



Tales from the Trails at Dunrovin

CLICKING WITH MACKENZIE

Thanks for joining us again on week two of our donkey odyssey! Or maybe we should call it an odd-yassss-ey. If you tuned in last week, you noticed the DIVAS love to have fun almost as much as they love to eat carrots. And apples. And bicker over who gets to eat the grain. One of my training goals throughout our time together will be to reduce that bickering, or what trainers call “frustration displacement.” How? I will be:

1. teaching them that alternate behaviors get them what they want;
2. giving them more control over their world;
3. teaching them self control;
4. teaching them that when one of them wins, they both do; and
5. keeping sessions light and fun.

If I’m successful, we’ll see less and less of these behaviors as we go on! Stay tuned!



Gertie



Maude

A QUICK RECAP OF WEEK 1

During our last training session, we spent most of the time seeing what these wonderfully smart ladies recall from our previous training. It has been several years since we worked together, but both of them showed they remember how to touch my hand on cue (a behavior called TARGETING), ignore food to get food (also known as LEAVE IT), how to do some tricks like rearing on cue (this was Gertie’s first clicker training lesson), and how to steal everyone’s hearts with their antics! We also started working on teaching them to put on their halters themselves!



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CLICKING WITH THE DIVAS

As I mentioned in the last dispatch, the DIVAS and I go way back. But you might be unfortunate enough to only be meeting them now. So I figured I'd give you a little primer on who is who. Gertie and Maude are sisters, but they have strikingly different personalities and looks.

Gertie has a white muzzle, a tanner coat, and a distinctive darker cross that runs down her back and across her front shoulders. Gertie can be very insistent on attention and loves training—maybe too much!

Maude, on the other hand, hangs back a little more. She also loves training, but she also likes a good pet. Often, she is less fearful of new things, and also is very considerate of other animals. She has a darker coat and is often a little fuzzier in the winter!

WHICH DIVA IS WHICH?



Can you tell the DIVAS apart?

Which one is this?

Here they are by a fire truck.

WEEK TWO GOALS

Now that we have our assessment behind us, the fun really starts! This week, we will keep going on our halter training, rewarding it with fun behaviors they've learned before. We will also start teaching them to TARGET a new device, which I hope will eventually let us all answer the question, can these DIVAS talk, or just bay? Also, I'm hoping to have a special guest out to help me train.

Be sure to check the calendar to catch us working together live and to chat with me! The DIVAS and I will continue to work on our friendship and their manners. Join us as our story continues.

Broadcast Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Location: _____