

DAWG Tales



Best Dawg Rescue • www.dawg-rescue.org

Fall 2012

Dear Friends,

Who doesn't look forward to the cool autumn days ahead? I suspect dogs do, too! So for this final DAWG Tales of 2012, we have selected a few articles —courtesy of Your Dog's Friend—that are "good to know" for activities at this time of year. Note that one explains the Heimlich maneuver for dogs. Dogs get into mischief when you aren't watching, and the holidays ahead are loaded with distractions. Be sure to tape this life-saving procedure to a kitchen cabinet. No one expects to help someone who is choking, no less a dog. Be prepared!

We hope that you follow our website and read the stories about the dogs as they are introduced and eventually moved down to the adopted section. Close to 900 dogs have enjoyed our very special care since our inception in 2003, which means we celebrated our 9th birthday this year! Our volunteer, Emily, and her friend, Sasha, posed at our birthday adoption show, both with party hats on their heads!

Speaking of hats, ours are off to the incredible crew of volunteers who work hard to give our dogs a new start. Thank you (in random order) to Irene, Chris, Marlene, Suzanne, Alex, Emily, Marcy, Lisa,

Joyce, Yvonne, Trinh, Kassy, Nancy, Jim, Toni, Janice, Judy, Roger, Mary Lynn, Karen, Tammy, Rebecca, Kat, Mary, Glicer, Joanne, Reenie, Mark, and Kathy and family for your outstanding talents, patience and love for our dogs!

As the holidays near, we hope that you will be generous when you reply to our appeal (to be sent in the late fall). We gladly give everything we have to save as many local shelter dogs as possible, but it can't happen without you. If you have been in a shelter and seen the bewildered face of a dog being given up by a

family, or an injured, scared dog huddled in a cage, you know our work must go on and that it's up to us to "pay forward" the good fortune we have in our lives. And if you adopted a dog from us, remember that someone else's generosity gave your dog his or her life. Thank you for trusting us, and together we will make great things happen in 2013.

Sincerely,

Joan Marshall
Joan Marshall
President



The following three articles are from *Your Dog's Friend*. Visit their website (www.yourdogsfriend.info/) for other useful information and class schedules.

10 Tips for Walking Your Dog

With the heat of summer behind us, you will probably be out walking your dog more. Here are ten tips you may not have thought about.

It's your dog's walk.

Your dog can tell a lot about what's been happening out there by using his senses. On walks, let your dog sniff, stop, be curious. You may need "heel" in tight areas or close to other dogs, but for the most part, you only need your dog not to pull on walks. I know this is a radical idea, but you might even change your route just to give your dog more variety.

Walking is not the same as going potty.

Teach your dog to go to the bathroom in the same place in your yard or another grassy area nearby. You can put it on cue by repeating the same phrase ("Go potty" or "Hurry" or "Banana Milkshake"... whatever you want) every time he starts to go. The walk can be your dog's reward. This also avoids the workday problem of your dog trying to hold it because he knows that as soon as he goes, you will turn to go back home. What fun is that!

A no-pull harness can help you teach your dog not to pull.

Keep in mind that no-pull harnesses are tools to be used while teaching your dog to walk politely ... although a few dog parents do get away with using the harness without further training. For the harness to work, however, it has to be fitted properly. There is a list of independent dog stores, where you are more

likely to get a good fit, on our website at <http://www.yourdogsfriend.info/Pet-Products.html>. Your Dog's Friend also sells Sense-ation and Freedom no-pull harnesses, as well as double clip leashes for additional control.

NOTE: Some trainers prefer head collars, like the Halti. These have to be used properly, however (yanking could cause injury), and many dogs dislike the feeling of something around their muzzle. If your trainer teaches you what to do, go ahead and try it, but don't just go into the store and buy one without a trainer's guidance.

Holding your leash properly will make your walk much easier.

If you hold your leash steady against your belly, you will have much greater stability. You won't be pulled off your feet, and your dog will always know how much leash he has. In contrast, if your arm is out and the leash is moving all over the place, you aren't steady, your dog never knows where you are, and you are more likely to let your dog pull you wherever he wants to go. If you hold your leash around your wrist, you have no control at all, and could even break your wrist.

Holding your leash tight doesn't do what you think.

When you hold your leash tight, it puts your dog on alert. After all, his person is anxious, so, there must be something to be anxious about. It



also doesn't teach your dog anything. If you are controlling his every step, he can't learn how you want him to walk. And, with a tight leash, the walk isn't fun for you or your dog.

Walks can be fun.

When you're out on walks, change your pace and direction. Start walking slowly, speed up, walk a little, then rotate in another direction, then another. Go around obstacles and stop for a training cue now and then. If your dog doesn't know what his crazy person will do next, his attention will be on you, instead of "out there", and both of you will enjoy the walk more. Of course, this means you need to put away that cell phone.

There are other places you can walk besides sidewalks and streets.

A dog that walks directly toward another dog is considered rude, or even a threat, in the doggy world. However, we put our dogs in this position all the time by walking on sidewalks. There is no rule that you have to walk on sidewalks, streets or even paths. If there's an open area, walk there. Save your more prickly dog the indignity of being

challenged and your more timid dog the anxiety of being confronted. Some more reactive dogs will even feel the need to . . . well . . . react.

Using force or pain to teach your dog can backfire.

First of all, why would you use these methods on your best friend? Other reasons:

Using prong collars, or even yanking on your dog can lead to fear aggression when a dog associates the pain with what he sees at the time - other dogs, people, children.

It can make an already fearful dog more fearful and an aggressive dog more aggressive.

You may seem unpredictable and untrustworthy. You are usually your dog's best pal, but then, for no ap-

parent reason, you hurt him.

Dogs don't necessarily understand why they are being punished, even though you think it's very clear.

You haven't taught your dog what you want him to do. How unfair is that? You are punishing your dog for something he doesn't know.

Using force isn't fun for your dog. . . or you.

There is a more humane way to teach your dog that is just as effective.

It's hot out there!

Don't stay out too long, avoid the hottest times of the day, don't walk on hot cement, and take water. Some breeds do worse in hot weather than others. If your breed has trouble breathing inside, just think of what it will be like outside.

Food is only a training tool.

Yes, food is a convenient and quick way to reward a dog for the behavior you want - including walking with you, instead of pulling. But once your dog has learned to walk with you, the food can be random and then go away. However, if you are in a place with lots of distractions (a street event, a kids' soccer game, a block party. . .), bring the treats out again. If that's the worse you have to do to keep your dog's attention around all that activity, go for it!

Your Dog's Friend runs Leash Manners classes at times. Be sure to check Your Dog's Friend's website or contact the administrator at <http://www.yourdogsfriend.info/Class-Schedules.html#r>.

Dog Parks may NOT be good for your dog

We all envision our dogs romping gleefully with doggy friends at our local dog parks. However, not every dog enjoys being in a dog park, and not every dog park is appropriate for your dog.

Before you take your dog to a dog park, check the dogs and humans at the time that you are most likely to go. Chances are that the same dogs will show up at the same time each week. Watch for anything that might be of concern.

- Is the dog park particularly busy at that time?
- Do any of the dogs seem to be bullying other dogs?
- Are the humans paying attention to their dogs or are they busy talking to each other?
- Do you see dogs going after the same toy that someone brought into the dog park?

- Are the humans tolerant of each other's dogs?
- Is there a separate area for the smaller dogs to play?
- Are there a large number of intact males?
- Is the park double gated and the gating and fencing secure?

Dogs need exercise, including play, but playtime needs to be a good experience for everyone. **If you insist on going to a dog park, promise yourself that if you have any doubts about whether your dog or others are acting appropriately, the play is getting too rough or your dog is not having fun, you will LEAVE.**

Why Dog Parks May Not Be Appropriate For Your Dog

Play Styles: Different dogs have different play styles (chasing, wrestling, body slamming, biting...) that



aren't compatible. So, some tension among dogs is inevitable.

Arousal: Dogs at dog parks are in a high state of arousal. Arousal can quickly turn into aggression, with resulting fights. There is no way for dogs to calm down as one dog after another approaches. Making it worse, many humans encourage hours of play because it will tire their dog, without realizing the dangers of their dog being in a non-stop state of arousal. Chemicals are released that were once useful for

dogs' survival, but which now only serve to ramp up our dogs. These don't dissipate right away, leading to dogs that are on alert even when they're away from the dog park.

When on leash, they chafe at being restricted and can't approach dogs politely.

Bullies: There are some dogs that bully other dogs and others that have never learned polite dog interaction. These dogs approach head-on, stare or don't heed another dog's warning to back off. When your dog enters a dog park, the others surround him, and, sometimes, loose packs of dogs roam the dog park menacing other dogs.

And Bullied: You see dogs that jump on their humans, hide behind them, stay near the fence, cower or move away when another dog comes near. They are doing everything they can to tell their people that they don't want to be there. But so many of us think it's good for them or that they are actually enjoying them-

selves that we ignore their pleas to leave. **You CANNOT make your dog like other dogs by forcing him to be around them, especially in a busy and unpredictable dog park.**

Human Inattention & Lack of Understanding: The humans often don't pay attention, are defensive about their own dogs, and don't recognize the signals that dogs give to each other and to us. Some will bring toys or balls into the dog park and then get upset when nearby dogs go after them. We have even heard of people who have kicked, hit or picked up and thrown another person's dog because they deemed that dog's behavior toward their dog to be inappropriate, even when it was normal dog behavior that didn't require intervention.

Health: No one is checking on whether the dogs at dog parks are healthy or have had their vaccinations. And because of arousal during play that spills over to aggression,

dogs have been bitten, badly injured or have died because of injuries suffered at dog parks.

Predatory Drift: Some dogs are more predatory than others. They were bred to chase and kill other animals. At some point, when they are chasing that furry looking dog (that may resemble a rabbit or squirrel to them), their animal instinct may kick in. The dog may pick up and shake another dog as if it were prey.

Long-Term Effects: If something happens at the dog park— your dog is scared, bitten or a fight breaks out nearby— your dog's behavior can be affected from then on. Even one bad experience can have long-term effects on your dog.

We see so many dogs that become reactive after going to dog parks— either because they are now afraid of other dogs and act aggressively to keep them away or because it's difficult for them to stay calm when they see another dog.

I Can't Breathe!

When the unexpected happens it's time to think fast. If your dog began choking, would you know what to do? When a person chokes, someone must perform the Heimlich maneuver to dislodge any object blocking the airway. In the case of a choking dog, the process is surprisingly similar. When a dog is choking, you can do a modification of the Heimlich maneuver. Below are some tips on performing this lifesaving process. Hopefully you will never have to use it, but it's best to be prepared.

Take a minute now to learn how to do the step-by-step procedure for dogs, then print out this list of instructions and post it somewhere that's easy

to find. You might even want a copy of it for your wallet or purse. The procedure is fairly easy, but remember to be aware of your dog's relatively small body size in comparison to humans. Never distress a healthy dog by "practicing" on them; you could hurt them in doing so.

STEPS TO PERFORM THE HEIMLICH MANEUVER FOR DOGS

1. Clear Blockages: After determining that your dog is choking, remove any item that may be constricting the neck such as a collar or leash. Visually examine inside the mouth and remove any foreign object



you see. Do not blindly place your hand down your pet's throat and pull any object you feel. Dogs have small bones that support the base of their tongues. Owners probing the throat for a foreign object have mistaken these for chicken bones. Do not attempt to remove an object unless you can see and identify it. If your pet is small and you cannot easily remove the object, lift and suspend him with

the head pointed down. For larger animals, lift the rear legs so the head is tilted down. This can help dislodge an item stuck in the throat. Another method is to administer a sharp blow between the shoulder blades using the palm of your hand. This can sometimes dislodge an object. If this does not work, a modified Heimlich maneuver can be attempted.

2. Position Animal: Grasp the animal around the waist so that the rear is nearest to you, similar to a bear hug with the dog facing away from you.

3. Place a fist just underneath the ribs.

4. Compress the abdomen several times (usually 3-5 times) with

quick pushes inward and slightly upward.

5. Check the mouth to see if the foreign object has been removed.

This maneuver can be repeated one to two times, but if it is not successful on the first attempt, suspend further attempts and immediately take your pet to the nearest veterinary hospital. Even if you are successful in removing a foreign object, veterinary examination after choking is recommended. Internal injury such as rib fractures could have occurred that may not be apparent.

Hopefully this never happens to your dog, but if it does, this information could help save their life.



Once I was a lonely dog. . . a dedication to all rescuers

Once I was a lonely dog,
Just looking for a home.
I had no place to go,
No one to call my own.

I wandered up and down the streets,
in rain in heat and snow.
I ate whatever I could find,
I was always on the go.

My skin would itch, my feet were sore,
My body ached with pain.
And no one stopped to give a pat,
Or to gently say my name.

I never saw a loving glance,
I was always on the run.
For people thought that hurting me
was really lots of fun.

And then one day I heard a voice
So gentle, kind and sweet,
And arms so soft reached down to me
And took me off my feet.

"No one again will hurt you
Was whispered in my ear."
"You'll have a home to call your own
where you will know no fear."

"You will be dry, you will be warm,
you'll have enough to eat."

"And rest assured that when you sleep,
your dreams will all be sweet."

I was afraid I must admit,
I've lived so long in fear.
I can't remember when I let
A human come so near.

And as she tended to my wounds
And bathed and brushed my fur
She told me about the rescue group
And what it meant to her.

She said, "We are a circle,
A line that never ends."
"And in the center there is you
protected by new friends."

"And all around you are the ones
that check the pounds,
And those that share their home
after you've been found."

"And all the other folk
are searching near and far.
"To find the perfect home for you,
where you can be a star."

She said, "There is a family,
that's waiting patiently,
and pretty soon we'll find them,
just you wait and see."

"And then they'll join our circle
they'll help to make it grow,
so there'll be room for more like you,
who have no place to go."

I waited very patiently,
The days they came and went.
Today's the day I thought,
my family will be sent.

Then just when I began to think
It wasn't meant to be,
there were people standing there
just gazing down at me.

I knew them in a heartbeat,
I could tell they felt it too.
They said, "We have been waiting
for a special dog like you."

Now every night I say a prayer
to all the gods that be.
"Thank you for the life I live
and all you've given me.

But most of all protect the dogs
in the pound and on the street.
And send a Rescue Person to lift
them off their feet."

—Arlene Pace
September 18, 1998

Gracious Guest Greetings: Teach your Dog to Greet Guests Politely

By Laurie Luck, May, 2012

I recently took an informal poll of dog owners, posing the question “If you could fix one problem your dog has, what would it be?” Almost unanimously, the answer was jumping on people when they come into the house. Most people said their dogs were perfect except for this one vexing problem. Most people had tried several options to no avail, and finally resorted to putting the dog in another room (or outside) when people came to the house. The solution to a jumping dog is simple and this month’s newsletter is devoted to teaching your dog how to greet your guests without jumping.

Jumping Works

Your dog jumps because it works—for him, that is. It gets him attention. If you look at, touch, or talk to your dog when he’s jumping, you are making that behavior stronger, or reinforcing it, regardless of your intent. I know: you tell him “NO!” when he jumps, you may even step on his back paws, or knee him in the chest (none of these solutions are recommended by Smart Dog U, for the record). But yet, your dog still comes back for more. That’s because all those things are paying the dog for jumping. You’re giving him what he wants—attention. So the solution is simple: quit reinforcing the jumping.

The Jumping Solution

If you stop paying attention to your dog when he jumps, he’ll eventually quit jumping. However, you can supercharge the solution to make it work even faster (and so it’s even clearer to the dog what he needs to do). Ignoring your dog when he jumps

is but half of the solution. The other half—the most crucial half—involves teaching your dog what to do instead of jumping.

If you could talk to your dog and say, “Look, if you want my attention, just sit,” your dog would probably answer, “Why didn’t you tell me that a long time ago? This jumping business is hard—it takes a lot of energy to get your attention this way.” So I think that teaching our dogs to sit to get our attention is a kindness—for both the dog AND for us!

Teaching Sit

Most dogs know sit. The key to this solution, though, is to get your dog to sit the first time you ask. From now on, ask your dog to sit once. Don’t repeat yourself... “sit, sit, sit.” Just once. Wait for your dog to sit. If he does, give him a click and a treat. If he doesn’t, simply wait some more or walk away for about 5 seconds. Why is it so important to say it just once? Think about this: remember when you were in grade school and you were whispering to your friend when you should have been listening in class? When the teacher called on you to answer the question (that you didn’t hear because you were whispering to your friend), she didn’t repeat that question. She just called on someone else. And that someone else got a little reward for getting the question right. “Dang it,” you say to yourself, “I’m going to listen from now on! I want a chance to get that prize!” Same goes for your dog. If you say it just once, your dog will quickly learn to pay attention when you’re talking to him. You won’t give him a second chance to

answer your question (to sit when you ask him).

Sit for Everything

Your dog is sitting on the first request, now you’re ready to start asking your dog to sit before you do things for him. We want sit to be your dog’s default behavior—the behavior he does when he’s not sure what to do or when he wants something. A sitting dog rarely gets in trouble, so this is a great default behavior for your dog. What does this look like? Ask your dog (once) to sit before you: clip the leash on to take him out for his morning walk, open the door, feed him his breakfast, toss the ball, play tug, invite him on the couch, reach out to scratch him behind his ears, let him out of his crate, etc. You get the picture—ask your dog to sit before you do stuff or allow him access to the stuff he likes.

No Practicing Bad Behavior

In the meantime, you’ll also prevent your dog from practicing the behavior of jumping on your guests. To manage this, simply have your dog on a short leash when you open the door to let people into your house. Alternatively, you can leash your dog to a sturdy piece of furniture far enough away from the door so you can open the door and let the guest in, but your dog can’t reach the guest. You’ll improve your chances of success if you advise your guests of your plan, so they don’t unwittingly lean in to greet your dog. Tell your visitors that they need to wait for your dog to sit before they can look at, talk to, or touch your dog. This is the hard part, getting visitors to cooperate with your training plan.

Many people will tell you they don't care if your dog jumps, that it's ok with them. Consistency is another key to this plan. Jumping cannot be reinforced—even if the guest(s) are ok with jumping dogs. It's not fair to the dog. For consistency and simplicity, the rules are the same for everyone—even the dog lovers!

Putting It All Together

The key to your success is using both strategies: (1) asking your dog to sit before you (or anyone) pets him and (2) ignoring your dog if he manages to jump before you ask him to sit. It's imperative that you

don't ask him to sit while he's jumping on you. It's best if you ask him to sit before he's jumped, but if you missed your chance, simply turn your back or shrug your dog's paws off without looking at, talking to, or petting your dog.

This plan should work quickly if you are consistent—and if you can ensure that your guests are consistent! Be mindful while you're going through this process. Many of my clients who want to stop jumping, unknowingly reinforce their dog for jumping. For instance, they'll be talking on the phone, watching tv, or otherwise engaged in a task and the

dog will come over and put his paws on them, soliciting attention. Without thinking, the owner will reach down and scratch the dog behind the ears. Paws on people should always result in no attention. It's hard to remember, I know. But the more consistent you are, the faster and easier it will be for your dog to understand that sitting is the new way to get attention from you.

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DAWG Adoption Picture Gallery

Enjoy seeing our former dogs with their proud new adopters!



Blake



Carrie



Bruno



Brandy



Friday



Liberty



Luigi



Clancy



Harvey



Jackie



Megan

Please support us TODAY, so we can help dogs when they need us!

Most of our readers know that DAWG takes in as many dogs as we can handle at adoption shows and as our budget allows. Luckily we have an incredible team of volunteers who take our new shelter dogs, sick with contagious respiratory illnesses, directly to our animal hospital, where they get well and then are spayed/neutered and given whatever else they may need. That's the short story, with the expenses incurred during each dog's stay easily totaling \$1,000 or more until adopted. If we operated as a volume adoption organization, we'd get dogs "out the door" with minimal vetting/expense and involvement. Instead, we acknowledge each dog as special, to be fully cared for, discovered, trained a bit, and then introduced into his or her new home, where we work with the adopters until we believe the adoption is on sound footing.

If our philosophy matches yours, please consider a mid-year gift to help us continue doing everything possible to help imperiled shelter dogs!

\$25 \$50 Other: \$ _____

Annual pledge of \$ _____ payable (select one) monthly or quarterly

Credit donation of \$ _____ (go to www.networkforgood.org and select Best Dawg Rescue/DAWG).

Gift of a security (please contact us at dawg@dawg-rescue.org to provide additional information)

Other: Please explain: _____

(please print)

In (Circle one) memory or honor of: _____

Notification to: _____ Address: _____

Your name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

Interested in helping in other ways? Designate Best Dawg Rescue to receive donations in your name at iGive.com, giveline.com, and goodsearch.com. If interested in volunteering, please contact us at dawg@dawg-rescue.org.

WORKPLACE GIVING An Easy Way to Help!

If you prefer to donate through a workplace payroll deduction campaign, please support Best Dawg Rescue through Combined Federal Campaign, American Charities or United Way! To do so, select CFC #51169, or simply write in Best Dawg Rescue's name for other campaigns. Be aware that if you choose to be an anonymous donor, we can't thank you, and you will have no way of knowing if your donations were received by us. We respect everyone's privacy and never rent out our mailing list!



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Check out our adoptable dogs and DAWG Tales in color at www.dawg-rescue.org

**Please spread the word that DAWG saves shelter dogs
with 96% of every dollar donated!**