

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

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## Rover. Rover! ROVER!!

Oh... you wanted Rover to come to you. Then say, "come". All too often dog owners attribute too many human qualities to their pets; like being able to make the distinction of using a single word, like their dog's name, to signify a host of messages from "stop doing that" – to – "come over here, we're going". This is mainly due to the fact that unlike dogs, people generally understand their situation and the ramifications of what they're doing, (right 'n wrong). When it's time for school and you call out "JIMMY!" he knows to come downstairs ready for school. When Jimmy comes home with a report card with all A's, you may say, "Oh, Jimmy". Or if it's a note from the school principal you may say, "Oh Jimmy". Get it? Jimmy can tell when you use his name to leave for school, when it's praising, and when it's disapproval. Dogs? Not so much. Although dogs can pick up a tone in a voice, they aren't that discerning.

Dogs would be much happier and more obedient if we were a bit more direct. Like say, "COME" when we want them to come. Or "STOP" when we want them to stop. When a dog is properly trained to voice commands it can truly be amazing. A dog's frustration and stress levels drop significantly and a dog becomes happier and becomes more eager to please their owners. It's like all of a sudden your dog actually understands exactly what you're saying. You'll also experience a decrease in the level of stress in your life, now that your dog will listen to you because he/she knows what you want them to do. Everybody is happier.

At this year's Westminster Dog Show in NYC, a dog

## 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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owner presented his dog, a Border Collie, who recognized 1,000 words. The owner said it was almost like his dog had language ability. Now, I'm not saying that YOUR dog has to understand a 1,000 word vocabulary, but it demonstrates how smart dogs are. ALL dogs can develop a simple 25 – 50 word "command" of the English language. When you think about it, 25 words are about enough to communicate with any dog.

So, whenever you want to train your dog, remember use a command "word", not just their name. Keep the words for commands sounding different. And keep them short. Commands and words like: "No", "Stop", "Come", "Release", "Down", "Sit", "Good Dog", and "Business" are great commands that every dog needs in its command vocabulary. Knowing these commands and being obedient also keeps your dog safer and out of trouble.

In coming newsletters, I will attempt to explain how to train a dog to follow some of these commands. I hope you will enjoy working with your dog on these. Besides having better communication with your dog...it's also valuable quality time to spend with your dog. You'll both appreciate each other much better.



## Cats. Indoor versus Outdoor.

Okay, I received an e-mail question. Should I let my house cat roam free outside? A great question!

My answer: It depends. If you truly love your cat and family... NO! Keep your cat indoors. Ask any vet; the life expectancy of a cat may be reduced anywhere from 3 to 7 years by allowing the cat to roam "free" out of doors. Why? Because cats can not only pick up numerous diseases, insects, and parasites from outside, (which not only effects your cat, but can infest your home and be introduced to your family), but cats can also have encounters with other animals that can cause harm to a cat. Doesn't your cat get into enough trouble inside your home? On the outside, we can multiply the areas cats can get into trouble by 100 fold. We've all seen



## Doggie Clothes.

I've written several articles in my Newsletters about a dog's coat. Now I want to actually talk about a dog's "coat". Because of grooming or simply the breed of dog, some dogs need to wear a garment in cold weather because their actual coat of hair or fur wouldn't be enough to keep them warm. Many dogs can bear cold weather for short periods of time to "do their business", but if a dog is to spend any significant time outside in weather below freezing, putting coat or jacket of some type on your dog might be a good idea.

What's new is how a garment, like a doggie coat or jacket might be helpful to calm down an anxious dog. In a recent scientific study, animal behavioral scientists have been experimenting with "pressure wraps". These "pressure wraps" are like a therapeutic hug to dogs suffering from stress anxiety. According to the study, these wraps create a calming effect, like a swaddling wrapped around a baby. An actual HUG from a person, although intended to be a sympathetic gesture, can be construed by a dog as a dominant action.

Keeping these findings in mind, one might think of having a well-fitted garment to put on YOUR dog when he or she may experience a stressful experience. The study showed that these garments worked very well in thunderstorms, but not so much for separation anxiety.

You can buy these "Pressure Garments", [they go by names like: "Anxiety Wrap", "Storm Defender" and "Thundershirt"], but I'm a little more old school and before you spend \$40 to \$100 on one of these items, I recommend you simply try a nice snugly fit doggie tee-shirt or wrap first. Not too tight, you should be able to pass your fingers under it.

Now I don't think anybody, these scientists included, say that it's magic and your dog will immediately calm down, stop barking, growling, and shaking... that will take more than a piece of clothing... but it might help.



[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.]

cats run over by cars along the roadside.

There are also cases when an animal lover might assume a cat wondering a neighborhood is feral, (wild); and these well wishing people TAKE the cat and KEEP IT. Not letting it outside, afraid it will return to the wild... when the cat is YOURS and if set free, "your cat" would actually simply come home to YOU its rightful owner.

So, NO, a domestic house cat should not be let outside to roam free. Let your cat enjoy a long happy life in the clean, healthy, safe and comfortable surroundings of your home sweet home.



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