

Q & A on Raising and Training Puppies



By Ed Frawley



Leerburg Kennels

Foreword

When you view this eBook in PDF format. Click on **BOOKMARKS** on the top left side of your PDF reader, these bookmarks are eBook chapters.

[Leerburg Kennel](#) and Video is owned by Ed Frawley.

Ed has owned German Shepherds (GSD) for over 45 years. Since 1978 he has bred over 350 litters of German working bloodline GSD's. His dogs work in law enforcement, as S&R dogs, as competition Schutzhund dogs, and as family companions and protectors.

Since 1980 Ed has produced over 120 dog training videos and DVD's. He was a police K-9 handler for 10 years, competed in several dog sports, including AKC obedience and Schutzhund. In addition he has built one of the top dog training supply businesses in the world.

If you go to the web site **Leerburg.com** you will see that it has over 10,000 printed pages. The Leerburg Web Discussion board has over 10,000 registered members and over 120,000 posts in the archives. Learn to use our site search function.

Questions & Answers on Raising and Training Puppies



I try and answer every question I receive on dog training. I may often come across as a little on the blunt side (some may call it brash). That is because I consider myself an advocate for dogs and not dog handlers. I am an advocate for common sense dog training and not the latest fad that appears on the horizon. Good dog training is not rocket science. It's common sense.



Table of Contents

1. [What are the best toys for puppies?](#)
2. [What kind of dog crate do you recommend?](#)
3. [What are the concerns in adding a 3rd dog to a family?](#)
4. [The ears on my 14 week old German Shepherd pup were up. 2 days ago one went back down. Should I be worried?](#)
5. [I am 64 years old and have a very hard time cutting my 19 week old German Shepherd puppy's nails. What should I do?](#)
6. [My 8 month old Rottie growls at me when I try and take his toy away. What should I do?](#)

7. I have a 10 week old American Pitbull Terrier. He is very aggressive toward strangers already. Should I be concerned?
8. My pup seems to want to fight with other dogs, what do I do?
9. My wife and I have ordered a pup from you and have a few questions on puppy training.
10. My son has a 4 month old German Shepherd. It snaps or "bites" quite often to a degree than can be pretty painful. Otherwise, it has a lovable, friendly nature. Should this be acceptable considering his age or would you recommend an attempt be made to correct it?
11. We have a 3 month old pup German Shepherd and a cat who play chase a lot! The problem is when we call the pup to come he acts like he doesn't hear us. How do we correct this and get his attention?
12. Our pup is 4 months old. She is almost impossible to walk down the street because she pulls so hard. She also wants to chase cars. Are these things she will get over or do I need to take corrective measures to stop them? I am just

concerned with not wanting to make a mistake.

13. Why is it so important to work with a ball on a string with young pups?
14. Can you tell us how to housebreak our puppy?
15. I have a 7 month old puppy that walks around the yard at a very fast pace. Is this normal?
16. I only have 30 minutes a day for my dog. How do I train it to be a protection dog?
17. I bought a 6 week old puppy, (the last of 14 in the litter). It screams when we go near it. What should I do?
18. What does the "Stamped Normal" mean on a pedigree?
19. I have a 5 day old litter, should I be concerned over the weight gain on our small female?
20. Should I imprint my new puppy for police work?
21. When should you neuter your puppy?

22. I have an Airedale pup who throws a fit if it doesn't get its own way. What should I do?
23. Almost every day my 6 month old Brittany escapes from her crate when we are at work. What can I do?
24. My husband corrected our 12 week old Border Collie for running to the food bowl. Now he won't eat. What should I do?
25. When we are gone our 7 month old GSD chews up everything in the house. What should we do?
26. My 3 1/2 month old GSD has a slight overbite. Will he grow out of this?
27. When I work with my puppy on the puppy tug, he goes for the handle and not the tug itself. Why is this?
28. My puppy was attacked in a dog park. How can I recognize when a dog is going to attack my dog?
29. The puppy that we bought from you is terribly afraid of other dogs. Two older dogs bit it. Our local puppy class instructor told us to squirt bitter apple in his mouth if he screams when an older dog comes near him.

30. We have a 12 year old cocker and just got a puppy. The pup is terrorizing the older dog. What should we do?
31. Is there such a thing as a “fear period” that puppies go through?
32. We found what looks to be a purebred black lab roaming in the ditch in the country. We were thinking of getting a hunting dog and would like to know if this dog would work out for that.
33. I have a GSP that doesn’t want to bond with me. What can I do?
34. I would like to get a German Shepherd, but I am out of the house for about 12 hours a day, five days a week. How long can a dog remain in the crate?
35. I just wanted to let you know of a bad experience that we just had with our puppy and our garage door opener.
35. My male Jack Russell almost killed our new female puppy. What should we do?
36. Our young Leerburg puppy has developed a habit of wanting to chase cars when I walk it. What should I do?

37. Our Rot female puppy is constantly licking or lapping. It bugs me. What can we do to stop it?
38. We recently got a puppy. We have an in-ground pool and want to teach him to swim. What should we do?
39. We are trying to raise 2 littermates at one time. I have some questions.
40. My puppy has no play drive. What can I do to develop his drive to do protection work?
41. Our 8-week old puppy cries in the crate at night. My husband shakes it and scolds it, but it is not working. What should we do?
42. How long should our 10 week old puppy spend in the dog crate? We get up at 2 AM and let her outside when she cries, should we stop doing this?
43. My puppy has a submissive urination problem. When my husband goes near him he squats and pee, even if he has just come in from outside. What should I do?
44. Can you give me some ideas on how to get my litter off on the right foot so the pups are not dog aggressive?

45. My 41/2 month old puppy drools when I even walk him near our car, much less try and put him in it for a drive. We travel a lot and would like to take the puppy with us. What can we do?
46. My 15 week old GSD has started barking at people that come into my home. I want her to be a personal protection dog, so I am unsure of how to deal with this barking. Should I scold her and stop her from barking at strangers?
47. What kind of dog should I buy?
48. I bought a pup from another breeder and it is very shy. What should I do?
49. My 10 week puppy has a lot of drive for a ball on a string, but little interest in going after a towel. How can I get it to go after a towel to work on grip?
50. We have a 10 week old puppy that continues to bite. I shake it, the breeder tells us to slap the heck out of his nose when he chews on us. Now he's shy - what should we do?
51. Our 11 week old puppy cries all the time at night. I have been hitting her with a roiled

- up newspaper to get her to be quiet. This only works for awhile. What can we do?
52. I bought an American Bulldog from good bloodlines. It seems to be very shy. I have only corrected it twice and it is very hand sensitive. What can I do?
53. I have had a trainer train my 5 month old puppy. The dog does sit, down, stay and heel. Can you tell me how to do 180 degree about turns?
54. My pup is 6 months old and friendly to everyone. Did I buy the wrong puppy because I want a protection dog?
55. My dog will not allow me to brush him or cut his nails. The vet has to knock him out to do the nails. What can I do?
56. I have a young pup and have to go away for the weekend. My vet has a boarding kennel that I am able to leave the pup at while I'm gone, but I'm concerned about leaving my pup when it's so young. Will this affect his training and development?
57. I just bought 2 GSD puppies. They like being in the same crate. Should I allow this?

58. Our 12 week old puppy is very nervous when in the crate, whines and cries the whole time, and drools terribly. Will he get dehydrated?
59. We have a 10 month old GSD that we think is bored during the day while we are at work. Should we buy a second puppy to keep him busy when we are gone?
60. I bought a GSD puppy that is 5 months old. It's the Alpha dominant pup. It is very protective- it barks very aggressively at any dog it sees when I am out with it. I have a few questions about this.
61. A local trainer recommended that we get a choke collar for our 16 week old Golden Retriever that pulls too hard when we walk him. Should we?
62. My puppy eats ROCKS and STICKS and GRASS every time I take her out. What can I do?
63. I read your instructions on socialization of dogs. My question is how do you do proper socialization if you never allow your dog to come in contact with strangers or other dogs?

64. I have small children. My 8 week old puppy snapped at food from my hand yesterday. What should I do?
65. My obedience class lets the dogs all run loose together at the end of class. Should I let my 6 month GSD loose as well?
66. My 12 week old pup scratches and bites himself excessively even though nothing is wrong with his skin. Do you have any advice about what to do?
67. My 6 month old female GSD has been showing signs of being weak nerved lately. What do you think?
68. My Weimaraner pup tends to eat her food too fast. What can we do to slow her down?
69. My 12 week old puppy will not follow us, and cries and screams when we pull her on walks. Please help!
70. We have an 11 week old Cockapoo that is aggressive. A trainer told us that this is not normal and we should put the pup down or give him back to the breeder. We have young children. What are your thoughts?

71. My 11 month old Schnoodle is terrified of the invisible fence. I have had the fence a week and she refuses to go into the yard. As a result she has had accidents in the house. What can I do?
72. My 4 month old puppy is very dominant over her littermates. She even tried to bite my husband when he tried to stop her. I want to send her to a trainer, but am worried about corrections at this young of an age. Do you have any suggestions?
73. I have a comment on the use of a puppy prong collar on my 3 month old GSD.
74. My 14 week old puppy pees when he is excited. He is also moody about his eating habits. Do you have any thoughts?
75. Ever since I corrected my puppy for growling at me, she acts fearful. What should I do now?
76. My dog tears up my bedding when I am gone. Do you have any ideas?
77. I have a 4 1/2 month old GSD from Czech lines. He is afraid of strange people and is dog aggressive to strange dogs. What should I do?

78. My 11 week old Shiloh Shepherd pup keeps eating rocks and mulch when outside. What can I do to keep him safe?
79. I am being pushed to join a puppy kindergarten class by the owner. I prefer to train my puppy myself. What do you suggest?
80. I just got a puppy. I can only take it outside once a day. Do you have any advice on training her with potty pads?
81. My puppy is afraid of other dogs? Is this a socialization issue? What should I do?



1. Question:

What are the best toys for puppies?

Answer:

I am rather opinionated on this issue. I believe that everything you do with a puppy from the time you get it at 8 weeks can have an effect on what that dog will be like as an adult. With this in mind I like to be very selective in what I use as toys for a pup. In most cases a puppy has to learn what a toy is. In other words, the first time it is presented with an [orbee ball](#) it has no idea that we want this to become a toy. So my feeling is that the handler should select toys that can be used in later training.

I will use orbee balls on a string. I like these because they are almost indestructible.

Tennis balls are a terrible idea to use with dogs. There have been studies that show the glue on tennis balls eats tooth enamel. The larger breeds (like German Shepherds) have a tendency to chew up tennis balls when they get to be adults. If a dog eats a tennis ball it will often kill him because it gets stuck in his bowels.

If you go to [my web site](#) you will see toys that I sell on my web site. I DON'T SELL products that I don't use on my personal dogs. The toys we sell are quality products.

I do not like squeaky toys. If you allow your dog to play with these types of toys you are asking for problems. Most dogs will eat them. It's only a matter of time. If you are lucky they will puke them up, if you are not lucky they will kill your dog. Why risk them?

Orbee-Tuff Ball on a String



Great for training and play!

3. Question:

I was just looking at your site and some of your beautiful pictures of German shepherds. I have a female German Shepherd who will be 2 years old in March of this year. I also have a Shetland Sheepdog who is 2 and half years old. My husband and I are thinking about getting another Shepherd. But we are concerned about bringing in another dog with our dogs being so territorial. Both of my dogs that I have now are trained in obedience and my Shepherd (Alexis) will be starting personal protection in three weeks. Do you think we should or should not bring another dog into our family? I would love to get a male Shepherd, because they have more of a drive than the females. Also, I was wondering, my female Shepherd (Alexis) is fixed and has been for a while now, she still has drive

but I really have noticed a decline in her drive. Do you think that is because of being fixed or with age?

Answer:

I do not recommend adding a 3rd dog to a family unless the people fully understand the implications of pack behavior. In other words, if your plan is to add a male pup and not keep the dog separated from the other dogs when you are not with the dogs, then do not do it.

If a pup is allowed to have free run of the house and not be kenneled separately, then it will become too "doggy." In other words it will look to the other dogs for its recreation and fun and not humans. These dogs never bond as well and certainly are not as easy to train. In reality how could they - if they don't look to the human as their best buddy.

In addition, the pup is going to be low man in the pack order. This means he is going to be dominated by the other 2 dogs. Right now, one of your dogs is dominant over the other. They may get along fine, but one is the alpha dog.

So, the key in adding another dog is to keep it separated from the existing dogs when you are not with all three to supervise the games. If you do not have a home with dog runs in the back yard, you can accomplish the same thing by using dog crates. Either keep the pup crated

when you are gone, or when it is old enough keep the other crated and the pup loose.

This does not mean that these dogs can never be allowed to play and run together. They can do this, but it needs to be supervised. So if the other 2 dogs really get down on the pup, you are there to stop it. Just as importantly, if the pup gets down on one of the other dogs when it is 4 or 5 months old, you need to stop that also or the old dog will have a very difficult time for the rest of its life. The pup needs to learn manners too.

[To Top](#)

4. Question:

I have a German Shepherd (not from you), he is 14 weeks old. After 9 weeks both of his ears stood up, not straight up, they actually leaned towards the middle quite a bit. However, a few days ago his left ear just went down and has not gone back up. Does this mean that he has a broke or lame ear now? This has me really worried since both ears were up, but now one won't stand. Is this normal, or did he hurt it some way? Will it ever go back up or not? Thanks for your help, and answers.

Otto Kretzer

Answer:

My experience is that if the ears of a shepherd stand one time and go back down they will always come back up. There is nothing to worry about here. What you are seeing is normal. It is not uncommon for the ears to be up for some time and then when the pup goes through teething they will come down for awhile and go back up again.

If a pup's ears are not up by the time it is 18 weeks old (and they have never been up) it's time to tape them. The best way to do this is to take a woman's tampon and put it down the ear canal. Let it bottom out in the bottom of the ear and then pull it up 1/2 inch. Wrap the ear around it and tape it with the real thin surgical tape. The stuff that looks like thin paper. Tape both ears like this and then tape a pop cycle stick between the two.

Every pup is going to rip the tampons out the first few times that you put them in. They will eventually get used to it and leave them. I recommend leaving them in for several days, then let the dog go a day without being taped and then tape them again until the ears stand.

If people wait until the dog is 6 or 7 months old to tape ears it's too late. I can almost guarantee you that the ears will not stand because you waited too long.

Basic Dog Obedience

\$40.00 +s&h



4 Hours Long

5. Question:

Is my (almost) 19 week GS male ready for a prong collar? I don't know what size or how heavy to get or whether a quick release one is better. HELP!

Also, I cut his toenails - just the ends - and played with his feet while I had him on his back between my legs. (That was the only way I could see well so as not to "quick" him. I NEVER DID! All of a sudden he will not let me do this and I can tell he is serious about trying to bite me. I don't want to scare him, but I want to be able to cut his nails. At this moment, I have not pushed and think it is getting worse with time.

I've read about shaking them by the scruff of the neck and using the jowls to shake and lift them, but do I want to start this? How can I, a 64 year

old woman, keep dominance?

Thanks,
Sally O. Mason

Answer:

Your dog's toe nails do not need to be cut that often, especially when he gets a little older. Take him to the vet and let him do it. Why worry about the fight when you really don't have to?

I determine a dog needs a prong collar by his reaction to a normal collar. Some dogs just seem to be knuckleheads. A jerk or pop on the normal collar does not affect them very much. Sometimes the person trying to handle the dog is a very small or an older person (like yourself) and they do not have the strength to control a dog - then the prong is warranted.

My advise is to buy a normal prong (not some break away model). As an adult the dog will need an extra heavy model. When he is 5 or 6 months old he will need a normal prong collar. So over his life you will own 2 of them. They are not that expensive.

My advice is to take a look at my tape [Basic Dog Obedience](#) and [Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months](#).

As far as the dominance issue goes, I do not believe that a dog that argues over his toes being trimmed is having a dominance problem. If that dog growls when you put your hand near his

food bowl or growls when you try and take his toy away, then this is a dominance problem. At that point you leave the prong collar on during the day (off at night) with a 2 to 3 foot leash attached all the time. When the dog growls you give him a level 10 jerk with a loud "PHOOIE!!!!!"

I am not sure I would ask a 64 year old woman to shake a 19 week old GSD puppy or grab him by the jowls. You do not have enough strength to fight a dog that wants to argue. You are better off picking a fight that you know you can win and a leash with a prong collar is winnable on a dog at this age.

[To Top](#)

**Your Puppy
8 Weeks to 8 Months**

\$35.00 +s&h

Your Puppy 8 Weeks
to 8 Months

LEERBURG
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

3 Hours 18 Minutes Long

6. Question:

I have an 8 month old rottie. He is a good dog, however, I have some problems making him give me something (anything) he has stolen from me. He just looks up at me and curls his upper lip. I don't think he wants to bite or harm me, he is usually a very gentle dog. I can put my fingers in his food bowl, and even put my hands in his mouth, however, when he takes something he will not give it back. What do I do?

Answer:

What you are seeing is one of the first stages of dominance. This needs to be stopped now when the dog is young rather than allowing him to mature and the problem to grow, (which it will).

The reason you need to be so concerned at 8 months is that you have a window of opportunity to deal with dominance. At 8 months this dog is just a puppy. He does not have the maturity to be a serious threat to you, 5 or 6 months from now this will be a different situation.

Growling at you over his toy is his way of beginning to challenge his position in your pack order. He needs to learn that this is totally unacceptable. How you handle this depends on your size, his size and your skill as a handler.

If it were me I would have the dog wear a prong collar with a drag line (we sell these). When the

dog growled I would take the drag line and give a firm POP on the lead. The dog would learn very quickly that any form of aggression will be quickly dealt with.

The reaction from the dog needs to be avoidance not aggression or more growling. If the dog growls when you correct him the correction needs to be harder.

A prong collar on an 8 month old dog is going to solve the problem.

You had also better put some good obedience training into this dog right now. Get my 4 hour DVD titled [Basic Dog Obedience](#). This training will also help establish you as the pack leader and boss.

And finally - read the article I wrote titled [DEALING WITH THE DOMINANT DOG](#). There may be more things you are doing wrong in this dog's life that are causing it to act like this.

[To Top](#)

Dealing with the Dominant Dog



eBook

7. Question:

Ed, I have a 10 week old American Pitbull Terrier (APBT). He is very aggressive toward strangers already. What I mean by this is that whenever someone walks by he will charge at them and start barking. If that person was to advance toward him he would start to back up, though. I like the initial aggression, but why does he back up and what type of temperament is he showing? Would he make a good dog for protection training?

Answer:

If your pup is charging people and barking aggressively at this age it has a temperament problem. The dog probably has weak nerves. This means, rather than being tough he is in fact a weak dog. This is a dog that will probably be a fear biter as an adult.

Some people feel that puppies go through a fear stage at 9 or 10 weeks. I don't agree with this line of thinking. I don't see it in my dogs. But even so, if the dog does go through something like a fear stage it should not react the way this dog is reacting.

I guess my advice would be to try and take the dog out and socialize the devil out of him. Take hot dogs and give strangers a small piece of hot dog and ask them if they will give it to your puppy and pet him to show the dog that there is nothing to fear. If the dog does not respond to this work in a couple of weeks, then you need to consider putting the dog to sleep. You will have a time bomb on your hands as an adult.

As an adult this is going to be a dog that is very quick to bark when someone is around your home. He is a dog that is going to have to be watched like a hawk to make sure he is not exposed to anyone he is not comfortable with. In actual fact, this is the type of dog that is best used as a guard dog behind a fence and not as a personal protection dog. Guard dogs do not come in contact with very many people. Their nerves are usually a little thin and this results in the dog that is very quick to bark at strangers or strange noises.

[To Top](#)

8. Question:

Ed,

My pup (9 months) isn't socialized well with other dogs, particularly bigger dogs. I'm determined to remedy this. This wasn't really a problem until I moved into a new apartment complex that has lots of dogs. Specifically, should I correct my dog when she growls at other dogs, or would the correction amplify the problem by associating even greater stress whenever she encounters another dog?

Thanks for your help!

Bob McMahan

Answer:

Adult dog fights are no fun. It's always better to nip dog aggression in the bud before it starts, but this is not always possible.

Some dogs are going to be dog aggressive no matter what you do. With some, it is a dominance/pack issue and it is always a fight.

What I do is put my pup in with another pup. I am always there to supervise. Its fine for the pups to play together, but if one gets really snarly or tries to fight I say "PHOOIE!!!" and I grab the offending pup and shake it by the back of the neck until it screams. I let it go and pet it to calm it down to show it that I still love it and I do not hold a grudge.

I usually only have to do this a few times before the pups respond to "PHOOIE" Most quickly learn that I am the pack leader and I am the one that says who can and can not fight.

With older dogs, I will get them used to wearing a muzzle - this can take a few weeks before they learn to ignore the muzzle. (I make them wear it in the dog crate, while on walks everywhere). Then I put two muzzled adults together and take them for a walk. They both have leashes on. I do not allow them to square off and fight. If they do I get right in the middle of it and show them who the pack leader is. If these are big tough males with a lot of protection training and they turn on me I give it to them even harder.

They eventually learn that fighting in muzzle is unacceptable behavior. What they end up doing is ignoring each other when they are out walking. This work does not make them friends and I never try and get to the point where I leave these kinds of dogs loose without muzzle (why test a fight). But I have a friend that is an instructor at the RCMP School in Canada that starts every class out like this and by the end of their 20 week course the dogs can run loose together without muzzle. I have never taken it to that point. It makes me a little nervous.

[To Top](#)

How to Select a Muzzle



eBook

9. Question:

I have been in contact with you several times regarding my expected puppy. While preparing for this new addition to our family, several questions came up which I did not find in your Q&A.

I plan to get a wire-type crate and I see they are made in various finishes, epoxy coatings, colors, etc. Can you recommend a particular finish, or are they all about the same?

Answer:

They are all the same - I feel the epoxy crates are quieter and better looking.

[To Top](#)



10. Question:

My son's 4 month old German Shepherd snaps or bites quite often. What should I do?

Answer:

There are a couple things to consider here:

- There is a difference between snapping and chewing. If a pup snaps, this is a way that it warns the person to stop doing what they are doing and leave him alone. Often when this happens the hair will be up on the back and the pup will be showing some teeth in the form of a snarl. This is a concern. I would be very concerned about the temperament on a pup that is doing this. My feeling is that this dog does not belong in the family. In fact it should

probably be put to sleep. This behavior is only going to get worse and as an adult it will be a very dangerous animal. These are the dogs that grow up to be fear biters.

- Pups from working bloodlines are very mouthy as pups. This is a totally different situation. These pups naturally grab and chew on things. While this can be annoying it is not a sign of a poor temperament. It is no different than a lab pup that is always chasing a toy or chewing on a toy. This mouthiness goes away at 4 1/2 to 5 months of age. How a person deals with this depends on your goals for the dog. If your child is very young (a baby), the pup needs to be corrected for chewing on the child. Grab it by the nape of the neck and shake it until it screams when it even goes near the baby. If the child is a little older and this chewing is annoying, try and keep several toys around and divert the pup to one of the favorite toys (a tennis ball on a string works well, a rolled up hand towel works well). Just leave these lying around everywhere. If you play enough with the toys and the pup, the toys become more interesting than your hands and pants. Make the toys his center of attention.

The bottom line is that this behavior will go away. In fact this is what I want to see in my pups that

are bred for personal protection. If you want to learn more about this, I recommend that you get my video titled [Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months](#).

[To Top](#)

11. Question:

We have a 3 month old pup and a cat that play chase a lot! The problem is when we call the pup to come he acts like he doesn't hear us. How do we correct his and get his attention?

Answer:

This is a good question. The first thing we need to do is understand what we are asking the pup to do, which is to stop racing around. What we should not be doing is expecting the pup to "come to us." Expecting a 3 month old pup to come under heavy distraction is too much to ask. Expecting him to stop doing something that is unacceptable is another thing altogether. Not only that, we don't want the pup to associate "Coming" as a command that is used to stop doing something that is fun. We teach puppies that it is always fun to come to the handler, either by giving him a treat, a toy or a lot of praise when he does come.

So rather than say "COME" say "PHOOIE" or "NO!" or whatever command you want to use to tell them to knock it off. The key is to always use the

same command with a firm (not mad but firm) tone of voice.

Initially the pup does not know what “PHOOIE” means, so you give the command, then go over and grab him to stop him chasing the cat. I would do this a number of times until I felt that he should begin to know that Phooie meant “stop running around like a crazy idiot.”

Once I had reached this point I would then go into the correction phases. I then command “Phooie” and I go over and grab him by the scruff of his neck and shake him until he squealed. After releasing him I would give a few pats to show him that I still loved him, and that everything was OK now.

The key is to not sound mad when you command Phooie. This is very difficult for new trainers. There is a big difference between firm and mad. There is a similar difference between “serious firm” and just plain old “firm.” “Serious Firm” is also not what we want. The dog will learn to wait until he hears “serious firm” before he decides to mind. It is also important to love him up after. Let him know that you don’t hold any grudge and everything is forgiven now that he is not chasing the cat.

I recommend that you get my video titled [Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months](#) and the one titled [Basic Dog Obedience](#). Both tapes deal with these kinds of concepts in training.

12. Question:

Our pup is 4 months old. She is almost impossible to walk down the street because she pulls so hard. She also wants to chase cars. Are these things she will get over or do I need to take corrective measures to stop them? I am just concerned with not wanting to make a mistake.

Answer:

I normally do not recommend a prong collar for puppies that are this age. Your case requires a prong collar. On your walks, let the pup determine how hard his corrections are by holding the leash and letting him pull into the collar. You do not need to jerk him when he is walking, his pulling will result in a self correction. He will quickly learn that it is not fun to pull into a prong collar. This is why I like to call a prong collar "Power Steering for Dogs." If they are used properly, they are a godsend.

One of the things to keep in mind is "do not use the HEEL command" during this process. We are not trying to train the dog to HEEL, we are trying to teach him to not pull us down the street on our stomach. So use the SLOW command. This just means slow down. He does not have to walk by your side, he just needs to stop pulling. So

as he begins to pull, you simply say SLOW in a normal firm voice (not mad).

The car chasing is a different matter. This needs to be stopped. You can try a few sessions with a self correction, just before the dog chases, give PHOOIE command or a NO! If this does not eliminate the behavior, then you need to give the PHOOIE command and enough of a jerk to make the pup yelp but not cower for 2 blocks. This is a life and death learning experience for our dogs; they must learn that cars are to be left alone. If it involves humane corrections, then so be it. The key is to correct to the point of a yelp and not to the point of a screaming cowering dog. Always remember to praise the pup right after a correction. This shows the dog that you do not hold and grudge and that you have forgiven him for screwing up.

If you can not find a prong collar locally, we sell them here at Leerburg.

[To Top](#)

Prong Collar



Great for training!

13. Question:

Why is it so important to work with a ball on a string with young puppies?

Answer:

Most puppies have some degree of prey drive. Prey drive is the drive to chase and catch things. Some pups have way more drive than others. We use this drive to define the toys a pup will play with. Once a pup has a set group of toys that it looks at as prey items he is less likely to chew on shoes and other household items. Note the key word here is “LESS LIKELY;” I did not say he would never chew on shoes.

I also need to mention that I never allow working puppies to have free access to prey items. The only time they can play with them is when I am there to play. Pet puppies are a different thing.

I like to use a rubber balls on a 1/8 inch nylon cord. I get the pups interest in the ball by tossing it down in front of him. When I can get him to walk over and smell it, I give a very small jerk to get it to go away from the pup. This often sparks his interest. When he goes to smell it again - another very small jerk. If you jerk too much the ball is out of sight out of mind. The key is to keep it a foot or so in front of the pup but not let him get it right away. Many novice trainers jerk the ball too hard and too much, then pups quickly lose interest. There is also a timing factor to the jerk. Do it just as his nose reaches out for the ball.

Once the pup will really chase it around we let him catch the ball. Initially he will be very proud of this and we let him savor the moment for a few seconds, but then pop it out of his mouth with the string. This again sparks his prey drive by making him a little possessive of it which builds the drive to chase and catch this thing that just escaped. Don't be concerned about the word possessive. This work does not create a dominance problem in pups.

Once a pup recognizes his ball when we bring it out to play, we know we are accomplishing our goal. Then we can substitute a rolled up hand towel on a string or a Kong on a string or whatever toy that we want for the ball. The pup quickly recognizes the game and associates the object as prey or his toy. Later in life we can use the pups drive to play with his ball as a reward

for doing something correctly in obedience or tracking. Rather than give him a piece of hot dog, we give him a tennis ball to chase. It works because we did the background work to make the ball an important item to the pup.

The only important thing that I need to caution people of is that some dogs become obsessed with the ball. As adults, these dogs will chew them up. This will kill a dog by blocking his intestines. The solution for this is to not leave toys lying around when the dog is old enough to have the jaw strength to chew them up. If you have to leave your pup in a crate while at work - leave a bone to chew on or a hard rubber Kong stuffed with peanut butter or cream cheese - this will keep the dog busy for hours...

[To Top](#)

15. Question:

I own a 7 month old German Shepherd (from a professional kennel out here in California). I've been training him using your videos and they are the best 100 some dollars that I have ever spent. Thank you!

Question... My Shepherd does a very popular thing and I hope that you might have an answer for me. He walks around the yard at a very fast pace and I thought that maybe it was the flies

that he was after but not really. I have plants all around my yard and a 20' by 30' patch of grass is the center of my yard the outer edge of the yard is dirt where my plants grow and what he does is walk around the plants and circle them and stays on the same route...over and over again. I do take him out for a good 20 to 30 min. walk every day for exercise. I've been feeding him Eukanuba for the last 5 months and is a very bright dog but his pacing is funny but then again I do wonder why he does this. Like I said some times it does seem like he is after flies because he will snap at them if they pass by but not always. My Friends joke about it because I buried my father's ashes under a tree that is in my shepherd's route and they say that my dad is walking my dog... All in good humor but not an answer. What do you think? He looks like his on speed.

Sincerely,
Gene

Answer:

My guess is the dog is bored. He is kind of like a caged animal. He probably needs more time with you. I would make him into a house dog or at least get a dog crate and bring him in and crate him - so he can at least watch part of the house when you are at home. This breaks up his day and provides different experiences.

I would also check him for worms, check his ears to make sure they are OK - it could be a health

problem and he is frustrated from not feeling good.

[To Top](#)

16. Question:

I have a beautiful Rottweiler pup and I want to treat and train him right, but I have a shift-job and I can give him 30 minutes daily during work week but that's it. Is this ok? Also I don't think like a dog so how do I train my dog to bark at cars or people, and not rabbits, coyotes etc. (I live in the country). I cannot afford a trainer.

Answer:

My personal feeling is that 30 minutes a day is not enough for a dog. I would not recommend trying to keep it- it's not fair to the dog.

If you want to learn how to properly train and interact with the dog get:

- [Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months](#)
- [Basic Dog Obedience](#)
- [Bite Training Puppies](#)
- [The First Steps of Bite Training](#)

I hope this points out that there is nothing simple about how to properly raise and train a working dog.

Bite Training Puppies

\$65.00 +s&h



2 Hours Long

17. Question:

We are at the end of our rope; I am hoping you can help with your extensive knowledge of German Shepherds. We had a beautiful GSD 3 years ago and were not able to keep her because of a move and we were heartbroken. (We had her for a year). Well, about 4 weeks ago we decided to go and get another one and I will admit to you right off the bat we did everything wrong. We found someone in the paper and went and fell in love with the last puppy of a litter of 14. I think our minds were made up before we even got there. She was the only one left, 6 weeks old and VERY timid. Wouldn't even come to us and when my daughter picked her up she yelped

loud. I know, I know all bad signs, and we still took her. Well I am sure you know what is next, 4 weeks of frustration. She yelped horribly for the first week in the crate, we have finally broken her of that by sheer determination. Won't walk on a leash, yelps at the top of her lungs and drags her feet or will pull ahead just "screaming." It is terrible, we actually had to walk out of Petsmart with her when we had her for 2 days because she yelped so loud and continuously people thought we were hurting her. And we were holding her in our arms! Well someone told us to get a prong collar, now she yelps louder and STILL won't obey commands. We take her out of the crate, she goes potty and then comes in and 20 minutes later will eliminate on the carpet, right in front of us. You can't play with her she will cry and yelp and when you try to hold her she will groan and we tell her "settle" and she will, but doesn't like it. Like I said she is "a loner" and doesn't want to be held or played with and any type of correction will lead to this god awful yelping. I won't even take her out anymore because of the looks I get from people. When we bought her and she did this the breeder said that German Shepherds don't like to be held. Well our first one was so loving; she would sleep sprawled out next to us on the couch. We desperately need your recommendation and can you tell us what this personality means. We want to like her so much but honestly she is making it very difficult and we need to know what is going on and how to

change it. Thank you for your time, you're our last hope.

Kim Viliborghi

Answer:

This animal is a product of bad breeding (my guess is that it's an American bloodline dog), a bad breeder and poor genetics. Nothing you are going to do is going to change the animal. Anyone who lets a dog go at 6 weeks is an idiot. It's been proven that puppies need 6 to 8 weeks to socialize with their littermates. In your case this would not have mattered.

There is a possibility that this dog is sick. I would have the stools checked to make sure the dog does not have worms. If it is loaded with worms it could be in pain a lot of the time which may be the reason for crying when you pick it up. My guess is that it simply has weak nerves.

My advice to you would be to either put this dog to sleep or take it back to the breeder. The first option is the best. This dog is not going to improve and you have dealt with a totally dishonest breeder. If you return the dog he is only going to sell the animal to someone else.

[To Top](#)



18. Question:

My name is Rich Ehrenberg; I bought a puppy from you about 7 months ago. Jetta Vom Leerburg call name Kia. Her parents are Otis and Nelly. I want to eventually breed her and I'm wondering what her parents OFA readings were? I see you have Otis' hips A stamped normal but that means nothing to me I want to know what his OFA was. If he was not rated by OFA, why? And what does this A stamp compare to on the OFA reading? Who gave him this A stamp? What exactly is the A stamp reading? In this I mean A is this, B is this, C is this etc.?

Answer:

The A stamp is the German hip certification. They have 3 levels - A Normal is the highest. It's done at 12 months, not 24 months. He got it from

the German SV, (German Shepherd Dog Club of Germany.)

THE A - B - C ratings are done in Holland and Belgium - they do not apply here.

Otis has very good hips. I had him x-rayed before he came here and the x-rays are on file. His father is one of the top hip improvers in Germany today. You can read my [articles](#).

The reason he is not OFAed is because he is A stamped and I had the x-ray done before I got him. I don't need to knock him out again to get a piece of paper to duplicate what is already done. Makes no sense. I (and you) am very lucky to have dogs from Otis.

[To Top](#)

19. Question:

We ordered and received your puppy video, none to soon I might add. It has been very helpful. This is our first litter. We had 7 (4F/3M) healthy GSD puppies on Tuesday the 16th of Feb. The heaviest two, a male and a female each weighed 570g. The male now is 785g and the female is 855g. A 285g gain in 5 days. I'm thinking, oink, oink. The runts, one male & one female weighed 510g and 480g respectively. Now after five days the male weighs in at 740g and the female at 700g.

My question is this, actually my wife's. She is concerned that the little ones are not gaining enough fast enough. The least gain that either of them has made in one day is 20g. The male has gained as much as 85g in one day and the female as much as 75g in one day. Is there cause for my wife's concern? She thinks that the little female is asleep half the time while the others are nursing. Yet in 5 days she has gained 210g or 7.35oz. To me that seems just dandy. Actually the next heaviest male, at 565g at birth has gained only 200g or 7oz. total. So your opinion will be most appreciated and your advice taken.

Thank you,
Dale B Rottacker

Answer:

If you wife is concerned she can stick the small pup on a tit every time she goes into the room, 10 times a day is not too much. This will improve weight gain.

DO NOT TUBE the pup, big mistake if you do.

I am sure it will be fine if left alone, but putting it on the mother more often will help.

[To Top](#)

20. Question:

Hello, I am a police officer in Mississippi. I am not a K-9 unit, but I do hope to someday get my own. My question is I am about to get a puppy and train it for search and rescue, now what I would like to do is eventually train him for police work (narcotics, bite). Do you think I should go ahead and incorporate those aspects in now or should I work with him later? The people I am going to be training with are all police K-9 officers who have many years of experience. They all know very well how to train K-9's, but I am always interested in different opinions.

Thanks, Joey

Answer:

Most K-9 Cops are good cops; some are good dog handlers and most are poor trainers in that order. In my experience less than 20% of them are good trainers. I wish it were not the case. What they know about selecting puppies and training puppies is nil to nothing.

A badge and a dog does not make them experts. I do it too and I have been head of the training committee for the WI Police Dog Assoc.

If you want to learn how to selection test a pup for this work, get my videos [Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months](#) and [Bite Training Puppies](#). This shows you how to run tests on a litter to pick the

dog you want, if I were you I would study the shit out of this tape before you go get your pup. Walk away from the litter if they do not pass.

You can imprint narcotics on pups from a baby (it's great for the dog), but you cannot use it on the street in drug work (no matter how good you think it is) until it's at least 13 or 14 months old. If you do you are setting yourself up to lose in court. Read the [articles](#) I have written on this subject. It used to be done in Texas; I think they have stopped it because of the bad publicity it gave them, (which they deserved).

I would recommend [The First Steps of Bite Training](#) at about 6 months then [The First Steps of Defense](#).

[To Top](#)

**The First Steps of
Bite Training**

\$65.00 +s&h

2 Hours Long

21. Question:

When should you neuter your puppy?

Answer:

If your goal is to do protection work or police service work with your dog, do not neuter until it is 24 months old. Let the dog have access to his hormones to develop and mature. If he is neutered at 2 years it will not affect his working ability.

If a dog is neutered at 6 months it will definitely affect his protection work, (by reducing the drives.)

If a dog is a monorchid (only has one testicle come down) it is critical to have the dog neutered at 2 years of age. If the testicle has not come down and is not removed there is a high probability of it developing cancer at about 5 years of age.

[To Top](#)

Ed Frawley's Philosophy of Dog Training



eBook

22. Question:

I brought Lacy home at 7 weeks, 10 days ago. I have a 2 1/2 year old mild mannered Airedale (Collie) who enjoys playing with baby, but might not be aggressive enough in disciplining puppy who consistently nips at her...and hurts her (has drawn blood)...should we stop allowing tug of war with Frisbees and chew toys for awhile? Puppy is extremely assertive. Also, puppy has flat out snit fits if she does not get her own way...for instance, she got over-stimulated today and got put in her indoor run with cage; she threw a little fit for 10 minutes. Very difficult to take. We either say no and sort of stare or simply ignore her and she finally settles down. Very disturbing with barking and whining every two hours at night... hard to settle her down after taking her out for business...she wants to play and we won't let her.

Unfortunately, we are thinking of taking her back. Callie desperately needs a playmate, though, and have looked for same for almost a year.

Answer:

This is more of a handler problem than a dog problem.

During this time period the dog should be spending a great deal of time in the crate. Is it annoying to put up with? YES!! But unless you do it you are going to end up with a spoiled pain in the butt. This pup must learn that it's normal to be in the crate and to carry on and bark does absolutely no good. You should not stare at it, just ignore it.

Every time you leave the house it should be in the crate, put the crate in the garage if you have to. It's like breaking a horse - it will fight you and fight you until it one day realizes that it's no use. The only ones that don't learn are the ones where the people give in and let them out before they should.

An 8 week old pup will have a problem going all night without relieving itself. This is normal. Pick the water up at 6 PM. By 10 to 12 weeks it should be able to be in the crate all night without a problem.

I would put more toys down for a couple of months, let the dog have a ton of toys.

Regard my article titled Teaching Your Puppy the Meaning of the Word “No.” I also recommend you get my video titled [Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months](#). Then at about 5 or 6 months get [Basic Dog Obedience](#). They are intended to follow one another.

Good luck and don’t give up, it actually sounds like a nice pup. Read all the [Q&A sections](#) on my web site about pups.

[To Top](#)

**Establishing Pack Structure
with the Family Pet**

\$40.00 +s&h



4 Hours Long

23. Question:

We adopted a 6-9 month old Brittany and have had her for approx. 2 months. We have done a lot of work with her and she and our 3 cats can now co-exist rather well. Our main concern is that she literally hates being crated when we leave the

house. She is never left in her crate more than 7 hrs. while we are at work/school. She seems to find some way to escape and then ultimately chews something up while before we get home at least two days out of the five. What can we do?

Answer:

If this were my dog I would drill some holes near the door of the crate (assuming you are using a plastic airline crate). Then run a wire through the holes and the door of the crate so the dog can not open it no matter how hard she tries. If it's a metal crate then use 2 snaps on the ends of leashes to clip the crate door closed.

If the dog is very vocal and will not quiet down leave the TV or a radio on. If it continues get one of the [Tri Tronics Bark Limiters](#) - use the lower shock settings if necessary, (but there is a video that comes with the limiter to show how to use it). This will eliminate the screaming in the crate and the dog will be forced to lie quietly. Do not give in to the pup when you initially put the collar on. When it barks and gets a shock and screams it must learn on its own to get a grip and calm down - that's what these collars do, they calm the dogs.

Go to the butcher and get the dog soup bones. Let the dog chew on the bones during the day. Give it something to do when it's awake. But dogs of this age sleep a lot when given the opportunity.

I would also recommend that you begin obedience training the dog. It's the correct age. This does 2 things: it promotes handler interaction in a positive way with the pet, it also teaches the dog manners. They learn right from wrong and this transcends into their normal lives in other ways. Read what I have to say about [obedience](#) training.

[To Top](#)

Tri Tronics Bark Limiter



24. Question:

I have a 12 week old Border Collie pup. We were working on sit stay before each meal and then given a release command "OK" and he runs to his dish. But after my husband corrected him at one meal he hesitates going to his dish after the "OK" command is given. He looks at us as if asking

for permission again. At which time we have to say "OK, go get it" two or three times. Should we correct this, if so how do we do it?

Thanks,
Marci

Answer:

You need to start to learn something about dog training, and I guess sending this email is an example that you know this.

Your husband was 100% wrong in doing this. A 12 week old dog should not have this kind of pressure put on him. He is a baby. Would you do this with a child? I think not.

I would strongly recommend that you get my video [Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months](#). Read about it. This tape is 2 hours of solid information.

When the dog is 4 or 5 months you will need [Basic Dog Obedience](#). Giving corrections to pups that are so young is going to destroy his temperament. You really need to be careful and learn how and when a pup can be corrected.

[To Top](#)

25. Question:

I have enjoyed your tapes. The question I have is my GSD just turned 7 months, and he's very

playful, temperament very good. If I'm gone for a couple of hours, he will chew up or chew baseball caps, socks, papers, remotes (TV), anything, but he only does that when we are gone, and that's not all the time, but when I come home, if he's not at the door, then he's done something. I don't correct him hard on that, because again, he doesn't do it all the time, but shouldn't he be coming out of that phase? He still has a lot of puppy in him, and he is a joy. He's almost 85 pounds. I'm thinking that if he's that big, he should be coming out of that phase.

Answer:

The dog needs to be crated when you leave. Give him a large bone to chew on, (NOT TENNIS BALLS OR TOYS), or a raw hide.

It's a simple solution to a problem. That's why God gave us dog crates.

[To Top](#)

Dog Crates



26. Question:

How likely is it that a slight overbite in a 3 1/2 month old GSD puppy will correct itself? And regarding dominance: Can a dog be submissive to people but still be dominant when it comes to dogs?

Answer:

Overbites often correct themselves.

Yes - submissive dogs can be dog aggressive, (it's probably not dominance that you are seeing but weak nerves which manifest into aggression).

[To Top](#)

Bite Tugs



Great for training and play!

27. Question:

Why does my pup target the puppy tug handle as opposed to the tug itself? It seems 50% of the time he goes for the handle. Any suggestions?

James Dougal

Answer:

Pups go after the handle because it moves less than the rest of the tug. They learn that it's easier to get the handle than the other end of the tug. This is either caused by handler error, (poor use of the tug), or the dog is ready for the "back tie."

If you clip the tug on a leash and flop it around on the ground you can often get more jumpy movement in the tug and eliminate this problem for awhile. If the dog gets the rope (or leash) then it's time for a back tie where you can direct the

bite to the proper place on the tug.

Back ties also allow you to build frustration by making the dog miss the tug as you run by - frustration builds drive.

[To Top](#)



28. Question:

I was hoping that you could give me some advice. I have a 5 1/2 month old female GSD (both her parents came from your kennel.) We took her to an agility park last weekend where we were socializing her with an 8 month old 100+lb GSD. The pups were both on leashes when the male suddenly went crazy and attacked our Maddie. She was hollering & trying to get away and the male just wouldn't let up. My

husband finally got her away from him and the owner apologized saying that her dog had never behaved like that before & then left the park.

Later while we took a good look at Maddie we saw she had two bite punctures on her belly and a large gash on her outer thigh that ended up needing 3 staples. I know the best thing for me to do is to keep socializing her so that she won't become afraid of other dogs but I am not sure how to choose who I should allow her to socialize with. Maddie is not a dominant dog and wants to play with every dog she sees. Is there any type of body posture (or anything else that I can watch for) to know whether or not a particular dog would be safe for her to socialize with? I would appreciate any advice.

Sincerely,
Ellen Baird, Gilbert, AZ

Answer:

I am afraid the damage is done. You will find that from this point on your dog will look at other dogs in a defensive manner.

I am not a fan of these dog socialization areas - they "ARE STUPID" for the very reason that you have already found out. People with no idea of dog training take their dogs there and they end up having a free for all - many times they fight and the results are that one dog is attacked and hurt.

My advice is to NEVER TAKE YOUR DOG TO A PLACE LIKE THIS AGAIN. Control which dogs your pup is allowed around. Make sure from this point on it is never allowed around an aggressive dog. If you do not know the other dog is passive - then you assume that it is aggressive. If you follow this basic rule you will never make a mistake and your dog will possibly recover.

Pups are pack animals. They expect their pack leader to protect them. You failed your dog this time. It's your responsibility as pack leader to not allow things like this to happen.

My advice is to socialize your dog on a flexi lead and get my video [Basic Dog Obedience](#) - read what I have to say about obedience training.

[To Top](#)

29. Question:

Our puppy - Nitro (Male Sable) is terribly afraid of other dogs. Our Lasha Apso, 8 years old, has bitten him a few times, but he is not afraid of her. Our relative's small dog also bites him. Now when he goes around any dogs he starts screaming, his back hair goes up and he wants to run and hide. We did get your training video on puppies and I know it is important to socialize him. He loves people and has met many people. We were going to bring him to puppy class at A-1 Training in

Brooklyn Park. The person there said we should spray his mouth with “Apple Bitter,” have him on a leash and make him sit or lay down but not to tolerate his screaming. Do you have any ideas on what we can do?

Answer:

1. Do not go to this puppy class.
2. This problem is one that you have created by allowing the puppy to be hurt by older mature dogs. I suggest that you read the [article on my web site concerning dog parks](#). You will find the link off my table of contents.

The key with this article is not the dog park issue, but rather your responsibility as a pack leader to protect your puppy. You have failed in this responsibility. I suggest that you spend some time on my web site reading [Q&A sections](#) on puppies and training in general. What needs to be done now is to nurture this puppy when it shows fear of a large dog. You should not allow it around other adult dogs that you do not know. You should only allow it to be around dogs that are very friendly to puppies. It may be too late; the damage that has already been done will end up being translated into a dog aggressive animal as an adult. Whatever you do, do not follow the advice of the dummy in the puppy classes.

Dog Parks-Why They Are a Bad Idea!



eBook

30. Question:

We recently purchased a 5 month old, German Shepherd of German and Dutch breeding. She is a pleasant puppy and quite active. We already had a 12 year old Cocker Spaniel who also has a very pleasant and now placid personality. We have had the shepherd for 3 weeks. During this time we have allowed the dogs to sniff each other through a gate, but have not allowed them to be free together. Our few attempts to introduce the dogs without the gate; have resulted in the following: the shepherd eagerly approaches the spaniel and wants to play, jumping on her excitedly. The spaniel (who could walk under the shepherd) doesn't want any part of this play, and will growl at her and snip. When the shepherd is more subdued (later in the day), the two dogs are content to be in the same room

(we keep a leash on the Shepherd in case she decides to get frisky). Do you think that this will improve with time? I am hopeful that they will get along, because neither dog growls, sneers or otherwise acts aggressively toward the other unless the Shepherd jumps on the aging spaniel. Do you think that we will have to wait until the shepherd outgrows the “puppy stage” at 18 months or so?

Cindy

Answer:

This is a very common problem with people who own old dogs and get puppies. I ALWAYS defer to the old dog. I like old dogs.

It is your responsibility to protect the older dog from the abuse of a pup. Just as it would be your responsibility to protect a 3 or 4 year old child from the abuse of a new pup. This starts with obedience training and a prong collar. There is no reason that a pup can not learn the meaning of the word NO. I have written an article about this on my web site. The list of [training articles](#) on my website. I would strongly recommend my [Basic Dog Obedience](#) video. This pup needs to learn some manners and there is no better way to do this than to obedience train it.

I hope this helps. You owe your old dog the ability to live her last days in peace and quiet, not in a living arrangement where she is always

worried about being jumped on and bit.

[To Top](#)

31. Question:

Is there a thing as a “fear period” that puppies go through or is it just a way to justify weak nerve? A six-month-old pup that has always been friendly and inquisitive all of a sudden-without any bad experiences becomes hesitant about meeting people. He still is inquisitive with things, but hesitates when meeting new people. Once he has met them and accepted them he is his old friendly self.

Karen Cataldo

Answer:

I don't really agree with this issue of a “fear period” at 9 or 10 weeks. I think this is a crock.

I do think that puppies can have difficult times when they are teething. They don't understand the pain that they experience and if they grab something with their mouth and get hurt, because of the teething, this can cause some temporary set backs. So the first thing to look at is the temperament before this time period. The tests I do at 8 weeks point out weak nerves. If these tests are OK as a young pup and the dog then has changes latter it may either be a health

issue or it may have been a traumatizing event. Remember that pups are babies - just because they have good nerves and are environmentally sound - they can still develop problems if they are treated badly. This can happen with one incident.

[To Top](#)

32. Question:

We recently found a puppy in the ditch wandering around a mile away from our home in the country. We carefully called him to approach us and he seemed adorable so we took him around to several houses in the area to see if anyone lost him. No one knew anything about him. We proceeded over the next several days to see if anyone lost him. Meanwhile I took him to the vet and got worm medicine - they tested his poop and he had worms. They thought he was about 8-12 weeks. He still has his baby teeth and was 14 pounds.

We have been seriously considering buying a pure bred black lab for a pet and for a hunting dog. The vet and some other friends who know a great deal about dogs think he's pretty close to being pure bred. But we knew if he was, the owners would be looking for him. He seems very good-natured; he doesn't jump up, whine too much or bite. He follows our kids, ages 6 &

9, everywhere and seems to have fallen in love with us as much as we have with him. Our main question is whether or not he'll be a good hunter if he doesn't have the pure breed blood in him for smelling and if he will be safe for us to keep. We don't want a dog that will turn on us from bad temperament. I have been reading as much as possible about training dogs and what to do and not to do. I just want to be sure this is a wise choice to keep him. Can you help?

Thanks,
Bonnie Hill

Answer:

It sounds like you lucked out. If this dog was skittish or shy you would have a potential future problem. But it seems he is well adjusted with good nerves. If he has good play drive and will chase sticks and balls he should be a good hunting dog.

There are a million pure bred dogs out there that can not do the job they were initially intended to do. A perfect example is ALL OF THE AMERICAN BLOODLINE German Shepherd Dogs. None of them can be police service dogs - not one!! So many times being pure breed has nothing to do with a dogs working ability.

My advice is to get a couple of videos and learn to train and work with your dogs. I would recommend:

I have produced a video titled [Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months](#). I give this video to all of my puppy customers and never get questions on how to raise a pup. Read the description of the tape on my web site. It has 2 hours of solid information.

If you would like to learn something about the principles of obedience training a dog, read the description for my [Basic Dog Obedience](#) video. You will probably find that you have not had the full picture on the steps of training a dog must go through before it can be considered fully trained. You can also read why I am not a fan of taking an untrained dog to obedience classes.

[To Top](#)

33. Question:

I was wondering if you could help me. I have a nine-week-old GSD pup that doesn't seem to want to bond w/ me. It never seeks out affection from me and only seems to tolerate being petted. She seems to be healthy and has a high prey drive. She only seems to want to bond with my grown mixed breed dog. He is a large very strong, Pit bull mix. She is not intimidated by him at all and will play rough with him and likes to bite him and pull on the skin under his throat. She only weighs 14 lbs but plays with him really hard like he was just one of her littermates. I have read your

piece on raising a hard pup and she seems to fit the bill.

I like her temperament except for the fact that she doesn't seem affectionate at all. She also seems unaffected by praise. To give you an example, if I squat down and talk to her in that pleasant High-pitched voice I usually talk to dogs with, when I am praising them, most pups I have seen, will approach me wagging their tail, She however just cocks her head and looks at me. She will boldly approach me if I have food.

She likes children and is outgoing and friendly with strangers. She is not at all fearful. I have separated her from my dog and am working with her with toys to get her to bond more, anything more I should be doing?

Sincerely,
Ted Heistman

Answer:

This is a simple problem. The problem is that the dog should be kept away from the other dog. It is becoming "DOGGIE." This means it's more interesting in playing with the other dog than people. You need to keep the dogs in separate kennels or keep one crated while the other is out and loose.

[To Top](#)



34. Question:

I would like to get a German Shepherd, but I am out of the house for about 12 hours a day five days a week. I would have to leave him locked in a crate until he was fully house broken. What is the maximum amount of time a dog can be left in his crate?

Thank you,
Mary

Answer:

In my opinion, this is too long to leave your dog in the crate. If you can put the dog in an outside dog run, then that is OK. But to crate a dog for that long is going to make the dog depressed and/or crazy. In my mind it is inhumane.

You would be better advised to find an adult dog that is 100% house trained. You may have to use

the crate for a week or so to get him used to the fact that this is his new home. Then allow him access to only certain rooms and not the entire house.

[To Top](#)

35. Question:

Dear Mr. Ed Frawley:

I found your website on the internet, and I was hoping you would be willing to help with some advice or maybe a referral to someone who would be able to help us.

I am sorry to say that we are having a problem with our Jack Russell Terriers. We have a 5 month old male Jack Russell Terrier who we bought from a friend who bought him from a pet store called "Just Puppies."

We have had our male dog for about 1.5 months. My husband bought me a 12 week old female JRT for mother's day. He bought the female from a JRTCA breeder who was home raised - she is the best, we have had for a little over a week.

Our male "Rusty" is not a very happy dog, he hardly ever wags his tail (he was 5 months old on May 14th - he is 13.5 inches at the withers and approximately 13 to maybe 14 lbs.). Our female "Molly" is very happy - she wags her tail

everywhere she goes, great with our child, we already love her very much (Molly is now about 13 weeks and only 5lbs).

We have tried letting them duke it out and we have tried keeping them apart for a few days, because Rusty bites her and pulls on her ears. Rusty is always growling, baring his teeth, and biting (Molly at first was taking the abuse, but now her fur stands up and she is growling also). The first night they were home together he pinned her down by the neck and she was gasping for air (she couldn't even yip in pain). Molly can be walking across the yard and Rusty will go over to her and bite her legs, neck, or back - sometimes he will start dragging her. He is not playing with her - she could be sleeping or using the bathroom and he will do those things to her. She is not allowed to play with toys or anything else without him lifting his lips and baring his teeth and starting a fight over it. He doesn't allow her to eat or drink without pushing her out of the way. She will wait for him to stop eating or drinking and will take her turn, but Rusty just comes back over and pushes her out and tries to eat all the food he can (Molly's ribs are starting to show). Molly on the other hand is playful - she has the best temperament, but she is getting sick of Rusty - it is very apparent that she dislikes him and does not want to play with him - and she is starting to act aggressive like him.

What can we do? Will this problem change? Rusty will kill Molly if left unattended there is no doubt in my mind about that. We want to help the situation, but we are worried that nothing will ever change. Please help me with some advice or a referral if possible.

Thank you,
Rashel R. Hensley

P.S. We already spoke with the breeder of the female and she referred us to a trainer. She said that we should not break up the fights, but we tried doing that and Rusty got Molly by the throat and once again she was gasping for air and he would not let go, when we finally got him to let go - Molly sat up and puked. We have watched the dogs and Molly has been very submissive with Rusty, but Rusty seems to be looking for a lot more than alpha status. The trainer that we spoke with seems to give dogs higher precedence over children, and we thought since you have children you would have better advice. Rusty has snapped, nipped, or bit (whichever word you would prefer to use) our child at least twice and has tried several times, but luckily they are always supervised. The trainer said that we should not allow our child to be around the dog when he has a toy, food, or bone - but that seems virtually impossible considering he always has one of those things. Our child is NEVER left unsupervised with either dog, but when our child is just trying to be nice (by

petting or hand feeding - never hitting, teasing, or playing), what can you do?

I left out one thing....Rusty is a coward is scared of certain balls in our yard, loud noises, and you can not pick him up by the scruff of his neck because he starts yelping so loudly that you would think someone is killing him. No one has ever done anything to him at our house, except for when he bit our child he was picked up by the scruff of his neck and told "NO!" and put in his carrier. I don't know what ever happened to him, but my guess is someone has mistreated him to the point of nervousness. The first few days we had him he wouldn't even come to us - he seemed scared of us, but yet curious about the things we were doing. We are scared that our child is the one who will end up hurt. Please help.

Answer:

Let me begin by saying this breeder is wrong. I cannot stand stupidity and this breeder exudes it.

Let me say that the puppy looks to the pack leader (YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND) for protection. You are doing 100% the wrong thing in not protecting this poor puppy. Put yourself in this pup's position. If you come into a new home and someone comes around and try's to kill you, what would you do? When you have a good answer for this you will begin to understand the poor female puppy.

I am not sure why people's common sense seems to go down the toilet and out the door when it comes to dogs, but it often does. This is a perfect example. Unfortunately people are given the titles of BREEDER and TRAINER and because of this they become experts. Too often they are long on advice and short of common sense.

Your male needs his butt kicked. He needs to learn some manners or suffer the consequences of not minding. He needs to learn that YOU and YOUR HUSBAND are the pack leaders and you will not tolerate this.

If you would like to learn something about the principles of obedience training a dog, read the description for my [Basic Dog Obedience](#) video. You will probably find that you have not had the full picture on the steps of training a dog. You can also read why I am not a fan of taking an untrained dog to obedience classes.

You have to spend some time on my web site reading the articles on [Dominant Dogs](#) and the [Q&A sections](#).

[To Top](#)

Dealing With Dominant and Aggressive Dogs

\$49.00 +s&h



3 Hours 30 Minutes Long

36. Question:

Ed,

Our great puppy, Xanda vom Leerburg (born January 16, 2000; call name "Rebound"), is progressing beautifully. She is almost five months old and has settled in as a full-fledged member of the family (which includes my wife, three children, our male yellow lab and me).

I would like your thoughts on a particularly disturbing and dangerous habit that she has exhibited. During our walks in the neighborhood, she literally lunges at moving cars. In response, I shorten way up on the leash and tell her "no." (Often, I walk her with our lab, which does not give the cars a second glance, and has never chased them.) Needless to say, the puppy's attitude toward cars turns otherwise

very enjoyable walks into quite a job. Any suggestions?

Thanks for your time.

Bob

Answer:

There is no question that this is a serious situation.

The solution is hard compulsion. This means that you need to get a puppy prong collar and when the dog does this she needs to get a very hard sharp POP on the leash. The pup needs to learn that this is 100% unacceptable behavior. The minute after the sharp hard correction the dog needs to be praised and told that you still love her.

If this is done properly it will not take long for the dog to learn to ignore cars. If it does not, you have not corrected hard enough.

[To Top](#)

37. Question:

Ed,

We have a Rottweiler female puppy (born Jan 14th). We also have your puppy training video. Abby has responded well to our correction for jumping up on us. Thank you. She is outlawed

from the house because she doesn't control herself and tinkles when she gets excited. Any hints for that? However, the main reason we are writing is because of her constant lapping. Abby loves people, and she laps thin air, hands, thin air, legs, thin air, clothes, and thin air. It drives us crazy. Is it possible to break her of this habit? What should we do? Thank you for your time.

Len and BJ Jordan

Answer:

The pup will outgrow the piddling.

The lapping or licking is a sign of submission in dogs. You would make a serious mistake to try and stop this. People really misunderstand the pack drives of domesticated dogs. This is an example of this. As the dog matures, gains confidence in your relationship this licking will gradually go away. But it is something that many dogs do in one form or another to show that they are a lower rank than their owners.

If you were to try and correct the pup for licking, you would confuse the pup and it would lose confidence and end up having self confidence problems which can really open a can of worms.

[To Top](#)

38. Question:

Our 9-week-old German Shepherd just arrived from Texas, and we recently purchased your “Puppy” & “Basic Obedience” videos. There is an issue you might help us with that was not addressed in either. Swimming. We have an in-ground pool and considering the heat in South Florida we are anxious to introduce him to it. Any suggestions or advice?

I might also add that we have tried to strictly adhere to all of the information offered in your tapes and on your web site, and so far knock on wood everything has been working exactly as you said. Thank you for helping us work through these beginning stages. I know how important they are in a puppy’s growth.

Rick & Pam

Answer:

I also have an in-ground pool. It is very important to teach all of the dogs that are near the house to swim in the pool and to know where the steps are. If you do not do this there is a good chance that they will fall in and drown because they cannot climb out the sides.

All pups can swim. Just carry them into the pool and gently lower them into the water right in front of the steps. So they only have to swim about 3 feet to the steps. The first thing they have

to learn is that they can climb out of the pool if they swim to the edge.

The second thing they have to learn is that the steps are only in one spot on the pool - so you gradually have to take them further and further from the steps. At some point he is going to have to hit the side (after he knows how to swim) and learn that he cannot get out by clawing at the side, then you step in after a few seconds of trying and point him towards the steps - guide him there if need be.

When you can put him in the deep end and he knows to swim to the shallow end and climb out you then have a pool-proof dog. If you don't do this you can go out and find a dead pup floating in the pool.

[To Top](#)

39. Question:

Your puppy video arrived in the mail this weekend and we watched it, twice. Good job! The video covered a lot of ground, but I still have more questions.

I read your article on why you shouldn't have two dogs at once. Unfortunately, we already have the two pups, and we want to make the best of it. Based on what you've written, I assume we could have some problems with them not accepting

us in their “pack” of two. What are some warning signs to watch out for in case they decide we don’t belong in their puppy pack?

Now here’s my question on prey drive. I watched you make the ‘ball-and-rag-on-a-string’ toy in your video and I’ve made such a toy for the pups. The female, Akira, seems to have a strong prey drive because she took to chasing the ball with reckless abandon. The male, Hercules, is more reluctant. He will give chase, but without the wholehearted zest that Akira does. I move the ball slower around him, so that at least he gets to catch it every once in a while. The fact that he doesn’t hustle could be a lack of energy, or a lack of prey drive (or some other cause for all I know). Both pups are 3 months old. What can I do to diagnose his problem and build his prey drive?

I look forward to hearing from you. From the pages of testimonials on your web page, you are obviously in high demand, so I thank you in advance for your time.

I have read that you will no longer be breeding. I wish you success in your new direction.

Sincerely,
Yvette Golda

Answer:

First, in my opinion you are making a serious error in how you are raising these dogs. It is

wrong to look at your situation as allowing the dogs to have their own pack - the correct way to look at it is that you have a family pack and you are allowing them to become a part of your pack - on your terms - not their terms.

I would not allow these dogs to live together. They should be kept separated all the time, (by crates or different kennels), except when you are present to supervise. This is the only way you will ever have normal dogs as adults. You may not like to hear this, but I am 100% correct about this. You can not re-invent the wheel and you can not do something I can not do with dogs.

Check your dogs for worms. This may be the problem with the male, also for a heart murmur. This could affect his energy. If it's not medical it's genetic and you have to work with him. Put more animation in the toy; make the ball jump just as the pup sniffs it. Put some life in it.

[To Top](#)



40. Question:

Mr. Frawley,

I wrote to you about my 6 month old Rott. Thanks for your advice. Just finish watching your (Bite Training Puppies). My question now is that I just got the pup when it was already 6 months follow your videos, my pup has no play drive. I tried playing with the sack, but he has no interest in biting the sack. How should I start his play drive with his behavior? He has a lot of avoidance when I try to follow your instructions on the video. What should I do?

Answer:

Here are some options to building prey drive:

1- Take a tennis ball and put it on a nylon string. See if you can get the pup to follow it. Treat it like a cat - when the pup goes over to smell it - make it jump away but only about a foot away. If it will follow then just as its nose is at the ball make it bounce away a little more. There is an art to this. The key is to build the dogs interest and not bounce the ball too far away from the dog. Keeping the ball close to the pup but elusive. The pup can grab the ball every now and then and play tug (if it will) you can also have the dog try and chase balls (with the string attached and see if the dog will chase and play with them. To build prey drive you have to get it to chase before you get it to grip.

2- Make the sack smaller. If this means cutting one up then do it. Use a hand towel rather than a sack - it's softer on his mouth. Tie the sack on a string and treat it exactly like you treated the ball on a string. If the pup will grab it - give it a small jerk so it comes out of his mouth (like it is alive) Go right back into playing with it on a string. This will build drive.

I hope some of these ideas work. This is not as simple as it may sound. Young dogs must learn what a prey item is. They don't instinctually think that a sack or ball is a prey item. They have to learn that they are fun to play tug with. So there is a lot of emphasis on the handlers developing the skills to bring out the drive that their dog has.

And finally - there are some dogs that are not fit for this work. These dogs have no prey drive and they cannot and should not be trained in protection work. Dogs have to have prey work for bite work.

[To Top](#)

41. Question:

My husband and I brought a German Shepherd puppy 5 day's ago. She is 8 weeks old we are very happy with her and she seems to be settling in well. The first two nights she never cried during the night at all. Now however she whines and

howls and we have got up to her and told her a firm "NO" and given her a light shake on the scruff of her neck. This method does not seem to be working now. Can you help? I think we should ignore her; my husband is worried about the noise and the neighbors. We would appreciate any help you can offer us.

Many thanks Jenni

Answer:

You forget that your dog is a baby. Would you grab a baby and shake it for crying at night - I think not. Put a radio near it and a rug to lie on. Read my [article about house training](#). Crying in the crate goes away on its own if you ignore it - which is the only thing to do.

I would recommend the video I have produced titled [Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months](#). I give this video to all of my puppy customers and never get questions on how to raise a pup. Read the description of the tape on my web site. It has 2 hours of solid information and does not cost a lot of money.

[To Top](#)

42. Question:

Ed,

I just rec'd your puppy video and watched it today. What a super video to watch!! We got a GS puppy (10 weeks) 2 days ago. I only have a couple questions after watching (I know I'm not supposed to have any) :)

On crating the pup, how long/often during the day should he be crated so he's used to it and it works effectively? I don't want to be using it too much. Does that time wind down as he gets older? The video states that with food up at about 6:00 and water by 7:00, he should make it through the night. I've been taking him out when he whimpers, (at about 2), he of course goes. Should I ignore this whimper so as not to create a habit? (As long as I take him out at 11pm and 6am?)

Also, we have a 7 year old Lab and is it ok to walk them together (with her in a heel command), and let him just run as shown in your video until we move onto the next training stage? I also purchased the basic obedience video which will help further I'm sure. But I am mainly just wondering about the crate issue.

Thanks for the great videos and also for the fantastic response on e-mails and mailing the videos!!

Jan Cetto

Answer:

Normally small puppies can not hold it all night until they are 12 to 14 weeks old. So some have to get up in the middle of the night - do not ignore her plea.

The pup should spend a lot of time in the crate. Certainly until it does not scream and cry it must be in the crate. The more it cries the more it stays in the crate. Puppies naturally sleep a lot so she will sleep in the crate when she is comfortable. Just take her outside every 3 to 4 hours and then play with her and then back into the crate. She must learn that the crate is her home. I don't think you will want to be leaving her out on her own (without you there) until she is over a year. She can be out for an hour or so (after going outside) when she shows that she is stable and not crazy all the time. I think that it is OK to have the pup around the other dog when you are with them to supervise. You may need a puppy prong to control the pup if it gets too wild with the older dog. It must learn what NO means. Read my article. Puppies can be like wild untrained children - otherwise known as BRATS. They need to learn manners but this also needs to be done with compassion - most people have too much compassion and it gets in the way of a firm correction. I go into corrections in detail in my [Basic Dog Obedience](#) video that you have.

Good luck with your adventure.

43. Question:

I have been looking all over the internet and just found your site. WOW! You cover so much. I know it may be a while before you can answer me but if you can I would really appreciate it. We (myself, husband and 2 teenagers) just adopted a collie/shepherd 3-month-old puppy. He has been responding very well to the crate training and in just 2 weeks is "so far" housebroken. Our problem is that after a few days with us he has started this thing where he pees whenever my husband does anything with him. Even looking at him and talking to him in a calm voice causes him to pee. My husband is the only one he does this to. Should one of us show him this is wrong? Will he outgrow it? Please help. My husband is just devastated that he can't do anything with Keya because of this situation. We are at our wits end.

Thank you for any help that you can give us.
Lisa Wilson

Answer:

You totally ignore the dog when you come home, do not let guests bend over to pet the dog. When you do pet the dog get down on his level and pet him under the chin. This is less intimidating for him. These dogs almost always had outgrown this.

If you try and do any form of correction the problem will get worse and not go away. This is not an uncommon problem - it is just a phase that some dogs go through.

So have your husband ignore the dog and only pet it when the dog comes to him - not when he goes to the dog.

[To Top](#)

44. Question:

Can you give me some ideas on how to get my litter off on the right foot so the pups are not dog aggressive?



Answer:

It seems that some bloodlines are more dog aggressive than others. I will also say that a pup will become dog aggressive if it is attacked by an

older dog (or even badly scared as a young dog) by another dog. Breeders and owners need to take steps to make sure their young dogs grow up in a safe environment. Here are the things to consider:

1- We start feeding our young pups (at 4 weeks of age) in separate bowls (see the photo). Pups will normally play and rough house, this is normal and does not cause problems. But pups will also fight seriously at about 6 to 7 weeks of age if they feel they have to fight for their food. Breeders that put down one or two large food bowls that 3 to 4 pups are expected to eat from causes fights.

Having a food bowl for each puppy will stop this from happening. In fact I will stay in the room when the pups are feeding and make sure that one pup does not go over and try to eat another pup's food. If I need to I will give the scavenger a little more food in his bowl. This is a little more work but it will help.

2- I also make sure the pups have a lot of toys, not just a couple. If the pups have plenty of things to occupy their minds they can enjoy themselves. If there are enough toys the pups will not have to fight over them.

3- I often get e-mails from new owners who do not understand why their young dogs (6 months to 18 months) act nervous or scared when they are introduced to other dogs. These people don't understand the pack drive. In a pack the leader is

responsible for protecting the young. Pups and young adult dogs expect their owners to protect them from older dogs that may hurt them. So if you are out on a walk and a strange dog approaches - DO NOT allow it to come near your young dog. Why risk an aggressive response from the stranger - it only takes a split second to alter your dog's outlook on other dogs for the rest of his life.

I explain it to people like this. If a woman gets raped she will have psychological problems for years if not the rest of her life. The same kind of long term damage happens to young dogs that are attacked. In the dog world only two things can happen after this, they become terrified of other dogs, or they become overly aggressive, They take the attitude of "attack first before you are attacked."

So if a strange dog comes near me I will verbally warn the dog to stay away from me and my dog. I recommend to people in larger cities to carry pepper gas. Do not hesitate to use it if a strange dog does not stop when you tell it to. Save a little gas for the owner of the dog if it's being walked by some dummy that can't control his pet.

If you have to gas a dog - tell the police that you feared for "your safety." You are justified in doing this if you fear for your own personal safety. I am not sure what footing you would be on if you said you were concerned for your dog's safety.

So the bottom line on dog aggression starts with trying to prevent it from happening before it becomes an issue. Humans must protect their pup or young adult. But if you do everything correctly and the dog still shows signs of aggression then you need to obedience train the dog. Use corrections when your dog becomes aggressive with another dog (make sure you understand the body language of play fighting here - i.e. bowing down in the front with the rear of the dogs but up in the air is an invitation to play) Even if your dog starts to bark and lung on a line it must be corrected. If a voice command to LEAVE IT does not work, then a leash correction must follow. If a normal leash correction does not work then a prong collar leash correction should be used. If that does not work I will use a shock collar or a stick (but that is the subject of an entire article).

I use the command LEAVE IT when I have a dog that is learning to not show aggression. The corrections given depend on the hardness of the dog and how quickly it responds. It is important that you are not abusive, it is also important that you are effective. There is a fine line here that every handler must figure out for himself (DO NOT ASK ME IN AN EMAIL TO EVALUATE YOUR DOGS). If someone new to dog training were to see me working with adult dogs at this stage of training they may be concerned about how severe the corrections seem. The fact is the dogs

learn very, very quickly that they must mind or suffer the consequences (it's no different than raising a child - expect with children you don't physically correct them - at least I don't). The females in my kennel learn very quickly that aggressive barking and fence fighting is not tolerated. Once this happens life is a lot more peaceful.

[To Top](#)

Training Puppies Not to Bite



eBook

45. Question:

Ed,

I have read your Q&A section but can't seem to find anything related to my situation. I have a 4 1/2 mo GSD puppy (German lined!) who is having a hard time with traveling in the car. He begins drooling heavily before he even gets into the car.

We have been trying to take things slow with him by letting him sit beside the car (drool, drool), letting him sit in the seat without the car running (drool, drool), having him in his crate in the car (drool, drool) and even placing bits of hot dogs on the floor of the car. Nothing has helped so far. As I said before, he will begin drooling before he even gets near it. He was shipped to us when he was 10 weeks old and we have been trying to get him used to the car since we got him. Any advice would be greatly appreciated as we travel a lot and would like to take him with us. If you have already answered this question somewhere on your site, let me know where it is so I can read it! The pup does not seem to have weak nerves - in fact he is very calm and stable so I don't think nerves could be the problem.

Thanks again for your help and I look forward to your response.

Tony

Answer:

I would change the name of the dog to DROOL DROOL. It is obviously stress from the car – not just driving in the car.

So I would start feeding the dog next to the vehicle. But feed it really good stuff so it really wants to eat (like hamburger or raw chicken from the ALL NATURAL DIET that it should be eating anyway - you can read about this on my site). After a few days of feeding next to the car, try

feeding him in the car in a dog crate. If he doesn't eat for a few days it is not going to kill him, (I fast my dogs once a week – it's good for them). If your car is big enough for a dog crate – then welcome him to his new home. This is where he eats, sleeps and lives.

He will get over it. Once he is used to eating in the car – only feed him after he has driven around the block. But make sure he is hungry and the food is something he really likes. I will guarantee you, that if you feed normal crap dog food (Purina, Science Diet, etc. etc.) your dog is not going to give a rip if you put food out or not.

[To Top](#)

46. Question:

Dear Mr. Frawley--

Thank you for your excellent videos. They are helping me raise my new pup. But I do have a question that is not addressed in the videos:

This is a female GSD of excellent working dog bloodlines. She is now 15 weeks. She is doing fine in every aspect, but a week ago she began to bark at people who come to visit us. The bark is not a growl, and she shows no other signs of aggression, but she does appear to be defending her ground. Is this normal? How should I handle the barking: allow it, or discourage it? Up until

now, what I have done is pick the pup up (which stops the barking right away), and carry her over to be petted by the visitor.

Since I do want this pup to grow into a good protective companion, I want to handle this precisely and correctly. I would greatly appreciate your help with this.

Thanks,
James Wit

Answer:

You are doing the right thing by showing her that there is nothing to fear. Have the new people give the dog a piece of hot dog. She needs to see that there is nothing to make her afraid.

People often question if they should correct barking because they want a protection dog as an adult and do not want to inhibit their puppy. Well, a good protection dog must have the correct genetics and it is a product of training. A dog does not become a protection dog because it is allowed to be aggressive to strangers as a puppy. A good protection dog learns that it must be aggressive under very specific circumstances and not to all people. Dogs that are aggressive to all people are not safe social dogs. They are dangerous dogs. But the reason that your dog is doing this is because it has weak or thin nerves, not because it is tough and protective. It is impossible for any female pup to be tough and

protective. That would be like you expecting your 7 year old daughter to protect your home. Your puppy needs to learn that people are nice. Later she can learn that some people are not nice.

My advice would be to continue to read my site and get a few training videos on protection work.

Good Luck

[To Top](#)

47. QUESTION:

Hi,

I'm argentine and my name is Martin and I write because I read something interesting on your web page. I would like to know if you could answer this question!!!

My family is going to buy a dog and we are in dude between and retriever or Rottweiler. I like Rottweiler but my mother says that they are dangerous especialy with children. I would like to know if you agree with her and if you can send me information about Rottweiler!!

Thank you...

ANSWER:

It is not my job to convince that Rots are better than GSDs or any other breed. This is a private issue with you family and their own interests.

[To Top](#)

Leather Puppy Leash



Light and sturdy just for puppies. Hand made from latigo leather.

48. QUESTION:

Mr. Frawley,

I purchased a 5 month old male GSD from a breeder in NY. I have had him for a month. Sire is an East German Sch3, mom is a Czech companion titled dog.

Problem:

This pup skits and bucks when other leashed dogs/puppies approach. He may or may not

allow people to pet him as well. No aggression towards people, but he can become very timid and jumpy, or just stand and remain oblivious to people around him.

Always acts the same with other dogs. Stares as they approach, growls when they get closer, and tries to pull me with his leash down the block when they get right on top of him. I try getting his attention on to me and away from the dogs, but he locks onto them as they approach.

Breeder says he will “grow out of it,” that he’s still a puppy etc. I don’t buy it. He actually seems to be more fearful and skittish than he was when we got him last month. I think he is what he is and will not “grow out of it.”

(Bad previous experience with an American Show GSD, looks like I made another mistake.) I don’t think attempting to train him to act confident is the answer. If he doesn’t have it in him he will not get it in him.

Is this breeder correct, he’ll “grow out of it,” or is it “what I see is what I get.” Think I know what you are going to say. (Smells like I need to bring this dog back.)

Thank you for your time
Joe

ANSWER:

You did not do a very good job selection testing this pup. I have two articles on my web site on how to do this. The tests are 110% correct – this crap would have shown up in the tests.

I cannot tell you what to do - sorry. Maybe sell the dog (or give the dog away) and cut your losses.

[To Top](#)

49. QUESTION:

Hi Ed

I have just bought your video bite training for pups and I have a question about it. I have just started tying my 10 week old pup up with a milk jug full of marbles above her head and I have also been using the bamboo stick.

Neither of these things fazes her. She has awesome nerves and monstrous prey drive, but she will only go after the tennis ball on the string. She will not go after the hand towel. I have used the hand towel to play with her before but she really would rather have the ball instead. She will just sit there with the towel and whine for the ball. And then when I bring out the ball she goes crazy. My problem is that I cannot work on her grip or her counter with the ball. Should I stick with the ball? I am a little confused. Could you please help me out? Thanks a lot.

ANSWER:

Take a small wash cloth (not a towel), put it on a string and attach the string to a broom handle. Then put some life in the wash cloth as it jumps around. This should work.

Also - change the ball on a string to a rubber ball and not a tennis ball. I have heard some concerning things about the glue that tennis balls are made from having a reaction with teeth.

[To Top](#)

50. QUESTION:

I hope you can help me with my new German Shepherd puppy. When we got him he was 7.5 weeks and a he's a very aggressive chewer and biter. I've had a German shepherd before and do not allow puppies to bite and chew on anything but their own chew toys. I have never let him bite me or chew on me because he is "cute and little". We were constantly correcting him and telling him "no." One night my husband and I were playing with him rolling a ball around while he chased it. He went to the door to go potty and I went with him to tell him good boy and when we came back in he went directly to my 3 year old daughter and bit her right on the face. He punctured her skin right below her left eye in 2 places and on her chin line. I was so horrified and I grabbed him by the scruff of the back of his neck and shook him and yelled in his face and

put him in his kennel. He was 10 weeks at the time. Well that has not stopped him from biting the crap out of all of us. 2 days ago I called the breeder we got him from to ask her advice. She told me to NEVER let him get away with that ever again and to hit him hard on the nose with rolled up paper and yell "no, no". Well the next time he bit me I did just that and scared the crap out of him but it didn't stop the biting. So over the next 2 days I would pop him on the nose every time he bit me and now he doesn't bite me all the time but he will barely come near me. I am so worried that I have ruined him by making him afraid of me but the biting was so bad I was considering getting rid of him because I cannot allow him to think biting me and my children is in any way acceptable. His biting of the 3 year old was not the only time he has broken the skin of me or the other kids in our family. His biting is painful and aggressive and when I would correct him he would snap at me right after. Needless to say he hasn't snapped at me since I hit him with the paper. All day today I have tried to be sweet and positive with him, telling how good he is being but he seems to have lost his enjoyment of life. I feel terrible but he was scaring me and getting worse everyday. Can you give me any advice? Thanks a lot for your web site. I've learned a ton.

Tami

ANSWER:

I strongly suggest you find a new home for this puppy.

You do not understand puppy behavior and it is just making things bad for what is probably a very nice puppy. Some people should not have puppies. You would be better off without any dog or going to a dog shelter and getting a nice adult dog.

Puppies play using their mouth. Shaking it, hitting his nose (your breeder is dog damn fool) is not what should be done. If you keep this dog - get a dog crate and crate train the dog. He cannot bite if he is in the crate.

Odds are you have screwed this poor puppy up. I have no doubt that he shies away from you. What do you think your child would do if you slapped him around every time he played rough - the key word being PLAYING. Because that is how puppies play - with their mouths.

Find a new home for this pup.

[To Top](#)

51. QUESTION:

Sir,

I'm writing you today on a recommendation from a friend who trains military working dogs.

I have an 11 week old female GSD. My wife and I purchased her at 7 weeks. Every night for the last 4 weeks, I have been up with her multiple times at night, trying to keep her quiet. She has food and water, and is outside with an adult female GSD (they get along quite well). Sometimes I'll bring her in and put her in a playpen with bedding (continues to whine). I've been spanking her consistently with a rolled up news paper whenever she starts up and telling her "NO." That only works for an hour before she begins whining again. We've tried walking her before bed to get her tired...that works initially, but then she wakes up. The vet says she is healthy, so I'm pretty sure she's not in any pain. What do you recommend?

One more question...She found a dead bird in my front yard and tried to swallow it whole. I had to open her jaws (quite strong already) and pull it out. I've also noticed that she doesn't chew her food, only the occasional crunch. Is this normal?

Any help you can provide will be extremely appreciated.

Jason, Honolulu

ANSWER:

Well, you are doing a lot wrong. This is not a puppy problem it's an owner problem.

Here is the list:

1- A puppy should not be lowed to run with

another dog. This is only going to lead to problems. They need to be kept separated.

2- The pup should not be HIT WITH A NEWSPAPER. That is totally counterproductive and is going to screw your dog's temperament if it has not already done so. I compare this to hitting a baby that cries.

3- Puppies need to be crate trained. Read the article on my web site about house training. Read the Q&A section.

4- You seem to want to learn something about dog training - I assume this because you wrote this email. You need to learn because what you are doing is 100% wrong. I would recommend the video I produced titled Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months <http://leerburg.com/120.htm> I give this video to all of my puppy customers and never get questions on how to raise a pup. Read the description of the tape on my web site. It has 2 hours of solid information and does not cost a lot of money.

5- If you are not prepared to do these things, find the dog a new home

[To Top](#)



52. Question:

Hi Ed,

I just bought a 4 month old male American Bulldog. I have been checking out breeders since 1998, this pup came from one of the best performance breeders in this country. I told the breeder I wanted a dog to be a family dog and he was to be trained in personal protection. I bought the pup in late March when he was 10 weeks old, and it took the breeder 2 months to ship the pup to me. When I got the pup he seemed a little nervous, but I knew he needed time to adjust. I spent the first week building up his confidence in play, and basically sitting back and evaluating his temperament. He is very soft in temperament, which to me is not a problem, but he also seems to have weak nerves. He spooks easily (laundry baskets, outside influences make him run and

hide), doesn't like to be petted, and seldom wags his tail to people. He is the kind of dog that when you go to pet him he ducks his head and generally doesn't seem happy. I only gave him 2 corrections: the first one was when he urinated in the house and the second was when he was chewing something that he wasn't supposed to chew. He urinated several times over a period of several days, before I gave him a physical correction (scruff shake), so it wasn't like I jumped on him from the start. At first I just gave him firm NOs, and the same for the chewing. When I gave the corrections he turned and started to fight me, literally turning and trying his hardest to bite my arm. I shook the SH*T out of him for that. After corrections he runs away and hides and won't come out. Trying to make a long story short, I called the breeder and he said he doesn't know the first thing about temperament or training, and his trainer friend was the one that picked the pup for me. So I told him to have the trainer call me. The trainer basically said that that was a proper American Bulldog (he evaluated him and he didn't see anything wrong with him) and I should never have given any corrections to him. He told me that I should have just let him piss and chew. I worked with a Certified Master Trainer for a period of time, and that just isn't the way I was taught to train dogs. I have experience with German working line Rottweilers, German Shepherds, Akitas, and Pit Bulls. This is my first American Bulldog, and this trainer is telling me

that American Bulldogs are some special breed that has to be treated differently than others and that when they do unacceptable things it is ok. Can you please give me your opinion of this situation?

Thank you,
Joe

Answer:

You may be right about the softness. I don't know without seeing the dog. The comments on a bulldog being treated differently is bull shit. Dog training is not breed specific – its temperament and drive specific.

The other issues are handler mistakes. If you were doing the right thing your dog would not be pissing on the floor. It would be pissing outside. Use a dog crate – don't allow the dog to be loose in the house. If you were watching the dog it would not have been chewing on something. The only time a dog is out of the crate in the house is after it comes in from outside, only when you have eyes on it and only for a short period of time. Those things did not happen and you created bigger problems by correcting this dog.

There are only two reasons to correct a puppy in the first 8 months of life that is going to do personal protection work. The first is for not coming when called, the second is for not OUTING when told but even then the dog has to

go through a learning phase to know what you are telling him to do.

I suggest you get the [Drive Focus and Grip](#) video I produced – learn how to play with a dog and how to work him in drive. Stop letting him be loose in the house, stop correcting the dog. Soft dogs can be tough dogs. I know of a soft police dog that had over 300 street bites.

Start taking this dog EVERYWHERE to overcome this shyness. Use food if you have to get it to go with you. Drive it places and socialize it.

Next time selection test your dog better or pick an honest breeder.

[To Top](#)

Building Drive & Focus in Working Dogs

\$65.00 +s&h



2 Hours Long

53. QUESTION:

Help I have a 5 month old GSD doing great with a Trainer, lost the trainer the dog obeys well with sit, down, down stay, heel. does well on leash as far as walking and making turns to the right 90 or 180's but that's it for now. How does one make the dog turn to the left on a leash???? Or make a 180 to the left on a leash???

Maybe I am just dense I would appreciate a response. Thank You in advance.

ANSWER:

I do not agree with sending 5 month old puppy to a trainer whoever you are using needs a lot more experience. This is really bull shit to be expecting a 5 month old pup to do all of these exercises. Please tell your trainer he or she needs a lot more training themselves if they are doing this shit to a puppy.

If you would like to learn more about the principles of obedience training a dog, read the description for my [Basic Dog Obedience video](#). You will probably find that you have not had the full picture on the steps of training a dog must go through before it can be considered fully trained. You can also read why I am not a fan of taking an untrained dog to obedience classes. I think if you read the testimonials on that tape you will see that my customers feel the same way.

[To Top](#)

54. QUESTION:

Dear Mr. Frawley,

Your web site is a wealth of information on GSD. It is the BEST - like an encyclopedia. Well, I have recently purchased a 6 month old female black/red GSD from a breeder in Palmdale, CA. The GSD has the sweetest temperament I have ever seen. I have had 8 dogs as pets in the past from toy breed to herding breed. This is the first time I have a German Shepherd as a pet.

This female GSD is adorable; however, she is friendly to everyone including strangers. Is this good for a GSD to be friendly to strangers as well? I would like her to be a good watchdog as she matures. Her sweet and friendly temperament surprises my friends and strangers. Will she naturally become more unfriendly to strangers as she grows older (she is 6 months old) or do I need to train her to become aggressive to strangers? If yes, how should I train her to be unfriendly (bark) at strangers when unfamiliar faces approach her kennel? Will she be able to be trained as a police dog given her sweet temperament? I noticed she barks at other dogs and growls. She is very loyal and follows my commands. She is very smart - a quick learner.

Furthermore, please share your insights regarding the interpretation of her pedigree shown on the AKC dog registration application.

Shown on the application is “Sire: Mac Von Neu-Edingen and Dam: Arita Vom Kirschtental.” I tried to do some research to understand more about her pedigree as well as to verify to see if her pedigree has VA titles as stated by the breeder in Palmdale. I have utilized this website www.schafer.is/english/search.html and I could not find any information about the Dam, Arita Vom Kirschtental. What is the best source to learn more about my GSDs pedigree as well as to learn how to interpret pedigree document? Can you share your insights pertaining to my GSDs pedigree given the above information? Please advice.

Thank you very much in advance for sharing your insights to above questions. Much success to your web site!

Best regards,
A.K., CA, USA

ANSWER:

Sounds like you have a nice dog. You would not expect your 7 year old boy to protect your home – the same goes with a 6 month old puppy. They look at you as a pack leader and as such it’s your job to protect your pack until the dog is an adult.

Dogs do not naturally become protection trained anymore than Michael Jordan’s boys naturally become professional basketball players. Your dog may or may not have the genetic for the training.

You will have to discuss bloodlines with your breeder – that's his job not mine.

If you would like to start to learn about training I would recommend buying a few of my training videos.

[To Top](#)

55. QUESTION:

I have an 11 month old Akita neutered male. I am a first time Akita owner, I did not get him for protection (or for any status symbol for that matter, unlike some Akita owners) I got him based on a recommendation from a good friend and mostly because with the exception of the same sex dog aggression notable to the breed, I truly love the breed. He is a wonderful dog with a lot of great qualities and from what I can see doesn't seem to have many of the hardcore dominance issues that you speak about on your site. He is not food aggressive, he DOES have a really high prey drive (loves to chase just about anything) although he has made friends with one of our cats (they tend to sleep together at night), I got nowhere with crating him for housebreaking (he hated the confinement to such a small area) but we do gate him in the kitchen at night and when we do out so he doesn't have free roam of the house.

I got him at the wrong time (I work full time and started night classes pretty much right after I got him, I know... NOT SMART) so I haven't been able to attend obedience classes yet, but I see that I need to do something NOW. He knows sit, but he pretty much CHOOSES when that will be. Some of the reasons I feel he DOES have dominance issues are: He REFUSES to allow me, or the vet to trim his nails. Both times they have been done he has had to be heavily sedated, which I HATE. He is also resistant to grooming, which is a royal pain with a dog with a double coat that falls out twice a year. My husband has taken the dog to work since we got him at 10 weeks old. It is a lawn and garden dealership, and we thought that being around the machinery and the constant flow of people would help with his socialization. And it has, with the exception of the barking at only CERTAIN people. And it's almost impossible to get him to stop until he's damn good and ready.

I plan on purchasing your Basic Dog Obedience video, can you tell me if you have any suggestions on working with the nail trimming and the grooming? I had done this myself when he was a young puppy, but lately he will not let me do anything... and I need him to be more accepting of the handling, especially when he goes to the Vet. He is only 85lbs right now, but I expect him to get to 110 or 120.

ANSWER:

Get a [prong collar](#) with the tape. Do the training at home.

I would also get the wire basket muzzle we sell. He cannot bite you if he has the muzzle on. If a dog will not allow me to cut his nails then this is an obedience (or lack of obedience issue). The first thing you do is spend 3 or 4 weeks obedience training this dog. Then when he is at the point where he is minding better – go to the grooming. Talk nice when you do it and show him the treat before you start – then put it away and give him a treat after you are done– the sessions should be short in the beginning. Three or four strokes of the brush and then give the treat.

If this does not work it will take some serious corrections for him to know that you mean to brush him and not allowing it is not going to work. Sometimes pet owners can not correct to the level it takes.

Once you solve the brushing then move on to the nails – The fact is these things should have been taken care of at a young age. Now it is going to require a fight – make sure the dog is muzzled before the fight starts or you will get hurt. Make sure you have backup if you start a fight – the better idea is for your husband to do this.

[To Top](#)

How to Fit a Prong Collar



eBook

56. QUESTION:

Hi Mr. Frawley:

First I want to say “Thank You” for sharing your extensive knowledge about dogs, particularly German Shepherds. I purchased my first GSD about a month ago (he’s now 3 months) and I have applied many of your training techniques (either coincidentally on my own, or taken directly from your puppy video). He’s turning into a wonderful family companion. I have to go out of town for a weekend (2 nights), and won’t be able to take the puppy. My vet has kennel facilities, but I will have to leave him there for 3 nights due to the vet’s office hours. He will be slightly over 4 months when I will have to leave

him. The vet's office said they keep him inside at night, and put him out in a run during the day (similar his schedule at home). My question is: Will he be too young to be left alone at a kennel facility, and will it hurt his training/development at that age?

Thank you again. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Kris Olsen

ANSWER:

I don't think it will hurt him - go to the vet during the middle of the day some time and ask if you can look at their dog runs - see how clean it is. Make this an unexpected trip - if they will not let you look - find another vet and another boarding kennel. Then tell the first vet why you did this.

[To Top](#)

57. QUESTION:

We have just acquired two 8 week old German Shepard pups, and I wish I had looked at your web site before purchasing 2 pups at the same time. What is the best way to ensure that the pups each get enough attention?

Second question... the pups enjoy being in the same crate with each other. Is this a good idea??

Thank you for your advice. I have ordered your videos and can't wait to watch them.

ANSWER:

You are correct you made a bad mistake.

These pups should never be allowed to run together or be in the same crate together. If you do this you will never establish a good bond with the dogs and they will never train properly. They become too DOGGIE – which means they look to the other dog as the buddy and not the owner.

Find a new home for one of these dogs. Cut your losses and do it right. If you don't you will have wasted the money on both dogs.

[To Top](#)

58. QUESTION:

We have a 12 week old dachshund puppy that is trained enough to sleep in our bed at night, but needs to be crated during the day to avoid accidents. It has been weeks and the dog drools about a cup of drool over a 2 hour period in the crate and is very nervous when we let him back out. He whines and cries the entire time. Will he get dehydrated? When we give him water in the crate he spills it every time. Does he need some sort of medication to calm his nerves? Any help would be appreciated.

Lynn Daniel

ANSWER:

Handler mistake - handler mistake - handler mistake. No dog should sleep in the bed with the owners. It either creates dominance issues or these kinds of problems.

Get bowls that clip on the side of the crate. All feeding is done in the crate. If it's stressed too much and it will not eat then take the food away for the day - no food that day. Then do it again the next day. The crate needs to be a positive place. Exercise the living devil out of this dog and then put it in the crate.

But no matter what - the dog sleeps in the crate ALL THE TIME!

[To Top](#)

59. QUESTION:

Mr. Frawley,

My wife and I own a 10 month old GSD. We give him plenty of attention in the afternoon after work. We take him on a two mile walk, play fetch the ball, tug, hide and seek, etc. We also bring him in at night and let him interact with us. However, it's the period that we're not home during the day that concerns me. We have a fairly large fenced back yard, but I know he gets bored and lonely by himself. Do you think it would be a good idea for us to get another dog so that

he would have a companion? We were thinking about another German shepherd. Is this a good or bad idea? If we get another dog, should it be male or female? Thanks in advance for your response.

ANSWER:

It's not a good idea to add another dog just so your dog has something to play with when you are at work. In fact it's a terrible idea.

1- You are spending plenty of time with your dog.

2- When people buy puppies they should not allow the pup to spend any unsupervised time with an adult dog. To do so hampers the mental development of the pup. The pup ends up looking to the other dog for its companionship and never really bonds well with humans.

3- The only way that people should try and raise a second pup is to keep them totally separated from the first dog with a separate dog crate or dog kennel until the pup is 7 to 10 months old.

4- Your dog is old enough to start some advanced obedience training. This gives the dog something to think about.

5- If you would like to learn more about the principles of obedience training a dog, read the description for my [Basic Dog Obedience video](#). You will probably find that you have not had the full picture on the steps of training a dog must go

through before it can be considered fully trained. You can also read why I am not a fan of taking an untrained dog to obedience classes. I think if you read the testimonials on that tape you will see that my customers feel the same way.

[To Top](#)



60. QUESTION:

Greetings;

I have recently purchased a GSD puppy. I'm keeping him at the kennel I bought him from one month ago. He's now 5 months old. He's the alpha male of his litter, and very protective. Whenever any dog comes about 2 meters from us (him and I), he starts barking uncontrollably. I haven't trained him yet, since his breeder considers 6 months being the ideal age to start obedience training. He barks at any dog he

doesn't know, big or small. Another breeder told me his barking reflects a behavioral abnormality, and that the dog's antisocial. We introduced him to my sister's newly acquired female GSD: he barked at the puppy, bit her once, then everything went fine. My dog's breeder favors his protective behavior, so I'm torn between the two breeders' opinions. What do you think, and what do you advise me to do?

I hope you can help me. Thank you so much in advance.

Rawan

ANSWER:

Here is the category I have your breeder in - "Everyone has an opinion on how to train your dog – just ask your mailman – the problem is that very few people have the experience to back up their opinions which results in a lot of bad information being handed out."

The dog is NOT PROTECTIVE. If your breeder told you this its bull shit.

There is no correlation between animal aggression and people aggression.

I NEVER allow my pups to be around other dogs. Dogs are pack animals. A strange dog is not part of the pups pack.

Obedience training begins at 8 weeks and never stops. With very young pups it's all motivation

and no corrections. Keeping a dog in the kennel at the breeders is not the way to raise a dog. Especially when you have a breeder who seems to be clueless.

Your dog is not a dominant dog. No 5 month old pup is dominant. I have bred well over 300 litters of working bloodline German Shepherds.

Read the article I have written titled [DEALING WITH THE DOMINANT DOG](#) you can find this article in the list of [training articles](#) on my web site. I believe you will find the answers you need in that article or in the [Q&A section](#) of my web site. There are simple solutions to these problems. The question is if you are willing to do the work necessary to make the changes that will fix the problems.

[To Top](#)

61. QUESTION:

Hello Ed.

When is the most appropriate time to start Training a golden retriever basic commands? I have read a lot of your articles on training and don't want to do any damage to her personality.

We have been working on getting her to walk beside us during short walks around the block but we were told to invest in a choke collar to get

her to stop pulling on the lease. She is now 16 weeks, is it too early for all of this?

Thanks in advance.

Lisa Hanson

ANSWER:

A choke collar is not a training collar. It's an abusive training tool.

There are only three kinds of training collars to be used in dog training:

- 1- A Flat Collar
- 2- A Prong Collar
- 3- A Electric collar

I would recommend you purchase the video I produced titled [Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months](#). I have owned and trained German Shepherds for 40 years. In the past 25 years I have bred over 300 litters of working bloodline German Shepherds. I give this video to all of my puppy customers and never get questions on how to raise a pup. Read the description of the tape on my web site. Dog training is not rocket science its simple common sense ideas on how to handle and train a dog, The VHS version has 2 hours of excellent information, the DVD version has 2 ½ hours of training information along with 15 puppy training articles that I have written.

If you would like to learn more about the principles of obedience training a dog, read the

description for my [Basic Dog Obedience video](#). You will probably find that you have not had a clear understanding of the steps of training a dog must go through before it can be considered fully trained. You can also read why I am not a fan of taking an untrained dog to obedience classes. I think if you read the testimonials on that tape you will see that my customers feel the same way.

[To Top](#)

62. QUESTION:

My 3 month old GSD eats everything in sight when we go outside. Rocks, mulch, dirt in the yard; shells, sand and rocks at the beach. How can I get her to stop? I'm afraid she is going to swallow something that will give her an internal cut.

Thank you,
Carol O'Brien

ANSWER:

If the dog lives long enough it will outgrow this.

You have two options:

Get a muzzle and make it wear it when it's outside. We sell a number of different kinds and sizes on our website at <http://leerburg.com/muzzle.htm>.

Get an electric collar and set the stimulation level VERY, VERY low. You don't have to say a word when you shock the dog. When it sniffs a rock you shock it. The shock level is just enough to make the dogs head move a little. It does not hurt the dog at all. The pup learns right now that these things are not interesting.

Then when you shock it you can also have a favorite toy and you can play with it. The pup then learns that the things you have are more interesting than the rocks, etc.

I use the [DOGTRA 1700NCP](#) on my dogs - Check my [equipment](#) page.

If it's a very little dog I would use the [Innotek ADV-300 collar](#) instead.

[To Top](#)

Remote Collars



Great for training!

63. QUESTION:

Ed,

You wrote, "I also NEVER allow a dog to come in contact with another dog unless my dog is 100% solid in obedience under extreme distraction (i.e. another dog is extreme distraction). Also I NEVER allow people to pet my dog." My question is how do you socialize the dog if the dog has never been petted by a stranger. If you don't take your dog around other dogs until he is 100% trained, isn't that a little late in life to begin socialization with other animals?

Thanks,

Vanessa Di Bernardo

ANSWER:

You do not understand socialization of dogs.

1- A dog is socialized when it is exposed to a different environments and different situations that may (or may not) be stressful to the dog. This does not mean meeting strangers. Dogs are pack animals - they do not need to meet people outside of its family pack - they need to learn to be around strange people without being aggressive to them but they do not need to learn to be touched by strangers.

2- The same goes for meeting other dogs. Dogs need to learn to ignore other animals not to be social with them.

64. QUESTION:

Hi,

We have an 8 week old Labrador X collie, he is very well behaved and is doing well at house training, he mouths a lot with the children in play which we know he will grow out of when he is older but yesterday I tried hand feeding him a small piece of ham and he snapped at my hand and made it bleed.

I am guessing he had to fight for his food with his siblings so I am putting it down to this and hoping it will not carry on but I am a little worried in case it does, we have 3 children, one being only 3 years old and I am concerned he may do the same to her.

Should I continue to try to hand feed him? He is fine with food in his bowl and will allow us to stroke him and touch his bowl.

Should I scold (I don't mean hit) him or just ignore the behavior?

Regards,
Jacky

ANSWER:

I don't hand feed puppies. There is no reason for this when you have children. In fact it's a bad idea.

I would recommend you purchase the video I produced titled [Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months](#). I have owned and trained German Shepherds for 40 years. In the past 25 years I have bred over 300 litters of working bloodline German Shepherds. I give this video to all of my puppy customers and never get questions on how to raise a pup. Read the description of the tape on my web site. Dog training is not rocket science its simple common sense ideas on how to handle and train a dog, The VHS version has 2 hours of excellent information, the DVD version has 2 ½ hours of training information along with 15 puppy training articles that I have written.

I would also recommend my [Basic Dog Obedience](#) training video. I did my first obedience video in 1982. That tape had a new version released in 1988. Then that version was replaced in Sept 2004 with my current 4 hour DVD that we now sell.

If you go to the URL for this DVD you will be able to read the outline of what's covered. This DVD not only deals with teaching people how to train the basic commands that every pet owner needs, it also tells people how to structure their lives and homes in ways that make living with a dog very easy and trouble free.

Small changes in how you handle a dog result in big differences in how the dog relates to you. The average pet owner does not realize how

pack drive and rank within the pack control a domestic dog. The DVD goes into detail on pack drive. Becoming a pack leader is not about bullying a dog but rather becoming the dog's friend and then establishing the rules in how you relate to the dog. When this is not done correctly owners end up with dominance and aggression problems.

Occasionally I buy an adult dog to introduce into our breeding program here at the kennel. Even if the dog is already trained I run it through my obedience program. I never assume the previous training was correct. I never assume the previous owner had a good relationship with the dog or that the dog enjoyed training. So I teach the dog what I expect and it learns through our work that I am always fair, that I am always consistent, and that I make training fun. This is the foundation of the relationship that I have for the rest of this dog's life.

I have been doing training tapes for almost 24 years - I feel this is the best tape I have done.

HER RESPONSE TO HAND FEEDING:

Well we tried hand feeding the pup because it was recommended by another web site, there may be no reason for it as far as your concerned but when you have children around dogs and the children are likely to be walking around with food in their hands and possibly feeding the dog

then the dog should take the food gently from their hands!

I agree totally with the pack and the ranking of dogs within a family, all the more reason for our puppy to learn its place within our family and not grab food out of peoples hands drawing blood, if it is allowed to continue then it will be taking food from the children's hands when not offered to the pup and I think there is every reason to stop this behavior now.

I will ask someone more knowledgeable than yourself but thanks for your effort of advice anyway.

ED'S RESPONSE TO WHY HAND FEEDING IS A BAD IDEA:

Go for it – I am always impressed with a smart mouth.

The fact is that feeding from the hand is exactly the opposite thing to teach your dog when you have kids. It teaches them that it's OK to come up and take food from the hand. Then when it comes up to a child with food and the child rears back and screams because the dog is going for the food – the dog strikes out and bites-

The way to control this is with correct obedience training. Then the dog learns the meaning of the word "NO."

So go find someone who knows more than I do.

I have this saying:

You need to be careful about who you listen to on training your dog. "Everyone has an opinion on how to train your dog – just ask your mailman, your neighbor, your hair dresser or barber, or your best friend – the problem is that very few people have the experience to back up their opinions which results in a lot of bad information being handed out"

But when your kids get bit you can always refer back to my web site because I am going to put your stupid response on my site.

[To Top](#)

Remote Collar Pet Training

\$40.00 +s&h



2 Hours 45 Minutes Long

65. QUESTION:

Mr. Frawley,

I am in the process of training our 6 month old GSD with the use of positive reinforcement, prong collar and your training videos. In addition, we are attending an obedience class each Saturday. At the end of each session, anywhere from 10-20 dogs are allowed to run freely in a confined, secure area providing them with "dog socialization". I recently read the material on your site relating to dog parks and the injuries that may occur. My feeling is that I should not let our puppy engage with the other dogs in this situation. Please advice as to whether or not you see this as acceptable practice. Please note that our trainer is very experienced, with 7 well-trained, titled Shepherds. I recently read on your site that we should avoid this type of situation and instead spend the time with him alone. Please advice. Thank you for the information that you provide to dog owners. We are fortunate to own a sweet, sociable, well-behaved dog who is on his way to being well-trained.

Lisa

ANSWER:

I would not be doing this - the risk is of another dog getting too aggressive with your puppy. Once a dog has been attacked by other dogs - most become dog aggressive for the rest of their life.

A better solution is to find an older dog that is 100% totally indifferent to puppies. This teaches the pup that other dogs have nothing to offer and all fun things come from the handler.

[To Top](#)

Vaccinosis



eBook

66. QUESTION ON PUPPIES:

Good Morning Ed,

Just a quick note to say how very much we enjoyed your 8 weeks to 8 months puppy DVD. After having read your website from top to bottom, we did not agree with some of the more conventional issues, but your DVD gone a long way to make us understand these.

I have a question though. Our puppy who is 12 weeks now, seem to scratch excessively, also bites

his thighs, various vets have seen him and agreed that he does not have any fleas or skin problem and explained it as a habitual scratching. They also mentioned that he may need steroids (but won't say why). He has been prescribed antihistamines and also eardrops (?), which made it slightly better, but he seem to still scratch a lot and whines when doing so, so obviously he is in some discomfort.

Do you have any advice on what we should do?

Also we would love to keep him as a house pet, we would to make the most of his intelligence, what other DVDs from the website are suitable for further obedience training later on, without turning him into a protection dog?

Many thanks and kind regards,
Edit

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON PUPPIES:

I can almost 100% guarantee that what you are seeing in your dog are allergies due to vaccinations. You can read about [Vaccinosis](#) on my web site.

If you want to learn what I would do - go to my list of articles and read what I do for allergies. Get the dog off commercial kibble and on an all-natural diet.

Also DO NOT EVER VACCINATE THIS DOG AGAIN!!
Never - you will have to vaccinate for Rabies but

nothing else. If you doubt or question what I say - do your dog a favor and buy the book we sell titled "[Shock to the System](#)".

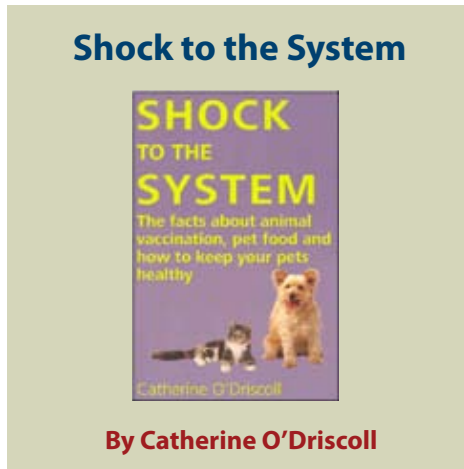
You will also want to get my [Basic Dog Obedience](#) video.

And finally:

I recommend that you direct your questions to my [web discussion board](#). It has over 6,000 registered members. There are some talented people on my board. You will need to register before you can post questions but you can read the board and its EXTENSIVE archives without registering.

The registration process can take a couple of days to get approved. We make people use their real name on the board – not a pseudo name. This eliminates perverts and pukes from posting obscene information on our board. In my opinion this is one of the reasons my web board is so good because there is accountability for peoples' posts when they have their name associated with their post.

[To Top](#)



67. QUESTION:

Hi Ed,

I'm a long time follower of your site and I think it's good that you offer blunt/matter of fact advice.

I have a 6 month old female GSD from German working lines and so far she's been a wonderful dog. I do have a couple of concerns though;

I came home the other night and had forgotten my keys in the house. I have a 3 year old son and a 7 month old daughter and I knew they would both be asleep so I tapped gently on the door trying to get my wife's attention and not wake the kids. The first few taps were in vain as my wife was watching TV in our bedroom so I gradually tapped a little louder when all of a sudden I heard Lucy start barking her head off. My wife

came down the stairs to the door to let me in and Lucy was right there beside her and she had a bit of her hackles raised. Apparently as soon as my wife opened the baby gate at the top of the stairs she ran down and continued barking at the door but it wasn't a happy bark, she sounded pissed off to me as I've heard her play bark a lot. Upon seeing me she went into dopey/lovey mode immediately, but I remember reading on your site about how a puppy shouldn't have these drives yet and that she probably is thin nerved. There have also been a couple of times where she's barked at strangers coming onto our driveway from our front porch or looking out the living room window.

The other concern is a last week we were all out in the front yard (I live in a regular subdivision) and a new neighbor stopped to chat with my wife and I. Our kids were out front and so was Lucy. Lucy went up to him wagging her tail (the usual routine) and was quite affectionate. So we're all there chatting for a min. or two and my son Joey comes around from the side of the house and when my neighbor approached Joey to say hi Lucy started barking and trying to get to my neighbor. I had her on her lead at the time so she didn't get far but she was definitely not happy about this guy approaching our son. After I corrected her she seemed fine and went back to normal and my neighbor came over to her and petted her again. But her initial reaction

bothered me. Is this a bad sign? I'm worried she feels that my son may be omega to her and she feels obligated to protect him and I don't want to worry about the safety of the kids in my neighborhood (or adults for that matter). My neighbor didn't really move abruptly towards Joey but he did walk about 15 ft. from us in Joey's direction without either my wife or I joining him to help with the introductions.

My intention with Lucy was to get involved with Ring Sport or Schutzhund and I'm worried she may not have the nerves for it if this is the case. She has a ton of prey drive and is very eager to please and to date has proven to be extremely social with anybody she meets. She's somewhat wary about new people at the door but she's quick to wag her tail and seek a pet on the head from them once I've let them in the house. She doesn't bark at them, nor has any hackle show going on mind you, she just seems a little wary. Should I be concerned?

Thanks in advance.

Sincerely,
Grant

ANSWER:

Grant,

I guess I am confused here.

This dog, in my opinion, is acting exactly like it

should act. This is what people like me breed dogs to do.

1- I don't particularly like a 6 month old puppy that barks like crazy at a stranger on a walk or something like that. But barking at night when someone is at the door – GOOD FOR HER!!

2- I also think the second issue in the front yard is not this big of a deal. Good for the dog. For one thing you now know your dog is going to be protective. This means you are going to have to either build a dog kennel, use a dog crate and/ or train this dog and not allow it to be around strangers or kids it does not know. Basically you need to be a responsible pet owner. If you wanted a golden retriever that would wag its tail to everyone on the block – well a GSD is not the dog. But with this said it sounds to me like you have a nice dog. In this situation – you did the right thing. You are teaching the dog that this kind of aggression is not warranted and will be corrected. You are teaching her the manners you want her to live by.

3- These issues are not nerve issues. Work the dog in prey drive. Do the work in the DVD [Building Drive and Focus](#) and [PREPARING YOUR DOG FOR THE HELPER](#).

4- You should probable study the work in [HOW TO RAISE A WORKING PUPPY](#).

[To Top](#)

Preparing Your Dog for the Helper

\$65.00 +s&h



4 Hours Long

68. QUESTION:

Mr. Frawley,

17 week old Weimaraner

House with family of two adults and three children

Adult Bichon Frise (three years old)

Two adult cats (four & five years old)

Very large fenced in back yard.

My wife and I recently purchased an 8 week old female Weimaraner back on May 19, 2005. During the first 2 weeks we had the puppy I purchased the Leerburg training video 120-D "Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months" and have been using most of your training techniques. I really have appreciated your training video as it has helped

greatly in our puppy's development and I plan on buying more of your training videos.

I have noticed since she arrived that she has a tendency to eat rather fast when fed. We increased her diet slightly from 3/4 cup to 1 cup three times per day (7am/12pm/5pm). We've been feeding the puppy Old Mother Hubbard's Wellness brand Super5 Mix Puppy food. Increasing the amount feed didn't slow down her eating any. So I placed a few balls in her food dish to physically slow her eating down. However this doesn't slow down her desire to eat fast it just makes it more difficult for her to reach the food in her dish.

So my first question is how do I slow down her eating?

She isn't a possessive eater "YET" as I have been petting her and putting my hands in her food dish while she eats since she arrived our house and she has not growled or nipped at me when doing so. I can see her ribs somewhat and can feel them but I don't feel she is too thin. I've heard and read that it can be a bad thing to overfeed puppies, especially large breed dogs as it can cause too rapid of growth, which can lead to health issues down the road.

Any recommendations on feeding the 17 week old puppy?

Just yesterday the puppy showed her first sign of aggression towards people. The puppy was attempting to get at the trash bags beside the garage while my wife and kids were outside near by doing some yard work. My daughter told the puppy to stop and move away from the trash bags and the puppy growled at her. So my daughter told my wife what happened and my wife then told the puppy to get out of the trash and when my wife went to gently encourage her physically to get out of the area the puppy growled at my wife and bit her hand but didn't break the skin. My wife picked up the puppy and looked into the puppies face and shouted "NO BITE" and then put the puppy into her crate. We have not physically disciplined the puppy by striking her, as I want to avoid creating a timid and flinching dog as I want the puppy to become a family pet that can provide some degree of protection around the house but at the same time I want the dog to fully understand what the pecking order is in our family (pack).

How do you suggest we work on breaking the development of aggressive behavior especially towards people?

As I simply will not tolerate it, especially with children around. We have not any rough housing or wrestling with her from day one as we don't want her to develop any aggressive behavior. We have not seen the puppy react to the older dog

in the house in any aggressive manner other than playing for toys once in a while but by no means has it ever been aggressive with any growling or serious biting.

Thank you very much for your help,
Donovan

ANSWER:

Take a full days food and divide it into three feedings. Feed the dog several times a day.

Your wife did the right thing. Any unwarranted signs of aggression need to be dealt with instantly sternly. This needs to be done within 1 1/2 seconds of when it happened or the dog will not understand.

It's time to make some changes in how you live with the dog. You may want to read the article I wrote on [GROUND WORK BEFORE OBEDIENCE TRAINING.](#)

I would be testing the dog to look for aggressive issues. With this said it is 100% wrong to put food down and then take it away or put food down and stick you hand in the bowl. Pack leaders are fair and feeding the dog and then screwing with his food is not a FAIR thing to do. It only causes stress.

[To Top](#)

The Groundwork to Becoming Your Puppy's Pack Leader



eBook

69. QUESTION:

First of all, I really love your advice!! It's put simply, and it's very reliable! I have used your website for most of my dog training needs, and it has worked fantastically well! But there is one question I still have. I haven't found any mention of this on your site. (If it is on your site, then my apologies, I must not have looked hard enough) My 12 week old puppy refuses to go anywhere with me, or anyone in our family. We try to take her on walks, but she always pulls the other way and whines and cries extremely loudly. We really don't know how to get her to come on walks with us. Is she scared? Or is she stubborn? We tried a prong collar but she pulled and squealed even louder, and still did not come with us. Please help me!

ANSWER:

The dog needs to be on a line - what I like are the [20 foot light weight cotton lines](#) that we sell - when the pup does this we put pressure on the line. Some pups give in to simple pressure - others need to be popped, popped, popped until they understand that it's easier to come than act stupid.

I would recommend you purchase the DVD I produced titled [Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months](#).

I have owned and trained German Shepherds for 40 years. In the past 30 years I have bred over 340 litters of working bloodline German Shepherds. I give this video to all of my puppy customers and never get questions on how to raise a pup.

Read the description of the tape on my web site. Dog training is not rocket science, it's simple common sense ideas on how to handle and train a dog, The DVD has 2 ½ hours of training information along with 15 puppy training articles that I have written.

You should also consider my 4 hour DVD on [Basic Dog Obedience](#) - The fact is you have way more to learn than your dog. I always recommend the handlers start studying this DVD right away even though you won't train a lot of the work until the pup is 4 to 6 months old.

I also recommend that you go to my web site and read the article I wrote on [my philosophy](#) of

dog training. I think you will get some good ideas there.

[To Top](#)

20 Foot Cotton Training Lead



**Great for building drive
training and easier on your
hands than nylon!**

70. QUESTION on Aggressive Puppy:

We have an 11 week old cockapoo that we picked up when he was 7 weeks. Early on he was showing signs of aggressive behavior; we didn't really think anything of it, just a playful puppy. Early this week the pup found a balloon and when my wife tried to get it out of his mouth he growled and bit her pretty hard, viciously. The next day he found a napkin on the floor. I tried to do the same and he really went after me and bit me very hard also.

We called a trainer referred to us by our Vet. He gave the puppy a temperament test, he picked him up cuddled him and then put pressure between the paws, the dog growled and tried to bite him. He told us this was not normal for an 11 week old puppy, that he had inherited problems and that we should either put him down or return him to the breeder. He said this type of behavior is not trainable, and we have young kids.

We would just like a second opinion, what are your thoughts?

Thanks

ANSWER:

I recommend that you go to my web site and read the article I wrote on my [Philosophy of Dog Training](#). I think you will get some good ideas there.

I have a saying that I tell people – it goes like this” Everyone has an opinion on how to train a dog – just ask you barber, your mailman and your neighbor”The problem is very few people have the experience to back up their opinions. This results in a lot of bad information being passed out, so people like yourself need to figure out who has the experience to warrant listening to.

The trainer you talked to falls into this category.

I am writing a book right now on dealing with dominant and aggressive dogs. It will be out in a few months.

I have bred police dogs for 30 years – I have occasionally seen a puppy that needs to be taken down a notch – when they are this age this is not difficult to do. What it requires is to move forward the dogs training – by that I mean start to do training that would normally not be done until the dog was older.

We start with marker training – you can read the article I wrote title [TRAINING WITH MARKERS](#). This is only the beginning – the foundation really - it gives the dog some focus. This only takes a couple of days. In fact we have a new Corgi pup that's doing a lot of what you are talking about and we have done this for 3 days.

In the beginning we will try and re-direct the pup when it gets guardy of an object. We will redirect to a different toy or a different place. If this does not work we will take the dog with two hands and grab both sides of the neck and jaws (se he cannot turn his head and bite) – we will pick him up so his feet are only a few inches off the ground. We will hold him there – look him directly in the eyes and say NO!! Until he calms down. This establishes you as this dogs pack leader. Being a pack leader is key to getting a grip.

If this does not work I will move to the next step and use a [dominant dog collar](#) and a drag line. I have an article on the product page on how to use it.

Once the dog understands that every incident of aggression will result in a correction – with all this said you and your wife need to learn what prey drive is and this should not be considered aggression.

I would recommend you purchase the DVD I produced titled [Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months](#).

I have owned and trained German Shepherds for 40 years. In the past 30 years I have bred over 340 litters of working bloodline German Shepherds. I give this video to all of my puppy customers and never get questions on how to raise a pup.

Read the description of the tape on my web site. Dog training is not rocket science its simple common sense ideas on how to handle and train a dog, The DVD has 2 ½ hours of training information along with 15 puppy training articles that I have written.

You should also consider my 4 hour DVD on [Basic Dog Obedience](#) - The fact is you have way more to learn than your dog. I always recommend the handlers start studying this DVD right away even though you won't train a lot of the work until the pup is 4 to 6 months old.

This is all I can offer other than what's on my web site. Its 5,000 pages.

[To Top](#)

Dominant Dog Collar



Every Dominant Dog needs this collar for training

71. QUESTION:

I have an 11 month old Schnoodle. I'm a first time dog owner. I love my dog, but I really don't always have time to walk her. I really wanted to be able to "let her out" and she would walk in the backyard and go to the bathroom. Therefore I had the invisible fence installed. I should mention that before I installed the fence, I would take her out 3 times a day... in the morning, after work, and before bed. I would walk w/her after work and the other times take her in the backyard or to the curb.

No that I installed the fence a week ago, she is traumatized. She has to be dragged to the backyard or the front and doesn't go to the bathroom there. (Only if she is really desperate.) She already had 2 accidents in the house.

I am so sorry I did this fence. She is afraid to go outside, even w/out the special collar. I have to carry her over the fence and far from the property to get her to go. I find myself confining her to a small area in my house so she won't have an accident. I am afraid I did more harm than good.

I have tried taking her out w/the leash and dragging her around the property so she can see where it is ok to go, but she is not feeling comfortable enough to relax and pee...etc. I have been doing this several times a day since I had it installed a week ago... She is still not good with it. I used to leave her on a leash in the backyard and she would go, now she doesn't... What did I do? Was this a huge mistake?

How, if possible, can I get to the situation where I open the door and she goes out to do her business?

Please Help.
Michele
NY

ANSWER:

When dogs are first introduced to the fence they will do this. It's normal. What you need to do is

still continue to walk your dog – just like you used to. Only now the walks need to be on the street. You should have one spot that she leaves the fence – maybe it has to be in a car – then walk her and put her in the dog crate (if you are not using a dog crate – well that’s second mistake.

Read the article I wrote on [housetraining](#). Also the [Q&A on house training](#).

Back to the fencer. For a period of time – no one knows how long. The dog is going to sit on the back step. Leave her there. Sooner or later she will get bored and venture out.

Bottom line is your dealer should have gone through all of this.

[To Top](#)

72. QUESTION:

I have read a few of your articles on dominance in dogs, but I did not see one on dominance in puppies. My female is 4 months old. She is very high drive and has, over the last few weeks, become extremely dominant over her litter mates (I know you do not like the idea of raising more than one puppy at a time but everyone is afraid to buy the remaining puppies because they are afraid that they are “mean”).

I do not kennel them together, but I have allowed them (there are 4 total) to play together during the day. The smallest female (who is not afraid of anything or anyone) now attacks the puppies when they come close to her. She will grab their back or neck and take them down to the ground growling. She will then stand over them until they submit. When my husband tried to pull her away so we could put her up, she tried to bite him.

We are working them all with obedience, but I am considering sending her to a trainer. The only problem is that I am not sure if she should be corrected at this young of an age. She wears a prong during walks (this is self correction to stop her from pulling and it has worked). I do not want her to be messed up by anyone.

I now do not allow her with the other puppies at all, but I also am concerned about taking her for walks where there will be other puppies. So far, this behavior has not reached beyond puppies (she does not act this way with the adult dog I have).

Any suggestions?

ANSWER:

I recommend that you go to my web site and read the article I wrote on my [philosophy of dog training](#). I think you will get some good ideas there.

With this said – we NEVER allow pups to play together after about 10 weeks. Not ever. It is a huge mistake. By 4 months I want our dogs to be looking at us as the center of their universe. I want them to look to us for their games and leadership.

There is nothing wrong with correcting a puppy for inappropriate pack behavior towards humans. There is a difference between correcting for formal obedience and correcting for inappropriate pack behavior. Dogs instinctually know pack behavior

You have your work cut out for you.

[To Top](#)

The Theory of Corrections in Dog Training



Article

73. COMMENT ON USE OF PUPPY PRONG COLLAR:

Mr. Frawley,

I wrote you last week about my 3 mo. old GS puppy, Abby, who did nothing but bite every time I touched her...petting, putting the leash on or off. etc. I tried everything you suggested and it didn't help at all....she just would not listen to NO or NO BITE and any kind of correction would not stop the biting or jumping on the couch and grabbing the sofa pillows. You said I should get the puppy prong collar and it came in late yesterday. I started using it this morning and I can't believe the difference it has already made. I can pet her and put the leash on, and lo and behold! No bites...just licks my hands. If she acts like she wants to bite I say NO BITE and she doesn't! I have only corrected her twice with the prong collar...maybe level 4... and she's already like a different puppy. She even minds when I tell her NO when she starts to jump on the couch and I haven't corrected with the prong collar for that yet...just the biting. I can't thank you enough for your help...I think I'm on my way to having a very good pet. I have your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months DVD and have ordered your Basic Dog Training DVD. I plan to train Abby as well as I possibly can (with your training techniques) to be a well mannered, obedient, loving and happy dog. Thank you again for your help and guidance.

Jean

74. QUESTION on Puppies:

Ed,

Received your DVD 8 weeks to 8 months, really enjoying it. Two questions: 1) I have half cocker spaniel and Chihuahua that is 14 weeks old. I've had him now for 6 days and started crate training him, he is doing quite good with the exception of peeing on himself when he sees me, and I know he is excited. Any thoughts? He does potty and pee when I take him outside. He only pooped once in the crate and the pee is fresh from excitement. 2) My puppy is very moody about eating, sometimes he eats the whole bowl and other times there is at least half left, I feed the rest by hand. I really don't want to spoil him. Your suggestions?

Thanks again.

ANSWER:

The dog will outgrow this excitement peeing. What we recommend is to not greet the dog until 20 minutes after you come home.

You may want to read the article I wrote titled [The Ground Work to Becoming a Pack Leader](#). This is the protocol we use in our home when we raise a puppy for ourselves.

Do not hand feed the dog. Put the food down for 10 minutes and pick it up.

I can't tell you how important the all-natural diet is. It will be the most important decision you make for your dog if you put him on it.

I have written several articles on the [all-natural diet](#). If you go to my list of [training articles](#) you can find the links.

If you would like to get additional information go to my web board and learn to use the archives of the board. There is a great deal of information there. Over 90,000 posts on living with dogs. My board is very active and a number of members feed all-natural. Use the board search function to find what you need.

ALSO read the article I wrote on [Vaccinosis](#).

You have way more to learn than your dog. Get the 4 hour [Basic Dog Obedience](#) DVD now and study.

Good luck

[To Top](#)

Feeding a Raw Diet



eBook

75. QUESTION on Puppy Correction:

Dear Ed,

I am a first time dog owner who recently purchased a toy poodle puppy at 8 weeks old. She is now 12 weeks. I got a toy breed because I live in an apartment and because this is my first dog. I chose a breed in which I thought would be easy to train and be a good house pet. Even from 8 weeks, I started doing basic training at home, and she very quickly learned to sit, down, stay, and come (although she really only comes consistently when she knows I have food). She seemed like a normal puppy--very active, playful, and mouthy--although I have noticed that she nips and bites and jumps a lot when she gets excited. Unlike my friend's toy poodle, which immediately stops biting or chewing when told

a firm no, my puppy seems to think I am playing when I tell her no and hold her mouth together (advice from some books that I have read). I have also tried to immediately cease all playing and ignore her when she gets overexcited and starts to nip, but she doesn't seem to get that either. She will go on to try to do something else but immediately when you resume play time she will start to bite again.

Since she is so tiny, (only 2.64 pounds!), and so young, I did not correct her firmly, until tonight....

I love her very much, and she is a very lovable puppy. But out of the blue tonight, when I was playing with her, I threw a blanket (the one that came with her from the breeder) over her head, so she can go fetch, and she started to growl at me. We play fetch all the time, it's a game that she loves. I told her a firm no, and then she started barking at me! I was really caught off-guard...I have read your website a lot, so I know about the instincts to challenge for the leader position, but when she growled at me, I was totally confused-unsure of whether she was playing, I again told her a firm no and then turned to ignore her (again, many trainers say to just ignore bad behavior and award good ones). My dog didn't seem to care, and just went on to play with her toys. About 3 minutes later, she tried to chew some electric wires under my desk, and I told her a firm no, and she backed off. Then, she tried to chew my magazine resting on a low books shelf. I

told her no again, and then SHE GROWLED AT ME AGAIN. This time, since we were NOT playing, I knew that she was challenging me. I immediately got up, scolded her, she tried to run away but I grabbed the scruff of her neck and shook her until she yelped, then I let her go immediately. She was shocked, since I had never really physically punished her before, and then she went on to chew her toy quietly on her snuggle puppy toy. Since she calmed down, I then went over to pet her and praise her for being a good girl.

After that, I felt her behavior towards me was not the same. She seemed uncertain, a bit fearful. When I put her in her crate to take a shower, she yelped and barked and whined LOUD and consistently, which she hadn't done since her first week. She stopped making noise once I came back into the room, and then I waited a bit, asked her to sit, and then let her out. Since her first week. She makes NO NOISE in her crate and generally seems okay to be there until we let her out. The weirdest thing is that, just 15 minutes before the whole growling incident we were doing training together--I would have her stay, walk away to the other end of the room, and then tell her to come--when she did, I gave her a treat and praised her. She listens always when she sees that I have a treat. When she sees that I don't, it often takes a few tries for her to sit or down for me. She is so young though--I thought she was doing well enough for her age.

Like I said, this is my first dog and I have no idea what I did was right or wrong. I am so afraid that I turned a perfectly good puppy into a fearful one by perhaps over-correcting her--and that this will do irreversible damage to her, or terrible damage to our bond. I have read so much conflicting materials about how to raise a puppy....which explains my inconsistency in my behavior towards her. But is it normal for such a young puppy to growl and bark at the owner when they tell them to back off from something?? But what should I have done? Was she challenging me or was she just being a puppy? What should I do going forward??

For context, I make her sit or down every time before she eats or gets let out of the cage, or before I pet her when she wants to be petted. She sleeps in her crate and not our bed, although she is allowed into the bedroom when we are there. Other times, we shut the bedroom door so she has no access. It is not always possible for us to eat before she does, as my husband gets home quite late sometimes and we usually have very late dinners. So, I usually feed her before us. We crated the first few weeks while we ate, but now we give her a chewy treat so she chews besides us while we eat.

When she growled at me, I all of a sudden felt like she was a different dog, like she has another personality or something.

I understand that you are busy, and answering a question about a toy poodle puppy might not be your priority. But, like you said, just because she is small doesn't mean that I want her to get away with inappropriate behavior....I would really appreciate your help.

ANSWER:

This is 100% an OWNER problem and not a dog problem. It's a lack of education issue. Don't feel bad -- this is VERY COMMON.

The way your pup is acting is normal puppy behavior. It's your job to learn how to manage this behavior WITHOUT squishing the pup's temperament (personality).

I recommend that you go to my web site and read the article I wrote on [my philosophy of dog training](#). I think you will get some good ideas there.

You may want to read the article I wrote titled [The Ground Work to Becoming a Pack Leader](#). This is the protocol we use in our home when we raise a puppy for ourselves.

I would recommend you purchase the DVD I produced titled [Your Puppy 8 Weeks to 8 Months](#).

I have owned and trained German Shepherds for 40 years. In the past 30 years I have bred over 350 litters of working bloodline German Shepherds. I

give this video to all of my puppy customers and never get questions on how to raise a pup.

Read the description of the tape on my web site. Dog training is not rocket science it's simple common sense ideas on how to handle and train a dog, The DVD has 2 ½ hours of training information along with 15 puppy training articles that I have written.

You should also consider my 4 hour DVD on [Basic Dog Obedience](#) - The fact is you have way more to learn than your dog. I always recommend the handlers start studying this DVD right away even though you won't train a lot of the work until the pup is 4 to 6 months old.

You are always going to be exposed to people who offer advice on how to fix your dog's behavioral issues. The problem is that most of these people don't have the experience to offer sound advice. I have a pre-written script I send people to make it easier to place some faith in my advice. It goes like this:

" Everyone has an opinion on how to train a dog – just ask you barber, your mailman and your neighbor."

The problem is very few people have the experience to back up their opinions. This results in a lot of bad information being passed out on how to deal with behavioral problems.

Pet owners like yourself need to figure out who has the experience to warrant listening to. Dog training for me is not a hobby. It's a way of life. I have been training dogs for over 45 years. I have bred over 350 litters of working bloodline German Shepherds, I was a police K9 handler on a drug task force for 10 years and I have produced over 120 videos on dog training. Many of them directed towards professional dog trainers.

If my web site were printed out it would be over 10,000 pages. It has over 300 training article and the web board has over 90,000 posts with 8,000 plus registered members. It's the largest dog training web site on the Internet.

Learn to use my web site search function.

[To Top](#)

**Ground Work to
Establish Pack Structure
with Adult Dogs**



eBook

76. QUESTION:

I have a 9 month old Doberman. I am training her to run the house while I am away. She gets on the bed and chews the blankets. She does not touch anything else in the house and she knows it is bad. She truly does nothing else wrong, no trash, furniture, shoes, nothing. My last dobe did the same thing with our bedding for almost a year and a half before finally quitting. They sleep on the bed, so they are not jealous. She gets a treat every time she is good. Do you have any ideas?
Thanks

ANSWER:

This is not a dumb dog problem – it's a stupid owner problem.

Would you leave a 3 year old child loose in the house while you went someplace? I think not. We don't even think about leaving a dog loose in the house when we are gone until its 2 ½ to 3 years old.

[To Top](#)

77. QUESTION:

Mr. Frawley,

The breeder from whom we purchased our dog, suggested we check out your site or contact you about a problem we are encountering with our

pup, Jake. I have been a reader of your site and have gotten a lot of wonderful info from it.

Background. Jake's dad is from a Czech line. We obtained Jake when he was 11 weeks old. We were unable to make the trip until then and the breeder agreed to keep him for us. When we went to pick him up he seemed a little shy but not much. He warmed up almost immediately. He was living around other younger pups and several older dogs but no longer in the same crate. His litter mates had already gone. When we got him home he was fine with our grown Shepherd and seemed normal until a friend came. He completely freaked out. Was scared to death of her. He went to any lengths to get at least 20 feet away. We have tried to have him around people but have not allowed people to try to pet him. He has to at least be manageable for vet visits. He has gotten only a little better but now has added dog aggression to his problems. He is afraid of even small dogs or puppies. His tail is between his legs but he lunges, snarls and barks then jumps behind me. That I have seen, he has not actually made contact with his teeth. He is still very good with our other shepherd. They play without problems. Jake is now 4 1/2 months.

He was easily crate trained, house broken. Have been teaching basic obedience which he learns quickly but going easily because I don't want to make him afraid of me. He is well behaved but we do crate him when we cannot watch him. I really

have no issues with him other than his fear and subsequent aggression.

My question is do you have any suggestions? We consulted a couple of behaviorists. One suggested we take delicious treats, stand near the pet store at a distance he could tolerate, start feeding him treats when we see a dog and as time goes on get closer to dogs, still feeding him treats.

The other suggested we find people who had dogs with good dog social skills and let him associate with the dogs. That is really not feasible because most people do not want a snarling dog around their dogs.

As an aside, our older shepherd is obedience trained, well behaved with no social problems.

I hope this has all made sense and hope I have included all the info you need.

I would appreciate any suggestions you could make.

Thank you very much,
Ruby

ANSWER:

This is a genetic issue. You are not going to socialize it out of your dog – your goal should be to control it. This is not an uncommon thin with Czech bloodlines – many of them are very sharp

dogs – which translates into puppies that act like yours and grow up to be aggressive.

The advice from both of these people is standard advice but probably will not work.

All I can recommend is to continue to train this dog with [markers training](#) – [train him in drive](#).

I would not allow other dogs near my dog. Not ever. There is no need for this – dogs are pack animals and strange dogs are not part of your dog's pack – you manifest his fears because he EXPECTS YOU as his pack leader to keep him safe from other dogs and strange people. In not doing this you make him neurotic. In other words – in his dog language – you are failing as a pack leader. This is a common mistake. People expect dogs to learn our language when in fact most people make very little effort to learn dog language

This dog will make an excellent personal protection dog when it is an adult. It will not be a social dog – teach it the place command – I recently added a podcast on teaching the place command.

[To Top](#)

78. QUESTION on Puppy Eating Rocks:

My family has just received 5 of your videos and the heavy-duty nail clipper. We're thankful for the

info that your videos offer. We haven't worked through all of them yet, but we will shortly.

My urgent question today concerns our 11-week old Shiloh Shepherd puppy Toby eating rocks, mulch chips, and other dangerous items every time he's outdoors. His focus is entirely on the ground and on lunging, pulling, and otherwise getting to those novelty items. Forget about walking nicely on leash. At this point, we'd be lucky to get him to adulthood. His full brother from the same litter, Teddy, owned by another family, has just had a near-death experience with ingested rocks cutting up his intestines. We're fearful that Toby will meet with the same or even worse fate unless this habit is stopped right away.

We read your puppy FAQ on this issue, recommending a muzzle or e-collar to stop the pup from trying to eat inappropriate items. But the breeder is dead set against this because "puppies like to explore the world using their mouths," they should be gently guided towards appropriate things to do, and these methods are too "harsh" for a 3 month old puppy. Believe me; we don't want to use force if force isn't necessary. So far, no amount of leash popping on his flat leather collar or redirection has worked. In fact, he doesn't even seem to feel the leash corrections, he just pulls harder the other way, forcing us to literally drag him away from the dangerous objects. We've had to wrestle rocks out of his mouth no less than a dozen times just

in the 10 days that we've had him. We tried giving him a ball to carry in his mouth, but he drops it in favor of scavenging for stuff on the ground.

We're afraid to even go walking with him. His health is our biggest concern. He is constantly supervised and NEVER outside without being on leash. Even at that, unless his neck is constantly suspended on a taut leash, he WILL get to the ground and scrounge up things, despite all our corrections and best efforts.

We are confused as to what to do. In 8 weeks to 8 months, you advocate not correcting puppies except on the Come command, reasoning that this is the command they MUST perform because one day it could mean the difference between their life and death. We also view this eating rocks, sticks, etc. in the same light. Is it appropriate for us to do what is necessary to correct this bad habit? Will correcting this habit somehow scar or traumatize the puppy? If so, is the following sequence of things to try correct?

1. Treats, toys, and praise to redirect him to us. Leash pops when he's not paying attention.
2. #1 plus prong collar to make corrections more effective. (We worry about a prong collar being too harsh for use on a puppy.)
3. E-collar on very low stim to teach him that eating things off the ground hurts. We then offer toy immediately to redirect him to appropriate mouth items.
4. Muzzle. (We live in Texas and with this heat;

we worry about suffocation and heatstroke. Plus, how do we give him treats to reward him for walking on leash correctly when he has a muzzle on?

Please give us your thoughts on this topic, and advise us on what to do to keep Toby safe. In your experience, by what age do puppies typically usually grow out of this very worrisome habit? Thank you for your time and expertise.

ANSWER:

We teach our pups the meaning of the word YUCK. We use a puppy prong collar or a remote collar. We start with the prong - trust me a pup quickly learns that when we say YUCK he spits out anything that's in his mouth. This happens on the first day.

These pups are always on a leash.

With this said there is nothing wrong with doing the drive building work in the DVD [Building Drive and Focus](#). This work builds drive for a puppy tug - you can use this to give your dog the YUCK command and when it spits then toss the tug down. When his mouth is full he will not pick up rocks.

I can assure you that this work does not hurt the drive of the pup- and as you say - if you don't do it your pup will probably have serious problems.

The remote collar work is explained in my DVD

on [Remote Collar Training for the Pet Owner](#). It's all low level stimulation (NOT SHOCKING THE DOG). The level of stimulation amounts to an eye blink, a slight neck twitch or spiting out a rock. There is no pain involved in this training; it just makes the pup uncomfortable.

We are currently adding this work to a new version of my puppy DVD.

[To Top](#)



79. QUESTION on Puppy Kindergarten:

I have just purchased your DVDs on Basic Obedience, Raising a Working Puppy, and Training Focus and Drive. I have previously owned a working line GSD, but had adopted him at 6 months old, well after he had been started in training towards Schutzhund titling. Due to unfortunate personal circumstances, he had to go back to my co-owner and was later placed

with a disabled man for personal protection. Therefore, I haven't learned everything I need to know to title my new GSD puppy, which is a very well-bred puppy showing wonderful potential for Schutzhund, which is why I purchased your DVDs and plan to purchase more.

My question is that I am being pushed to join a local puppy kindergarten class by the owner/trainer who said the following when I told her that I was going to pass on her class and train my pup at home on my own:

"Hi Trene,

I am going to be a little pushy here and try to convince you to come to puppy class. Puppy class is great for the socialization of all breeds and all pups! It is in puppy classes that pups meet other breeds, other people besides their owners and grow to be the wonderful dogs we expect them to be! Hope you'll reconsider coming and if you do, come 1/2 hour early so I can catch you up to everybody else.

There are two other pups in the class that are from your breeder in Marengo too.

I don't offer Schutzhund training here. I have worked to varying degrees in Schutzhund with my Malinois but have never had her titled. One of the other GSD owners is very interested in pursuing Schutzhund also and has a Police K9

dog that is working now. He is an Officer in Utica and is pretty knowledgeable in that particular venue.

I don't train the Leerburg way. I work on relationship building and have found even working dogs need this very tight bond to perform to their optimum level.

Let me know if you are interested in class and I'll get you directions.

Take care,
Pam XXXXXXXX
CPDT, CDBC"

Do you have any opinions, comments or advice for me?

Thank you!

Trene

ANSWER:

I wonder what she means when she refers to the Leerburg WAY. You may want to refrain from answering that until after you have watched my work on DVD – it's funny how people have opinions about things they know nothing about.

Tell her to listen to [my philosophy of dog training](#) and ask her what she disagrees with.

I would recommend that you have this person listen to my podcast on [WHO PETS MY PUPPY](#).

Also the podcast on [TRAINING WITH MARKERS](#).

The problem with a lot of well intentioned people is that they have opinions on dog training and they lack the experience on the correct way to do it. I would say this person falls into this category. I am not a fan of puppy classes. They have nothing to offer your dog. Your pup is a pack animal and these other dogs are not part of their family pack.

I get many, many emails every day with serious behavioral problems in dogs – almost all of these people have taken their dogs to obedience class and wonder why these still have these problems. It's because obedience is only 20 to 25% of raising a dog – the rest is pack structure and establishing pack structure is not able learning to be around other dogs.

You made the right decision.

[To Top](#)

80. QUESTION:

Hi! I just got a 2 Month puppy (Golden Retriever/ Lab/Cocker Spaniel mix) from the Humane Society. I live in an apartment with a roommate and our puppy doesn't have access to a yard. We take her out once a day, but that is about all we can do and it isn't like a huge green area. So we are trying to train it with the potty pads which I read you are against, but it's the best we can do. So do you have any advice on training a

puppy with the pads? We are also doing the crate training as well, but when its time for her to go to the restroom we try and make her go on the pad. Please, some advice would be great! Thank you so much!

-Addie

ANSWER:

You cannot reinvent the wheel. If you can't take the dog outside then hire a dog walker to come and take it out. Anyone who says they can only take a dog out once a day should not own a dog.

[To Top](#)

81. QUESTION:

Mr. Frawley,

I have purchased your puppy DVD and the basic dog obedience DVD they are both full of valuable information. I have a question about my 16 week old GSD. When she comes into contact with dogs on our walks or if a dog comes up to our fenced yard she will start to cry and she will pee. When I say contact it is probably 10 feet between the two dogs on our walks. Yesterday, she started barking first and then she started crying and peed. We also have an older dog at home that the puppy gets along with fine and has no problems. I was wondering if this is a socialization issue and is something that she will grow out of

with proper socialization. If it is what would you recommend for the proper socialization of our puppy?

Thank you for your time,

Joe

ANSWER:

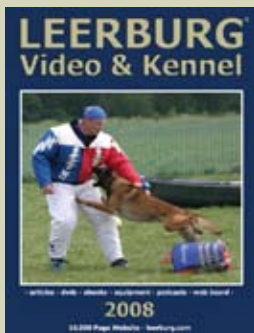
First thanks for your business.

We don't allow dogs to be near our pups – not ever and not for any reason. Dogs are pack animals and strange dogs are not part of their family pack. Your pup EXPECTS YOU TO PROTECT it from these strange dogs. In the wild a mother would kill a strange wolf that came near its pups. Pups genetically expect this and when you don't provide this protection you lose face in the eyes of your dog. When you protect it you build your bond.

[To Top](#)

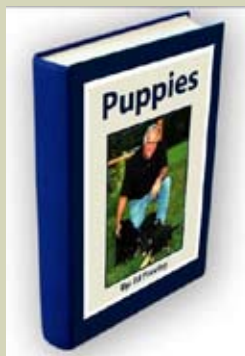
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