



Savvy Dogs

Training News

Effective training solutions for a better behaved dog

*

*

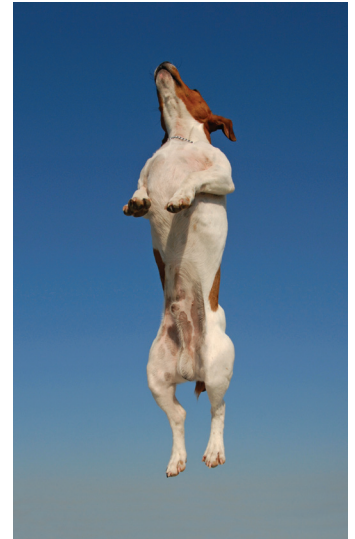
✦ Highlights ✦



LIVING WITH DOGS

Half Dog, Half Kangaroo

Some dogs are born jumpers. If you have a champion jumping bean on your hands, the first thing to remember when muddy paws land on your favorite pair of slacks is that your canine companion isn't jumping on you out of rudeness or in an attempt to dominate you. Rather, it's a case of misplaced enthusiasm. She is overjoyed to see you and this is how she shows it. That said, a jumping dog is tough on the wardrobe and can be downright dangerous when the dog is big enough to knock you down, so here's a look at why dogs jump and what can be done about it.



Why dogs jump. Jumping up on us is canine for "hello, gorgeous!" It's a greeting and a way to get close to our faces, the source of good stuff like eye contact, kisses, and enthusiastic noises. As it happens, dogs greet dogs with much less jumping—scientists speculate that jumping evolved in dogs specifically as a greeting of humans. Too bad they didn't develop an automatic sit, right?

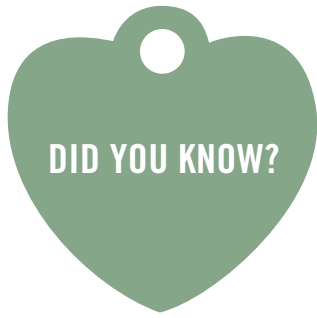
The remedy. The good news is that dogs can learn polite, human-style greetings. The trick to a harmonious life with a dog who thinks she's a kangaroo is to teach her a new way to greet you. First, let your dog know that jumping doesn't work as an approach to get attention. Don't push her away, yell, or bring your knee up—those responses are more than enough attention to keep your dog jumping. Instead, ignore her. Turn your back and walk away. Only give her your attention when she has all four paws on the floor. If you do this consistently, your dog's greetings will change (and your dry cleaning bill will shrink accordingly).

Does your dog jump on houseguests and strangers? Time to call a trainer or take a class.

continued on page 2

"Rambunctious, rumbustious, delinquent dogs become angelic when sitting."

- Dr. Ian Dunbar



These Official State Dogs?

- AK Alaskan Malamute (surprise, surprise)
- LA Louisiana Catahoula Leopard Mix
- MD Chesapeake Bay Retriever
- MA Boston Terrier
- NH Chinook
- NC Plott Hound
- PA Great Dane
- SC Boykin Spaniel
- TX Blue Lacy
- VA American Foxhound
- WI American Water Spaniel

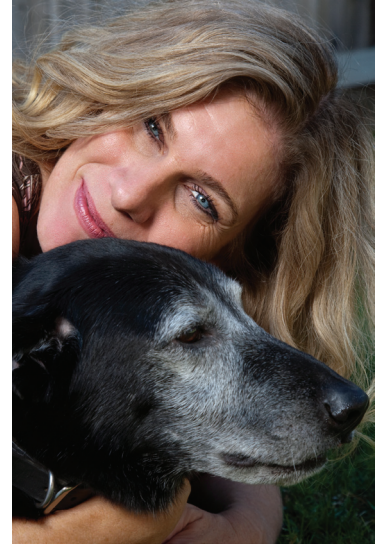


A WORLD OF DOGS

.....

The Joys Of Adopting An Older Dog

Let's admit it: We have a youth bias. Puppies and young dogs up to about three years of age are the first to be adopted in shelters up and down the country. Meanwhile dogs older than seven—or as young as five—are overlooked, which means they are often the first to be euthanized when space runs out. For many potential adopters, it's an obvious choice. Who wouldn't want as much of a dog's lifetime as you could get? Nobody looks forward to the inevitable physical decline and eventual loss of a loved companion, and it makes sense to postpone that heartbreak as long as possible. But these considerations, while certainly valid, leave out a great deal of important information.



Older dogs, for example, are often easier to live with than their younger confreres. They are usually house-trained, may have learned polite manners, rarely require daily marathon exercise sessions, and have left most youthful follies behind, which means they won't chew up the living room rug or pull shoulders out of sockets when walked. Senior dogs are low-maintenance dogs. By contrast, puppies and teenage dogs require round-the-clock monitoring and attention—and they're blank slates. What does "no" mean? When is it okay to plant muddy paws on clean slacks? Oh, never? They have no idea and must be patiently taught everything. What's more, maturity in a dog equals predictability. Size, personality, grooming requirements; it's all there in plain view. Not so for puppies, who may grow up into Rosemary's Dog.

For all these reasons, it's odd that the bias for adopting young dogs is so pronounced. Surely many prospective dog guardians, if they thought about it, would love to live with a well-behaved dog that quickly adapts to the household routine and is content with a half-hour stroll every day. Finally, there's the inside story shared by those who have adopted senior dogs: Older dogs are just plain grateful. They got a second chance at happiness and they seem to know it. So for every remaining day of their lives, they adore their new human family with quiet, heart-stealing intensity.

(continued from page 1)



DOGS IN ACTION

Seizure-Alert Dogs

As the name suggests, seizure-alert dogs can detect an oncoming seizure in people and warn them so they can take precautions. To people with epilepsy or other convulsive disorders, a seizure-alert dog can mean the difference between a normal life and isolation. What exactly the dogs alert to remains a mystery.



It could be subtle changes in behavior or odor or it could be something different altogether. Because we don't know this yet, seizure-alert dogs have to be tested for the ability before they can be trained as service dogs. Reports suggest the ability can develop over time in dogs living with people who suffer from seizures, but there's no guarantee. However, some dogs reliably alert to seizures by whining, pawing, pacing, or barking persistently. They can serve as canine early warning systems, giving the seizing person time to take medication or lie down in a safe place.

Both seizure-alert dogs and seizure-response dogs (service dogs that don't alert before a seizure) are trained to do many other helpful things. They might get help, activate an alarm during an episode, or fetch a telephone. For more information, visit the websites of service dog organizations like Pet Partners or Assistance Dogs International.



HEALTHY DOG

Everyday Foods That Can Poison Your Dog

Most dog lovers know that chocolate can be dangerous, even fatal, to dogs. Many have heard the same of grapes and raisins. But did you know about yeast dough? Milk? Common people-foods never to share with your dog include:

Alcohol, avocado, candy or anything containing Xylitol, chocolate, cacao, coffee, tea, walnuts, macadamia nuts, grapes and raisins, onions, garlic, chives, milk, milk-based foods, fish or poultry bones, fat trimmings, yeast dough, salty foods like potato chips.

Common signs of poisoning include vomiting and diarrhea, tremors and seizures, drooling, problems breathing, and losing consciousness—but don't wait for symptoms to arise. If your dog ingests something potentially harmful, take him to the vet immediately, along with a sample of the product.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Shih Tzu

Shih Tzus, thought to have originated in Tibet, came into true prominence as the palace pets of China's imperial families for over a thousand years. The name means 'lion'—one of Buddhism's most potent symbols of strength and regality. And indeed, as fanciers will tell you, this pint-sized, flowy-maned dog is equipped with stacks of courage and personality. The quintessential companion dogs, Shih Tzus have been among the most popular breeds in America for decades. They excel as family pets, best friends, therapy dogs, and in the show ring. Playful and easy to keep fit, Shih Tzus require frequent grooming and aren't cut out for strenuous physical activity. Their appearance and charm have bewitched artists throughout human history, from art to modern films. Of recent fame is Miss Agnes of *Best In Show* and Chelsea in the prizewinning independent flick *A Dog's Life: A Documentary*.

To share your life with a Shih Tzu, search online for a local rescue group.



OUR SERVICES



Car Safety

Would you drive without buckling up? Or let your kids ride in the car without a car seat or belt?

Probably not, and if you're among the 84% of dog owners* who let their dogs ride unrestrained, it's time to reconsider. It's unsafe for the dog and for any humans in the car. Here are some safety tips:

- Keep your dog in the back seat in a crash-tested restraint such as a dog seat belt, harness, or crate.
- If you opt for a crate, tether it to make sure it doesn't become a projectile in an accident.
- Resist your dog's charms, however hard it is. Distracted driving (including petting, treating, or reaching for a dog) causes accidents that kill thousands—and injure hundreds of thousands—every year.

*2011-2012 AAA/Kurgo study



Savvy Dogs, LLC

Effective training solutions for a better behaved dog

Serving western Montgomery County, including Poolesville, Potomac, Darnestown, Gaithersburg, Germantown, North Potomac, Boyds and Clarksburg.

(301) 948-5643
mzubkus@msn.com
www.savvydogsllc.com



Information and advice provided in this newsletter is general in nature and should not be relied upon to solve any particular situation. For all issues with your dog, please seek the services of a competent professional. The author and publisher shall have neither liability nor responsibility for any loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused by the information in this newsletter.