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PawsCienda Pet Resort / November 2021 / Volume 30

PAWZ AND READ

Dog Facts – The English Mastiff

The colossal Mastiff belongs to a canine clan as ancient as civilization itself. A massive, heavy-boned dog of courage and prodigious strength, the Mastiff is docile and dignified but also a formidable protector of those they hold dear.

For the uninitiated, a face-to-face encounter with these black-masked giants can be startling. A male stands at least 30 inches at the shoulder and can outweigh many a full-grown man. The rectangular body is deep and thickly muscled, covered by a short double coat of fawn, apricot, or brindle stripes. The head is broad and massive, and a wrinkled forehead accentuates an alert, kindly expression. Mastiffs are patient, lovable companions and guardians who take best to gentle training. Eternally loyal Mastiffs are protective of family, and a natural wariness of strangers makes early training and socialization essential. Mastiffs are magnificent pets, but acquiring a powerful giant-breed dog is commitment not to be taken lightly.



THE PILGRIMS' DOGS

In honor of Thanksgiving, I would like to share with you the adventures of the dogs who accompanied the Pilgrims to Plymouth Plantation. Among the 100 passengers and 30 crew members on the Mayflower there were at least two dogs. Unfortunately William Bradford is silent on the contributions of dogs to the new colony in his book, *Of Plymouth Plantation*. However, Edward Winslow did mention these two four-legged early settlers in his journal, *Mourt's Relation: A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth*.

According to Winslow, a Spaniel and Mastiff accompanied John Goodman to Plymouth colony, and were used for hunting and protection. However, these Pilgrim dogs may have needed a bit of protection themselves. During that first winter while out gathering thatch for roofing, John Goodman and Peter Browning, as well as the two dogs, became separated from the other men. While attempting to find their way back, they came upon a deer standing by a lake. Well what did the dogs do? They chased the deer of course! The two men followed but soon found themselves hopelessly lost. During that bitter cold January night the dogs not only kept the men warm, they also protected them from “lions” lurking in the woods. Ok, so they weren't actually lions. Apparently Pilgrims had overactive imaginations. But no matter what was howling in the woods, one of the dogs had to be held back by the neck because she was determined to chase that menacing foe! The following evening when the men eventually limped their way back to their village, Goodman and Browning shared their harrowing tale of how the dogs protected them from the beasts in the forest.

Although it isn't clear which dog wanted to fiercely protect her owner, historians guess that this female dog must have been the Mastiff. Not only because of the reputation of Mastiffs as fearless hunters, but also because of this later embarrassing story about the Spaniel. While recovering from frostbite from that night lost in the woods, John Goodman headed out for a walk with his faithful Spaniel. However, they soon encountered wolves. After being chased by wolves, the “little dog” hid between Goodman's legs while he fended off the wolves by throwing a stick at them. Well as you can probably understand, the wolves must have found the dog hiding between the man's legs while he shook a stick at them rather amusing. According to Edward Winslow's account, the wolves sat on their tails “grinning at him” for awhile before going on their way. But I'm sure the Spaniel wasn't really afraid and knew that Goodman had the situation under control, that's all.

Sadly Goodman died later on that winter, and there is no further mention of these two dogs in the pages of history. However, I'm sure the other Pilgrims welcomed them into their homes following their owner's death, and these two nameless dogs' adventures at Plymouth Plantation continued.

<https://livingwithagolden.com/the-pilgrims-dogs/>



DOGGIE DAYCAMP ANNOUNCEMENT

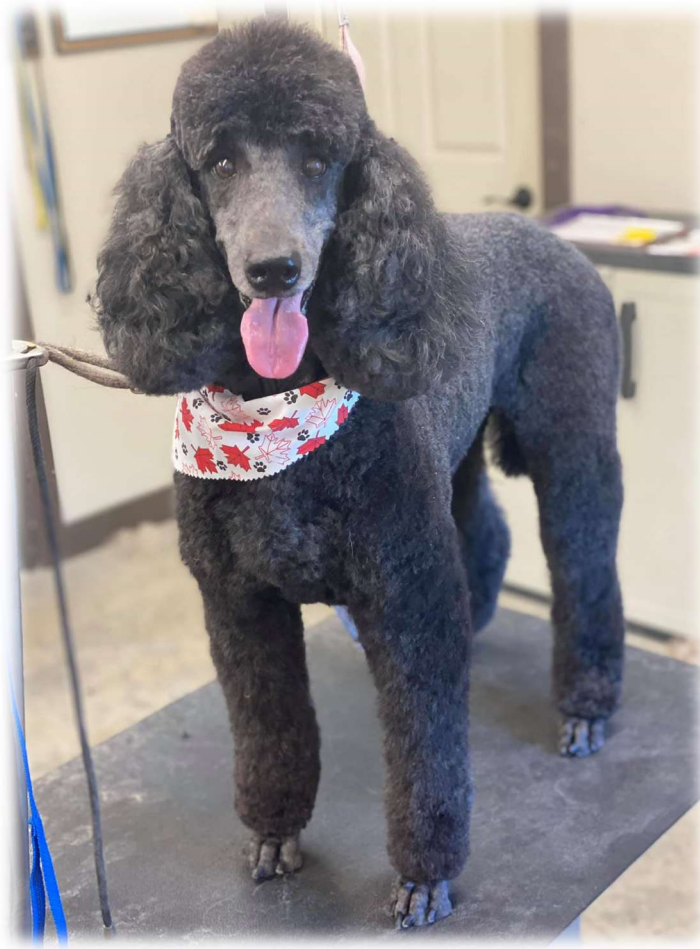
We will NOT be having walk-in DayCamp the day before Thanksgiving (the 24th) and the day after Thanksgiving (the 26th). DayCamp these days will be reserved for our boarding and grooming dogs only. Thank you and have a SAFE and WONDERFUL Thanksgiving!



Luke

DOGGIE Daycamp DOG OF THE MONTH!

GROOMING DOG OF THE MONTH



Lilly

November DayCamp Party Dates

**November 17th – Doggie DayCamp
Birthday Party**

