

# The Dog Dialogue

from Pawsitive Manners



Positive Methods. Positive Outcomes.



## Surviving The Fireworks

Create a Safe and Comfortable Environment: Designate a quiet, secure room in your home where your dog can retreat during fireworks. This area should be familiar to your dog and preferably free from windows or other sources of noise. Provide comfortable bedding, and toys, and to create a calming environment. Play soft, soothing music or turning on a white noise machine to help drown out the sound of fireworks.

Redirect your dog's attention away from the fireworks by engaging in activities they enjoy. Offer treats, play with interactive toys, or engage in training sessions to keep their focus on something positive.

Reward calm behavior and provide plenty of praise and reassurance to help them associate the fireworks with positive experiences.

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## LIVING WITH DOGS

### 4 tips on surviving puppies + toddlers

Ah, puppies. Is there anything more adorable? The thrill of bringing a new puppy into your life is big. And it's just as thrilling for children. When done right, it can also be the beginning of a beautiful friendship. The challenge is getting things right from the start.



#### 1. First impressions matter

Leaving their home, mom, and siblings is a huge undertaking for puppies. It's natural that they will be disoriented. While you may want to share your puppy excitement with everyone you know, hold off. Give your puppy time to settle in and get used to their new surroundings. Spend time with them, don't isolate them for long periods, and allow them to get plenty of sleep.

#### 2. Supervise, supervise, supervise

Young children can get pretty hysterical about puppies, with lots of hugging, picking them up and grabbing. There's no bad intent here, but it can be scary for dogs! Canine communication is very different to ours, which is why active supervision is essential to keep everyone safe. Intervene early and model behaviors you want to see.

#### 3. Set everyone up for success

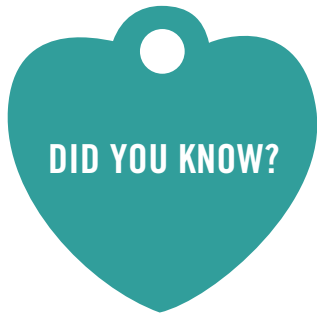
It's impossible to supervise toddlers and puppies 100% of the time. This is why safe zones are so important. Puppies need social contact. Rather than excluding them consider options like play pens and baby gates. While you're busy cooking dinner, puppy can happily chew on a toy or treat nearby without small humans trying to climb into their bed with them.

#### 4. Low stress interactions

Puppies shouldn't just cope with children - they should enjoy them! Children often desperately want to play with puppies, but may need guidance. Teaching them about body language is essential and a force-free trainer can help you do this. Encourage interactions from afar - things like blowing a kiss, waving, or tossing treats over a barrier reinforces the idea that not all exchanges have to be up close and personal.

**"Training is not about perfection, it's about progress"**

*-Suzanne Clothier*



### These Movie Dogs?

**Beasley.** The big lovable Dogue de Bordeaux behind Hooch in the 1989 movie *Turner and Hooch*. Beasley got rave reviews from his co-star Tom Hanks, who called him an “Oscar-caliber actor.”

**Jed.** This dog-wolf hybrid played White Fang in the 1991 eponymous movie based on Jack London’s book about the friendship between a Yukon gold hunter and the mixed dog-wolf he rescues from abusers.

**Hank.** Training for his famous roller-skating scene in 1995’s *The Truth About Cats and Dogs* took three months for this easygoing Great Dane.

**Arokat’s Echobar Take Me Dancing.** Playing high-maintenance pooch Beatrice in mockumentary *Best in Show* (2000) where five dog owners head for the Mayflower Kennel Club Dog Show probably came natural to this prize-winning Weimaraner.



## A WORLD OF DOGS

### Does your dog know if you’re nice?

Understanding the moral lives of animals can be mysterious and challenging. There is still much we don’t know about how they perceive the actions of others, including ours. Do our dogs make moral judgements? Do they understand concepts such as altruism and selfishness? While we don’t yet have the answers, there are some intriguing studies which attempt to explore these concepts.



One example is a 2015 study at Kyoto University which aimed to look at how dogs perceive sharing. In the first experiment dogs watched a scene in which a person was trying to open a can. When they weren’t able to, they asked another person for help. In some trials, the second person would help while in others they would refuse. Sometimes there was also a third person present who would be neutral and do nothing at all.

During the second experiment the dogs watched two people turn up with three balls each. The first person would ask the other to give them all of their balls. The second person would agree and hand them over. They would then ask them to be given back. In some instances, the first person would return the balls. In other instances, they would refuse. A bit like a conflicted game of fetch!

So what did the researchers learn? At the end of each experiment those involved in the trials offered the dog a treat at the same time. In every scenario, dogs were happy to take a treat from the helpful or neutral person, but were reluctant to receive a treat from those they saw acting ‘selfishly.’ Which just goes to show - we should be on our best behavior around our dogs! In fact, the researchers suggested that dogs may make social judgments in very similar ways to human infants.

Dogs are masters of observation - they are constantly studying us and the world around them for clues and information. This skill allows them to live successfully alongside us, and helps to keep them safe. So don’t forget - your dog is always watching!

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Prepare for the Fireworks in Advance: Take proactive steps to prepare for the fireworks. Consider using a Thundershirt or anxiety wrap, which can provide a gentle, calming pressure to help ease your dog’s anxiety. Consult with your veterinarian about safe and effective anti-anxiety medications or natural supplements that can help alleviate stress during fireworks. Additionally, make sure your dog is wearing proper identification, such as a collar with identification tags or a microchip, in case they become startled and try to escape.



## DOGS IN ACTION

### Race to rescue

In 2021 a stray dog named Gobi made headlines after she completed a 155 mile ultramarathon in northwestern China with her human running companion, Dion Leonard. The two met during the race and Gobi started following Dion. The two soon became inseparable.

Following the race, Dion wanted to adopt Gobi and take her back to his home in Scotland, but Gobi went missing in the city where they were staying. Dion launched a massive search effort with the help of local volunteers and social media. After several days, Gobi was found and reunited with Dion.

Their incredible story captured the hearts of people all over the world and inspired a children's book called "Finding Gobi", which has been translated into 17 languages. Dion and Gobi are still going strong and live together in France. She reportedly still loves running - almost as much as a morning pastry. Dion advocates for animal adoption and welfare and continues to run ultramarathons. What a team!



## HEALTHY DOG

### About that third eyelid...

Dogs have lots of wonderful and fascinating quirks, but did you know that they also have an extra eyelid? Yep, this inner eyelid, known as a nictitating membrane, provides extra protection against scratches and debris. It plays an important role, especially considering all the scurrying dogs tend to do in bushes and grass. Located under the lower eyelid on the inner corner of the eye, it's also responsible for spreading moisture across the eye and keeping the eye healthy. The third eyelid isn't visible to us - in fact, if you do see it then it may be a sign you need to take your dog to the vet. It could be a sign of eye issues such as cherry eye, Horner's syndrome, or conjunctivitis.

Another interesting fact? Humans also had a third eyelid, but it shrank throughout evolution to become the plica semilunaris - a small structure near the tear duct. It still plays a role in keeping our tears drained and debris flushed from our eyes.

## DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Hokkaido dog

The Hokkaido dog, also known as Ainu dog, is a breed of hunting dog originating from Japan. It's named after the Hokkaido region of Japan, where the breed was developed by the indigenous Ainu people.

Hokkaido dogs are medium-sized, sturdy, and muscular with a thick, double coat that comes in a variety of colors. They're known for their endurance, agility, and strength. They love being with their families, and while positive and early socialization will help them warm to visitors, they're not known for their extroversion. Due to their hunting instincts, Hokkaido dogs need plenty of exercise and mental stimulation. They enjoy running, hiking, and playing, but also thrive on positive reinforcement training and dog sports.

Hokkaido dogs make wonderful and affectionate companions for active dog guardians who appreciate their unique history and working dog heritage.





## Investing in Your Dog's Education

**Builds Trust and Bond:** Positive reinforcement training focuses on rewarding desired behaviors with treats, praise, or play instead of using punishment or force. This approach creates a positive and trusting relationship between the dog and their guardian. It promotes mutual understanding, communication, and a strong bond built on trust and respect.

**Enhances Learning:** Dogs learn more effectively and efficiently when they are rewarded for their desired behaviors. Positive reinforcement training uses rewards to reinforce behaviors that you want to see more of, making it easier for your dog to understand what is expected of them. This approach encourages active participation and engages your dog's cognitive abilities, leading to faster and more successful learning.

**Encourages Willing Cooperation:** By using positive reinforcement, you motivate your dog to willingly cooperate and participate in training sessions. Dogs learn to associate training with positive experiences, making them more enthusiastic and willing to learn. This creates a positive and enjoyable training environment for both the dog and their guardian.

**Promotes Confidence and Reduced Fear:** Positive reinforcement training helps build your dog's confidence by focusing on their strengths and successes. When dogs are rewarded for their efforts and accomplishments, they become more self-assured and less fearful or anxious. This confidence extends to various aspects of their life, making them more comfortable and adaptable in different situations.

**Improves Communication:** Positive reinforcement training enhances communication between the dog and their guardian. As you learn to read and understand your dog's body language and responses, you can effectively communicate your expectations and reinforce desired behaviors. This mutual understanding leads to clearer communication, which strengthens the bond and makes daily interactions more enjoyable.

Remember to be patient, consistent, and use rewards that are meaningful to your dog. Consider consulting with a professional dog trainer who specializes in positive reinforcement techniques to help you and your dog achieve the best training outcomes.



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Live Harmoniously with Dogs



### Staying safe in the car

Car safety is also important for our four legged passengers. Here's some tips to keep everyone safe while traveling:

1. A crate can help keep your dog safe in case of an accident or sudden stop. Make sure it's large enough for your dog to stand and turn around in.
2. A seatbelt harness can be a great alternative to a crate or carrier. It allows your dog to move around more freely but still keeps them securely in place.
3. Avoid the front seat. It's safer for your dog to ride in the backseat and away from airbags.
4. Dogs love to stick their heads out of car windows, but be careful. Flying debris or an unexpected turn can lead to injury.
5. Temperatures inside a car can rise quickly and become dangerous for your dog. Never leave them in a parked car, even for a few minutes.



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