

April 21, 2024

Ed & Nancy, here is the latest Eastham Dog

# EDOA NEWS



Newsletter of the Eastham Dog Owners' Association

## Upcoming Events:

Your EDOA Board has been busy setting up a schedule of events. You will be sure to find something that appeals to you and your dog. We look forward to getting together under better weather and have some good times.

**Earth Day: April 22 8:30 A.M.** Start the day off doing something good for your mother—Earth that is. EDOA volunteered to join in again by taking Wiley Park as our cleanup target. Just show up. Dogs welcome. Supplies provided or bring your own favorite tools. Early reports are that it will be a nice walk in the woods with no heavy lifting.

**“Recall, Reward, Repeat” April 25 6:00—7:00P.M. @ Council on Aging, Nauset Rd.**

Hear from the experts what recall looks like and how to train your dog to do it reliably. Heather T. Garre Day KPA-CTP and Stephanie Sykes, Eastham ACO are the speakers. EDOA is sponsoring this special event.

Given the hard-won retainment of usage rules in Wiley Park, we encourage all dog handlers using the park to be aware of enforcement and etiquette regarding off-leash dogs.

We see this as a terrific introduction to future services and training opportunities. **Sorry, no dogs this time.**

**Candidates Night May 13, 6:00 P.M. Town Hall.** Candidates for town offices will be present to meet voters and take questions. This annual event is co-hosted by Eastham Chamber of Commerce and EDOA.

**Bow Wow Bash—Springtime Edition—May 18th, Noon—2 P.M.** We have so much fun that we are doing the Bash TWICE this year. Celebrate Eastham's dogs while they are still allowed on the bay beaches. Bring your beach chair, fav beverage, sun hat (all optional) and your on or off-leash dog (semi-required). Hang out, have a grilled hot dog or two, other treats too. Other exciting stuff too, but mostly play with pups. It is all free!

Other events are on our calendar too. Keep up on our [EDOA website](#).

## Off-Leash Dog Walking – Best Practices

Part 4 of a series by Edward Daniels,  
EDOA Director, Public Relations

*This is a series about having a dog trained to be walked off-leash. In Part 1, 2, and 3 the freedom, safety and behavioral benefits were discussed. [\[Available in our EDOA News Archive\]](#). Now, we look at actually getting to that point.*

### Part Four: How?

The first step to training a dog to walk off-leash is the holy trinity of dog training; Come, Sit Stay. If your dog is not consistent with these commands, they should be restrained when in proximity to unfamiliar dogs and people.

The key to this and any other dog training is practice, practice, practice. My dog Monty is 12 years old and knows these commands, but if we do not practice for several days I notice his response time gets longer and inconsistent. When we do practice, the dog will eventually even anticipate the command. For example when a car is coming down the street, he will turn to me and sit without instruction. Still, it gets dicey if the car stops or he is talked to, or there is a dog in the car. I need to be ready with the leash.

The range of effective obedience can be extended by gradually increasing your distance before giving the command. Many trainers find the long line or extendable leash helpful. Working with a training partner helps too. It is really fun to work with two dogs. Sometimes one learns from the other and darned if they don't seem to compete for being the best.

Teach hand signals. Sometimes ambient noise or other distractions interfere with the command. This is especially the case at increased distance. Shouting voice commands might increase anxiety and confusion. Accompanying a command with a hand signal can also extend the range of your control. My dog is old and has become deaf, especially to the wavelength of the human voice. Teaching an old dog new tricks is possible. I chose to try using a high pitched whistle to get his attention and then hand / arm signals. He will now turn to me, look and then respond to my motion commands.

Practice every day.

**Next: “Teacher, teach thyself”**



Buddy showing off his “Sit and Stay”. It usually ends when I can no longer stand the drool. (above)

Cindy Nicholson, longest serving EDOA member, displays the most reliable training tool for retrievers—food reward. (at previous Bow Wow Bash. (right)



## On the Web—suggested by our EDOA members

[Coyotes from Lower Cape TV](#). This is a beautiful piece produced by our community television station. Great photos, poetry, and story.

[Traveling with dogs. NY Times](#) via Felice Coral. Air travel with dogs has so many elements to consider. One of the most thorough discussions you can read on the topic.

[Poison Refresher](#). Dogster via Facebook posting and Cindy Nicholson. Who can't use a quick refresher on what is toxic to dogs? Can't hurt to know. Can if you don't.

[Don't skip that dog walk](#). Washington Post via Bev Hobbs. The latest studies on the benefits and best practices for walking your dog. Worthy read. You will be surprised at what the new data shows.

You are receiving this e-mail blast as a member of the Eastham Dog Owners' Association.

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Suggestions & Comments:

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