

Fall 2010

It's Finally Fall!! After such a busy summer, I was greatly anticipating seeing the leaves change. This cool weather has been such a delight. The dogs and I have been having a great time outside. My family and I were able to take a trip down to Williamsburg earlier this month. It is so beautiful down in Virginia this time of year. We went to Busch Gardens and watched a terrific show called "Pet Shenanigans". What I loved about watching the animals perform was that they were all adopted from local shelters. There were ducks, pigs, mice, cats, dogs, and birds. The show was so entertaining; make sure to check it out if you can. Now if only I could teach my crew a few of those tricks!

Here are a few of my own tricks & tips to remember for the upcoming months:

-We all know that fabulous food is a must for the fall, but for our four legged friends it can be hazardous to their health. Bones and fatty meats can lead to stomach issues and even choking. If you want to give them a little something special try pouring some broth on their dry food. It will smell great and they will love the added treat!

-Make sure your pets have plenty of clean, warm blankets. Always provide adequate shelter for pets that must remain outdoors. Animals burn more calories to maintain their body temperature in the winter; therefore a proper diet is crucial.

-When decorating this holiday season, watch out for electric cords, tinsel, glass ornaments, candles, plants, spray on-snow, ribbons, plastic or foil wrapping, etc. they can all be dangerous to your pet. Cover up or hide electric cords, never let your pet chew on them. Do not tie ribbons around pet's necks or limbs.

As for Brodie, he is still just as sweet and crazy as ever! I just wish I had one ounce the energy he has. No matter how many walks we go on he never gets tired...and I mean NEVER. He will be two this Christmas; I don't know where the time has gone. He gets into a little trouble every now and then, but he is a dog right? Well I probably would have a different tone if I would have written this newsletter about two weeks ago. I decided to buy a brand new pair of tennis shoes so that I could be more comfortable on my feet all day at work. I brought them in and put them on the shelf. I decided to make lunch and saw that Brodie was chewing on something and just assumed it was a toy. To my surprise it was my brand new pair of shoes. One was missing a heel and one was missing a toe. Needless to say Brodie now has NO access to any shoe and cannot be out, unattended! Whoever said we can't put a price on love was wrong because I have the receipt!!!!

When choosing your new pet, please consider a shelter pet first. There are so many wonderful animals out there just waiting to get into their forever home. I recently lost my cat Charlotte to Squamous Cell Carcinoma; I adopted her from a local kennel where I was working five years ago. She was abandoned, along with her other family members. I literally fell in love with her the minute I met her. She was six at the time and I already had two other indoor cats, but there was something about her. Sometimes I just cry thinking about only having five years with her, but then I think that we shared such an amazing time together that I wouldn't have traded it for the world. I opened this business based on my relationship with my childhood dog Sable. I was five when she was brought home. She was my childhood pal, high school friend, lived in my college apartment with me, moved into my house with me when I got married and for almost 20 years was the most loyal companion in the world. I never thought I would love another animal as much as I loved her, but as I get older I realize that we have so much love to share and that we love all our pets in different ways. I can honestly tell you first hand that whether you adopt a pet at 6 weeks or 6 years you will create an unconditional bond that you will treasure forever!

Thank you again for taking the time to read this quarterly newsletter and don't forget to think of us when it comes time to board your loved ones, they'll be in great hands!

From one pet lover to another....

Nichole