

# the **TwoByFour** NY Monthly Online NEWS LETTER

April 2011



## Keep 'em HOME.

To be totally forthcoming, TwoByFour NY does a lot of business in Pet Sitting. We pet sit Dogs and Cats, but also we sit for fish, turtles, gerbils, guinea pigs, to name a few. The reason is many pet owners understand the stresses pets have to endure not only by changing their surroundings to a summer cabin, or a beach house, for a weekend or a week, but also bigger trips that are longer and are further away. Although it can be stressful, a long car ride can certainly be tolerable for both pet & family... what I like to share with pet owners is the stress & difficulties of **FLYING**.

Taking an airplane trip for people now days is hard enough, with the long waits, transferring planes, flight delays, and the always interesting TSA security screening processes of pat downs, metal detectors, and taking your pet out of its cage/carrier so that can be x-rayed... be prepared for a possible extra hour in check in process to leave as well as coming back. [Important Note: Never Allow your pet to go through the TSA's XRAY machine screening devices – even the TSA rules forbid placing any living animal through the XRAY machines.]

I strongly suggest if you are thinking of taking your pet on an airplane trip – **CALL the airline** and ask them about all the rules and policies regarding pet transportation **BEFORE making flight arrangements**... you might discover as many pet owners do that is **EASIER, SAFER, and enormously LESS STRESSFUL to leave your beloved pets back at HOME**. Sure you're going to miss them and they'll miss you, but when you return **your pet will be happy, healthy, and... ALIVE**.

**Yup, ALIVE**. I read an article in the **WSJ** a few weeks back, (03/24/11), called "**After a Ruff Flight**" and it gave **DOT, (US Department of Transportation)**

## PET SITTING SERVICES

Just like you, your pets like routine and familiar surroundings. So the next time you go on vacation or a business trip, don't bring your dog to a kennel to be locked up in a pen or a cage. Let your pet stay at home. TwoByFourNY's loving pet professionals will see to it that your pet is well fed, watered, walked and played with; so that when you come home your pet will be happy, healthy and content. If you don't want to leave your pet in a kennel or at home... ask about TwoByFourNY's "At OUR Home" pet sitting service. Call today. Call 516.662.7461



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We Now Accept:



(Cont. from previous column)

triggers mating and pack bonding. Some believe it is this dynamics of how dogs can sense fear. However you look at it, a dog's nose is its most powerful organ.

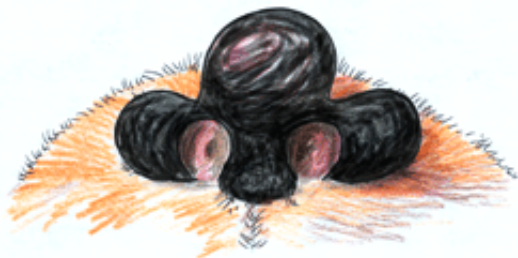
With this knowledge, dog owners can use a dog's sense of smell to train them and play with them. In training it helps to make a dog stay if it's sniffing the ground around them. Rubbing a treat on the ground will have the dog sniff around in one location. As a reward the dog gets the treat. They learn to stay for a treat, which eventually becomes just a verbal command with a pat on the head as a reward. Just as rewarding. You can

statistics from 2010. The total number of transported animals is not recorded, only the number of “significant incidents” are; so no overall percentage of incidents can be determined.

**In 2010** – there were **39 animal deaths** while in the care of airlines. **Thirteen animals were reported injured.** And **5 pets were lost.** Now on the grand scheme of things those statistics can appear low to non-pet owners considering the large number of animals one can assume are transported annually... however, if those numbers had represented people... say the airlines lost 5 infants, or 39 toddlers died while boarding an aircraft... the seriousness and the number of incidents would be better appreciated by non-pet owners and better addressed by airlines. Ya think? And **the numbers of reported incidents rose 70% from 2009.**

As a pet owner I appreciate that airlines like Delta are giving their employees enhanced training on animal transport, as well as some of the other domestic airlines... and sure I want my dog to come with me when my travel plans are for an extended period of time. I'm going to miss him terribly. But I don't want to take chances. I'd rather **play it safe** and leave Fido home, or have him stay with a trusted pet sitter.

This may sound like an ad for our **TwoByFour NY pet sitting services**... maybe it is, in a way. We just love animals. We understand them. They don't care if they're at Lake George, Montauk, or in Italy – they just want to be around people who will give 'em love and attention. Often the pets we sit for get **MORE** attention than they would on a vacation. Some even get more attention than what they usually get at home. All we want to do is make sure **YOU**, as a pet owner, check out all the rules and regulations **BEFORE** you decide to take your pet on vacation with you. And if you decide to leave 'em home...I hope you **call us in advance** to make the arrangements so we can schedule either an **IN YOUR HOME** or an **IN OUR HOME** pet setting service.



## A Dog Knows what a Dog's NOSE Knows

Too many times when I talk to dog owners about how strongly a dog smells... they apologize and ask me if I can bath them. Well, sure I can wash, dry, blow out, and brush dogs and clip their nails... **BUT**, I wasn't talking about that they **STINK** smell... I'm talking about their amazing **SENSE** of smell.

also play with a dog hide 'n seek. It is a slower process but much more physically and mentally rewarding for a dog than simple fetch. Dragging a treat along the floor and then putting a favorite toy into a hiding point turns Fido into a Blood Hound seeking out the toy and being rewarded with a food treat and praise... from **YOU**.

That's how dog trainers teach dogs to track and locate everything from missing persons, to drugs, explosives, and insect infestations. One of my clients is involved in the Pest Control industry and they use Certified Bed Bug Dogs to locate areas of infestation before they exterminate the problem. These Dogs can sniff out an entire home and locate a pin sized bug within an inch. Amazing. If you want to check if you have bed bugs call these guys – Knockout Pest Control and ask them about the Certified Bed Bug Dog.

So why am I mentioning all of this about a dog's strong sense of smell? Lots of reasons:

1. Dogs need to exercise their sense of smell. The only way to do that is to get them **OUTSIDE**. It's been a rough winter and lots of dogs have been cooped up too long. Get 'em out of the house and beyond the familiar smells of your backyard. Let their **NOSES** explore. They need a good dose of the out of doors.
2. Remember how sensitive their smell is – keep 'em away from harsh smells. Springtime means spring cleaning for lots of people – smells like ammonia and other strong smelling cleaning agents... even those **YOU** might not think smell strongly – will be much stronger and offensive to a dog.
3. Certain breeds of dogs and older dogs either don't have noses built for great smelling, (like dogs with a pugged nose) and older dogs who simply lose their sense of smell because of age... both of these conditions can result in poor eating habits. Who likes to eat something that has no smell and therefore little taste. Some of these dogs appetites can be enhanced by adding a little spice to their meals. Add some flavorful herbs to the food, mix in some smelly cheeses like Parmesan, (**IMPORTANT NOTE: Remember some foods and spices that are tasty and smell great to US...are BAD for dogs to eat. ONIONS & GARLIC are definite NO NOs!**)
4. Since a dog's nose is sooooo sensitive; what you think dogs can't have allergies to pollen? They sure can. Keep an eye out for the symptoms of a nasal allergy – a runny nose more than usual), pawing at the face, snorting or snoring more than usual, more open mouth breathing than normal, let's not forget a clear sign sneezing, and obviously difficulty breathing. If you suspect **YOUR** dog may have a springtime...or anytime allergy call your veterinarian and discuss the matter with him. There are many ways to give your dog relief from the acute rhinitis he/she is suffering from.
5. And lastly, to tie into this newsletter's other article **KEEP 'EM HOME**, dogs with pugged noses are particularly susceptible to overheating and breathing issues. The DOT reported that of all dogs that die during airplane transport - 60% are “brachycephalic” pugged nose dogs.

I think it is important to Dog owners to know how powerful a dog's sense of smell is, because among all of the senses of sight, touch, hearing, taste, and smell... smell is the one most powerful in dogs. Now some people would say that smell is a powerful senses for people too, like a smell can remind us of a place or a moment in time...and how what food smells like is an extremely important factor to the taste of the food. Yup, that's true...but the sense of smell in a dog goes beyond triggering memories or getting salivary glands running. A dog's senses of smell appears to be hardwired into a dog's brain and that sense of smell can be almost consuming and overcome all of the dog's other senses and seem to be a dog's sole focus.

Watch your dog, watch any dog... air sniffing, nose twitching left & right, little snorts, and how the dog burrows its nose into grass, or gently sniffs clothing and visitors. Yeah, everything has a smell, but a dog can pick up much more than what we can smell. A dog can smell someone's clothes and know how they smell, if they have a dog, a cat, where they've just came from, what they ate for lunch, and much more.

Experts say a dog's sense of smell also has a genetic history, and can categorize smells carried from previous generations which controls many dog emotions and

(cont. next column)

So there you have it... now you know what you need to know, about what your dogs knows, about his nose.



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**HAVE A QUESTION or a SUGGESTION for an UPCOMING NEWSLETTER?**

Send it to us! We'd love to hear from you!

[Information supplied here is only to keep you aware about the needs of your pet - nothing can replace the examination and care from your veterinarian.]



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