



**APPLE GROVE  
VETERINARY CARE**  
*Small & Large Animal Medicine and Surgery*

## SEPTEMBER FEATURE

# TRAINING

Hello Apple Grove Veterinary Care Clients! During the month of September our team will be focusing on "Training". As you know there are many aspects of training so we've decided to focus on crate training for dogs, potty training for dogs, and the training involved for Mid Michigan Therapy cats and dogs. Our team will be hosting a FREE training seminar on September 28th at 6pm, located at Apple Grove Veterinary Care. The seminar will touch on crate training, potty training, and will feature Mid Michigan Pet Therapy and their work in the area.

Over 90% of pets in America live indoors, so potty training and crate training are essential. Crating a dog can be very useful in many situations. Using a crate limits access to the house (which helps when training puppies), crates are a safe way to transport pets in the car, crates create a 'den-like' enclosure, and crates also aid in potty training. Proper crate selection and slowly introducing the pet to crate will aid in successful crate training.

Once successfully mastering crate training, it can significantly decrease the time it takes to potty train. Dogs have a natural instinct to not urinate or defecate in the area where they sleep, so while in the crate dogs will naturally try not to urinate or defecate. This can be a useful tool when potty training, since it helps teach a puppy how to hold urine or feces for longer periods of time. Puppies can only hold urine/ feces for a couple of hours at a time, and as they age they should learn how to go longer periods of time. Potty training can also be made easier if the puppy is trained to use a bell when he/ she needs to go outdoors. The use of a bell for potty training is also a simple task to teach, check out our website for more information, or attend our training seminar on September 28, 2010.

While potty training and crate training are essential for dogs, other tasks that require training are more rewarding and enjoyable for the pets. Mid Michigan Pet Therapy (MMPT) is an organization that visits nursing home, hospitals, medical care facilities, schools, etc, in the mid Michigan area. The members take their pets with them to visit patients, which is therapeutic to the patients and also very enjoyable for the pets and MMPT members involved. MMPT is a great group to become involved with, and offers support and advice while training the therapy pets. Therapy Dog International (TDI) is a certification that therapy dogs can acquire, but it isn't required to be an active member of MMPT.



I have been an active member of MMPT now for about 1 year. I have been taking my cat, Holstein, to the Eaton County Medical Care Facility and most of the patients there thoroughly enjoy visitors, especially from pets! The time spent visiting with the patients has been just as therapeutic for me as I think it is for them. And there is nothing better than doing a little community service with your four legged best friend by your side! The rewards are truly amazing, and members of MMPT can do therapy sessions as often as they desire, so if you have a busy schedule this organization would still love your participation!

Please consider joining us at Apple Grove Veterinary Care for our FREE training seminar on September 28, 2010 featuring the work of Mid Michigan Pet Therapy. If you would like more information about MMPT or any other training information, but are unable to attend our seminar please feel free to call 543-6101 or email [Christie@applegrovevet.com](mailto:Christie@applegrovevet.com) at any time!

*Christie, LVT*