

from:

My Canine Companion, LLC

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2016

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE



Highlights

What Every Puppy & Dog Parent Needs to Know

10/16: Starting Your Puppy Off Right!

10/23: Successfully Handling Your Puppy's Adolescence

11/6: Help! My Dog is Acting Aggressive

11/13: Choosing & Preparing for a Puppy

Presenter:

Deborah Jay DeSilva, CPDT-KA
Evaluator: AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy
AKC Canine Good Citizen,
Therapy Pets Unlimited

Where:

Canine Adventure
6140 Route 22, Plattsburgh

Time: 2:00–3:00 pm

Cost per session: \$20.00 or
\$30.00 per couple (+tax)

How to Register:

Email desilvdj@gmail.com or
call 293-7619 with the names
of who will be attending, the
session title & a contact
email address for billing.

Seating is limited

"The dog was
created specially
for children. He is
the god of frolic"

- H. W. Beecher



LIVING WITH DOGS

Barking

Barking problems are among the most common complaints that dog owners have. Why do dogs bark?

Well for a variety of reasons. Dogs will bark if they feel threatened. They may bark when they play and get excited. Some dogs will bark for attention. Some will bark if they are in pain and they'll even bark when they're lonely, bored or stressed. Certain breeds are also genetically inclined to bark more than others.

How you'll prevent or resolve your dog's barking issue will partially depend on what is triggering your dog to bark. If your dog is barking through the front window as dogs or people pass by your house, then blocking off access to the window is a simple way to help prevent his barking.

Keep in mind that the more your dog practices barking,



the better he'll get at it. So first you must identify what is triggering your dog to bark. Then you must remove the trigger or try to stop the barking before it occurs.

Dogs who are left outside for long periods of time are often the worst offenders of barking. Your dog needs to play with you and feel like he is a part of the family.

Dogs typically don't do well when left alone for long periods of time. Make sure to set aside time for regular walks, playtime and training sessions. You'll want to be sure that you give him the social contact that he needs to keep his body and mind occupied.

Anti-bark collars which use shock are inhumane and
(Continued on Page 2)

HERDING BREEDS

Herding breeds such as German Shepherds, Australian Shepherds, Australian Cattle Dogs, Collies, Sheepdogs and Corgi's have a strong inclination to herd livestock.

They are bred to run and work for hours at a time. Hereditary behaviors of herding dogs

include barking, nipping/biting, chasing or a combination of all of these in order to control their herd.

These dogs require abundant exercise and don't do well in sedentary households or apartment life.

Herding dogs also love to bark and chase small moving objects.

Consider whether they will be a good fit for your current lifestyle if your household includes small children and/or other small animals.



Test Your Dog Smarts!

1. What dog breed gets his name because it strikes out with its front paws when it's fighting?
2. What dog breed does not have a pink tongue?
3. Can you name the 7 group/classes of dogs?
4. Do dogs favor one paw (right or left) over the other?
5. What is the smallest breed of dog used for hunting?
6. What is the official state dog breed of Maine?
7. What is the smallest breed of dog recognized by the American Kennel Club?
8. What is the name of the dog from "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas?"

(answers on page 4)

"I strive to be the person my dog thinks I am."

- Author Unknown

YOUR DOG: IS IT A TRAINING OR BEHAVIOR ISSUE?

Not all behavior issues can be "fixed" with training. Normal doggy behaviors that can become problematic for owners may include digging, pulling on leash, barking, chasing, jumping, and chewing (of course there are many more!).

Training can address many normal problem behaviors. However, when these or other "normal" behaviors occur with such frequency or intensity that they interfere with your dog's normal functioning and/or create serious safety issues for people or animals in the family, your dog is in need of a behavior consultation.

Group basic obedience clas-

ses utilize training techniques to help humans more clearly communicate desired behavior cues to their dogs (e.g. sit, down, come, stay, walk politely on leash). But can not address dysfunctional or abnormal behaviors.

These dysfunctional or abnormal behaviors might include: fears, phobias, anxiety, aggression and separation issues that manifest themselves as problem behaviors.

In these cases a behavior consultation is in order. A professional who offers behavior consultations must have an understanding of

basic learning theory, operant conditioning, training skills, and how to utilize behavior modification to change both your dog's behavioral response (their actions) to a situation, and to treat the underlying emotional state of your dog.

If you're unsure whether your dog's is in need of training or behavior modification seek the advice of your vet or a certified professional dog trainer (CPDT-KA).



BAD BREATH IN DOGS

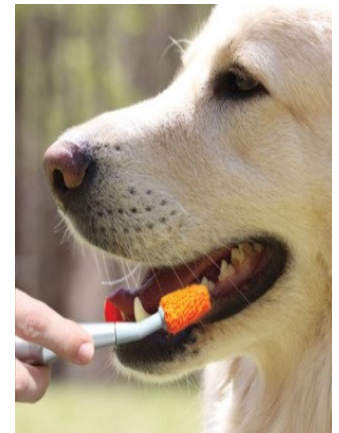
Does your dog's bad breath make you cringe when he gives your face a sloppy kiss?

Bad breath is a common but highly treatable problem in dogs. The smell, caused by bacteria in your dog's mouth, stomach, or lungs, most often signals a dental or gastric issue. Don't assume that

unpleasant "dog breath" is normal and something you have to live with. Think of your dog's oral hygiene as you would your own: An integral part of daily well-being and long-term health. Here are some prevention tips:

1. Feed your dog high-quality food.
2. Brush your dog's teeth

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



BARKING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

inappropriate for most kinds of barking problems. In fact, they often make the problem worse!

Barking when left alone may also indicate a behavioral problem such as separation anxiety. If you think that anxiety is the source of your dog's barking, basic training will not address the issue. Contact a professional dog trainer (CPDT-KA) who has a back-

ground in both behavior and training issues for a consultation to get to the root of the matter.

You may also want to consult with your veterinarian to be sure your dog does not have an underlying medical issue.



NEW DOG? HERE'S WHAT TO EXPECT

When you first get your dog, he will spend the first few days just trying to get adjusted. This is the "honeymoon phase". If your dog has any bad habits from his previous home, these may not appear for the first few weeks.

Potty mistakes can be avoided by limiting house freedom. This way you can keep an eye on your new dog constantly so he can't make a mistake.

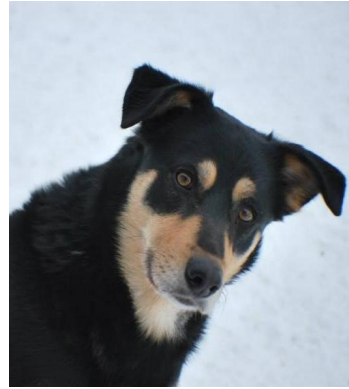
This will also help your dog avoid the mistake of chewing on something he should not. Your dog doesn't know which things are his chew toys and which aren't. Keeping a close eye on him will give you the

opportunity to redirect your dog to something he can chew on.

If your new dog is between 6-18 months (depending on the dog) he is in his "teenage phase". This is typically when a dog will test his limits—and you! This is normal, just be consistent.

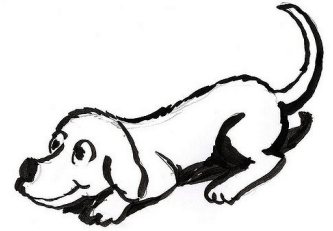
Set consistent house rules: decide as a family what the rules are and enforce them from the beginning.

Establish a routine. Dogs respond well to routines. They thrive on knowing what to expect. So while they're adjusting try to keep their meals,



walks and bed times as consistent as possible.

Enroll him in a positive reinforcement training class, keep him well socialized with other dogs, people, children and new places.



A Dog Creation Story

1. On the first day of creation, God created dog.
2. On the second day, God created man to serve the dog.
3. On the third day, God created all of the animals of the earth to serve as potential food for the dog.
4. On the fourth day, God created honest work so man could labor for the good of the dog.
5. On the fifth day, God created the tennis ball so that the dog might or might not retrieve it.
6. On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the dog healthy .
7. On the seventh day, God tried to rest, but he had to walk the dog.

- Author Unknown

HOUNDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Holiday times can be stressful for your dog. With some advanced planning and a little training, you can make things more fun for Fido and less stressful for you.

Keep in mind that dogs can be very sensitive to changes in their environment and routines. When family members take time off from work and school and/or house guests

come to stay, try to preserve a few of your dog's routines, such as regular meal schedules, walks, and play sessions.

If your dog is excitable or anxious, he might benefit from an over-the-counter remedy such as "Composure" "Rescue Remedy" or "Comfort Zone DAP". You should also have a designated space and preplanned quiet times for your dog to relax.



BAD BREATH (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

2. Regularly. Every day is ideal; twice a week is a minimum for dogs
3. Give your dog hard chew toys. Chewing is nature's teeth-cleaning tool for dogs.
4. Use a breath improvement product made especially for dogs Good ones do exist, but do your research so you don't buy something that's essentially an ex-

pensive dog biscuit and nothing more.

Finally, be aware that a sudden or unusually foul breath, can indicate a seriously illness. In this case, it is important to pay a visit to your veterinarian as soon as possible.





For more class information, scheduling and registration visit us at:

www.canine-adventure.com and click on: "Services"

"Information and advice provide in this newsletter is general in nature and should not be relied upon to solve any particular situation. For all issues with your dog, please seek the services of a competent professional. The author and publisher shall have neither liability nor responsibility for any loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused by the information in this newsletter."

Answers to :

"Test Your Dog Smarts" on p. 2:

1. Boxer; 2. Chow; 3. Toys, Hounds, Herding, Sporting, Non-Sporting, Working, Terrier;
4. Yes—just like humans, dogs can be right pawed or left pawed;
5. Dachshunds (They are low to the ground, which allows them to enter and maneuver through tunnels easily.);
6. Labrador Retriever; 7. The Chihuahua ; 8. Max

OUR CLASS OFFERINGS

- **AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy** (for pups up to 10 months old)
- **Canine Companion: Basic** (for all dogs 6 months or older)
- **Beyond the Treat** (for all non-reactive dogs 1 year or older)
- **Canine Challenge** (for all dogs who have completed a basic class)
- **AKC Canine Good Citizen & TPU Therapy Dog** (for dogs 1 year or older)
- **Canine Freestyle: Move with the Music** (for all non-reactive dogs that have completed a group class)
- **Canine Scent Work** (for dogs that are non-aggressive towards people)
- **Agility Foundation Skills** (for dogs who have completed a basic class)
- **Beginner Agility** (for dogs who have completed *Agility Foundation Skills*)
- **Treibball** (*New! beginning spring 2017*)

OUR TRAINING AND BEHAVIORAL SERVICES

- **Private Training** (providing an individualized program for you & your dog)
- **Consultations** (dealing with inappropriate behavioral issues)
- **Temperament Testing** (helping you choose the perfect little puppy)
- **Dognition Testing** (revealing your dog's thinking & cognitive skills)
- **Assessment** (gauging what's below the surface in a pre-adoptive dog)

➡ For training and behavioral services call or email Deb DeSilva



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"Cultivating Canine Companionship"

My Canine Companion, LLC



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