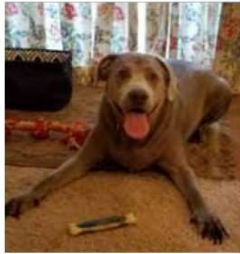


FABULOUS FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS



MONTE



NYX



THEIA



ISABELLA



SONNY

All of these pets were rescued and are living happily ever after in their forever homes.



Deep in Concentration?

THE VALUE OF THE PLACE COMMAND

By: Kristy Fike

As a waterfowl hunter using retrievers, I use a command called PLACE when afield. This command tells my retrievers to get on their designated spot and to stay there until commanded otherwise. This command keeps my retrievers from running out into gunfire, flaring incoming birds, picking up another retriever's bird and from getting underfoot. Aside from the field, the PLACE command can be used in

the home, yard, and vehicle.

In the home, you can teach your dog to PLACE on their dog bed to keep them from begging for food at meals, bolting out the door when carrying groceries inside, bothering guests and using the command prevents them from getting underfoot while you are cleaning or picking up your home.

Outside of the home the PLACE command can be used while doing yard work. You can command your dog to PLACE on your deck, tailgate or even a tree stump to keep them out of the way while you get your chores done. This command may also be valuable if you need your dog to stay in one spot while you are climbing a ladder, moving a vehicle or piece of equipment, using a chainsaw or any other hazardous task.

While on the road, some dogs like to jump from seat to seat or bark at other passing vehicles. The PLACE command can be utilized in the vehicle to limit or prevent these behaviors from occurring. Therefore, this command will help prevent you from being distracted while driving. When putting purchased goods in your vehicle at a store, the PLACE command could prevent your dog from jumping out into the parking lot too.

I taught my retrievers the PLACE command while they were young using a place board. A place board is an elevated platform big enough for your dog to sit on or lay on. The elevation helps prevent your dog from creeping or breaking off the board. Place boards can be purchased online or can be made at home.

My father and I built place boards for my retrievers using screws, indoor-outdoor carpet, 2 x 2' piece of plywood and a ten-foot 1x6 board but you can use a 1x4 or even a 2x4 (the ten-foot board determines the height of the place board). After constructing the 2x2' frame with a ten-foot board of your choice, screw the 2x2' piece of plywood to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

WELCOME SPRING AND KITTEN SEASON

By: Garfield's Rescue

Last spring a kind citizen reported finding a newborn kitten to Garfield's Rescue Inc. (GRI). The kitten, named Apollo, required bottle feeding every 3 hours. Later Apollo's mother and siblings were located and reunited with Apollo in foster care and all was well. The best news is that Apollo's family were all adopted. If you find a kitten(s), please do not pick them up. First, observe the kitten(s) from a distance. Yes, they are precious, but this is a critical time for a kitten. According to Alley Cat Allies, "Separating kittens younger than ~8 weeks old from their mother is harmful to their wellbeing. Kittens need their mother and she is their best possible caregiver." The kittens may seem abandoned, however, the mother cat may not be far away. She could be hunting, hiding, or waiting for you to move away from her babies. If the kittens are sleeping and seem content, then the mother is probably nearby. Check on the kittens every few hours. When you check the area again and there are fewer kittens, the mother is most likely



Apollo, near 2 weeks old

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



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What's That?

PLACE COMMAND, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26 top. Cut a piece of indoor-outdoor carpet to size and screw it or staple it on the plywood. This allows the dog to have solid footing when stepping on or off the place board. You can finish the place board by adding a cross member on the underside for support and a handle of your choice for easy transport. You can alter the dimensions to have a place board that will suit your dog's size.

The idea when teaching your dog to PLACE is to teach them to love the place board. If you can do that, they will be more likely to get on it and stay on it even when commanded to do so from afar or remotely.

Let your dog smell the place board and get comfortable with it as some dogs do not like new objects. Now, encourage your dog on the board using a fun voice and treats as needed. It is easier to do this when your dog is leashed. As

your dog goes to step onto the board, command PLACE. Praise them when they get on the board. Keep repeating this over a few training sessions.

Once your dog is doing this well, start adding in SIT or LAYDOWN to teach your dog to remain on the place board. For example, after your dog follows your PLACE command, command SIT. After your dog sits, take a few steps back away from the place board. If you use the STAY command with your dog, you should command that right after they sit. If your dog gets up, reseat him, and take a few steps back again. Wait a few seconds and return to your dog and praise him.

Over time, you will be able to leave your dog on their place board longer and move farther away from them too. Once your dog understands the concept of the PLACE command on the place board and does not come off it even when you go out of eyesight, then you can start teaching them to PLACE on other objects. Since you know your dog best, it may be necessary for you to alter these steps as needed when teaching your dog PLACE.

PLACE is a command that can be used in a variety of situations. It can be used to keep things orderly and calm and it can be used to help prevent dangerous situations. It does



What's Next?

take time to teach the command as many dogs want to get off place before they are permitted to. Be prepared to correct your dog during this process. Make sure your dog understands and performs each command consistently before moving forward to the next step. You do not want commands to be viewed as optional, and you do not want to set your dog up for failure.

KITTENS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

moving them to a new area. If you are not sure, sprinkle flour around where the kittens are located and look for paw prints in the disturbed flour when you revisit the site. The only time you would want to move the kittens is if they are in obvious danger.

If you determine that the mother is present, continue to observe the family from a distance, she will most likely move the kittens to a new area. It is best for the mother cat to nurse the kittens for a greater chance of survival. Around six to eight weeks the kittens should be socialized by humans. When the kittens have reached that age, contact GRI at 804-480-2066 or by email at garfieldsrescue@gmail.com. GRI will foster the mother cat and kittens and prepare them for adoption into their forever home. Please call Garfield's before contacting your local animal shelter. GRI works closely with all Northern Neck animal shelters during kitten season. The animal shelters will contact Garfield's to take un-weaned and very young kittens they have in custody. Let Garfield's know if you have reported found kittens to an animal shelter.

Garfield's Rescue Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization to foster/adopt out socialized community cats. In 2020 GRI rescued 321 cats and 208 of those rescued found their forever homes. Garfield's is a volunteer organization and relies solely on donations and grants. Donations can be sent to Garfield's Rescue Inc., PO Box 257, Kilmarnock, Virginia 22482 or donate on our webpage at www.garfield-srescue.org. GRI will host a fundraiser through Big Red Auctions, May 2-8, 2021. To donate items for the auction call or email GRI, 804-480-2066 or garfieldsrescue@gmail.com. We offer drop off or pick up service for donated items.

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INDIVISIBLE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

is highly unethical and I have never done so.

I told her that I did not wish to do so but that she could email me or even write a letter to the editor. When I asked her why she needed to meet me she stated that there was some information in my articles that was false. When I pressed her for an example she said that I had stated that Indivisible was made up of Democrats. I actually said that they were affiliated with Democrats and asked her if any of their members were Republicans.

She ignored my question and again demanded to meet in person. I told her I would not as I didn't trust her not to make up things that I didn't say and that I did not approve of their tactics, as I have written about ad infinitum.

Clearly exasperated, Mrs. Jackson blurted out that she had recorded our conversation as though that was some clever feat. I ended our conversation by stating: "You just proved my point." I have no doubt that Mrs. Jackson will try to pull out snippets to quote out of context and I hope she does as that will further prove my point.

They say that a tiger can't change their stripes. In the case of Mrs. Jackson, there is absolutely no hope (pun intended).