times of day and being fed at specific times of day help to prevent anxiety in dogs and builds reassurance. If you get off the schedule for a day or two, your dog

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can handle that of course. But even then, you should offer verbal praise to give reassurance. Experienced dog trainers believe that at the root of all good training programs are trust, logic and order. Routine helps to build the groundwork for this and then for training. Maintain routine as much as possible each day.

- Your dog will enjoy learning moving commands such as “Sit, Down or Stand.” Focus on one command at a time, using a word and hand gesture. Repeat it several times in a row, and several times a day, for a few days or even a week before moving on to another command. Use a small, soft treat to reward.
- Learning to wait is another important lesson. Teaching dogs that they shouldn’t push through spaces like doors that are opening can be a life-saving command. Start with putting your body between the opening and the door and use a verbal command and hand gesture to teach the dog to wait and not rush through the door. Use a release command like “OK” to release him through the door. You can do this for the front door, getting in or out of the car and going into other buildings.

Other lessons to be learned over time include “stay,” walking on a leash, and “come when called.” Concentrate on each of these slowly as your dog gains assurance with learning the previous command. For some guidance, you may want to find a local dog obedience class so that both you and your pooch can have a better understanding of the basics.

As you can see, PMFAS, like most shelters and many experienced dog trainers, supports positive reinforcement techniques in maximizing your dog’s behavior rather than other training devices such as shock collars. There are a number of disadvantages to devices like shock collars. These devices, that often instill some degree of pain and fear in the animal, also result in controlling a dog without allowing that dog to make choices and solve problems. It “forces” a dog to behave without considering that there may be a root cause for that specific negative behavior. Some trainers even feel that shocking a dog can actually intensify aggressive behavior in the future. While some people still believe shock collars are an acceptable form of training, a simple question remains: do you want your dog to follow your commands because he wants to or because he is scared of what will happen if he doesn’t?

And why resort to shock when you can get excellent results with methods that motivate a dog to behave well without force and without any possibility of physical or emotional damage? Shock collars are yet another example of man’s desire for a quick fix, but positive training offers a wealth of great methods, that can dramatically change even the most severe behavioral problems in dogs.

For more information about positive reinforcement, visit some of the websites that we used as sources: www.petfinder.com; www.positively.com; www.mydailydog.com. Treating your dog “pawsitively” can definitely have rewarding and satisfying results for both you and your new canine pal!

—★— —★— —★— — Volunteer Spotlight — —★— —★— —★—

This winter, instead of our usual Volunteer Spotlight, we are spotlighting two new staff persons at PMFAS. Welcome Samantha Lefebvre and Joella Mayfield!

Samantha is a native Vermonter and developed a love for animals at a young age. This passion led her to studies in Environmental Science at Johnson State College and she is now focusing on becoming a wildlife conservationist. Samantha’s family includes a number of fur and feather-bearing creatures, including a duck named Beaker who often acts like he’s a dog! Samantha also enjoys caring for her small farm of chickens and ducks.

Joella Mayfield moved to Vermont about three years ago, working her way across the country from California and then Buffalo, NY. Finding enjoyment in caring for animals, Joella began volunteering at PMFAS in 2016. Realizing she would like to become more involved, she became a staff person this past October. Not a stranger to including pets in her family, Joella and her husband and four children enjoy the company of a dog, two cats (both adopted from PMFAS!), and a few pet rats!

“We are happy to have Samantha and Joella here with us at the shelter,” states Amy Michaud, Shelter Manager. “They are already getting into the routine of the care that is required for all the animals.” “You can tell they enjoy working with animals,” adds Toni Rushlow, who also works at the shelter and has become well experienced. “It’s important to learn the different characteristics of the cats and the dogs, to help make them more adoptable,” Toni explains. “And it’s obvious that Samantha and Joella are quickly learning this also.”





A BIG welcome and hearty congratulations to Samantha and Joella! This time the Spotlight is on you!



Samantha Lefebvre was born and raised here in Vermont with the love for all animals. She went to Johnson State College for environmental science and is working on becoming a wildlife conservationist. Samantha has a house duck named Beaker, who acts like a dog, as well as many other outside ducks and chickens.

Joella Mayfield moved to Vermont in 2014 with her family. Originally from California and Buffalo, NY, Joella has always had a love for animals. Joella came into the shelter over a year ago to volunteer and was then hired in October.



Please put the PMFAS on your holiday gift giving list!

The Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Inc. is financed entirely by adoption fees, fund raisers, and donations from animal lovers like you. Because we are a primarily volunteer organization, almost every penny goes directly toward the rescue and care of the animals.

In 2017, over 350 pets were adopted from our shelter. Please help our dogs and kitties this holiday season. The average cost to provide medical care, shelter and food, before being adopted into a home and family, is in excess of \$350 per animal.

Please help us with a holiday donation.



YES! I would like to support the PMFAS in caring for the unwanted, abandoned, stray, neglected and abused animals. Here is my tax deductible gift.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

No letter of acknowledgment of this gift is necessary. **TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** _____

Mail to: Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Inc., 502 Strawberry Acres Rd., Newport, VT 05855

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Thank You to All Our Supporters!

Once again, a New Year is right around the corner and we at PMFAS are well aware that we have much for which to be thankful. We wish to acknowledge all our friends and supporters, from individual volunteers and families to local businesses, schools and towns throughout Orleans and Northern Essex Counties. Thank you to community members and businesses that donated to our raffle fundraiser this fall, as well as all those that purchased tickets. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! Ongoing thanks to Northeast Kingdom Online (www.northeastkingdomonline.com) for their skill and dedication in designing and maintaining our website. It's a great way to keep potential adopters up to date! Whether your support comes in the form of time, work, kind words or donations of many varieties, we appreciate it all! And let's not overlook our adopters! A BIG thank you goes out to this year's adopters from near and far who made new forever homes for over 350 homeless dogs and cats. A heartfelt thank you to all from Board, Staff, and all our furry friends at PMFAS!

Keepers of the Kitties and Kennels

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses who graciously support our kitties and kennels each month:



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