



Making life less stressful for you and your dog

THE DOG DORK DIGEST

NEWS FROM POSITIVE INTERACTIONS DOG BEHAVIOR AND TRAINING

I recently completed a six month long, master course in behavior consulting with Dr. Kristina Spaulding. It allowed me the unique opportunity to discuss my more difficult cases with other behavior consultants, helping me to better serve my clients and their dogs.

✧ *Highlights* ✧

Did you know our dogs can be effected by poor air quality just like us? The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) warns pet owners that wildfire smoke can harm pets to the same degree it bothers humans. Senior dogs, dogs with cardiovascular or respiratory disease, and brachycephalic breeds (pugs, bulldogs) are especially at risk.

During times of poor air quality, follow these AVMA guidelines:

- Keep your dog indoors as much as possible and keep windows shut.
- Avoid intense outdoor exercise and restrict your dog's outside time to brief potty breaks.
- If your dog is experiencing any signs of air quality irritation (coughing or gagging, difficulty breathing, or irritation of the nose, throat or mouth), consult your veterinarian right away.

And don't forget to increase your dog's indoor enrichment activities, especially during times of limited outdoor physical exercise, to provide appropriate outlets for release of pent-up energy and stress.

Learn why mental enrichment is so important for your dog and simple ways to provide it by contacting Positive Interactions Dog Behavior and Training,

<https://positiveinteractionsdogbehaviorandtraining.com>



Does your dog know if you're nice?

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

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

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

So what did the researchers learn? At the end of each experiment those involved in the trials offered the dog a treat at the same time. In every scenario, dogs were happy to take a treat from the helpful or neutral person, but were

reluctant to receive a treat from those they saw acting 'selfishly.' Which just goes to show - we should be on our best behavior around our dogs! In fact, the researchers suggested that dogs may make social judgments in very similar ways to human infants.

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



Staying safe in the car

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

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

Orhan Pamuk

"Dogs do speak, but only to those who know how to listen."



OUR SERVICES

The majority of my cases involve more complex reactive and aggressive behaviors. However, I very much enjoy working with new puppy owners who are seeking help with the newest addition to their family.

Our work together will include helping your puppy become comfortable and confident through positive interactions with the sights, sounds, and experiences in the environment,

I'll also lay the foundation for a puppy you can enjoy now and throughout his entire lifetime by helping you tackle undesirable, common puppy behaviors like nipping, chewing, housetraining issues, jumping up, and more, and replacing those unwanted behaviors with more desirable ones.

All puppy training begins with a 90-minute Initial consult, which is \$165. I begin by meeting you and your puppy at your home, then assess and discuss your training goals that fit you and your family's lifestyle.

Some management strategies along with basic training techniques will be introduced to help you get started with changing your puppy's unwanted behaviors.

I'll then help you choose the training option best for you and your puppy's needs – one that is doable and fun!

If you choose to continue with training, personalized sessions will be billed at the rate of \$135/one-hour session. Discounts are available for packages of four (4) or more sessions.



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