

# What's waggin'?



### Paws and Play: August Newsletter Highlights!

Welcome to the August edition of the Bark News! This month, we're excited to highlight the fantastic enrichment activities we have planned at our daycare, including Olympic-themed pictures, refreshing puppy slushies, beach ball fun, and adorable beach buddy photos. We also explore the benefits of having dogs in libraries, where kids can read to them to build confidence and improve their reading skills. Additionally, we feature fun facts about dogs from the American Kennel Club. Our Dog of the Month, Diesel, continues to bring joy and energy to our community. As the new school year begins, remember that our daycare is a wonderful place for your dog to stay active, social, and happy while your kids head back to school. At our facility, we absolutely adore dogs and treat each one like a cherished member of our family and as such truly enjoy each opportunity you give us to spend time with your pup! All this and more in the August Bark News! Enjoy!

#### **Dogs in Libraries Boost Reading Confidence**

Dogs are being utilized in reading programs to assist students in becoming confident readers. When children read silently, they tend to skip over words they don't understand. However, when reading aloud, they must pronounce every word. Reading to a friendly, nonjudgmental dog removes the anxiety and makes the experience enjoyable. Research from UC Davis and Tufts University indicates that children who read to dogs improve their reading speed and comprehension more than those who read to adults, and they find the experience more enjoyable. On a similar note, therapy dogs have been proven to enhance moods, mental health, and the overall school environment. The children enjoy engaging with therapy dogs, whether they're reading to them in a calm, non-judgmental atmosphere or simply talking with the dog's handler and petting the animals.

Pasco County Libraries currently have two programs on the calendar where children can read to therapy dogs. Check out the Pasco County Library event calendar for the specifics of the Read to the Sharing Our World Therapy Dog reading program and the Highland Canine Connect Therapy Dogs reading program, https://www.pascolibraries.org/events/events-calendars/.

## Upcoming Daycare Events



**AUGUST 14TH** 

SLURPING SLUSH
PUPPIES



**AUGUST 21ST** 

BARKING BEACH
BALLERS

AUGUST 28TH
BEACH BUD
PICTURE DAY



Ready for a bark-worthy
chuckle?
Why did the dog sit in the
shade?
He didn't want to be a hot dog!



## Fun Dog Facts from the American Kennel Club

- 1. The Labrador Retriever has been on the AKC's top 10 most popular breeds list for longer than any other breed.
- 2. A dog's nose print is unique, much like a person's fingerprint.
- 3. Forty-five percent of U.S. dogs sleep in their owner's beds.
- 4. Speaking of sleeping ... all dogs dream, but puppies and senior dogs dream more frequently than adult dogs.
- 5. Seventy percent of people sign their dog's name on their holiday cards.
- 6. A dog's sense of smell is legendary, but did you know that their nose has as many as 300 million receptors? In comparison, a human nose has about 5 million.
- 7. Research shows that the sound of a human yawn can trigger one from your dog.

- 8. The Basenji is not technically "barkless," as many people think. They can yodel.
- 9. The Australian Shepherd is not actually from Australia. In fact, they are an American breed.
- 10. Human blood pressure goes down when petting a dog. And so does the dog's.
- 11. There are over 75 million pet dogs in the U.S. more than in any other country.
- 12. Dogs are not color-blind. They can see blue and yellow.
- 13. All puppies are born deaf.
- 14. Dalmatians are born completely white. They develop their spots as they get older.
- 15. Dogs have about 1,700 taste buds. We humans have between 2,000 and 10,000.

## Paws-itively Pawsome Pooch of the Month

Meet Diesel, our Dog of the Month! Diesel is a joyful and energetic dog who lights up every room he enters. With his friendly disposition and boundless enthusiasm, he quickly becomes friends with everyone he meets, both humans and fellow canines alike. Diesel loves participating in all sorts of activities, from playing chase and using the puppy playground equipment to enjoying belly rubs and cuddle sessions. His playful antics and affectionate nature make him a favorite among the staff and other dogs. Diesel's vibrant personality and love for life embody the spirit of our community, making him the perfect choice for Dog of the Month.

Congratulations, Diesel! 🐾



### Doggy Daycare To Ease The Back To School Blues

Your children aren't the only ones who might need some extra attention during the back-to-school season. After spending the summer with their human siblings, your dog now has to adjust to being alone for hours, unless of course you attend doggy daycare! Dogs may misbehave or act out in response to this change if left home alone, but a day of daycare can ensure that your dog has a great day without the damage to your home and/or sanity! Doggy daycare can be an excellent way to keep your dog active and social while you're back to school. Many dogs love socializing and making new friends, and daycare offers a safe space for them to play and engage in stimulating activities. Additionally, it can help alleviate separation anxiety. When the kids return home, they'll likely need to focus on homework instead of playtime, which can leave your pup feeling a bit down unless they are tuckered out from a day of daycare and are ready to relax while everyone else is finishing up their after school and/or work activities.

Dog daycare offers numerous benefits for dogs. It provides essential socialization, allowing dogs to learn social skills from interacting with other dogs and people, which fosters a positive attitude towards other pets as they grow. It also helps reduce separation anxiety, as engaging in play with other dogs distracts them from missing their owners. Establishing a consistent routine and becoming accustomed to various experiences in a safe environment are additional advantages. Mental stimulation provided by daycare prevents boredom and offers an engaging outlet during downtime. Owners can have peace of mind knowing their dogs are well cared for while they are away, and considering the level of interaction and care provided by the staff, daycare is a cost-effective option.