

Happy Valentines Day

Feb 2007

(480) 595-6700

Cave Creek AZ 85331

4640 E Forest Pleasant Place

Hello Friends!

It is with great excitement that we want to share that we have begun construction on Phase I of our new buildings. We will have an in-door facility for use during harsh weather conditions, but will also still have the outdoor fields and exercise areas.

We have begun accepting reservations for the new training facility, and we recommend booking early if you are planning on having your dog stay with us during the upcoming months. We are filling schedules much earlier than in the past.

Please pardon the dust as we work on trying to provide the best training facility for our four-legged partners!  
---Partners Team



**Partners Agility Classes**

Level One

3/17/07 Saturday at 9am

Level Two

3/17/07 Saturday at 8am

**Partners Obedience Classes**

Level One

2/3/07 Saturday at 8am

**Puppy Training**

Did a new family member join your "pack" this holiday? Make sure that their transition into your family "starts out on the right paw" by giving them the education they need to be a GREAT pet for everyone in your family. We must make sure all dogs are protected against exposure to disease, puppies must be approx 14-16 weeks of age, which is when they are current on all their vaccinations. We require:

- DHLPPC
- Bordetella
- Lyme
- Rabies
- Flea/Tick Treatment (such as Frontline)



**Upcoming Events**

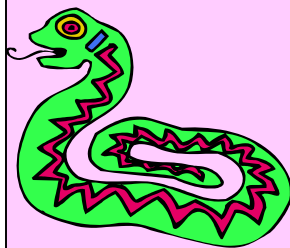
"Unitarian Church Pet Adopt-A-Thon"  
Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 10am-3pm  
at 4027 E Lincoln Dr

"Heart-to-Heart Pet-A-Rama"  
Feb 17<sup>th</sup> at 300 E Indian School Rd

"Paw Placement Trail Trek" 8am-12pm at 19224 North Tatum Blvd.

**Snake Proofing at Partners**

That time of year is coming quickly upon us. Spring! We are all anxious to get back out into nature and enjoy the wonderful weather we all live here for. But our co-habitants are also coming out to enjoy the warm weather as well. Part of living in the desert is understanding and respecting living with rattlers.



Make sure your dogs are prepared and protected. Ask your Vet about the Snake Vaccines, as well as teach them to avoid snakes all together. We are currently scheduling our Snake Proofing Clinics to begin in March. If you are interested in one of our classes, please call the school and schedule a session for your dog.  
(480) 595-6700 [www.snakeproofing.com](http://www.snakeproofing.com)

**Rescue Dogs- "Partners Starting off on the RIGHT Paw"**

There are many different rescue organizations here in AZ that are bursting at the seams with dogs who desperately need homes. One of the main reasons that many dogs end up in the shelters is due to behavioral reasons. In most cases, these dogs can be helped through training. They just want the opportunity to find a forever home, and an owner to shower their affection upon.



We feel very strongly in wanting to help anyone who has rescued one of these precious animals. If you have adopted a rescue dog, and do need training, we offer a \$25 Discount off any of our Training Camp Programs.

## “Gastric Torsion aka Bloat ”

Gastric Torsion or more commonly know as Bloat, is a serious, and often fatal condition that happens extremely quickly in dogs. It is the second leading killer of dogs behind cancer.

We have done our best to summarize possible symptoms, causes and risk factors as well as methods of prevention that seem to lower incidence. We know that there is still much to be learned about bloat, but hope that these lists will give you a basic understanding, as well as some suggestions to help decrease the chances of your dog going through bloat, or what to do if your dog does bloat. If awareness can save even one dog's life, it is worth the effort!

In bloat, the stomach twists or rotates, caused by excessive amounts of food, fluid or gas in the stomach. When stomach passages are cut off from allowing belching or vomiting, and food is blocked from passing into the intestines, it causes swelling or distension. The swelling can compress major veins carrying blood to the heart and lower the hearts ability to work efficiently. This causes loss of blood pressure and poor blood circulation. Swelling can cause extra pressure upon the lungs not allowing them to expand and contract normally. When blood supply and oxygen flow are cut off from vital organs, it is not long before shock, coma and death result.

Bloat seems to most common and mainly affect deep-chested, large or extra large dogs between the ages of 4 to 10 years, over 2/3 of them are male. This problem rarely occurs in smaller breed dogs.

Bloat can develop in a matter of minutes or hours, so recognizing symptoms early are critical. If caught by a watchful eye and early enough, your dog's chance of survival is greater. The longer you wait to seek treatment, lessens the chances of survival. If you suspect bloat, seek immediate veterinary care!

### Common Contributing Factors

- Heredity/Genetics
- Breed or size of dog (some breeds are at higher risk for bloat)
- Deep / Narrow chest or being underweight
- Disposition-fearful or anxious personality, prone to stress, aggression history
- Poor eating habits of dog, such as one large meal per day, free-feeding or overfeeding
- Households with multiple dogs with which they compete can causes rapid eating habits
- Drinking large amounts of water before or after meals. Some dogs naturally “gulp” water causing large amounts of air to be trapped in their stomach. Drinking water close to meal times causes gastric juices to become diluted and not break down food properly.
- Exercise or play before or after feeding times
- Lesser quality foods with lower protein content and higher “filler” content can cause excessive fermentation and gas build up. Also higher protein foods do not “expand” as much as the foods with more “fillers.”

### Common Symptoms

- Repeated attempts to vomit/defecate/pass gas without success.
- Possible distended stomach with abdomen feeling hard (*sometimes distension is not noticeably visible*)
- Evidence of abdominal pain or discomfort
- Heavy panting, difficult or shallow breathing
- Excessive salivation or gagging
- Anxiety, whining
- Restlessness, pacing, looking for place to hide
- Stiff leg stance, legs spread or arched back
- Lethargic or refuses to lay down/sit without caution
- Excessive heartbeat, speeds up with progression
- Pale/cold lips and gums (indicates the onset of shock)

### Suggested Prevention to decrease chances

- Try to never feed your dog within 2 hours prior or especially after play, work or training.
- Control food amounts. Feed more than one meal per day. Do not free feed, which is allowing your dog to eat as they wish, they may not know when to “stop.”
- If you have multiple dogs, feed them separately to discourage competition. We encourage feeding in separate crates. This allows them to have a “safe” environment to eat peacefully without worrying about protecting their food.
- Control water amounts before and after exercise. Give smaller amounts spread over time to discourage “gulping” and swallowing excessive air. Wait to give water until at least 1 hour after eating.
- Put small amount of plain yogurt on your dog's kibble to encourage “friendly” bacterial growth

