



# Go Play! April 2011 Newsletter



Spring seems to have FINALLY SPRUNG! The winter chill has disappeared from the air, the flowers are in bloom, and we are all taking in a well-deserved breath of fresh air!

We have a lot of exciting things happening this spring!!

Now that we'll all be getting back outside with our dogs, perhaps a refresher obedience or agility class is in store! Spring is the perfect time to take your dog "back to school" to ensure that your dog is prepared to be perfectly behaved until next winter! ☺

## NEW CLASSES FOR SPRING:

**MONDAY NIGHT CLASSES – Starting April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Puppy Kindergarten / Beginner Obedience: 6:15 – 7:15pm**

**Introduction to Rally Obedience (Rally-O): 7:30 – 8:00pm**

**TUESDAY NIGHT CLASSES – Starting April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Canine Good Citizenship Prep (CGC): 6:15 – 7:00pm**

**Indoor Agility: 7:15 – 8:15pm**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES – Starting May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Intro to Agility: 6:15 – 6:45pm**

**30 / 30 (30 minutes of Agility, 30 minutes of Obedience):**

**7:00 – 8:00pm**

**SATURDAY DAY CLASSES – Starting April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Puppy Kindergarten / Beginner Obedience: 10:00 – 11:00am**



# NEW PRODUCTS FOR SPRING:

## Merrick Seasonal Flavors!

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The ever-popular Merrick canned food has four new additions! Our dogs simply LOVE them – especially the Easter Brunch! These tasty canned formulas are available individually, in a mixed case of (12) for the case price, or in a convenient 4-pack!



## Foggy Mountain Raincoats!

We are so impressed with the quality of our Foggy Mountain Winter Jackets that we decided to carry the spring line and now have raincoats in stock! These are constructed with the same durable materials found on the winter jackets, but have a lighter nylon outer that is guaranteed to keep your dog dry even in the worst weather! Available in either red or black, and in-stock for all sizes! Little Fiona Rose is shown modeling a red raincoat!

## New Handmade Collars!

We have gorgeous new martingale and fabric collars in stock - just in time for the warm weather! These unique and “one of a kind” collars are all made by hand of a wife working two jobs to support her family while her husband serves in the Army. We have crushed velvet collars and leashes in – pastel colors that look great on every dog – and they are fabulous!



## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Go-Play-Doggie-Daycare/328624578122?ref=ts>



You don't have to have a Facebook account to see what your dog doing while they are at daycare! Because Go Play! has a PUBLIC page, anyone can access it without being a Facebook member! Simply click on the link above or follow the link on the homepage of our website! We post pictures of the daycare group several times a day, and it's a great way to "watch" your dog interact with all of their friends!

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### April 2011 Pet of the Month!

Sam is a beautiful and sweet mixed breed who was rescued from Save-A-Dog when she was about a year old. She loves to go for walks, play with other dogs, and get lots of patting! 😊



### NEW FRIENDS FOR SPRING:

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to the following new clients:  
Moose & Sunny – Henri – Sandy - Muprang & Mojo - Roxy  
Olga – Hunter - Charlie & Riley – Gracie – Pilou – Lexie - Perri



## COMING SOON...

**Earthdog Collars / Leashes:** Made from sustainable hemp, these high-quality products are not only environmentally-friendly, but durable and comfortable for your dog to wear! In addition, the company donates 10% of earthdog profits to Kody's Fund, a non-profit organization that funds spay and neuter programs for dogs. We will be carrying a wide selection of the decorative hemp line in mid-April.

**Zuke's Dog Treats:** We will be carrying a wider-selection of Zuke's yummy treats come May!

**Outdoor Adventure:** This popular class returns with a new schedule starting in mid-May!

## DOG TOXIC XYLITOL IN GUMS, MINTS, DESSERTS ... AND NOW DRUGS

By: Dr. Patty Khuly

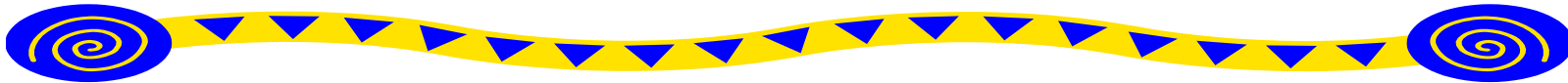
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Xylitol is a great product. It's a natural extract from the birch tree, and it takes only a little bit of this stuff to sweeten a whole lot. It's therefore less expensive than other sugar substitutes. And it happens to taste better than most of them. Diabetics everywhere can rejoice!

All of which is why consumer product manufacturers have been slowly and quietly replacing other sweeteners with xylitol ... in everything, not just products that are labeled sugar-free. And that's the trouble. When I first started writing about xylitol three or four years ago the number of consumer products containing xylitol numbered less than a hundred in the U.S. Moreover, they were largely restricted to the arena of sugar-free gums and foods. Fast-forward to today and the list is way longer and much more diverse. You can find xylitol in everything from Flintstones vitamins to commonly prescribed drugs. These latter products pose more of a problem for dog owners and veterinarians for a variety of reasons. These products never used to contain xylitol. In fact, I used to recommend Flintstones vitamins for my patients. Now I have to caution my clients to stick to pet-only brands *and* to be very diligent about reading labels. But it took months before I became aware of the change in this brand's ingredients. (So you know, xylitol is included in only a few of the Flintstones formulations, not all.) What's worse — and even more stressful for veterinarians — is that it's not just common consumer products anymore that we have to watch for. The human versions of drugs, especially the children's elixirs, are now being formulated with xylitol for greater pediatric palatability. Unfortunately, the lower doses in the kids' meds are exactly what some of our smaller animal patients require.

Got a little dog who needs hycodan syrup for a cough, or the bronchodilator theophylline for breathing? Even if you've been getting a drug for months or years as an elixir from the same exact pharmacy, beware. Preparations of these drugs may soon change to reflect the widening market for xylitol as a sweetener.

Case in point: This week I sought to relieve a clients' small dog of back pain associated with recurrent episodes of intervertebral disc disease. In so doing, I prescribed a dog-only non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, and the smallest dosage of gabapentin (used for both seizures and neurogenic pain) currently formulated. But the pharmacy had run out of the 100 mg capsules, which is why I received a call from the pharmacist to see if I would OK the liquid (elixir) version instead. Now, I'd *like* to say I'm always up on every single drug and all the new formulations, but I'm not. It's just too damn much info to consume on a regular basis. I had, however, just read through *Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook* on this exact point: available formulations of gabapentin. And guess what? Some commercially prepared versions of liquid gabapentin have xylitol in them — and it was one of these very versions my pharmacist was offering. The same drug I was offering my patient might have killed her had I not known about the change! Now, I don't know how much of the elixir it would've taken to send her into seizures, but rest assured, this little dog was already getting the high end of the drug's dose, so I think I'm justified in fearing the worst for other dogs all over the country whose pharmacists don't make the call (it happens all the time), or whose veterinarians haven't yet heard of the dangers pediatric elixirs now pose to animals.



### IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**VACCINATION DEADLINE: April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Remember, we **MUST** have your dog's current vaccination records no later than 4/15/11 or they will be excused from daycare. Your dogs must be current on Distemper, Parvo, Rabies, and have a negative Fecal exam.

**Daycare will be CLOSED on Friday April 29<sup>th</sup>**

Do you have a product review, informative article, or other news you'd like us to share in our monthly newsletters?

If so, please submit all material (including pictures) no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for the following month's newsletter. (For example, all material for our May 2011 newsletter should be received by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011)

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