

## In This Issue

- Welcome
- Benefits of Training Your Dog
- 25 Uses for the SIT cue
- Impulse Control – Part II
- Lickety Stik

## Dog of the Month



Journey

Available for adoption  
from Big Canoe  
Animal Rescue

## Welcome to Luvk9s' December Newsletter

Hope this newsletter finds all of you enjoying the holiday season!

Our dog of the month is Journey, a 5-month old Labrador Retriever/Shar Pei mix. Journey is currently attending puppy class and will graduate at the top of her class this week. This is one smart puppy! Journey is available for adoption from Big Canoe Animal Rescue. Click here to see Journey (and her siblings) in action:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOGpioJX7HU&feature=related>

The Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT) has proclaimed January to be National Train Your Dog Month. The APDT believes it is important to make the public aware of the importance of socializing and training your dog. January is the perfect month for this event because so many dogs are added to families during the holiday season – plus, how many of us haven't made a New Year's resolution to spend more time training our dog in 2012?

If you are thinking about dog training classes in 2012, Luvk9s will be offering several classes beginning the middle of January. Check out our website for more information.

Wishing all of you a very HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## Benefits of Training Your Dog

The benefits of having a trained dog are nearly limitless! From the moment you get your new puppy or dog, here's a run-down of just some of the advantages and benefits:

Benefits of Dog Training:

- Puppy classes provide the opportunity for getting your new family member started off right. Puppy classes provide the experiences and opportunities for your puppy to develop interaction skills with other puppies, with people, and in new environments.
- Puppy socialization has been found to be critical to the psychological health of adult dogs. Puppy classes provide the opportunity for this important facet of your puppy's upbringing.
- Training classes provide dog owners the skills and knowledge for

## Quote of the Month

**"To err is human, to forgive, canine."**

**Unknown**

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dealing with common, normal dog behaviors— starting with puppy behaviors such as housetraining and chewing.

- No matter what age you start training your dog, foundation training provides the basis for any activity, behavior or job you want your dog to do.
- Training provides dogs with the basic good manners we all want—from polite greeting when guests arrive, to walking nicely on the leash, to coming when called.
- A trained dog is a fully participating member of the family—what a gift for all of you!
- A trained dog joins in the fun when company comes, accompanies the family to the kids' sports games, goes with you to visit friends and relatives, goes for hikes, swims, and everything else the family does together.
- Training enables you to choose from among a broad range of activities and dog sports to participate in and enjoy with your dog such as dog agility, Rally obedience, dancing with your dog, tracking, search and rescue, skijoring, sledding, water rescue trials, obedience, carting, reading programs, therapy work, and a nearly endless range of fun and philanthropic things to do!
- Training has been shown to be the single most important thing that keeps a dog in his or her "forever" home.
- Training builds your mutual bond, enhances the partnership and enriches the relationship you share with your dog. Is there anything better?
- Having a trained dog is a joy for both you and your dog!

This was first published by the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, [www.apdt.com](http://www.apdt.com), 1-800-PET-DOGS.

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## 25 Uses for the Sit Cue

If you've taken any training classes lately, you've probably heard trainers talking about "redirecting" a dog's behavior. For example, if your dog is getting ready to jump up on your neighbor, you can quickly "redirect" your dog – with a verbal cue – to sit instead. Sit is one of the most powerful cues you have available! Think about all the things your dog CAN'T do if he is sitting. The next time your dog is about to do something you don't like, try asking him to SIT!

1. Sit at the door when guests enter (no jumping up!)
2. Sit to have leash and collar put on before going out.
3. Sit when front door opens for walk until released to move forward.
4. Sit in the kitchen to avoid counter surfing.

5. Sit while food is being served at the dinner table.
6. Sit while food bowls are being put down to prevent rushing the bowl.
7. Sit before getting in the car so you can load it first.
8. Sit when you open the car door so your dog doesn't jump out into traffic.
9. Sit at sidewalk curbs to wait until it's safe to cross the street.
10. Sit and look at you instead of barking at other dogs on a walk.
11. Sit to prevent your dog from running off.
12. Sit while you get your keys out at the front door.
13. Sit to clip nails on front paws.
14. Sit at the top/bottom of a staircase so you don't trip over your dog.
15. Sit before owner throws favorite toy. Repeat for each toss.
16. Sit before taking down the baby gate or before coming out of the crate.
17. Sit calmly to have front feet dried off in rain/muddy weather.
18. Sit patiently while owner pets or treats other dogs in the household.
19. Sit stay while owner pays for items at the pet supply store.
20. Sit stay while others pass by when you're on an off-leash hike.
21. Sit stay to keep dog from getting over-stimulated by any exciting situation.
22. Sit to give a "high 5" trick.
23. Sit to do the "say your prayers" trick.
24. Sit to do the "sit up and beg" trick.
25. Sit stay on a walk when you stop to pick-up after your dog

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## Impulse Control – Part II

Last month, we talked about teaching our dog impulse control. Most of us are already doing this when we use the wait, stay, watch me and leave it cues. This series will suggest training games to help reinforce your dog's impulse control. This game is one of my favorites, taken directly from the ASPCA virtual pet behaviorist website ([www.aspcabehavior.org](http://www.aspcabehavior.org)).

## Airplane Sit-Stay

Remember when you were a little kid and your parents "flew" a spoon full of food into your mouth? ("Here comes the airplane, into the hangar!") You can play a variation of this fun little game with your dog! It will build his Sit-Stay by teaching him that it pays to wait patiently for good things to come to him-even when he thinks he could snatch them for himself. To start, put a treat in your hand and hold it behind your back.

- Begin by asking your dog to sit and stay in front of you.
- Now take your treat hand out from behind your back and hold it about three feet above your dog's head. He should be staring up at the treat in the air. Then start to lower the treat fairly quickly, straight down toward your dog's nose. (It should take you three seconds at most to "fly" the treat down to his nose.)
- If your dog starts to leap into the air to get the treat as soon as you bring it out from behind your back, just stand completely still. Continue to hold the treat in your hand, way up above your dog's head and out of his reach. Calmly ask him to sit and then wait patiently until he does. As soon as he sits, proceed with the game.
- If your dog stays seated while the treat descends, praise him and keep lowering the treat toward his nose. As long as your dog's still sitting, you can finally put it right into his mouth.

If your dog jumps up and tries to snatch the treat before it reaches his mouth, quickly reverse directions with your treat hand and zoom it straight back up to its original starting point. Holding the treat about three feet above your dog's head again, ask your dog to sit and stay. The instant he sits, begin lowering the treat again, straight down toward his upturned nose. Keep repeating the immediate consequence of flying the treat straight back up and out of reach the instant your dog breaks his Sit-Stay-until he stays seated the entire time the treat's on its way down to him.

The message to your dog: If you stay seated, the treat keeps coming down toward you, straight into your mouth. If you pop out of your Sit-Stay, the treat zooms up and away, out of your reach. It pays to patiently wait!

- When your dog can hold his Sit-Stay until you deliver the treat right into his mouth 9 out of 10 times, you can make it a little harder by slowing down your "airplane" delivery. Instead of lowering the treat down to your dog's mouth within three seconds, slow down a bit and deliver it in five seconds. This slower delivery will tempt your dog to jump up to get the treat. He'll quickly relearn, though, that the treat flies up and away the instant he breaks his Sit-Stay. Over days of practice and many repetitions, gradually stretch out your airplane delivery to 10 seconds.



I love this product – it's a rollerball (like your roll-on deodorant) that dispenses the treat in a liquid format. Your dog will quickly learn to lick the rollerball to get his reward! This product is advertised as being all natural and is great for dogs watching their weight. There is only one Calorie in every ten licks, with over 500 Licks per bottle. Lickety Stik comes in chicken, liver and bacon flavors.

Lickety Stik is available from [www.premier.com](http://www.premier.com) for \$7.99.

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Ending with a smile...this month's YOUTUBE

**<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmdHYI72L2s>**

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Our website is updated regularly, so check it often: [www.luv9s.com](http://www.luv9s.com)