



Making life less stressful for you and your dog  
**THE DOG DORK DIGEST**  
 NEWS FROM POSITIVE INTERACTIONS DOG BEHAVIOR AND TRAINING

23Q2 Newsletter Volume 1

### ✦ Highlights ✦

#### It's A Journey...

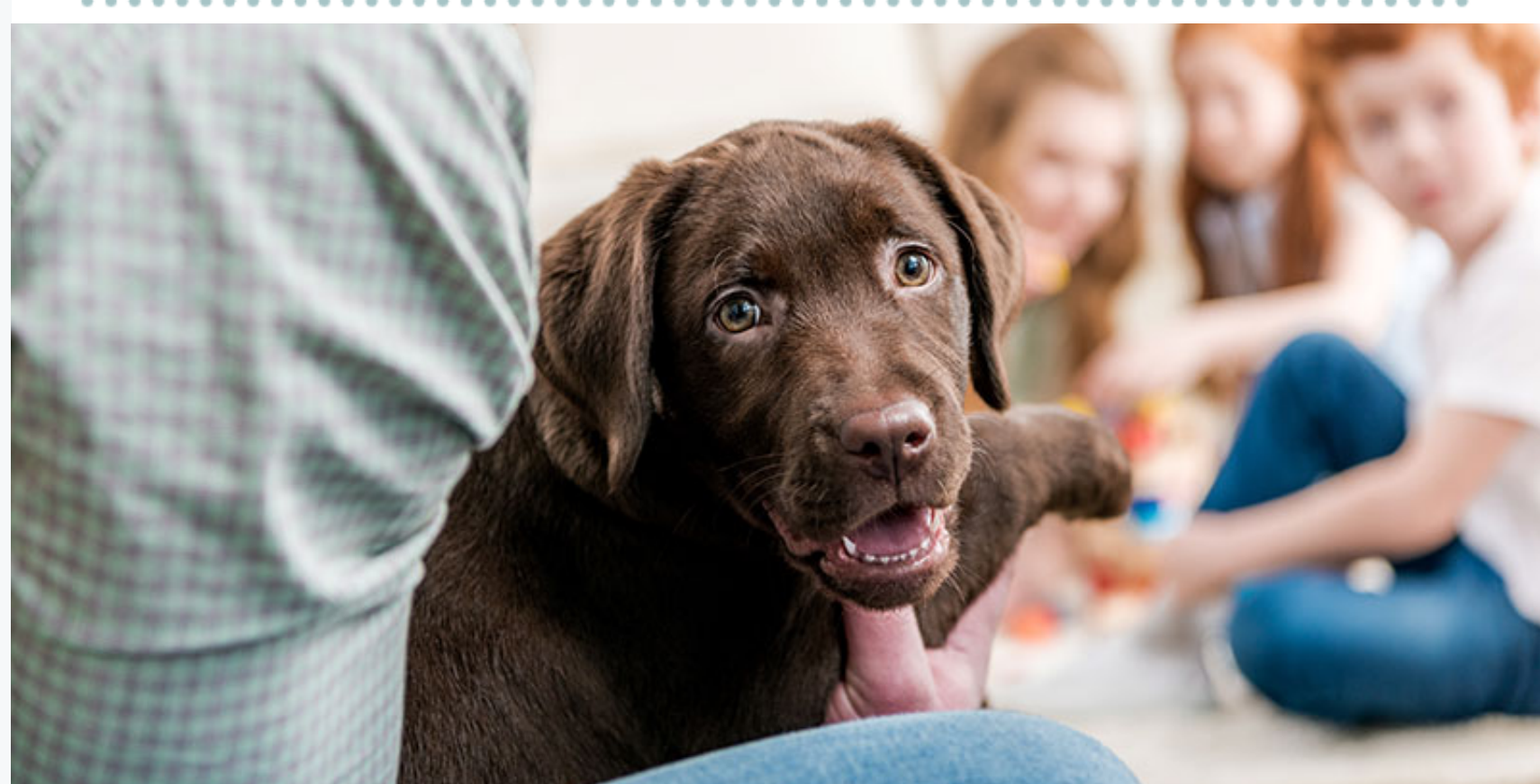
I began working with a 7 month old, mixed breed dog named Linus in 2021. His caregivers were asking for help with Linus's reactive behavior of barking, growling, and lunging when he saw other dogs and people on walks, and when visitors came to the house.

During the initial consult with Linus and his caregivers, I was able to observe Linus. Since dogs communicate almost exclusively with various parts of their bodies (mouth, eyes, ears, body weight, tail carriage), I was able to assess what might be motivating Linus's behavior. Linus's body language, social history, and history of reinforced behaviors, indicated that his aggressive behaviors of growling, barking and lunging at other dogs on walks and visitors to the home, were due to a fear of those triggers.

We then began implementing a behavior modification plan that involved preventing Linus from reacting to his triggers as much as possible, helping Linus learn to feel more positive about his triggers, and teach him some new behaviors to replace his growling, barking, and lunging behaviors. In addition, Linus began taking medication that helped with his training, along with attending reward-based, group training classes.

As a result, Linus has begun to be more relaxed with visitors in the home to the point that a pet sitter will be able to stay with Linus, allowing his caregivers to go on a long-awaited vacation!

## LIVING WITH DOGS



### 4 tips on surviving puppies + toddlers

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

#### 1. First impressions matter

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

#### 2. Supervise, supervise, supervise

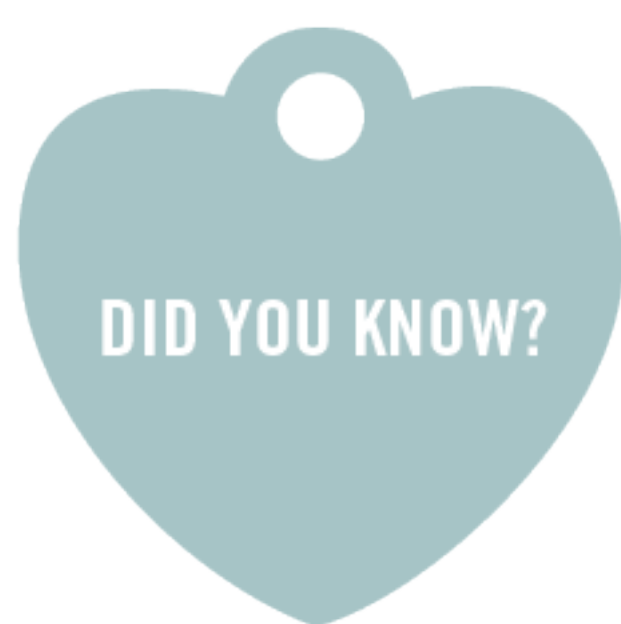
Young children can get pretty hysterical about puppies, with lots of hugging, picking them up and grabbing. There's no bad intent here, but it can be scary for dogs! Canine communication is very different to ours, which is why active supervision is essential to keep everyone safe. Intervene early and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

#### 3. Set everyone up for success

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

#### 4. Low stress interactions

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



#### These Movie Dogs?

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

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

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

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

French proverb

**"The best thing about a man is his dog."**



## OUR SERVICES

All services use reward-based training techniques that are supported by up-to-date scientific research. After agreeing upon what your goals are for you and your dog, a behavior change plan will be developed and recommended based on how best to work to achieve those goals.

**AGGRESSION AND REACTIVITY** - Behavior modification and training for: intra-household dog aggression; human directed aggression; resource guarding; aggression when handled for grooming, vet exams, putting on harness, collar, or leash; leash reactivity directed at humans, dogs, kids, cars, bike.

**BASIC MANNERS TRAINING** - Training for adolescent and adult dogs addressing common problem behaviors such as jumping up, nipping, chewing, over-arousal, in addition to teaching good manners: sit, down, wait, come when called, trade, leash walking skills, and others.

**PUPPY TRAINING** - Teaching your puppy skills for: house training; crate training; mouthing and chewing; jumping up; stealing objects. Introduction of important foundational skills you can implement with your pup now and build from as they mature: learning how to relax; appropriate socialization to novel experiences. Introduction of basic manners: sit, down, wait, come when called, trade, and others.



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