

# “The Latest Scoop”

CHESAPEAKE VIRGINIA DOG FANCIERS ASSOCIATION

November/December 2011

## **November Meeting Notice**

Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2011  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Place: Traditions Grill  
Chesapeake Golf Club  
1201 Clubhouse Drive  
Chesapeake, VA 23322  
Off Cedar Rd at Los Gaviotas.  
Board Meeting 6:15 PM.  
Board members please advise Phyllis Sayers if you cannot attend.

## **Greetings from the President's Desk!!**

A hearty welcome to the breezes of fall and the leaves that surround us. I love fall and doing all the “doggie” things at this time of year as long as the weather cooperates with moderate temperatures and the casual breeze that usually follows.

CVDFFA is coming to the close of our annual handling classes. This has been a growing year with many folks participating and bringing in new breeds as well as friends. A huge thank you to Sarah Wooten for her dedicated efforts to coordinate each class with an instructor. I have found such excitement getting the listing of participants and their dollars to Randy each week for our deposit. The money has served us well with the ongoing expenses of trailer storage, insurance and other “little” but necessary costs that make up our club. We are looking for an indoor area that would accommodate our group during the winter months to continue our class. Please get in touch with me or any board members with information regarding this.

Next year at this time, we will be finalizing the outcome of our 2012 AKC Show to be held at the Chesapeake City Park in September. We are going to need each of you to take an active roll in making this a successful event. Our judges have been selected and we are on to the next steps of

this process. Excitement fills me when I think of the beautiful fall weather and pray that we will be blessed with such in September. If you have any specific things that you would want to contribute or a committee you would like to serve on, please let us know. The more folks doing a small part will enable all of us to enjoy the event. Do remember, that those of us on the show committee are not allowed to show our dogs that weekend. We will keep you up to date monthly as all of the details are brought together to make one gallant effort to have a GREAT SHOW!!!!

We enjoyed having a cool weekend in October for our annual match. Under the guidance of Karen Latham and Carol Cooke, we had a successful event with a 50- dog entry. Without all of the extra help, this would not have taken place. Thank you to those who posted our signs as well as those who came to set up. Each little bit helps. Most exciting is that I hope we have acquired some new members from this event. And I am thrilled about that. We are in a growing mood and want to utilize each and every opportunity to extend a hand to those who want to be a part of our group. I sincerely ask that whether you are at work or at home, church or other social group, please take the time to discuss our group and all of its benefits

I would like the club to keep Charlie and Margaret Ricks as well as Karen Latham and her dad in their thoughts and prayers. Each is suffering from various degrees of problems related to health. Special prayers for the caretakers as we know Margaret and Karen will need our help in the days to come.

As I begin to look at the upcoming year, we have so many opportunities to have fun with our furry family members. Even in the cooler months, a brisk walk is good for both of you. Try going for a ride just to have new and exciting sights to show our dogs. Getting a dog prepared for the show ring, performance ring or life itself brings about a well-socialized dog that can be a gift to us as well as others. Call up a club member to visit with you and your dog or to accompany you on a long walk.

October brought us to our annual awards dinner where the awards were presented Karen and Randy Latham for Cole, their new Grand Champion; to Phyllis and Mark Sayers for Kerry, their new champion; and to Margaret Ricks for her most recent Champion of her kennel. Congratulations to everyone!! As time goes on, I hop that we will have many more presentations to make. The AKC has a new award for therapy dogs. Remember to download the forms and keep a record of your visits if you have a therapy dog. November will find us showing our dogs at the annual Virginia Beach/Tidewater show. How nice to have such a wonderful show in our backyards. I know many of you are going to take advantage of the short distance. The following week will find many traveling to the Salisbury, Maryland shows for their five day cluster. The meeting this month will focus on our speaker, Al Bianchi, who will show us “Through the Eyes of a Judge.” I would love to find out what is being seen and how he views each candidate as they trot around the ring or come to him on a down and back. There are many ways to add to our learning curve, no matter the age.

December will bring our annual Christmas Party which will be held at our new meeting place, Traditions Grill, at the Chesapeake Golf Club. A sumptuous dinner with many choices has been selected and your invitation would be in the mail soon. I am trying to get a surprise program for that night, but more on that later. We don't exchange gifts but we do bring items that a dog in a shelter might enjoy, treats or toys. The list is really endless. A committee has been selected and we will deliver the items, generously donated by the members, the following week. It is always a great experience to bring a bit of the outside world into a place where fear and loneliness seem to be ever present.

The New Year will be upon us in January. Our speakers group is growing and I hope that everyone will find something interesting and useful from each of them. If you have a special subject you would like us to have or a friend with activities that could be displayed at a meeting, please let me know. Variety is the spice and we expect to keep things “spicy.”

Best wishes to everyone during this holiday season. We have so much to be grateful for and

may we always be thankful for our families, friends and especially those four legged kids that keep us warm in the winter while filling our hearts all year long.

Phyllis Sayers  
CVDFDA President

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## Holiday Stress Reducers for You and Your Pets

Are you having visitors for the holidays? Or will you be visiting other folks and bringing your dog? Following are ways to reduce anxiety for people and pets alike. Many of the safety tips also can be applied to safeguard children.

### Greeting Guests:

Does your dog greet visitors in a calm and friendly manner? If not, don't wait for guests to arrive -- start teaching and practicing good behaviors now. For example, if your dog is overly friendly and jumps on visitors, take this advice. First, teach your dog the basic commands of Sit and Stay. Practice in a variety of locations. Then for the guest-greeting training, enlist a friend to help. As handler, you tell the dog to Sit. The other person approaches the dog. The moment the dog stands up, turn and walk him away from the other person. Then put him into a Sit again. Repeat. Praise and treat him when he remains calm at the person's approach. Keep practicing. As part of the reward, the friend can gently pet him...as long as he remains calm. If he lifts his rear or otherwise shows excitement, stop the attention and praise, and have the other person walk away. The dog will learn to associate calm behavior with the reward of getting attention from the visitor (and praise from you), which is typically what he craves. You can also have the visitor give the dog small treats for exhibiting calm behavior. Have a treat jar ready by the door.

### Stress-Busting Strategies for People and Pets:

\* When having visitors or when there is any change or disruption in your household (wedding planning, new baby, holiday preparation, new person or pet moving into the home), pets can get very anxious,

and even frightened. Reduce stress levels for everyone by keeping feeding and exercise on a regular schedule. Keep in mind that too much excitement or disruption may cause stomach upset or trigger or aggravate illness.

\* Exercise your dog before you have guests over. Exercise will reduce stress for you and your dog...plus, a tired dog will likely be less rambunctious when visitors arrive.

\* Set aside a safe, quiet room in which the dog can escape holiday activity and guests.

\* During holiday activity, changes in the household and travel, dogs may need more water since they pant more when they feel stressed. So always keep fresh water available for them to drink.

\* Anticipate guest arrivals. Consider confining your dog to prevent escape out the open door. Make sure visitors know not to let pets escape out the door. Don't leave anything to chance - monitor all doorways closely, and make sure pets are wearing a well-fitted collar and current I.D. in case they dart out a door when visitors come and go. Make sure the I.D. includes your current phone number and mobile phone number if you have one.

\* The tether station approach to teaching your dog to sit and be calm around guests: Set up tether stations in approximately 3 places in your home. Instruct your guests to say sit ... and then treat.

\* Approaching new people with your dog. First, observe new people from a distance, instead of letting people approach too quickly. Hold your dog on leash beside you. Don't force introductions.

\* Meeting a new dog ... or introducing a dog and guest ... using good body language: When introducing yourself to a new dog, take a sideways stance instead of looking at the dog head-on. Canines perceive the sideways stance as less threatening in general. Avoid direct eye contact until the dog displays signals that he is comfortable. Look at the floor nearby, or in another direction. Pretend to be uninterested in the dog. The sum total of this body language serves as a 'calming signal' to the dog. The dog will realize through this body language that you are not planning to

threaten, lunge at, grab at or chase him. A nervous person makes dogs feel nervous. A calm person is likely to make the dog feel secure.

Other calming signals include: approaching the dog by walking in an arc, which is typically the way friendly dogs greet each other; sitting or squatting (again, sideways is best); licking or smacking your lips; yawning; and pretending to sniff or examine something innocuous. By showing the dog that you are directing your attention elsewhere, you help set him at ease and signal that you mean no harm. Thus, the dog has no reason to feel defensive.

\* Advise visitors, as well as all household members, of the house rules for canines and to abide by them. Otherwise, the dog may end up spoiled, sick or in the emergency room. For example, no table scraps or playing fetch with holiday ornaments. And no rough-housing or other activities that will fire up the dog. If you're trying to keep your dog from jumping on guests and furniture, explain this clearly to guests to enlist their cooperation.

\* Tell guests and remind household members to keep medication, toiletries and other potentially harmful items out of the dog's reach - and NOT to feed the dog any unauthorized foods. Remember, fatty foods can make a pet extremely ill.

\* Have healthy pet treats handy so that your guests can indulge your pet safely. And if you want to share holiday flavor with the family dog, add a bit of white turkey meat or defatted broth to her bowl.

\* Now's the time to teach your dog to "go to your place" or "go to your spot." You can designate a place, say, in the far corner of the kitchen or family room, and place a mat or dog bed there. First, teach your dog to associate that place with a special word, such as "place," "spot" or "bed." Then, using positive reinforcement, incorporating praise and small treats as rewards, teach him to "go to your place." This gives the dog something good he can do instead of distracting you from cooking or pestering guests. It also gives him a safe spot away from the crowd - just be sure to inform visitors that the designated space is the dog's own special place. The dog can observe the activities from this vantage point without getting in the way.

\* If the dog is fearful or wary of guests, protective of his turf, ill or stressed, it is best to situate his "place" in an area off-limits to guests. You may want to keep him in a quiet bedroom with the door shut or in a crate in a quiet room while you have visitors.

\* Keep the garage closed off to pets. Otherwise, pets may lick up antifreeze, gas and other toxic substances, or step on debris.

\* It's best not to have unfamiliar pets visit during the holidays or other busy times due to the added stress for people and pets...and the reduced ability of preoccupied people to supervise pets. However, if your visitors are bringing pets...or you are bringing your dog home for the holidays...introduce resident and guest pets on neutral ground. Have treats available to reward positive behaviors and interactions; use verbal praise as well. Be prepared to remove your animal if there is any chance of a fight. Don't leave newly introduced animals together indoors or in a yard unless actively supervised by at least one very experienced, adult dog owner.

\* To discourage a visiting dog from chewing electrical cords, spray cords with Bitter Apple or hairspray.

\* Don't leave the dog in the kitchen unattended if something fragrant is cooking or sitting on the counter. Dogs have been known to pull whole turkeys off ovens and tables, putting an early end to Thanksgiving dinner.

\* Never leave dogs and children alone together. Always have an experienced adult supervise, no matter how well behaved the dog is. Anything can happen, especially with kids.

\* Keep a pet first aid kit accessible.

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Information provided by:  
Partnership for Animal Welfare  
P.O. Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768  
[http://www.paw-rescue.org/PAW/PETTIPS/  
DogTip\\_HolidayStress.php](http://www.paw-rescue.org/PAW/PETTIPS/DogTip_HolidayStress.php)

## Pumpkin Dog Treats

### Ingredients:

- 2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup canned pumpkin
- 2 tablespoons peanut butter
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350

Whisk together the flour, eggs, pumpkin, peanut butter salt, and cinnamon in a bowl. Add water as needed to help make the dough workable, but the dough should be dry and stiff. Roll dough into a 1/2 inch thick roll. Cut into 1/2 inch pieces. Bake in preheated oven until hard about 40 minutes. Yield 25 treats.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 9** 7PM General Meeting  
Al Bianchi: "From the Eyes of a Judge"  
**December 14** Holiday Party at  
Traditions Grill

CV DFA Website: <http://www.cvdfa.org>

