



Understanding the Dog Scout Laws

(Also known as “how to be a responsible dog parent”)

The Dog Scout Laws:

1. My dog must be safe with people and other dogs. I will always be courteous when I am with my dog in public. We will set good examples of a responsible parent and a well-trained dog. I will socialize my puppy and continue the socialization through out his or her life so that he or she will not fear novel stimuli, strange people or new dogs.

2. My dog must be well mannered, so that he or she will be accepted in public places. I understand and accept responsibility for teaching my dog proper manners using non-abusive methods like positive reinforcement training.

3. My dog should not be allowed to eliminate in an unseemly manner. I will refrain from letting my dog urinate on buildings, statues or other people's things, and I promise to always carry plastic bags and clean-up supplies to pick-up fecal matter. In an effort to reduce the negative impact of irresponsible dog parents, I will make attempts to educate, provide clean-up bags to and clean-up dog waste left by those less educated in responsible dog parenting.

4. I must obey leash laws and other rules when accompanying my dog to a park, business or other place where dogs are allowed. In an effort to reduce the number of places that refuse admittance to dogs, I will not let my dog be a nuisance and will keep my dog under control at all times. I will not allow my dog to harass wildlife. I will be familiar with and obey any laws regarding my dog such as license requirements, travel safety and vaccination documentation. I will not represent my Dog Scout in a way that will mislead the public regarding his or her right to accompany me in public places.

5. My dog should be helpful whenever he or she can be and I will utilize my dog's skills to allow the dog to assist with certain tasks and become more helpful. I promise to have my dog learn all that he or she can.

6. My dog should never be tied up and left unattended. I understand that I am unable to protect my dog from harm if he or she is tied in place where people and animals can harass him or her. I also understand that attaching a dog to a fixed object can cause location guarding and increase the chances of a person being bitten. I promise to never leave my dog in a vehicle unattended if there is any chance he or she could get hot, cold or be harassed or injured by humans or other animals.

7. I will always show kindness and caring toward my dog, so that others can observe the joys of responsible and loving dog parenting and appreciate the bond between my well-behaved dog and myself.

8. I will provide basic care for my dog. I will strive to feed my dog the best food I can afford and to educate myself about why some dog foods are better than others. I understand that keeping my dog at an optimum weight will reduce the chances of disease and injury. I will provide the maintenance that my dog needs to be healthy and comfortable. I will keep my dog clean and well groomed, including nail trimming. I will make my dog a member of the family and not subject him or her to living alone outside full time. I will create at least a basic emergency care plan for my dog in case I am hurt or otherwise unable to care for my dog. My dog will always have some form of identification.

9. I will strive to travel safely with my dog contained in a crate that is attached to the vehicle or in an accident rated seatbelt designed for dogs. This will help keep the dog safe during travel, will reduce the distractions I have while driving and could save my dogs life in an accident.

10. I will strive to live by the Dog Scout Parent's motto: "Our dog's lives are much shorter than our own, let's help them enjoy their time with us as much as we can." I will help my dog uphold the Dog Scout motto: "Let us learn all that we can, so that we may become more helpful"

All members of Dog Scouts of America are expected to strive to uphold these laws.

But what do they really mean?

That is the question this manual will help you answer.

The Dog Scout Laws are all about Responsible Dog Parenting

Note: The use of the term "parent" has been used to describe the dog's handler, parent, caretaker, etc. because DSA defines parent as: A person who raises, nurtures, loves, provides for, teaches and protects a younger being so that he or she can become a welcome and productive member of society. This comprises all the tasks involved in raising a youngster to be an independent adult. Parenting begins even before the youngster is born or adopted, it is a part of the relationship within a family and it is something that lasts a lifetime.

Many people who share their lives with dogs have the same level of bond with their dogs as most people have with their human children. While we recognize that as far as the law is concerned, dogs are considered property, we feel the relationship is much greater than that of object and property parent. Being a responsible dog parent involves parenting.

Responsible dog parenting is something that needs to be taken seriously in this country. America- the land of the free, for some reason, places more restraints on canines than most European countries. In many "old world" countries, dogs are allowed everywhere in public. People take their dogs shopping with them, to church with them, and to the pub with them. What made America take on such a negative view of dogs that it started placing restrictions on where we could go and what we could do with our dogs? Could it be that some dog parents, because of their irresponsibility, have caused American merchants and government officials to take on a "better be safe than sorry," and "don't allow them a chance because of what they **might** do" kind of an attitude? That's a shame, because most of the dog parents I associate with are very responsible, and it's too bad that they have to be "limited" or punished for the past transgressions of others. If we want to turn around the attitudes about dogs in this country, we have to try to help all dog parents take responsibility for their dogs and become "model citizens." This is part of the goal of Dog Scouts of America.

What does it mean to be a responsible dog parent?

Being a responsible dog parent is easy, but it involves many things. It means making sure that your dog is not a nuisance or a danger. Basically this means being a "good citizen." It means making sure that your dog does not roam freely, destroy property, chase livestock, maul children or other animals, leave excrement behind where he goes in public, or become a nuisance barker, or in other ways decrease the quality of life of others in your community. It boils down to proper control, good training, cleaning up after your dog's messes, proper care and providing your dog with enough physical exercise and mental stimulation that he does not create his own "vices" out of frustration.

Good reasons for getting a dog include: companionship in your home and your life, a partner for various activities (jogging, boating, hiking, even just watching TV if you select the right dog) and family member. People, who get dogs for the "wrong" reason, often end up regretting their decision to get the dog in the first place, and the dog often becomes relegated to the backyard tied to a doghouse and forgotten about. Or, the dog is "thrown away"--surrendered to an animal shelter or dog pound to get rid of the burden. Dog parenting should not be a "burden." If you get a dog for the right reasons

and are committed to giving that dog the love, care, attention, socialization and training that he deserves you will be able to honor your commitment to being his partner and caregiver his whole life long.

Some of the "wrong" reasons to get a dog are:

For Protection- This is a scenario that almost always goes bad. People think that if they get a dog, it will automatically be protective of their family. This is not true. Some people even keep their dogs away from other people and fail to socialize them properly, in an effort to make them more "protective." Here's a news flash--improperly socialized dogs are not barking because they are protective. On the contrary, they are usually barking out of fear because they have become "wary" of strangers. If left with the choice of defending the parent, or turning and running, this fearful, un-socialized dog would head for the hills.



The other mistake people make is to encourage the dog to bark by tying him outside and creating a territorial aggression problem. This is a lawsuit waiting to happen. What happens when a child wanders up into the dog's territory? There are thousands of cases each year where children are hurt or killed in this unfortunate scenario. If you want your dog for protection, why would you tie him out back to the tree? Do you need that tree protected? If you really want a dog to protect your home and hearth, the place he should be is inside. And courage is something that is only built through proper socialization at an early age, which will make your dog comfortable around all kinds of people. If all you really wanted was a "junkyard dog," don't waste a valuable canine life dooming a dog to that kind of misery. Buy one of those electronic taped "vicious barking" devices which is triggered by motion. It's less expensive and requires no maintenance.

A Companion for the Kids- This is another poor choice. Children often beg their parents for a dog, promising to take responsibility for the care of the animal. It takes a few days to a few weeks for this to wear off, and the dog's care ends up the responsibility of the already overworked and too busy homemaker (usually the "mom".) Since it was not the mother's idea to get the dog in the first place, she often tires of taking on the added duties of canine care and maintenance. She doesn't have time to properly train the dog, and he starts to develop bad habits that the average parent has no idea how to "fix." This is often how dogs end up in the shelters and pounds. People underestimate the commitment of being responsible for a dog's upkeep, and they just "give up" and throw away the dog. How convenient. What about that loving animal that you promised you would love his whole life long? What is he thinking when you drag him off to a dog pound and drive away without him, leaving him in that strange place filled with the smell of other abandoned dogs and the dead ones which have been "put to sleep" (a euphemism for executed--KILLED--because their parent could not or would not take responsibility for his welfare any longer.) Did you know that MILLIONS of dogs each year are killed in pounds and humane societies? Mostly because they were not trained and developed "behavior problems." It's the number one reason for surrender of an animal. If you're not prepared to train your dog to be a well-mannered member of the family, then perhaps you should get the kids a stuffed dog, instead. They don't require much effort to maintain.

To Breed- If you're a hobby breeder, then you already realize the huge undertaking this is. You realize that you must spare no expense to keep your dog in top condition, feeding the best premium dog foods to protect the health of the mother and pups. You know that before you breed, you must research the dog's background thoroughly to make sure the animal does not potentially carry any undesirable hereditary health genes that could be passed along to the next generation, like hip displasia, elbow displasia, night blindness, deafness, or predisposition to any number of other hereditary problems, like seizures or rage syndrome. This requires a number of tests, done by a vet and reviewed by a certifying agency. Each test on its own is not terribly expensive, but when the costs of all those tests are calculated it can add up.

You know that you must also carefully research and require proof of clear hips, eyes and other potential problems from the person whose dog you plan to breed to. You also realize to raise a healthy litter of quality puppies you do not make money. At best you are prepared to break even, but will probably not come out ahead. As a hobby breeder, you are not in this for the money, anyway, but because of your love of the breed, and the desire to perpetuate the excellent traits and health that your dog possesses.



You know that raising a litter of puppies is a LOT of work and they have many needs before they are 9 weeks old and ready to go to their new homes. Proper vet care, nutrition, handling and socialization are critical so the pups don't grow up with fears that could create aggression issues later in life.

Dogs weren't meant to be puppy-making machines. This is dog abuse. Places, which maintain dogs strictly for the production of offspring to sell to dog stores or other buyers, are called "puppy mills." And the "back-yard breeders" that are uneducated or uncaring about the proper care and breeding of dogs are also a form of puppy mill. Dogs used to "manufacture" the product (a constant supply of cute puppies) are often kept in deplorable conditions. Anyone who purchases a puppy at a pet shop is guilty of perpetuating this heinous activity. Responsible dog parents will caution their friends about this problem, and will never purchase a puppy from a pet shop. Most responsible dog parents try to "boycott" the perpetuation of this animal cruelty for the sake of making a fast buck, and will not purchase ANYTHING at a pet shop that sells puppies.

DSA is not against all breeding of dogs, however. We support the people who are breeding dogs to maintain or improve of the dog's breed through proper care and research prior to breeding. But we also realize there are PLENTY of great dogs in shelters and rescues across the country for someone that is not interested in showing a dog based on his conformation. If you just bought a nice, pet quality dog, and don't want to show it in the breed ring at dog shows, the best thing you can do for your dog is have it spayed or neutered. This is the only way to ensure that your dog won't help support the pet overpopulation problem through either accidental or intentional breeding. I will repeat the statistic that millions of healthy, loving dogs are killed in shelters and pounds each year. There is a serious pet overpopulation problem in this country. There just aren't enough homes for all of the dogs that are brought into the world. Don't contribute to the problem. If you don't have a plan for finding excellent

homes for all of your puppies and aren't prepared to keep them all yourself think again about breeding your dog.

So why get a dog?

The **right** reason to get a dog is the same as the right reason for having a child. You intend to do all that you can to make him a well mannered member of society. You are committed to properly socializing him during those all-important "critical periods." You intend to take him to dog school, to teach him how to behave himself in everyday situations (obedience training is not just for people who want to enter dog shows and compete!) You will become involved in activities you and your dog enjoy, which will provide physical activity and socialization as well as mental stimulation (like agility, Frisbee fetching, jogging, swimming, and learning tricks.) You will protect him from harm, try to instill manners and teach him right from wrong. And most importantly, you will sign on for a lifelong commitment to care for and love that dog, providing proper nutrition, good hygiene, physical exercise, mental stimulation, getting regular health checks and vaccinations and providing medical care when needed.



Where does responsible dog parenting start?

Responsible dog parenting starts **before** you even get a dog. You should put a great deal of thought into adopting a dog, because you must make a commitment to that dog for his lifetime. You should research the breeds that you think would be best for you based on the breed's "job description." Border Collies and Jack Russell Terriers are smart--you see them in all of the television commercials. But if you won't be happy with a dog that will need enormous amounts of mental stimulation to keep that busy mind from creating games of its own (like redecorating the house or chasing/biting/shredding the children), then you should choose a dog that is a little "easier" to maintain. If you think you want a Labrador, but you don't want to invest the time to properly train him, and he grows up to be 80 pounds of trouble bouncing off the walls, don't you DARE cart him off to the animal shelter and tell the people "he just got too BIG!" If you researched the breed, you would KNOW how big he was going to get, and you would know that Labs are very energetic animals that need training for basic control and an outlet for all of that natural energy (he needs a "hobby," like agility.)

A young dog will require extensive amounts of proper socialization to grow up to be well adjusted. Puppies need to be taken out to meet people of all different shapes and descriptions. They must be exposed to all kinds of sights, sounds and environments as a youngster, so that when they are older, these sights, sounds, people and environments will not be scary to them. A puppy needs to have a great deal of time devoted to proper housetraining. You can't just turn him loose in the house and punish him if you find accidents. You must constantly monitor his whereabouts and activities, taking care of the "food-in, food out" business at regular intervals. A puppy needs to learn routines and some human vocabulary, to get along in our world. He should be trained to respond to simple cues, so that he will do what he is told when you need him to do it (like, "go to your bed," "be quiet," and "leave it alone".) Some basic obedience skills are also very important, so that your puppy will stay when told, walk on a leash

and come to you when called. If this sounds a lot like having a child, you're right! And it should! The commitment should be the same.

Perhaps in doing your research, you find that you do not have the time in your life for a new puppy. There are many rescue groups and shelters out there that have older dogs available for adoption. These dogs have often already been housetrained, and may even have received some training. The original parent may have had to part with the dog for health reasons, or because they were not prepared for the enormous undertaking that was in store for them, and they let the dog learn all kinds of bad habits that were intolerable to them. Sometimes the dog just proved to be more energetic than the family would have liked (they should have gotten a STUFFED dog!) Regardless of the reason, there are many excellent "second-hand" dogs available through these rescue groups and shelters.



Dianne and Cinnamon, her mixed breed Dog Scout, enjoy sledding!

If you're not fussy about the breed characteristics, and feel like taking potluck, you could adopt a mixed breed. If you can determine the parentage of the dog, you may get an idea about whether or not he'll like water, pull a sled, retrieve, or do whatever else it is you might like to do with your dog. Mixed breeds are wonderful dogs. They have a "pedigree" just like everyone else does. It's just that sometimes, no one bothered to write it

down. They're just as noble, just as smart, and just as worthy to be your lifelong friend as any of the registered purebreds.

All dogs are EQUAL in value. When you pay more for a registered purebred, you're paying for the record keeping and the registration. You're paying for paper! Your dog will love you the same, no matter what his parents looked like.

So you adopt a wonderful dog or puppy and bring it home. What do you do next?

Well, remember all of those BEHAVIOR books you read BEFORE you got your dog? This is the time to put that advice into action. Remember all of the books that the **trainer you called** a few months back recommended? "*The Culture Clash*," by Jean Donaldson, "*Clicker Training for Dogs*," by Karen Pryor, "*The Power of Positive Training*," by Pat Miller. Or the *Clicker Puppy* DVD by Doggone Crazy or the *Clicker Magic* DVD by Karen Pryor. You should be well armed to tackle any of the growing pains you may encounter in raising your new dog or puppy. Get your clicker and some treats and start teaching your dog how to live with you. He hasn't a clue what your rules, morals or expectations are. You have to explain to him what's expected. You have to reward the absence of bad behaviors. You have to give him a new behavior to replace any of the "bad" ones he may have already learned. You're going to enroll him in a puppy or adult training course that uses behavioral approaches to training (not the outdated, punishment methods that are sometimes called "traditional" training.)

Pretty soon, you'll see that a dog is capable of learning amazing things. Many people say their dogs mind better than their kids, but they're probably lying. Most people who are good dog trainers are also good child raisers and their children will mind as well as, if not better than, their dogs do! All of the principles of dog training (the positive methods) can be used in child rearing with great success. You may have even taken up a few hobbies with your dog, like Animal Assisted Therapy visits at the local nursing



home or hospital. You may have become involved in agility or Flyball, to keep your dog's active mind and energetic body from developing "idle time" useless (and possibly destructive) habits. Instead of barking and digging holes in the yard, your dog bikes 2 miles with you on a loose leash every day, brings you the newspaper, and performs tricks for your friends.

Connie and Stewart enjoy "Dog Days" at the stadium

By now, you may have realized that there are more than enough great dogs in the world already, and that you don't need to contribute to the overpopulation problem, so you've had your dog spayed or neutered. You've had him to the vet regularly, and he is up on all of his shots. He's been through two obedience classes, two agility classes, and has joined a canine Frisbee team. He is a model citizen. You have done a great job at training him to behave himself, and he is a joy to be around. You probably even have a deposit down to go to Dog Scout Camp this summer, where you can continue to learn about the skills you can develop together.

Guess what? You have now become a responsible dog parent! But now, your job has just begun...

Don't you get tired of being discriminated against because you have a dog? Don't you wish OTHER people would clean up after their dogs at the park so that the laws that prohibit your GOOD DOG from having fun would ease up a little? Don't you wish that everyone were a responsible dog parent, LIKE YOU?

How can I help promote responsible dog parenting?

The only thing we can do to protect ourselves is to help everyone else become responsible dog parents. Now, we have to "convert" the other 80% of the population to be responsible. We have to teach the others. One way to do this is by example. When people see you acting responsibly, then they are more likely to follow suit. When you see a stray poop at the park, pick it up. When you're in public with your dog, treat him kindly, so that others can observe the joys of owning a well-behaved dog. Become involved in events in your community. Attend walk-a-thons with your well-mannered dog. Talk to friends and strangers about training without force. While you're at it, talk to them about ALL aspects of responsible dog parenting. Join groups that promote responsible dog parenting, like Dog Scouts of America. Pass this knowledge on to every dog parent you know.



Kim and Aurora go kayaking with their Dog Scout troop

About the Dog Scout Laws

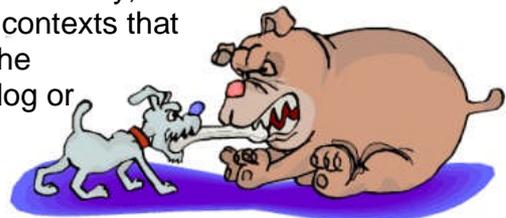
Law #1 (part a)- My dog must be friendly with people and other dogs.

Dog “aggression” is very misunderstood by many people. When a dog jumps on another dog or growls that can be seen as aggression but it’s not always the case. Many dogs use growling, biting and body slamming during rough play. As long as the dog he or she is playing with is comfortable with that intensity of play, it is nothing to worry about. Other times, the dog has every right to give a warning to another dog that is being rude. This often happens during a greeting in which one dog is doing a full “medical exam” on another dog. The dog that was expecting a polite handshake has every right to tell the other dog to back off and learn some manners. An excellent article that everyone should read is - “He just wants to say Hi” by Suzanne Clothier found at this link: <http://www.flyingdogpress.com/sayhi.html>

If your dog has some aggression issues, here is some information that can help you understand how to deal with it as well as some additional recommended resources.

Understanding and dealing with Dog-to-Dog Aggression:

Aggression is a normal part of being a dog. A dog can bark, growl, or snap to defend his possessions, protect himself when he is scared, or chase, grab and kill as his canine ancestry has genetically programmed him to do. Unfortunately, his natural behaviors can get him into life-threatening trouble when used in contexts that are unacceptable to humans. None of us can afford the liability of owning a dog that beats up the neighbor’s dog or can’t go out in public because he looks like a maniac when he sees a dog walking up the sidewalk or that bites kids in perceived self-defense.



Why this Dog? Why Me??!

Your dog’s aggression most likely has both a genetic and a learned component. In most cases, who he is physiologically contributes to his propensity to act aggressively. If his

aggression is predatory, he is chasing and biting; he may be from a breed that has been selected to herd sheep or to kill vermin. Unfortunately, he is chasing something or somebody you do not want him to chase. If he is acting defensively, he may be protecting himself because of an edgy personality or maybe he has learned to protect himself because of previous scary experiences.

Some important facts about dog aggression...

- Without careful intervention and training, aggression is likely to get worse not better.
- Once aggression “works” for the dog, he is more likely to become more aggressive.
- Aggression in itself can become rewarding to the dog.
- Health issues and chemical imbalances like low thyroid levels, increased blood sodium levels, brain tumors or reactions to vaccines, can contribute to increased aggression in dogs. Always have the vet check your dog if aggression becomes an issue.
- Punitive training methods to stop aggression are more likely to make it worse. They may appear to work because they suppress behavior, but the aggression will resurface to haunt you. Overall, the dog will become more reactive and defensive.
- Aggressive dogs can learn more socially acceptable behaviors, but it is going to take lots of careful hard work to teach the dog new ways of responding.
- Never assume your dog is “cured” of his aggressive behavior. You will spend his lifetime managing him; preventing him from rehearsing aggression, managing his environment, and helping him to act in socially acceptable ways.
- Sadly, sometimes an aggressive dog’s behavior cannot be changed enough for the dog to continue to live with you. Dogs CAN have mental imbalances that can’t be corrected with training or medication. Most likely, you will not be able to find anyone else who wants a dog with his behavior problems and you will need to make the tough decision to have the dog humanely killed. If the dog’s quality of life is low (not able to leave the house or frequently in a highly stressed state) or the possibility of a bite to an unsuspecting person is high, it really is in the best interest of the dog.

The good news...

Unless your dog already has a history of actually biting (making holes in), seriously injuring, or killing another dog, chances are that with diligent work on your part that you will be able to work to make your dog less reactive with other dogs.

Why does my dog snarl, bark and lunge when he’s on a leash and he sees other dogs?

- He’s a dog and he just can’t think of anything else to do! He’s learned an obnoxious habit and has fun doing it!
- He’s had scary experiences before and he’s sure he better scare the other dog away before the other dog gets too close.
- You are one of his favorite possessions, (just think of yourself as a BIG cookie bowl) and he’d like to keep you all for himself!

- You haven't gotten around to neutering him yet and he'd just rather that competitors not be in the neighborhood!
- He's excited and happy and just can't think of anything else to do!



Most dogs get excited and bark on leash because they haven't learned alternative rewarding behaviors. Your job is to teach your dog to focus on you and find the environment less captivating. Your dog may be a bit scared and have learned that the best defense is a good offense. On top of that, you probably stiffen and tighten the leash when you see another dog coming up the walk, signaling to your canine buddy that the other guy may be pretty scary after all. This behavior can best be dealt with by...

- Practicing getting your dog to focus on you when another dog is in view. Work from longer distances to closer distances. This is best done working with a friend who has a calm dog.
- Make it rewarding for him to be near other dogs. When another dog appears, the treats come out, when the dog goes out of view, treats stop. This will help the dog learn to WANT other dogs around because they predict good things from you! It will also cause the dog to look at you when he sees another dog.
- Take a deep breath, relax, and loosen the leash to keep from telegraphing fear or tension to your dog.
- Teach your dog to sit behind you so you can fend off any loose approaching dogs so your dog won't need to worry about defending himself. Encourage the dog to get behind you and drop treats down along your back. Add a cue when the dog will predictably get behind you to catch the falling treats.

Why does my dog growl and snap at other dogs who are trying to make friends with him?

Many dogs just haven't had enough experience meeting other dogs and get scared during greetings. Dogs can feel especially trapped and defensive when they're being held on a leash and can't distance themselves from the other dog. Some dogs have had bad scary experiences with other dogs and just can't handle close-up greetings. Not only that, but many dogs are just downright obnoxious about how they come up to greet. They shove their nose where it doesn't belong and climb on other dogs. That's just plain impolite and your dog's growl and snap may be teaching them to mind their manners.

My dog growls and snaps when he's loose and other dogs try to play with him.

Dogs that have had a chance to play with other gentle dogs as they grow up usually can meet and play with other dogs quite well. If your dog has met dogs that have scared him he may be too tense around new dogs to relax and play. He may become defensive and feel the need to scare them away. Some dogs just don't play nice. They might try to mount him or body-slam him. No wonder he wishes he were someplace else. Be

especially concerned in places like dog parks where groups of dogs might mob a victim or where parents of offensively aggressive dogs turn them loose. Be ready to step in and keep your dog safe from other dogs.

My dogs like to pick on each other just like wolves in a wolf pack. Sometimes they seem to be beating up on each other. Is this normal?

Your dogs are NOT wolves in a wolf pack and each dog in your family has the right to feel safe in his own home. Your job is to manage and train your dogs so it isn't rewarding for them to push each other around. You don't want your dogs to learn to be bullies with other dogs or to have to learn to defend themselves against bullies. Interrupt and redirect inappropriate play each time you see it and soon the dogs will learn how to play nice so the play doesn't get stopped. Sometimes, two dogs just can't get along with each other in the same household and you may help them to have a better, less stressful life by finding another home for one of the dogs.



Serious dog aggression means that your dog is doing more than just growling and snapping to protect himself or huffing, puffing and barking at other dogs. But, if his aggression is working and you're not working to change his behavior, his aggression may get worse over time.

Assessing the situation... Has the dog already bitten another dog? How bad was the bite?

Below is a standardized way dog specialists rate a bite case. Looking objectively at the severity of the bite will help you to better understand the prognosis for dealing with your dog.

- Level 1** - The dog **growls, shows teeth, barks, stares, or snaps** to give warning
- Level 2** - The dog has made a **single bite, bruise, or scrape** but with **no tooth holes**
- Level 3** - The dog has made a **single bite with 1-4 punctures**, with the depth of **punctures less than ½ the length of the dog's canine teeth**
- Level 4** - The dog has made a **single bite with 1-4 punctures greater than ½ as deep as the dog's canines** or **shakes his head while biting, bruising present**
- Level 5** - The dog has made **multiple bites that are greater than ½ as deep as the dog's canine or shakes his head while biting** –a mauling
- Level 6** - **Fatality**

Looking at the biting behavior of a dog can help you to make an educated decision about options for the future with him. If his behavior falls between levels 1-3, at least he has some bite inhibition. He is inhibiting his bite instead of biting as hard as he can. Level 4 and above bites tell you this is a dangerous dog that could hurt someone badly and not a good risk to work with.

This is because either the dog has intentions to seriously hurt his victim (a truly dangerous dog) or he has not learned how to inhibit his bite to get his point across

without causing damage. Dogs learn bite inhibition when they are puppies. When they bite their littermates too hard, the littermate squeals and ends play. The pup learns how to bite without causing this reaction. Puppies removed from the litter before 8 weeks old often have poor bite inhibition. People can help puppies learn this and SHOULD help puppies learn that humans have very sensitive skin and can't be bitten very hard, even in play. But it is much harder to teach to an adult dog with fully developed jaw muscles. An adult dog is no longer in his formative years and lessons learned about bite inhibition after 20 weeks of age may not carry over to stressful situations, like those that might cause the dog to feel he needs to bite.

You want to keep your aggressive dog and want some idea of what you will need to do to work with him to lower his aggression in the future. Here are some things you need to keep in mind...

- You need to be realistic with your goals for how this dog is going to react in the future. He's not likely to be a dog that is going to be easygoing and safe in all situations. You are going to have to manage him carefully to keep him out of situations that will cause him to bite.
- If his bite was at level 4, the prognosis, at best, is moderate. Don't expect a miracle cure for this dog. Bite levels 5 and 6 have a very poor prognosis and you need to consider euthanizing (humanely killing) the dog.
- If your dog's bite included shaking behavior and a puncture was involved, your dog may be exhibiting predatory behavior or it may be a sign that the dog was intentional in causing damage.
- Remember, the bite levels are relative; a level 4 bite from a small dog is a different safety issue than a large powerful breed inflicting the same bite.

Some considerations for working with your aggressive dog...

- Can you control your dog either physically or verbally? The less control you have, the poorer the prognosis.
- Is your dog well trained? Does he enjoy working with you? The more you two can work together, the better the prognosis.
- Is he food motivated and is he easily trained using food as a motivator? If it's hard to get him to focus and he's hard to motivate, the prognosis is poorer.
- Does he like being with you? The less social he is with you, the poorer the prognosis.
- Is his aggression triggered because of something children or elderly people do and does he live in a house with children or the elderly? This represents a poor prognosis.
- How big a dog is he? Smaller dogs do less damage when they bite and are less apt to harm someone seriously.
- Is he a breed that has been bred to be aggressive? Because some of these breeds bite without much warning or don't calm down easily when aroused, the prognosis can be poor for working with these dogs. Also, news reporters seem to like to drag these types of breeds through the press whenever there are bites.
- Can you afford the time, money and commitment that it's going to take to manage and train your aggressive dog?
- Is your dog genetically or neurologically prone to aggression or does he have an incurable disease or condition that can make him irritable and more apt to bite?

- How long has the problem been going on? The more the dog has developed aggression as a habit the poorer the prognosis.

Treating aggression will take lots of time and commitment on your part. You will want to work with a reward based dog training professional who will be able to guide you and your dog on this journey. Here are some of the steps that may be part of that program...

- You'll want to have your dog evaluated by a veterinarian who is skilled at dealing with behavioral problems. The veterinarian may prescribe medications that can help your dog.
- Get and study some positive training books that will help you understand how your dog learns and how you can best influence his behavior. Or read through the Dog Scout website pages about training and learning. *Click to Calm* by Emma Parsons and *Control Unleashed* by Leslie McDevitt are highly recommended books. *Aggression in Dogs* by Brenda Aloff is also great.
- Plan to **manage** your dog's behavior so he does not have a chance to put anyone else's dog in danger. If this includes a basket muzzle, then that's what you need to put on your dog in public.
- Keep your dog out of situations where he might continue to rehearse aggression.
- Learn the triggers that set your dog off. Learn to intervene **before** the aggression starts.
- Teach the dog new behaviors to use in situations that cause him to show aggression by starting at a long distance from the trigger and rewarding an acceptable alternative behavior.
- Be a good leader and parent to your dog by protecting his safety, providing structure for his activities and good training skills.
- Feed him high quality food that isn't loaded with corn, fillers, sugar and chemical preservatives.
- Give him plenty of exercise. Teach him fun ways to interact with people and other dogs.

Good books to read to learn more...

Click to Calm – Healing the aggressive dog by Emma Parsons, Karen Pryor Clicker Training, 2005

The Canine Aggression Handbook by James O'Heare, Gentle Solutions, Ottawa, Canada, 2001.

Aggression in Dogs – Practical Management, Prevention and Behavior Modification by Brenda Aloff, Dogwise, Wenatchee, Washington, 2002.

Control Unleashed by Leslie McDevitt Clean Run Productions, 2007

Face the facts. Having a dog that shows aggression is very serious business. Having another person's dog mutilated or being sued because of a dog bite is no small matter. Dog aggression is serious. Please treat it that way.

Understanding and dealing with **Dog-to-Human** Aggression

Aggression, regardless of the cause, is similar regardless of whether it is toward humans or other dogs. Much of the information here is the same as in the dog-to-dog section, but there is specific information that is different enough to warrant its own section.



Aggression is a normal part of being a dog. A dog can bark, growl, or snap to defend his possessions, protect himself when he is scared, or chase, grab and kill as his canine ancestry has genetically programmed him to do. Unfortunately, his natural behaviors can get him into life-threatening trouble when used in contexts that are unacceptable to humans. None of us can afford the liability of owning a dog that kills the wrong things or bites kids defend to himself.

Why this Dog? Why Me??!

Your dog's aggression most likely has both a genetic and a learned component. In most cases, who he is physiologically contributes to his propensity to act aggressively. If his aggression is predatory, he is chasing and biting; he may be from a breed that has been selected to herd sheep or to kill vermin. Unfortunately, he is chasing something or somebody you do not want him to chase. If he is acting defensively, he may be protecting himself because of an edgy personality or because he has learned to protect himself because of scary experiences.

Some important facts about dog aggression...

- Without careful intervention and training, aggression is likely to get worse not better.
- Once aggression "works" for the dog, he is more likely to become more aggressive.
- Aggression in itself can become rewarding to the dog.
- Health issues and chemical imbalances like low thyroid levels, increased blood sodium levels, brain tumors or reactions to vaccines, can contribute to increased aggression in dogs. Always have the vet check your dog if aggression becomes an issue.
- Punitive training methods to stop aggression are more likely to make it worse. They may appear to work because they suppress behavior, but the aggression will resurface to haunt you. Overall, the dog will become more reactive and defensive.
- Aggressive dogs can learn more socially acceptable behaviors, but it is going to take lots of careful hard work to teach the dog new ways of responding.
- Never assume your dog is "cured" of his aggressive behavior. You will spend his lifetime managing him; preventing him from rehearsing aggression, managing his environment, and helping him to act in socially acceptable ways.
- Sadly, sometimes an aggressive dog's behavior cannot be changed enough for the dog to continue to live with you. Dogs CAN have mental imbalances that can't be corrected with training or medication. Most likely, you will not be able to find anyone else who wants a dog with his behavior problems and you will need to make the tough decision to have the dog humanely killed. If the dog's quality

of life is low (not able to leave the house or frequently in a highly stressed state) or the possibility of a bite to an unsuspecting person is high, it really is in the best interest of the dog.

The road to a safer dog...

- Have the dog thoroughly vet checked for any health problems that may be contributing to his aggression.
- Seek professional help from a dog trainer that uses reward based methods
- Learn the exact triggers that precede the aggressive episodes.
- Watch for the triggers. Learn to intervene before the aggression starts.
- Teach the dog new behaviors to use in aggression inducing situations.
- Manage the dog's behavior and environment to stop aggression before it starts.

Assessing the Situation...Why might my dog be aggressive to people?

- He might be fearful and he's learned that being defensive works to get the scary people to move away from him.
- He might be a controlling sort of dog who has learned that aggression works to get him what he wants.
- He might be protecting something that he thinks belongs to him, his person, his food, his mate, puppies, or territory.
- He might have something physically wrong with him that is making him more likely to be aggressive.
- He may be showing predatory behaviors toward humans
- He may get over aroused during play
- He may be redirecting aggression. He's frustrated at not being able to bite something else (usually another dog) and bites a person instead.

Assessing the Situation... Has the dog already bitten someone? How bad was the bite? Below is a standardized way dog specialists rate a bite case. Looking objectively at the severity of the bite will help you to better understand the prognosis for dealing with your dog.

Level 1 - The dog **growls, shows teeth, barks, stares, or snaps** to give warning to humans

Level 2 - The dog has made a **single bite, bruise, or scrape** but with **no tooth holes**

Level 3 - The dog has made a **single bite with 1-4 punctures**, with the depth of **punctures less than ½ the length of the dog's canine teeth**

Level 4 - The dog has made a **single bite with 1-4 punctures greater than ½ as deep as the dog's canines** or **shakes his head while biting, bruising present**

Level 5 - The dog has made **multiple bites that are greater than ½ as deep as the dog's canine or shakes his head** while biting –a mauling

Level 6 - **Fatality**

Looking at the biting behavior of a dog can help you to make an educated decision about options for the future with him. If his behavior falls between levels 1-3, at least he has some bite inhibition. He's not biting as hard as he can. Level 4 and above bites tell

you this is a dangerous dog that could hurt someone else badly and not a good risk to work with.

This is because either the dog has intentions to seriously hurt his victim (a truly dangerous dog) or he has not learned how to inhibit his bite to get his point across without causing damage. Dogs learn bite inhibition when they are puppies. When they bite their littermates too hard, the littermate squeals and ends play. The pup learns how to bite without causing this reaction. Puppies removed from the litter before 8 weeks old often have poor bite inhibition. People can help puppies learn this and SHOULD help puppies learn that humans have very sensitive skin and can't be bitten very hard, even in play. But it is much harder to teach to an adult dog with fully developed jaw muscles. An adult dog is no longer in his formative years and lessons learned about bite inhibition after 20 weeks of age may not carry over to stressful situations, like those that might cause the dog to feel he needs to bite.

You want to keep your aggressive dog and want some idea of what you will need to do to work with him to lower his aggression in the future. Here are some things you need to keep in mind...

- You need to be realistic with your goals for how this dog is going to react in the future. He's not likely to be a dog that is going to be easygoing and safe in all situations. You are going to have to manage him carefully to keep him out of situations that will cause him to bite.
- If his bite was at level 4, the prognosis, at best, is moderate. Don't expect a miracle cure for this dog. Bite levels 5 and 6 have a very poor prognosis and you need to consider euthanizing the dog.
- If your dog's bite included shaking behavior and caused punctures, your dog may be exhibiting predatory behavior toward humans or may be a sign that harm was intentional.
- Remember, the bite levels are relative; a level 4 bite from a small dog is a different safety issue than a large powerful breed inflicting the same bite.

Some considerations for working with your aggressive dog...

- Can you control your dog either physically or verbally? The less control you have, the poorer the prognosis.
- Is your dog well trained? Does he enjoy working with you? The more you two can work together, the better the prognosis.
- Is he food motivated and is he easily trained using food as a motivator? If it's hard to get him to focus and he's hard to motivate, the prognosis is poorer.
- Does he like being with you? The less social he is with you, the poorer the prognosis.
- Is his aggression triggered because of something children or elderly people do and does he live in a house with children or the elderly? This represents a poor prognosis.
- How big a dog is he? Smaller dogs do less damage when they bite and are less apt to harm someone seriously.
- Is he a breed that has been bred to be aggressive? Because some of these breeds bite without much warning or don't calm down easily when aroused, the prognosis can be poor for working with these dogs. Bites from certain breeds are more likely to end up in the newspaper or on the evening news.

- Can you afford the time, money and commitment that it's going to take to manage and train your aggressive dog?
- Is your dog genetically or neurologically prone to aggression or does he have an incurable disease or condition that can make him irritable and more apt to bite?
- How long has the problem been going on? The more the dog has developed aggression as a habit the poorer the prognosis.

Treating aggression will take lots of time and commitment on your part. You will want to work with a dog training professional that uses reward based methods who will be able to guide you and your dog on this journey. Here are some of the steps that may be part of that program...

- You'll want to have your dog evaluated by a veterinarian who is skilled at dealing with behavioral problems. The veterinarian may prescribe medications that can help your dog.
- Get and study some positive training books that will help you understand how your dog learns and how you can best influence his behavior.
- Plan to **manage** your dog's behavior so he does not have a chance to put anyone else in danger. If this includes using a basket muzzle on your dog, then do it any time the dog is in public.
- Keep your dog out of situations where he might continue to rehearse aggression.
- Be a good leader and guide to your dog by protecting his safety, providing structure for his activities and good training skills.
- Feed him high quality food that isn't loaded with corn, fillers, sugar and chemical preservatives.
- Give him plenty of exercise. Teach him fun ways to interact with people.

Face the facts. Having a dog that shows aggression to humans is very serious business. Having a child's face mutilated or being sued because of a dog bite is no small matter. Dog aggression is serious. Please treat it that way.

A little more about aggression:

People are not expected to love every other human being on the planet, but for some reason people expect their dog to love all other dogs. We have to realize that dogs are individuals and are allowed to dislike another dog's behavior.



Pests and Punks- Most commonly, as dogs get older, they have little tolerance for pests and punks. If we are bothered by a pest or punk, we will usually try to leave, or try to get the other person to leave. Your dog will do the same. If he is on a leash or confined by a room or yard, he knows he cannot leave. His only other option is to try to get the pest or punk dog to leave him alone.



Normal Dog Language- He does this by showing teeth, growling, barking, snapping or biting. This is normal dog behavior and should not be punished. If your dog does this to another dog, ask yourself:

- Why you were not paying attention to the situations developing around your dog
- Why you didn't take actions to prevent your dog from feeling the need to defend himself.

Punishment = No Ticker in the Bomb

If these warning signals are punished, you are telling the dog that bad things happen to him if he gives warning signals. He will likely associate the punishment with the signals he was giving (or with the presence of other dogs or with scary people.) This essentially takes the ticker out of the time bomb. His feelings in those situations and about the other dog or person won't change (and may get more defensive.) He just won't let you know until he "snaps" for "no apparent reason". He would have given you plenty of warnings about his intentions and feelings if he hadn't been punished for showing them. It's a very bad cycle that dogs and parents get into simply because of miscommunication between two very different species (dogs and humans).



A Better Way- Instead of punishing the dog for communicating like a dog, you will need to take a proactive role in keeping your dog from feeling like he has to defend himself, his space, his toys or you. This is where you can use the phrase "please get your dog back" if the other dog continues to be a pest or punk.



If your dog is on the receiving end of the "please get your dog back" request, call him away from the dog he was pestering so that the communication (signals) from the dog he's bothering don't have to escalate to a stronger level. By watching your dog's interaction with other dogs and calling him back BEFORE it gets out of hand, you can teach your dog to recognize signals that mean it is time to move away from another dog. You can also help him show appeasement signals (see below).

Dogs can be good teachers

If your dog just doesn't seem to be "getting it", don't be afraid to let other dogs teach your dog "manners" using normal dog language such as growling or snapping. The key to picking the right dog as a "teacher" is to pick a dog that has had lots of experience playing off lead with other dogs of all play types without hurting them.

Bite Inhibition- It is during these off lead play times that dogs learn "bite inhibition". This means they learn just how powerful their jaws are and they learn to control (inhibit) their bites so they don't do any damage. It is very rare for any injury to occur during these "lessons" unless the "teacher" dog has not had the opportunity to learn bite inhibition from his littermates as a puppy.

Off lead play needs proper supervision

Off lead play between dogs that is supervised by someone who is good at reading dog body language is a great way for your dog to learn to understand "dog language". Dog daycare is perfect for this; dog parks are the worst for this.

Dog Daycares should have staff that is experienced in reading dogs' body language as it changes during play and interaction with others. Daycare dogs are also screened for temperament (or should be) prior to their entry.



At dog parks, you likely have parents who, if they are even paying attention to their dogs, do not have a clue what they are seeing. They correct the dog for normal behavior and let rude or obnoxious behavior go unchecked.

Choose playmates carefully: Your dog can have one bad experience with another dog and take years of work to get over it-- if ever. Choose your dog's playmates very carefully and always watch what they are saying to each other through vocalizations and body language.

Stop problems before they start: If two off lead dogs stiffen or lock eye contact that is your signal to break them up. The most effective way to do that is to firmly say to them "knock it off" as you physically walk between them. You are then using body language they can understand without causing improper body language in the dog (as you would by grabbing a collar.) If the staring continues, you will want to separate the dogs till they can "play nice" without "cussing" at each other with eye contact. The book "Aggression in Dogs" by Brenda Aloff (ISBN: 1-59196-073-8) is a fantastic, "must have" book that will teach you everything you would want to know (and more) about handling all types of aggression issues. Her book "Canine Body Language: A photographic guide" is 370 pages of photos and text that will help you learn how to read what your dog is saying with body language. (ISBN: 1929242352)

Resource Guarding- Be aware of whether or not your dog sees you as an object to keep away from the other dogs. If your dog stands by your side and dares another dog to approach, or as another dog is approaching you, your dog "cuts them off" by walking or standing between you and that dog, you might have an issue. In that case, your dog is also likely to be a "resource guarder" that gets into fights over toys, food or personal space. Brenda Aloff that was just mentioned covers this situation in her aggression book or you could read the book "Mine!" by Jean Donaldson. (ISBN: 0-970629-4-2) for information that is specific to resource guarding.



Coyote, a Cattle Dog, defends the chair and his bone with just a "look"

Adopting A Dog With Issues (by Lonnie Olson)
Including- How to pick a great dog from a shelter or rescue

I'm very outspoken about the value of early socialization for puppies.

The education they get early in life can not be replaced by pills, therapy, shock collars, obedience classes, or having their teeth ground down so that when they bite someone, at least the person will probably not need stitches. There's no substitute for just getting that little guy out there and introducing him in a fun and pleasant way to as many different people, places, things, sounds, sights, floorings, animals and environments. In doing so, you will develop a wonderful dog who has few, if any "issues" as an adult.



When wild canines are young, they tend to explore everything. This allows them to test their environment to learn if something new is safe or dangerous. A mother canine will watch the pup to be sure they aren't doing something deadly. As the pup gets older (after 8 weeks), he starts to lose that puppy innocence and starts to wonder first if something might be dangerous before he will rush up to it. After 20 weeks of age, nature decides that the pup is likely to have met everything that will be in his territory and learned if it is safe or dangerous. After that age, all new encounters are considered dangerous until proven safe. This protects the dog from harm later in life, but doesn't create a very confident domestic dog. This can be modified somewhat if the puppy gets to experience many, many different safe things (environments) and has a human by his side that he respects and trusts to keep him safe. If that has happened, the young dog is much more likely to be confident in new situations and is less likely to develop fears of novel things as an adult. But socialization doesn't end at 20 weeks. Dogs can revert back to the "everything is dangerous unless proven otherwise" state of mind if kept socially isolated, such as in a quiet home or yard.

So, let's look at these three cases...

1. What if you didn't realize the importance of early socialization, and you've already adopted a dog over 4 months old?
2. What if you know how important socialization is, but you find yourself in a position to adopt a rescue, or an adolescent dog from a shelter?
3. What if you didn't know how critical it was to socialize (or maybe someone told you that it would be "safer" not to expose the pup to outside "germs" until he finished his final puppy shots at 16 weeks of age) and you accidentally did not expose your puppy to anything but your own house and family during the time he was eight to sixteen weeks old?

Well, your dog could be at risk for developing "issues" or "social sensitivities." This is basically a fear of the unknown. You or the dog won't realize that there are potential fears lurking in the future. Sitting at home, snuggling on the couch with you, there's no need for the puppy to get hysterical. The pup was familiarized with you, your home, and your couch during his critical socialization period. By all accounts, he seems like a normal adolescent dog. But what happens the first time he sees something unusual, or "not of this world."

Suppose you were sleeping comfortably in your bed, when you were awakened suddenly by a bunch of green-faced aliens groping you all over? You'd probably shriek. You'd probably fight them and try to flee. If you had a weapon handy, you'd probably try to kill them (in self-defense, of course.)

This is probably how your un-socialized puppy feels when he is approached and petted by someone who looks "alien" to him. This could be a person of a different race than you; someone wearing a funny hat; someone with an irregular gait; or even someone of the opposite sex of the person who raised him. That's right; your puppy may hate and be terrified of your future mate, simply because he wasn't introduced to any members of the opposite sex as a puppy.

This isn't because the puppy is bad, stupid or vicious. It is only because he is traumatized by novel stimuli (stuff he's not been familiarized with during the critical socialization period prior to 20 weeks of age.) He was led to believe that a cage in a dog shop or a home with a backyard was the extent of the universe, and now he's going to get forced into a world where almost everything is alien and he has not learned coping skills.

This manuscript is to help you deal with dogs that have social sensitivities or could develop them.

Let's go back to the first situation. You have a dog over 4 months old and you're not sure if that dog received proper socialization during the critical periods. This is a gamble. The dog you have could turn out to be fairly normal, depending on how much and what kind of socialization he received. You just don't know. You should approach all new situations as though the dog might spook, so you need to be calm and confident.

When this dog meets something for the first time, like a cat, or someone wearing a kimono, or a crying child, you should not immediately approach the potentially scary thing. Hang back and feed your dog a lot of treats in the proximity of the new thing. You don't know if he's going to be terrified into a hysterical fit, or just say, "Oh, a clown... Fancy that." So, play it safe and try to create a pleasant association with this new "alien" being. Don't force him to allow himself to be held (groped) by a scary new person, until he has had ample opportunity to realize that:

- a. The new person or thing is not going to hurt him, and you will protect him
- b. Lots of treats magically appear whenever this new thing is around
- c. He won't be forced into anything, and he's free to move away if he becomes overly frightened
- d. The treats disappear at the same time the new thing disappears

It's your job not to let any new people frighten the dog. Take an opportunity to educate. Explain that the reason your dog thinks this person is a mutant with two heads is because some ignorant person failed to socialize him as a puppy. Allowing contact with the frightened dog will only intensify the fear. It is best if you have the new person

ignore the dog until the dog feels comfortable enough to be in the same vicinity as the scary person. Don't let the new person approach the dog or touch him until the dog approaches and touches the person first.



Be very careful. A dog's natural reaction to extreme fear is to flee, or if he can't flee, he will attack and fight for his life. Don't put your dog or others in danger.



Let's look at situation number two. You know it's a gamble, but you're staring at a really cute dog in the shelter, which is going to be put to death on Thursday if no one adopts him, and you're really ready to throw caution to the wind and sign adoption papers.



First, try not to let your emotions make your decisions for you. There are so many millions of dogs being killed each year in this country, that it's pathetic. There's no room for all of them, and they're going to have to continue killing them, if we can't convince people to become more responsible dog parents. If you adopt the cute little fellow, and he turns out to be fraught with issues, sensitivities and behavior problems, your life with him is not going to be very fun for the next ten years. I know a lot of people who went for the adorable "face" and took home a dog that was totally incapable of loving the parent, or being held, or being in the same room with another dog without fighting.



Choose wisely Obi-wan

This is not a totally impossible situation, but it is one that will require a lifelong commitment to managing the dog's environment, and it won't be very rewarding. Don't assume that because a dog looks "lovable" that he will be loving. There might be an ugly, gangly mutt in a cage two doors down who is un-cuddly looking, but has a heart of gold, and by some miracle, was taken out and introduced to many novel stimuli during the critical stages. He will turn into a dog that will follow you anywhere and will always be up for the next adventure. He will probably not bite your children's friends and send them to the hospital and you to the courtroom. The dilemma is: how do I know which one was socialized the best (if at all)?



It might be wrong to assume that the shelter has weeded out dogs with poor temperaments and already slated them for euthanization. You can assess a dog fairly quickly by touching or pinching him on the butt. If he whips around, like he wants to bite or attack whatever is touching him, walk away. Sue Sternberg has created a device called an "assess-a-hand". It is a fake hand and arm in a shirtsleeve on a stick. The idea is to put some food down in a bowl, and then "reach" for it with the assess-a-hand." If the dog is a resource guarder, he will hunch over the food and eat fast, so the hand can't have any. Or, he may even bite the assess-a-hand for coming too close to "his" bowl. These are problems that you want to avoid dealing with if at all possible, so I would weed out the dogs that fail these two tests right away, in addition to any dogs that just won't approach you at all. Kneel down and see if



the dog will approach you of his own free choice. See if he'll come up on your lap. If he's fearful of you already, it's going to be tough to develop a bond with him that goes beyond you feeding him and him occasionally letting you touch him—maybe.

After you've weeded out impossible to deal with temperaments, proceed.

The service dog organizations perform a kind of a temperament test to see what a dog is "made of." These organizations are often in a position to make use of shelter dogs of unknown breeding and origin, and unknown socialization background. You could very objectively take each adolescent dog out to a new area and give them this same sort of little test, to see how each reacts. There is usually a room in the shelter where you can go to be alone with a prospective adoptee. This may be the best place, even if the dog has seen it before. Be sure the dog you are evaluating is healthy before doing the tests or you might get a false reaction, like a mellow dog that you later find out was only mellow because it was full of worms and was running a fever.

- ❖ First, bring out a tasty treat! See what the dog's reaction is. If the dog is not interested in treats or in taking treats from your hand, that is a bad thing. You're going to want to train the dog to do all kinds of neat things, and if he doesn't care enough about food to use that as a reward, then you're going to have to jump through hoops trying to find something he DOES like, that you can use for a reward. Food greedy dogs are SO much easier to train. If the dog is not taking food because he is stressed, there is a good chance he was not properly socialized and able to cope with a change in environment. To be sure, you can try a few different treats to see if maybe the dog just didn't care for the first one offered.
- ❖ Next, pet the dog all over. Head to tail, down each leg, gently pull the ears, and touch the belly. Does the dog accept this handling? Pick up each foot. Does he let you touch him? Touch sensitivity is not a good thing. You're going to have to bathe, groom, give medical attention, and possibly put on things such as backpacks, life jackets and harnesses, all the dog's life. It's not good if he is resistant to handling.
- ❖ Bring something like a pan lid that would be noisy to drop on a cement floor or knock over a metal chair. Do this and note the dog's reaction. This is a test for noise sensitivity. If the dog startles, but goes to investigate the source of the noise, it is an excellent response. If the dog cowers or runs away, it is not a good response. If there is no reaction, the dog might be deaf. Check for reaction to other sounds like calling him in an excited high pitched tone when he's not looking (no body gestures he might see out of the corner of his eye.)
- ❖ If the dog seems non-dangerous, you can give him the "hug" test. You can either gently restrain him on his back on the floor, or you can kind of restrain him with your arms around him. If he objects to this type of contact and thrashes about, it's not good. If he sits there like a mushroom and takes it, or gets really stiff, it's not very good either. It's a natural thing for the dog to struggle a little when held in an awkward position, but then (if he's been well socialized to humans) he should submit to the restraint or handling and relax.

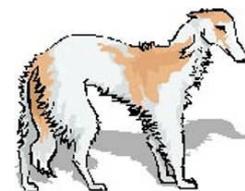
- ❖ Test to see if the dog is hand-shy, or has possibly been abused, by raising your hand up as if you were going to swat the dog. You could even pretend to clobber the dog, to see if it wets itself, or has no reaction to your odd flailing.
- ❖ Willingness to retrieve is the one area where a potentially great dog will shine. In tests done for Seeing Eye dogs, the ones that passed the training program were almost always the ones who naturally retrieved as puppies, prior to any training. Take a sheet of paper and crumple it up. Wiggle it in front of the dog and bat it across the floor. Nine out of ten dogs will run after it (if they see it.) If you have the one in ten that does not, it's not a good reaction. If you have one of the ones that will actually bring it back to you, it's wonderful. If the dog retrieves it and takes it elsewhere, it's not as good. If you have the one that takes it elsewhere and shreds the heck out of it, this is a poor choice.
- ❖ Paws with a Cause tests the reaction to a mirror, to gauge a dog's curiosity. If they do nothing when they see their reflection, it's a poor response. If they investigate, it is an excellent response. If they just look at themselves in the mirror it's a good response.
- ❖ Another test that has it's origin in the puppy test that people give to litters at age 49 days, to determine their future temperament, is the "reaction to pain" test. You simply take a paw and pinch the web between the toes with your finger and thumb, as you count to ten. If the dog "wimps out" early and starts pulling back and biting at your hand, it's not a good reaction. That dog will melt away if he gets a correction (from a human or a dog), and might bite if someone accidentally steps on his tail or a child gets too rough. If the dog is stoic and stares off in the distance and has no reaction, it's not good either. He could be oblivious to everything or he may have a really high pain threshold in which case you won't know if he gets hurt or is not feeling well until it gets really serious. But if the dog shows concern (looks at the foot or pulls a little), that's good. And if he notices something is happening to him but toughs it out, that's great.



So, you've now tested the dog for touch, sound, motion and human social sensitivity. If there is another dog present, you could test for dog-to-dog social skills. Basically, what you would be looking for is something that would indicate that your dog has learned to speak "dog." He should understand about calming signals (getting and giving them), and greeting behavior, and should have good bite inhibition (he's not biting the other dog too

hard, if they play rough).

Now let's examine that third scenario from the opening paragraph. You've got yourself a dog that you know for sure was not socialized during his critical socialization period. He's now fearful about most new things and has many issues and sensitivities. But, he's your dog and you love him, and you've promised him a forever home. What do you do to deal with it?



My first advice is to not live in denial. If your dog has sensitivities, then face up to it. Don't tell yourself that you have a wonderful little pooch who just

doesn't like children (or men, or dogs, or people on crutches, or air...). Realize that you're working with a dog that's going to be a challenge at every step of the road, and be prepared to meet that challenge.

You will have to manage the dog's environment constantly, so that strange new sights and sounds and environments don't send him into a panic. You will have to have the courage to stop people from terrifying your dog. You will have to master the phrase, "Please keep your dog back." Or, maybe for your dog, it would be "Please keep your child back." It is your job to protect your dog from all of the "aliens" of the world.

If your dog is dog-aggressive, it is your job to prevent him from having potentially aggressive encounters with other dogs. You will have to facilitate a proper, friendly dog social greeting behavior every time he meets a new canine. And if he is incapable of even that, you should try to find a good behavior counselor and enter into therapy with a "resocialization class," which might be an ongoing commitment for a long time to change how he feels about other dogs and overcome some of the fear he has.

You'll want to do a lot of the same things recommended for the dog in case one. Use treat therapy to change the emotional response your dog has to certain stimuli. This is classical conditioning. No behavior is asked of the dog at all—you just start pairing something the dog likes (food) with something your dog is nervous about (like kids) until the dog has a new conditioned emotional response (like Pavlov's dog.) You're not rewarding any particular behavior. The dog just comes to learn that kids make treats "happen." There are other ways to control the nervousness, like aromatherapy, or Bach Flower Remedies (Rescue Remedy), Tellington Touch, or prescription drugs. But these may only mask the symptoms by relaxing the dog somewhat. They will not take away the dog's fear of certain things or situations.

After the millionth time a kid walks up to your dog and doesn't kill him, you'd think the dog would realize that kids aren't going to kill him. But it's not that simple. During the critical socialization period, the dog learns, after a few opportunities to associate safely with children that kids can be safe to be around. **After** the critical socialization period, it's going to take a lot more than a few trials to get the dog over being leery of various novel stimuli that he was not exposed to as a puppy. So, you've got your work cut out for you. It's not impossible. It's not hopeless. You shouldn't lose hope if you find yourself in an uphill battle because you share your life with an improperly socialized canine. So, don't misunderstand me. By all means, adopt a rescue; adopt from the shelter, but be smart about it and "test drive" the dog with kids and men and the other dog he's going to live with, in addition to performing the tests above. And if you find yourself living with an under-socialized dog, don't give up on him, but realize that it won't be easy.

I have a number of Dog Scout friends who adopted dogs who turned out to be less than ideally socialized, and have issues with other dogs, or people, or new things in general. But, because they're members of Dog Scouts, they know what it means to take responsibility for being the "smart end of the leash." They manage their dog's environment and love their canine "kid" in spite of the issues they have. They're patient and conscientious and diligent in their effort to increase the quality of their dogs' lives without unduly stressing them with terrifying stimuli. My heart goes out to them, and I have all the admiration in the world for them. And, though I'm probably someone that

dog calls “Auntie Lonnie,” and I love him too, I can’t wait for that person to get his or her next dog. Having lived through the trials and tribulations of this one, I have a feeling that next time, they will place extreme importance on choosing or raising a dog that is well socialized as a puppy, regardless of where he comes from, and at what age he becomes a member of the family.

Law #1 (part 2) - I will always be courteous when I am with my dog in public. We will set good examples of a responsible parent and a well-trained dog.

When you are in public with your dog, you are an ambassador for all other dog parents. If you are wearing anything that lets people know you and your dog belong to and support Dog Scouts of America, then you are also ambassadors for all other DSA members and the national organization and maybe your troop if there is one in your area.

The general public, including business owners and lawmakers, will judge dogs based on your actions and your dog’s actions (either good or bad.) If your dog is out of control and you are doing nothing about it, then that will have a negative impact on people that see that behavior. It can confirm their preconceived notions that dogs are wild, dirty animals that have no business being in public. If you and your dog are friendly, courteous and well mannered it can have a positive impact on people. It can help them see that there are nice dogs and responsible dog parents in the world.

If you are training your dog in public, only positive methods should be used so that people can see that abuse and punishment does not have to be used to create a well-behaved dog. Many people have not heard about positive training or seen what is possible, so you can help educate them. Perhaps they will be inspired to try these methods with their own dog.



Radar, DSA
Helping teach kids a proper way
to greet a dog

Law #1 (part 3)- I will socialize my puppy and continue the socialization throughout his or her life so that he or she will not fear novel stimuli, strange people or new dogs.

YOUR FIRST GOAL - SOCIALIZATION!

When you get a new puppy there are some absolute rules you must follow to insure that your puppy grows up well adjusted. Puppies that are brought up through their critical

socialization period correctly are less likely to become liabilities later in life.

WHY is this so important?

Properly socialized dogs are not fearful of a particular age group, skin color, or body type. If they are not fearful, they are less likely to run away from these people, bark at them or bite them to try to make them move away. Poorly socialized dogs lack confidence. These are the dogs that might bite a child in the face if cornered. They may pull out of a collar and run away in fear of a stranger. They may bark at the sight of every strange thing that they never became accustomed to during their socialization period- people in wheelchairs, people wearing funny hats, people who walk with a limp. These biters, bolters and barkers often end up with a one-way ticket to the dog pound or become housebound- all because they were never properly socialized as puppies.



HOW do I socialize my puppy?



As soon as you get your puppy, start introducing him safely to all different sights and sounds. In a controlled situation, he should meet other animals, children of all ages, vacuum cleaners, stairs, crates, automobiles, dog stores, veterinarian's offices, and everything else you can think of.

He should get to meet as many dogs as possible, as it is important to learn things from members of the dogs own species, like communication signals and social behavior.



Between the age of 8 and 9 weeks of age, the puppy goes through a "fear imprint" period. Be extremely cautious during this time. If the puppy develops a fear during this period, it can stay with him his whole life. When I was eleven years old, and my parents brought home the new 8-week-old poodle puppy, she went investigating around the house. She went to visit the horses lined up in my Barbie doll's stable. She poked one with her nose and tipped it over, causing a domino effect. As the plastic horses smashed and clattered all over the floor, the poor puppy panicked. She didn't know where to run. Until her dying day, she would leave the room if you even showed her a plastic horse. This kind of trauma should be avoided at all costs.

The key is to try to form neutral or positive associations with as many different sights, sounds, smells, and types of footing, around all kinds of people, places and things as you possibly can. Some people don't want to take their puppies out at an age when they don't have full protection from their puppy shots. My feeling is that the socialization is far more important than the possibility of ill health. If I have to gamble, I'd rather gamble on my puppy not coming in contact with a serious disease, than to gamble on his whole life being messed up because he wasn't properly socialized. That's how important proper socialization is. His very life may depend on being well socialized as a puppy.

When I say neutral or positive, this is very important. You must control all interactions with the puppy. Don't let some young child grope at your puppy and pull his fur. Don't

let some adolescent child "rough house" with the puppy. Don't let anyone tease the puppy or try to frighten him. Everyone the puppy meets must be kind and gentle to the puppy. Never leave a puppy unsupervised with children of any age. Teach children, who will be associating with the puppy, how to properly touch, pick up, hold, stroke, and talk to the puppy. It is important for the puppy to learn that humans can be trusted.

Here is a list of things to socialize your new puppy to with 7 check boxes for the days of the week- keep associations with these things positive and fun for the pup:

Babies/strollers								People in odd positions									
Boy/Girl young kids								Costumes									
Boy/Girl teens								Parking Lots									
Women								Parks									
Men								In other people's houses									
Elderly women								School yard									
Elderly men								Kennel/crate in new place									
Walkers								Grooming shop									
Crutches								Parties									
Wheelchairs								Vet Offices									
Crowds (quiet)								Daycare									
Crowds (loud)								Parade									
Boisterous people								Mall									
Fearful people								Supermarket									
Beards								Airport-helipad									
Umbrella opening/ in use								Playgrounds									
Joggers								Tunnels									
Hats/Helmets								Restaurants									
Uniforms/suits								Pet stores									
Different Surfaces: Tile								Elevators									
Linoleum								Escalators									
Carpet								City Walks									
Brick								Country walks									
Decking								Car trips									
Plastic								Motorcycles									
Grating								Trains									
Moving/unstable								Buses									
Concrete								Trucks									
Wood								Boats									
Ramps								Fire Engines/police cars									
Stairs (closed backed)								Bicycles									
Stairs (open backed)								Roller Blades									
Bathtubs								Skateboards									
Rocks								Heavy Traffic									
Mulch								Water/swimming									
Blacktop								Airplanes									
Grass								Handle: Feet									
Ice								Ears									
Puppies								Mouth									
Adult dogs- all breeds								Tail									
Kittens								Belly									
Cats								Eyes									
Horses/ponies								Sounds: phones									
Cows								Gun shots/fire crackers									
Sheep								Sirens									
Caged pets								Dish/clothes washers									
Ducks								ladder opening									
Chickens								Balloons									
Baths								Paper/plastic bags									
Nail trimming								Vacuum									
Ear Cleaning								Applause									
Taking pills (put empty capsules in food & mouth)								Chairs scooting									
								Barking dog									
								Baby crying- kid screaming									

How To Socialize: Critical Periods of Socialization for a Puppy

(And what you should be doing with your puppy during each of them...)

Birth through 3rd week (1 – 21 days):

Puppy needs mother and littermates. They can't regulate their own temperatures very well, so they must have a warm place to sleep. They have yet to open their eyes and ears and do much besides crawl around. Their instinct is to cry when separated from the warmth of the litter (so that mommy will save them.) Handle for only a few minutes each day touching feet, rubbing gently and turning briefly upside-down and sideways.

Fourth Week (21 days to 28 days)- Fear period:

Eyes and ears should be open by this time.

Ability to form an attachment to humans is forming at this time, so gentle handling is recommended. All handling should be supervised, and children should not be allowed to pick up the puppies.

DO NOT remove the puppies from the litter. Do not wean at this age. If complications with the mother dog require early removal from the litter, do it BEFORE 21 days or AFTER 28 days.

Do not allow negative events to take place during this period. This could result in shyness or other unwanted qualities in a puppy.

Training can begin during this time using soft food on a spoon or finger as a reward and a click to mark correct behavior just as you would with an older dog. Basic behaviors like sit, down, nose touch a target, come, etc.

Fifth through Eighth Week (28 – 56 days):

The mother will be in the process of weaning the puppies. It is important that you let her do her job. If you abruptly remove the puppies from the mother, and begin feeding them puppy food, they will have missed out on a VERY IMPORTANT life lesson. By allowing the mother to wean the pups, gradually, they learn that RESOURCES ARE NOT ALWAYS AVAILABLE. Sometimes the resource (mommy) is there, but is not available to the puppy (she's not in the mood to feed them.) You should supplement her feeding



with moistened puppy food, during this time. But, if you go directly from mom providing food on demand to YOU providing food on demand, the puppies will get a distorted view of reality (they'll be "spoiled"), and will not easily accept the disappointment of limited access later in life.

Give daily individual attention to each puppy, getting him or her used to positive human interaction. Continue training using soft food as reward for simple behaviors.

Puppies at this age can begin to learn potty training, and will try to “hold it” until they can go on an absorbent material, away from their sleeping area. If you provide them with such, housetraining will be a breeze. They should also get used to being in a small crate simply by putting one in the puppy pen to be played in and on.

DO NOT remove puppies from the litter. Wait until after 7 weeks (preferably after 8 weeks) of age to let the new parents take the puppies. While it is important that the puppies get time separate from the litter on a daily basis, if you remove them entirely, they will lose out on more IMPORTANT LIFE LESSONS. Puppies learn to inhibit their bites by biting their littermates. When they bite too hard, the littermate will squeal, and either bites back in retaliation, or ostracize the bully and refuse to play with him. This teaches the pups not to be too rough, and while they will still play fight and wrestle, they will bite down softly, not injuring the other puppies. A dog that does not learn this lesson could cause serious harm to a person, dog or child later in life. When they bite, they don't inhibit, and an uninhibited bite will require stitches. A dog can do a lot of damage with its mouth, and it is important that it remain with the litter to get this “weapons safety course” from its brothers and sisters. This training takes place between the ages of 6 and 8 weeks, so if the puppies are adopted before then, they are an accident waiting to happen.

The puppy is also learning other very crucial skills at this age. He's learning to speak “dog.” He's learning the social skills that will enable him to interpret unspoken messages from other dogs and give appropriate replies. Things like appeasement signals (a kind of friendly, submissive gesture) are learned at this time, and this will help your dog to communicate with other dogs all through his life. If he is removed from the litter, unequipped with this vital information, he could possibly get “picked on” or attacked frequently by other dogs when they don't receive the information they need from him. If he doesn't “speak the language” it will be hard for him to express himself. He could also become a “bully” himself, because he won't understand the signals to “back off” that the other dogs are giving him. This could also lead to a nasty fight. The worst-case scenario is that the puppy would not understand that it is a dog, and would fear all other dogs (as if they were aliens or something, which basically they would be for him.)



Ninth through 12th Week (56 – 84 days):

At this age, you will take over the role of being the “mother” to your new puppy. The puppy will cry when separated from the only caretaker he has known for his entire life. This is only natural. Especially when you consider that we as humans are a far cry from his doting canine mother. When he cries, she is usually there in a heartbeat, to see what is wrong. Humans on the other hand, tend to bring home a puppy and just stuff him in a crate or in the garage the first night, and then wonder why the poor baby is screaming inconsolably non-stop.



To make the first few nights easier on your new puppy, I recommend allowing the puppy to be VERY near to you. I don't care what your future "hard-nosed rules" are going to be for the puppy, or even if he is going to remain an outdoor dog, separated from the family he will learn to love. Those first few nights should hold as little trauma as absolutely possible. If you lock up your puppy away from you when you get home with him, he's going to assume he's been LOST or abandoned, and will cry to be rescued. You merely have to assure him that he simply has a new home, with a human parent, and that you can be just as loving and comforting as his real mother (almost).

By VERY NEAR, I mean body contact. The choices are:

- Put your puppy in a crate or pen with open lid right next to your bed, with your arm dangling down into the pen to cuddle your puppy to sleep, where he can see, hear and feel you.
- Put your puppy in bed with you – (NOT RECOMMENDED) This is difficult for multiple reasons:
 - The puppy is not yet housebroken
 - The puppy could fall off the bed and injure himself
 - The puppy could chew up your bedding
 - The puppy could start to think that the bed is HIS bed if you continue this past a few nights (however, it is still preferable to listening to him squall, or terrifying him by abandonment)
- Put your puppy's crate right in the bed with you (this prevents accidents, chewing, or falling, and gets the puppy used to his crate. You can still open the door and stroke or cuddle the puppy.

Once your puppy realizes that he merely has a new home, and that he has NOT been doomed to be locked up in a cold dungeon with no human contact for the rest of his life (what a dismal existence that would be!), he will not need to sleep on the bed with you, and his crate can be moved to another part of the house where it is more convenient for you.

The puppy is going to spend a great deal of his time in the crate, until he's old enough to be allowed full access to the house, unsupervised. So, you should put the crate where he can see you throughout the day as you move about the house. If, for some reason you are foolish enough to let the sweet little furniture-eating, carpet-soiling, electrical cord-chewing puppy loose to wreak havoc in the house, because you didn't think you needed a crate, then don't you dare be upset at HIM when the little cutie raids the garbage, shreds your possessions, craps on everything, and toilet papers your house. The crate also acts as his personal playpen, keeping him from injuring himself doing things that little puppies have no business doing. Mothers can't watch babies or puppies ALL the time, that's why they gave us playpens (crates) to keep them contained out of harm's way. Tossing the puppy outside is NOT the solution. Why did you get him in the first place? Even if you plan for him to be an "outdoor" dog, it is a good idea to socialize your puppy to being indoors, and potty train him, incase later on in life he moves up in the world.

This is the start of the socialization period where puppies need to meet as many kinds of new "nouns" (people, places, and things) as possible. This means more than just the

company you might have over, or the immediate back yard. You must expose your puppy to all kinds of things in the world so that he will not fear them as an adult. The rule of Sevens says that you should introduce your puppy to AT LEAST seven new kinds of surfaces, seven new kinds of people, seven new kinds of foods, seven new kinds of sounds, and seven new places by the time he is 12 weeks old. All new situations should be introduced in a neutral or positive way—nothing frightening or hurtful.

The puppy is experiencing his FEAR IMPRINT PERIOD between 8 and 9 weeks of age, and any traumatic encounters will stay with the puppy for his whole lifetime, if you allow them to occur. You may think about postponing ear-cropping surgery or other traumatic events until after the ninth week. You should introduce your puppy to safe, calm children, and supervise the interaction carefully. Do not let the child hurt or frighten the puppy. The best way not to let a child accidentally drop a puppy is to not let them pick it up in the first place. They don't mean to drop it, but try to explain that to the poor puppy who is scarred for life, and now runs from children.

Do not isolate the puppy from humans at this age. To do so will create a dog that is maladjusted for life, and one who is not a good candidate for the bond with humans that is a necessary part of training, and life in general with your dog.

Now is the perfect time to reinforce the puppy's natural desire to be clean in the house. The use of a crate, scheduled mealtimes, and a reward-based training regime will maintain the clean habits your puppy has already started to develop while with the litter. If you allow the puppy full access to the house, and do not supervise him, or do not make it beneficial for him to eliminate outside, you will cause the puppy to start to be confused about where to "go." So many people complain that they just can't get their puppy housetrained. But, after playing foster mom to several litters of young puppies, I have come to realize that the puppies have themselves potty-trained before they leave the litter. It's when they get into their new homes that the new parents confuse the puppies about where they should go potty. The new parents often take a perfectly clean puppy and teach him to soil the house by doing everything all wrong.

Young puppies should be taken to a potty area AS SOON AS they wake up from any time spent sleeping or napping, after a few minutes of play (you'll learn to judge how much play time before a quick break is needed), right after every meal (food in/ food out) and at least once every hour during the day and at least once during the night. How long you need to do this depends on the maturity rate of the puppy and when they are physically able to hold it and understand the benefit of doing so (going potty outside brings treats and play, going inside does not.)

Start training as soon as you get the pup!



NOW is when you should begin training your puppy. DO NOT wait until the dog is 6 months old. This was previously touted as the age to start training because puppies younger than 6 months couldn't handle the harsh training methods. But since you aren't going to use harsh methods, you can and should start training right away! The puppy is a learning "SPONGE" at this age, and to not give it structured training is to allow it to learn BAD habits. Puppies have a full adult

brain at 49 days of age. They are ALWAYS learning, whether YOU are teaching them or not! Help them learn acceptable behaviors. There is absolutely no reason to wait longer than that to teach the puppy proper behavior. It is much easier to install correct behaviors than to let the puppy grow up like a wild savage and then try to “un-train” the bad behaviors later!

Now, we realize that positive methods are so much more effective. Even a tiny puppy can learn the basics of sit, down, stay, come and heel without even putting on a collar or leash! The dog no longer needs to be 6 months old to withstand the harsh corrections given out in the name of “training.” If you find a training class and discover that they use corrections to train, RUN AWAY! If they tell you that they use a “praise” method, also be very skeptical. Praise alone is meaningless for a puppy that does not speak English, and without pairing it with something the dog loves (like food or playtime), it is worthless. Many punishment trainers use “praise” alone as a positive reinforcement. In this context, the praise takes on the meaning of a “no punishment” marker. It’s not really a positive reinforcement at all. It just means, “You’re not going to get jerked right now.” So the dog is still working to avoid an aversive (bad consequence.) With positive methods, the dog is rewarded with something he actually wants, as his reward (imagine that!) He will work very hard to receive this reinforcement and will soon be doing exactly what you ask (gleefully.) No punishment required. For more information on positive training methods, see the many articles on the Dog Scout web site.

Keep on socializing your puppy up to 20 weeks of age. You should also continue to socialize your dog after that time, but it is never more important than the time period of between 8 to 16 weeks. You have a very brief window in which to get your dog acclimated to the big wide wonderful world. Don’t let the grass grow under your feet! Get that puppy out! Not just to the puppy class once per week, either. I mean really make an effort to introduce your puppy to as many positive situations as possible. Here’s a list in addition to the list on a previous page:

- Take your puppy to the Vet when he doesn’t need a shot. Just hang out and feed cookies and have fun!
- Take your puppy to pet supply shops. You’ll meet a lot of dog-loving people who will be happy to introduce themselves to your pup. The puppy can possibly also meet other puppies and animals there. (Don’t take your puppy close to any “for sale” dogs at a pet shop—they come from puppy mills, and they are often very sick. They could transmit something to your puppy.)
- Take your puppy to a park (not a dog park—you don’t know what manner of germ-ridden, psychopathic dogs with inattentive parents are running out of control at a dog park.)
- Take your puppy to a training class, or puppy playgroup.
- Take your puppy to daytime outdoor sporting events (for short periods)
- Take your puppy anywhere and everywhere that the proprietors will let him come in. Often the big home improvement type stores allow pets inside.

The important thing is that the puppy needs to get out for more than just a walk in the woods (or around the block.) He needs to meet new people, sights, sounds, smells and environments every day.

You have to be particularly diligent about this if you have another dog in the house, or if you have adopted two young puppies at the same time. The puppies each need to spend time with you, separate from one another, so that bonding with you can occur. If they bond to each other, what do they need YOU for?

Sixteen weeks (4 months old) and beyond...

As I mentioned, you should continue to get your dog out to socialize with other dogs and people on a regular basis his whole life long. You don't want him to forget important social skills and proper greeting behaviors. But you can never make up for a lack of



socialization during that critical age of puppy hood (between 8 and 16 weeks). That's why they call it critical.

You may find your dog enjoys regular romps with some of his doggie buddies. Or, maybe he'd like to join a Flyball team or do agility and become an athlete! He might enjoy a trip to dog camp with you. At the very LEAST, he'll want to accompany you on vacation. If you socialize and train him well, this should not be a problem. Socialization is the KEY to a well-adjusted, calm and happy dog. Training is great, too, but contrary to the old "wives tale," you CAN teach an old dog new tricks. You can't, however, give an old dog the socialization he should have had as a puppy.

Knowing what you now know about socialization, it should be clear that it would be optimal to adopt a puppy that has had proper early socialization. If the puppy's past is unknown, as is often the case when you adopt a pup from a pet shop, rescue or a shelter, it's a gamble. You could get lucky and end up with a very confident dog, or you could get one who has lots of sensitivities (through no fault of its own.) I'm not saying that shelter dogs are all automatically going to be liabilities, because they aren't! I'm just trying to emphasize the important role that early socialization plays and that temperament testing your prospects before you get them out of the shop or shelter is very important! You'll also want to have a "test drive" period during which you try to let your brain, and not your emotions, make a decision about whether or not the dog really is right for you and your home/life.

Please don't misunderstand me... I've gotten "hate mail" over this. I'm just trying to share information that will help you choose a dog that will have the best chance to do well living with a human family. I would be remiss if I did not share this material with you. If you have already adopted a puppy with an unknown past, and are having good luck with it, good for you! If you didn't have this information, and ended up with a dog that has lots of sensitivities, your life with this dog may be a little more challenging. I'm not telling you to give up on the dog.

I'm not necessarily promoting professional breeders, either. I don't breed, and the last two dogs I adopted were mixes. But, sometimes breeders take special care to give their puppies the best socialization possible. Some breeders (not all) understand the importance of keeping the litter together until 9 weeks of age so that they learn bite inhibition and same-species socialization. Hopefully the breeders are only bringing together dogs that have stable temperaments so they are not passing along a tendency toward aggression or short tempers. Not all breeders are responsible breeders. You don't have to have any knowledge or training to breed a dog (unfortunately.) Many

people do not know the information contained in this manual. If they did not see to the proper raising of the pups (up until 8 or 9 weeks of age), then you could be worse off than if you got a puppy with an unknown early socialization history. My new bundle of joy is 13 weeks old as I write this. The breeder she came from raised the puppies outside. My guess is that food was given to the mother once a day, and that the puppies were not handled and cuddled much, or spoken to one-on-one by humans. While I don't have to worry about her bite inhibition, because she stayed with the litter long enough to learn doggie social skills, I am going to have to work very hard to get her to pay attention to me, because I believe that she formed the early opinion that people are inconsequential and their words are meaningless.

When students enroll in my obedience training classes, I require certain information on the intake form. One question I ask is, "what age was your puppy removed from the litter, and what age did you acquire your puppy?" If the answer is that the puppy was removed prior to 7 weeks of age, I automatically "red flag" that dog's behavior profile. Chances are, that dog will end up biting someone, and when they do, it will not be an inhibited bite.

I also "red flag" any dog that was acquired after the age of 4 months, when the parent doesn't know where and how the puppy spent his critical socialization period. For all we know, the pup could have been in a cage at a pet shop or puppy mill during much if not all of that period, being isolated from human contact except at feeding time. This is definitely not an optimal situation. People need to know this. Insurance companies need to know this. Instead of giving certain particular breeds of dog a bad rap for having a tendency to bite, people should face the fact that any fearful dog will bite. And the less socialized, the more fearful the dog will be. Instead of banning Pit Bulls and Rottweilers, for homeowner's coverage, people should get a discount on their insurance coverage if they can determine that their dog was properly socialized!

What do you do if you've ended up with one of those dogs that lacked the socialization he needed as a puppy? All is not lost. This article was meant to drive home the critical importance of early socialization, but I don't want to alienate people who may already have a dog with a "social setback." I would be remiss if I did not try to help you rehabilitate and re-socialize your dog, but I'll do that in another section. I just want to say this: Don't give up on your dog! My favorite dog (an adorable Cattle Dog/Border Collie cross) in the whole world (next to my own dogs, of course) is such a dog. He was a raging monster. He "went off" whenever another dog came within 50 feet of him. His parent was beside herself. She enrolled him in my friend Brenda Aloff's "Re-Socialization" class. The progress he has made brings tears to my eyes. Just this past weekend, I ran into them at an obedience trial, where he sat amongst hordes of dogs comfortably. He continues to go to re-socialization class, and is the subject in many of the photos in Brenda Aloff's book, *Aggression in Dogs* (available in the DSA online store.) His parent continues to watch her dog for signs of stress or fear, and always carefully manages the dog's environment. He has come a really long way. I never thought I'd see him sitting calmly at ringside at a dog obedience trial. My advice to you if you love such a dog is to seek the help of a knowledgeable, behavior consultant who uses positive reinforcement to rehabilitate dogs.



Troop 119 dogs doing a painting demo at a dog event



Does this look like a good behavior for a dog of this size?

Law #2- My dog must be well mannered, so that he or she will be accepted in public places. I understand and accept responsibility for teaching my dog proper manners using non-abusive methods like positive reinforcement training.

Dogs come with a lot of built in behaviors and tendencies. Unfortunately, many of them would NOT be considered manners. Taking things they want whenever the opportunity presents itself, vocalizing, chewing, marking things, and defending things they perceive as theirs, are all behaviors that are natural for most dogs. Teaching your dog basic behaviors will help you and most other people tolerate or even enjoy the company of your dog.



Manners includes (in no particular order):

- Not stealing food or objects from people or other dogs
- Being quiet when barking is not appropriate
- Not jumping on people that want to greet the dog
- Meeting other dogs without behavior that is considered rude by most dogs
- Eliminating only in acceptable locations
- Keeping their mouth, nose and feet where they belong
- Only chewing on things they are allowed to chew
- Walking politely on a leash
- Not getting under people's feet or pestering them for attention
- Not digging, unless it is acceptable.
- Not biting or scratching people (either deliberately or accidentally through unacceptable behavior)
- Ignoring things that are cued or implied as "off limits" like accidentally dropped food, food in a baby's hand, the dog that doesn't want to greet your dog, wild animals, etc.

In other words, a dog is capable of learning self-control and doing most of these things without a cue. In return, the dog gets to go more places, do more things and meet more people and dogs. If you have an unruly dog, the above list may seem like behaviors that are impossible. But by teaching the dog some self-control exercises (also known as indirect access exercises) he will learn that just because something is accessible, does not mean it is available.

In most cases, the dog simply needs to be shown that acceptable behavior is more rewarding than undesirable behavior and that good behavior can get the dog what he wants.

Giving the dog a choice, in which the unwanted behavior doesn't reward the dog and the desired behavior does, is a quick way to help the dog learn which behavior gets the dog what he wants.

How Dogs Learn – also known as Operant Conditioning



You may be asking "Why do I need to know about Operant Conditioning when what I really need to know is how to get my dog to sit or stay or walk on a leash without pulling. In reality, knowing how to use the "Laws of Learning" to your advantage will make **all** the training you do much, much easier. If you are using clicker training, you are using Operant Conditioning, even though you may not fully understand WHY it works.

Consequences

Dogs (and anything with a brain, for that matter) learn based on the consequences of their actions. They learn early on that if they bite mom too hard, mom will bite back. They learn that chewing on bones feels and tastes good and that chewing on their brother can be dangerous. All actions have consequences and those consequences affect future behavior. There are three kinds of things that happen in life: Good, Neutral and Bad.

Good consequences will cause behavior to be repeated. For example: When you eat at a good restaurant, you are likely to go back. If your dog finds tasty morsels in the trashcan, he's likely to look in the trash again in the future. If you go somewhere and the service is horrible, you may try going back once more, but if service is bad again, you probably won't return. When a puppy tastes something awful, he may try it again, but rarely a third time. There are few truly neutral events. Neutral events have neither a positive or negative affect on future behavior.

Control

If you control the consequences, you control behavior. You have more control over the good stuff and bad stuff than you might think. You just aren't aware of what the good stuff and bad stuff are on a conscious level and you may even be using them inadvertently in ways that create exactly the opposite behavior from what you really want, as well as also missing good training opportunities. You might even feel your dog is controlling you! This is because the same laws and principles govern your behavior. You want good stuff to start and bad stuff to end. You also want to avoid ending the good stuff and avoid starting the bad stuff.

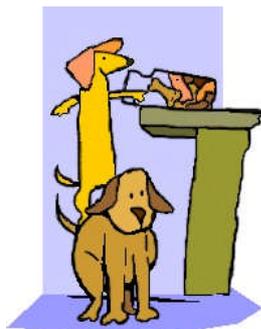


Rewards = Repetition

Your actions in response to your dog's behavior can create situations where the dog IS controlling your actions. The dog learns what works. If, when he drops a ball in your lap, you throw it, the ball in the lap behavior will be repeated. If he scratches at the back door and you let him out to chase squirrels (even if YOU think you are letting him out to potty), the scratching behavior will be repeated. If you are doing something the dog doesn't like, such as clipping his nails, and you stop when he makes a fuss, guess what, his fussing will be repeated because the prior 'reward' for that behavior was an end to something the dog perceived as bad. Now, we just have to look at how we can turn this thing around to benefit us!

Reward Acquisition

You have (or should have) control of your dog's access to everything he wants in life: food, the outside world, attention, other dogs, smells on the ground and play opportunities. You can make toys come to life by throwing them or playing tug. You have opposable thumbs that open doors and food packaging. Most people don't make good use of these abilities. Some people have it backwards. They think that because they provide all this good stuff, the dog should be obedient in return. But it only works if the dog has to hold up his end of the bargain first. You must make it appear to the dog that, if he wants dinner or the front door to open, or a walk to continue, he must do a desired behavior first. The dog



will see this as a way to get what he wants, rather than something that is interfering with his enjoyment of life.

Selective Rewards

It's been called the "No free lunch" program, or "nothing in life is free" (N.I.L.I.F.) and whether you use this to your advantage or not, keep in mind: You are always rewarding something when you open doors, put down his dinner bowl, start a play session or go for a walk. All you are going to do now, is become aware of the process and select a behavior to reward, rather than simply rewarding whatever the dog happens to be doing when he realizes the good thing is going to happen. You must, however, be prepared to withhold the reward if the dog doesn't comply. Otherwise, the dog has no motivation to comply. If you are going to let him out regardless of whether he sits or not, why should he sit?

Generalizing

Humans learn to recognize situations and contexts in which a given consequence is likely to happen (either good consequence or bad) and can easily generalize those consequences to other places where those situations are present. Dogs also learn to recognize various situations, but may take a bit longer to understand the generalizations.

Environmental cues let you know when a behavior is likely to be successful (or not). Putting money into a drink machine usually gets you a drink, putting money in a mail slot doesn't. Putting money into a slot machine usually gets you nothing, but occasionally gets you something and on rare occasions, gets you something REALLY good. So... humans put money into drink machines, don't put money in mail slots and get addicted to slot machines.



Your ability to recognize a drink machine regardless of whether it is indoors, outside or has a different shape or picture on it allows you to 'generalize' the coin inserting behavior to various places so that you can get a drink. Your ability to discriminate between a drink machine and a mail slot enables you to be successful with your coin inserting behavior.

Behavior + Reinforcement = Repetition of Behavior



Being "successful" in animal learning terms means that the behavior was reinforced. This means either something good happened, or something bad ended. Behaviors that are reinforced get stronger and will be repeated. This is a law that applies to all living/breathing things (even husbands and kids!) It is the essence of training, so memorize it. All that you have to do is to let the dog know what actions will be reinforced and how to predict a strong likelihood of that reinforcement. We do this with cues.

Cues = greater chance of reinforcement

An important thing to understand is that the dog is not working this out logically in his head: "Hey, maybe if I do this, that will happen". The dog just does what works and stops doing whatever isn't working.

No Reward = No Behavior

Dog behavior is like a never-ending experiment. When a behavior dies from lack of reinforcement, it's called extinction. Most extinctions happen so fast, parents aren't even aware that it happened. If a dog rushes up to a mailbox and it doesn't flee, the behavior wasn't rewarded, and the dog isn't likely to rush up to another mailbox to get it to run. If the dog stares at the fridge and nothing happens, he's likely to move on to another behavior (Some dogs, Golden Retrievers and Labradors in particular, may take a bit longer to figure this out 😊 They seem to believe that if they stare at something long enough, it will work for them).

Extinction Burst

No animal would survive if it wasted time repeating dead-end behaviors. However, if a behavior has been getting a reward, and it stops being rewarded, the behavior will get stronger before it dies. This is known as an "extinction burst".

Think of what happens when you put money into a drink machine, you make your selection and nothing happens. Putting money in the machine has always worked in the past, so you push the button harder, then you push it several times. You may even try putting more money in the machine, before you finally move on to the water fountain.

What you were experiencing was an "extinction burst." If your dog has a behavior that it's been doing, and you want the behavior to stop. You need to be aware of a few things.

- First, the fact that the behavior was repeated, means that it was reinforced in some way.
- Second, if you don't remove the reinforcement the behavior will continue.
- And third, the behavior will get worse before it gets better because of the extinction burst.

The "Desire To Please" Myth

A common fallacy people have about dogs is that they have a "desire to please" us. Some people think that our love and praise is all a dog needs as a motivator. Your dog doesn't have a desire to please you; he only has a desire to please himself. If making you happy brings good things to him, I guess this could be construed as a desire to please, but most dogs aren't willing to work for just praise, when there are other things in the environment that are higher on the reward scale.



Praise

If your dog seems to be responding to praise only while learning a behavior, then there is also likely the desire to avoid a punishment too. Praise is, however, a good way to let a dog know he's on the right track to getting a reward. If you think your dog will be obedient just because it makes you happy, you need to accept the fact that your dog doesn't think you are God and instead, love your dog for the thinking being that he is.

Do you do your job for just praise? Not likely. Most people work because it brings them money, which can then be used to get them what they want and need. Think of the rewards you give your dog as his paycheck.



Your training will be much more pleasant for your dog and much more rewarding for you, if you use the known laws of learning to your advantage. Using these laws, you can get your dog to willingly and happily do the things you ask without the need for the threat or use of a punishment. Instead, they will be doing things because you might give them a reward.

Hard Wired or Acquired

Another thing that it helps to understand is that dogs have different types of behavior. Some is “hard wired” and some is installed or acquired.

Hard wired behaviors require almost no learning to be carried out to their fullest and can be stronger in some breeds than in others. Dogs chase moving objects, distress vocalize when alone, go for any available food, compulsively greet novel people and dogs, protect what they feel is theirs, pee away from their sleeping area, etc. etc.

The rest of their behaviors are the product of contingencies in the environment. Parents have nearly total control of their dog’s environments: where they live and sleep, if and when they may go outside, what limited pockets of the universe they may visit, when and where they eat, even if they live or die. Anyone who feels controlled by his or her dog needs to understand this. You have total control; you just haven’t demonstrated it to the dog.

It just so happens, that most of the behaviors we don’t want, come hard wired and we must counter condition, finesse, or redirect things like digging, distress vocalizing, chewing, eating whatever is in reach, chasing, and rough play. Also, most of the behaviors we DO want don’t come with the package. Sit, Down, Stay, Come and Heel, on cue, from the perspective of these social predators, are useless, silly and irrelevant behaviors. Unless, you make it worth their while!

Motivation

To make a dog want to do something, you need motivation. Think of some things that your dog wants in life (examples could be: attention from humans, food, access to outside, other dogs, and squirrels). All these things can be used as motivators (some you may need to be more creative with than others).



Imaginary Scale of Importance



All of these things also fall into an imaginary scale of importance. Chasing squirrels is much higher on the scale of motivators for most terriers than food, and the food is higher on the scale than getting a belly rub.

Also be aware that punishments have a scale of importance. If your dog finds a yummy morsel in the trash, and you yell at him, grab him by the collar and put him out of the room, it’s likely that he **will** look in the trash in the future. This is because the reward is stronger than the punishment. Also, the reward happened first and can’t be “taken away” by use of a punishment. Behaviors that are rewarded will be repeated.

If instead, you caught the dog starting to lift the lid of the trashcan and he received the same punishment, the punishment would have a greater effect, provided the dog had never gotten any reward from the trash in the past. Food can be a great motivator and the easiest solution for trashcan trashing is to keep the can out of reach or to not put anything in the can that has food on/in it. I put any trash that smells like food, in a bin in my freezer. So, my dogs don't look in the trashcan at home.

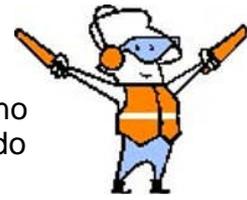
However, when my dog is at the training center, he does look in the trashcans, because he's found tasty treat wrappers in there in the past. So, the only way to stop the behavior is to be sure it's not rewarded (move the trash out of reach or more closely supervise the dog.) Punishment for trash surfing and other behaviors where the dog can reward himself will only cause fear of you. It teaches the dog that it's not safe to do that rewarding behavior *while you are present*. If you or the punishments are not there, the behavior will continue.

O.K., we understand motivators, what they are and why they work. Now, we need two things in this order:

- 1) A way to communicate to the dog how he's doing in his quest to get the motivator and
- 2) Names for all the different things the dog has to do (also known as cues).

Dogs Learn in Spite of Our Miscommunications

In traditional training, it is done absolutely backwards and dogs show tremendous skill in learning in spite of all the miscommunication. First, the behavior is named, but the dog has no idea what the word means. It would be like someone telling us to do something in a foreign language that we don't understand.



Then the dog is moved around into various positions that have no meaning for him and he has no motivation to stay there or repeat that position yet. The parent gives him praise and a pat on the head for what the parent believes is the sit, but the dog happens to be watching the activities in the near-by class when he gets rewarded.

After a few manipulations of his body by the parent, the dog is expected to perform this behavior on his own, and gets a "correction" (meaning a bad thing) if he gets it wrong or does nothing. Eventually, the dog will learn how to get a reinforcement (avoiding the bad thing) and will make a connection to the word that is used for the behavior. If you were the dog, would you want to learn new things?

When the dog is told to sit, he first has to process what the word means to him (if anything) and then, if he understands the cue, he works out the odds that complying with the cue will be beneficial to him. Dogs are most likely not working these things out in their heads, but they do behave as though they were.

Sit = Click

Let's look at another dog being trained to sit. The dog is with the parent, in training class or at home. He saw the parent pick up a bag of treats and she's holding that clicker thing. This 'picture' has been known to bring good things to the dog in the past. So already the dog is somewhat motivated because of the higher likelihood of good things.



Now, the parent is looking at him, just looking and giving the dog's brain a chance to work. No human chatter that the dog has to process to pick out what words he knows. The dog sniffs the ground, which gets nothing, the dog takes a step forward, that gets nothing, the dog sits - BINGO! The dog hears that sound that he learned means good things are on the way and a treat follows.

Sit = Click = Reinforcement = Repetition

Now all he has to do is figure out what caused the click (and good things.) He tries some behaviors and finds the sit causes the click again. So, he's figured out that sit is causing the click! Now he sits as fast and as often as he can because the more he sits, the more good things he gets. A reward history is being created.

Cue = Sit = Click = Reinforcement = Repetition

Now, the human says something right before the dog sits. The first few times, the dog may not pay attention to it, but soon he realizes that the word is heard right before he sits each time and sit is bringing him good things. The word begins to predict the behavior that's getting him the treats. If he hears the word and lies down, it doesn't work. If he hears the word and stands, it doesn't work. But, when he hears the word and sits, Bingo! The word becomes associated with the known behavior and becomes a cue for a specific behavior.

Cue = Greater Chance of Reinforcement

All known cues then let the dog know that if he does what the cue suggests, good things are likely happen. By using this sequence, it is easy for the dog to learn and make the connection between the cue and the behavior.

Shaping Behaviors from Simple to Complex

For some of the more complex behaviors, you will need to break the behavior into easier steps the dog can understand (known as *shaping* a behavior). If you are trying to get the dog to do something he won't offer on his own, you may have to find a way to help the dog perform it at first so that the behavior can be associated with a reward.

Positive Consequence = Repeated Behavior

No Positive Consequence = No Behavior

I'll say it again; dogs will do what brings them good things and **avoid doing** what brings bad things. This is operant conditioning in a nutshell. Whenever you want to teach your dog to do something, simply look at how you can get the dog to offer the behavior so you can click to let him know that the behavior is rewarding. Once the dog is doing the behavior in a way that you can anticipate, start to add a cue just before the dog does the desired behavior. Using these principles, you can teach the dog anything he is physically able to do!



Indirect Access Exercises:



Helping your dog learn that charging toward or leaping on everything they want is not necessarily the best way to get it, will teach the dog self-control. Indirect access means that the dog has to do something that *indirectly* gets the dog what it wants.

Indirect Access = Self Control

Using indirect access exercises have the value of teaching dogs self-control. They will exhibit less “out of control” behavior. This behavior can be expanded to many areas of the dog’s learning. The more *self-control* the dog has, the better behaved he will be and the less *you* have to do to control his behavior. An example of this is when a dog looks at the parent to get food that is being held out to the parent’s side (direct access would be getting food for staring at the food or jumping up and grabbing it.) Dogs that learn that they have to sit to get attention from humans have learned self-control through indirect access (direct access would be jumping up on people).



Self controlled greeting of a human

To teach a dog to sit for a greeting, the person holding the leash acts as a “post” that doesn’t let the dog past a certain line. Anyone that approaches has to follow one simple rule; If the dog is sitting, it can have all the attention it wants-- If the dog jumps up, the person has to move away till the dog sits again (this is where having the “post” helps by letting the greeting person know where “out of the dog’s reach” is.) Dogs figure this game out pretty quickly. Now you simply need to help them generalize the behavior to other locations and other people. You can do this by quickly explaining the greeting rules to anyone that wants to greet your dog.

Stranger: “Can I dog your dog?”

You: “Yes, but I’m working on training him. Please move away from him if he jumps up. If he is sitting, he can get all the attention you want to give him.”

More self control- Additional examples of having the dog “choose” to behave (rather than being forced to do something) include the “Choose to heel” exercise and the “Leave it” where the dog chooses to look or move away from the food or other tempting item. These are more fully explained on the training pages for the dog’s Dog Scout test requirements (and can be found on the Dog Scouts website.)

Law #3- My dog must not be allowed to eliminate in an unseemly manner. I will refrain from letting my dog urinate on buildings, statues or other people’s things, and I promise to always carry plastic bags and clean-up supplies to pick-up fecal matter. In an effort to reduce the negative impact of irresponsible dog parents, I will make attempts to educate, provide clean-up bags to and clean-up dog waste left by those less educated in responsible dog parenting.



Teaching your dog to eliminate on cue will help with this. To do this, you need to be near your dog when it decides to eliminate. If you take your dog for regular walks, this is easier than if your dog has a dog door to a fenced yard. Teaching your dog that it is OK to eliminate while on a leash is a good thing. Some dogs have been punished for eliminating when a person is present (usually in the house) so they don't think it is safe to "go" when a person is watching. These dogs will sometimes "hold it" to the point of causing bladder infections or impacted bowels if they are not able to "go" in private. You might need to use a long line and act like you are not watching in order to get a dog like this to eliminate in your presence so you can reward the dog for doing so (and help it learn that you are not dangerous.) If your dog will eliminate with you watching, you can say a cue just before they eliminate, then give them a reward just as they finish.

Dogs are very tactile with the surfaces they will eliminate on. Many dogs will only go on the grass because that is where they have learned is safe and acceptable and sometimes dogs raised in the city will only "go" on pavement. However, if you are in a downtown area with your dog, he or she might need to eliminate on pavement. If you are potty training a puppy, it is recommended that you encourage the dog to eliminate on different surfaces before they are 20 weeks old (grass, pavement, gravel, sand, mulch, etc.) so they can go on cue regardless of the surface available.

Neutering your male dog will help prevent "marking" behavior in which the dog lifts his leg on anything he wants to mark as his own (or where other dogs have urinated.)

Dog Scouts of America requires that if you have a dog with you, you should have, at the very least, 2 clean up bags. Attaching them to your dog's leash or treat pouch can help keep them handy. Whether you use zip top sandwich bags, shopping bags or the specially designed dog waste clean-up bags is up to you, but you should have something to clean up a mess. If your dog doesn't need it, perhaps some other less prepared dog parent will. Tucking 2 bags in reserve and bringing the ones you plan to use with you when you leave the house means you'll always have 2 as "back-up."

Do your best to help others be responsible dog parents by offering them a bag if it looks like they forgot theirs. If they look at you like you have two heads, you can briefly explain that dog waste that is left behind is one of the main reasons dogs get banned from public places. I have even gone as far as cleaning up their dog's pile, tying the bag and then catching up to them to hand it to them saying "Your dog left this behind and you must not have noticed." If it helps reduce dog waste that will cause dogs to get banned, it is worth it.

Law #4- I must obey leash laws and other rules when accompanying my dog to a park, business or other place where dogs are allowed. In an effort to reduce the number of places that refuse admittance to dogs, I will not let my dog be a nuisance and will keep my dog under control at all times. I will not allow my dog to harass wildlife. I will be familiar with and obey any laws regarding my dog such as license requirements, travel safety and vaccination documentation. I will not represent my Dog Scout in a way that will mislead the public regarding his or her right to accompany me in public places.

If you feel that the public access, containment, and clean-up laws and rules don't apply to you or your dog for whatever reason, you may be the cause of a dog ban in a particular location. If rules about cleaning up after your dog or leashing your dog are ignored, then officials have no choice but to take stronger measures – which usually results in a “no dog” policy.

Responsible dog parenting is something that needs to be taken seriously in this country. America- the land of the free, for some reason, places more restraints on canines than most European countries. In many "old world" countries, dogs are allowed everywhere in public. People take their dogs shopping with them, to church with them, and to the pub with them. But some dog parents, because of their irresponsibility, have caused American merchants and government officials to take on a "better be safe than sorry," and "don't allow them a chance because of what they **might** do" kind of an attitude. That's a shame, because most of the dog parents I associate with are very responsible, and it's too bad that they have to be "limited" or punished for the past transgressions of others. If we want to turn around the attitudes about dogs in this country, we have to help all dog parents take responsibility for their dogs and become "model citizens." This is part of the goal of Dog Scouts of America.

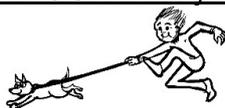
Become familiar with the laws regarding dogs in your state, county and city (and any you plan to visit or pass through.) You can get information on laws and ordinances on-line for most areas. Simply do a search for “(your county) county dog laws” or “(your city) city ordinances.” Or visit your local police department and ask for copies of any laws and ordinances pertaining to dogs.

Some states require you to have your dog in a seatbelt or crate when traveling by vehicle (even if you are just passing through the state.) Others require you to be able to show a valid rabies vaccination certificate, signed by a vet, or they can confiscate and hold your dog (even if you are just passing through the state.) If you take your dog to any dog events, be sure you know the rules of the states you visit. There have been cases of hard-nosed sheriffs “raiding” a dog event and confiscating any dog that does not have the rabies certificate available (the tag doesn't count.)

In many areas, letting your dog harass or injure a service dog is a FELONY! It carries the same weight as if your dog harmed a police dog or police horse. If you have your dog off leash, be sure it will listen to you.

Top 10 reasons to LEASH your dog when in public

Also the top 10 reasons to CONTAIN your dog on your property!



**** It's the LAW** – In many areas, it is the law that dogs must be on a leash. Many of the reasons for this are found below. It can be very costly if an officer or ranger sees your dog or if your dog is involved in an incident while off leash.





**** Aggressive Dogs** – Just because your dog is friendly does not mean that the dog he’s meeting is going to be nice. If the aggressive dog is on-leash and bites your off leash/loose dog, you will not be able to collect any money for your dog’s vet bills and you will likely be fined for having your dog off leash, even if your dog does not survive the attack.

**** Fearful people** – Many people of all ages are afraid of dogs. Not only is it rude to allow your dog to frighten people, it could cost you. If your dog causes a fearful person to get hurt in their attempt to get away from your dog, you could be held liable for their medical bills. People have a right to protect themselves from a perceived threat, so even if your dog is friendly, if they see it as aggressive they can hurt or kill your dog in self-defense and you have no legal recourse. Fearful people/kids tend to run from a dog and even a nice dog could be enticed into biting a fleeing/squealing human.



**** Poison** – Your dog could get into something poisonous or into dangerous trash like cooked chicken bones before you can stop it. This can cause large vet bills or death of the dog.

**** Chasing** – Your dog could chase wildlife or other dogs into a street. If your loose dog causes an auto accident, you can be responsible for the repairs/injuries. If your dog chases a child into the street, your problems could be much more substantial.



**** Ban on dogs** – It is often the actions of just a few irresponsible people that feel the laws are stupid or don’t apply to them and cause a location to ban access to dogs. If you break the rules or laws, you are one of those irresponsible parents regardless of the training level of your dog.

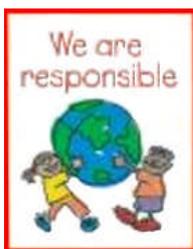
**** Mind of their own** – Dogs have a mind of their own and even a well trained dog can choose to disregard your “come” call or a perceived barrier (like those dogs that “never leave the yard.”) Please don’t rely on only training to contain your dog and keep him/her safe.



**** Small dog = prey** – Often times people feel that because their dog is small, it’s OK to let them run free. Bigger dogs have killed many small dogs because they are seen as a prey animal. If your small dog is off leash when it gets attacked and possibly killed, especially if the attacking dog is on a leash or contained in a yard, then you may have no legal recourse for compensation.

**** All dogs can bite** – Without a leash you have no control over the situations your dog could get into. If someone threatens your dog to a point that your dog feels it needs to defend itself, your dog could bite. This could cause you to be liable for the injuries caused by that bite.





**** It's the responsible thing to do** – When you and your dog are in public, you are representing all other dog parents. People will judge all dogs by your dog's actions; especially people that don't have dogs or that don't like dogs. As a dog parent, you have certain responsibilities that should not be ignored. Keep your dog safe by keeping a leash on and physically containing your dog when he/she is in your yard. Teach your dog "door manners" so they don't bolt out a door at the first opportunity. The people you see on the news with dogs that caused horrific situations never expected that they would be in that situation. No one expects to be the parent of a dog that causes a death or that gets killed or that bites someone. However, you can greatly reduce your chances of that happening if you act responsibly and as an ambassador for good dogs everywhere.

For more information, go to www.DogScouts.org

Law #4 continued: I will not represent my Dog Scout in a way that will mislead the public regarding his or her right to accompany me in public places.

Please don't impersonate:

Your DSA photo I.D. badge (and if purchased, your dog's DSA uniform) makes your Scout look very "official," which he or she is! However, we do not want anyone to mistake the Dog Scout Identification for anything but what it is: a testament to your dog's good training and exemplary behavior. If this will get store owners or hotels to allow your dog into their establishment, then hooray for your commitment to training! Conduct yourselves in a Dog Scoutly manner and be glad that someone recognized the value of a well-mannered and trustworthy dog on a leash held by a responsible dog parent.

However, please make it very clear that this does not legally entitle your dog to any special privileges, such as those afforded a service dog, and for you to try to mislead anyone would be a misuse of your dog's certification and cause for revocation of your dog's title. It's not hard--most people are ignorant of the service dog laws and would just let in any dog with any kind of "title" and accompanying I.D., you have to be more responsible than that. Many times, after explaining the nature of the DSA certification, my dogs have been allowed access on those merits alone. Please do not take advantage of situations where an ignorant person may not understand the difference between a dog which has a legal right to be anywhere his parent pleases, and a dog which is basically safe to have in public because his friendly nature and good manners have been certified by passing a test.

Law #5- My dog should be helpful whenever he or she can be and I will utilize my dog's skills to allow the dog to assist with certain tasks and become more helpful. I promise to have my dog learn all that he or she can.

Dogs like to help us and when positive training is used dogs like to learn new things. There are many ways dogs can help us with just a bit of instruction from us. Many of the Dog Scout merit badges represent things a dog can be taught that give the dog a job and useful skills.

The basic training that is required for the Dog Scout title and badge can be useful for teaching your dog manners that allow your dog to be a pleasant companion.

The backpacking badge can teach your dog how to carry a backpack. This pack can contain things for the dog, for you or both. The next time you go to the pet supply store, take your dog along in his pack and let him carry his own treat and toy purchases to the counter. The pack can also be used on the trail to pick up trash or have the dog carry his own clean up bag to the next trashcan.

The overnight Camping badge teaches you both how to be safe and comfortable when camping in the woods.

Agility teaches your dog how to be more sure footed and how to jump onto or over obstacles or go through narrow openings. Combined with retrieve skills, this might allow your dog to fetch something you can't reach or access. Like going under your car to get the item that went under there when it was dropped.

The art of shaping badge can teach your dog to paint masterpieces that can decorate your walls or be given as gifts. Your dog's paintings can be scanned into a computer and then printed as background designs and note cards.



Naked Dog Obedience badge (obedience without a collar or lead) can teach your dog that he can still earn rewards for listening to you even if the collar or lead is not on. This can be helpful if you have to evacuate your home quickly or if your dog slips out of his collar.

IMPROV teaches your dog MANY useful skills including retrieve, the ability to be directed to a particular spot, responding to cues even when the dog is not near you, placing objects into containers (useful for picking up trash or the dog's toys) and it teaches the parent to be creative in his or her thinking to get the dog to do what needs to be done without force or correction.

Musical Canine Freestyle and Drill Team can give you a dance partner.

Household manners teaches your dog proper greetings, to go to a particular place (to get out from under foot or to settle down), to lie on his or her side for exam to make feet inspection and nail clipping easier and teaches your dog to wait at a door way so you can determine if it is safe for the dog to exit.

Boating Safety and Beach Buddies can help your dog learn self-control on the beach or in a boat. The Water Rescue badge behaviors can teach your dog to save a life!

Sign language allows you to communicate to your dog silently. This is helpful when quiet needs to be maintained like when a baby is sleeping.

Retrieve is a VERY useful badge. There are many ways your dog can help you if he knows how to retrieve various objects. The dog can put away his own toys, get your

newspaper, get a cordless phone (which could save your life), get a tissue, get the TV remote, get donations and put them in a bucket, the list goes on and on.



Bear, the blue-tick beagle, puts a dollar donation into a bucket for a fundraiser while Coyote, a Cattle Dog, waits for his treat for dropping his dollar in his bucket.

Tracking skills can help you locate dropped items. If you go for a walk and find that you dropped your keys, have the dog use his nose to find them as you retrace your steps.

Search and Rescue can be VERY helpful if a family member, friend or even a stranger gets lost.

If you have livestock, you may want to teach your dog herding to help you move the stock.

Weight Pull, Carting and Sledding can come in handy if you have chores outside like collecting fallen branches or leaves. Load them on the sled or cart and let your dog move them to the disposal site. Or bring your dog to the garden center and load up the cart with flowers.



Kat and Chelsea, DSA haul campfire wood

Therapy Dog training can be very beneficial to the people you visit.

Community Service helps everyone (or groups of people) in many different ways.

There is SO much that dogs can learn. Not all of the behaviors will be useful, but if you and your dog are having fun learning and practicing what your dog knows, then it is useful for strengthening the bond you share.

Take time to teach your dog something new. It doesn't need to be a formal or lengthy training session, just teach a simple behavior using your dog's dinner at feeding time. Or work on a new behavior while you are out for a walk. Many things your dog needs to learn can be done in short sessions as you interact with him, using "life rewards" like going for a walk, tossing a toy, giving dinner, opening a door, etc.

You will both benefit from the training time. Your bond will grow and your dog will be more useful and well behaved.

Fitting Training into your Schedule:

I would guess that if you have a dog, you love your dog (otherwise why would you have him?) And, because you love your dog, you like to take him with you on family outings, festivals, walkathons, or other places that may allow dogs to be present. If you want your dog to be able to accompany you, you must give him the skills necessary to be kept under control and not be a safety hazard.

It is so extremely EASY to give your dog a few basic manners, so that he will be welcomed into public places. Yet, many people think that teaching ordinary control exercises are beyond their capabilities. Or, they think that obedience training is just for people who want to make a career out of it or show their dog or something.

Teaching your dog some basic manners is all common-sense stuff. You did it with your children (if you had children), and your parents did it with you. If you would have been left to your own devices and never learned right from wrong, imagine what kind of person you'd be. Yet, some people expect to raise their dogs without any instruction on the matter of acceptable vs. unacceptable behaviors. Your dog needs even more "parental guidance" from you, since his social background is completely different from yours. He has much more to learn. The nature of his canine upbringing automatically makes him a "delinquent" by human standards.

Without getting into a long manuscript on basic training, you can improve your dog's behavior dramatically by just following **THREE** simple steps:

Accentuate the Positive

Look for GOOD behaviors and reward them. So often, we don't notice that our dog is doing ANYTHING until he is doing something BAD. Then, the yelling starts. The dog gets all kinds of attention for his misdeed, and he's thinking this is a really good way to get people to notice him. Instead, start looking for the ABSENCE of the bad behavior or the opposite of the bad behavior. If the dog is annoying you with nuisance barking, reward his silence with your praise and attention. If the dog jumps up on you to greet you and you want him to stop, reward only sitting greetings (or with all four feet on the floor) with your praise and attention.



Example: One time I had a man bring a "whiney" Labrador retriever to the first night of my obedience class. The dog whined and barked almost continuously, and the man asked what he could do to make him stop. I'm sure he expected my answer to be some form of punishment to nip the behavior in the bud. I simply told the guy to wait until the

dog went several seconds without whining or barking and to reward the silence with attention, praise and treats. Within 20 minutes, the man remarked at how unbelievable the transformation was. By the end of class the Lab was quiet as a clam, and the man thought that I was the world's best dog trainer!

Eliminate the Negative

When the dog does something you don't like, stifle your urge to react to the incident. **Ignore the bad behaviors**, and they will usually go away by themselves. There is nothing gained for the dog to persist in a behavior that is not "working" in some way to get the dog something he wants. If your dog jumps up to greet you, and you ignore him and turn away, he will try another behavior to gain your attention (like keeping his feet on the ground.) Make sure you reward the more acceptable behavior when it is offered. If the dog is bored, and the behavior is self-rewarding (like barking, garbage raiding and digging), you will need to work very diligently on "rewarding the absence of the behavior" side of the equation, and on managing the dog's environment a little better (putting the trash out of reach and providing acceptable outlets for the dog's energy to reduce boredom.) In some cases, training will go faster if you can redirect the dog to a suitable behavior (such as a puppy chewing your property- offer him a more suitable object for chewing and give lots of praise and attention, cooing over him when he chooses the proper item.)

Example: When your dog lives in relative solitary confinement, any event or change in his environment is exciting for him. Ted Turner, a whale trainer at Sea World says that when the animals are incorrect, the trainers must steel themselves to remain totally neutral to the event. If the trainer tried to "punish" the whale by grabbing his bucket of fish and stomping off, it would serve to amuse the animal and therefore reinforce him. Ignoring a behavior completely gives it zero reinforcement value.

Manage the environment

A big part of reward based training is environmental management. Minimize the dog's potential for getting into trouble by removing "dog magnets" from the environment (don't leave things out for him to get into or chew up.)



Control the Reinforcement Value of everything in your dog's life. Everything that could be a possible reward to your dog should be strictly controlled by you. Just because you are using rewards to train does NOT mean your dog or pup gets to do whatever he chooses. You want to increase the reinforcement value of rewards and interaction with you. You want to decrease the reinforcement value of food left too close to the edge of the table, and shred-able items you don't want the pup to destroy. To reduce the reinforcement value, make the items impossible to attain. YOU keep the dog from accessing them, while rewarding the dog for choosing not to TRY to get the item (Leave-it training.) To increase a reinforcement value of his treats, toys, and playing with you, make these something that is more likely to be attainable.

Example: If your dog's greatest desire is to chase pigeons, then don't practice his training sessions in the park next to the pigeons until you have worked up to that level of distraction. The reinforcement value of possibly getting to pounce on pigeons is far too great for you to expect him to give you his attention when they are close. Distance him



from the thing he wants. This will make it less attainable. Let him see that the chance of receiving the reward of a nice piece of liver (and your attention) is far more eminent. In other words, your dog may see eating liver and playing with you as an “eight” on a scale of one to ten. Pigeons,

however, are a “ten.” If you want to possibly get through to your dog with any training, you must reduce the reinforcement value of the pigeons. If you can make them a “seven” by moving them out of reachable range, then your liver treats will win out, and you will have your dog’s attention, and find that



“teachable moment.” THEN, as the dog learns that focusing on you is highly rewarding, you can begin practicing closer and closer to the birds, or squirrels, or whatever. Teaching the dog indirect access exercises will also help in this type of situation because it will teach the dog impulse control.

Put it to use today!

These basic training principles work the same on spouses, kids, and employees. Put yourself in your dog’s “shoes.” Do you work better for praise and attention, or for punishment and being ignored? Many bosses and parents miss the boat by not paying attention to these simple fundamentals. I had a job with a large company 20 years ago. I worked from day to day with a boss who only seemed to notice mistakes and not successes. I was loaned to another department one time, and worked under the supervision of a different person. At the end of the first day, my temporary boss took me aside and told me what a great job I had done, and named several specific things that she liked about my work. I don’t know if she was telling the truth, or if it was her standard operating procedure, but guess what kind of work I did the next day, and the next? I would have just about killed myself trying to work harder for this person, because she appreciated my effort and positively reinforced it.

If you follow these three simple guidelines, you will see a behavior change in your dog. You will notice an increase in good behaviors and a decrease in bad ones, without even having to teach your dog any obedience cues. Remember that you are in control of the situation. If you notice your dog has developed a behavior that annoys you, ask yourself what the reward history of that behavior has been. Make sure the behavior stops being rewarded, and replace it with a more acceptable behavior which you will reward each time you see it in the absence of the other behavior. It’s amazing how many bad behaviors develop in dogs whose parents don’t even realize that they are reinforcing the bad habits with their attention, when they should be rewarding the opposite thing instead.

When your dog develops a set of “manners,” he will be a joy to own, and no problem to take with you in public. We do recommend basic obedience exercises (teaching your dog to come when called, walk on a loose leash and stay when told).

Train yourself to “wake up” and notice the “good stuff.” Reward it when you see it. Keep everything positive. Remember that it works on dogs, children, spouses and employees. Positive reinforcement works on every organism that has a brain.

Without even using cues, you can mold your dog’s behavior to be almost always GOOD!

So many people don't know what it means to reward a good behavior. They are waiting for a good behavior to occur, and they don't recognize it when it happens. Or, they just EXPECT dogs to somehow be good, and don't realize that they won't keep seeing good behaviors if those behaviors go un-rewarded. Basically, any behavior that is not a BAD behavior is a good behavior that you can reward. Here is a list to help you know what to look for and what to reinforce with rewards and attention. I list the behavior and a new way of looking at that behavior as a way of eliminating or preventing a competitive behavior which is "bad":

Sitting (the act of not jumping up)

Quietness (the act of not barking constantly)

Eye Contact (giving you their attention; the act of not ignoring you)

Going to the bathroom outside (the act of not eliminating in the house)

Walking on a loose leash (the act of not yanking your arm out of your socket)



CLICK!

Coming to you for any reason (the act of not running away from you, or avoiding you)

Lying still (the act of not racing around like a maniac, jumping, pulling on the leash, or barking)

Bringing you anything (the act of not playing keep away) Even if it's your Rolex! Wouldn't you rather have him bring it to you than sneak out the doggie door and bury it in the back yard?

Giving you anything (trusting you; the act of not resource guarding)

Coming or staying near you (keeping tabs on where you are; the act of not wandering off)

Chewing on appropriate toys (the act of not chewing up YOUR stuff)

If you reward these behaviors, you've just taught your dog to Come, Sit, Down-Stay, Heel, Retrieve, Not Jump, Not Bark, and not chew up your stuff and you didn't even have to take an obedience class or even use training equipment. All you have to do is watch for one of these 11 behaviors to occur, and pop a treat in the dog's mouth. This is just TOO SIMPLE, and yet so many people fail to do it and end up with the "dog from hell."

How do you reward or reinforce these behaviors? You can use anything that is pleasing to the dog. Praise alone doesn't mean much to a dog unless it is followed by food or play. Most dogs respond well to small (pea size) tidbits of soft/moist, good quality dog treats, cooked meat or cheese. Lots of dogs value a play session, or a chance to retrieve a toy, even more than a treat. Use what your dog likes. If you see the dog performing the rewarded behavior more regularly, that means its working. Remember

when he's engaged in one of the behaviors on the list, he is NOT committing one of the incompatible "crimes" (opposite behaviors.)

Some people think that they would have to be feeding their dog all the time, to do this type of training. But food is not the only possible reward. And I ask you, would you rather be punishing your dog all the time? Because if you don't reward the listed behaviors, **THEY WILL GO AWAY** and be replaced by self-reinforcing behaviors, like barking, digging, running, chewing and chasing things. A dog will only perform behaviors that are productive for him. You can't **EXPECT** a dog to know to be good. Telling him he is good by rewarding with a treat or an unexpected play session is a great way for him to form positive associations with those behaviors. And he will want to perform those rewarded behaviors **ALL THE TIME!**

You don't have to feed your dog for every breath he takes for his entire lifetime. Once you have formed good **HABITS**, they are hard to break. Just as once bad habits are formed; they are equally hard to break. So, it pays you to do it right the first time. **REWARD** those simple behaviors that you've been taking for granted! Open your eyes and open your treat bag! What you reward is what you'll get.



Law #6 (part 1) - My dog must never be tied up and left unattended. I understand that I am unable to protect my dog from harm if he or she is tied in place where people and animals can harass him or her. I also understand that attaching a dog to a fixed object can cause location guarding and increase the chances of a person being bitten.

The only thing a dog should be physically attached to is YOU (and a car seat with a doggie seatbelt for travel.) Dogs can live on just food and water. But to be happy, dogs need exercise and daily love and attention from their guardian.

You couldn't invent a worse punishment for a dog than keeping him permanently chained. Dogs are pack animals. A chained dog feels rejected by his family, and is likely to become anxious, aggressive, or listless -- with no interest in life.

Imagine being chained to a tree year after year. You watch the back door hoping someone will come out to play with you. No one ever does. You long to run and stretch your legs, but all you can do is pace over your small patch of packed dirt. Sometimes you get tangled in your chain. You shiver in the winter and pant in the hot summer sun. Fleas and flies biting your skin are a constant torture. Eventually, you stop barking. You have given up hope.

Humans have lots of ways to entertain ourselves: movies, video games, shopping, and television. Your dog only has YOU. **Your dog is depending on you to make his life a good one.** His fate is in your hands. If you can't give your dog a happy life, should you even have a dog?

Dogs are naturally social beings that thrive on interaction with human beings and other animals. In the wild, dogs and wolves live, eat, sleep, and hunt with a family of other canines. Dogs are genetically determined to live in a group.

A dog kept chained alone in one spot for hours, days, months, or even years suffers immense psychological damage. An otherwise friendly and docile dog, when kept continuously chained alone, becomes neurotic, unhappy, anxious, and often aggressive. In many cases, the necks of chained dogs become raw and covered with sores, the result of improperly fitted collars and the dogs' constant yanking and straining to escape confinement. Some chained dogs have collars embedded in their necks, the result of years of neglect at the end of a chain.

Tethered dogs can become highly aggressive. Dogs feel naturally protective of their territory; when confronted with a perceived threat, they respond according to their fight-or-flight instinct. A chained dog, unable to get away often feels forced to fight, attacking any unfamiliar animal or person who unwittingly wanders into his or her territory.

Numerous attacks on people by tethered dogs have been documented. The Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association reported that 17% of dogs involved in fatal attacks on humans between 1979 and 1998 were restrained on their owners' property at the time of the attack, and the book *Fatal Dog Attacks* states that 25% of fatal attacks were inflicted by chained dogs of many different breeds.



Tragically, the victims of such attacks are often children who are unaware of the chained dog's presence until it is too late. Furthermore, a tethered dog that finally does get loose from his chain may remain aggressive, and is likely to chase and attack unsuspecting passersby and dogs.

Chaining for guard dogs?

Chaining creates aggression, not protectiveness. A protective dog is used to being around people and can sense when his family is being threatened. A dog learns to be protective by spending lots of time with people so he can recognize threatening (abnormal) behaviors and by learning to know and love his human family.

Leaving a dog on a chain and ignoring him is how to raise an aggressive, dangerous dog. Aggressive dogs can't distinguish between a threat and a family friend, because they are not used to people. Aggressive dogs will attack anyone: children who wander into the yard, the meter reader, the mailman, anyone.

Statistics show that one of the best deterrents to intruders is an inside dog. Intruders will think twice about entering a home with a dog on the other side of the door/window. A chained dog can only protect what he can reach on his chain.

How does it affect the dog?

In addition to the psychological damage wrought by continuous chaining, dogs forced to live on a chain make easy targets for other animals, humans, and biting insects. A chained animal may suffer harassment and teasing from insensitive humans, stings and bites from insects, and attacks by other animals.

Chained dogs are also easy targets for thieves looking to steal animals for sale to research institutions or to be used as training fodder for organized animal fights. Finally, dogs' tethers can become entangled with other objects, which can choke or strangle the dogs to death.



Guard Dog, from Patrick McDonnell's wonderful comic strip Mutts.

Law #6 (Part 2)- I promise to never leave my dog in a vehicle unattended if there is any chance he or she could get hot, cold or be harassed or injured by humans or other animals.

Dogs in cars:

We understand that you want to take the dog for a ride, but you may be risking the dog's life if you have to leave the dog in the car, even for just a few minutes. On hot – or even warm – sunny days, the inside of a car heats up very quickly (10 degrees or more every 10 minutes even with the windows cracked open.) Dark colored cars especially can become very hot inside. Even on days when it doesn't seem too hot to take your dog along. On an 85-degree day, for example, even with the windows slightly open, the temperature inside the car can reach 102 degrees in just 10 minutes. It can be hot enough to literally bake your dog in just 20 minutes. On warmer days, it will get hotter even faster.



If your dog's temperature gets above 107 for more than just a brief period of time, internal organ damage, blood clots, irreversible brain damage and death can occur suddenly. Even if your dog seems fine after suffering heat stroke, it can die later from damage to the cells of internal organs. Dogs only have their tongue and foot pads to keep them cool and if the air they are breathing is hot (like in a car) and the seat they are standing on is hot, they cannot cool down.

Try it yourself

If you want to see what happens in your car, park and sit in your car in the same conditions your dog would experience. See how long you can stand to be in there.

Odds are it won't be long. You have sweat to help you cool off through evaporation and your body temperature is lower than your dog's normal temperature, so to make it an even comparison, wear a coat. If it's hot for you it will be dangerous for your dog.

Dog thieves can target dogs left in cars. This is especially common around the holidays where dogs can be sold as presents. Unless this gets out of control, most news agencies don't bother to report the numbers of dogs stolen from cars (and from yards where they are left unattended.) You really don't want to know what happens to most of these stolen dogs. Unscrupulous research facilities, bait for fighting dogs, puppy mills... not pleasant. It's not worth the risk!

Even if you park in the shade, there is no way to know if that shade will move away from the car before you get back, especially if you meet a long lost friend and start to chat and are gone more than just a few minutes. You could get detained for other reasons too. What if you fall and injure yourself or you have a medical emergency of some sort? Leaving the air conditioning running isn't a guarantee either because on hot days, the compressor is more likely to freeze up which means the air conditioner will be blowing HOT air into the car instead of cool. Police departments now purchase systems to warn the officer if his K9 car is getting too hot. This is because sadly, several police K9's have died because of the frozen compressor while their human partner is taking a report or directing traffic away from the car without the dog.

If you suspect your dog has gotten too hot, wet him with cool water (not cold, you don't want to cause shock) and get the dog to a vet immediately.

If your dog is not acclimated to the cold, you don't want to leave a dog in a car during cold weather either. Never run the car if there is any chance the tail pipe can get blocked (with snow for example) or in a closed space where the air system could pick up the car's exhaust and blow it into the car. Even if the wind direction changes and blows fumes from the exhaust pipe toward the front of the car where the heating system is collecting air for inside the car, it could cause your dog to get sick or die.

If you can't take your dog with you, leave him at home. It's not worth the risk of theft or death just to have the dog "go for a ride."

Law #6 (part3)- I will teach my dog that a crate is a safe place.

The Top Ten reasons Why You Should Get Your Puppy Used To A Dog Crate

(drum roll, please...)

#10 It will make your housetraining efforts 3.14159 times easier! (Easy as pie)

#9 It will remove the strain on the relationship which occurs every time your puppy destroys something valuable because he's home alone with full range of your house.



#8 Shutting your puppy in his "playpen" may be difficult for you, but how difficult do you think it is to come home to a dead dog on the carpet, with some chewed electrical cords in his mouth?

#7 Some day your dog may need hospitalization, and if he does not view a "crate" as a sanctuary, it will add unnecessary stress on him to be in one for a stay at the vet's office.

#6 If you ever have to fly with your dog, it will be less stressful for him to take the trip in his own "bedroom" than if he is shut up in a box he is not familiar with. Same for in a friend's house or hotel room, having his "own room" to go to can be a comfort.

#5 If your dog goes in for grooming, where do you think he waits for you to pick him up? More importantly, where does HE think he waits? In a prison cell? or a crash pad?

#4 Someday, when you get involved in fun dog sports, like agility and flyball, you will need to have him used to being crated comfortably in his bedroom, away from the crowds, while at the competitions.

#3 To give your dog a save haven, away from small children or other animals, where he can go to rest and relax in his own space.

#2 So that when you travel, you can have your dog ride in a protective dog crate, where he will be much safer in an accident.

And the number ONE reason why you should get your dog used to a dog crate....

So when you come to Dog Scout Camp, you won't ask "Why do I have to bring a dog crate? My dog's never been in one."



If your dog has not been in a crate, or if your dog has issues with a crate, the best way to help him love it is to associate it with things the dog loves.

- Feed his dinner in the crate (with the door open)
- Toss treats or toys in the crate he can go in to get.
- Put good stuff in his crate like favorite treats and toys when the dog is not looking. This will reward the dog when he checks out the crate on his own.

- Make the crate a happy place until the dog is completely comfortable in there.
- Add a soft bed for the dog to lie on.
- You can also make going in the crate a clicker game. Click and reward the dog if he takes a step toward the crate. The click and reward if he sniffs the crate. The click and reward if he puts his head in. Gradually increase the criteria for the click to work the dog all the way into the open crate. It's OK if he comes right back out for the treats. Once he is in the crate, work on closing the door. Start by closing the door, click and immediately open the door. Gradually increase the amount of time the dog spends inside with the door closed. By making it a game that is rewarding, you can help the dog feel like the crate is fun!

Law #7- I will always show kindness and caring toward my dog, so that others can observe the joys of responsible and loving dog parenting and appreciate the bond between my well-behaved dog and myself.



If you have never had a dog before, you may not understand this bond that we are talking about. It is a truly amazing thing that a canid (dog) and a primate (human) can have such a wonderful and loving bond. When you have it, you don't want to lose it and it brings a warm and fuzzy feeling to your soul just to look into your dog's eyes. This is what DSA strives to promote.

If you have that bond with your dog, there is no way you can even consider taking him to the shelter or giving him up to a stranger. You do all that you can for your dog because you can appreciate what he gives you in return – unconditional love. Your dog doesn't care what color your skin is or if you have had

a bad day, he will always greet you with exuberance, even if you have only been gone a few minutes. 😊

You look forward to spending time with your dog and learning new things and going places together. It is very much like a relationship and it can have its ups and downs too. But when your dog is ready to say goodbye and wait till your spirits can be together permanently, you will look back and recall the great times you had together and people that have never had that bond with a dog just won't understand.

This bond is clearly visible to everyone that sees you spending time enjoying the company of your dog. Whether you are just going for a walk, floating down a river in a kayak or participating in a dog sport. If more people develop this bond with their dog, perhaps more dog parents (and future dog parents) will notice and want to have the same deep bond with their dog.

If everyone who shared his or her life with a dog had this bond, people would have greater empathy for each other. Dogs would not be living in exile in back yards or on the street. People would be more aware of the impact on over population that spaying and neutering can have, so that dogs don't have to be killed, alone on a metal table by a

stranger. Puppy mills would not exist. Dogs would have more freedom to accompany their parents to more places. Just imagine.

"Never underestimate that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world, indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

-- Margaret Mead

Law #8- (part 1) I will provide basic care for my dog. I will strive to feed my dog the best food I can afford and to educate myself about why some dog foods are better than others. I will not let my dog become over weight.

Not all dog foods are created equally. Some, once you know what is in them, make you wonder how a dog can survive on them! If you believe the company advertising, you would believe that all dog foods are wholesome and nutritious and only have good things in them. Sadly, that is NOT the case for most dogs food. This is just a brief overview, but there is more information (some of it enough to turn your stomach) on various web sites and in the book "Food Dogs Die For: Shocking facts about dog food" by Ann Martin. For example: to qualify as "nutritionally complete" 8 out of 10 dogs in a controlled study need to be able to SURVIVE on the food for 6 months!

In order to understand what is in dog food, you have to be able to decipher the language used on the bags. Pull out your dog's food bag and treat bag and see how many of these less desirable ingredients are found there.

Also realize that ingredients are listed based on the "volume percentages" (how much of each item is in the food.) So if a grain is listed first, that is the main ingredient. If grains are several of the top items, you'll want to look for a different brand. The more quality meat items that are listed in the first 5 ingredients, the better the dog food. Price can sometimes be an indicator of quality. A manufacturer just can't afford to put high quality items in the food and then sell it for a low price. The good news is that when you feed a better dog food, you don't need to feed nearly as much and the dog leaves less of it in the yard (because the better ingredients are properly digested and absorbed by the dog and there is less filler.)

BY-PRODUCTS- Parts of the animal not fit for human consumption. This can include: intestines, chicken heads, duck bills, chicken and turkey feet, feathers and bones, brain, spleen, lungs, liver, blood, soy, cottonseed hulls, corn cobs, peanut hulls, citrus pulp, weeds, straw, and cereal by-products. Ingredients listed as beef, chicken and poultry by-products are not required to include actual meat. It can also be viscera and blood soaked sawdust from the floor of the processing plant! Rendered meat can be any rendered mammal meat including road kill and dogs and cats from shelters and vets that were euthanized (killed by lethal injection) for whatever reason. Some of the drugs in their system survive the rendering process and are present in the food made with the rendered meat.

ETHOXYQUIN- is regulated as a pesticide and cannot be added to human food. OSHA lists it as a hazardous chemical with a toxic level of 3 on a scale of 1 to 6 (level 6 only takes 7 drops to cause death.) It was developed as a rubber stabilizer! In recent

studies, it promoted kidney cancer, bladder cancer and significantly increased incidence of stomach tumors.

BHA - enhances stomach and urinary carcinogenesis. It also causes squamous-cell carcinomas (cancer), which are the most lethal, and fastest acting killer, especially in animals with light colored fur.

BHT- promoted urinary bladder cancer and may be a promoter of thyroid cancer. Also known to cause liver and kidney dysfunction.

PROYLENE GLYCOL –a cousin to antifreeze is found in many inexpensive semi-moist foods and treats and causes destruction of red blood cells.

PROPYL GALLATE – causes destruction of red blood cells

CORN (in any form)- This is common in lower priced dog food (and some of the higher priced foods too.) It is nutritionally insignificant and causes many allergies in dogs. It is used as filler and ends up in the piles in the back yard.

CEREALS- when it doesn't specify which cereal that can be a warning. They probably aren't telling because the ingredient depends on which one is cheapest to get (depending on the season.) Brown rice, oats and barley as unprocessed whole grains are high in nutrients and easily digested. Wheat is much harder to digest.

SOYA and other vegetable proteins are difficult to digest.

DAIRY products are hard for dogs to digest. Lactose is the sugar present in milk. After weaning, dogs and cats have decreasing amounts of lactase (the enzyme needed to digest lactose). Therefore, ingestion of dairy products may cause diarrhea and/or flatulence as the body has difficulty breaking down the dairy product. Dogs and cats should not be fed milk.

SUGARS- are sometimes added to dog foods as a flavor enhancer. Sugar and sugar products are not good sources of nutrition and can lead to behavioral problems (much the way a "sugar high" can affect a child.) Anything ending in -ose is a sugar (Sucrose, dextrose, fructose, etc.) as well as cane and molasses.

MILL RUN- an ingredient consisting of residue left after the primary food product has been extracted during a milling process. A "Corn Mill Run" would be a pulverized blend of the cornhusk and cobs that are left after a milling process has removed the kernels. Mill Run is the vegetable or produce equivalent of meat's by-product.

GLUTEN- The sticky substance in wheat or cornstarch that gives the starch its tough elastic quality. It is used to hold together the pulverized composite of animal feed-grade ingredients. Many animals and people have gluten allergies.

If you can't afford to feed a high quality food to your dog, then try to get a food that has the least amount of toxins. Also watch your treats since most store bought treats have these same ingredients in them.



Gluten

Processing of Dog Food

Most of what makes up dog and cat food comes from the rendering plant. To render, as defined in Webster's Dictionary, is "to process as for industrial use: to render livestock carcasses and to extract oil from fat, blubber, etc., by melting."

When chickens, lambs, cattle, swine, and other animals are slaughtered for food, usually only the lean muscle is cut off for human consumption. This leaves about 50 percent of a carcass left over. These leftovers are what become what we so commonly find on dog food labels, such as "meat-and-bone-meal" or "by-products." So basically, what dogs eat are lungs, ligaments, bones, blood and intestines.

Some other things that may go into rendering are:

- Spoiled Meat from the supermarket, Styrofoam wrapping and all
- Road kill
- The 4D's of Cattle: dead, dying, diseased and disabled
- Rancid restaurant grease

When dead animals from cow pastures are picked up, they may not be rendered until up to a week after they are dead. Because of this, it is estimated that E. coli bacteria contaminate more than 50 percent of meat meals. The rendering process destroys the bacteria, but it does not eliminate the endotoxins bacteria release when they die. These endotoxins, which can cause sickness and disease, are not tested for by dog food manufacturers.

When all this comes to the rendering plant, it's put in a huge vat and shredded. Then it's cooked at 220 to 270 degrees for 20 to 60 minutes. After it cools, the grease is skimmed off the top. This is "animal fat." The rest is pressed and dried. This is "meat and bone meal."

All kibble and canned dog food is cooked at high temperatures. However, cooking kills the enzymes needed for proper digestion and stomach health. The body must work hard to replace them. Processing destroys the fragile amino acids- the building blocks of proteins.

Cooked, grain-based dog foods are not natural to dogs and cats. They create an "alkaline" stomach environment - with lowered defenses against bacteria, etc. French chemist, Paul Kouchakoff discovered that when cooked/processed food is tasted, white blood cells rush to the intestines. The phenomenon, called "digestive leucocytosis" disrupts the immune system: the body regards the cooked food as a pathogen and works hard to destroy it.

However, most people need to feed their dogs kibble or canned food (which is cooked in the can at even higher temperatures than kibble) for the convenience. The dogs must be getting some nutrition from these foods because many not only survive, but they seem to do well on them. However, others develop allergies, skin problems, ear infections, cancer, immune system problems and a host of other health problems.

If you are turned off on processed foods there is an alternative. There are frozen raw and freeze dried diets on the market for both dogs and cats. These are similar in cost to the highest premium foods, but like the premium foods, you feed a much smaller portion to the dog and because there is no filler, the waste produced is even less than with premium kibble. To find these foods, you can search the Internet for “Freeze Dried Dog Food” or “Frozen Raw Dog Food.” Be sure to read the ingredient lists though because just as with the kibble, there are differences in quality among these foods too.

Another, much more intensive option (and a highly debated issue) is to prepare your dogs meals yourself. This has a few different names: Home cooked meals, Raw Food Diet and BARF (which can stand for Bones And Raw Food or Biologically Appropriate Raw Food.) A web search for these key words will turn up more info than you probably care to read and many different points of view.

Nutrition is a key component of health and well-being for your dog. Educate yourself and do what you are comfortable with in regards to feeding your dog. DSA is not the “food police” and if you feel your dog does best on “Ol’ Roy” then that is your call. The goal, however, is to educate you about the realities of dog food so you can make an informed decision.

Proper weight maintenance:

Dogs seem to know how to melt our hearts and make us give in when food is involved. We apply the oversized human portions to our dogs and as a result, the dogs become as over weight as the human population. This can cause many of the same health problems in dogs as it can in people. Obesity in dogs is a serious medical problem. Fat dogs are more at risk in surgery, more prone to injury, and have more stress on their heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, and joints.



Any parent can control his or her dog’s weight by realizing that food is not a substitute for attention or a cure for guilt and that firmness can and should be applied to the relationship. A parent who cannot resist the dog’s soft, pleading eyes whenever food enters the vicinity is a parent contributing to the dog’s obesity and may even be shortening his life. A parent who cannot rouse himself for a few hours each week to make sure that his canine companion gets enough exercise is a parent contributing to the dog’s obesity and may even be shortening his life.

Unless your dog is helping himself to the refrigerator, a fat dog has only his humans to blame. And if your dog is finding other sources of food it’s up to you, the smart end of the leash, to restrict his access to those sources. A fat dog is not as happy as he could be. A lean, healthy dog is MUCH happier because he doesn’t have to lug around all that extra weight. His heart and lungs don’t have to work overtime for simple exercise.

Don’t feed your dog to death! Reward based training has the potential to give your dog a large calorie intake in the form of treats. YOU need to adjust his meals accordingly (or use his meals as the training treats.)

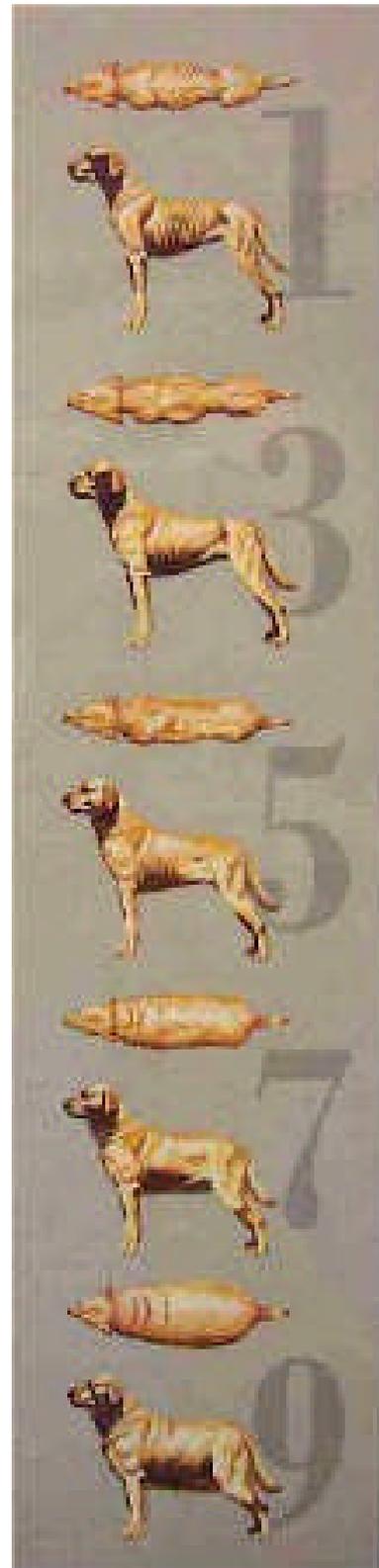
Obesity is responsible for creating and aggravating serious problems in dogs. The good news is obesity is preventable and (mostly) reversible. The bad news is that parents

have to change their habits because a dog's weight problem is not his fault; it's his parent's!

Overweight dogs that have conditions such as arthritis, hip dysplasia and over-angulated joints, (pasterns, hocks and stifles) suffer greater pain, which causes a greatly reduced quality of life. Obesity in dogs can cause stroke, diabetes, shortness of breath and heart attacks. Obesity can aggravate epilepsy. Obese dogs get pressure sores from supporting too much weight on their elbows and hocks when they are lying down (which is most of the time.) Young overweight dogs are prone to ligament and tendon injury when playing too hard; for example -- going to the park once or twice a week to chase the tennis ball or Frisbee. Obese dogs cannot easily control their own movements and are extremely prone to injuries caused by twisting and turning sharply and jumping; torn cruciate ligaments (knees) are the most common. The worst condition caused by obesity is simply this, a greatly reduced life span and unnecessary suffering.

From the scale to the right (not all levels shown in photos):

1. EMACIATED (shown) Ribs, backbones, pelvic bones, etc. all prominent from a distance. No visible body fat, obvious loss of muscle mass.
2. VERY THIN Ribs, backbones, pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Minimal loss of muscle mass.
3. THIN Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Top of backbone visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.
4. UNDERWEIGHT (shown) Ribs easily palpable with no visible fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident viewed from the side.
5. IDEAL (shown) Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side.
6. OVERWEIGHT Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernable viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck minimally apparent.
7. HEAVY (shown) Ribs palpable with difficulty, heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck absent.



8. **OBESE** Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over backbone and base of tail. No waist or abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distension may be present.

9. **GROSSLY OBESE** (shown) Massive fat deposits on chest, spine, and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and legs. Obvious abdominal distension.

[Chart created by Purina®]

How to help your dog:

1. **Be aware that obesity is a potential problem if the dog controls the amount of food and snacks he gets by begging or looking sad and get a head start by realizing that an empty bowl is not a clue that he needs more food.** Dogs are scavengers; an empty bowl is often a trigger for pleading or browsing behavior and does not mean that he is starving. Dogs do what works for them, so he will likely try every trick in the book to get you to give him what he wants. However, just because he wants it does not mean he **NEEDS** it.
2. **At the very least, cut back a bit on the food in the bowl.** If he looks stricken and keeps looking for more, toss in some green beans, carrots, or other low-calorie vegetables as long as they do not cause intestinal upset. A puree of raw vegetables can be a beneficial, low-calorie filler.
3. **Feed appropriate snacks.** If you can't resist offering him an evening treat, try specialties from natural food bakeries for dogs or carrot sticks, orange or apple slices, or bits of banana instead of potato chips, pizza, or ice cream. If you split a burger with your pooch on an outing, cut back on his next meal. Do **NOT** give your dog grapes or raisins or any kind of chocolate as these can cause death from renal failure. Other dangerous items to avoid include onions in any form alcohol and caffeine.
4. **Provide some opportunity for prolonged exercise a couple of times a week.** Long walks, play sessions, or strenuous training sessions help keep muscles in shape and bodies functioning to process the foods most efficiently. Time alone in a yard is not sufficient; although dogs will run fence lines if a person or animal happens by, they are generally as lazy as people and will not run for the sake of exercise. Two dogs, however, will usually run, romp, and play together and thus exercise each other if they are not both overweight and/or lazy.
5. **Watch the fat content in the food you buy.** Fats are energy sources; if the energy isn't expended, fats merely add unneeded calories. Fat content of dry food should range between 12-16 percent, with sedentary dogs getting a lower percentage than active or performance dogs. Realize that low calorie dog foods have more indigestible fillers. A balanced raw diet (can be a frozen or freeze dried product) is a great way to reduce your dog's weight if you can restrict yourself to feeding the much smaller portions this type of diet requires. Keep in mind the recommended feeding amounts on dog food bags and cans is intended to get you to buy more food and is frequently **WAY** more than the dog actually needs to maintain a healthy weight. Use your dog's weight as a guide, not the package it came in.

6. **Watch the supplements you use.** Some veterinarians, breeders and trainers recommend adding a tablespoon or two of vegetable oil to the kibble if the dog has a dry coat or skin, but this probably only adds unnecessary calories (and it is likely that the food is lacking in some needed elements that is causing the poor coat.) It's better for the dog to use a food with sufficient Omega fatty acids or even to supplement with Vitamin E (not too much) or with a balanced supplement such as Missing Link. Parents should keep in mind that dry skin and coat or itchiness can be caused by allergies or other diseases that have nothing to do with diet; if the dog scratches a lot and does not have fleas, a visit to the veterinarian and maybe a switch in dog food is in order.
7. **Unfortunately, some dog breeds (like some people) seem to have a head start on thickening waistlines.** Some of these include Labrador Retrievers, Beagles, Basset Hounds, Dachshunds, Cocker Spaniels, Rottweilers, and Pugs. If you own one of these breeds, you need to take steps to make sure your dog gets enough exercise to work off his daily ration so he doesn't gain too much weight. These dogs often take very small quantities of food to maintain a healthy weight.
8. **Don't blame weight gain on hormone changes after sterilization surgery.** Some spayed females and neutered males may gain weight because of a combination of hormone changes, lack of exercise, and consumption of too many calories, but the key is "combination of influences," not "sterilized dogs get fat." Neutering and spaying often takes place about the time the dog's metabolism changes as they mature. However, many people continue to feed the high calorie puppy food. This is the most common cause of weight gain, not the surgery.
9. **Keep your dog away from the table at mealtime, separate him from snacking youngsters, and don't let the kids feed him without supervision.** Kids often don't understand that feeding the dog can hurt the dog. The child might also try to feed the dog something that is not edible but since the item was in the food-covered hand of the child, to the dog it smells edible. Children should ALWAYS be supervised when around a dog for many reasons.



Law #8(Part 2)- I will provide the maintenance that my dog needs to be healthy and comfortable.

Health maintenance includes check-ups by a vet, vaccinations or titers heartworm preventative, flea/tick preventative. It can also include treatment for any special medical needs your dog may have.



Vaccinations:

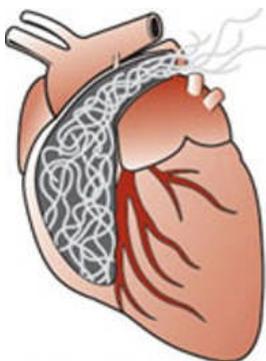
Many changes are currently taking place in the field of dog vaccinations. Studies are showing that over vaccination of dogs (giving vaccines every year) is causing many adverse health reactions and complications, even death! Some believe that a single round of vaccines will protect the dog for the dog's entire life; others think a plan to vaccinate every three years is the way to go (with check-ups each year.) Good news is that titers (pronounced "tight-ers") are available. A titer is a blood test that determines if the dog has sufficient anti-bodies in his/her system to fight the particular disease.

When a vaccine is given, it causes the dog to produce anti-bodies to the disease. It is believed by some that once these are formed, the body will always have them available to fight the disease if the dog is exposed to it again, as is the case with human vaccines. The problem with vaccinating every year seems to be that the dog already has the anti-bodies, so when the disease is introduced through the vaccine the body fights it. When vaccines are combined (as in the familiar DHLPP) series, we are forcing the dog's body to "fight" 5 diseases at once. Over time, this can lead to systemic allergic reactions called Vaccinosis that can cause a dog to get so ill it can die if aggressive and expensive treatment is not given.

Not all vets are on-board with this new line of thinking. They fear that if people don't need to vaccinate every year, then the dogs won't be coming in for a check-up and health problems can get out of control (and they lose some revenue.) It also reduces the education opportunities for vets to talk to dog parents about developments regarding dog health.

It is up to you to decide how your dog's health will be managed. Some research on-line can give you lots of information about the debates over dog vaccinations taking place right now. If you are looking for a good book: "Shock to the System" by Catherine O'Driscoll is a sequel to "What Vets Don't Tell You About Vaccines." It covers the latest information on the vaccine issue, and puts the other pieces of the puzzle into the picture. Diet, environmental toxins, pharmaceuticals and stress all play a part in the health of companion animals. The latest book by Catherine O'Driscoll offers a broader view with the aim of pointing readers towards robust good health and happiness for their animals (and themselves.) It tackles the question of 'belief' and why we have a healthcare war, and is calling for animal parents to empower themselves for the sake of the animals.

Heartworm prevention:



© American Heartworm Society

Heartworms are a parasitic worm (about the diameter of thin spaghetti) that normally lives free floating in the right ventricle of the heart and nearby blood vessels. These worms are transmitted through mosquitoes.

Heartworms are diagnosed with blood tests, and/or X-rays, along with other tests. Until they are sexually mature (about 6 months after entering the patient) heartworms are not detectable with the commonly used antigen blood test. Female worms must be present for accurate test results.

No area is immune from this disease. Heartworm has been diagnosed in all 50 states and also worldwide. In most areas of the country Heartworm is an important dog health care issue.

Dogs are normally tested before starting heartworm preventatives unless they are less than 7 months old. If the dog is over 7 months of age and gets started on preventative without first testing for Heartworm, the dog is at an increased risk of developing severe reactions due to the massive die off of worms that could be in his system. Puppies should be started on Heartworm preventative by 8 weeks of age (depending on the product being used) and then blood tested at 7 months of age. Dogs should be tested on a regular basis, yearly if any doses of preventative have been missed and once every 2-3 years even if no doses were missed and preventative is given year around.

Tens of thousands of microfilariae (immature worms) can be present for years in a dog's body, known as heartworm infection. They block capillaries and create circulatory stress. When a mosquito bites a dog with circulating microfilariae these microscopic snake-like nematodes enter the mosquito and eventually evolve into infective larvae in the mosquito. When the mosquito bites a dog after this process takes place, these infective larvae enter the skin of the dog and burrow their way to the heart where they develop into 5 to 7 inch adults. This is known as heartworm disease and can cause vessel damage, lung damage and such a blockage that the dog's heart will stop functioning.



What animals can get heartworm disease? Most parasites have a specific host they prefer to infest. The normal host for Heartworm is the canine. Heartworms can live in animals other than canines but often have a shorter life, vary in size, or end up in odd locations due to aberrant migration. This is true of Heartworm infections in the feline. Some of the other animals that can acquire heartworm include the wolf, coyote, fox, bobcat, jaguar, tiger, muskrat, raccoon, ferret, otter, bear, horse, orangutan, gibbon, sea lion, and humans.

Signs and Symptoms:

When a dog is first infested with Heartworm there are no visible or detectable signs. The infection cannot be detected even with a blood test until the worms mature. The changes in the victim start to occur when the final molt of the Heartworm larvae occurs and the immature L5 larvae arrive in the right ventricle and neighboring blood vessels. The arteries do not do well with worms living inside them. The artery lining is damaged within days, the body responds by inducing inflammation of the artery, called endarteritis, and other inflammation in the area to try to heal the damage. Unfortunately, the worms cause damage at a rate faster than the body can heal. The arteries over time develop certain characteristics that are typical of Heartworm disease; often these changes can be seen on x-rays. The vessels become tortuous and dilated. Blood clots and aneurysms are a common side effect, and complete blockage of small blood vessels can occur. The blood re-routes to non-worm burdened arteries. The result is complete and partial blockage of blood vessels and fluid begins to accumulate around these blood vessels in the lungs. This results in a loss of useful lung tissue and reduces the effective area of the lungs to oxygenate the blood for the body's needs. As

a result of the inflammation, blood vessel obstruction, and fluid accumulation, coughing results. The dog or cat displays exercise intolerance, nosebleeds, shortness of breath and a type of pneumonia may occur secondary to the increase in lung inflammation (called pulmonary eosinophilic granulomatosis). These are often the first outward signs of infection that are shown, but indicate a severe infection of worms.

As immature L5 worms continue to arrive and mature in the heart and lungs, the total numbers of worms at various stages of maturity increases and as they grow in size and number the above conditions take their toll. The host's reactions become more significant and the signs worsen. More and more blood vessels and the surrounding lung tissue are damaged and not useful to the dog and this results in an increased resistance to blood flow through the lungs. This "backup" increases the blood pressure (hypertension) in the right side of the heart and Vena Cava due to the obstruction of blood flow. With accumulation of even more fluid in the lungs, the end result is the signs of actual heart failure. The severity depends on the number of worms present and the dog's reaction to the worms. The failing, weakened, stretched heart muscle results in rhythm abnormalities, fluid accumulation in the lungs (called pulmonary edema) and activity intolerance.

Over time, the immune system becomes activated at a rate higher than normal. This puts extra proteins (in the form of antibodies) into circulation and they can settle out in the various organs of the body that are delicate in nature such as the eye, kidney, blood vessels, and joints. This causes inflammation, more tissue damage, and pain.

How preventatives work:

The most common preventatives are given once a month by the dog's parent. Most preventatives kill the immature Heartworm larvae before they molt to the mature stage, but some will kill the adults if there are only a few. As long as they are given every month, they are very effective in preventing Heartworm infection and subsequent development of Heartworm Disease. If a dose is missed and the dog develops adult worms (heartworm disease) treatment is available if the condition is caught early. However, it is a long and difficult process for the dog that can get expensive for the parent. There is also no guarantee that the treatment will work faster than the worms can mature and reproduce.

Some dogs (or breeds of dogs) do have adverse reactions to some of the worm prevention medications. Some products can cause a system shock and adverse reactions if given to a dog with adult heartworms. So be sure to check with your vet regarding which brand is best for your dog and always get the blood test before starting the prevention medication.

Most preventatives are a chewable tablet that is given once per month to the dog and comes with stickers you can put on your calendar as a reminder. However some are injections.

A few of the heartworm preventatives also kill other types of internal worms like hookworms, roundworms and whipworms.

Flea and Tick prevention:

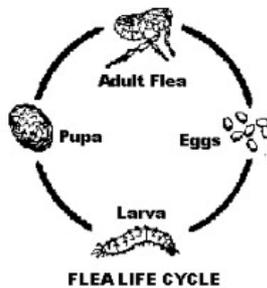
Anyone who has ever battled fleas knows how difficult they are to eradicate. Once a home becomes infested, control can be difficult, time-consuming and expensive. A flea-infested dog or cat can introduce hundreds of new flea eggs into the home each



day. By mid- to late summer, dog parents often find themselves fighting a losing battle against established flea populations that are enormous.

A better way to manage fleas is through prevention. By taking action before fleas are abundant, dog parents can avoid severe infestations later in the season. Preventive flea control has been made possible by new product innovations and insights into flea biology. We now know that adult fleas (the biting stage) spend virtually their entire life on the dog, not in the carpet. Eggs are laid on the fur and fall off into carpeting, beneath furniture cushions, and wherever else the dog lays, sleeps or spends time. After hatching, the eggs transform into larvae, pupae, and eventually adults to renew the cycle.

Dog parents can break the cycle of flea development and prevent future generations by killing the eggs as they are laid on the dog, or by eliminating the egg-laying adults. The easiest way to do this is to take action before flea problems get out of control. Several products are available which are convenient and effective. You can choose from pills, collars, dips and topical products. Other options are more holistic and involve foods and supplements the dog can eat and herbs and oils that can be put on the dog's coat.



Reasons to prevent fleas:

First, they are very hard to eradicate once they get established. Prevention is much easier than getting rid of them.

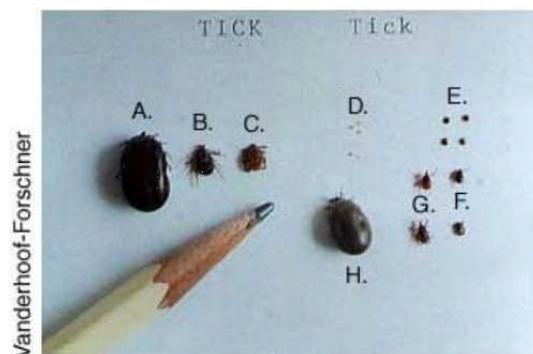
Second, they bite people as well as dogs and neither enjoys the experience.

Third, lots of dogs develop Flea Bite Hypersensitivity (FBH), which is an allergic reaction to the saliva of the flea. This can cause a reaction that affects the dog's entire body (systemic) including inflammation, redness, hair loss, itching, and scratching. The scratching can result in skin abrasion and tearing, which can lead to infections. Once the sensitivity develops, a systemic reaction can result from a single fleabite.

Ticks:

This chart shows just how tiny some ticks can be (imagine trying to find the ticks under D. on your dog.) Tick A. and H. are full of blood after a feast.

Few pests evoke as many questions from people as ticks. Besides their repulsive appearance, ticks are vectors of potentially debilitating and life-threatening diseases that can affect both dogs and people. Lyme disease, in particular, has attracted national attention and is now the number one arthropod-borne disease in the United States. Although Lyme disease is more prevalent in eastern and midwestern states, media coverage has prompted many questions and concerns.



What is Lyme disease? Lyme disease is a potentially serious bacterial infection, transmitted through the bite of certain species of ticks. The disease affects humans and a wide range of animals including dogs and livestock. Lyme disease manifests itself in many ways and if left untreated may progress through several stages. The disease is difficult to diagnose clinically because early symptoms often mimic the flu (i.e., fatigue, headache, stiffness or pain in neck, muscles or joints, fever, or swollen glands.) The most definitive early symptom is a gradually expanding circular or oval-shaped red rash. This rash only develops in about 70% of infected individuals, however, and may be overlooked.

Persons who experience any of the above-mentioned symptoms after being bitten by a tick (or having spent time in tick-infested areas) should consult a physician immediately. Lyme disease can be treated successfully in these early stages with antibiotics. As the disease progresses, it becomes more difficult to manage. Later symptoms of infection may include heart and neurological disorders, and arthritis.

The tick that most commonly transmits Lyme disease is about the size of the head of a pin. Because they are so hard to see until they are fully gorged with blood, prevention is critical.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is another disease that ticks can carry. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever has not received the media attention of Lyme disease, but is potentially more deadly. Although RMSF can be successfully treated with antibiotics, medical experts estimate that without treatment, 20% of those infected could die. Symptoms of RMSF are flu-like, accompanied by headaches and a very high fever (104-106 degrees F) two to twelve days after being bitten by a tick. The most characteristic symptom of RMSF is a rash that appears on about the second to fifth day on the wrists and ankles, later spreading to other parts of the body. In most cases, the tick must be attached for at least a day for this infection to occur.

In dogs, another problem that can develop is called tick bite paralysis. It is an allergic reaction that the dog has to the saliva of the tick. Any tick including the microscopic size can cause it. If the dog suffers from this allergy, it will have varying degrees of rapidly progressing paralysis affecting various parts of its body. The cause of this effect can be very hard to diagnose and is often misdiagnosed. Once the tick is off the dog, the paralysis goes away.

Life Cycle of the tick:

Ticks have four stages in their life cycle: egg, larva, nymph and adult. Mating usually occurs while adult ticks are on the body of the host animal. The female then drops to the ground and deposits her eggs. Adult female hard ticks feed only once and lay one large batch of eggs, often containing as many as 10,000 or more. Some adult female soft ticks will feed several times and lay 20 to 50 eggs after each meal. Depending on such conditions as temperature and humidity, larvae will hatch from the eggs in anywhere from two weeks to several months.

The first immature stage (larvae, which are many times called seed ticks) has only six legs. These larvae must find and attach themselves to a host in order to get a blood meal. After obtaining this blood meal they usually drop to the ground, shed their skin and emerge as 8-legged nymphs. Larvae of some ticks, which feed only on one host,

remain on the host to molt. Because of the difficulty of finding a suitable host, larvae can withstand long periods without feeding.

Nymphs resemble the adult tick in that they have eight legs. They do not, however, have a genital opening. Like the larva, the nymph must be able to live without feeding for long periods of time until it finds a suitable host (sometimes they can last years!) After finding a host and feeding, the nymph molts and becomes an adult tick. Hard ticks have only one nymphal instar while soft ticks may have several. A few ticks, such as the cattle tick, *Boophilus annulatus*, have only one host and molt on it, leaving the host only to lay eggs.

Adult ticks may require several days of feeding before they are able to reproduce. Male hard ticks usually die soon after mating, and females die soon after laying their eggs. Adult soft ticks are generally longer-lived, and egg laying is a periodic activity of the female.

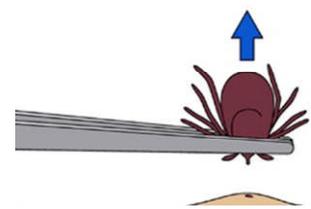
Most ticks spend the bulk of their life on or near the ground, waiting for a suitable host animal. Since they cannot run, hop, fly or move quickly, ticks must climb onto an appropriate object such as tall grass or weeds or up onto fences and siding of buildings. It is from these advantageous positions that they wait for a suitable host to pass by. When they detect vibrations and chemical cues such as host odors or exhaled carbon dioxide, ticks will fall from their perch or stretch out (holding on to their perch with only 2 or 4 of their rear legs) and hope to snag or attach onto a passing host (e.g., a mammal with a fur coat or pants and socks worn by humans.) Ticks are also capable of detecting shadows cast by a passing host.

Most ticks will feed on blood from a wide variety of animals, with only a few tick species feeding on but one kind of host. In some tick species the immature stages will feed on different hosts than do the adults. Reptiles, amphibians, mammals and birds are all vertebrates that ticks may parasitize. Migratory songbirds regularly spread ticks across wide regions of the United States as they move about on their way to their seasonal habitats. If you find a tick on yourself, you will want to remove it as quickly as possible. For your dogs, tick preventatives are recommended because seeing a tick on a furry dog is so much more difficult. Ticks prefer warm dark places though, so the most likely places for ticks to attach to a dog are in the groin area, elbow area and ears.

Best way to remove a tick: Using a fine-point tweezers, grasp the tick just behind the point of attachment and pull slowly and steadily until the tick is dislodged. Vaseline, matches and other alternate methods of removal should be avoided. Anything that



squeezes the body part of the tick or causes pain (like burning or alcohol) can cause the tick to regurgitate its contents into the host, increasing the likelihood of disease transmission and infection. Wash the bite area and apply antiseptic after the tick is removed. There is a product called “ticked Off” that looks like a small spoon with a slot in the end. These work really well for removing ticks from both dogs and people without squeezing them and then contain the tick in the “spoon” for disposal.



Preventatives:

As with flea and worm preventatives, you have many options. Often Flea and tick preventatives are combined. Tick prevention can come in many forms including collars, topical, pills, dips and holistic. There are even lycra suits you can put on your dog to make seeing ticks much easier and to prevent the tick from reaching the dog's skin. Discuss your options with your vet.

Tapeworms:

Tape worms are another reason for good flea prevention. Dogs get tapeworms from three sources: ingesting fleas (common when scratching a flea itch with their teeth or licking their fur) or ingesting the innards of rodents or rabbits (or the fleas on these animals.)

Tapeworms are a segmented worm that is not killed by traditional wormers. For this reason, the vet's rely on parents to tell them if the dog (or cat) has this type of worm. So, how do YOU know?



Tapeworms are large enough to be seen with the human eye. Often, you can see worm segments in the stool. These are actually muscular egg sacs that spread eggs before the segment dries up. You may notice white discharge or small white segments in the dog's stool. More common, is finding dried egg sacs in your home or stuck to the fur on the rear end or hind legs of the dog. These look like tiny rice or sesame seed pieces. See photo to the left.

If you see evidence of tapeworms on your dog or in his/her stool, let your vet know and take in the evidence or stool sample for verification. There are safe and effective treatments that cause the protective shell of the worm to dissolve, thus causing the worm to be digested. This, thankfully, leaves very little evidence.

To prevent tapeworms, prevent fleas. The fleas eat the eggs dropped by the tapeworm, become carriers and then the dog eats them while scratching or licking. Also prevent your dog from getting rodents, squirrels and rabbits in his mouth.

Tapeworms are only transferable to humans if the human eats an infected flea, so it is not a common problem. But kids or people who cuddle closely with their flea infested pets are more susceptible to infection with these worms.

Law #8 (Part 3) I will keep my dog clean and well groomed, including nail trimming.

This includes ear cleaning, teeth brushing/cleaning, bathing when needed and professional grooming if needed.

Ears:

A dog's ear has two areas. A deep canal that travels down and another that takes a sharp 45-degree turn that travels upwards. Visibility and treatment are more difficult due to the lack of visibility and the length of the ear canal. It also predisposes the dog to ear infections and parasites. The ear is the perfect environment for many organisms to grow. It is moist, warm, dark, poorly ventilated and hard to clean.

This is especially the case for the many breeds with floppy ears. The breeds with ears that are standing up at all times will fare better since they receive the most light and air flow. Problems are much more likely to develop in the long flop eared breeds like spaniels and bassets that have their ear canals constantly covered keeping the ear damp (but any dog can have ear problems.)

Signs of an Ear Problem in a Dog:

- Unusual and distinctive odor in the ear (smells a bit like yeast or rising bread dough)
- Signs of redness, soreness or any discharge
- Shaking/tilting of the head or repeated scratching of the ears

Any one of the signs from this list is a good indication of a problem and a trip to the vet is in order.

Causes of Dog Ear Problems:

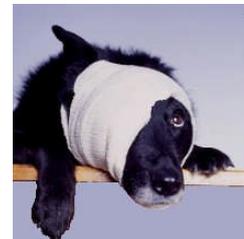
- Trauma
- Allergies
- Parasites - ear mites
- Microorganisms/ infections like bacteria and yeast
- Foreign bodies
- Tumors
- Heredity (some dogs need ear tubes surgically installed)

Trauma:

Self inflicted ear trauma is a common cause of ear problems for dogs. Running through underbrush, especially if it's thorny or a sharp nailed paw going after an itch can cause a scratch that might become a yeast or bacterial infection. Just as common is a trauma created by ear cleaning. As the saying goes "nothing smaller than an elbow should enter the ear." This includes cotton swabs on a stick. Careful selection of products used to clean the ear is important. Any product that over dries the ear is likely to make the dog scratch the area risking possible trauma. Ask your vet which product he or she recommends.

Another possibility if the dog has floppy ears and shakes them a lot is an aural hematoma. This is caused when a blood vessel in the earflap breaks and fills the flap with blood. Some can swell so large that the dog's ear canal is blocked. Of course this is painful and causes additional head shaking which causes more bleeding into the earflap. This needs immediate veterinary attention.

If a dog's earflap gets cut (like during a fight or rough play or by briars), it tends to bleed a lot because the blood vessels are so close to the surface. The dog is also likely to shake his head, which causes the blood to fly. Using the roll type gauze wrapped around the dog's whole head will help hold the flap still and help reduce the bleeding until you can see a vet.



Allergies:

An ear problem can be the first sign that a dog is dealing with an allergy. An allergy that affects the ear is the type that is inhaled or is from a food source. The poor ear condition of an ear affected by allergies can also cause secondary yeast and bacteria infections, which can make the diagnosis of the original problem difficult.

Parasites:

Ear mites, numerous types of bacteria and yeast infections can cause issues. A healthy ventilated ear has a good defense against parasites and infections.

Foreign bodies:

Briars, ticks and fleas are all going to make a dog scratch and that can cause yeast and/or bacterial infection if a self-induced trauma scratch becomes infected.

Factors Predisposing Dogs to Ear Problems:

- Ear design. The more the ear is covered the more likely your dog will have a problem
- Humid climates. Moist environments encourage the growth of parasites, bacteria and yeasts
- Exposure to other infected dogs
- Dogs that swim

Solving Dog Ear Problems:

An ear with a healthy environment is fairly well defended against a majority of problems. Mild prevention with a minimum of effort will avoid most ear problems.

- Keep what goes in one ear out of the other ear and those of other dogs. Using the same cotton ball or unclean tip of the ear cleaning solution bottle in another dog's ears or even in a dog's other ear is likely to spread the unwanted stuff. Always use a new cotton ball or wipe clean any applicator tips.
- Remove excess ear hair, and create an "air channel" by pulling the hair if there isn't one already. Hair inside on the ear can be plucked out once ear powder is added. The outer hair should be trimmed in such a way that you will be able to see how air will get in when you look at your dog, but be careful not to let hair trimmings get into the ear canal. Eliminating a warm and moist environment fights the majority of the ear care battle.
- Schedule a once a week ear cleaning. There are so many great ear-cleaning products available commercially that are effective, convenient and fairly inexpensive. Wipe out the ears. Remember to treat the ears outside. Otherwise your dog will shake any liquid out of his ears all over your belongings!

Teeth care:

How to Brush Your Dog's Teeth

by Sue Oxley and Graham Peck (Found on the [Park Vets website](#))

Good dental care means no more "doggy breath" but more importantly can really make a long-term difference to mouth problems and the overall health of your dog.

Positioning to allow easy brushing

First choose a time when you don't have to rush the tooth brushing. Otherwise you and your dog will get stressed and it will be less co-operative. Ask your dog to sit down, hold the muzzle shut with your thumb over the top of the nose with fingers underneath. Keeping the mouth shut, gently lift the lip at the side to show the teeth. Teach your dog to be comfortable with this by pairing this action with treats to reward their tolerance.



Preparing the brush for battle

Apply a small amount of dog toothpaste to the brush. It isn't advisable to use human toothpaste for a number of reasons.

- Dogs don't tend to like frothy toothpaste.
- Unless you have your dog very well trained to rinse and spit the toothpaste will be swallowed, which over time might cause tummy problems.
- The mint flavor of human toothpastes can taste like a vindaloo curry to some dogs! They much prefer a malt or poultry flavor of their own toothpaste.



The next trick is to make sure that the paste is pushed into the bristles of the toothbrush; otherwise you will find that the paste is eaten even before you have started brushing!

Doing the deed

Rotate the brush so that it slots into the back of the mouth between the gums and the teeth. Start gently brushing at the back of the mouth moving forward to the front. Then repeat on the other side. You don't usually have to do the inner aspect of the cheek teeth as the tongue does a good job of keeping this area clean. Finish with the very small teeth at the front. These are a bit ticklish and you may struggle to do the rest if you start with these.



Hints to make it easier

In puppies examine their mouth and clean their teeth as part of your routine health check. Starting early is definitely easier, you can make it a fun and rewarding thing to do! With older dogs if it's your first attempt at cleaning your dog's teeth, remember it's going to be one heck of a surprise for him or her. Consider working up in stages to the full brushing experience rather than charging in and trying to do it all at once. Otherwise you're likely to frighten the living daylight out of the poor thing.

- Start by just getting the dog settled and relaxed at having his gums and teeth examined and your fingers stuck in its mouth!
- Then progress onto using your finger to rub on the teeth.
- If the dog is still anxious move onto a finger brush rather than going straight to a toothbrush.
- Finally try the toothbrush!
- Toothpaste can be introduced at any stage once you feel they are confident about the whole process. Delay and retry if they get anxious.

Turn the whole process into a consistent fun routine, that way both you and the dog know what should happen next. Once done give plenty of praise and yes maybe even a tooth friendly treat!

Dental care in dogs is just as important as it is for humans. If your dog chews lots of hard or raw bones, you are less likely to need to brush as often, but the outside of the large canine teeth can still accumulate build up. If your dog doesn't like to chew, you'll need to brush his teeth on a regular basis. As the article above suggests, start slow and keep it rewarding for the dog.

Gingivitis and other serious problems with the teeth can effect the over all health of the dog. The bacterium that forms on the plaque can migrate into the dog's blood stream and cause systemic health problems. If the build-up on your dog's teeth is causing the gums to be red or to swell, your dog will need to see the vet for a teeth scraping. This requires anesthesia so prevention is the best course.

Bathing:

Cleanliness and proper grooming can be very important to the continued good health of our beloved dogs. But bathing our puppy or adult dog can often prove to be a challenge. There are many questions, myths and opinions floating around when discussing the best care for different dog types and temperaments.



How often should you bath your dog?

How often your dog will need a dog bath will depend on the breed and what type of activities the dog is involved in. It's best to bathe your dog only when your dog is really dirty. Just use your nose – that tell tale doggy smell will let you know it's time for a bath.

If a dog is bathed too often the skin will be stripped of its natural, protective oils. This will result in dry itchy skin, which will cause your dog to scratch, further irritating the already sensitive skin. If you need to bathe your dog more frequently make sure to use a dog shampoo that will also moisturize your dog's skin. You may also want to follow up with an after bath coat conditioner specifically formulated for dry skin.

Where's the best place to bath your dog?

In warm weather you can bathe your dog outside. Pick a place that will not turn to mud when it gets wet. It's a good idea to have a washtub large enough for your dog to stand up in and fill it with a few inches of water. Water straight from a garden hose may start off warm, but usually gets cold very fast. If your dog starts to resist and shiver, as the water gets colder, you may want to consider another option.



Many dog parents have overcome this problem by purchasing a raised dog bath. Though expensive, this convenient, back-saving dog bath is often used with a water temperature mixer valve assembly that completely solves this problem. With the proper equipment set up you'll be able to save your back and control the water temperature of your dog's bath. Some temperature mixer valve assemblies hook up to your existing washing machine water supply or shower head. At bath time just connect an ordinary garden hose to the valve assembly and run it outside to the bathing area.

This convenient type of back-saving dog bath can even be used for bathing your dog inside if you have a suitable drain or enough space in your bathroom to run the drain hose into your tub.

If you choose to bathe your dog inside, regulating the water temperature shouldn't be a problem. But deciding where to bathe your dog might be. Small dogs and puppies can usually be bathed easily in a sink or a washtub. For bigger dogs you will need something bigger like a bathtub or a large shower stall. And of course, the bigger your dog is the bigger the potential hassles.

Are you tired of bending over and wrestling with your dog at bath time?

Many dog parents solve this problem by using a raised dog bath (either their own, or they pay for time to use a professional groomer's tub.) An ergonomically designed dog grooming bathing tub elevates your dog to a level that's comfortable for you and keeps

your dog securely contained, taking the hassle out of washing your dog. You'll get the job done in half the time, save your back and stay dryer. The raised dog bath that is available in most dog shops and online stores will also save your dog stress at bath time. No more slipping and sliding and your dog will really feel secure standing on the padded non-slip surface.

Does your dog tend to get away from you during a bath?



Bathing your dog is a challenging, but sometimes essential, part of dog grooming. It's funny how your dog will cleverly evade you when you try to get him into a bathtub or shower stall, but will be just as determined to get past you when you don't want him to jump into the water at the lake.

If you're washing your dog in a room with a door make sure to close it so that your dog will not see an escape route or get very far if he prematurely gets out of the bath. This way you'll have an easier time getting him back in the tub to finish the job and the water and soap will be contained.



It can be a challenge bathing a dog that's wiggling around but the challenge gets a little tougher when your dog is an escape artist or weighs almost as much as you do! If your dog takes any opportunity to get away from you at bath time you may want to consider safely restraining your dog.

Restraints are used during bath time to avoid injury to you as well as your dog. Many dog stores and supply catalogs sell bath restraints. But if your tub has a grab bar, you can tie a leash to that short enough that your dog won't try to jump out of the tub and strangle himself. Some dog bathing tubs come with restraints included. With these your dog will be safely and securely restrained and you will be able to give your dog a quick and hassle-free bath.

Pairing the bath with your dog's favorite treats might help him overcome his dislike of bath time. Remember to never call the dog to you for something he doesn't like. Instead, go and get the dog. You don't want to have your "come" cue associated with things the dog doesn't like.

Tub Game: If your dog fights like you are trying to drown him, then some training is in order to help minimize the stress the dog has and the greater chance of injury to both you and the dog. Make getting into the tub a game and use your clicker and high value treats. If you bathe in your tub, click and reward the dog for just coming in the bathroom with you (whenever you go in there.) Then click and reward if the dog looks toward the tub or gets near it. Put a treat on the edge of the tub and click just before the dog gets it. Using the luring method, encourage your dog to put a foot on the side of the tub and click/reward when he does that. Toss a treat into the tub and give your dog a jackpot reward if he goes after it! Be sure you have a good bath mat so the dog doesn't slip! Once the dog is comfortable getting in and out of a dry tub then you can repeat the entire process with the water on trickle. Then repeat the process with the water on a bit harder. Once the dog thinks jumping in and out of the tub with the water running is a great game, you are ready to ask the dog to wait in the tub for a longer and longer amount of time before you reward. Then play in the water and feed the dog while you splash his toes. Then splash his toes and reward the dog for staying in the tub.

Gradually increase the amount of time in the tub and the parts of the dog that get wet. It sounds like a lot of steps, but some dogs will progress quickly and feel differently about the whole process when you make it “work” for them (when it brings them what THEY want!)

Is your dog slipping and sliding in the bath?

Slipping and sliding can be the most stressful part of bath time for a dog. Put a rubber bath mat down on the bottom surface of the tub to prevent your dog from sliding and getting hurt. A sure-footed dog will be less resistant and much more at ease during bath time.

Things to have on hand at bath time:

A Raised Dog Bath (if possible)– It’s ergonomically designed for both you and your dog’s comfort. Your local dog groomer is likely to have just such a bathing station set up in their shop. If you’re thinking about buying a tub or basin to bathe your dog in, ask them if you can check out their tub set up. If you have the room or more than one dog, you may find it worthwhile. You might also find a groomer or dog daycare center with a raised tub that will let you bring in your dog and bathe him yourself for a reduced price. Some cities even have businesses set-up specifically for people to wash their dogs themselves, called “self-dog-washes.” These provide raised tubs, grooming supplies and keep the hair out of your home drains. Many people find it well worth the price if their dog gets smelly.

Dog Shower or Plastic Pitcher – A Dog Shower attachment is great, but if that’s not possible make sure you have a large plastic pitcher for wetting and rinsing your dog. In some showers, the showerhead on a hose (made for people) will also work for dogs.

Drain Screen – Make sure to protect your plumbing from hair clogs with a simple to use drain screen. These are available in most dog catalogs and some dog stores. Some hardware stores have them in the plumbing section too.

Cotton Balls – Can be placed in each ear to prevent water from running into your dog's ears.

Dog Shampoos – There are many different dog shampoos each formulated to work on problems such as dry itchy skin, inflamed or dry scaling skin, fleas and ticks, doggy odor, skunk odor, abnormal shedding, quick rinsing for dogs that don't like to take a bath, whiteners for white coats, color intensifiers for dark coats, and coat shine to bring out the natural luster of your dog's coat. You may want to try a hypoallergenic shampoo/conditioner that will gently clean and conditioner your dog's coat in one step.

Coat Conditioners – There are many dog coat conditioners that will help manage and or improve the appearance of your dog's coat like crème rinse, grooming spray, after bath dry skin treatment, and herbal mist conditioner that will soothe, re-moisturize and detangle your dog's coat.

Dog Drying Towels – If you want to get your dog dry faster check out a specialty dog-drying towel like the



Absorber available in the Dog Scout store on-line. They work like magic and the hair just shakes right off!

Eye Protective Gel – Are you concerned about shampoo making its way into your dog's eyes? Just put a little protective eye gel in each eye just before bath time to prevent burning and redness.

Ear Drying Solution – If your dog is prone to ear infections make sure you have some ear-drying solution on hand. Using an ear drying solution will assure that the ear canal is nice and dry after bathing. Doing this while your dog is in a shower stall or tub will help minimize the spray when your dog shakes the liquid out of his ear.

Brushes/Combs – There are many different styles and sizes of traditional dog grooming brushes and combs that you can choose from. If your dog has very sensitive or irritated skin you may want to consider a higher quality brush that will not scratch the skin or aggravate existing skin irritations.

Dog Dryer – If your dog has a thick, long or double coat it's best to use a dog dryer.



Unlike "people" hair dryers, dog dryers are designed to use less heat and more air volume so they quickly and safely dry a dog without damaging the coat or burning the skin. If you use a "people" blow dryer be very careful since you can easily burn your dog and cause his hair to lose some of its oils and shine!

Plastic Bucket – It's very convenient to have a waterproof container that will keep your dog grooming supplies close at hand. If your dog doesn't like bath time, having all the supplies ready in one place will minimize the "prep time" prior.

Why you should brush your dog thoroughly before bathing.

Depending on the type of coat your dog has you may need an assortment of grooming brushes and combs to properly care for your dog's skin and coat. Before you bathe your dog it's always a good idea to brush your dog's coat thoroughly to remove any tangles or matted areas as well as any other foreign debris. Many dog parents know first hand that if they don't spend time removing old, established tangles and mats before bathing, many times they just get worse. If your dog's coat tangles and mats easily make sure to look for shampoos and conditioners that are formulated to prevent and break up mats. If your dog has gotten into any sticky or gooey substances like tar or gum never use commercial solvents or industrial cleaners on your dog's coat. Many of these are toxic to your dog. Try dissolving these substances with mineral oil. If you're unable to remove something from your dog's coat carefully snip away the affected area. It's always best to sacrifice some hair since it will grow back rather than risk damage to the skin. Brush your dog thoroughly between baths, daily if you can, to distribute the natural oils and remove tangles, mats and foreign matter.

Choosing the best dog shampoo/coat conditioner for your dog.

Always use a dog shampoo that is specially formulated for the pH of a dog's skin. Never use "people" shampoos since our skin pH level is much more acidic than our canine friends and could irritate your dog's skin.

Start bathing your dog at the beginning: Your Dog's Head.

A popular bathing technique is to start at your dog's head and work your way toward the tail. This is especially the case if it's possible that fleas are present. If you know that your dog has fleas you may want to use a flea and tick shampoo. Starting at your dog's head forces any fleas to gather away from your dog's face, eyes, and ears. It is much easier to dunk the rear of your dog into the tub than your dog's face. As you may imagine, your dog is likely to be much more cooperative by following this simple bathing technique.

Let your dog get used to the sound of the running water before you spray them with it. A few high value treats might help him be more at ease. If your dog is comfortable, just secure your dog into the dog bath or tub. Starting from the head thoroughly wet your dog with warm water. You can use a plastic pitcher or a spray nozzle for this task. If you're using a spray nozzle make sure the spray is not too strong. Never spray water directly onto your dog's face, ears or genitals.

Apply a dog shampoo/coat conditioner. Follow the instructions on the bottle. If it is strong or medicated or if your dog has sensitive skin, apply the shampoo to your own hands and rub it around on your palms so you can apply it evenly to the dog's hair. Putting shampoo directly on the dog will cause it to get on the dog's skin in a concentrated level which could cause irritation. Work it in from the head to the tail. Be sure to get all those nooks and crannies like the rectum, between the toes, behind the ears and under the chin. Be careful not to get shampoo in your dog's eyes. If this is a concern you can protect your dog's eyes by putting some protective eye gel in each eye just before getting your dog into the bath. This is available near the shampoo at the dog store or supply catalog or from your vet.

Rinse your dog thoroughly with warm water. Shampoo residue can cause skin irritations so make sure you give your dog's coat a thorough rinsing. Towel drying your dog's coat in the dog bath will remove some of the excess water and loose hair before you take your dog out of the tub. Some breeds should never be rubbed, only patted, since their coats easily tangle. Dog parents often prefer to use dedicated dog towels. There are dog drying towels like the Absorber available that will absorb 10 times their weight in water. These are very handy towels to use for a dog bath and can also be used any time your dog gets wet.

Although many dog parents think of bathing their dog as a challenge, with the right approach, training, supplies, and equipment, you can get through it relatively unscathed. And don't forget to reward your dog's good behavior in the bathing process with treats and plenty of loving-kindness.

Nail trimming:

When a dog's nails become too long they interfere with the dog's gait and as the nails continue to grow, walking will become awkward and painful. Untrimmed nails can also split resulting in a great deal of pain, bleeding, and a trip to the veterinarian's office. In severe cases a dog's nails can curl under and grow into the pad of the dog's paw causing a very serious and painful infection. These types of ingrown nail problems are most common on the dewclaws.



These are way too long!

Your dog's nails should just touch the ground when he walks. If his nails are clicking on the floor or getting snagged in the carpet, it's time for a pedicure.

1. Use trimmers designed for dogs and be sure you have the proper type for your dog's nail size. Ask your veterinarian or a groomer for advice about what types of nail trimmers are best for your dog and how to use them properly.
2. Make sure the clippers are sharp. If the blade is dull, it will pinch the dog's nail and put pressure on the nerve inside the nail (the "quick".) It might also split the nail instead of cutting it.
3. Start at the tip of the nail and snip a little at a time. When you can see the softer part of the nail, stop clipping. It is easier if the dog will lie down so you can see the underside of the dog's nail. From the underside, it can be easier to see where the quick starts, especially on dark nails.



4. Avoid cutting into the quick, which contains nerves and blood vessels. It is painful and will bleed easily. On white nails, the quick is the pink section.
5. Be extra careful when cutting dark nails, because the quick is impossible to see from the top and sides and only slightly visible from the underside.
6. If the tip of the nail begins to bleed, apply pressure using styptic powder or a substitute such as flour or cornstarch (which tends to burn less than the styptic powder.)
7. Avoid wiping the blood clot off the tip of the nail once the bleeding has stopped. Your dog might do this himself if he's walking on carpet or grass right after the bleeding stops or if he tends to drag his feet. You might need to wrap the dog's foot or put on a boot for a few hours to protect the clot.
8. Remember to trim the dewclaw nails, on the inside of the leg (if your dog has them.) Since these don't touch the ground, they don't wear down like the other nails.
9. Trim nails once or twice a month unless your dog's nails grow really fast. The quick will lengthen if you don't trim the nail regularly, and long nails can break, cause traction problems or become ingrown.



You can use a nail file on your dog's nails after clipping to soften the rough edges, or instead of clipping. The type of file meant for acrylic nails is rougher and perfect for

filing down the dog's nails quickly and easily. A standard emery board can be used to finish up the process.

Some people prefer to use a dremel tool on their dog's nails. The small sanding drum attachment is what is used to power file the dog's nails without any pinching. An excellent explanation of that process and the equipment can be found at:



www.DoberDawn.com Look on the bottom left for the link titled "How I dremel my dog's nails." As an added benefit, you could even use the Flex Shaft Attachment to keep the sound and air exhaust of the dremel farther away from your dog.



If your dog is really stressed about nail trimming, try the suggestions in the Clicker Solutions article found here:

<http://www.clickersolutions.com/articles/2001/nailtrimming.htm>

Or view this training video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgEwiH8CeUE>

If you just don't have time:

You can always pay a groomer or a vet to do these routine-grooming things for you, but they are such simple things, why would you want to? Vets and groomers see these things as "easy money." If your dog has issues with the above grooming, you will want to work on desensitizing your dog. It's not fair to the dog to let him stress out over this stuff when the steps to stress free care are so simple (although sometimes time consuming.)

Professional Groomers:

Some breeds do require a professional groomer for hair clipping. Poodles, Portuguese water dogs and others that have hair that continues to grow need to have it cut by a groomer. Others with long coats or special coats (like the puli) will also need some professional care. If you have gotten one of these breeds, part of being a responsible parent is to be sure that the grooming happens on a regular basis to keep the dog tangle free and free of painful hair mats.

Law #8 (Part 4) I will provide housing for my dog that allows him or her to be a member of the family, enjoying the same level of comfort that I provide myself.

Dogs are pack animals and do best when they can be with their "pack." Dogs can develop mental problems and boredom habits if left alone for too long (like dogs that live in yards or on chains with minimal human contact and no other dogs.) These dogs are much more likely to bite and they are a liability. It's also easy to forget to feed them, give them water and give them some love because they are out of sight, out of mind.



If your dog is living inside with you, then you are going to notice any changes in his health or behavior as quickly as possible. With some health problems, like bloat, you

only have minutes to get the dog to a vet to save his life. If your dog lives outside, chances are he wouldn't make it. If your dog is hurting or injured, you should want to know it as soon as possible. If your dog can't get to you to "tell" you, he may suffer longer than necessary. If you are not around your dog enough to know what behaviors are normal for your dog, how could you recognize when your dog is showing signs of discomfort or illness?

If your dog is inside, he is protected from heat, cold, bugs, tormenting kids (unless your own kids are out of control), and other animals that could attack him. He is also less of a nuisance to your neighbors if he is not outside barking.

Your dog is best able to protect you, your family and your home if he is **in** your home. If he is outside, a burglar, rapist or other criminal can use a window or door the dog can't reach. The only thing protected by a dog is what the dog has access to.

If your dog is unruly when you bring him in, this is likely because it is a new and exciting experience for him. Give him some time to settle down. Try giving him a good dose of exercise to wear him out before you bring him in. You will also need to teach him some manners so that he can understand the rules of the house. Dogs are not born knowing what most humans consider good behavior. Most natural dog behaviors are contrary to what we consider manners. It is only through patience, training and "puppy proofing" that you get a dog that is a joy to be around. Read through the pages of the DSA website for more information on training.

If you think your dog prefers to be outside, fence your yard and get a dog door. Give your dog the choice of being inside or out and odds are he will prefer to hang out near you most of the time. He may go out from time to time to sun himself or check the sounds and smells of the neighborhood, but he will be back in soon. A dog door to a fenced yard is also a great way to give your dog the opportunity to relieve himself outside once he is taught that outside is where that should happen. If you don't want to fence your entire yard, consider putting up a large pre-fabricated dog run (these are usually chain link) outside a door that has a dog door in it. This way, the dog still has access to the outside whenever he chooses, but you don't need to spend a lot on fencing.

Law #8 (Part 5) I will create at least a basic emergency care plan for my dog in case I am hurt or otherwise unable to care for my dog.

If you got in an auto accident on your way home from work and were unable to communicate, would anyone know your dog needs care at home? If you live alone, how long would it take for someone to notice you were missing? What if your dog was traveling with you and you needed to be taken to the hospital? Creating a plan is easy.

First, establish who would care for your dogs in an emergency. Be sure they know what you feed your dog, where it is kept, if there are any medications needed, which vet you use, etc.

Then create a sticker for the back of your drivers license that says "I have dogs, please call: ###-###-#### if I am hurt." This lets emergency personnel know whom to call about caring for your dogs. The driver's license is the form of ID that emergency

personnel are going to look for if anything happens to you. If you have other forms of ID that emergency workers are likely to find first, put the sticker on those too. If you wear an ID card at work, add a sticker to that in case something happens while you are working and you get rushed to a hospital without your purse or wallet.

You can also place a sticker on the inside of the driver's door of your vehicle letting emergency workers know where your emergency information is located. The inside of the driver's door is the only place emergency personnel are sure to see as they try to get you out of the car. A note on a visor is not likely to be seen because the emergency workers will be leaning into your car and looking up to the visor would be difficult. A note on a center console would be the next best thing if it weren't likely to get covered. Be aware of where your airbags deploy when placing a note. You don't want the airbag to cover the note. Once you have the note saying, "Emergency papers are in _____" you can place your emergency papers in that location (glove box, pocket of drivers seat, purse, etc.) It should be somewhere that the papers won't fly out during an impact. Your dog care information can be located here along with an emergency call list (the people you want to be notified if something happens to you) and any medical conditions that the hospital or EMT's need to know about.

Also have a plan for your dogs in case you are killed or permanently incapacitated (such as coma or on life support.). Is your emergency dog care person able to take over the parenting of your dogs? If not, be sure he or she knows whom to call for that. Dogs are considered property by law, so if no plan is in place and no one wants to care for them, they will go to a shelter. Do you think your dogs would get adopted or killed?

Law #8 (Part 6) My dog will always wear some form of identification.

You might think that it can never happen to your dog. When your dog goes outside, it is in a fenced yard and he lives in the house with you in a safe neighborhood. But, doors and fences aren't escape proof and accidents happen. What if you are traveling and get into an accident? What if a rescue worker lets your dog out of the car or if your dog escapes in panic through a broken window. What if your home is broken into and your dog gets loose? Once your dog is lost, it is now at the mercy of the environment. In fact, just two percent of cats and 16 percent of dogs turned into shelters are reunited with their parents.

Why the low return rate? Time is the critical factor. Most lost dogs are found less than a mile from home, but many are never returned because the parent could not be reached immediately. Therefore, the faster the dog's parent can be contacted, the greater those parents' chances are of being reunited with their furry friend. If there is no contact system in place, the dog stands little chance. If the person that finds your lost dog has too much difficulty with the system and is unable to reach a parent quickly, he may just move on. Many individuals finding a lost dog will, at best, provide care for a short period before they decide to keep the dog, or let the dog go. If the dog or cat is turned into a shelter and you are unaware, it will get a new home or be killed.



Breakaway collar

To help insure your lost dogs' safe and speedy return, all dogs should have a collar, even dogs that spend most of their time indoors. Proper fit is crucial — you should be able to slip two fingers under the collar, no more, no less. If it's too tight, it can hurt your dog. If it's too loose, it can come off or get snagged on something, trapping your dog in a potentially dangerous situation. There are breakaway collars available for dogs. If you have more than one dog and they like to play by grabbing each other's collars, you should use breakaway collars on them. It is not uncommon for dog A to grab a collar and dog B lies down and rolls. This roll can trap and possibly break the jaw of dog A and choke dog B to death. A breakaway collar should also be used on dogs that are put into a crate so that the collar or tags cannot get caught in the crate and panic the dog. If the dog panics, he could seriously injure his neck or may flip, cutting off his air supply.

The ASPCA (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)



recommends that, all dogs have an up-to-date dog ID tag with current contact information. Putting a cell phone number on the tag is recommended if you have a cell phone, keep it charged and keep it with you. This will provide the individual finding your lost dog with the basic information necessary to reach you. Studies show that the first thing that someone will do, when they find a lost dog, is to look for a tag.

Although there is no perfect protection, the dog ID tag is the most widely accepted method for tracking lost dogs; stainless steel dog ID tags are the most reliable of all ID's. No matter what system you use (dog ID tag, micro chipping or tattooing, etc.), your dog's information must be up to date. Including the words "If I am alone, I am lost" will help prevent someone from reading a local number on the tag and assuming the dog knows how to get home on his own.

The I.D. system should be as easy as possible for you and the person that finds your dog, to help you get him home. Direct contact with the person that finds your dog works best!! The system should give you the tools you need to update your dog's information from anywhere and work in real time 24 / 7, even after your dog has gotten lost. Your dog's information should have easy accessibility (like the internet); you should be able to manage your dog's information with no third party intervention; be able to post your dog's name, dog return information and special information about your dog, etc.; be able to send an E-Mail and it should have an 800 number back up.

The dog FINDER™ system is one example. Using a simple to understand communication platform, the FINDER System allows the person finding a lost dog to dial a toll-free number and enter an ID number printed on the specially made collar tag. They will first hear the parent's previously recorded message with vital information pertaining to his or her dog. Then, with just the push of a



button, that person is connected directly to the parent at any of three personal contact phone numbers. If the parent is not reached at the first number, the system will dial the next two personal numbers helping to ensure that the parent is reached wherever they might be. Furthermore, the caller will never know the numbers they are connected to thus protecting that parent's security. Good for the life of his or her dog, the FINDER System allows the user to change the message and contact numbers an unlimited amount of times.

The Bottom Line for Dog Safety is:
Dog I.D. tags are a must and the first level of protection for your dog.

Although collars and tags are very reliable, they can be lost or misplaced. Therefore, you may also want to look at other safety options that can be used in conjunction with a dog tag. Two of the most effective methods are microchips and tattoos. Remember that with microchips or tattoos, numbers must be listed with the proper registry, and it is important that you keep the registry up to date with current phone numbers and addresses, so that you can be contacted should your missing dog be found.

Also, while micro chipping and tattooing are valuable backups, they do not replace the need for a dog ID tag, and are not intended to quickly return your dog to you. If the individual finding a lost dog realizes that the dog has a microchip, they must then find and travel with that dog to an appropriate location (vet, shelter, etc.), where the microchip can be scanned or the tattoo number checked in a registry. These methods are valuable to shelters that might recover an animal with no dog ID tag, or a basic tag with out of date information, and thus would have no other way to contact the parent.

A Tattoo can be a valuable identifying mark on your dog. If you use a service like Tattoo-a-Pet or the National Dog Registry, they are available to give callers owner information 24 hours a day. If your dog's collar or tags come off, it provides a valuable back-up system too. By calling the tattoo registries, you can locate a person who will do the tattoos near you. By using the easily identified codes that the registries use, shelters and vets will know which registry to call for your information. Be sure the registry has your current contact information, otherwise the tattoo is useless for finding you. You will also need to keep the hair over the number shaved so it is visible. Tattoos should only be put on a dog's belly because dog thieves



have been known to remove the ears of a dog that has an ear tattoo.

United States Patent
Animal Identification Transponder Tag

Inventor:
Hannis L. Stoddard, III,
Norco, Calif.



Patent No:
Des. 321,069

Date of Patent:
Oct. 22, 1991

Microchips are progressing in technology. While the chip makers are still battling over which chip should be the one and only industry leader, at least they have compromised enough to make the system worth using. It used to be that if the vet or shelter didn't have the scanner that matched the chip, there was no way to know if a chip was in the dog. Now, all the scanners will recognize that there is a chip and if it is not a compatible,

readable chip at least the person scanning knows that a chip is there and can then find the proper scanner to get the information needed. This still does not always work on

chips in dogs from over seas though. Microchips are a valuable back up to a collar tag and could even be combined with a tattoo for additional protection. Be sure that the chip company has your most recent contact information otherwise the chip is useless. For more information, the AVID website has an extensive "Frequently Asked Questions" section: <http://www.avidmicrochip.com/answer.htm>

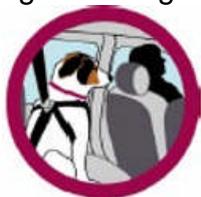
Keep in mind that if you are involved in a disaster, your dog could get separated from you or lost in a very chaotic environment. Having an out of town contact phone number on your dog's tag or in the registry info as a back-up is suggested in case local phone lines are down. Often local calls can't be placed, but long distance calls can go though. There is more information about disaster and emergency preparedness on the Dog Scout website with the disaster preparedness badge.

Law #9- I will strive to travel safely with my dog contained in a crate that is attached to the vehicle or in an accident rated seatbelt designed for dogs. This will help keep the dog safe during travel, will reduce the distractions I have while driving and could save my dogs life in an accident.

The following information was written for the travel safety badge. Even if you don't plan on getting this badge, please read the following pages because it will help protect your dog and possibly save his or her life!

Dog Scouts of America

Travel Dog Badge Training and Preparation



The purpose of this badge and training is to increase awareness of safety practices, increase responsible parenting practices and aid in accident/emergency prevention and preparedness. By taking a few simple steps prior to leaving home with your dog, you can greatly decrease the likelihood of having to deal with an emergency situation and will be able to increase your dog's safety.

Responsible Parenting:

This badge is also intended to increase awareness of why responsible parenting is so important. Whenever you and your dog are out of your home, you could be in the eye of the public. Your neighbors, friends, family and total strangers will watch how you interact with and care for your dog. If you maintain responsibility and kindness, those on-lookers are likely to say and think good things about you and your dog. If instead you fail to clean up after your dog, allow him to bark incessantly, allow him to run up to people that might be afraid of dogs or allow him to run loose where it is illegal, you can bet those same on-lookers will not think very highly of you or your dog. It is these irresponsible actions that cause dogs to be banned from parks and public places. It is also irresponsibility that has many hotels closing their doors to dog parents. Dog Scouts of America does not want to see that happen.

Your positive and responsible actions can help reverse the bans and negative attitudes of some members of the general public, allowing dogs to be welcome in more places. You should always set a good example of a responsible parent with a well-behaved dog. This will help other dog parents see the possibilities and help lead by example.

Here are some examples of responsible parenting:

- Clean up after your dog (and other irresponsible parent's dog's waste.) This includes dog waste, vomit, loose hair and any dirt or debris your dog might bring in. If someone sees you with your dog and then sees dog waste, they will assume it came from your dog. That pile is an unpleasant message about dogs to everyone that passes it. Take a moment to clean it up.
- Always carry clean up supplies with you for all types of dog accidents and messes.
- If staying in a hotel, also have supplies for clean up of dog hair (such as a hand held vacuum or rotating brush type sweeper) and clean up of any wet accidents such as urine, vomit or diarrhea.
- Always dispose of your dog's waste properly (don't put it into an indoor trash container or where the odor may offend anyone.)
- Carry a sheet or blanket to put over the hotel bed(s) or floors to keep your dog's hair contained.
- Never leave your dog alone in a hotel room or allow him to bark repeatedly. Meals can be delivered to your room or you can take your dog to a drive through window to get your meal.
- Be sure your dog moves through the hotel halls with you as quietly as possible or ask for a room with outside access. A rubber band around his tags can keep those quiet too.
- Ask for a ground floor room in a hotel so that your dog's paws thumping across the floor can disturb no one below the floor of your room.
- Obey all leash laws and other rules. They apply to everyone regardless of how well mannered your dog may be.
- Teach your dog proper manners and greeting behaviors (see Polite Pooch/Manners badge)
- Learn to properly manage your dog and his surroundings to keep your dog safe and happy. Learn how to control all interactions between your dog and any people or other animals he meets.
- Teach your dog to travel quietly.
- Think of yourself and your dog as ambassadors for all other dogs to follow in your footsteps. Try to view your actions through the eyes of a person that does not like dogs (would they like or accept what you are doing?)

Identification:

The best way to recover a lost dog is having a means of identifying your dog and letting the person that finds him know how to get in touch with you. Your dog should always have some form of identification on him at all times. You have several options to choose from for this purpose.

Collar tags are well known, visible and easily recognized by everyone. The drawback is that they can come off of the collar or the entire collar may come off the dog. A tag that

reads, "If I'm alone, I'm lost" and has a phone number is a good idea. Too often, someone will read a tag, see a local number, and assume the dog knows his way home. Multiple tags will give people multiple ways to locate you. The county license tag, the rabies tag, the dog insurance tag, the microchip tag, the tattoo tag, etc can all help people find you (and let them know you are a responsible parent.) However, if your dog is a therapy dog, it is suggested that the therapy tag only be on the dog for visits. If someone were to find your dog with a therapy dog tag on his collar, they will know it's a great dog and may decide to keep him for himself or herself. It may have also been a factor in some of the thefts of dogs from yards and vehicles.

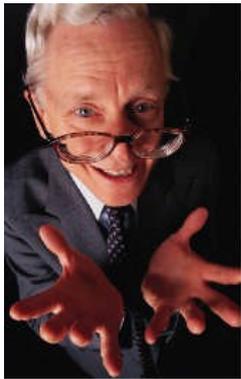
Tattoos are also popular and are always on the dog. They are inexpensive and most dogs do not have to be sedated during the tattoo process. To find a person to put a tattoo on your dog, check with your vet or with some of the tattoo registries. Tattoo-a-dog is one such registry that can put you in contact with a person near you. They also offer a registration service for your dogs and a 1-800 number that can be used by anyone that finds your dog. Using a registry is recommended because the registry tattoos are easier for vets and shelters to identify (usually a specific code). If you pick a random number, it may help you identify your dog, but won't help a finder locate you. A caution about tattoos, you will need to keep the tattoo area shaved to keep the mark visible. It is also recommended that the tattoo be put on an area of the dog that cannot be easily removed, such as his belly or upper thigh. Unscrupulous dog-nappers have been known to cut off tattoos on a dog's ear by removing the ear.

A third means of identification for your dog is micro chipping. This is relatively new and can be done by your vet without sedating the dog. A microchip is a small implant that carries information and is usually injected between the dog's shoulder blades or at the base of his neck. Scanning the dog with a special receiver retrieves the information. Many shelters and vets offices have the scanners. The drawback of the microchip is that not every location has a scanner, some chips are not compatible with some scanners and because it is not a visible means of identification it could be missed if a 'helpful stranger' who thinks they found a stray takes in your dog. Good news is that while not all scanners can read all chips, they will recognize that a chip is present and let the person with the scanner know. The best means of identification for your dog is a combination of the above methods.

If your dog were to get lost, would he come to a stranger? If not, his chances of being recovered diminish significantly. Teach your dog that it is OK to approach a stranger and let them detain him. If you are afraid that teaching your dog this behavior will increase the chances of him going with a dognapper, keep in mind that it is much more likely for a stranger to use this to save your dog's life than to steal him.

If you got into an accident on the highway and your dog got loose, wouldn't you prefer that your dog could be called and detained than to have him run away (possibly into traffic)? Play the recall game with your dog. Have a few strangers stand in a circle around your dog (close at first, then gradually widen the circle.) Have each person call the dog and give him a reward. Avoid calling in a pattern, try to keep the dog guessing about who will call next. Then have each person hold the dog's collar after they call him (briefly at first, then for longer), and then reward the collar hold. It may be helpful to practice this exercise without the dog's name and using a cue a non-dog person might use. They probably won't know the dog's name and probably won't give a "cue." Have

the strangers “follow” the dog and bend over and hold out their hands (the Wicked Witch pose that frightens some dogs), direct eye contact, clapping hands and have them grab at the collar. Acceptance of all these weird human behaviors gets



rewarded with things the dog sees as high value rewards. You want to teach him to welcome these behaviors, not fear them. Play this game saying things like “Here puppy, puppy, puppy” or “Come here” <said sweetly, not as a cue. Once the dog is responding and allowing the collar hold, hide the rewards in another location and when the dog is called, have the person lead the dog by the collar to the reward. Then try it when you are not visible (this can significantly change the dog’s response!) Practice with you in another room, or in the house while the dog is in the yard. Once you are comfortable that the dog WILL come to a stranger, practice in an unsecured area, but attach a long line to the dog just in case. To get the badge, you

will leave the dog in the car and go out of sight (preferably somewhere the dog can’t see or get to you.) A helper will get the dog out of the car (they can use treats or the dog’s name if needed to get the dog out.) Once the dog is loose, a stranger will try to capture the dog without using treats, the dog’s name or obedience cues. Using “come here” is allowed, as it is likely to be used by someone not familiar with dogs. The person trying to capture the dog should not use calming signals or anything that a person with dog knowledge would know or do. The dog should come to the stranger and allow him or her to take the collar or the dog should stay still and let the stranger approach. Standing still looking at the door where the parent is does not count.

Secure Travel:

More and more states are making it the LAW to secure your dog during travel to prevent accidents caused by dog distractions. Anyone that has been in a car with a dog that is barking or jumping around knows how distracting and annoying it can be. It is not safe for the dog or the people in the vehicle (or the other people on the road that could be hit while the driver is distracted.) Dogs should be secured when they travel to protect them in the event of a crash.

IMMI conducted a crash test of their Pet Seatbelt restraining system with a 35lb. dog crash test dummy in a vehicle traveling just 30mph. “When the vehicle impacted, the dog generated 1,135lbs. of force!”

Visit this link and click on “watch the test video” to see a short clip of the accident test done with “doggie crash dummies” and to see one of three accident rated canine seatbelt systems: http://www.immioutdoors.com/petbuckle/why_petbuckle.htm

Heavy-duty crates attached as close to the center of the vehicle as possible are OK too. Avoid putting your crates in the back of the vehicle since this is the area most likely to get crushed if the vehicle is rear-ended and sadly many dogs have died this way. In a van, if there is nothing between the crate and the back of the seats, the crate can become a deadly flying object in the event of a front impact. Crates should be secured to the vehicle to keep them from flying around in the event of a roll over accident or hard impact. All other items, heavier than a box of tissues, also need to be secured. Hard-sided crates such as those



approved for use on airlines and made of plastic are the safest. Soft crates should be used only as a last resort because they offer no 'crush' protection, are nearly impossible to secure to the vehicle and in the case of an accident, the dog will break through the mesh on impact. Try to position crate doors so they face the back or side of the vehicle. In a front impact, if the dog hits the door of the crate, it will pop open (the pins that secure the door can't withstand the force.) Wire crates will likely bend and may pop the welds if not secured against the back of a seat. **For all crates, securing the crate behind a seat and allowing the seat back to take most of the force in a front collision is recommended and will reduce the chances of the dog breaking through the crate on impact.**

Dog seatbelts: A recommended option is a crash rated seat belt designed for dogs. There are several seatbelts on the market, but only 2 are rated for impact at the time of this writing. Most are only to secure the dog and keep him from jumping around and in the case of a crash the buckles or stitching on these types of harnesses can break leaving your dog unsecured and possibly causing severe injury. The straps should be wide enough to offer support without cutting into the dog during an impact. If your dog can reach the armrest, be sure to engage the "child safety locks" on the windows! You don't want your dog rolling down the windows himself and possibly trying to jump out! ☺ If your dog is a Houdini and will back out of the harness, a crate is the safest option, but training can reduce the dog's tendency to slip out of the harness.

There are two seat belts for dogs that are made and tested for impact:

IMMI has a crash rated belt that is easy to get on/off the dog called the "Pet Buckle": http://www.immioutdoors.com/petbuckle/why_petbuckle.htm These are available through Petsmart too.

An alternative seatbelt is the Roadie harness. Some of their models have fleece on the straps that could get hot in warm weather, but it can be wet down to help keep the dog cool. <http://www.ruffrider.com> An Internet search for "roadie dog harness" may find better prices.

Few dog seatbelts on the market are rated for impact. Be sure before you buy!



Trailer tie and crate setup. (Strap goes through the crate to hold it in place too) Wire crates are not recommended, but in this case, it is the back of the seat and not the wire of the crate that will take the force in a front end collision. In a side or rear collision, an airline crate will hold up better.



Bear is comfortable in his Champion harness (no longer an available brand.)



Snap close up- The plastic snaps of the harness are only to hold it on the dog, they do not take any of the force from an impact. The heavy duty D rings and the triple stitched nylon webbing take all the force - along with whatever is used to attach the dog's seatbelt to the vehicle. In this case, that would be a quick release snap designed for horses, a heavy duty "quick link" and a "cross tie" designed for holding horses in a barn isle (which is looped/snapped around the back of the seat.)

If you choose to use a seatbelt harness for your dog, you will need to be sure he won't back out of it and can't get tangled in the attachment lines. The biggest complaint about the harnesses that attach to the vehicle's seatbelt is that the dog tends to get tangled when he turns around. One way to avoid this is to get an equine trailer tie (shorter) or cross tie (longer) and attach it to a solid piece of the vehicle (like around the back of a bucket seat - see above - or snapped to where the seat is attached to the vehicle.) The trailer tie may be 'overkill' for a toy breed, but should be considered for any dog over 20 lbs. Trailer ties and cross ties come with "Panic Snaps" (seen above and below). These are also sold separately and can be attached to the tie using a Quick Link. A panic snap with a swivel end is recommended to help prevent tangling.



Quick Link (open and closed)



Panic Snaps (closed and open)

IMMI conducted a crash test of their Pet Seatbelt restraining system with a 35lb. dog crash test dummy in a vehicle traveling just 30mph. “When the vehicle impacted, the dog generated 1,135lbs. of force!”

Does your dog’s seatbelt look like it can hold that? What about the side of your crate? At higher speeds or with a heavier dog, the force applied to the restraints increases exponentially. Consider that when you are selecting the restraint system for your dog. All the components have to be able to withstand a huge sudden force. In place of the panic snaps shown above, you can use a carabineer made for rock climbing. Be sure you get one that is meant for climbing, not one from the hardware store! Unrestrained cargo is subject to the same forces in an accident. In one case, a loose bag of dog food killed a woman when it flew forward and hit the back of her head. If your dog’s crate is not attached to the vehicle, it could fly too!

If your dog is not restrained, he is a missile that is likely to go through the windshield or hit the dashboard (or the back of your head) with tremendous force. You should also be able to get your dog out of the car quickly in case of a fire or other hazard. The quick release snaps on the equine trailer ties are great for this! If a door of your vehicle was jammed, could you still get the dog out? Be sure that if you use a crate, you don’t limit the dog’s exit to only one door.



30 mph “off-set” crash

It is recommended that you keep the dog’s leash on when he’s in harness. You could even put the handle end over your armrest. In the event that you are pinned in the car, you can still reach your dog’s leash.

Never seatbelt or crate your dog in the front seat (or any seat) that has an airbag in front of it unless the airbag can be turned off. Just as with a small child, an airbag can seriously hurt or kill a dog.

Less distractions = safer driving: The reason many states are making it the law for dogs to be restrained is to minimize distractions. You should be keeping your eyes on the road while you drive, not on your dog that is getting into your luggage or jumping from seat to seat. By restraining your dog, you don’t have to worry about what he is doing or getting into. This allows you to be a safer driver and less likely to get into a collision. Even if your dog sleeps quietly in the vehicle, in the event of an impact, he will get airborne and hit whatever is in front of him with tremendous force. In most collisions, windows break and a dog could get frightened enough by the collision to bolt out of a window (if he hasn’t already been thrown through it.) Can you imagine being trapped or injured in your wrecked car as you watch your dog jump out the broken window in a panic, right into traffic? A restraint system is a simple step toward preventing that tragedy.

Your dog should learn to ride quietly. Sudden or incessant barking is a distraction and annoyance. If you are aggravated by your dog’s actions or barking, you are more likely to exhibit road rage that can be deadly. Covering your dog’s crate can keep him from barking at every thing you pass.

With the help of a friend to drive, you can work on teaching your dog that riding quietly is more rewarding than barking his fool head off. Start out of the car by teaching your dog the “speak” cue, then of course the “quiet” cue. Teach ‘speak’ by saying it just before any action that will cause the dog to bark (like a knock at the door) and reward him for barking. Then as the dog settles, say quiet and show him a treat - reward the quiet. Once you have the “quiet” cue learned, you can get in the car. When the dog barks at something, say quiet and put a treat or favorite toy right in front of his nose and use it to get him to look away from the ‘trigger’ so that he takes his attention from it then give him the reward. If you can’t get his attention back, move farther from the trigger.

You could also practice this solo by parking near an area that causes the dog’s triggers to go past the stationary window. If the dog barks at people going by, park near a sidewalk where people frequently walk. If it is other dogs that set him off, try to park on a street where people walk their dogs (summer evenings parked at a curb in most suburban neighborhoods will work.) The key is giving the quiet cue, then distracting the dog from the trigger, getting a few moments of quiet and attention from the dog and then rewarding. You may have to start with the trigger barely visible (far away) before you can progress to keeping the dog’s attention when the trigger is passing right by the window. Don’t skimp on the rewards during this training, use whatever your dog really, really loves!

Emergency Preparedness:

Even with plenty of precautions, accidents still happen. Being prepared will help you cope with an emergency and handle it, instead of falling apart or not being able to help at all. You should always carry a first aid kit in your vehicle and keep some first aid supplies with your dog’s ‘travel gear’. Having the supplies won’t do you any good, however, if you have not learned how to use them. The Red Cross offers courses in Pet First Aid and the requirements for the Dog Scout First Aid badge will also help.



The following are items that should always be carried in your first aid kit: Vet Wrap or other type of bandaging material, gauze or other sterile and absorbent material for bleeding, muzzle, unopened bottle of hydrogen peroxide less than 1 year old or other means for wound cleaning, 2 or more paint stir sticks or other items to make a splint suitable for your size dog, a blanket that can be used as a sling to carry an injured dog or to keep warm a dog that is in shock, an extra collar and leash (a slip lead can fit any size dog), and Benedryl or other antihistamine in doses your dog can handle. The liquid form is most easily dosed for small dogs. Be sure the Antihistamine is the only ingredient in the allergy relief product (acetaminophen is deadly to dogs.) Of course many more items could be added, but the above items will get you through most traumas well enough to transport the dog to a vet for care.

Another consideration is informing others about the care of your dog in case you are unconscious or so severely incapacitated that you cannot communicate your wishes. If you were to die in an auto accident with your dog in the car, would the emergency personnel know whom to contact? What if you live alone and your dogs were at your residence? Would anyone know?

This information should be in your vehicle at all times (in a place emergency personnel will find it.) It can be placed in an envelope marked “FOR EMERGENCY PERSONEL”

or “IN CASE OF EMERGENCY” a white or bright colored envelope is best. You could even put reflective tape on it. A sticker attached to the driver’s side door (inside and not on the glass, which could break) can tell emergency personnel where to look for your information. The driver’s door is the best place for the sticker because it’s the only door that emergency personnel will see for sure!



Homemade emergency sticker on my driver’s door



Emergency info folder- created from half of a standard paper binder. I also added clear pockets to show which dogs are with me (if any).



For the Emergency Info pages, put the most important facts first. You can include more detailed info that can be given to whom ever will be caring for your dog(s) till the person you designate arrives, but keep the critical info as easy to read and locate as possible. The example pages on the DSA website for the travel dog badge are just suggestions. You can use them as they are or adjust them to suit your needs and preferences. Regarding the driver/passenger page, some people do not want to keep that much personal info in their car. On the lines with personal info, you could write: “in my purse” (which you wouldn’t leave in your car) or “ask my emergency contact.” Adding your photo to the emergency info page is a good idea if you often have human passengers. Emergency personnel can then see easily to whom the info belongs (without having to read the age, sex, etc. and guessing)



You should also include several color copies of photos of your dog (taken from the front and sides) that have the dog’s info and your contact information on the back. If your dog gets lost while you are away from home, you can hand out these photos to people in the area. Emergency personnel could also use the photos if your dog escapes from an auto accident. You don’t want to wait till you are out of the hospital or your contact person arrives before a search for your dog is started.

The clear pockets I created on my folder allow emergency personnel to see which of my dogs should be in the car and allows me to carry the info for all my dogs all the time. I do my best to remember that when I put the dogs in the van, I need

to put their picture in the pockets (and reverse the process when I get back home.) By doing so, no one is going to be looking for dogs that were never in the van in the first place and if a dog I had with me gets loose, they will know which dog to try to find.

Special considerations:

If your dog has 'issues' you may want to display them on his crate or tape a note near where the dog rides. Things like "Shy Dog" or "Dog Will Bite" or "Special Diet" or "Dog Needs Meds" or "Deaf Dog" can help people that may need to help your dog. You can explain the issues in more detail on the emergency info page so that if your dog has to be in the care of a stranger, they will better understand his needs.

General Travel Tips -

Create a "Call Police" sign. It can be printed as large as possible on 8.5 x 11 paper and slipped into a page protector or laminated. You could also create the words out of reflective tape on a separate sheet in case it's dark. If you break down, put it in the window that is most visible to approaching traffic. Use this even if you have your own cell phone because you could be in an area without cell service. Sadly, there are predators that prey on stranded motorists and if they think every passing car has been calling the police, they are less likely to stop and target you. If a marked police car does come by, ask them to sit behind your car until your help arrives. If it's really hot or cold, you can sit in the police car till help arrives. If you don't have cell service, they can help you contact some help. The presence of a marked police car is a huge deterrent to crime!

Always carry a cell phone and the numbers of people you can call in an emergency (including people along your route if possible). Also remember to pack the phone charger so you have a phone on the way home and can use the phone at your destination without worrying about running out of battery power. Keep your phone fully charged. A two-way radio can be a back up for a cell phone. Enough people travel with them that you are likely to reach someone by calling for help. Keep extra batteries on hand too.

When traveling, water may taste differently to your dog and cause him to not want to drink. Some bottled water or several jugs of your home water can help encourage your dog to drink and prevent dehydration. If your dog can't reach a water bowl during travel, it's a good idea to offer water to your dog each time you make a rest stop.

If you have purchased medical insurance for your dog, having them wear the ID tag can let a vet know that treatment is authorized (or allow them to call the insurance company to check.) Just a little extra piece of mind if your dog is injured and you are not able to accompany him to the vet.



Do not let your dog ride with his head out the window. Getting hit with a bug at 65 MPH is not comfortable and could cause serious eye or ear damage. We've all heard the sound of a rock hitting the windshield; now imagine it hitting your dogs face! There is also a possibility that he will step on the window button and choke himself by closing the window. Tree branches and road signs could

also hit your dog in the face if they are close to the road or you have to swerve. In the event of an accident, serious injury or death is likely if the dog's head is outside the vehicle. If he can get his head out, he can probably get his whole body out- not a good thing at any speed and a major driver distraction!

If possible, find the location of the vet that is closest to your destination. An Internet search and on-line map can help you with this. This can save many precious minutes in case of an emergency in an unfamiliar location. Keep the phone number of your own vet handy in case the local vet needs records faxed or medical conditions/medications verified.

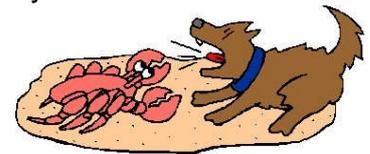
I have heard from several people that dogs are not allowed in tow trucks. Keep this in mind if you need to call a tow truck. I don't know if they will allow the dog to remain inside the vehicle being towed (I know people can't ride in there.) You might have to call someone to pick up you and the dog or try finding a taxi that will allow the dog(s). Some police officers will allow dogs in their cars if you sweet talk them and sound desperate 😊

You might want to practice having other people, even strangers, tell your dog to "wait" or "stay" in the car so they don't jump out an open door or window as soon as the crate is opened or a door is opened. In the event that you are unconscious or worse, a stranger may have to get your dog out of the vehicle and you don't want them to bolt before a leash is in hand or clipped on.

All items in a vehicle that weigh more than a box of tissues should be tightly secured. Anything that is loose WILL fly toward the point of impact and have a second collision with whatever gets in the way (human heads, window glass, dogs, whatever.) If you have a trunk on your vehicle, be sure to put the heaviest items in there.

Travel to some destinations has special requirements and considerations.

Going to the Beach – If you don't live near a beach and you decide you want to take your dog for a visit, be sure that you check in advance to see if dogs are allowed on the beach. Also keep in mind that salt water in large amounts can cause vomiting and explosive diarrhea. Be sure to wash your dog off with fresh water so that the salt does not cause skin irritations. Burned paw pads from hot sand is another hazard as are washed up jellyfish and fishing hooks. Be sure to bring shade for your dog if you plan to be at the beach for a while and fresh water should always be available. Swimming is a very exhausting activity and the force of the water movement makes it even harder. Don't let your dog over exert and using a life jacket designed to fit your dog is a good idea. If no one is swimming in the area, find out why. There could be a rip tide or other hazardous condition. Supervise your swimming dog closely so he doesn't try to "fetch" a jellyfish or become shark food.



Arid locations or travel during hot weather – The southwest is beautiful but poses some unique hazards. Because of the high temperatures, heat stroke is more likely and can happen faster. Be sure your dog stays cool and drinks plenty of fluid (keep lots of water in your car in case you break down and have to wait by the side of the road!) Scorpions and snakes are more commonly encountered too. Decide if a snakebite kit should be

included in your first aid kit. Grass burrs thrive in warmer climates so tweezers are a good idea. If you are in the desert region, keep in mind that the nights can get very cold with as much as a 70 degree difference in temperatures between night and midday. If you need to leave your dog in the car for brief periods of time (such as during your potty break), getting a “Remote Starter” on your vehicle can save you a lot of worry. It allows you to start the engine (including the A/C or Heater) without a key in the ignition. The engine will run for 12-15 minutes before automatically turning off. If the brake pedal is pressed while the remote start is activated, the engine shuts off (to prevent theft of the vehicle.) In most states, it is illegal to leave your car engine running with a key in the ignition (because of the high theft potential.) The remote start lets you do this legally. Any time you leave your windows down or car running; you run the risk of theft (of the dog, the car or both!)

Be aware of hot pavement in parking lots and on paved walking trails, especially black top. If you can't hold your hand on the pavement for 15 seconds, it's too hot for your dog. Do not allow your dog to do sustained activities (running, swimming, etc.) if the temperature is over 75 degrees or the humidity is high. Do not let your dog swim or drink from any water source that has a lot of algae or where the water looks cloudy or like pea soup. These conditions could indicate a deadly algae outbreak and there is no cure once the dog or human is exposed.

If alligators are a possibility, do not let your dog swim in or drink from ponds. Be prepared- before temps start to rise, be familiar with the signs of heat stroke as well as how to treat it. If the dog could get hot or over heated (either traveling, or exercising at your destination) keep damp absorbers in your cooler with ice (Absorber towels are available in the DSA store.) You can lay one under the dog as well as over his back to cool him down. A freezer pack (made for coolers) wrapped in a towel can also be put under the dog to cool him. If the dog is close to heat stroke, do not cool him off too fast. Use cool water, not cold, on his legs where the blood vessels are closest to the surface to bring him back to a regular temperature without causing shock. When the temp starts to come back down, stop the cooling and let the body continue what you started, otherwise, you might drop the temp too much.



Cold locations or travel during cold weather – If you will be traveling to a destination where freezing temperatures are possible be sure to put extra blankets in your car. You don't want to freeze if you have car trouble and don't get assistance right away. “Hot Pockets” type hand warmers can prevent frostbite. You may want to use a higher calorie food if your dog is not used to the cold or will be more active than usual. If your dog will be walking on snow and ice, consider booties to protect the pads on his feet. Check them often for cuts or snow pack if boots are not worn. Your dog might appreciate a warm coat too.

Out of the country – Many European destinations welcome dogs and have much more open policies about dogs in public places. If you plan to travel abroad with your dog, be sure to research the laws, regulations and customs of the areas you will be visiting. Travel agents and Internet searches for “overseas dog travel” may be able to provide you with contact information for your specific questions. Be sure to plan well in advance, so that you can get the required documents, shots and in some cases micro

chipping. If you plan to go on any guided tours or out to meals, where will your dog stay? You won't be leaving him in a hotel room alone right?

By airplane – Dogs can travel by air, but rules and regulations vary by airline. Well in advance of traveling by air with your dog, be sure to contact the airlines to get a copy of their rules, policies and procedures for dogs. Some dogs are small enough to travel in the cabin, but most airlines don't allow more than one dog per flight in the cabin. If your dog is traveling as cargo, be sure you get a non-stop flight during a time of day when it won't be excessively hot or cold while the plane is on the ground. Be sure your dog's crate is well marked with emergency contact info and that your dog is wearing plenty of identification. Painting the crate a bright color or using colored duct tape on the outside will allow you to easily identify your crate as its being loaded onto the plane. This helped at least one person spot their crate being off loaded at the wrong destination and helped avert a disaster! Filling the crate with shredded paper and letting the dog create a "nest" can help comfort the dog. Getting an "anti-vibration" mat for the bottom of the crate can help as well. Using drugs to calm the dog is not recommended because it interferes with the dog's ability to regulate its temperature. Homeopathic solutions like Rescue Remedy do not have these side effects.

At hotels - In addition to the suggestions at the beginning of this section, here are a few more tips: At the time of this writing, all Red Roof Inns allow dogs. Getting their free



directory can help in an emergency if you have to locate a room. Be aware that some hotels that do allow dogs have weight restrictions or a restriction on the number of dogs allowed. Keep your dog's water bowl in the bathroom where spills won't affect carpeting. When you check-in, be sure to ask what areas should be used to walk your dog. Never allow them to eliminate on landscaping like flowerbeds and shrubs. You should also ask if the grass has been sprayed recently so that you don't walk your dog in chemicals he might lick off his feet. Bring your own towels in case you need to rinse off your dog (like if they find 'Eau de carcass' and decide to roll) and never leave ANY dog hair in the hotel tub/bathroom! If it's warm enough, the hotel might have an outside hose you could use instead of the tub. Bringing a little bottle of doggie shampoo can help.

Visiting friends and family - If you are visiting others with your dog, be sure to verify in advance that your dog is welcome. Let your hosts know anything that they might not realize (sheds, has a coffee table clearing tail, barks, chases cats, not good with kids, etc.) Determine ahead of time what areas of the house or yard are off limits to the dog. Teaching your dog the "magic line" can work wonders. Teach your dog not to cross over a leash or rope laid on the floor the same way you can teach him to "wait" at a doorway (see the manners badge.) This will allow you to restrict areas easily while the dog is supervised without a bunch of baby gates (rope is easier to transport too!) Teaching your dog to "go to his mat" or lay quietly in a crate can make meal times pleasant. If the host has neighbors with dogs, see if you can have them be told in advance of your visit and find out if they have any special arrangements they would like you to follow with your dog. Example: "Please do not walk your dog on our side of the street, mine becomes overly territorial." or "We have an invisible fence, please don't let your dog cross it" You may end up getting some doggie play dates arranged that way too!

In checking people out for the Travel Dog badge, I have heard some GREAT suggestions for additions to the Preparation and Training page for the badge – thank you to everyone that provided this information! The following pages cover those excellent tips and advice.

GENERAL TIPS:

Several states have made it a law that dogs be contained when inside a moving vehicle. These laws are in effect even if you are just traveling through. Stay legal and safe- contain your dog in a crate or seatbelt!

Keep in mind that if your dog gets loose after an accident, they might be severely traumatized and in a “blind panic”. They might not even be willing to come to you (provided you are in a condition that allows you to try to get them.) It is so much easier to be prepared and contain your dog, than to have to hope someone is able to catch your dog as it runs around on the highway while you are loaded into an ambulance.

You might want to consider teaching your dog to allow a stranger to reach in to the vehicle and hook a leash on his collar (if you don't keep one on while traveling.) If you're in a serious auto accident, you may be incapacitated and have to rely on a stranger to reach in and give the "wait" cue and also to unhook your dog from the seatbelt. Then the dog needs to allow the stranger to get them out of the car. This may or may not be easier after a traumatic accident.



Teach your dog to be comfortable wearing a muzzle. Many vets will muzzle any injured dog and if the muzzling traumatizes your dog, it adds to his stress.

Be sure the dog's tags have the phone numbers of where you will be or a cell phone number or the number of a special service such as a tattoo or microchip registry. If you aren't home, you will miss the call from someone that finds your dog.

Use a tag which reads, "If I'm alone, I am lost." and gives your cell phone number. Too many people assume a dog wandering on his own is supposed to be doing so. I don't know how many people I've seen, stop a wandering dog, read his tags, notice one gives a nearby location and then release the dog assuming he knows how to find his way back home.

Be sure to take care of any dogs you are leaving behind; Proper care info regarding how much and when to feed, the vet's number and location. Contact your vet to let them know you authorize any emergency treatment that is needed (this pre-planning can eliminate delays in trying to reach you for approval), and give the dog sitter emergency numbers regarding where to reach you.

Be aware that front seat airbags can kill a dog. Some vehicles have a safety feature in which the passenger airbag will not deploy unless there is more than 40 pounds in the front passenger seat. If your vehicle does not have this feature and it has a front airbag, be sure your dogs stay in the back seats.

Don't let your dog ride in the back of any pick up truck. A cap will not contain the dog and if the cap (which weighs 100 pounds or more) is displaced in an accident, it can seriously injure or kill the dog.

Do not let your dog ride in a car with its head out the window. Debris thrown up from the tires of the vehicle in front of you can cause serious injury. If a rock can break a windshield, imagine what it can do to your dog's eye or the skin on its head. Anyone that has ridden a motorcycle without a face shield on their helmet can attest to the fact that even small bugs at 65 mph HURT!



Don't let your dog drink from or swim in water sources in areas where alligators could be present.

Be aware of what kind of conditions you are putting your dog into when they go in the water, particularly at the beach; Ecola overgrowth, rip tides, dangerous underwater objects, deep mud/quick sand conditions, slippery or loose rocks, etc. Also watch them carefully for exhaustion, which can happen quickly if swimming against a current or waves. There are some innocent looking forms of algae that can kill a dog in minutes if ingested so be very careful of where your dog is drinking.

Don't leave a dog in a hot car *regardless* of how quick you plan to be back. You have no way to know if something unexpected will delay you. A "remote start" on the car will allow you to leave the car running for 12 minutes without any risk of getting the car stolen (no key in the ignition and an automatic "engine kill" if the brake pedal is depressed while system is activated.) This device also keeps the running car legal, since in many areas, leaving a car running (with a key in the ignition) is illegal (even if warming it up or cooling it down.) If you park where you can see the car out a window (like at a restaurant) you can use the remote to keep starting your car while you eat- thus keeping it cool or warm. If you have \$1000 to spend, you can get a temperature sensor for your car that will page you if the interior of a running car gets above a selected temperature. Be aware that an idle engine is not always enough to keep the air conditioner from freezing up. Once the compressor freezes, it blows hot air! Several police K9's have been "cooked" to death because of this.

Teach your dog an emergency recall with a whistle. This can come in handy if your dog accidentally gets loose. It can prevent you from having to chase a dog around the highway or yell for your dog in an unfamiliar neighborhood or hotel parking lot. It also allows more people to help you call your dog because the whistle can sound the same regardless of who is blowing it. The information about how to train this is on the DSA website.

AIR TRAVEL:

Fill the dog's crate with shredded newspaper and let them create a nest under it. Of course, introduce them to this concept BEFORE you need to put them on a plane.

Put a photo of the dog on the outside of the crate. Clear adhesive shipping pockets work well for this.

Tape a slip lead to the crate with the words "for emergency use only".

An anti-vibration mat can help the dog relax a bit more since it will help absorb some of the major vibrations present during air travel.

Don't tranquilize the dog; it inhibits the dog's ability to regulate his own temperature. Rescue remedy should be OK to use.

STAYING AT A HOTEL:

At hotels, ASK where the dog is allowed to relieve himself and if the grass has been treated recently. Never let your dog eat grass in public locations or from other people's lawns.

Should be obvious, but only take "house trained" dogs to hotels and watch all dogs closely at first in case they try to "mark" the room. Always take clean up supplies with you regardless of how good your dog has been in the past. The supplies can come in handy if your dog gets sick too.

Tip the housekeeper at the hotel since it's likely they have a bit of extra work any time a dog has been in a room even if you clean up well.

IF STAYING WITH FRIENDS:

Discuss in advance anything your hosts may not realize about your dog (sheds, has coffee table clearing tail, isn't comfortable with kids, eats cats, etc.) and confirm the dog is still welcome. Better to be prepared than have you and your dog "banned" after you get there or to have an unhappy host.

Determine ahead of time what areas of the house/property are on and off limits to your dog. Teach your dog the "magic line" as in "don't cross this magic line!" since there may be no way to block off an off-limits room. This cue can come in handy in many places! Simply lay a leash or rope on the floor and teach the dog he gets rewarded for staying on one side of it. Only use this while supervised though.

If the host has neighbors with dogs see if you can have them told in advance of your visit and find out if they have any special arrangements they would like you to follow with your dog. Example: "Please do not let your dog cross our invisible fence, our dog becomes overly territorial." You may end up getting some doggie play dates arranged that way too! If your dog tends to bark, be considerate of neighbors that might not be tolerant. Letting them know when you are leaving may help them be more accepting. Always keep your dog on lead or under strict verbal control when outside the house or fenced yard.



Before turning your dog loose in an unfamiliar fenced yard, especially if your host does not have dogs, take a walk around to check for fence openings, poisons and other dangers or escape possibilities.

Coyote loves a peanut butter filled kong!

If you have a sweet dog that people seem to fear due to his looks, letting the neighbors know your dog is well trained and friendly can help ease their potential fears.

TRAVEL SUPPLIES:

Use a checklist for packing so you know you haven't forgotten anything you need. Toys, kongs and chewies to keep the dog occupied during 'down time' may come in handy.

Keep a window breaking and seatbelt cutting tool within reach of the driver. If there is a fire or you crash into a water source while in your vehicle, you will want to be able to get out as fast as possible.

Keep a "Call Police" sign in the vehicle- the words can be created out of reflective tape on card stock and slipped into a page protector or laminated (Can save you from having to sit on the side of the road for long periods of time if you don't have a cell phone or are in an area where no cell coverage is available) This sign also helps protect you from predators that might prey on you because they don't know if the police will show up any minute.

Keep the "hot hands" type products handy if you are traveling when it could be very cold if you break down. These are designed to be held or some can be slipped inside your socks. Battery powered socks could be nice too.

A clothesline is good to have if you get caught in the rain and have wet leashes and towels that need to be dried out.

Put wet towels or absorbers in Baggies and put them in your cooler. If the dog gets hot, let him lay on one while you drape the other over his back. You could also use the non-freezing packs made for ice chests if you wrap them in a towel (you don't want to freezer burn your dog!)

Always travel with towels, towels, and towels. Nobody (hotel or host) wants you using his or her towels to wipe down your dog. Beach towels can be used as a safe place to sit if you need to wait at the side of the road. Bright colored hand towels work well as flags. Beach and bath towels make good shade or blankets. Beach towels can be used to lift an injured dog. Beach towels are also great for when you don't want to sit on a wet car seat or if you or your dogs are wet.

Bring a bottle of dog shampoo in case of emergency and pack two extra days of the dog's food and daily meds, just in case.

Prior to leaving, check the local phone listings for the nearest vets and, if possible, print out a locator map off map quest or similar program and put it where you will remember it if panicked. Be sure you have your vet's phone AND fax number and e-mail if they have one.

Keep the 1-888-426-4435 number for animal poison control handy. If you need it, you'll likely need it QUICK! If you need to call, you have to enter your credit card number before they even talk to you!

With risk of tornadoes, fires, floods, chemical spills due to train or truck wrecks or chemical plant explosions, hurricanes, etc. everyone is at risk of having to evacuate their home in an emergency. Create a "Grab n' Go" kit that has dog food, meds, spare leashes, emergency info, some chew toys, etc. that you can toss in (or keep in) your car. If you are forced to leave your home quickly, you will be prepared.

DO YOU HAVE MORE TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS TO ADD? I WANT TO HEAR THEM!

This information may have already saved a dog's life when it was involved in an auto accident on the way home from camp 1 in 2005 – no doubt it saved him from injury! Sharing this info can help save even more and could save you from the heartbreak of losing your dog.

Chris Puls
DogScouts@hotmail.com

Law #10- I will strive to live by the Dog Scout Parent's motto: "Our dog's lives are much shorter than our own, let's help them enjoy their time with us as much as we can." I will help my dog uphold the Dog Scout motto: "Let us learn all that we can, so that we may become more helpful"

These mottos sum it all up. Make the time you have with your dog the best it can be because they will grow old and pass on before you know it.

Teach your dog all that you can because with positive training, the dog's LOVE to learn. The more your dog learns, the more he will be a joy to have around and the closer you will be. His life will be enriched and when it's his time to leave this world, you will take comfort in knowing you made his time on earth the best it could be.

Thank you for being a responsible dog parent!

