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From: lissa.scott [lissa.scott@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2008 1:42 PM
To: 'ExtMAGDRL@yahoo.com'
Subject: DOE Topic #44: Importance of the "WAIT" cue

Hi All,

If you only teach your dog one cue, please, please, please teach him/her to reliably "WAIT!" If you are not familiar, I will share why this cue is so important as Dog Owner Education Topic #44: Importance of the "WAIT" cue.

- 1999: I got a phone call from my sister who was screaming in horror, saying that her Yorkshire Terrier had just been killed. It seems that a neighbor had stopped by and my sister stood chatting with her for a few minutes with the front door cracked open. Her Yorkie dashed between her legs and across the front porch, down the sidewalk and into the street. The dog was hit by a car and killed instantly. Until this happened, my sister was one who didn't think training was necessary for toy breeds. Since this happened to her Yorkie, she has taught every dog since to reliably "WAIT" and has not had another dog meet this awful fate.
- 2004: During a screen, I had a MAGDRL adoption applicant mention that she had two dogs hit/killed by vehicles within the past year. Her house was on a major highway, so with no front fence and traffic whizzing by day/night, her dogs had bolted out her front door to their death. She hadn't confined her dogs before opening the front door and she hadn't trained her dogs to "WAIT", so this otherwise good home presented a dangerous situation. Since she had lost these two, she had made no changes to her environment or how she managed her remaining dogs. She was not interested in my suggestions to train or fence, and then got nasty with me for implying that she was responsible in any way for these deaths. Oh well, so sorry, no Dane for her! ☹
- 2006: I've always trained our dogs to "WAIT" on cue and we use it at doors, in vehicles, at street corners, etc. My dogsitter knows this, and picked up Savannah for her first puppy playgroup when she was just 9 weeks old. Even though we'd only had her for a week, our sitter "assumed" that Savannah already knew "WAIT." She put Savannah into her minivan with the back gate up, then told her to "WAIT." The puppy dashed by her, and ran up the street and into Rte 1 traffic. Thankfully both were unharmed but we dodged a bullet! With 3-times a day practices, over the next week we taught Savannah to reliably freeze on the "WAIT" cue, and not move until our next cue.

You can clearly see why it is so important to teach ****every dog**** to reliably respond to the "WAIT" cue.

I am a member of top canine trainer/behaviorist Pat Miller's Yahoo group, and this topic just came up. Pat Miller posted one of the most prescriptive procedures for teaching the "WAIT" cue, and I am delighted that she gave me permission to x-post it for our extMAGDRL group members. I am sending Pat's instructions in a second email entitled: DOE Topic #44: Instructions for teaching reliable "WAIT." That one is worth saving!

As always, thanks for educating yourselves to help all dogs and their owners!

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MAGDRL web: <http://www.magdrl.org>

MAGDRL events: <http://www.lissa.net/Joya/MAGDRL.htm>

Bloat info: http://www.lissa.net/Joya/Merlot_bloat.htm

Gastropexy info: <http://www.lissa.net/Joya/Lapro-Pexy.htm>

"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself." - Josh Billings