

Creature Comforts ~ Training Your Pup

By Michal Smith

So your new pup is growing up. You've successfully taught your new friend his/her role and boundaries in the home and among your family. Maybe you've done some crate training and completed potty training 101. Next, owners usually are presented with some undesirable behaviors like jumping on people, digging, excessive barking and the like.

At this stage, owners may start questioning their new acquisition thinking it might be easier to re-home the pup—not necessarily so! With proper tools, knowledge and a relatively short time commitment, an owner can overcome these problems by implementing a good training regimen or program.

Training techniques vary greatly, but when applied with CONSISTANCY, can work to turn your furry energy ball into the friend you envisioned when he/she was just a baby. As with everything, it's always good to start by getting

a clean bill of health from your vet. Then "bone up" on the specific breed type of your dog. This gives you an idea of how best to approach training and know what kinds of incentives/rewards to use when undergoing training.

There are several types of philosophies and tools used to train dogs. Do your research, from Caesar Melon to T-touch, and clicker to Acme dog training, you'll need to find the best fit for YOU and your dog. Talk to other like breed owners, vets, and look online.

Don't get too discouraged when Fido doesn't "get it" at first; training takes time and requires consistent cues and consequences from all family members. So get everyone involved in helping to get the message across.

Creatures Pet Store carries clickers for clicker training, a variety of harness and collars,

treats and crates to assist. Open Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 12-4..... Don't forget to stock up on calming chews, collars, or diffusers in preparation for the

noises of the 4th of July that can send our dogs running for the hills-- available in the store now! 503-429-PETS (7387).

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Have you always dreamed of creating salmon-shaped yard art? A river scene wall-hanging with leaping fish? Sockeye chimes, fish-tailed mugs, a Coho quilt?

Vernonia Hands-on Art, a local nonprofit arts and culture support group, is seeking artists interested in supporting HOA fundraising efforts as part of the Salmon Festival auction. Artists are invited to create a physical piece of art in the medium of his or her choice. All submissions must be salmon-themed either in shape or as part of the content. A limited number of wood salmon blanks are available for purchase.

All artwork must be submitted to HOA prior to Labor Day weekend. During the run up to Salmon Festival, selected pieces will be displayed throughout town. A portion of the proceeds will be retained to support Hands-on Art programs.

Hands-on Art is dedicated to celebrating the creative spirit by exposing the community to the arts and honoring our community's heritage. Join us in bringing art to Vernonia by sharing your talent at the Salmon Festival.

Please contact Diana Peach (429-7919) with questions, or pick up the rules and a submission form at Made in Vernonia.

WOEC Current: Capital Credit Allocations

By Sarah Rossi

Unclaimed Capital Credit Allocations Explained

Recently West Oregon Electric Cooperative published a list of former WOEC members who have unclaimed capital credit allocation checks on our books. These capital credits were earned by members between the years of 1944 to 1969, and the WOEC board of directors had authorized the payment of them and had checks issued in 1999 and 2000. The unclaimed checks are ones that were either returned to WOEC due to incorrect mailing addresses or were just never cashed by the member. Other members during that time period who had updated their current mailing address with WOEC, or were current members in 1999 & 2000 received their checks and have already been paid the capital credits from 1944 to 1969.

The Unclaimed Capital Credit list may be found on our website, www.westoregon.org, just click on the box with the notice in the lower left hand corner of the home page. For some of our newer members and a refresher for long time members, we have put together this question and answer sheet to explain WOEC capital credits:

What are capital credits?

Because West Oregon Electric

is a cooperative, owned by its members, it does not technically earn profits. Instead, any revenues over and above the cost of doing business are considered "margins." These margins represent an interest-free loan of operating capital by the membership to the cooperative. This capital allows WOEC to finance operations and construction, with the intent that this capital will be repaid to you in later years when the cooperative is financially able to do so.

What is the difference between allocated and retired capital credits?

Allocated capital credits appear as an entry on the permanent financial records of the co-op and reflect your equity or ownership in WOEC. When capital credits are retired, a check is issued to you and your equity in the co-op is reduced.

How often will I receive an allocation notice?

You should receive an allocation notice annually after the finances for the previous year have been audited. This notice is printed directly on your bill. Remember this is only a record of the allocation and that amount will be paid at a future date to be determined by the Board of Directors when the cooperative can afford to issue checks for payment of capital credits.

What do I have to do to start accumulating

capital credits?

Capital credits are calculated by WOEC for everyone who purchased electricity during a year in which the co-op earned margins. No special action is required to start a capital credit account. Your membership with West Oregon Electric Cooperative activates your capital credits account.

How are capital credits calculated?

The amount of capital credits you earn in a given year is based upon the amount of capital you contribute to the co-op through payment of your monthly bills. The more electric service you buy, the greater your capital credits earned. The sum of your monthly bills for a year is multiplied by a percentage to determine your capital credits.

What percent of my bill is returned as capital credits?

The percentage of your total payment that is allocated as capital credits varies from year to year, depending upon the success of the cooperative. Capital credits are only allocated for a year in which WOEC earns margins. Since capital credits are a member's share of the margins, no credits are allocated for a year with no margins.

Do I have to be a customer for an entire year to earn capital credits?

No. Capital credits are calculated based upon a member's monthly bills. If

you are billed for service for even one month, you will accumulate some capital credits, if WOEC earned margins in that year.

Can I use allocated capital credits to pay my electric bill?

No. Allocated capital credits may not be used to pay current bills. Your electric bill is due now, whereas you may not be entitled to be paid your capital credits for many years.

Will I receive a capital credits check every year?

No. The board of directors must authorize a retirement before you receive a check. WOEC has only retired capital credits through the year 1969. When considering a retirement, the board analyzes the financial health of the co-op and will not authorize a retirement if WOEC cannot afford it.

What happens to my capital credits when I leave the West Oregon Electric Co-op service area?

Your capital credits remain on the books in your name and member number until they are retired. Because payments are made many years after credits are earned, you should ensure that WOEC always has your current mailing address.

Please notify us when your address changes, at 503-429-3021 or memberservice@westoregon.org



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