

The PIDO Pointer



If There is Trouble at the Park

MOST OF OUR VISITS to Point Isabel dog park are enjoyable experiences. However, at a park with over five million human visitors annually (and who knows how many dogs), there are occasional problems. You may want to put these numbers into your cell phone.

- To report an emergency or a crime that is in progress, call 911.
- For most other problems, call the Park District Police at (510) 881-1121. Do not call the Richmond Police.

Non-Emergency Problems

Dog Bites: To report dog bites or other injuries, call the Park District Police at (510) 881-1121. Anyone involved in a dog bite or any incident resulting in injury must exchange information with other involved parties.

Illegal Activities: To report someone selling puppies or abandoning a dog at the dog park, call the Park District Police at (510) 881-1121.

Injured Animal: To report an injured animal, call the Park District Police at (510) 881-1121.

Rule Violations: To report park rule violations such as bike, skate or scooter riding, and failure to properly leash or control pets, call (510) 881-1833.

Safety Precautions

Auto Burglaries: Prevent burglaries in the parking lots by putting valuables out of sight in your car and locking it.

Child Safety: If you bring small children to the dog park, do not give them food. There are hungry dogs at the park!

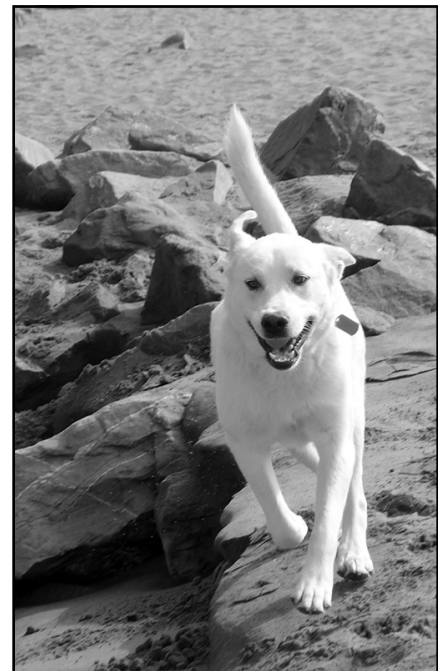


DOGS AT THE POINT

Klondike

By Marla Miyashiro

AT A RECENT PIDO weed pull, a big white polar bear of a dog named Klondike came bounding through the area we were clearing. Then one day on PIDO's Facebook page, I saw a fun video of Klondike romping at Point Isabel. *What's his story?* I wondered. I contacted his dad, Bill Swartz, to find out.



BILL SWARTZ

Where did you get Klondike?

Klondike retired at 1 from his original career in the agricultural industry

See Dogs at the Point, page 4

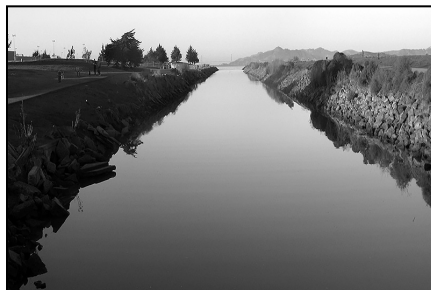
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The *PIDO Pointer* is published three times a year. Subscriptions are included automatically with a \$10 lifetime PIDO membership. Membership dues and donations may be sent to PIDO, P.O. Box 8282, Berkeley, CA 94707. A membership form is on the back page of this newsletter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome letters to the editor and story ideas. Write to the editor at info@pido.org or P.O. Box 8282, Berkeley, CA 94707.

Views expressed in the *Pointer's* columns are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of PIDO.

PIDO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax ID number 94 334 8406.

PIDO has been working to keep Point Isabel clean and off leash since 1985. We help pay for the Mutt Mitts at the park and hold monthly cleanups and weed pulls, as well as the annual Canine Good Citizen test in September and Barktoberfest in October. Check pido.org for the latest information on events.

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OFF THE LEASH

Your Dog Needs a Job!

What does that mean?

**By Nancy Frensley, CPDT, CAP2,
CNWI, CGC Evaluator**

WHEN YOUR DOG is hopping around, barking and generally having a case of the zoomies, or even being a shy little wallflower, has anyone ever said to you, "your dog needs a job?"

Usually, when they say this, folks are referring to structured activities such as agility and flyball (in which dogs execute obstacle courses in various ways), tracking and nose work (in which dogs use their scenting ability to find odors and other hidden items). Some people even love dancing with their dogs. Many of these are competitive events, but they can be great fun to teach your dog and to use for play regardless of whether you go on to competition levels and attend events in which your dog can earn titles and ribbons.

Everything you teach your dog enhances his intelligence and responsiveness, which, in turn, enhances the companionship both of you enjoy. It's important for us to remember that dogs evolved

as companions in the first place because they performed valuable work for us in harder times when technology did less and we did more. Their unique abilities enabled our work to be less strenuous and take fewer hours. Hunting, herding, ratting and sled-pulling are all



functions dogs performed extremely well, and people, not so much.

Teaching activities for sports and games creates patterns of

behavior that allow us to communicate better with our dogs and them with us. For instance, in tracking and nose work, your dog can be in charge. After all, who has the better nose? Your dog's job is to find an object or a scent, and your job is to know when your dog has been successful and rewarded for a job well done. In agility, your dog's job is to execute jumps and navigate tunnels and ramps, while your job is to direct him around the course in the correct order.

A relationship with a dog has a lot of give and take; there is no master-slave relationship here.

That's why we enjoy them so much. In spite of how they behave from time to time, we find them funny, quirky and

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Dogs at the Point

Continued from Page 1

to pursue a more intellectual career in the Bay Area! Or, to be a bit more exact, Rocket Dog Rescue saved him (thank you, thank you, thank you) from a Bakersfield shelter, and we are pretty sure that before that he

was an outdoor ranch or farm dog. Rocket Dog was participating in a large adoption event at Jack London Square. Klondike was 20 feet away when my wife spotted him and immediately said, "That dog." And the rest is history.

How old is he now, and how old was he when you brought him home?

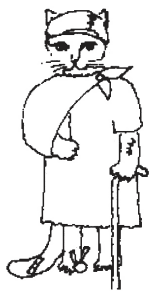
Because he's a rescue we don't know exactly. We had him examined a day or two after adoption. Our vet, the awesome Dr. Phimister, guessed between 1 and 2. So we're saying he was adoption and on the anniversary of his adoption, this coming July 19, he'll be 2.



KATIE 2001-2014

*A Friend to All Foster Dogs and Our Adventure Girl
Adopted from Hopalong Animal Rescue*

Jolene Jacobs and Marc Kitchel



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Poop Bags

Point Isabel Dog Park is pleasant because most people clean up after their dogs. Because the Mutt Mitts provided at the park are expensive, and because their containers are sometimes empty, you can help keep the park clean by bringing your own bags from home.

Thank you!

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Off the Leash

Continued from page 3

comforting. In short, they make us happy and allow us to feel emotions we might miss otherwise.

But, getting back to jobs. What if you don't have the time, money, inclination or space to start your dog in a sport? What if you just enjoy long walks, couch time and just having your dog around the house? What then is your dog's job?

The answer is very clear. Every dog's primary job is to respond to what you ask when you ask it: come when called, stay when required, wait at doorways, walk calmly near you, be still for hugs and grooming, cuddle up on long winter nights. It's your job to teach your dog how to do these things. If we look at everyday activities as our dog's job, it helps us remember that we need to teach them and maintain them by acknowledging and rewarding their good performance.

Nancy Frensley owns and operates Finesse Dog Training, specializing in dog sports. You can e-mail her at nancy@finessedogtraining.net.

With Loving Thoughts

PIDO would like to recognize the donations made in honor or in memory of beloved pets, family, and friends, and to thank donors for this thoughtful gesture.

- *Stephen & Teri Puryear, in loving memory of Jake*
- *Marla Miyashiro, in loving memory of Susan Obayashi's dog, Whitey*
- *Marla Miyashiro, in loving memory of Ingrid*
- *Diane Perea and Steve Himovitz, in loving memory of Pokie*

Welcome to Our New Members

Alameda: Norman Nelson, Ruth Smiler, Barbara Whitton

Berkeley: Rosemary Dady, Dana Halberg, Lorna Kollmeyer, Ben Levine & Gina Steck, David Zankowsky

El Cerrito: Justine Hauser, Mary Powell, Joy Iwas

El Sobrante: Renee Moore

Emeryville: Michelle Myers

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Fairfield: Brandon Care

Fremont: Nonna Banioni

Lafayette: Wendy McVey

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Pittsburg: Sunil Patel

Richmond: Susan Knecht Higgins, David Grossman, Bill Stewart

San Mateo: Terence Day

Suisun City: Lisa & Chistins Sprague

Winters: Ari Hoover

Thanks to Our Recent Contributors

R. Bergeman
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David English
Eileen Kelly
Chris & Sylvia Mortgat
Michael J. Novello
David Walters
Michael Wilkins & Sheila Duignan
Harvey & Susan Wittenberg
Patricia Wooten & Sharon Neeley

Thanks also to our PayPal contributors, whose names we often can't see.

Dogs at the Point

Continued from page 4

the Klondike logo.

When did he start coming to Point Isabel?

Klondike's first trip was Aug. 22, just a bit over a month since he joined the household. I'd vaguely heard there was a good park near the Richmond Costco, but until we went we didn't understand that a place so wonderful really existed.

How often do the two of you come?

Something between one and three times a week.

Often it's what we call an eight-foot trip. Klondike provides four feet, I chip in two, and my wife the balance.

What does Klondike like to do at the dog park?

He considers just about everything at the park an E-ticket attraction! I think a perfect tour would be:

- Sniff, chase, and chest-bump with friends
- Walk along rocks mountain goat-style
- Steal tennis balls
- Swim
- Dig at gopher

holes

- Swim
- Run with friends
- More gopher hunting, possibly with a swim break
- Check out the café and picnic tables to see if he can get a

Actually, just repeat, hold the rinse. The only thing he doesn't like at PI is being rinsed off. He's happy to swim in cold water but hates the hose, probably due to bad associations.



BILL SWARTZ

Is he more interested in meeting people or other dogs?

He loves meeting new people with snacks! And he loves friendly, active, large dogs. If you don't fall into either of those two categories, he will politely convey his regret that important park activities make it impossible to stay and chat.

Any closing thoughts on Point Isabel or Klondike?

My wife and I have the deepest gratitude and appreciation for both. Klondike brings joy into our lives, and Point Isabel brings joy to Klondike, not to mention a social and relaxing place for us. How much more from life can you ask?

Would you like to see your dog featured in the Pointer? E-mail the editor at info@pido.org.

PIDO FINANCIAL REPORT: 2014

INCOME

Members.....	440
Contributions.....	6,628
Memorials.....	1,290
Foundations.....	500
Ads.....	1,095
Merchandise.....	688
Events.....	50
Miscellaneous.....	53
TOTAL:	10,744

EXPENSES

Supplies.....	207
Pointer Expenses.....	4,440
Insurance.....	750
Events.....	967
Fees.....	677
Mutt Mitts.....	2,500
Bulletin Board.....	1,201
Brochures.....	1,729
Web Site.....	72
E-mail.....	292
Merchandise.....	1,478
Miscellaneous.....	121
TOTAL:	14,434

BIRDS AT THE POINT

Black Oystercatcher

By Fran Block

HAVE YOU EVER had a dickens of a time trying to open oysters, thinking how could anything so small be so hard to pry apart? If so, you'll appreciate the skill of the oystercatcher, a small bird with a long, stout bill that often accomplishes the feat in under 30 seconds.

They use traits they learned from their parents: hammering or stabbing. The stabbers sneak up on a bivalve and quickly thrust their beaks inside. They slice the bivalve's largest muscle before the mollusk can "clam up", then they pry the meat away and feast.

The hammerers do just that, shattering the shell with a series of well-directed short, powerful

blows. Then they poke their bills through the hole in the mollusk, cut the muscles, pry the shells apart, and there's the food. It's quite a sight to see.

The black bird, which is about a foot and a half long, is made even more interesting by its bright orange bill, the red ring around its eye, and its pink legs. Some pairs stay together for several years.

You can find black oystercatchers foraging for mussels, worms, crustaceans, and limpets north of Pt Isabel, among the rocks along the Bay Trail.



DICK DANIELS/CAROLINA BIRDS

Source: *The Birder's Handbook*, by Paul Ehrlich, David S. Dobkin and Darryl Wheye



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Become a Member of PIDO!

Point Isabel Dog Owners (PIDO) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has worked to keep Point Isabel clean and off leash since 1985. We urge you to become a member, as there is safety in numbers. A lifetime membership is only \$10, and you'll receive our hard-copy newsletter three times a year, as well as occasional short e-newsletters, and be on our mailing list so you'll be informed of any park problems.

Enclose \$10 (make checks payable to PIDO) and mail to PIDO, P.O. Box 8282, Berkeley, CA 94707. Thank you!

Membership Form

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Address _____

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E-mail address* _____

*PIDO does not share its member information.

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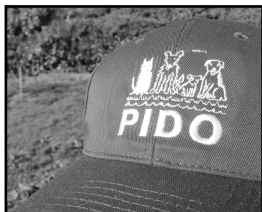
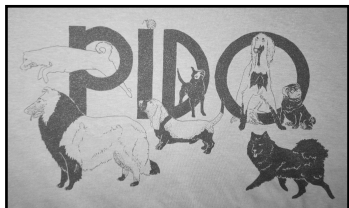
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