

The Dog Dialogue

from Pawsitive Manners



Positive Methods. Positive Outcomes.



✦ Sense Of Sight ✦

Dogs see the world from an entirely different perspective than humans. If you want to see the world from a small dog's point of view, try lying on the ground and seeing how large the world looks!

Dogs have what is known as dichromatic vision, meaning they are able to see in shade of yellow and blue, but not in shades of red to green. So when you throw that red toy on your nice green grass in the back yard, your dog may not be able to see it!

Dogs have large pupils, so when looking at things in the distance, they can focus clearly only on objects in the center of their vision. Everything else around the center is blurry. They can see fine details only to a maximum distance of twenty feet away.

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LIVING WITH DOGS

The Case for Crates

The crate is a marvelous tool: Good for short stints of alone time and for getting your dog to settle down during Zoom meetings, great for house-training and travel. Worried a crate is just one step up from imprisonment? No need. Like coyotes and wolves, dogs are den animals that enjoy close quarters. That said, it would be unkind to simply deposit a dog in a crate if he's never seen one before—it would also likely trigger loud and long-lasting objections. Here are some tips for helping your dog love his crate:



Use irresistible treats. Treats, comestible and in toy form, are the way to get your dog to fall in love with his crate. Stock up on your dog's favorite treats or whatever high-value healthy snacks make your dog sit up and take notice. Make sure you have a favorite toy or chewie set aside for crate training time, and don't break out that particular goody for anything else.

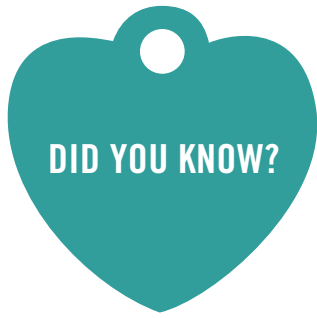
Go slow. Only gradually increase the amount of time you ask your dog to spend in the crate during crate training. Likewise for the amount of time you leave him alone in the crate once he's used to it. Going slowly is the key to success. Remember, you're building a positive association to last a canine lifetime.

Exercise first. Make sure your dog has had a good workout before each crate training session. Crate training goes faster and works better if your dog has worked up an appetite and—for when you get far enough in the training program to leave him alone in there—is nice and tired and ready for a snooze.

Note: Never leave your dog in the crate for more than 3–4 hours at a time, except for bedtime.

"If you can look at a dog and not feel vicarious excitement and affection, you must be a cat."

—Carrie Latet



These Travel Trends?

- 53% of travelers include their companion animal in their getaways
- It's no surprise, then, that 52% of animal guardians report only staying in animal-friendly accommodations
- Taking it further, 37.5% of animal lovers say they refuse to travel without their companion animals
- Dogs make up 58% of the animals taken along for the ride, cats come in second at 22%, followed by companion birds
- When traveling without their four-legged family members, guilt-and-worry-ridden guardians go to great lengths to make sure their animals are happy—75% report leaving a scented article of clothing, 25% say they bake homemade treats to leave behind, and 15% arrange play dates



A WORLD OF DOGS

Let's Play!

Youngsters of most species like to play. Elephant calves wrestle and chase each other, bighorn sheep lambs leap about, and otter pups slide down muddy hills just for fun. But in most species, play behavior dwindles with adulthood. When grown elephants chase each other, things



are about to get dangerous. But humans continue to play throughout life and, as any dog lover can testify, so do dogs. This might be another reason we have bonded so closely with them. In a nutshell: animals who play together stay together—shared fun is a strong relationship glue.

Take our mutual obsession with object-related play or, in non-scientific language, toys. There are toys galore, of course, but look no further than balls. Forget the occasional ball-uninterested dog and the person who doesn't care for sport; other kinds of toys appeal to them. Consider instead how many human play-related activities revolve around balls. Tennis, baseball, golf, football, soccer, bowling, cricket, volleyball, lacrosse, croquet, wiffleball, polo, basketball, squash, tether ball, stick ball... It's a very long list. To a visitor from another planet, humans would not seem that different in this respect to the Border Collie that refuses to give up her ball or the German Shepherd Dog that carries three tennis balls in his mouth. It's all about the little round thing!

Aside from the fuzzy warm feeling it gives us about our deep affinity with dogs, the knowledge that we are both highly play-motivated species can help us in other areas of life with dogs. The science of dog training tells us that the more rewarding an activity is, the more the dog learns. It's a win-win situation: Humans and dogs love to play—and fun accelerates your training results. Rather than commands issued in a Darth Vader-like voice, the training of cued behaviors from sit to high five can be made into a thoroughly enjoyable game for the two- and four-legged both. As Ralph Waldo Emerson put it, "It is a happy talent to know how to play."

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Colors That Humans See



Colors The Dogs See



DOGS IN ACTION

Here We Go Rally-O!

You don't have to be into competitive obedience to fall in love with Rally-O. A fun, energizing, less formal version of traditional obedience trials, Rally-O is one of the most inclusive dog sports in the world—and the benefits reach well beyond the exercise field. Lavishing attention on your dog and working on improved communication while doing something creative pays off in a happier, more focused, better-behaved dog. Often that means a dog that's easier to take out and about; it's an investment of time and energy that pays big dividends.



The concept of Rally-O sprung from the practice of using a variety of interesting freestyle exercises as warm-up before an obedience competition, and the name derives from rally-style auto racing, another sport that encourages creativity. In Rally-O, the handler and her dog navigate a course of 10 to 20 stations (depending on the level), each marking an exercise like heel, stand, turn, sit, and back up. The handler is allowed to talk to and encourage her dog along the way, use hand signals, and go through the course along a designated route on her own without a judge calling out the exercises.

If you're curious and want to know more before you jump in, search for Rally-O online. You'll find articles, books, YouTube videos, and listings of trials near you.



HEALTHY DOG

Canine Acupuncture

Like humans, dogs sometimes suffer from pain and inflammation, and relief for your dog doesn't have to be limited to conventional treatment options. Acupuncture, the process of stimulating certain points on the body by inserting needles, has been shown in studies to enhance blood circulation, release toxins, relax muscles, and relieve pain. Veterinary acupuncture, a component of traditional Chinese veterinary medicine (TCVM) treatments, can complement traditional medicine at any stage of your dog's life. It's often used preventatively but can also provide relief during a range of illnesses and conditions such as arthritis, asthma, gastrointestinal distress, skin problems, and traumatic nerve injuries.

To know if acupuncture is right for your dog, consult with a veterinarian trained in TCVM. Learn more at ivas.org, the website of the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Airedale Terrier

The Airedale takes its name from its birthplace, the valley (dale) of the River Aire in Yorkshire, England and its nickname, the "King of Terriers," from their size. Working-class farmers bred Airedales from two other terriers in the mid-19th century for farm work.

The breed's popularity continued to grow as word spread about their bravery. During World War I Airedales carried messages to soldiers behind enemy lines and worked for the Red Cross to locate wounded soldiers left on the battlefield. These trusty terriers also served as the dog of choice for law enforcement and search and rescue work prior to the popularity of German Shepherd dogs for the same.

Famous Airedales include best friends of several U.S. Presidents, John Jacob Astor IV's dog Kitty who sadly perished on the Titanic, and John Wayne's companion Duke.

To share your life with your very own "King of Terriers," search nearby shelters and rescues for an Airedale looking for a home.



Stress in Dogs

Stressed dogs are often highly reactive and unable to settle, jumping at the slightest sound or movement. Visible signs of stress include

- dilated pupils, sweaty paws, shaking, excessive barking or whining, or salivating.
- Other manifestations of stress come in the form of self-calming techniques such as yawning, sneezing, lip licking or intense displacement behavior such as sniffing, licking, excessive grooming, spinning or self-mutilation.
- Urinate or defecate more frequently as well as digestive upset like diarrhea.
- Inability to sleep, low energy, lack of appetite and a limited desire for human or dog interaction.
- Learned helplessness, where the dog shuts down and ceases to learn, (often misread as a dog becoming calm) is yet another symptom of stress and can occur if a dog is severely punished or suffers abuse.
- Aggressive behavior such as growling, snapping or biting

What Can You Do to Minimize Stress for Your Dog?

- Make a list of everything your dog finds stressful, and then work through that list tackling each issue slowly and sensitively.
- Desensitization, counter-conditioning techniques and managing a dog's exposure to stressors, along with confidence-building exercises
- Minimizing potential stressors at home and watching how you manage your own stress is important, as dogs are very good at picking up on a person's emotional state.
- Controlled exercise is also a great way to alleviate stress for both dogs and people as exercise has been shown to improve cognitive function, encourage confidence, stabilize mood and reduce reactivity as well as improving the relationship between dog and guardian.
- Problem-solving games and toys can help activate the thinking brain in stressful situations, which in turn deactivates the emotional brain and allows the dog to concentrate on something more positive than the negative emotion



How To Please Your Vet

Appointment decorum. Be on time for your appointment and, if it's your first, be early so there's time to fill out paperwork. If you can't make it, call and let the vet's office know.

Injury prevention. Nobody likes to get bitten or scratched, and your vet is no exception. Always mention in advance if your dog tends to get nervous or cranky during vet visits.

Ignore your cell. The vet's exam office is not the place to return phone calls. If you're in mid-conversation when called in, excuse yourself, hang up, and give your full attention to the vet.

Good communication. Be prepared to describe your dog's symptoms and behavior. Has anything unusual happened? Tell the vet. Draw a diagram if that helps make things clear—vague communication is a pet peeve of most vets. It's also a good idea to take notes or ask for written instructions.

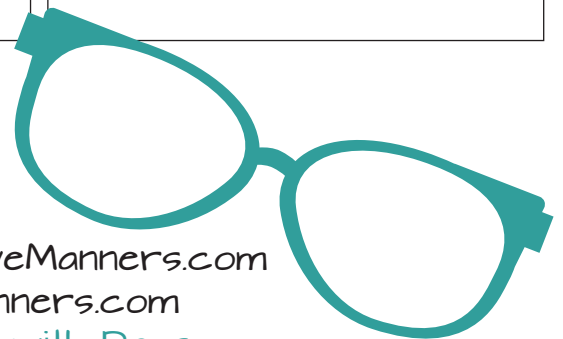


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Live Harmoniously with Dogs



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