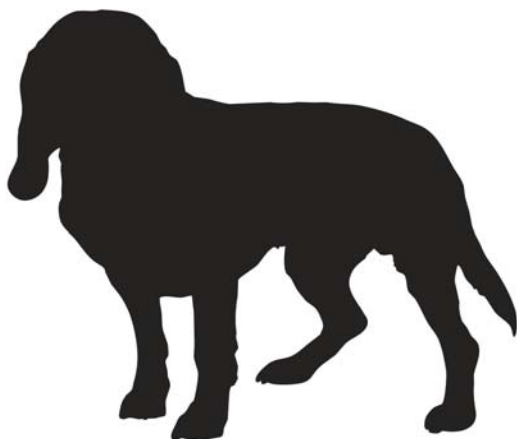




**HOWARD COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL
AND ADOPTION CENTER**

Caring for your Adopted Dog



**HOWARD COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL & ADOPTION CENTER
8576 DAVIS ROAD COLUMBIA, MD 21045
410-313-2780 WWW.HCPD.ORG**

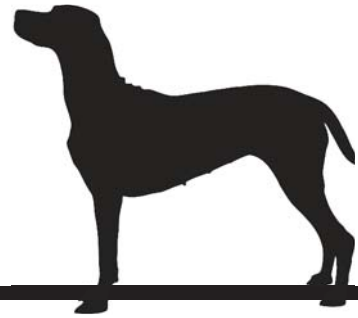


Dear new pet owner,

Thank you for saving the life of a shelter pet. We hope the enclosed information will be helpful during the initial adjustment period as you begin training and caring for your new companion animal.

It is our goal for this to be a successful and happy placement for you, your family and your new pet. Please don't hesitate to call the adoption center for additional assistance. We wish you a lifetime of the warmth, joy and companionship that owning a pet can bring.

**Sincerely,
Howard County Animal Control
Staff and Volunteers**



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CRATE TRAINING

Too many potentially good pets are misunderstood, unfairly punished, abused, isolated or given up on by otherwise kind and well-meaning owners who are unable to prevent, control or live with common problem behaviors of puppies and dogs.

The correct use of a crate may give many of these innocent animals the chance they need – and deserve – to spend their lives as the appreciated pet of a satisfied owner.

A dog crate is a rectangular enclosure with a top and a door, made in a variety of sizes proportioned to fit any type of dog. Its purpose is to provide guaranteed confinement for security, safety, housebreaking, protection of household goods, travel, illness or just general control.

BENEFITS

If your first reaction to using a crate is that it is unfair to the dog, you are not alone. It's natural to feel that enclosing your dog in a crate would be inhumane. But as the dog sees it, a crate provides a private, special area of his own that

offers security and safety.

You can:

- Enjoy complete peace of mind when leaving your dog home alone, knowing that nothing will be soiled or destroyed and that he is comfortable, protected and not developing any bad habits.
- Housebreak your dog more quickly by using the close confinement to encourage control, establish a regular routine for outdoor elimination and to prevent accidents.
- Confine your dog at times when he may be unwelcome, overexcited, stressed or sick.
- Travel with your dog without risk of the driver being distracted or the dog getting loose and lost, and with the assurance that he can easily adapt to any surroundings as long as he has his crate.

Your dog can:

- Enjoy the privacy and security of a den of his own to which he can retreat when tired, stressed, or ill.
- Avoid much of the fear and confusion caused by your reaction to problem behavior.



CRATE TRAINING continued

- More easily learn to control his bowels and to associate elimination only with the outdoors.
- Be spared the loneliness and frustration of having to be isolated in a basement or outdoor area.
- Be conveniently included in family outings, visits and trips instead of being left behind alone at home or in a boarding kennel.

IS A CRATE RIGHT FOR OUR DOG?

The use of a dog crate is not recommended for a dog that must be frequently or regularly left alone for extended periods of time, such as all or much of the day while the owner is away.

If it is attempted, the dog must be well exercised both before and after crating, given lots of personal positive attention and be allowed complete freedom at night (including sleeping near his owner.)

His crate must be large enough to permit him comfortably to stretch out fully on his side and to feel that he has freedom of movement; it must also be equipped with a dish for water. There are also wa-

ter dishes that can be clipped directly onto the crate. This will prevent the dog from spilling the water in his space.

WHAT KIND OF CRATE IS BEST?

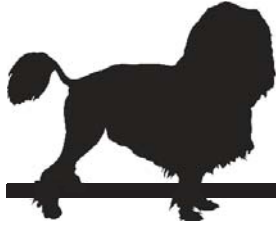
The most practical dog crate is a collapsible wire mesh crate, available in a variety of sizes. Lightweight and easy to handle, it allows total ventilation and permits the dog to see everything going on around him.

A wooden, metal or fiberglass/plastic airline crate can also serve the purpose, but it restricts air and vision, is less convenient to handle and has limited size selection.

WHAT SIZE SHOULD A CRATE BE?

A crate should always be large enough to permit the dog to stretch out flat on his side and sit up without hitting his head. While the size of a pure bred puppy is easy to predict, that of a mixed breed must be estimated based on general breed, body type and size at a given age. It is always better to use a crate a little too large than a little too small.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



CRATE TRAINING continued

For a fully grown adult dog, measure the distance from tip of his nose to the base of his tail and use a crate close to, but not less than, this length. The height and width of most crates are properly proportioned to the length.

For a puppy, measure as above, then add 12 inches for anticipated growth. If a small crate is unavailable for temporary use, reduce the space of an adult crate with a removable partition.

WHERE SHOULD I PUT IT?

Since one of the main reasons for using a crate is to confine a dog without making him feel isolated or banished, it should be placed in, or as close as possible to, an area used often by family members, such as a kitchen or family room.

To provide a greater sense of den security and privacy, it should be put in a corner and/or have the sides and back loosely draped with a sheet, large towel or light blanket that can easily be adjusted for desired visibility or air flow. Be sure it is free from drafts and not too close to a direct heat source.

CRATING A PUPPY

A puppy that is eight to 16 weeks old should normally have no problem accepting a crate as his own place. Any complaining he might do at first is caused not by the crate but by his learning to accept the controls of his unfamiliar, new environment. Actually, the crate will help him to adapt more easily and quickly to his new world.

For bedding, use an old towel or piece of blanket that is washable and a freshly worn, unlaundered article of your clothing, such as a T-shirt. Use corrugated cardboard in the bottom of the crate if there is no floor pan. Unless you are crating your puppy for a long period of time, a puppy need not be fed in the crate and will only upset a dish of water.

Make it clear to children that the crate is not a playhouse but a special room for the puppy, whose rights should be recognized and respected. However, you should accustom the puppy from the start to letting you reach into the crate at any time, or else he may become overprotective of it.



CRATE TRAINING continued

Establish a crate routine immediately, closing the puppy in it at regular one- to two-hour intervals during the day and whenever he must be left alone for up to four hours. Give him a chew toy for distraction.

At night, in the beginning, you may prefer to place the crate in the room where you sleep. This will allow you to hear if the puppy wakes, whines or indicates that he needs to eliminate.

Once adjusted to his new life, he will soon show greater bowel control and then may be crated all night in his regular place.

Even if things do not go too smoothly at first, don't change your routine. Be consistent and firm.

Increase the space inside the crate as the puppy grows so that he remains comfortable. If you do not choose, or are not able, to use a crate permanently, plan to use it for at least six months or until the dog is well past the teething phase.

Then, start leaving the crate door open at night, when someone is at home during the day or when he is briefly left alone. If all goes well for a week or two, and the dog seems reliable when left alone, remove the crate itself and leave the bedding in the same spot. Although he will probably miss the crate enclosure, that spot will have become his own place, and his habit of good behavior should continue.

Even after a long period without a crate, a dog that has been raised in one will readily accept it again, should the need arise for travel, illness or behavior.

CRATING AN ADULT DOG

Many of the usual problem behaviors of older puppies and adult dogs are caused by the lack of a feeling of security when left alone. Although a crate can fulfill this need, it must still be introduced gradually, with every possible effort to be sure that the dog's first association with it is positive.

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CRATE TRAINING continued

When you first introduce the crate, secure the door open so that it can't unexpectedly shut and frighten the dog, and do not put in any bedding. Encourage the dog to investigate this new object thoroughly, luring him inside by tossing a treat into the far end, then letting him turn and come back out, praising him.

When he begins to enter the crate confidently, place his bedding and an item with your scent, such as an unlaundered T-shirt, inside. Start coaxing him to lie down and relax, still using food, if necessary. Continue this pattern for several days, encouraging him to use the crate as much as possible and shutting the door briefly while you sit beside him.

Do not hesitate to meet modest resistance with consistent firmness and authority so the dog is clearly aware of the behavior you desire; your goal may have to be acceptance, not contentment.

As soon as you feel confident that the dog will remain quietly in the closed

crate, you may safely leave him alone. Give him a chew toy or a safe bone to absorb his attention. If you are still uncertain, leave him at first for only a brief period until he has proved that he will not resist the confinement.

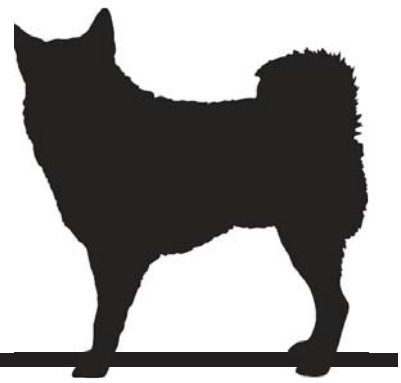
Once he has accepted the crate as his bed and his own special place, your pet can stop being a problem and start being a pleasure!

In due time, it may even be possible to wean him gradually off the crate without him resuming problem behaviors.

DOES THE CRATE ALWAYS WORK?

Although a crate can be used successfully by most pet owners, there are some animals that simply cannot or will not tolerate this form of confinement. This reaction is not common with a young puppy, but it does happen!

Previously owned dogs may have suffered a traumatic, frightening experience while crated. Some purebreds seem to have a special aversion to crates or show no desire to keep it clean.

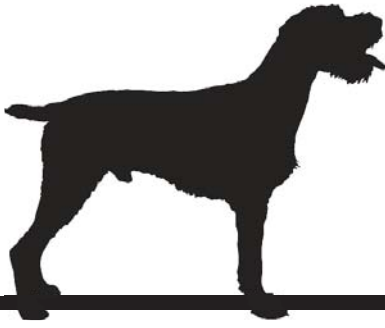


CRATE TRAINING continued

In some cases, a dog will use a crate readily as long as the door remains open but will object violently the moment it is closed and/or he is left alone. It should be stressed here, however, that these reactions represent the exception rather than the rule, and most average pet dogs can be successfully trained to use a crate.

If, despite every effort at positive conditioning and real firmness, a dog is obviously frantic or miserable when confined to a crate, forcing him to use one is indeed inhumane and can result in real physical injury, should he attempt to chew his way out. Be sure you always remove your dog's collar to avoid injury, should he try to escape.

Even though a crate may not always work, it is always worth a try because when it does prevent or solve problem behavior, it is truly the best friend you and your dog could ever have.



HOUSE TRAINING

*Adapted from an article
by Jacque Schultz, ASPCA*

In an ideal world, puppies come with some house training. A new caretaker has a fenced-in yard to which no other dogs have access and a stay-at-home schedule that allows frequent potty trips to that yard. Under these circumstances, most dogs are housebroken in only a few weeks. However, most of us live in the real world.

In the real world, puppies may have spent time in an environment where they became accustomed to lying in their waste, which makes training difficult. We may hold jobs that keep us away from home for long stretches or live in housing without fenced-in yards. The further a lifestyle varies from the ideal, the greater the challenge house-breaking is.

Real world house training requires a strategy based on three components.

CONSISTENCY

A consistent walking schedule catered to the dog's developmental stage and

individual preferences.

CONFINEMENT

A method that helps build bladder and bowel control.

CLEANING

A good enzymatic odor neutralizer to clean up accidents.

Puppies can control themselves roughly one hour for each month of age, up to 10 hours. At three to four months, they can usually stay clean for six hours overnight but soil more frequently during the day. Three walks a day is fine for most dogs eight months or older.

Puppies thrive on routine, and that means seven days a week. Establish set feeding, walking and sleeping times. Go out the same door to the same place at the same time.

A puppy usually needs to eliminate after waking, eating and exercising. Charting his output will help you predict his needs.

For the first few weeks in a new home, a puppy may seem like he is constantly



HOUSE TRAINING

soiling, but as he matures and develops muscle tone, he will learn to control himself for longer periods.

Confinement, preferably in a crate, builds control by associating the pup's distaste for soiling in his special area with soiling inside the house in general. A crate also provides your dog with a safe haven to escape to when he requires quiet time of his own. Make sure the crate always has clean bedding, fresh water and a favorite toy, and never use the crate as a form of punishment.

Remember, it is unfair to crate a pup for longer than he is physically able to control himself. In these cases, confine him to a small space, such as a bathroom or kitchen, with papers at one end and a bed and toys at the other. It slows the housebreaking process, but it is the best option, short of hiring a pet sitter, if no one can be home with the puppy during an average workday.

Feeding a quality food to your puppy increases healthy growth and decreases the volume of waste. Puppies need

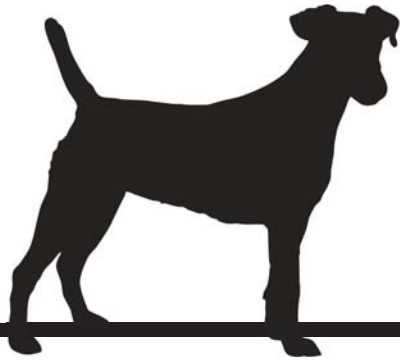
to be fed a quality food up to four times a day, as part of regular routine. Don't leave food out all the time, and supply fresh clean water until a few hours before bedtime.

During bathroom breaks outside, the pup should wear a leash and collar and remain under your control. If you don't acclimate the pup to your presence while he's relieving himself, you may create a dog that won't soil in front of you but waits until he's back in the house and can disappear behind the sofa or under the dining room table.

Do not allow puppies access to carpeting, especially wall-to-wall, when it nears time to eliminate, for they often return to and repeat accidents here. Should an accident occur, get out the odor neutralizer immediately, and clean, clean, clean.

Your dog is incapable of making any connection between a bad behavior and a punishment if the punishment comes too long after the bad behavior.

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HOUSE TRAINING continued

If you come home and find a mess, clean it up. If your puppy is sniffing the floor, take him out. If your puppy is circling, take him out. When your puppy goes in the correct place, praise him immediately. Relieving oneself shouldn't be a traumatic experience for your dog.

People sometimes forget that dogs are animals. The only way they're going to learn to become house trained is if you help them understand exactly what you expect of them. This takes time and effort on your part.

COMMON PROBLEMS

"My dog eliminates in its crate."

There are two common causes for crate soiling. First, the crate may be too large, thus allowing your dog to soil at one end and rest in the other. Second, bedding in the crate may be acting like a diaper, wicking offensive waste away. If the crate is too large, reduce its size with a barrier that blocks off excess room. The pup should have just enough room to stand up, turn around in a circle and stretch out.

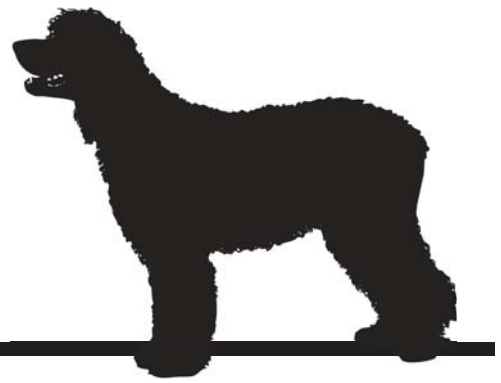
As for bedding, your dog must earn it by keeping his crate clean for approximately seven days. When he accomplishes that, add thin bedding, such as a sheet or worn towel. If that stays clean, then add additional bedding.

If the problem stems from behavior learned before you adopted the dog, you will probably need to work with a professional.

"My dog keeps me outside for hours before he goes."

Some people walk their pups just until they eliminate and then promptly turn around and head for home. In no time, dogs learn that they can extend the fun only if they drag out the process. A walk should be the reward for soiling. When you leave your home, take your dog immediately to a suitable toileting spot, such as a lamp post, patch of grass or curb in front of a fire hydrant.

It's helpful if this is a spot other dogs use. Issue your potty command. Circle the spot with your dog for five minutes to 10 minutes, at most.



HOUSE TRAINING continued

If he urinates, praise and go play. If he holds, go right back in and crate him. Try again in 15 minutes. Before you know it, you should have a dog that will soil on command in his spot.

"My dog was housebroken, but when he turned nine months old, he started to urinate in the house."

As a male dog matures and begins to lift his leg, he marks his territory, leaving olfactory messages for other canines. Consider neutering the dog, since an unneutered male is more likely to engage in marking behavior than a neutered one.

A well-timed verbal correction when he is lifting his leg is helpful, too. Confinement will once again be necessary when he is alone until the problem is resolved.



LEASH TRAINING

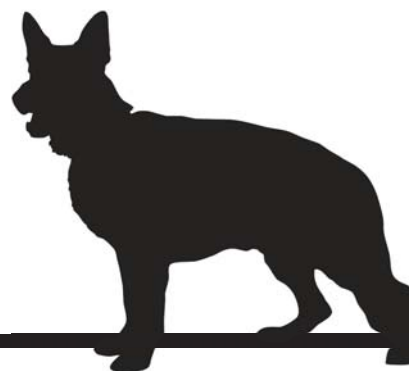
In Howard County, dogs are required by law to be restrained by leashes when off the owner's property. A leash is an excellent safety device to protect your pet from traffic and unrestrained animals.

It will prevent your dog from trespassing on neighbors' property during your walk. It also keeps your dog from jumping up on children or adults you encounter, ensuring that your dog has the chance to be properly introduced.

A leash is a great identification tool, symbolizing that the dog has an owner, and enabling someone who sees the leash and identification tag attached to the dog's collar to find you if you and your pet become separated.

An added benefit is it keeps your dog from harassing deer, squirrels and other wild animals.

Use a leash every time you reward your dog and you with fresh air, exercise and companionship.



HEALTH: ALLERGIES

Just because you or a new household member has allergies doesn't mean you must part with your canine. If you're allergic to dogs, chances are you're allergic to other things, too. Parting ways with your dog will solve just part of the problem.

While allergies can't be cured, they can be managed. Below are some steps you can take.

- See an allergist. Make your goal clear: You intend to keep your pet. Too often, the dog is the most obvious target and the doctor recommends removing the pet before looking for other possible irritants in the home. Insist on a thorough screening to reveal all of the allergens that bother you.
- Don't give up. Even if the tests show you're allergic to dogs, don't be talked into giving up your dog immediately. Since allergic people are usually bothered by more than one thing, it's the total allergen level that causes problems. If you can remove the other allergens in your home, your symptoms may decrease.
- Consider allergy shots. Pet allergies

are particularly responsive to these treatments.

- Breathe clean air. Invest in a good air purifier with a HEPA filter. Putting an air purifier in your bedroom and keeping the pets out will help.
- Groom the dog. Brushing your dog daily will reduce shedding.
- Give your dog a bath. Bathing dogs in lukewarm tap or distilled water reduces irritants found on their skin and coats.
- Feed them right. A high-quality diet that includes some natural fat can prevent excessive hair loss. Adding a little fat a few times a week reduces skin dryness and flaking.
- Wash your hands after handling your dog.



HEALTH: POISONOUS PLANTS

Curious canines may try to nibble on or eat household plants. It's important to be aware of plants that are toxic to dogs so that you can prevent your pet from becoming sick. If you must have these plants in the house, store them in areas where the dog does not have access. If your pet ingests any of these plants, call your veterinarian immediately. If possible, bring the plant with you to the veterinarian or animal hospital for identification.

Almond	Ground Cherry	Nux Vomica
American Yew	Horse Chestnut	Poison Hemlock
Angel's Trumpet	Indian Tobacco	Pokeweed
Apricot	Indian Turnip	Privet
Balsam Pear	Japanese Plum	Rain Tree
Bird of Paradise Bush	Jasmine	Rhubarb
Bittersweet Woody	Larkspur	Skunk Cabbage
Black Locust	Locoweed	Soapberry
Buttercup	Lupine	Spinach
Castor bean	Matrimony Vine	Sunburned Potatoes
China Berry	May Apple	Tomato Vine
Coriaria	Mescal Bean	Water Hemlock
Daffodil	Mock Orange	Western Yew
Delphinium	Moonseed	Wild Cherry
Dologeton	Moonweed	Wisteria
English Holly	Mushrooms (if toxic to humans)	
English Yew	Nightshade	
Foxglove		

*Source: American
Kennel Club*



HEALTH: POISONOUS FOODS

Some foods that are considered good for people can be very dangerous for pets. The list below highlights some of the most common foods that can be dangerous to animals. This is not an exhaustive list, and any decision to provide your pet with food not specifically intended for animals should be discussed with your veterinarian or pet nutritionist. If your pet ingests any of these foods, call your veterinarian immediately.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Alcoholic beverages | Mustard seeds |
| Apple seeds | Onions/onion powder |
| Apricot pits | Peach pits |
| Avocados | Potato leaves and stems |
| Cherry pits | Raisins |
| Candy (particularly chocolate and any candy containing the sweetener Xylitol) | Rhubarb leaves |
| Coffee | Salt |
| Grapes | Tea |
| Hops | Tomato leaves and stems |
| Macadamia nuts | Walnuts |
| Moldy foods | Yeast dough |
| Mushroom plants | |

*Source: Humane Society
of the United States*



HEALTH: KENNEL COUGH

Kennel cough in dogs is very similar to the cold virus in humans. Don't worry; humans cannot get kennel cough from their dogs. This disease is so common and is named "kennel" cough because wherever there are numbers of dogs confined together in an enclosed environment, such as a kennel, animal shelter or dog show, the disease is much more likely to be spread.

The same is true with the common cold that affects humans. All it takes for infection to spread is a single infected dog, an enclosed environment and susceptible animals in close proximity. Infected dogs can spread the organisms for days to weeks even after seeming to have fully recovered!

Kennel cough in dogs will stimulate a coarse, dry, hacking cough about three to seven days after the dog is initially infected. It sounds as if the dog needs to clear its throat, and the cough will be triggered by activity or exercise. Many dogs that acquire kennel cough will cough every few minutes, all day long. Their general state of health and alertness will be unaffected; they usu-

ally have no rise in temperature and do not lose their appetite. The symptoms of kennel cough usually will last from seven to 21 days and can be very annoying for the dog and the dog's owners.

Life threatening cases of kennel cough are extremely rare, and a vast majority of dogs that acquire the infection will recover on their own with no medication. Cough suppressants and occasionally antibiotics are the usual treatment options.

Even in the most hygienic, well ventilated, spacious kennels, the possibility of a dog acquiring kennel cough exists. Kennel cough can be acquired from your neighbor's dog, from a Champion show dog at a dog show or from an animal hospital. There may have been an infected dog, unknown to anyone, that acted as a source for other dogs in the kennel.

To try to prevent the spread of kennel cough within the Howard County Animal Control facility, all incoming dogs are immediately vaccinated against the virus.



HEALTH: HEARTWORMS

Hearthworms are parasitic roundworms that are spread from one animal to another by mosquitoes. When the mosquito bites an animal that is infected with heartworms, the mosquito can then infect the next animal it bites with heartworms.

Heartworms take five to seven months to become adults and can start reproducing at that time. Heartworms live in your dog's arteries. They damage blood vessels, reducing the heart's pumping ability, and can cause severe lung and heart disease. It is important to get your dog tested each year to make sure it has not become infected with this disease.

Heartworm prevention is important to keeping your dog safe. There are a variety of options for preventing heartworms, including daily and monthly tablets and chewables, monthly topicals and six-month injectable products.

Heartworm prevention should be given as directed by your veterinarian. Make sure you are using a brand recommended by your veterinarian and

not an over-the-counter product. If your dog becomes infected with heartworms, treatment is possible, however, it is a complicated and expensive process, taking weeks for recovery.

At Howard County Animal Control & Adoption Center, all dogs over the age of six months at the time of adoption are tested for heartworms. The result of the test is recorded on your pet's medical history report. We highly recommend speaking to your veterinarian and starting your new pet on heartworm prevention right away.



HEALTH: RABIES

Rabies is a fatal disease that can occur in nearly all warm-blooded animals, although rarely in rodents. It is not present in birds or reptiles.

The rabies virus, which is present in infected saliva, enters at the site of a bite. Saliva on an open wound also constitutes exposure. The average incubation period in dogs is two to eight weeks, but it can be as short as one week or as long as a year.

Rabies is a very serious virus and is always fatal. Most companion animals are exposed to the virus by interactions with wildlife, which can include bats in the home. Rabies is easily prevented in our pets by maintaining their rabies vaccines.

Maryland state law requires all dogs, cats and ferrets to be vaccinated against rabies by the time they are four months old.

If your adopted animal is over four months of age and in good health at the time of adoption, a current rabies vaccine has been administered by

Howard County Animal Control.

The law requires pet owners to continuously maintain current rabies vaccinations for their pets.

The first rabies vaccine that your pet is given is effective for one year. After the first year, you will only need to give rabies vaccines every three years to booster your pet's immunity to the virus.



BEHAVIORS: BARKING & DESTRUCTIVENESS

*Adapted from articles by Suzanne Hetts,
Humane Society of Denver*

Canine behavior problems, such as barking and destructiveness, are not just frustrating to the pet's owners. They may also create tensions with neighbors.

Dogs are vocal creatures and bark to communicate. They may be warning off what they perceive to be territorial intruders. They may bark during play or when they are afraid, frustrated or bored. Barking can also become a way of getting what they want, such as to be let in the house or to get attention from owners. However, continual barking for long periods of time, or in the middle of the night, or at everything that moves, is a sign of a problem.

Similarly, chewing, playing, exploring, and investigating are normal behaviors for dogs – especially puppies.

Because destructive behavior is so common, it is reasonable to conclude that all dog owners should be prepared to lose something of value due to their

dog's destructive behavior. Although occasional destructive behavior is normal, persistent and severe destructive behavior problems need to be resolved for both the dog's and owner's sake. Remember, dogs do not participate in destructive activities out of spite or revenge. They often behave destructively to relieve anxiety or as an outlet for excess energy.

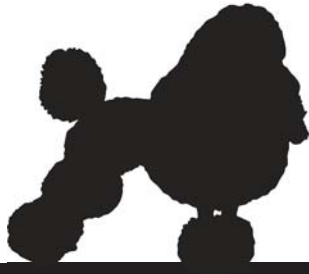
Often, the same factors can contribute to barking and destructive behavior. By studying your pet and his activities, you may determine which one of these causes is to blame – and may find a solution to your problem.

ATTENTION-SEEKING BEHAVIOR

Without realizing it, owners may pay the most attention to their dogs when they are misbehaving.

SOLUTION Dogs must receive positive attention and reinforcement for appropriate behavior.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



BEHAVIORS: BARKING & DESTRUCTIVENESS continued

FEARS Fearful responses to thunderstorms and loud noises often involve barking and escape attempts that result in destructive behavior. In these cases, doors, door frames, window trim and screens and walls are often damaged. These problems can be especially dangerous because excessively fearful dogs may injure themselves attempting to break through windows or doors to escape a feared situation.

In the summer, dogs are often frightened by thunderstorms and firecrackers. Cars backfiring, garbage trucks and other sudden, loud noises may frighten dogs. Dogs will look afraid with ears back and tail down as they bark, and people watching them may not be able to determine the cause of barking.

SOLUTION Techniques must be used to decrease the dog's fear and motivation to escape or bark. Many fears and phobias require professional assistance to resolve.

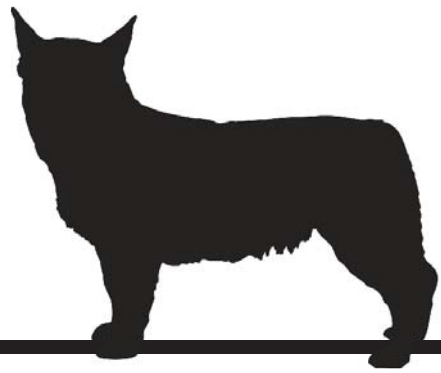
SOCIAL ISOLATION OR BOREDOM

Dogs are social animals. When left alone in the yard without any social compan-

ions for long time periods with nothing to do, dogs often display frustration-relieving behaviors, such as barking and digging. Barking gives them something to do when not much else is available to occupy their time. Most dogs will not play with tennis balls or squeaky toys by themselves. Dogs that spend long time periods without much attention from their owners may bark as an attention-getting behavior, even if it only draws negative attention.

SOLUTION The dog's environment and daily routine need to be modified. Owners sometimes leave their dogs outside or chain them up because the dog also has problems if he is left alone inside or if he has the run of the yard. In this case, it may be more effective to resolve the problems that prevent the dog from being left inside or loose in the yard rather than trying to deal with the barking outside or when chained. Allowing the dog more inside time and giving the dog more to do in the yard may also be helpful.

Beach-ball-sized toys made of hard rubber that dogs can push around with



BEHAVIORS: BARKING & DESTRUCTIVENESS continued

their noses and Kong toys filled with food are examples of toys dogs may play with when alone. Owners also need to spend more time with their dogs by taking them for walks, playing fetch games, enrolling in an obedience class and finding ways to include the dog in more family activities. Dogs that are ignored and left in a yard by themselves the majority of the time will have problems.

INCONSISTENT FEEDING ROUTINES

A hungry dog may go on a foraging spree and destroy the house searching for food or may bark to encourage feeding.

SOLUTION Set a regular routine for meals, and stick to it.

INVESTIGATIVE BEHAVIOR Dogs may inadvertently damage items in their environment when they are exploring. Dogs investigate objects by pawing at them and exploring them with their mouths. Many dogs also like to fetch and carry objects. Novel or unfamiliar objects are often damaged in this manner.

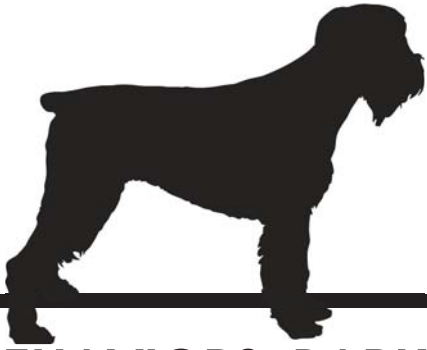
SOLUTION Supervise your dog as much as possible while the problem persists, and provide toys to keep them busy and engaged.

PLAY BEHAVIOR Normal play behavior can often result in destructiveness, such as digging or chewing, shredding and shaking of toy-like objects, such as shoes, socks or paper. This is very common in young dogs.

SOLUTION Supervise your dog as much as possible while the problem persists, and provide sufficient outlets for appropriate play behavior.

PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOR Dogs bark to warn or drive away what they perceive as intruders to their territory. From their perspective, this could be children walking to school, the mail carrier, cats, other dogs, squirrels or neighbors in adjacent yards. The barking will occur in the presence of these intruders, and the dog will appear threatening (tail high, ears up or forward).

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BEHAVIORS: BARKING & DESTRUCTIVENESS continued

Owners may inadvertently contribute to this problem if they encourage the dog to alert to and be responsive to people and noises outside. Dogs may quickly learn to carry this behavior to extremes because from their point of view, barking successfully drives people away.

SOLUTION The dog needs to learn that people he views as intruders are actually friends and good things happen to him when these people are around.

Ask a friend to walk by your yard, starting far enough away so that your dog isn't barking. Reward your dog with a treat for quiet behavior as he obeys a "sit" or "down" command. As the person gradually comes closer, continue to reward quiet behavior. If your dog barks, squirt him in the face with water from a spray bottle or verbally scold him. As soon as he is quiet, reward him with a treat. Repeat this process as the person slowly advances until your dog can be quiet while the person is present in the dog's territory. The person should then also give the dog treats.

Practice with a variety of people play-

ing the intruder. As your dog begins to anticipate the person's approach with friendly behavior, move farther and farther away from your dog.

If your dog barks while inside and when you are home, call your dog to you and have him obey a command, such as "sit" or "down," and reward him with praise and a treat for doing so. In this case, you are distracting your dog's attention, teaching him to do something rather than bark, and rewarding him for doing what you ask.

SEPARATION ANXIETY Many dogs become anxious when they are left alone, even if there are other pets at home. A change in routine, the death of another pet or recently being acquired from a shelter may trigger the problem. Dogs can show separation anxiety by barking, house soiling, being destructive or escaping from the yard. Excessive barking due to separation anxiety will usually occur only in the owner's absence or when the dog thinks the owner isn't home. The barking will usually start within 20 minutes of the owner's departure, and the dog will probably appear to be



BEHAVIORS: BARKING & DESTRUCTIVENESS continued

barking at nothing. The dog may look somewhat fearful and may bark near a gate or door through which the owner left or at a window through which the dog watched the owner leave.

SOLUTION The dog must learn how to be calm, relaxed and unafraid when left alone.

The majority of the destructive behavior occurs immediately after the owner leaves and just before the owner returns, especially if the owner returns at the same time each day. By minimizing the stress of these two occasions, you will make it much easier on the dog. Before you leave, ignore the dog for five minutes prior to actually walking out the door while you collect your coat, keys, etc. When you leave, say “goodbye” in a normal tone of voice and walk out the door. Do not pet the dog excessively or plead with it not to tear up the house.

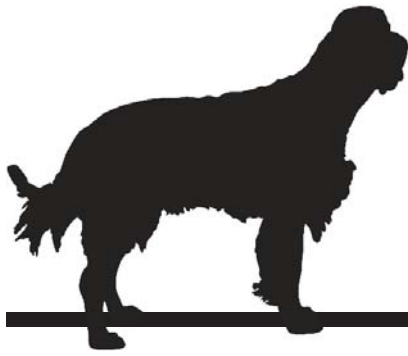
By giving the dog lots of attention right before you leave, you make it worse when the dog is left alone. By ignoring the dog, you provide a more gradual transition from your being there to your

being gone.

Another way to keep your dog happy and occupied while you are not home is to leave your dog a puzzle toy stuffed with food that will take him at least 20 to 30 minutes to finish. Be sure to remove these special toys shortly after you return home so that your dog only has access to them and the high-value foods inside when he’s by himself. This approach will only work for mild cases of separation anxiety because highly anxious dogs usually won’t eat when their guardians aren’t home.

When you return home, come in the door, and ignore the dog for the first five minutes. Do not pet your dog and do not talk to your dog except for a calm, casual greeting. For dogs that are rambunctious, this might require standing facing the wall for five minutes. Do not greet the dog until he has calmed down. When he has, you should give it a couple of pats and say hello, but try not to get the dog excessively excited again.

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BEHAVIORS: BARKING & DESTRUCTIVENESS continued

If you come home to damage to your home, do not punish your dog, no matter what the dog has done to the house. The dog will not associate the punishment with what it has done. Instead, it will associate the punishment with your arrival. This is not a good way to make your homecoming a happy, stress-free occasion.

For moderate or severe cases of separation anxiety, it's crucial to gradually accustom a dog to being alone by starting with many short separations that do not produce anxiety and then gradually increasing the duration of the separations over many weeks of daily sessions.

TEETHING When teething, puppies' gums may be painful. Chewing can help relieve the discomfort of teething.

SOLUTION The behavior usually ceases after permanent teeth appear. In the meantime, provide your dog with a Kong toy that has been stuffed with peanut butter or cream cheese and frozen. The coolness of the toy will help with the gum discomfort associated with teething.

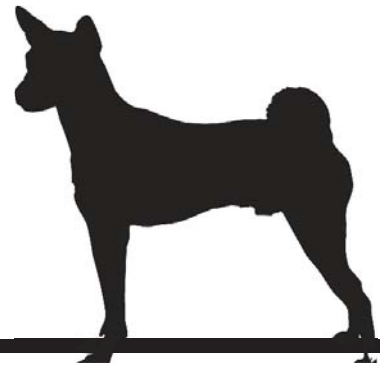
PUNISHMENT IS NOT THE ANSWER

Punishment alone is rarely effective in resolving barking or destructive behavior problems and can make them worse. Punishment after the fact is never appropriate. For assistance in resolving destructive and other behavior problems, contact a professional animal behaviorist or your veterinarian.

BARK COLLARS - USE CAUTION

Owners often want quick fixes for a barking problem. A bark collar may be seen as a way to take care of the problem immediately. If a dog is barking due to separation anxiety, fears or phobias, a bark collar should never be used because punishment always makes fear and anxiety behaviors worse.

In addition, unless the underlying cause is addressed, symptom substitution may occur. Instead of barking, the dog may instead begin digging, escaping or become destructive or aggressive. A bark collar can be useful for some types of barking, if used appropriately, however, owners should consult a professional animal behaviorist who is familiar with their use.



BEHAVIORS: AGGRESSIVENESS

Adapted from an article by Suzanne Hetts, Humane Society of Denver

Aggressive behavior is part of the normal behavioral repertoire of almost any animal species, including dogs. Owners are sometimes confused as to whether or not their dogs are displaying aggressive behavior. Behaviorally, aggression is any behavior whose intent is to intimidate or harm another animal. Thus, growling, baring teeth, snarling and snapping are all aggressive behaviors, just as is biting. Although aggressive behaviors are normal for any dog, they are generally unacceptable in most situations.

From the dog's perspective, there is always a reason or motivation for aggressive behavior. Because humans and dogs have different communication systems, misunderstanding may occur between the two species. A person may intend to be friendly toward a dog, or at least not threatening, but the dog may perceive the person's behavior as threatening or intimidating.

Dogs show aggression for many differ-

ent reasons and often for more than one reason.

DOMINANCE AGGRESSION

Dominance aggression is motivated by a challenge to a dog's social status or to its control of an interaction. Dogs are social animals and normally live in groups or packs. Dogs view their human families as their social group. Based on the outcomes of social challenges among group members, a dominance hierarchy or pecking order is established. If a dog perceives its own ranking in the hierarchy to be higher than that of its owners, it is likely the dog will challenge the owner in certain situations.

Because people do not always understand canine communication, they may challenge the dog's social position inadvertently, without even being aware they are doing so. Dominantly aggressive dogs may growl when disturbed when resting or sleeping, especially from a favorite spot such as the couch or the bed. Physical restraint, even when done in a friendly manner

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BEHAVIORS: AGGRESSIVENESS continued

like hugging, may also cause the dog to respond aggressively. Reaching for the dog's collar or reaching out over its head to pet it can be interpreted by the dog to be a dominance challenge. Dominantly aggressive dogs are often described as "Jekyll and Hyde" because they can be very friendly when not challenged.

Dominance aggression can be directed at people or at other animals. The most common reason dogs in the same family fight with each other is because of instability in the dominance hierarchy. This often occurs when owners try to treat both dogs equally, rather than allowing one dog to establish dominance over the other.

FEAR AGGRESSION

Fear-motivated aggression is a defensive reaction and occurs when the dog believes it is in danger of being harmed. Remember that it is the dog's perception of the situation, not the intent of the human, that determines whether the situation is potentially harmful. For example, you may be raising your arm to throw a ball, but a dog may perceive

this to be a threatening arm movement and bite you because he believes he is protecting himself from injury. A dog may also be fearfully aggressive when approached by other dogs.

TERRITORIAL AGGRESSION

Territorial and protective aggression are similar and involve the defense of valuable resources. Territorial aggression is usually associated with defense of property, however, a dog's sense of territory may extend well past the boundaries of his yard. For example, if a dog is walked regularly around the neighborhood and is allowed to urine mark, to him, his territory maybe the entire block.

Protective aggression usually refers to aggression directed toward people or animals whom the dog perceives as threats to his family or pack. Dogs become possessively aggressive when defending their food, toys or other valued objects.

REDIRECTED AGGRESSION

Redirected aggression is relatively common but is behavior that pet owners may not always understand. If a dog



BEHAVIORS: AGGRESSIVENESS continued

is aroused into an aggressive response by a person or animal whom it is prevented from attacking, it may then redirect this aggression onto someone else. A common example occurs when two family dogs become excited, bark and growl in response to another dog passing through the front yard. The two dogs, confined behind a fence, may turn and attack each other because they cannot attack the intruder.

EVERY DOG IS DIFFERENT

Dogs differ in their likelihood to show aggressive behavior in any particular situation. Some dogs tend to respond aggressively with very little stimulation. Others may be subjected to all kinds of threatening stimuli and events and never attempt to bite. The difference in this threshold at which a dog displays aggressive behavior is influenced by both environmental and genetic factors. This threshold can be raised or lowered using behavior modification techniques. How easily this threshold can be changed is influenced by the dog's gender, age, breed and general temperament.

Working with aggressive animals can

be a potentially dangerous undertaking and should be done only by, or under the guidance of, an experienced animal behavior professional who understands animal learning theory and behavior.

PUNISHMENT IS NOT THE ANSWER

Punishment alone will not make a dog less aggressive. If the aggression is motivated by fear, punishment will only make the dog more fearful and therefore more aggressive. Attempting to punish or dominate a dominantly aggressive dog is likely to cause the dog to escalate his behavior in order to retain his dominant position. This is likely to result in a bite or severe attack. Even if one person can successfully intimidate the dog, it is highly unlikely that everyone else the dog encounters will be able to do the same.

TECHNIQUES

Counter-conditioning and desensitization can help teach a dog a new, non-aggressive response and significantly raise the threshold at which ag-

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BEHAVIORS: AGGRESSIVENESS continued

gressive behavior is likely to occur. To be successful, these techniques must be implemented in a series of small increments or steps. If done incorrectly, these techniques can make the problem worse and may put people in danger. They should be implemented by, or under the direction of, an animal behavior professional who understands animal learning theory and behavior.

PREVENTION

Because both environmental and genetic factors influence how readily a dog will display aggression, dog owners can take several steps to prevent aggressive behavior problems from developing. Dogs with aggressive behavior problems should never be bred, as they can pass these behavioral tendencies along to their offspring.

Between the ages of four and 16 weeks, puppies experience a crucial developmental period during which time they form their first social bonds. Puppies exposed to many different people, places, animals and environmental events during this time will be better able as adults to accept changes in their envi-

ronment. This socialization process must be done gradually and in such a way that a puppy has only positive experiences. Puppies socialized in this way will be less likely to be afraid, defensive and aggressive. Puppies that show signs of fear and aggressiveness early on likely need professional help.

Dog owners should never encourage aggressive behavior. Playing tug-of-war or wrestling games encourages the dog to attempt to win over the owner, which can result in the beginning of a dominance aggression problem. When dogs are encouraged to “go get ‘em” or to bark and dash about in response to outside noises or the approach of a person, territorial and protective aggressive behavior may be a result.

Intact male dogs are more likely to display dominance, territorial and protective aggressive behavior than neutered males or females. Neutering a male dog will thus help to reduce the frequency of these types of aggressive behaviors. It should be noted that neutering will not affect fear-motivated, redirected or possessive aggression.



DEVELOPMENT STAGES

*Adapted from an article by
Jacque Schultz, ASPCA*

From six months to 18 months, your dog undergoes adolescence. Physically, your dog has his adult teeth but still needs to chew on hard toys to properly set the teeth in his jawbone. That cottony puppy coat is falling out during one tremendous shedding cycle. He has almost reached his adult height but lacks coordination.

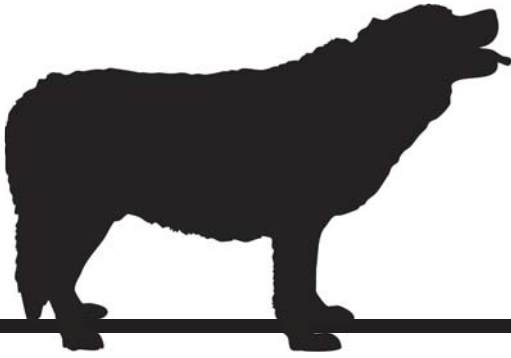
During adolescence, the domestic canine resembles a perpetual-motion machine that requires super-human stamina. It's a good idea to find your pup a pack of other canine adolescents to run with in the safety of a dog park or fenced-in yard. If your dog lacks canine friends, try playing a game of Frisbee or in-line skating with him.

Tiring out your canine teen will also save wear and tear on your home. Chewing often results when a bored, anxious or curious dog is allowed the run of the house. For the canine adolescent, boredom and curiosity can lead to major household damage. This damage

could largely be avoided if caretakers would simply continue to confine their dog in a training crate or dog-proof room whenever no one is home. Canine teens are not yet capable of the consistency it takes to earn the run of the place unsupervised.

An adolescent will experience occasional lapses in attention. At times, he may forget how to respond to commands. Handle these lapses the same way you would with an untrained dog. Take a step backward in your training program, and re-teach him the command. Be sure to make it worth his while with the use of positive reinforcement. Keep his focus on you, using favorite toys and treats as lures. And keep your training sessions short and functional, always ending with a game or playtime.

To get through your dog's adolescence, remember to provide plenty of exercise, continue to crate/confine when he is unattended, spay or neuter and keep training sessions fun. Though your pup may try your patience, take heart, adolescence is one thing your dog is guaranteed to outgrow!



INTRODUCING YOUR NEW DOG TO EXISTING PETS

TO A HOME WITH A DOG

Dogs are best introduced when both dogs are restrained on a leash. If you are confident of your resident dog's good nature and good social behavior, you may not need to leash. Unless the new dog is a young puppy or juvenile, it is probably best to use a leash.

Ideally, introduce the dogs on neutral territory that is unfamiliar to both dogs or where neither one has been for long. If this cannot be conveniently arranged, let them greet in your neighborhood at a distance from your home. In the heart of your dog's territory, such as inside your home, conflicts are more likely to occur.

Though it is difficult to predict how dogs will interact, most adult dogs tolerate the clumsiness of puppies and juveniles. Problems are more likely between two adult animals when one or both have been unfriendly towards other dogs.

As much as possible, place the new dog in "down" or "stay" position in the resident dog's presence. Teach the new dog to accept a submissive position in

deference to your resident dog, creating a clear basis for their relationship. This should help control their initial encounter so they can gradually work out their social status by subtle challenges and with only minor conflict later.

If problems escalate, separate the dogs and slowly reintroduce them under careful supervision. Remember to never leave two unfamiliar dogs alone together.

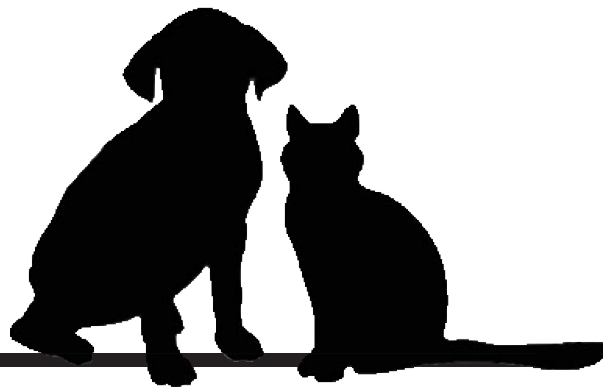
TO A HOME WITH A CAT

Adapted from an article

by Jacque Lynn Schultz, ASPCA

To make a successful inter-species introduction in the average household, one needs little more than a dog who understands a few rudimentary commands and a sturdy baby gate. A canine that has learned to respond to basics such as "leave it," "down" and "come" can most likely be controlled around a new indoor cat.

If the new dog does not respond well to commands, a house leash and collar can give the caretaker control over

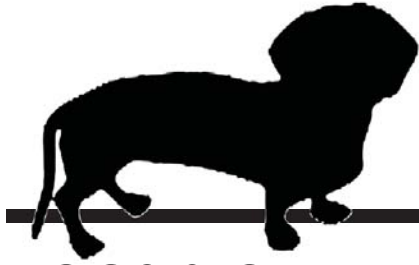


INTRODUCING YOUR NEW DOG TO EXISTING PETS

continued

the situation. When the dog rushes toward the cat, pull back on the leash. As the dog brakes and turns to look at you, utter the “sit” or “down” command. Make sure to praise the dog when he complies. If your dog shows the slightest interest in chasing the cat, growl “leave it” at your dog and praise the dog when he looks away from the cat.

The baby gate is crucial in providing the cat with a dog-free territory. A nervous feline can hop the gate, and a food bowl and litter box placed behind the gate will be untouched by the dog. Make sure your keep feeding stations separate. Counter tops and wide window sills can provide out-of-reach dining spots for felines away from the dog.



DOGS & CHILDREN

The most frequently bitten people are children. By the age of 14, about half of all children have been bitten by a dog. The overwhelming majority of bites occur in children under nine years of age. Through an understanding of canine behavior and preparation for what to do in the event of a canine confrontation, many such bites can be avoided.

Most dogs are fun and safe to be with, but certain dogs – it's hard to tell which ones – have their own set of "rules" regarding children. Whether or not we agree with the rules, we must help our children become aware of situations to avoid.

Any dog can bite, but most won't if you act the way you should around them. This is not meant to blame children if they are bitten. There is rarely a good excuse for a dog biting a person, but knowing the reasons a dog might bite, from the dog's point of view, may be helpful in avoiding bites.

The signs of an angry dog are stiff body, tail up, hairs on its back raised, ears

erect, baring teeth and growling. If a child keeps on doing what makes the dog angry, it might get angrier and perhaps bite.

If the dog's ears are laid back with the tail between the legs, crouched and head held low, it is scared. It might run, but it might also bite if it cannot get away.

Dogs that have assumed either a defensive or offensive threat posture frequently have a critical zone. A child is safe around this zone until entering the imaginary circle the dog has protected. The problem is that this zone varies between dogs and can even be different for the same dog if the situation changes.

Shy dogs can be gentle, loving, obedient pets, but may also try to bite when frightened. The dog's motive is to chase that person away. The problem is, we cannot always tell which people or actions frighten the dog. The fearful dog may fool you by appearing brave. The dog growls and raised the fur along the neck and back like a brave/aggressive



DOGS & CHILDREN continued

dog, but its ears may be pinned back, body lowered, tail between the legs. The tail may even be wagging, but a wagging tail doesn't always mean a friendly dog. The dog might bark and stare, but then turn away, only to turn toward you again and start all over. This dog would really rather not deal with you and hopes to frighten you away, but if pushed, it might bite.

TIPS TO PREVENT DOG BITES

- Never touch a dog when it is feeding.
- Do not disturb a sleeping dog.
- Do not tease a dog, wrestle with it or pull on its ears.
- If a strange dog approaches you, stand still and do not make eye contact.
- Never approach a dog that is chained.
- Avoid packs of dogs.
- If you are chased by a dog while riding on a bike, get off. Place the bike between you and the dog. Look away.
- Ask an owner if it is permissible to pet his or her dog. If it is, let the dog sniff your knuckles to show you are a friend.

- Crouch down, and approach on his level. Never position your head above a dog's head. Pat him on the side of the face, under the chin or on the chest.
- Do not pet dogs in cars. The dog may try to defend the space.
- Do not try to separate dogs fighting. Call police and request Animal Control to respond.

Children and dogs can live happily together as long as they follow certain rules, but it is advisable to never leave dogs and children alone.

If a child is bitten, he or she should tell an adult what the dog looked like and in which direction it went. An adult should wash the wound with soap and water and seek medical attention. The incident may also be reported to police.



PREVENTING LOST DOGS

There are steps every pet owner should take to prevent a pet from becoming lost. The first and most important step is to make sure all doors from your home remain secure and closed. Teach all family members the importance of being mindful of your pet when entering and exiting the home. Be sure not to prop doors open when carrying in groceries or other items. If you are having visitors over or home repair workers in your home, let them know about your pets. Better yet, enclose your pet in a safe room if visitors or workers will be coming and going frequently.

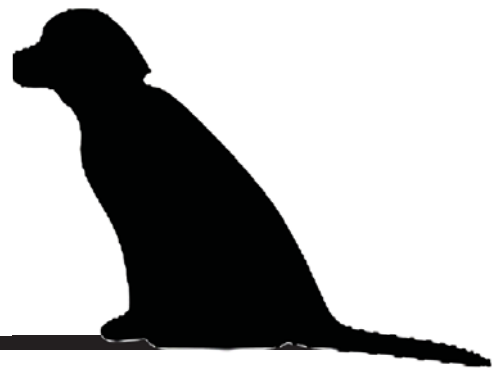
Make sure your pet is always wearing a breakaway collar outfitted with a tag that includes your name, home address and phone number. This will increase the chances of your pet returning safely.

Microchipping is another identification method that can help return lost pets to their owners. Dogs adopted from Howard County Animal Control & Adoption Center come with a small microchip embedded between the dog's shoulder blades. The procedure is quick and painless for your pet. Be sure to regis-

ter your information with the microchip company. If your lost pet is brought to a veterinary hospital or animal shelter, it will be scanned to see if a chip has been implanted. The microchip company is then contacted and provides your contact information to the vet or shelter. It's important to keep your contact information current with the microchip company for this to be successful.

In the event that your pet gets lost:

- Contact local animal shelters and animal control agencies to file a lost pet report. Provide these agencies with an accurate description and a recent photograph of your pet.
- Walk or drive through your neighborhood several times each day. Ask neighbors, letter carriers and delivery people if they have seen your pet. Hand out a recent photograph of your pet and information on how you can be reached if your pet is found.
- Post notices at grocery stores, community centers, veterinary offices, traffic intersections, pet supply stores and other locations. Include your pet's sex, age, weight, breed, color and markings.



SURRENDERING YOUR PET: A LAST RESORT

When you adopt an animal, you accept your new pet into your home and make a commitment to care for your pet for its lifetime. Domesticated animals rely on their owners for shelter, food and water, veterinary care, love and attention.

Responsible pet owners may face challenges with their pets, whether there are behavior or health issues with the pet or life changes for the owner, including financial hardships, relocation, marriage, children or illness.

If undesirable behaviors are leading you to want to surrender your pet, you should first try corrective training and give your pet time to change. Animal Control, your veterinarian and behavior experts are resources available to you to work through any behavior issues your pet may exhibit. Time and patience are key and can allow your pet to continue living a happy life with your family.

Don't assume that you must get rid of your pet if you become pregnant, have children or move. Just because life changes for you doesn't mean that

your pet should be left behind. With time, your pet can adapt to new family members and households.

If the reasons for surrendering your pet are insurmountable, don't abandon your pet or put it outside. It is illegal in Howard County to abandon your animal. Animals that are dropped off in the woods or by the roadside are often injured or killed by automobiles, or they may fall victim to other injury or to wild animals. Remember, they are domestic creatures that have never had to hunt, find shelter or survive on their own.

You may try to re-home your pet by finding another responsible person to take over its care.

A final option is to surrender the animal to Howard County Animal Control.



ANIMAL CONTROL LAWS

Below is a summary of selected Animal Control laws.

VACCINATION

Pet owners must continuously maintain a rabies vaccination for dogs, cats and ferrets that are four months and older.

LICENSES

All dog and cat owners must purchase Howard County annual licenses for their pets. Each pet shall wear the license tag attached to a collar or harness. Pets tattooed, microchipped or ear tagged are exempt from the requirement of wearing the license tag, but the purchase of a license is still required.

LEASH LAW

A domesticated animal must be on a leash and under the control of a responsible person. This person must be capable of immediate and effective restraint when not on the owner's property. Owners are responsible for immediately removing pet defecation when off their own property.

FEMALE ANIMALS

A female domesticated animal in heat

must be confined indoors or in a properly ventilated building or other secured outdoor enclosure. Spaying or neutering is not required but is highly recommended.

BARKING

Owners are responsible for preventing their dogs from barking to the extent that it disturbs neighbors.

ODOR PREVENTION

Pet owners must remove an accumulation of defecation from their property to prevent annoying odors.

STREET DISTURBANCE

Owners must prevent their pets from disturbing garbage placed for disposal or chasing vehicles.

APPROPRIATE CARE

Animals must be provided with proper drink, ventilation, shelter, shade, protection from the elements, sanitary conditions, veterinary care and nutritious food in sufficient quantity.

FENCING

Fencing must be properly maintained.



ANIMAL CONTROL LAWS continued

WILD/EXOTIC ANIMALS

Wild or exotic animals are not permitted as pets. Included in this category are the offspring of domesticated animals bred with a wild or exotic animal.

THREATENING BEHAVIOR

Domesticated animals must not be permitted to threaten the safety or welfare of other domesticated animals or people. Domesticated animals are considered to be exhibiting threatening behavior when they endanger the life or health of another domesticated animal or person, attack a domesticated animal or person or otherwise molest and interfere with a person's freedom of movement in a public place.

ANIMAL TRAPS

Humane animal traps must be properly used and checked frequently throughout the day.

INTENTIONAL INJURY OR ABANDONMENT

A person may not poison or abandon a domesticated animal and may not cruelly kill, deliberately injure or torment any animal.

FIGHTING

Encouraging animals to fight, raising animals for fighting or participating in animal fights is not permitted.

INJURING AN ANIMAL WHILE DRIVING

A person who injures or kills a domestic animal while driving must stop, if safety permits, and render assistance as is practical. The driver should notify Animal Control immediately.

ANIMAL CONTROL DUTIES

No person may interfere with an Animal Control employee in the performance of his/her duties.

VIOLATORS

Violators of the Animal Control Laws may be issued civil citations with monetary penalties of \$25 to \$500. Criminal penalties can include up to three years in prison and a \$5,000 fine, pet impoundment and/or mandatory appearances before the Animal Matters Hearing Board.

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ANIMAL CONTROL LAWS *continued*

THE AFFIDAVIT PROCEDURE

A citizen who has personally observed a violation of any provision of the Howard County Animal Laws may wish to file an affidavit. An affidavit is a sworn statement that a violation has been witnessed. An affidavit may not be filed anonymously. An affidavit form may be obtained from Animal Control. After the form is completed by the witness, also known as the complainant, it should be returned to the Animal Control Division for processing.

Once the affidavit is filed, the alleged violator is, in most circumstances, assessed an appropriate monetary penalty through issuance of a civil citation. The affidavit accompanies the issued citation and must identify the complainant's name, address and telephone number. Upon request, phone numbers may be withheld from the violator.

THE APPEAL PROCESS

The recipient of a citation issued by an Animal Control representative as a result of an affidavit may elect to appeal the citation. The recipient, also known as the appellant, must contact the Animal

Control Division in writing within 15 days after the citation is issued indicating the intent to appeal. The Animal Control Division then schedules a hearing before the Animal Matters Hearing Board.

THE ANIMAL MATTERS HEARING BOARD

The Animal Matters Hearing Board is comprised of seven county residents appointed by the county executive and confirmed by the County Council.

The AMHB meets to hear cases involving alleged violations of the Howard County Animal Control laws. Once cases are heard, board members render a decision to uphold, modify or reverse an imposed penalty.

The board may also recommend or order measures to abate further problems or complaints.

The AMHB notifies the appellant of its decision 30 days after a hearing. Any complainant or appellant who is aggrieved by the decision of the AMHB may request in writing, within thirty days, a hearing before the Howard County Board of Appeals.