



Canine Learning Centers *Doggie News*

“Spring 2006”



Tail Waggin' Tips

Pamper Your Pet Without Spoiling Him!

There is a fine line between taking good care of your pet and spoiling him. Giving your dog love and attention does not mean you have to let him walk all over you. Spoiling your dog can give him the impression that he is the boss of your house, which can quickly result in behavioral problems. So, let's think of ways we can express our love for our dogs without losing our position as household leader.

AVOID....

- Allowing your dog to eat freely all day long (have predetermined feeding times)
- Giving your dog whatever he wants when he asks for it
- Attending to him when he starts to cry for attention
- Moving over to make room for him on the bed or on the sofa
- Feeding him when he begs.
- Letting him get away with not listening to your commands because he's "so cute"!!!

DO...

- Integrate obedience commands into your dog's daily routine
- Provide your dog with a comfortable dog bed
- Find a stylish leash and collar to improve your dog's good looks
- Feed a high quality dog food (remember that you'll pay more for better ingredients)
- Train your dog with healthy dog treats or take it a step further and make your own!
- Give your dog a dietary supplement. Try **Endurance** available through Canine Learning Centers!
- Bathe your dog with hypoallergenic shampoos and conditioners; you can even use a mild 'human' shampoo.
- Hire a dog-walker if you are gone for long hours

Introducing a New Dog

Whether you are bringing home a new dog if you already have one, or simply allowing your dog to socialize with others, it is a good idea to have a game plan to ensure the first encounter goes smoothly. If both dogs are well socialized, the introduction is likely to go well. If one of the dogs is new or unknown to you, be sure to proceed with caution.

At the outset, introductions should be done on neutral turf in order to avoid any territorial aggression. Find a place like a friend or neighbor's yard that is securely fenced. Realize that your dog may be territorial over areas that he frequents, like his surrounding neighborhood or the dog park, making them bad places for first time meetings. Introducing both dogs on a leash is not a good idea because it can inadvertently cause aggression. Instead allow one (whomever is most trustworthy) to stay loose while the other is kept on a leash. Make sure not to put any tension on the leash while the dogs are greeting or you may make your dog think you are tense or worried about the other dog and this can cause aggression to occur.



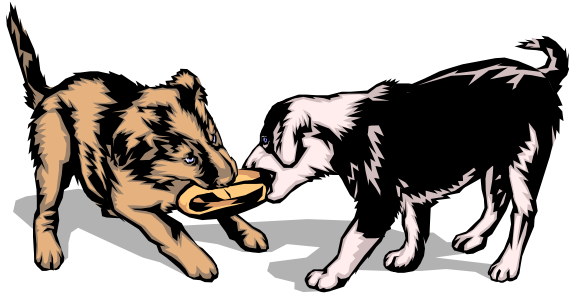
Watch their body language closely as they interact. Signs of friendliness include a wiggly body and low wagging tail, licking the other dog's lips, or a play bow (where the dog crouches by putting its front legs on the ground). Be aware that a wagging tail does not express happiness; on the contrary it expresses the dog's level of excitement. Focus on his entire body and what it seems to be expressing, instead of just watching the tail. Be concerned about dogs that move slowly and cautiously around each other with tails held high. Dogs will freeze and hold very still just before altercations occur, you may also notice them making direct eye contact or showing teeth. The hair will sometimes rise on the dog's back, which shows uncertainty, but does not necessarily express aggressive intent.

Once the first meeting has been successful, it is time to take them back to your home. If you are going to allow the dogs into the house, be sure to put away any of the resident dog's toys, food and bones to prevent that dog from acting out possessively. If you do decide to give them any items like bones or chew toys make sure the dogs are separated. While at home, focus on rewarding the dogs for any positive interactions between the two. If you start to notice any uneasiness, intervene by redirecting their attention onto something else, like asking them to come and sit. This is where your time spent on obedience training can come into good use. The more control you have over your dog, the more control you will have in this type of scenario.

Something that can be difficult for us to come to terms with is that the resident dog may not always end up being the dominant dog. Status is something they will work out amongst themselves, so try to do as little as possible to interrupt the process. Protecting the underling will just lead to more confusion

and conflict. If the newcomer is a young puppy do all you can not to allow it to harass your older dog and certainly do not get angry at your older dog for correcting the puppy once in a while. The puppy needs to learn appropriate canine behavior and your older dog is the perfect candidate to teach it.

When leaving them alone in the house, especially if you have a puppy, keep your dogs separated! Do this for several months until you feel confident that the two dogs will get along, which in some cases, can be never. If problems occur and there is a lot of anxiety between the dogs, call in a professional for help.



Enrich Your Dog's Life With Toys

A majority of the dogs, that we own today, were originally bred to work for us for specific purposes. The Labrador retrieved fallen game for the hunter, the Border Collie was bred to gather sheep back to the shepherd, and the Jack Russell was bred to help hunt foxes. All of the mentioned activities required tremendous athleticism, intelligence and boundless energy. Today, most of our dogs are not used for their original purpose and live with us as beloved family pets. Although we offer them great lives, many of them are not challenged mentally or physically. The result is a dog that is bored and has too much energy: a surefire recipe for disaster when they live inside our homes.

In zoos, wild animals suffer the same fate. Animals that were only a generation ago living freely in the wild, are now expected to live out their lives in captivity. It is for this reason that wildlife experts are constantly coming up with new items that they can place in the animals' enclosure for them to play with, to offer it stimulation. The term for this is "behavioral enrichment". Examples are ice cubes with a frozen fish in the middle for the polar bears, a car wash brush for the elephants, and rabbit scent placed around the lion enclosure. All of these things help to keep the animals engaged so they do not develop unwanted behaviors like pacing back and forth at the back of their exhibit.

Similarly to the objects used in zoos, there are a number of toys on the market that are stimulating for our dogs. They are called "interactive toys". These are items that allow your dogs to entertain themselves, burn off energy, and use their minds to problem solve; "behavioral enrichment" for your dog!

Great “interactive toys” recommended by Canine Learning Center:

- ***Molecuball***
- ***Buster Cube***
- ***Kong Toy***

If your dog likes to keep busy with chew toys, ***Bull Sticks*** are available through Canine Learning Centers at a great discount!

Call us @ 760-931-1834 or e-mail us @ lchristiansen@k9lrng.com to purchase!

Aside from providing your dog with wonderful toys, remember that the best stimulation for your dog is the interaction it has with you. Do your best to walk your dog regularly and enroll in some classes like obedience training, agility, or flyball. All of which are good ways to strengthen your bond with your dog and provide him with the amount of exercise and mental activity that he needs. Most importantly have fun with your dog and enjoy the great companionship that he provides!!!

The Optimum Nutrition and Behavior Seminar

Nutrition has a profound effect on your dog. From allergies and disease to behavioral problems, diet plays a major role in your dog's quality of life! By taking this seminar you can learn about how to add fresh raw ingredients, what supplements to use, what ingredients to look for in a good dog food and even how to make your own! Join us for one of our seminars and learn how give your dog the best of what's available.

Where: Senior Center, Encinitas

Cost: \$50

When: Thursday, April 27th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Where: Dexter's Deli, Del Mar

Cost: \$50

When: Sunday, April 30th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Call us to reserve a spot 760-931-1834

