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**Help! The Dog Ate My Ice Cream ~ Thoughts on Memorial Day**

**By Candyce Fulford**

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I remember the Memorial Day celebrations from my childhood. This was the day that signaled the beginning of summer! As the parents grumbled about us being out of school for so long, we kids were planning games like "Kick-The-Can" marathons well into the night hours. But first, we had to get that dreaded 'parade' over with!

You know the parade I mean. That Memorial Day parade, where we had to stand for what seemed like HOURS in the hot sun all dressed in our clean and pressed Girl Scout uniforms, while some unknown dignitary spoke volumes about unknown soldiers and fallen comrades. How boring it all was to a ten-year-old girl. And, what did all of that have to do with me?

In the wake of September 11th, (2001), I see evidence every day that brings to life that unknown dignitary's words. It may be the bravery I see in the faces of those who now face disaster, as they enter burning and crumbling buildings. It may be the pride I feel when I see my young granddaughter rise and place her hand over her heart whenever and where ever she hears "The Star Spangled Banner" being played. Memorial Day now holds such a different definition.

We are living in a changed world, and it took a great shock to our nation for us to realize just how changed it has become. Patriotism has been reborn! In our small New Hampshire town, every pick-up truck worth its name flies 'Old Glory'. It is no longer considered 'corny' to stop and be silent as the National Anthem is being played at sporting events. Even the high school senior class has changed its class colors to red, white and blue.

This Memorial Day, I will still attend the parades, and watch as my daughter marches in the Color Guard for her high school band. We will both stand in the hot sun and try not to look bored as another unknown dignitary speaks for hours over a sound system that reaches only those in the front row. But this year, we will see flashes of September 11th in our minds and remember those innocents.

We will reach out to friends and neighbors as we have never done in years past. We will share our feelings. We will offer comfort. We will shed a tear as we listen to the patriotic marches, for we all will

be remembering September 11th.

This year we will plan the backyard barbecues and family reunions. The children will plan their summer events, and we grown-ups will groan as we realize that another long summer stretches out before us. And this year, we will all take the time to whisper, "God bless America" – again.

Candyce Fulford lives in southwestern New Hampshire with two of her daughters and two of her grandchildren. She owns and operates a party supplies web site, Parties On Line ([www.parties-online.net](http://www.parties-online.net)).

## **All You Need Is Dog Treats**

### **By Triston Huntsmin**

If you have a new puppy and are looking for the secret to training the puppy into the well-behaved dog of your dreams, the secret is simple and easy: dog treats.

All dog owners know the sometimes slow and frustrating process of training, taming and teaching their dog some good behavior and maybe even some fun tricks. The problem for many owners is that they forget about one of the main reasons that any human or dog will act: motivation. Just like you need a little motivation to start exercising more or to get your house cleaned out, dogs need motivating reasons big enough to make them want to stop wetting on your carpet or eating holes into all of your socks. Dog treats can be a sure way to motivate your precious pup to do almost anything you desire.

Dog treats are a great motivator for puppies for the obvious reason that they taste good. Only when dog treats are actually reserved as a special treat will dogs want to do whatever it takes to enjoy the yummy treat. Can't you see how this is true? Imagine these two options in your own life: in the first option, you could eat ice cream as much and as often as you wanted to; in the second option, you could only enjoy ice cream if you had put in a full hour of working out. Now tell me, would you be very motivated to work out under the first option? Of course you wouldn't. Not if ice cream could be a treat whether you exercised or not. I want you to know that your puppies and dogs are no different, and that is why it is vital that dog treats are only given as a reward for performing well.

For you, the dog owner, dog treats are great because they are relatively inexpensive. Before you rush off and spend a lot of money for a puppy obedience school you should try to train your puppy for a considerable amount of time on your own. And use dog treats. Even if the process of training your own puppy is frustrating, it will be better for you and your pup if they received all of their training from you.

Whether you are teaching your pup how to sit down or roll over or how to go potty outside, using dog treats can be an important element of the training. In no time your dog will learn to love the reward of dog treats enough that it will obey every command you give it. Run to a local pet shop, pick up a box of dog treats and let the training process begin!

Triston Huntsmin has been training his dogs with dog treats for many years. He is proud of his obedient dogs and advises all dog owners to try similar methods. See

to

gain more info about dog treats.



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