

ROCCO - ADOPTED DECEMBER 2021

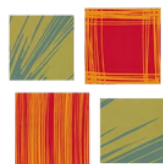


Christopher Cutler Rich
ANIMAL SHELTER

**CONGRATULATIONS!
YOU ADOPTED A DOG!**

CAPE ANN ANIMAL AID DOG ADOPTION BOOKLET

ADOPTION PROGRAM SPONSORS



TILE BY
DESIGN

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YOUR AD HERE

**BECOME A SPONSOR
OF OUR ADOPTION
PROGRAM!**

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center 1-888-426-4435

MSPCA Poison Control Hotline 1-877-226-4355

Massachusetts Vet Referral Emergency Hospital (Woburn) 781-932-5802

Bulger Emergency Veterinary Hospital (North Andover) 978-725-5544

Angell Memorial Hospital (Boston) 617-522-7282

Port City Vet Referral Emergency Hospital (Portsmouth, NH) 603-433-0056

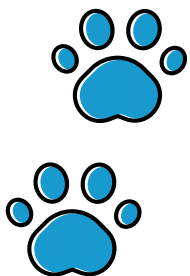
BluePearl Pet Hospital (Waltham) 781-684-8387

24PetWatch – Pet Insurance & Microchip 1-866-597-2424

Cape Ann Animal Aid 978-283-6055 x100

IF THERE IS NO ANSWER, PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE SO
WE CAN RETURN YOUR CALL

info@capeannanimalaid.org



Your Dog's Veterinarian: _____

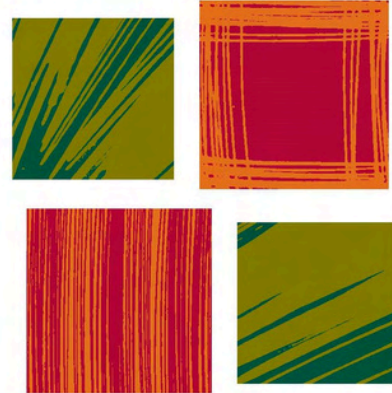
Phone Number: _____

Other Important Numbers:

WELCOME TO THE CAAA FAMILY!



Adoption Program Gold Sponsor



**TILE BY
DESIGN**

Congratulations on your new addition! We are thrilled you made the choice to add a rescue pet to the family. Cape Ann Animal Aid is honored to be a part of your family's adoption story, and we wish you the best in your life together. We know this is a very exciting time for you and your new furry family member. We encourage you to take this time to slowly get to know your new pet and let them get to know you. Your new pet has had lots of recent changes so will really appreciate a few days to decompress with just immediate family. We have included lots of tips and tricks in this booklet that are meant to help set your new dog or puppy up for success in your home and as an important part of the family unit. We encourage you to reach out to us with any questions you may have now or in the future. We sincerely look forward to hearing from you over the years as you share companionship, laughter, adventures, and many years of love together!

***Sincerely,
Sunniva Buck, Executive Director***

***We love to see your updates! You can find us on social media, reach out to us via email with updates, or submit a Happy Tails adoption update on our website
capeannanimalaid.org/happytails***

FEEDING YOUR NEW DOG



feeding Hill's helps
feed shelter pets

SCIENCE
DID THAT.

FEED YOUR PET AND HELP FEED SHELTER PETS!

Every time you purchase Hill's Pet Nutrition for your pet, you can nominate Cape Ann Animal Aid to earn \$1. That adds up - for every adopter, every order, you can help feed shelter pets that come after yours to the Christopher Cutler Rich Animal Shelter.

Shop at shop.hillspet.com

Learn more at
HillsPet.com/ShelterPets

Free Shipping on Orders \$50+

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Help



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\$23.99

[Home](#) / [All Products](#) / [Dog](#) / [Puppy Food \(<1 Year\)](#) / [Puppy Dog Food](#)

Click image to zoom



Hill's Science Diet

Puppy Dog Food, Lamb Meal & Brown Rice Recipe, Dry, 4 lb, 1 bag

SKU: 607763

★★★★★ (101)

Food Type: Dry

[Canned](#) [Dry](#)

Flavor Variant: Lamb Meal & Brown Rice Recipe

[Chicken & Brown Rice Recipe](#)

[Lamb Meal & Brown Rice Recipe](#)

Size: 4 lb, 1 bag

[4 lb, 1 bag](#)

[12.5 lb, 1 bag](#)

Select a Purchase Option

☒ One-Time Purchase **\$19.99**

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1

Add to Cart

Hill's Pet donates to your shelter of choice!
This purchase donates \$1.00 to the shelter of your choice, at no extra cost to you.

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ASSOCIATION INC
4 PAWS LN, Gloucester, MA
EIN: 42374914

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★★★★★

Our Puppies absolutely Love

"Our Puppies absolutely Love this Savory Stew With Chicken &

Sub Brand:

Puppy

Food Form:

Dry Food

Primary Flavor:

Lamb Meal & Brown Rice Recipe

Total Dry Weight:

4 lbs

FEEDING AND CHEW TOYS



FOOD

What kind of food should I feed my new dog?

Cape Ann Animal Aid is proud to be a part of the Hill's Science Diet Food, Shelter & Love program. As such, your dog has been eating Science Diet food while in our care. We recommend that you continue to feed Science Diet to your new dog and have sent you home with a bag of food to start you and your new dog off on this diet.

If you decide to switch food brands, we recommend that you do so under the advice of your veterinarian, who can review the appropriate and gradual way to change your dog's diet.

TREATS, TOYS, AND CHEWING

Why do dogs chew on things?

Puppies who are teething love chewing things because it helps to alleviate their painful gums (much like babies chew on things when they are teething). For some adult dogs, chewing can be a soothing action to help relieve stress and anxiety or is just a pleasant pastime. It's for these reasons that chew toys can be helpful for crate training, keeping your dog occupied when you are busy or away.

Offering a selection of appropriate hard and soft chew toys can go a long way in preventing your pet from chewing inappropriate things. Never offer your dog old items to play with such as shoes or the children's old toys. Your dog cannot distinguish them from the brand new shoes or toys that you just bought (and are off limits). This confusion can lead to very unpleasant results!

There are many different types of chew toys available at all pet supply stores. Rubber and hard hollow chew toys are perfect for stuffing with a tasty treat to entice and engage your dog. We suggest smearing a little peanut butter inside with bits of kibble and broken up treats. We also recommend discussing what types of chew toys would work best for you and your dog with your trainer and/or veterinarian.

WHAT IF MY NEW PUP ISN'T FEELING WELL?



Can I call the shelter for help if my new pup seems sick?

Absolutely! We are here as a resource for many of the small medical problems that may arise within the first two weeks post adoption, and we have a full vet team on staff.

We welcome you to contact us either by phone or by email to discuss any health concerns.

If you think your pet is facing a life-threatening medical emergency, please contact a veterinary emergency hospital in your area.

Can I use my own veterinarian?

If you feel more comfortable consulting with your own veterinarian within the two-week post adoption period, please feel free to do so with the understanding that Cape Ann Animal Aid is not financially responsible for this care.

**Adoption Program
Gold Sponsor**



CRANNEY
HOME SERVICES

1-800-CRANNEY

**ONE CALL
DOES IT ALL.**

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- PLUMBING • DRAINS
- ELECTRICAL

\$50 OFF
Any Service

Cannot be combined with other discounts, offers, coupons, or used towards system checks. Discount applies only if any recommended services have been performed.

CranneyHomeServices.com

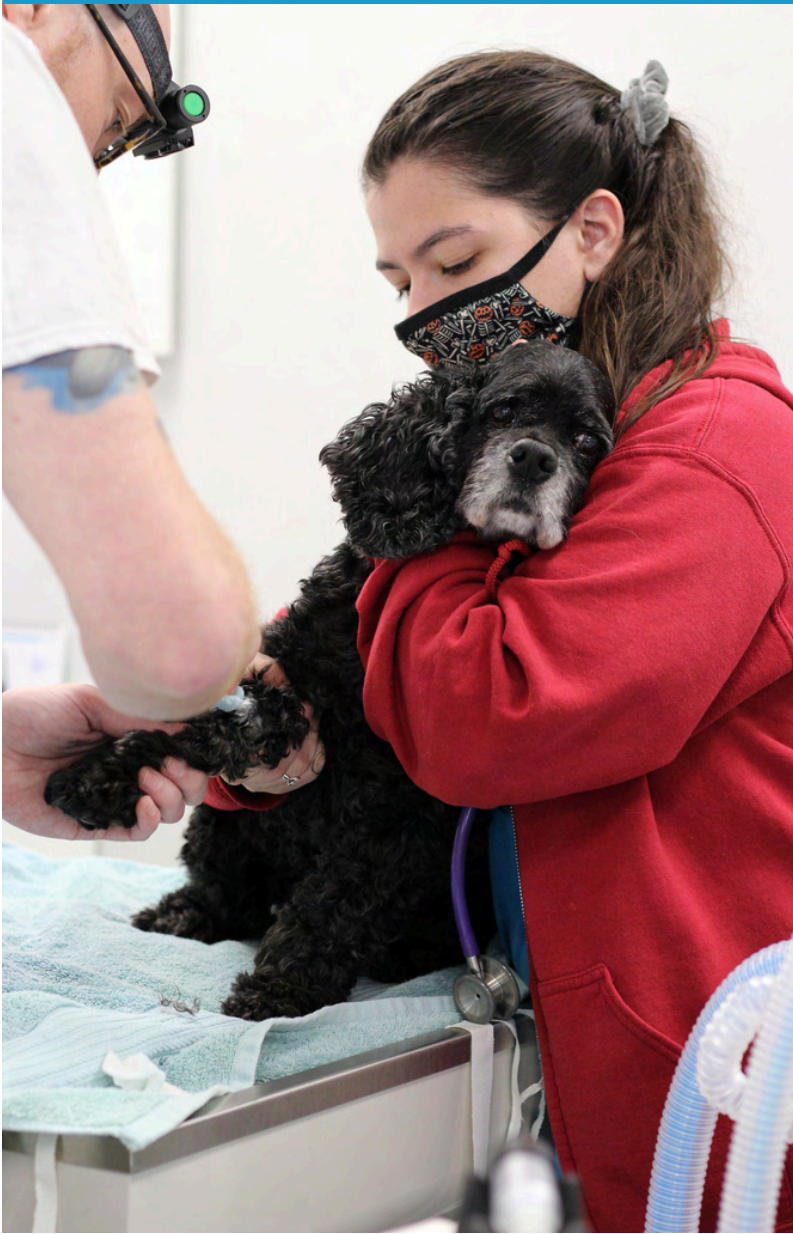
What if I think my new pup has a cold?

In the first two weeks post adoption your new pet may develop a cough or other signs of a respiratory infection (discharge from nose or eyes, or a fever).

If your new pet is sneezing but they have no discharge (or clear discharge) and they are still eating, drinking, and playing normally, we recommend you monitor them. Just like humans, pets can occasionally get a cold virus that just has to run its course.

If your pet starts to have colored discharge from the eyes or nose, behaves differently (tired, uncomfortable, or act like they may have a fever), then they most likely need some additional medical care.

WHAT IF MY NEW PUP ISN'T FEELING WELL?



What if I think my new pup has an upset stomach?

Your newly adopted pet can sometimes have intestinal upset in the form of vomiting or diarrhea soon after joining your family. These are common causes of digestive upset:

- Stress of changing environments
- Changing food
- Too many treats
- Parasites

Sometimes vomiting and diarrhea can be signs of serious illness. These conditions indicate that your pet needs immediate medical care:

- Repeated projectile vomiting
- Vomiting that continues for more than 24 hours
- Diarrhea that continues for more than 24 hours
- Diarrhea or vomit with large amounts of blood in it

Could the spay/neuter site be infected?

If your newly adopted pet has had a recent spay or neuter surgery, try to keep them a little calmer until the incision has completely healed. A small amount of swelling can be a normal reaction to surgery. These conditions indicate that your pet needs additional medical attention:

- Swelling that continues to increase
- Redness that expands around the site
- Discharge from the site
- An opening of the incision

ONGOING HEALTH AND PREVENTATIVE CARE

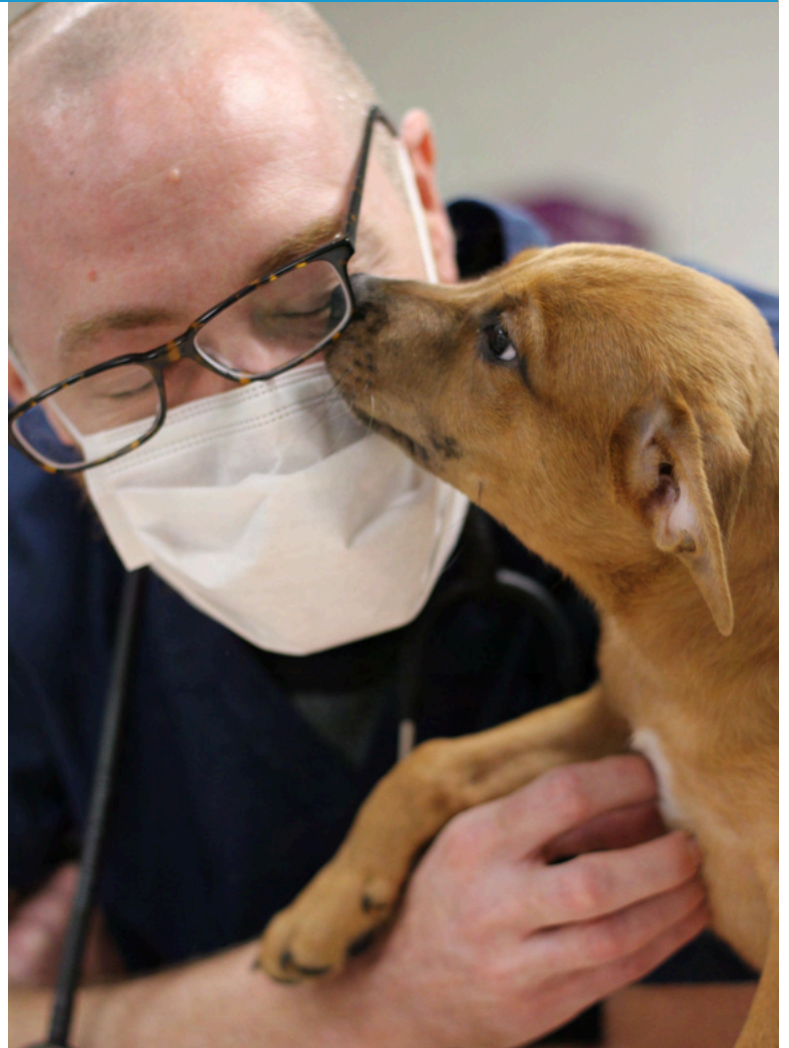
Health and preventative care is an important part of your role as a responsible and loving pet owner.

When should I take my pup to the vet?

We ask that you take your new dog to the vet of your choice within two weeks of adopting to discuss vaccine protocols, parasite prevention, and routine care.

Puppies under the age of four months will need vaccine boosters and all pets should see a veterinarian at least once a year for an annual exam.

Information gathered at annual visits can prove to be lifesaving should your dog ever become suddenly ill or injured. It is also important to note that state law requires your pet's rabies vaccine to be up-to-date at all times.



Should I take any extra precautions with my pet in the first few weeks?

Until your dog has received all of their vaccinations/boosters, we recommend that you socialize them only with dogs belonging to friends/family members. We also recommend that you avoid dog parks or pet supply stores until you have visited your own veterinarian.

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PROGRAM!



chewy.com
where pet lovers shop

For every new customer purchase through our special link, Chewy will donate \$15 to Cape Ann Animal Aid!
Shop here: prf.hn/click/camref:1100lfdSr

MICROCHIP & PET INSURANCE



Welcome to the family!



Dear Adopter,


Congratulations! You've made the generous and meaningful decision to adopt your new pet. Keeping them happy, safe and home is a big responsibility, and we're here to help.

You can count on 24Petwatch® and all our personalized services to help you care for your pet, every day. Whether it's an essentials checklist or pro tips on how to bond with your new pet, or help finding your pet if they go missing, you're family now, and we've got you covered.


Create your account

Your pet's microchip is already registered with 24Petwatch. Now it's your turn!


Create your account to verify that your contact information on your pet's microchip registry is accurate (there's no cost). This important step will help us reunite you if your pet ever goes missing and is found. PLUS, you'll get access to these benefits:



Expert content to help welcome your pet and keep them safe



Report a lost or found pet online and notify the community for support



Instantly generate a lost pet poster to help find your pet

Create your account:
Visit mypethealth.com or call 1-833-889-7387

The proven leader in lost pet recovery; we care about keeping families and their pets together

- ✓ **28 million pets in our pet registry database**, the largest in North America
- ✓ **625,000 lost pets reunited** with their grateful families, thanks to our pet microchip registry and DirectConnect services
- ✓ **5,000 shelters, rescues, clinics and partners** collaborate with us to help care for pets and reunite them if they go missing



Pet insurance is protection for your pet and your wallet!



What is pet insurance?

A simple, reimbursement-based coverage you can use when your pet gets hurt or sick.



Why choose coverage?

Coverage can make it easier to say yes to unexpected vet care. It gives you peace of mind knowing you can get money back.

Visit 24Petprotect.com/adopted to learn more today.

*Pre-existing conditions are not covered. Waiting periods, annual deductible, co-insurance, benefit limits and exclusions may apply. For all terms and conditions visit www.24Petprotect.com/terms. Products, schedules, and rates may vary and are subject to change. Discounts may vary and are subject to change. More information available at checkout.
Insurance products are underwritten by United States Fire Insurance Company (NAIC #21113, Morristown, NJ), and produced and administered by PTZ Insurance Agency, Ltd. (NPN: 5326528, domiciled in Illinois with offices at 1208 Madison Road, Suite G200, Aurora, Ohio 44206). (California residents only: PTZ Insurance Agency, Ltd., d/b/a FIA Insurance Agency, Ltd. CA license #0E36937). 24Petprotect is a brand name.



EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS FOR ADOPTED DOGS

Since 2023, **Dogtown** has proudly partnered with **Cape Ann Animal Aid**, a non-profit organization that has transformed countless lives through rescue, care, and adoption.

At **Dogtown**, we believe in carrying that mission forward. That's why we've partnered with **Cape Ann Animal Aid** to ensure that every adopted pet not only leaves the shelter with love, but also with the tools to live a healthier, happier life.



TRAINING

20% OFF
TRAINING SESSIONS
Coupon:
CAPEANNTRAIN20



GROOMING

20% OFF
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Exclusive Welcome Gift: 1 Free Daycare Day!
*Valid after first evaluation

Together, we give every adopted pet a brighter future.

Dogtown - 📍 210 Eastern ave, Gloucester

HOUSETRAINING YOUR NEW DOG

How much housetraining will my new dog require?

It is important to treat your new dog (despite age) as if they were very young and not housetrained. Even an adult dog that was housetrained in their former home will need a refresher course. Losing your family, spending time in a shelter, and joining a new family with new rules and new surroundings can lead to a lot of confusion, so it's important to start from scratch.

How often should I take my dog outside to go to the bathroom?

Very young puppies need to visit the bathroom frequently, sometimes as often as once every hour during their wake and playing time (by 10-12 weeks most healthy puppies can sleep through the night with no potty breaks).

Schedule potty breaks for first thing in the morning, after every meal, drink, or play session and upon awakening from a nap. As your puppy grows and as you become familiar with your new pet's bathroom signals, the trips outdoors for potty breaks will decrease in frequency.



CRATE TRAINING

What is crate-training?

We suggest housetraining with the aid of a dog crate. Crates provide a secure short-term confinement area for safety and housebreaking.

A dog crate can be the dog owner's most valuable tool not only for housetraining but for preventing destructive behaviors and keeping your new pet safe. Think of your dog's crate as a playpen or crib. When no one is available to supervise your new pet, they can be safely contained inside their crate and when the family is sleeping you can rest easy knowing that your new pet is tucked in their crate for the night.

When you are busy on the phone, taking a shower or sleeping, having your puppy safely the crate prevents them from destroying your possessions while they are teething and keeps them safe.

HOUSETRAINING YOUR NEW DOG

CRATE-TRAINING

How does crate-training help with house-breaking?

Normal, healthy puppies and dogs instinctually want to keep their bedding/rest area clean. Therefore, the crate should be big enough for your dog to stand up, turn around, and lay down but not big enough for your dog to go to the bathroom in one end and lay down in the other.

Your pet should have an opportunity to do their toileting before you place them in their crate for any length of time. As soon as you let your new pet out of the crate make sure that they are immediately given an opportunity to go outside to go to the bathroom.



TETHERING

What is tethering?

Tethering is keeping your new dog on a leash that is also attached to you (i.e.: clipped to your belt or held loosely around your wrist) while you are both inside the home.

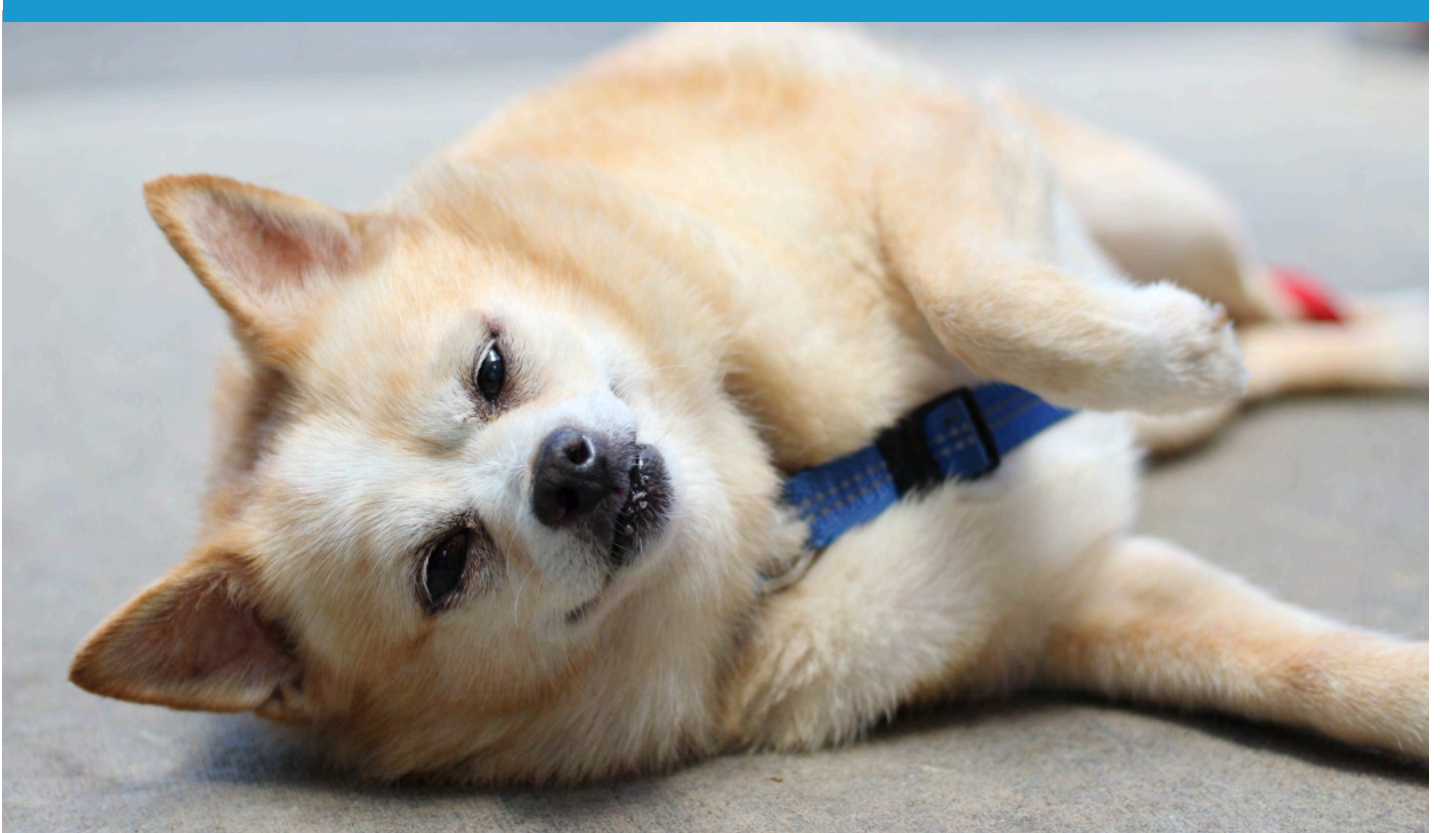
Why is tethering important?

Tethering helps the dog to learn what your expectations are for their behavior in a consistent and calm manner. The most common reason for house breaking difficulties and destructive behaviors inside the home is “too much freedom too soon”.

A lot of owners give their dogs more freedom than they can handle by allowing them to roam around a room or the house before they have completely learned what behaviors their new family is expecting of them. The result is often a dog that will repeatedly have accidents in the home, chews on things, gets into the trash, jumps all over the furniture etc.

If your dog begins to chew on something or starts to go to the bathroom in the house while tethered to you, you'll notice right away and will be able to calmly interrupt them and redirect them to an appropriate behavior.

LOST DOG PREVENTION



What can I do to prevent my dog from getting lost?

While your dog can go missing at any point in time, they are especially vulnerable in the first few months after adoption while your bond is still forming. Take care to prevent loss by:

- Making sure your dog is wearing both a collar with ID tag and a harness that fits properly.
- Using a leash that is secure and checking it regularly for tears or weak spots. (We do not advocate for the use of retractable leashes.)
- Wrapping the leash around your wrist in addition to holding it with your hand (don't just hold it loosely in your fingers).
- Keeping your microchip information up to date - if you move or change phone numbers, be sure to update your contact information on your 24PetWatch account.

FINDING A LOST DOG

What can I do if my dog gets lost?

LOOK AROUND YOUR HOUSE. Your pet may be in a closet, a dark corner, or even inside bulky furniture and other small places. Try making cues that usually interest your pet (opening the dog food container or squeaking a favorite toy).

GET THE WORD OUT TO NEIGHBORS. Go door to door and let your neighbors know your pet is missing. Sometimes, pets hide in a neighbor's garage or have found an open window and may be hiding or accidentally locked in a basement or shed etc.

MISSING DOGS MASSACHUSETTS. Missing Dogs Massachusetts (MDM) is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that works to reunite missing and found dogs with their families. MDM works cooperatively with animal control officers, rescues, shelters, law enforcement, and the media. (www.missingdogsmass.com)

CONTACT THE MICROCHIP COMPANY. All animals adopted from Cape Ann Animal Aid have been microchipped. Contact the company where the microchip is registered and let them know your pet is missing. Make sure your contact information in association with the microchip is up to date.



USE COMMUNICATION CHANNELS. Call/email all local animal shelters, groomers, animal control, and veterinary offices to report your missing pet. You should also bring them a flyer to post. Visit our Lost Pets webpage (www.capeannanimalaid.org/lostpets) and fill out a Lost Pet Report Form. There is also a list of contact numbers on that page. Utilize social media networks and send emails to friends, family, and coworkers on your email list. Post messages and pictures on online message boards and forums. Ask everyone to pass on the info to anyone in the area.

RUN AN AD IN THE PAPER. Place an ad in the local paper. Some papers will run lost and found messages in the classified sections for free or at a low cost.

MAKE FLYERS. Make flyers to hand out and post around the area with your pet's picture and a description. MDM has a template you can use at missingdogsmass.com/lost-dogs:

- Use a large and clear font that can be easily read.
- Include a phone number that somebody will answer or that has voicemail.
- If you chose to offer a reward, use caution in responding to people who claim to have found your pet.
- Ask businesses if you can post a flyer in their store (retail stores, gas stations, restaurants, bars, and grocery stores etc.)

DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



"PEACE!"
look away/head turn



STRESSED
yawn



STRESSED
nose lick



"PEACE!"
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"
turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE!"
whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED
scratching



STRESS RELEASE
shake off



RELAXED
soft ears, blinky eyes



"RESPECT!"
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"
belly-rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"
play bow



"READY!"
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS
head tilt



HAPPY
(or hot)



OVERJOYED
wiggly



"MMMM...."



"I LOVE YOU,
DON'T STOP"

Adopting a new dog is all about changes for both of you. Use this guide to make the first few weeks fun and stress-free. You will build a foundation for a lasting relationship if you follow these steps to ...



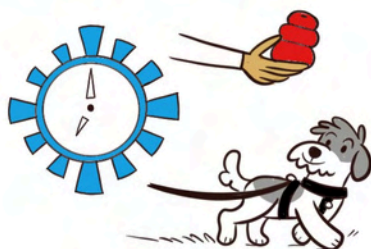
Decompress for SUCCESS

By DOG LATIN DOG TRAINING & BEHAVIOR CONSULTING™



ROUTINE

Dogs crave predictability. Stick to the same times when feeding, walking, training, and departing from your home.



PRIVACY

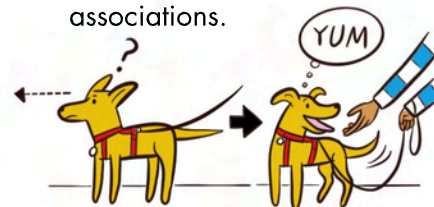
Dogs, like people, need time to themselves. Create a spot with a crate or mat. Call your dog to leave their space, rather than invading their space.



POSITIVE

SOCIALIZATION

Limit interactions with new people, places, and things. Let your dog explore gradually in short sessions. Build positive associations.



TRAIN AT HOME FIRST

Start positive reinforcement training at home for a distraction-free setting. This is the fastest, clearest way to establish communication.



TRAIN WITH FOOD

Shift calories out of the food bowl and use in short (5 minute) training sessions. Spread training sessions throughout the day, including reinforcing loose leash walking.



AVOID LEASH GREETINGS

Meeting other dogs can be stressful. Dogs don't always like each other. Limit or avoid greetings until you learn more about how your dog shows unease.



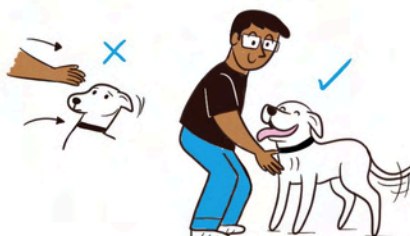
OBSERVE YOUR DOG

When your dog is relaxed, what do their ears, mouth, tail position, and entire body look like? Learn your dog's body language to know when your dog is concerned and to identify triggers.



LET YOUR DOG INITIATE CONTACT

Let your dog initiate contact with people. Never force an interaction. If your dog solicits attention, pet on the chest, not on top of the head.



HAVE FUN

WITH YOUR DOG!

Playing, feeding, walking, and interacting with your new dog builds a lasting bond. Take it easy the first month and get to know each other before widening the circle. After all, you have a lifetime together!



HOW **NOT** TO GREET A DOG

*Most people do this stuff and it stresses dogs out so they BITE!
Please show dogs some respect.*



DON'T
Lean over the dog & stick
your hand in his face



DON'T
Lean over the dog & stick
your hand on top of his head



DON'T
Grab or Hug him



DON'T
Stare him in the eye
(This is an adversarial gesture)



DON'T
Squeal or shout in his face



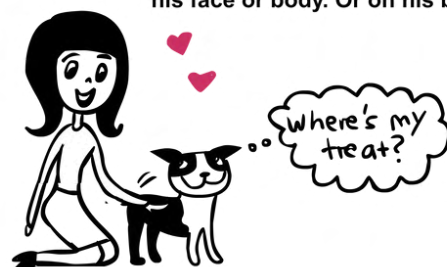
DON'T
Grab his head and kiss it
(This is an invasion of space)

Doing this to a dog who doesn't know you is like a perfect stranger giving you a great big hug and kiss in an elevator. Wouldn't that creep you out? And wouldn't you have the right to defend yourself?

The correct way:



- * No Eye contact
- * Let the dog approach you in his own time
- * Keep your SIDE towards the dog (non-threatening posture)



- * Pet or stroke him on the SIDE of his face or body. Or on his back.

Socializing Your Dog

...refers to providing him with POSITIVE experiences with NEW THINGS. The best way to make sure your dog has great experiences is to include things he loves (like food or toys)

new people

Let your dog approach **at his own pace**, if and when he wants to.



Associate new people with **wonderful things**.



Make sure puppies are **gently & positively exposed** to different people.



other animals

Always check that the other animal is friendly & tolerant of dogs before you let your dog approach.



Teach your dog how to act politely around other animals by rewarding him for good behavior. Redirect him if he's pushy or overly excited.



If your adult dog doesn't want to play with unfamiliar dogs, that's okay. Adult people don't want to play with every other person we meet either!



new things & environments

To prevent **noise phobia** (eg, fear of thunder), feed your dog a tiny treat every time the noise happens.



Take rides in a boat, train car, or elevator.



Visit parking lots and other busy places just to watch the people, animals, vehicles, etc. and feed your dog treats.



Remember: EXPOSURE alone isn't socialization!

If your dog isn't having a great time, you could do more harm than good. Dogs don't just "get over" issues by themselves, so if your dog is shy, worried, or overly excited, leave the situation and work with a professional who can help both of you. If your dog is having a blast and is happy and comfortable, you're doing a great job of socializing him!

Playing With Your Dog

Dogs (and people) love to play! Playing with your dog is one of the best ways to reward him for a job well done. Done correctly, play can help a stressed dog relax and a distracted dog focus.

Every dog is different, so get to know what sort of play your dog enjoys. Just like some people enjoy wrestling and roller coasters while others enjoy reading and board games, different dogs will have different preferences. Try to find the level of excitement that's "just right" for your dog. Avoid play that gets your dog so amped up that he can't think or calm down. On the other hand, if your dog is bored by your attempts to play, try upping the level of excitement or changing to a different game. There are lots of different ways to play with your dog! Here are a few common favorites:



One-on-one games

CHASE is a great one-on-one game! Just make sure to have your dog chase you instead of chasing your dog. You don't want to accidentally teach your dog to run away from you.



TAG, YOU'RE IT!

Many dogs like gentle tag games, where you tap, poke, or push your dog away from you, then run in the opposite direction, encouraging him to catch up.

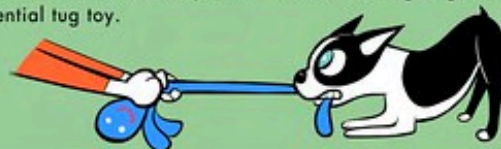


toy games

FETCH! is a fun option. If your dog likes to play "keep away" once you've thrown the ball or Frisbee, try playing with two toys. As soon as your dog drops the toy in his mouth, throw the second toy for him.



Contrary to the popular myth, **TUG** won't make your dog aggressive. In fact, playing tug is a great way to teach your dog to control his mouth when he's excited! Just make sure to teach your dog to start and stop the game on cue so that you can control the fun and he doesn't think your winter scarf or bag of groceries is a potential tug toy.



If your dog isn't interested in toys, don't worry... there are lots of other fun games the two of you can play, and just like not all people enjoy video games, not every dog gets the allure of the tennis ball.

Food games

For less-playful dogs, food can be stuffed in hollow toys like **KONGS** and **BUSY BALLS** for home-alone fun.



Nose games

Dogs have a great sense of smell, and letting your dog use his nose is a great game! Toss a piece of food on the ground in front of him and tell him to **FIND IT!**

As he gets better at the game, you can start tossing the food farther away, into grass or carpet, or even hide it ahead of time for a doggy scavenger hunt.



training games



Training can be a great way to play with your dog. Approach training sessions as games. The more you smile and laugh while you train your dog, the more your dog will love listening to you!



CLICK!



CLICKER TRAINING

is one example of a fun and effective dog training method.



AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'!

The most common cause for nuisance behaviors in dogs is boredom.

Dogs are social creatures and crave attention and affirmation.



Ignoring a dog for long stretches at a time and then reprimanding him for seeking attention is counterproductive. Reprimands are a form of attention. Behaviors that earn the dog attention will increase in frequency. Reprimands only confuse the dog.

1. **KEEP YOUR DOG BUSY: GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO DO.**
2. **WHEN YOU TAKE BREAKS, (PLEASE) DON'T FORGET TO PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR DOG.**
3. **TEACH/REWARD YOUR DOG TO RELAX ON HIS BED.**
4. **GIVE YOUR DOG EXERCISE, PLAY AND MENTAL STIMULATION EVERY DAY.**



Lili 2012

What is Positive Reinforcement Dog Training?

- Teaching dogs desirable behaviors using SCIENCE-based & REWARD-based methods.
- Helping dogs learn and succeed step by step.
- Motivating dogs with fun exercises and games. No force! No pain!
- Encouraging dogs to think more for themselves.
- Valuing dogs' voluntary behaviors.
- Understanding dogs' feelings from their body language.
- Understanding how dogs learn, their needs and wants.
- Using methods that work humanely with ANY dog. Big dogs, small dogs, puppies, senior dogs, disabled dogs, fearful dogs, reactive dogs... can all learn and have fun!



**1. develop
dog's self-control**



**2. develop
a trust relationship**



**3. develop
dog's self-confidence**



**Positive Reinforcement Training
= HAPPY RELATIONSHIP**

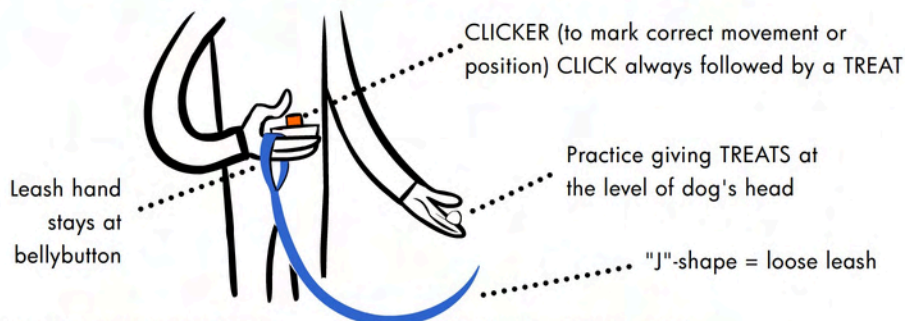


TEACHING YOUR DOG TO WALK POLITELY ON LEASH

PART ONE: Start in a small, boring space. Go at your dog's pace.

The most important step in teaching your dog to walk politely on leash is showing your dog where you want him to be while he is on leash.

To make things easier for your dog, start practicing in a small, boring space. This improves the odds that your dog will stay close to you.



PRACTICE WITH NO DOG

Practice clicking and feeding a treat at your pant seam, at the level of your dog's head.

PRACTICE WITH DOG

Practice holding the leash at your belly-button as you click and feed.

1



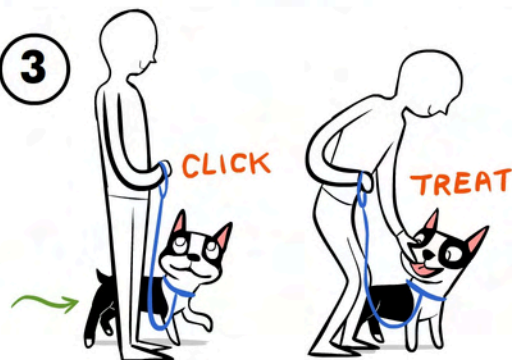
Click and treat rapidly a few times in the correct position.

2



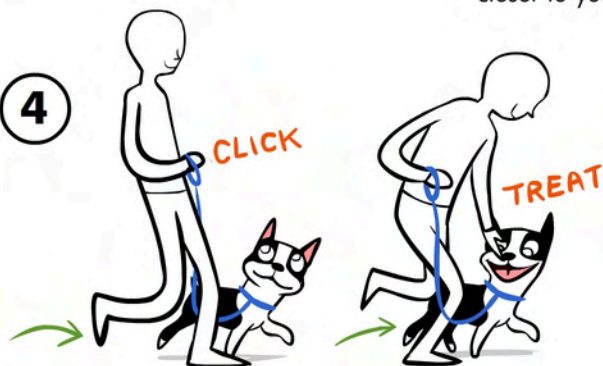
Move slightly out of heel position and wait for your dog to move closer to you.

3



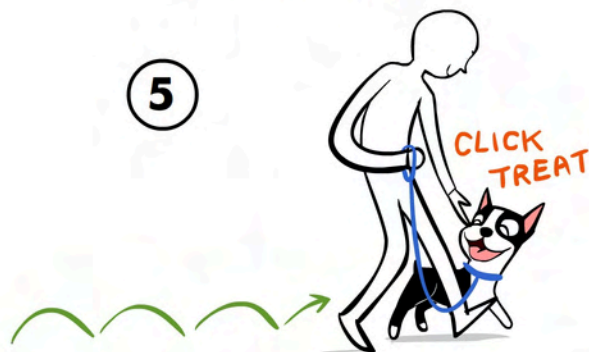
As soon as your dog moves even the tiniest step closer to you, click and feed at the "ideal" head position.

4



Repeat until your dog moves into heel position every time you move out of it.

5



Gradually take more and more steps between clicks and treats. If your dog gets confused, go back to just one step and then increase the number of steps more slowly to help him understand.

6



Then start changing direction and speed.

7

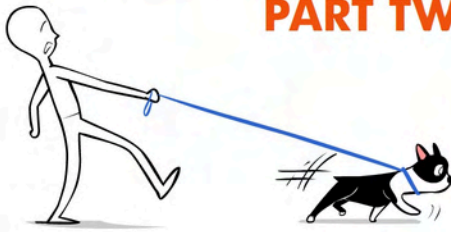


Next, move to a larger or more interesting space, and start over from STEP 1

When your dog can handle STEP 6 in the new space, move to another new space, starting over from STEP 1 again.

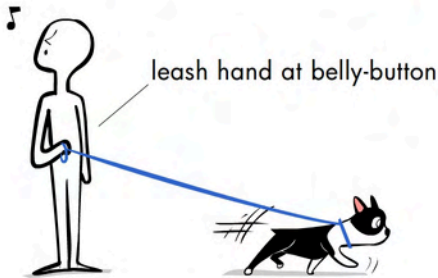
TEACHING YOUR DOG TO WALK POLITELY ON LEASH

PART TWO: Help! My Dog Is Pulling!

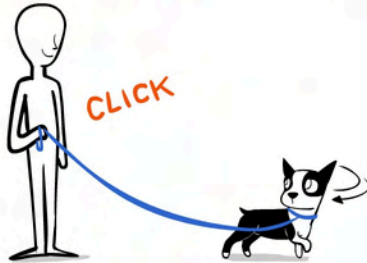


If pulling on the leash gets your dog where he wants to go, he'll keep pulling. To avoid teaching your dog that pulling is a good strategy, use one of the techniques described below.

TECHNIQUE 1: "I AM A ROCK"



When your dog pulls, stop in your tracks. Wait. As you wait, pretend you have no dog.

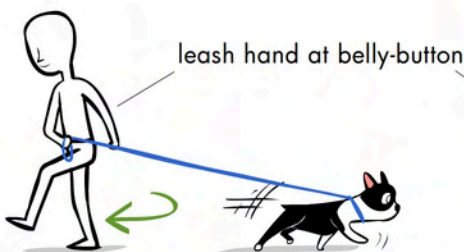


When your dog backs up or turns to you, click and feed a treat at your pant seam.

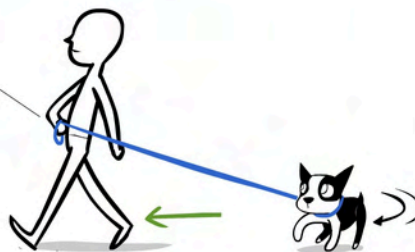


Then move forward again.

TECHNIQUE 2: "BACK & FORTH"



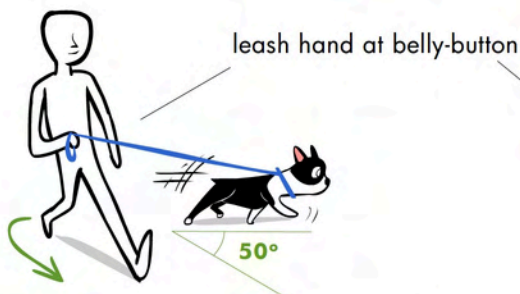
When your dog pulls, turn around and walk purposefully in the opposite direction. When your dog catches up to heel position...



Click and treat. Then turn around and continue in your original direction.



TECHNIQUE 3: "OFF AT AN ANGLE"



This is a great technique for dogs who are very strong. When your dog pulls, simply move away at a random angle that isn't 180 degrees.



Wait for your dog to catch up to heel position.



Click and treat. Then turn around and continue in your original direction again.

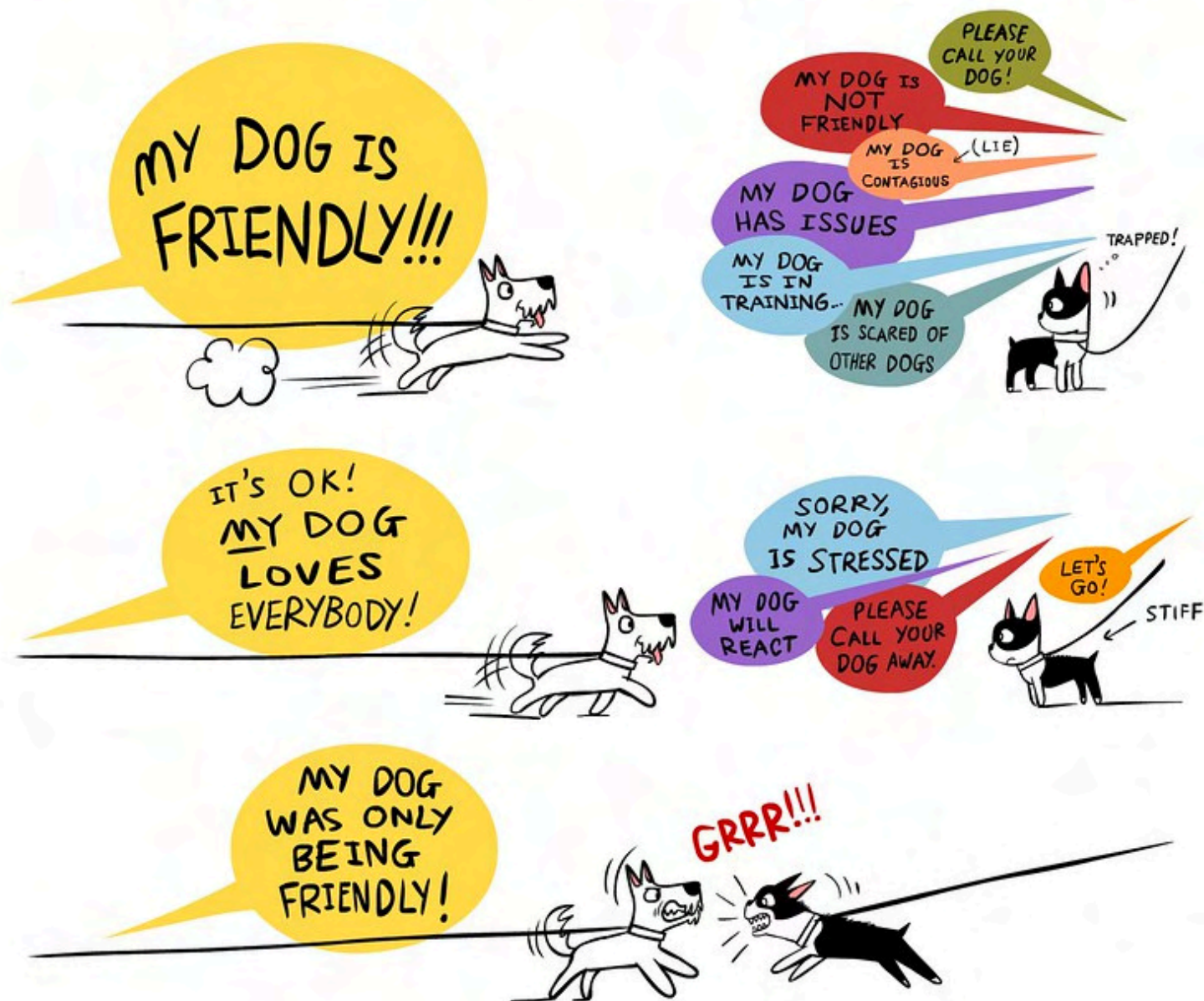


If your dog keeps pulling, the environment is probably too exciting. Go back to teaching your dog polite leash walking in a less exciting place. Then build up gradually to walking on leash in the exciting environment again.

Remember to go back to PART ONE every time you practice in a new place.

SPACE ETIQUETTE FOR DOGS

To: People with "Friendly Dogs", Off-Leash Dogs, & Retractable Leash Dogs



NEWSFLASH: Running up to another dog and ignoring requests to go away is not "friendly", it is rude. Just like people, DOGS NEED PERSONAL SPACE. If a stranger came up and put his hand on your body, you'd be allowed to step back, yell, and push him away. Dogs have the same right to enforce their boundaries. Some dogs are called "reactive" because they are more sensitive than others. Reactive dogs are good dogs, they just need more distance and compassionate training. You can help them by honoring their need for personal space.

1. **NEVER LET YOUR OFF-LEASH DOG GO UP TO AN ON-LEASH DOG.**
2. **LOCK RETRACTABLE LEASHES WHEN YOU SEE OTHER DOGS.**
3. **ASK BEFORE APPROACHING OR PETTING ANY DOG.**
4. **HAVE COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE WITH SHY OR REACTIVE DOGS.**

Please do not chase us. Let us pass without interaction, and keep your judgements to yourself.

CAN MY DOG SAY "HI"?

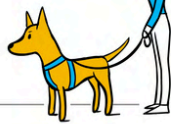
SORRY, NO. I HAVE A DOG THAT NEEDS SPACE. THANK YOU.

YOUR CHOICE Affects Your Dog's Choice.

A case of BARKING at other dogs



1



YOU THINK:
My dog is looking
at the other dog.
SHE MUST WANT
TO SAY HELLO!



YOUR DOG THINKS:
He is staring at me.
This is scary.
He might attack me.
I can't look away.

2



Don't be shy! It's OK!
He wants to be your friend.
SAY HI TO HIM!



YOUR DOG THINKS:
What is my mom
thinking? I am scared!
But I have no way to
escape when she is
holding onto this leash

3

GET AWAY FROM ME!!!



YOU THINK:
What BAD MANNERS!
She needs to be
punished to understand
this is bad behavior!

4



STOP IT!
BAD DOG!!!



YOUR DOG THINKS:
My mom is angry!
This is scary! It must be
because of that dog
approaching us. Next
time when I see a dog, I
will bark and growl
much earlier!



STAY AWAY!
OR ELSE!!!



Dogs don't always want to greet and/or play with other dogs even if they LOOK at another dog.

When they feel fear, they may find it hard to turn away.

You can choose to help your dog feel safer and prevent undesirable behavior.



LET'S GO OVER
THERE!

In the early stages, HELP YOUR DOG KEEP DISTANCE FROM OTHER DOGS, or help your dog focus on something else that is pleasant - treats, a toy, or you - to avoid escalating her fearful and excited feelings. If your dog is unable to look away from the other dog and continues to react, then she needs more distance and more help. Please talk to a professional trainer using science and reward-based dog training techniques.

Your dog can make better choices if YOU make better choices!

Let's learn more about dogs and Positive Reinforcement Training!



BEHAVIOR
SERIES

Introducing Your New Dog to Your Resident Dog

FROM "THE LEADER OF THE PACK" to "the top dog," plenty of simplistic metaphors come from the canine world. But relationships between canines can be pretty complex, beginning with the very first meeting. Like most animals who live in groups, dogs establish their own social structure, sometimes called a dominance hierarchy. This dominance hierarchy serves to maintain order, reduce conflict, and promote cooperation among pack members. Dogs also establish territories, which they may defend against intruders or rivals. Obviously, dogs' social and territorial nature affects their behavior whenever a new dog is introduced to the household.

Introduction Techniques

Choose a Neutral Location

Introduce the dogs in a neutral location so that your resident dog is less likely to view the newcomer as a territorial intruder. Each dog should be handled by a separate person. With both dogs on leashes, begin the introductions in an area unfamiliar to each, such as a park or a neighbor's yard. If you frequently walk your resident dog in a nearby park, she may view that area as her territory, too, so choose a less familiar site. If you are adopting your dog from an animal shelter, you might even bring your resident dog to the local shelter and introduce the two there.

Use Positive Reinforcement

From the first meeting, help both dogs experience "good things" when they're in each other's presence. Let them sniff each other briefly, which is normal canine greeting behavior. As they do, talk to them in a happy, friendly tone of voice; never use a threatening tone. (Don't allow them to investigate and sniff each other for too long, however, as this may escalate to an aggressive response.) After a

short time, get the attention of both dogs and give each a treat in return for obeying a simple command, such as "sit" or "stay." Take the dogs for a walk and let them sniff and investigate each other at intervals. Continue with the "happy talk," food rewards, and simple commands.

Be Aware of Body Postures

One body posture that indicates things are going well is a "play-bow." One dog will crouch with her front legs on the ground and her hind end in the air. This is an invitation to play, and a posture that usually elicits friendly behavior from the other dog. Watch carefully for body postures that indicate an aggressive response, including hair standing up on one dog's back, teeth baring, deep growls, a stiff-legged gait, or a prolonged stare. If you see such postures, interrupt the interaction immediately by calmly getting each dog interested in something else. For example, both handlers can call their dogs to them, have them sit or lie down, and reward each with a treat. The dogs' interest in the treats should prevent the situation from escalating into aggression. Try letting the dogs interact again, but this time for a shorter time period and/or at a greater distance from each other.

continued on reverse side

For complete tips and advice on pet behavior and other pet care topics, visit www.petsforlife.org.

Take the Dogs Home

When the dogs seem to be tolerating each other's presence without fearful or aggressive responses and the investigative greeting behaviors have tapered off, you can take them home. Whether you choose to take them in the same vehicle will depend on their size, how well they ride in the car, how trouble-free the initial introduction has been, and how many dogs are involved.

Space Your Introductions

If you have more than one resident dog in your household, it may be best to introduce the resident dogs to the new dog one at a time. Two or more resident dogs may have a tendency to gang up on the newcomer.

Support the Top Dog

It is important to support the dominant dog in your household, even if that turns out to be the newcomer. This may mean, for example, allowing the dominant dog to claim a favored sleeping spot as his or to have access to a desirable toy. Trying to impose your preference for which dog should be dominant can confuse the dogs and create further problems.

Introducing Puppies to Adult Dogs

Puppies usually pester adult dogs unmercifully. Before the age of four months, puppies may not recognize subtle body postures from adult dogs signaling that they've had enough. Well-socialized adult dogs with good temperaments may set limits with puppies with a warning growl or snarl. These behaviors are normal and should be allowed. Adult dogs who aren't well socialized, or who have a history of fighting with other dogs, may attempt to set limits with more aggressive behaviors, such as biting, which could harm the puppy. For this reason, a puppy shouldn't be left alone with an adult dog until you're confident the puppy isn't in any danger. Be sure to give the adult dog some quiet time away from the puppy and some extra individual attention as well.

When to Get Help

If the introductions don't go smoothly, contact a professional animal behaviorist immediately. Dogs can be severely injured in fights, and the longer the problem continues, the harder it can be to resolve. Punishment won't work and could make things worse. Fortunately, most conflicts between dogs in the same family can be resolved with professional guidance.

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BEHAVIOR
SERIES

Nothing in Life Is Free

A Training Technique for Dogs

DOES YOUR DOG GET ON THE FURNITURE and refuse to get off? Nudge your hand and insist on being petted or played with? Refuse to come when called? Defend his food bowl or toys from you?

If so, a training technique called “nothing in life is free” may be just the solution you’re looking for. “Nothing in life is free” is not a magic pill that will solve a specific behavior problem. Instead, it’s a way of living with your dog that will help him behave better because he trusts and accepts you as his leader and is confident knowing his place in the family.

How to Practice “Nothing in Life Is Free”

- Use positive reinforcement methods to teach your dog a few commands and tricks. “Sit,” “Down,” and “Stay” are useful commands. “Shake,” “Speak,” and “Roll over” are fun tricks to teach your dog.
- Once your dog has mastered a few commands, you can begin to practice “nothing in life is free.” Before you give your dog anything (food, a treat, a walk, a pat on the head), he must first perform one of the commands he has learned. See the chart below for examples.

- Once you’ve given the command, don’t give your dog what he wants until he does what you want. If he refuses to perform the command, walk away, come back a few minutes later, and start again. If your dog refuses to obey the command, be patient and remember that eventually he will have to obey your command to get what he wants.

Make sure your dog knows the command well and understands what you want before you begin practicing “nothing in life is free.”

The Benefits of This Technique

- Most dogs assume a neutral or submissive role toward people, but some dogs will challenge their owners for dominance. Requiring a dominant dog to work for everything he wants is a safe, nonconfrontational way to establish control.

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YOU	YOUR DOG
Put your dog's leash on to go for a walk	Must sit until you've put the leash on
Feed your dog	Must lie down and stay until you've put the bowl down
Play a game of fetch after work	Must sit and “shake hands” each time you throw the toy
Rub your dog's belly while watching TV	Must lie down and roll over before being petted

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- Dogs who may never display aggressive behavior such as growling, snarling, or snapping may still manage to manipulate you. These dogs may display affectionate behavior that borders on being "pushy," such as nudging your hand to be petted or "worming" their way onto the furniture to be close to you. This technique gently reminds the dog that he must abide by your rules.
- Fearful dogs may become more confident by obeying commands. Having a strong leader and knowing his place in the hierarchy helps to make the submissive dog feel more secure.

Why This Technique Works

Animals who live in groups, like dogs, establish a social structure within the group called a dominance hierarchy. This dominance hierarchy serves to maintain order, reduce conflict, and promote cooperation among pack members. To ensure that your home is a safe and happy place for pets and people, the humans in the household should assume the highest positions in the dominance hierarchy. Practicing "nothing in life is free" gently and effectively communicates to your dog that his position in the hierarchy is subordinate to yours.

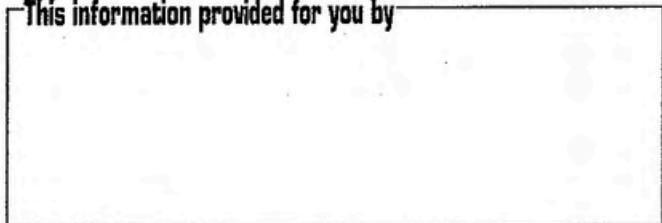
From your dog's point of view, children also have a place in this hierarchy. Because children are small and can get down on the dog's level to play, dogs often consider them to be playmates rather than superiors. With the supervision of an adult, it's a good idea to encourage children in the household to also practice "nothing in life is free" with the family dog.

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Related topics at www.petsforlife.org

- Positive Reinforcement: Training Your Dog (or Cat!) with Treats and Praise

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BEHAVIOR SERIES

Reducing Separation Anxiety in Dogs

EVERYONE NEEDS A LITTLE TIME ALONE NOW AND THEN—unless of course you are a dog who suffers from separation anxiety. Dogs with separation anxiety exhibit behavior problems when they're left alone. Typically, they'll have a dramatic anxiety response within a short time (20–45 minutes) after their owners leave them. The most common of these behaviors are:

- ❑ Digging, chewing, and scratching at doors or windows in an attempt to escape and reunite with their owners
- ❑ Howling, barking, and crying in an attempt to get their owners to return
- ❑ Urination and defecation (even with housetrained dogs) as a result of distress

Why Do Dogs Suffer from Separation Anxiety?

We don't fully understand why some dogs suffer from separation anxiety and, under similar circumstances, others don't. It's important to realize, however, that the destruction and house soiling that often occur with separation anxiety are not the dog's attempt to punish or seek revenge on his owner for leaving him alone. In reality, they are part of a panic response.

Separation Anxiety Sometimes Occurs:

- ❑ When a dog accustomed to constant human companionship is left alone for the first time
- ❑ Following a long interval, such as a vacation, during which the owner and dog are constantly together
- ❑ After a traumatic event (from the dog's point of view), such as a period of time spent at a shelter or boarding kennel
- ❑ After a change in the family's routine or structure (such as a child leaving for college, a change in work schedule, a move to a new home, or a new pet or person in the home)

How Do I Know If My Dog Has Separation Anxiety?

Because there are many reasons for the behaviors associated with separation anxiety, it's essential to correctly diagnose the reason for the behavior before proceeding with treatment. If most, or all, of the following statements are true about your dog, he may have a separation anxiety problem:

- ❑ The behavior occurs exclusively or primarily when he's left alone.
- ❑ He follows you from room to room whenever you're home.
- ❑ He displays effusive, frantic greeting behaviors.
- ❑ The behavior always occurs when he's left alone, whether for a short or long period of time.
- ❑ He reacts with excitement, depression, or anxiety to your preparations to leave the house.
- ❑ He dislikes spending time outdoors by himself.

What to Do If Your Dog Has Separation Anxiety

For a minor separation anxiety problem, the following techniques may be helpful by themselves. For more severe problems, these techniques should be used along with the desensitization process described in the next section.

- ❑ Keep arrivals and departures low-key. For example, when you arrive home, ignore your dog for the first few minutes, then calmly pet him. This may be hard for you to do, but it's important!
- ❑ Leave your dog with an article of clothing that smells like you—such as an old t-shirt that you've slept in recently.
- ❑ Establish a "safety cue"—a word or action that you use every time you leave that tells your dog you'll be back. Dogs usually learn to associate certain cues with short absences by their owners. For example, when you take out the garbage, your dog knows you come right back and doesn't become anxious. Therefore, it's helpful to associate a safety cue with your short-duration absences.

Some examples of safety cues are a playing radio, a playing television, or a toy (one that doesn't have dangerous fillings and can't be torn into pieces). Use your safety cue during practice sessions with your dog. Be sure to avoid presenting your dog with the safety cue when you leave for a period

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of time longer than he can tolerate; if you do, the value of the safety cue will be lost. Leaving a radio on to provide company for your dog isn't particularly useful by itself, but a playing radio may work if you've used it consistently as a safety cue in your practice sessions. If your dog engages in destructive chewing as part of his separation distress, offering him a chewing item as a safety cue is a good idea. Very hard rubber toys that can be stuffed with treats and Nylabone®-like products are good choices.

Desensitization Techniques for More Severe Cases of Separation Anxiety

The primary treatment for more severe cases of separation anxiety is a systematic process of getting your dog used to being alone. You must teach your dog to remain calm during "practice" departures and short absences. We recommend the following procedure:

- ❖ Begin by engaging in your normal departure activities (getting your keys, putting on your coat), then sit back down. Repeat this step until your dog shows no distress in response to your activities.
- ❖ Next, engage in your normal departure activities and go to the door and open it, then sit back down.
- ❖ Next, step outside the door, leaving the door open, then return.
- ❖ Finally, step outside, close the door, then immediately return. Slowly get your dog accustomed to being alone with the door closed between you for several seconds.
- ❖ Proceed very gradually from step to step, repeating each step until your dog shows no signs of distress. The number of repetitions will vary depending on the severity of the problem. If at any time in this process your actions produce an anxiety response in your dog, you've proceeded too fast. Return to an earlier step in the process and practice this step until the dog shows no distress response, then proceed to the next step.
- ❖ Once your dog is tolerating your being on the other side of the door for several seconds, begin short-duration absences. This step involves giving the dog a verbal cue (for example, "I'll be back"), leaving, and then returning within a minute. Your return must be low-key: Either ignore your dog or greet him quietly and calmly. If he shows no signs of distress, repeat the exercise. If he appears anxious, wait until he relaxes to repeat the exercise. Gradually increase the length of time you're gone.
- ❖ Practice as many absences as possible that last less than 10 minutes. You can do many departures within one session if your dog relaxes sufficiently between departures. You should also scatter practice departures and short-duration absences throughout the day.
- ❖ Once your dog can handle short absences (30-90 minutes), he'll usually be able to handle longer intervals alone, and you won't have to repeat this process every time you are

planning a longer absence. The hard part is at the beginning, but the job gets easier as you go along. Nevertheless, you must go slowly at first. How long it takes to condition your dog to being alone depends on the severity of his problem.

Teaching the Sit-Stay and Down-Stay

Another technique for reducing separation anxiety in your dog is practicing the common "sit-stay" or "down-stay" training exercises using positive reinforcement. Your goal is to be able to move briefly out of your dog's sight while he remains in the "stay" position and thereby teach your dog that he can remain calmly and happily in one place while you go to another. To do this, you gradually increase the distance you move away from your dog. As you progress, you can do this during the course of your normal daily activities. For example, if you're watching television with your dog by your side and you get up for a snack, tell him to stay, and leave the room. When you come back, give him a treat or praise him quietly. Never punish your dog during these training sessions.

Interim Solutions

Because the treatments described above can take a while, and because a dog with separation anxiety can do serious damage to himself or your home in the interim, consider these suggestions to help you and your dog cope in the short term.

- ❖ Consult your veterinarian about the possibility of drug therapy. A good anti-anxiety drug should not sedate your dog, but simply reduce his anxiety while you're gone. Such medication is a temporary measure and should be used in conjunction with behavior modification techniques.
- ❖ Take your dog to a dog day care facility or boarding kennel.
- ❖ Leave your dog with a friend, family member, or neighbor.
- ❖ Take your dog to work with you, even for half a day, if possible.

What Won't Help a Separation Anxiety Problem

- ❖ Punishing your dog. Punishment is not an effective way to treat separation anxiety. In fact, punishing your dog after you return home may actually increase his separation anxiety.
- ❖ Getting another pet as a companion for your dog. This usually doesn't help an anxious dog because his anxiety is the result of his separation from you, his person, not merely the result of being alone.
- ❖ Crating your dog. Your dog will still engage in anxiety responses in the crate. He may urinate, defecate, howl, or even injure himself in an attempt to escape from the crate.
- ❖ Leaving the radio on (unless the radio is used as a "safety cue," as described above).
- ❖ Training your dog. While formal training is always a good idea, it won't directly help a separation anxiety problem. Separation anxiety is not the result of disobedience or lack of training; it's a panic response.

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Bathing Your Pet

Even the cleanest of pets can sometimes need a bath. For dogs, regular bathing can help keep their skin and haircoat healthy. In general, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) recommends bathing your dog about every 3 months; however, certain breeds and dogs that spend a lot of time outside may need to be bathed more often. Cats, on the other hand, generally do not need regular baths—their tongues are designed to be an essential grooming tool. However, there are situations when your cat—or dog—may need a bath:

- If your pet comes in contact with a potentially hazardous substance or sticky material
- If you are allergic and want to keep pet dander to a minimum
- If your pet goes or gets outside and comes in contact with dirt or fleas
- If a medicated shampoo is prescribed or recommended by us to treat a certain condition

Preparing for a Bath

Try to make bathing a pleasant experience for your pet—and for you! If you can teach your pet to enjoy being bathed, it can be another way to strengthen your relationship. However, even the calmest of pets (especially cats) may become stressed around water. Make sure you have everything ready ahead of time to keep bath time as short and relaxed as possible:

- A tub (indoors or out) or sink with warm (not hot) water
- A spray hose or nozzle or a large plastic pitcher or unbreakable cup
- A washcloth for cleaning your pet's head and face



Regular bathing can help keep a dog's skin and haircoat healthy.

- A rubber bath mat to keep your pet from slipping
- A mild shampoo made for dogs or cats (depending on your pet) or the prescribed medicated shampoo
- Old clothes to wear (for cat owners, make sure you are protected against scratches and bites)
- Plenty of large, absorbent towels and/or a blow dryer, if your pet will tolerate it
- Toys and treats for rewarding good behavior

It may be beneficial to have another person assist you in restraining your pet during the bath. If you are comfortable doing so, you can trim your pet's nails the night before bathing to minimize the chance of scratches. Mats, tangles, and loose hair are also easier to remove by brushing before bathing.

The Bath

- Make sure the water in the tub or sink is not too deep for your pet. For cats

and small dogs, 3 to 5 inches of water is enough. Place your pet in the water and, if you have one, use the spray hose to thoroughly wet your pet, being careful not to spray directly in his or her eyes, ears, or nose. If you don't have a spray hose, use the plastic pitcher, cup, washcloth, or your hands to scoop up the water in the tub.

- Gently massage the shampoo into your pet's haircoat from head to tail. Follow the labeled instructions carefully. Don't forget to lather hard-to-reach areas, such as between the legs and the body. Avoid getting any shampoo in your pet's eyes, ears, nose, or mouth. Use the washcloth to wipe the face/head.
- Thoroughly rinse your pet, again taking care to avoid the ears, eyes, and nose. You may need to drain and refill the sink or tub a few times to make sure you have removed all of the shampoo. Don't forget to check the feet, under the chin, under the abdomen and chest, and any other areas that can be hard to rinse. Shampoo residues left on the skin and hair can be irritating; cats, in particular, may lick them off later, which can cause illness.

- Dry your pet with the towels or a blow dryer on a low setting. If you use a blow dryer, you may need to slowly introduce your pet to the sound of the dryer. Also, make sure

Try to make bathing a pleasant experience for your pet—and for you! If you can teach your pet to enjoy being bathed, it can be another way to strengthen your relationship.

that the blow dryer air doesn't get too hot for your pet. If you can only towel dry your pet, be sure to keep him or her in a well-controlled climate until completely dry.

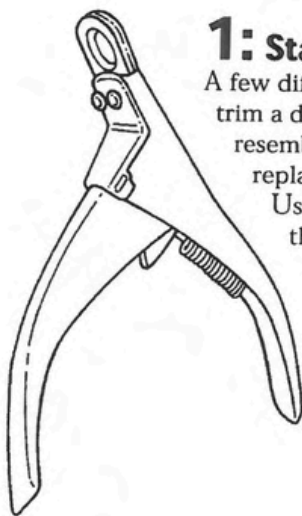
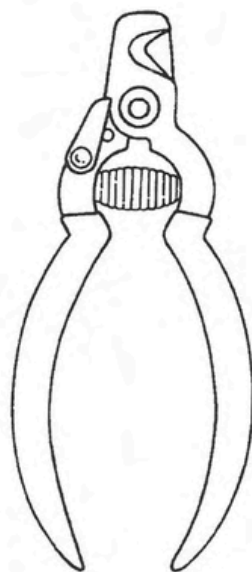
- Give your pet a toy, treat, and/or calm praise as a reward for good behavior.

If you have any questions about bathing your pet—or whether he or she needs bathing—please ask! We are happy to help you keep your pet clean and healthy.

How to Trim a Dog's Nails

W

hen you think about grooming a dog, you probably consider bathing him, brushing his coat, even cleaning those floppy ears, but it's a good idea to give dogs a pedicure every few weeks as well. If you've never trimmed a dog's nails, ask for some help from a more experienced person, and keep these instructions nearby.



1: Stay Sharp

A few different tools are available to help you trim a dog's nails, including those that resemble miniature pliers and those with replaceable sliding "guillotine" blades.

Use whichever model makes you and the animal most comfortable, but be sure to replace the blade frequently to make the job easier and prevent the dog from feeling any discomfort.

2: Pull Their Legs

Dogs are often pretty cooperative when it comes to having their nails trimmed, and those who were handled often as puppies are even more likely to comply. Still, you may need to work a little to keep the animal still. If you're working alone, have the dog sit or lie down on the floor or examining table, then trim the nails, one paw at a time.



Although dogs are less likely than cats to injure someone with their claws, timely nail trimmings help ensure that a dog can walk without pain or discomfort. The nails of very active dogs may not require any trimming, since they're continually worn down by contact with concrete and other rough surfaces. But it's still a good idea to check the nails occasionally to make sure none of them are torn or split.

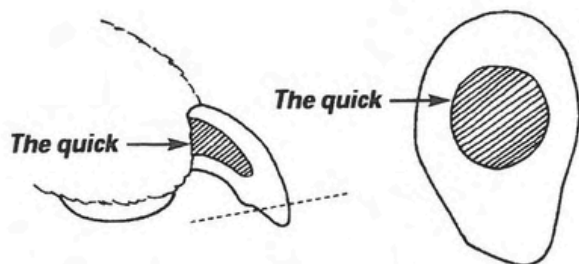
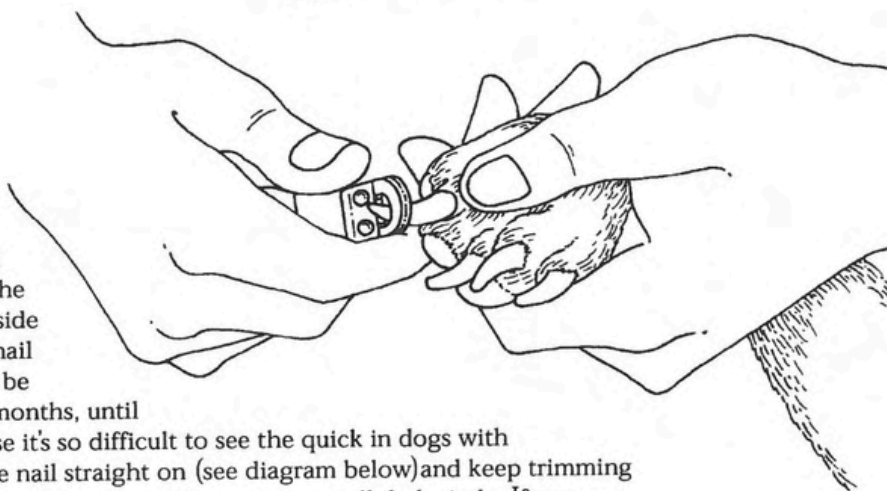


3: Pull Their Legs, Part II

If you're grooming a larger dog or if the animal is apprehensive, have someone sit him down and hold out his paw, then get to work with the clippers. Have your helper scratch behind the dog's ears to reassure the animal and help move things along a little more quickly.

4: Take the Edge Off

Remember that you should only remove the very end of the dog's nails. You may be tempted to trim off all of the excess, but that would be a mistake. In dogs, the quick—the nerve endings and blood vessels inside the nail—continue to grow as the nail grows. That means long nails must be trimmed bit by bit, over weeks or months, until the quick gradually recedes. Because it's so difficult to see the quick in dogs with dark nails, you'll need to look at the nail straight on (see diagram below) and keep trimming



until you see a small dark circle. If you accidentally clip too far and the nail begins to bleed, apply pressure to the tip of the nail or dip the nail in a bit of styptic powder, then make sure the animal is kept inactive for a short time.

5: Thank Them Very Much

Give the dog a treat or a pat on the tummy to thank him for his cooperation, and things should go at least as well the next time around.