**Caring for Missy and Macro 101**

**Important information:**

Missy- Breed: American Staffordshire Terrier, Age: 5, Weight: 45lbs, Medical: Had heartworms twice

Macro- Breed: Boxer/Mastiff? Mix, Age: 18 months, Weight: 80lbs, Medical: none

Vet- Dr. Irish at Silver Spring Animal Hospital, Phone: (301) 587-6099

**Daily:**

Food: Pups need to be fed twice daily. Missy 1 cup/per feeding (weight control, blue bag). Macro 2 cups/per feeding (active puppy, yellow/orange bag). We add a splash warm/hot water to the food as well. Before you put the food down, make the girls sit and tell them to wait. Then put the food down, say “Go!,” and point to the bowls. That’s their release command for eating.

Water: Just make sure the bowl is full.

Play time: Missy is pretty lazy but Macro will need some attention during the day or when you get home. Macro loves to play catch/fetch/anything with a ball or Frisbee. A walk for Macro would be great but not necessary. Just wear her out. Missy likes to play chase and tug-o-war. Macro does dig and Missy does eat dirt. So, we don’t leave them outside for very long without supervision. Their toys are in the white trashcan looking bin. If you need more, there should be some in their corner of the basement and in a box behind the corner part of the couch (we put them in there when the dogs don’t play with them properly). When the girls play together, it may sound like they are going to kill each other. I promise, they won’t. They generally play pretty rough and we allow it to an extent. It helps them bond. But, if Macro is being a bully or they are just getting out of hand, tell them, “No! Enough!” They should listen to this.

Going outside: The girls will probably need to go out 3-4 times a day. Macro can last about 10 hours without going out. To bring the girls in, say “Missy, Macro let’s go inside!” They also know “come.” If they aren’t listening, just shake the treat canister—they usually come running.

Treats: There are treats by the back door to entice the girls to come inside after going out. If you run out, there should be more in the pantry on the floor.

Sleeping: We have been letting the pups sleep in bed with us. If you are okay with that, they can sleep in the bed with you. Macro will sleep under the covers and Missy will sleep on top. If you would rather they not sleep with you, Missy can sleep on her bed and Macro can sleep in the kennel. Otherwise they will whine and Missy will end up in bed with you anyway.

Leaving: When you leave, please leave the girls in the living room and close the doors to the rooms on the top floor (including the bathroom).

Baths: The girls shouldn’t need a bath while we’re gone, but if they do, just use the dog shampoo in the tub.

Allergies: Recently, because of the pollen and everything else in the air, Missy and Macro have shown signs of allergies. If either of them are chewing on the pads of their paws or if either of them is coughing, please go ahead and give both of them Benadryl. They generally have issues at the same time. Missy gets 4 pills and Macro gets 5 (yes, 4 & 5… per the vet’s instructions). You can put spray cheese on the treats and then stick the pills in the cheese. They generally scarf this down without any issues.

**Just in case:**

The girls may have an adverse reaction to our absence. This may manifest itself in lack of appetite or upset stomachs (Or Macro may just eat something that she shouldn’t and get an upset stomach). If this happens, there is some canned pumpkin in the pantry. Add 2-3 tablespoons of pumpkin to food as needed. The fiber helps to re-regulate everything.

Discipline: If Macro or Missy does something really bad (ie: Macro has an accident or something—which doesn’t happen very often at all)—then put the offender in the kennel for about 15 minutes.

Heartworm/Flea Meds: The girls were treated on 8/1, so they should be fine.

Cleaning supplies: Not that you’ll need them, but just in case—the cleaning supplies are in the hall closet next to the bathroom. Extra paper towels are in the pantry.

Thunderstorms: Missy was found during a really bad thunderstorm and to this day does not like them very much. In the white bin on top of our dresser is a grey wrap/shirt called a thunder shirt. If the weather gets bad or it’s supposed to be bad during the day, please put the shirt on her. It’s supposed to fit pretty snuggly.

**Random house things:**

Mail: Please bring the mail or any packages daily.

Food/Drinks/Etc.: Help yourself to anything and everything in the house.

**Commands:**

The girls know: Sit, stay/wait, up, up-up (for Macro is jump high), down, enough, get it, show me sexy, leave it (Missy’s release command), drop it, and thank you (Macro’s release command). Macro also knows shake and Blue Steal, Missy is still working on it. Feel free to work with them on their commands when they come in from outside. It’s how we make them earn their treats. We generally make them do at least 3 commands before rewarding them.

**Lastly:**

Thank you for watching Missy and Macro while we are in Grand Cayman!!!!!!!!