



# BARK-A-BOU**T** IT!

November 2011

Volume 1, Issue 1

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1- Letter from Michelle

Page 1/2- Winter Safety

Page 2- Bark of the Month

Page 2- Fun Facts

Page 2- Staying active all Winter long- Idea's to help you and your dog stay active.

Page 3- ROTFL

Page 3- Are you ready for cold and flu season?

Page 3- Recipe of the Month

Page 4- November event highlights

Page 5- November and December Calendar

Page 6- Desert K-9's

The month of November is very exciting this year. We launched our new "Puppy Steps" program in October and welcomed Danielle Somes into the position of Puppy Steps Instructor, so make sure you congratulate her in this new position. For those of you participating in Puppy Steps, look for more big changes and new additions through the New Year

Please also congratulate the 6 new Therapy Dog teams that passed their TDI test on October 28th: Cindy Frick with Bo, Linda Forkin with Calie, Kim Hessel with Brandi, Tiffany Martischink with Amber, Theresa Ankney with Topo and Rebecca Fortin with Corbin.

Bark-A-Bout has a new group forming putting all of their Obedience Training to good use. This group will have their first organizational meeting on Friday December 9, 2011 from 6-7pm in Bark-A-Bout's Training Room and is open to all who are interested in volunteering as a Therapy Dog team. We are all very excited for the upcoming holiday season, and what a great time to give back and put a smile on someone's face!



*Michelle N.*

## WINTER SAFETY

It's starting to get darker earlier and the wind is chilly and brisk. You tighten your jacket but what about your pets? Michigan Winters pose many challenges for keeping your pets safe and healthy. Luckily many dogs have natural defenses against the cold. Poodles have a tight curly hair that keeps in body heat. Labradors have three layers of an oily coat that acts as both windbreaker and wet suit to keep him or her safe. However



the Labradoodle has neither of these and needs protective clothing to stay warm and healthy.

Here are a few tips in keeping your pet safe throughout the winter months:

1. Proper grooming- No matter what kind of dog you have, their first defense against the winter elements is a well groomed coat. If you have a dog that seems to be continually shedding, then the coat isn't doing it's job to break the

14660 23 Mile Road

Shelby Township, MI

(586) 566-8900

[www.barkabout.net](http://www.barkabout.net)

## WINTER SAFETY CONT.

wind. Dogs with long ice collecting fur also collect salt from your walks and not everyone in your neighborhood uses pet safe products to keep their walkways clean. Keeping long hair trimmed, especially on their paws, will prevent the risk of frost bite and will keep your pet dry, so don't skip out on proper grooming through the winter months.

2. Use booties- All dogs should be wearing protective boots for their feet. It may take some time for your dog to get used to wearing them, but it is important to prevent cracked pads and salt getting into raw toes. As an added benefit, it will save you from cleaning dirty paw prints off the floor.

3. With it getting darker out earlier, it is harder for people to see you walking your dog. Bark-A-Bout will be placing an order for Orange Safety vests which features reflective piping on a light weight mesh neon orange fabric. The order is to be placed on November 15th, you can reserve yours by calling us at (586) 566-8900 with your dogs collar and girth measurements so we can order the right size for your dog. November 15th is also Opening Day so keep your dog safe from the hunting crowd, and visible during snow storms.

4. Use a Jacket- Just like your jackets, you want to use one on your dog that will keep his or her core safe from the cold and wind. Most jackets have windbreaker outer layers and fleece layers on the inside. Using a quality jacket will mean happy pets.

5. Dress Delicate Dogs- Some dogs are delicate, if you see your dog's activity level change and them spend most of their time in a curled up position, then your dog may need a new wardrobe. A good sweater will go a long way in keeping your dog from getting chilly.

We all want to have a fun, safe, and happy winter. Keeping these tips in mind will ensure that happens, so get out your winter coats and stay warm!

## FUN FACTS!

Dogs can see in color, just not as vividly as humans. It is akin to our vision at dusk.

Eighty percent of dog owners buy their dog a present for holidays and birthdays. More than half of them sign letters and cards from themselves and their pets.

The origin of amputating a dog's tail may go back to the Roman writer Lucius Columella's (A.D. 4-70) assertion that tail docking prevented rabies.

Dogs are mentioned 14 times in the Bible

Find more fun facts at  
[www.funnyfido.com](http://www.funnyfido.com)



just bark at it! No matter where he's at or what group he is in, Bucky always fits right in and makes himself at home. It's not unusual to spot him lounging in the chair in the small dog room, just watching over everybody while they play. Bucky may be a little guy, but he has a big heart and enjoys giving (and getting) love from everyone he meets! Congratulations Bucky on being November's Bark of the Month!

## Bucky

## Winter Activity Ideas

**Skijoring-** Think of it as Cross Country Skiing and Dog Sledding at the same time! This is a great exercise, but dress warm.

**Agility-** Agility is a fun obstacle course that provides excellent exercise opportunities for dogs and owners. Bark-A-Bout has classes on Wednesdays as well as Open Agility Times.

Volunteer with Bark-A-Bout as a visiting Therapy Dog Team. Bark-A-Bout has a team of volunteers who visit a new place every 4th Sunday bringing smiles with wagging tails.

**Doggie Dancing-** Get ready for your holiday guests with a choreographed routine. It's also great for Therapy Dog Visits. Look for a new dance classes in January.

## GET OUT AND GET ACTIVE

## Bark of the Month

Bucky is a handsome little Corgi who has been hanging out with us at Bark-A-Bout since late 2009. His sweet and loving disposition makes him a staff favorite! Bucky always has a smile on his face and is ready for fun. Bucky's favorite game is to chase the tennis ball and then



# ARE YOU PREPARED FOR COLD AND FLU SEASON...

## ARE YOUR PETS?

Unfortunately, with the changing weather and colder months approaching, this also means it is time for cold (kennel cough) and flu season. Bark-A-Bout would like to remind our customers that pets are just as susceptible as humans to experience a cold, cough and fatigue. When anyone is in a group setting such as daycare children, office co-workers, school or pet daycare/hotel one dog can transfer a virus to another without even thinking they are doing any harm.

Bark-A-Bout requires our guests to receive a Bordatella vaccination every six-months as a precaution from obtaining a cold, but a veterinarian/Bark-A-Bout can not guarantee your pet will not catch a cold (kennel cough). It is the same for humans and the flu vaccination that is available. When you elect to receive a flu shot your doctor can not guarantee that you will not get the flu, however you chose to take precaution by receiving the shot.

Bark-A-Bout takes every caution to prevent our guests from coming in contact with others carrying the virus by not accepting pets while they are sick, as well as quarantining guests who are here and may have come down with a cold. We clean our facility twice a day thoroughly with veterinary approved products and have a medical graded air filtration system-just as hospitals do to keep viruses from spreading. However, even though we take every precaution, sometimes we are still not successful in stopping a virus as any vet or doctor will inform you. We truly do not want your pet to get sick but do want to make you are aware of the time of the season.

So please advise us if your dog has any cough or sneezing symptoms or is being treated for any cough or sneezing symptoms by your veterinarian and keep them home until they are cleared from your vet and feeling better.

## K9 Thanksgiving Dinner

### INGREDIENTS:

- 6 c. Water (or low-sodium broth)
- 1 lb. Ground Turkey
- 2 c. Brown rice
- 1/2 tsp Garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp Dried rosemary
- 16 oz. Total- Sweet Potatoes, Carrots, Celery, Green Beans, Apples

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Add everything but the veggies to a large pot and cook on the stove on medium heat.
2. Stir mixture until the ground meat is broken up and distributed evenly.
3. Bring to a boil.
4. Once boiling, add sweet potatoes, cover and bring the heat down to low. Simmer for 20 minutes.
5. After 20 minutes, add the rest of the veggies and cook for an additional 5 minutes.

The time will depend on how long it takes for the veggies to get tender, Done!

This meal is best served warm and is a great meal for all of your doggie guests this Thanksgiving. Make sure you set aside portions of your favorite vegetable while you are preparing for your feast for this special recipe. The vegetables can vary but make sure you avoid onions.

*Enjoy*



## Cat's Property Rules

1. If I like it, it's mine.
2. If its in my mouth, it's mine.
3. If I can take it from you, it's mine.
4. If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
5. If I'm chewing something up, all the pieces are mine.
6. If its mine, it must never appear to be yours in anyway.
7. If it just looks like mine, it's mine.
8. If I saw it first, it's mine.
9. If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.
10. If its broken, it's yours.

# BARK-A-BOUT THERAPY DOG GROUP

Bark-A-Bout is launching our new Therapy Dog Group. Come Friday **December 9th from 6 to 7 PM** for our first Organizational Meeting and help us decide the direction of your program. This is a wonderful volunteer project for any high school students needing to add to their volunteer hours, or anyone who wants to give back. Your dog does not need to be a Registered Therapy dog to participate in the organizational meetings and events but does have to be TDI certified to participate in the group visits. If you have any questions please leave a message for Marianne C. at (586) 566-8900 or e-mail at [training@barkabout.net](mailto:training@barkabout.net). You may Register for this meeting online at [www.barkabout.net](http://www.barkabout.net) or over the phone at (586) 566-8900. The next Therapy Dog Preparation class starts **December 14th at 8 PM**. Look for future TDI testing Opportunities.



## Mutts Minding Manners

The class focuses on preparing your dog for the upcoming holidays. This class is open to everyone and focuses on the skills every dog needs to have a well behaved dog for the holiday, it's a GREAT refresher course for dogs who have taken any of our Obedience Courses. Commands learned and re-addressed are: Wait, Sit for Greeting, Sit at the door, Out, Leave-it, Stay. We will also problem solve and prepare strategies to

manage the excitement of Holiday Parties, Food Temptations, and Holiday Decorations. Each dog will learn at it's own pace but it will be helpful if dogs have learned Loose Leash Walking and Stay! Cost is \$75 for this three week seminar!

Dates Are:

**November 4th, 11th, 18th**

**December 2nd, 9th, 16th**

## ANIMAL FIRST-AID AND CPR

Do you know how to give your dog or cat CPR? Who do you call in an emergency? Do you know the first steps of first aid when your pet is hurt? What is your plan of action if a natural disaster strikes? After completion of this class you will be certified by the Red Cross in Animal CPR. This seminar is full of hands on training. Please do not bring your dog to this class, just paper to take notes and something to write with. You can register online at [www.barkabout.net](http://www.barkabout.net) or by calling us at (586) 566-8900. The cost of this program is \$60.00 and is a 4-hour seminar on **November 20th** taught by one of our resident Veterinary Technicians Dennie.



November 2011

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1.	2. Elem. Obed 7 PM	3	4 <b>Muts Minding Manners 6-7 PM</b>	5 Int. Obed 12 Noon
6	7	8	9 Puppy 6 PM	10 Elem. Obed 6 PM	11 <b>Veterans Day Packaging Party 6-9 PM</b>	12 Elem. Obed 9 AM
13	14	15 <b>German Shepherd Hour 6-7 PM</b>	16 Beg Agility 8 PM <b>Book Club 6-7 PM</b>	17 Int. Obed 8 PM	18	19 Puppy 11 AM <b>Sheppard Alt. Health Care Nutritional Seminar 3-4 PM</b>
20 <b>Animal CPR and First Aid 1-4:30 PM</b>	21	22	23 <b>Classes Cancelled</b>	24 <b>Happy Thanksgiving Classes Cancelled</b>	25 <b>Black Friday</b>	26
27	28	29 <b>Teacup Party 6-7 PM</b>	30 Elem. Obed 5 PM			

December 2011

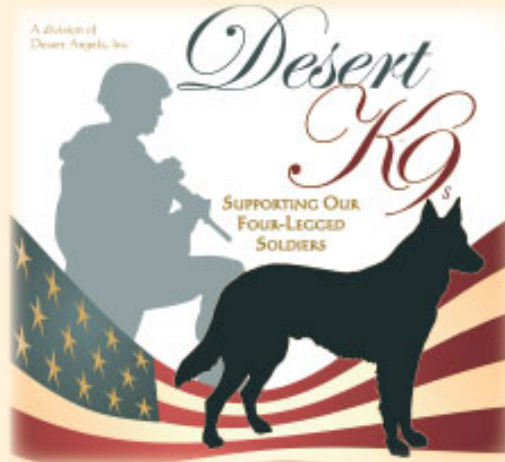
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Elem. Obed 7 PM	2 <b>Muts Minding Manners 6-7 PM</b>	3 Elem. Obed 1 PM <b>Holiday Pictures by appt.</b>
4	5	6 <b>Boxer Breed Party 6-7 PM</b>	7	8	9 <b>Therapy Dog Group Meeting 6-7 PM</b>	10 Int. Obed 10 AM
11	12	13	14 Adv. Obed 8 PM <b>Book Club 6-7 PM</b>	15 Int. Obed. 5 PM	16	17 Puppy 2 PM <b>Holiday Pictures All Day</b>
18	19	20	21 Beg. Agility 7 PM	22	23	24 <b>Classes Cancelled</b>
25 <b>Merry Christmas</b>	26	27	28 Int. Obed. 7 PM	29	30	31 <b>Classes Cancelled</b>

Desert Angels, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, is making a difference in our soldier's lives one box at a time. Bark-A-Bout is collecting donations until November 11th, when we will be holding a packaging party at our facility. We will be sending all items collected to our Troops and K9 Military Working Dogs. These boxes - called 'Miracle Boxes' - will provide a token of love and home in honor of the freedom they provide for us.

A list of suggested items include:

**Human Items:**

- Wipes
- Hand/Sock warmers
- Blankets
- Travel Size Pillows
- Toiletries
- Feminine Products
- Toilet Paper
- Candy
- Breakfast bars
- Jerky
- Coffee
- Letters of encouragement
- Blank hallmark cards



**K9 Items:**

- Dry Biscuits
- Dry Waterless Shampoo
- Large Kong Toys
- Ear Cleaner
- Eye Wash
- Large Rope Chews
- Paw Wipes
- Flea & Tick Medication
- Collapsible Food/Water Bowls
- Paw & Nose Pads

For a more extensive list of items you can refer to their website at

[www.thedesertangel.org/help.htm](http://www.thedesertangel.org/help.htm)

In order to send overseas (postage is \$12.95 per box) you can make a monetary donation in our lobby or through our website at [www.barkabout.net](http://www.barkabout.net).

To volunteer on

**November 11th**

**6pm-9pm**

to help package boxes please sign up at the front desk or on our website - [www.barkabout.net](http://www.barkabout.net).



14660 23 Mile Road, Shelby Township, MI 48315 586-566-8900

[www.barkabout.net](http://www.barkabout.net)

**14660 23 Mile Road**

**Shelby Township, MI**

**(586) 566-8900**

[www.barkabout.net](http://www.barkabout.net)