



Making life less stressful for you and your dog

THE DOG DORK DIGEST

NEWS FROM POSITIVE INTERACTIONS DOG BEHAVIOR AND TRAINING

2023Q3 Newsletter Volume 2

★ *Highlights* ★

Thanksgiving and Dogs

Safety Tips from the American Veterinary Medical Association

Thanksgiving is a special holiday that brings family and friends together, including our pets. It also can bring some hazards for our dogs so follow these guidelines to help keep your dog safe and healthy this Thanksgiving.

Avoid giving your dog food from your Thanksgiving Day meal. Fatty foods are difficult for dogs to digest. Poultry bones can damage your dog's digestive tract while holiday sweets can contain ingredients that are poisonous to dogs.

Turkey or turkey skin, even in small amounts can cause a life-threatening condition known as pancreatitis. Additional poisonous foods for dogs include onions, raisins and grapes.

No desserts for your dog. Chocolate can be harmful for dogs and the artificial sweetener xylitol, often used in gum and sugar-free baked goods, can be deadly if consumed by dogs.

Yeast dough can cause problems for dogs, including painful gas and potentially dangerous bloating.

Put the trash away where your dog can't get to it. A turkey carcass sitting out on the table, or left in a trash container that is open or easily opened, could be deadly to your family dog. Dispose of all turkey carcasses and bones

and anything used to wrap or tie the meat, such as strings, bags and packaging, in a covered, tightly secured trash bag placed in a closed trash container outdoors (or behind a closed, locked door).

Place decorative plants out of your dog's reach. Certain flowers and festive plants can be toxic to dogs. These include amaryllis, Baby's Breath, Sweet William, some ferns, hydrangeas, and more.

If you believe your dog has been poisoned or eaten something he shouldn't have, call your veterinarian or veterinary emergency clinic immediately. You can also call the ASPCA Poison Control Hotline ([888-426-4435](tel:888-426-4435)) or the Pet Poison Helpline ([855-764-7661](tel:855-764-7661)). Signs of pet distress include: sudden changes in behavior, depression, pain, vomiting, or diarrhea. Contact your veterinarian immediately if your dog shows any of these signs.

Visitors can upset your dog. Some dogs are shy or excitable around new people or in crowds, and Thanksgiving often means many visitors at once and higher-than-usual noise and activity levels. If you know your dog is nervous when people visit your home, put him in another room or a crate with a favorite toy. This will reduce the stress on your dog and protect your guests from possible injury. If your dog is particularly upset by houseguests, talk to your veterinarian about possible solutions to this common problem. Any dog can bite.

Watch the exits. Even if your dog is comfortable around guests, watch them closely, especially when people are entering or leaving your home. It's easy to get distracted with people coming and going resulting in you not noticing your dog has bolted out the door.

Make sure your dog has proper identification with your current contact information (a microchip with up-to-date, registered information, ID tags) so you and your dog can be reunited if he were to escape from the house.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

DOGS IN ACTION





Whizz the Water Rescue Dog

Newfoundlands are renowned for their exceptional swimming abilities and were originally bred to help fishermen in cold waters. They're now often trained to assist people who are drowning. One extraordinary Newfoundland, Whizz, passed away in 2016 and left an unparalleled legacy as a water rescue dog.

Throughout his remarkable career, Whizz saved numerous lives, rescuing nine people and one fellow dog from drowning. He was posthumously honored with the prestigious Order of Merit by the veterinary charity PDSA in the UK, in recognition of his exceptional work.

Among his notable rescues, Whizz made headlines in 2007 when he saved an Irish Setter named Topper from a frigid water tank without any instruction. He also rescued two children who drifted out to sea in an inflatable dinghy, saving both lives.

Collaborating with organizations such as the Royal Navy Rescue, the Severn Area Rescue Association, and the Marine Volunteer Service, Whizz's dedication and indomitable spirit are testament to the amazing abilities of dogs.

HEALTHY DOG



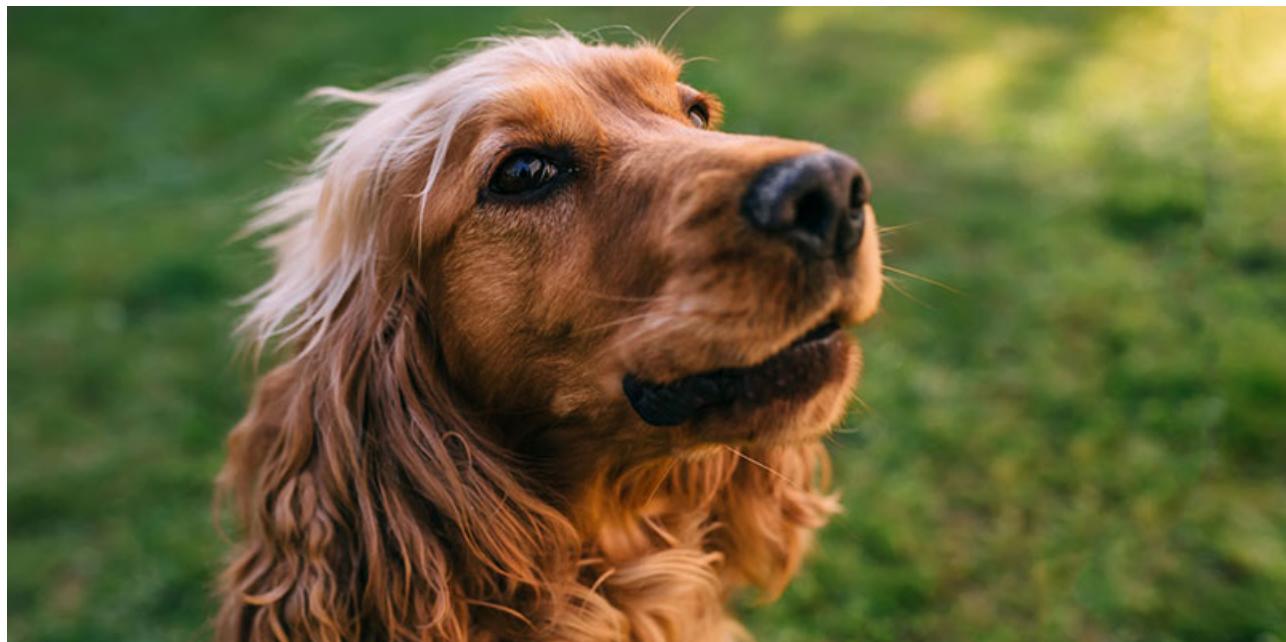
Is Your Home an Ice Rink?

Slippery floors are an often overlooked aspect of keeping your dog safe and healthy. Dogs have different anatomy to us, making them more susceptible to accidents on slippery surfaces. Their paws lack the grip and traction that our shoes provide, making it challenging for them to maintain balance.

Slips and falls can lead to various injuries, ranging from sprains and strains to more severe fractures. Older dogs, young and developing dogs, or those recovering from surgery are especially vulnerable. Slip-related injuries can have lasting effects on our dogs' physical and emotional wellbeing. A fall can not only cause physical pain but also create fear and anxiety around walking on slippery surfaces.

So, what can we do to protect our dogs from slipping and sliding around our homes? Provide traction via non-slip rugs, mats, and carpet runners around your home. Trim nails regularly so your dog's grip is not impeded. Create a dedicated area in your home where your dog can play and relax – either carpeted or with a non-slip surface.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT



English Cocker Spaniel

This dapper little gun dog was originally bred for flushing and retrieving small game. Don't be fooled by her melting spaniel eyes and soft, feathery coat: the Cocker is an all-terrain dog and can be a handful to live with. Exuberant and energetic, she needs lots of exercise and careful positive training.

Cockers love having a job—something scent-related, preferably, otherwise anything demanding will do: agility, obedience, flyball, canine disc, etc. The well-socialized Cocker is affectionate and wants to be part of all family activities. Beware the noise, though, she's quick to alert to doorbells. (A Cocker Spaniel holds the world record for the most persistent barking: 907 times in ten minutes!). With her soulful expression, the Cocker is popular in arts and entertainment too, most famously in Disney's enduring 1955 animated classic, *Lady and the Tramp*.

To give an English Cocker Spaniel a home, search online for nearby rescues.

"Be the person your dog thinks you are." C.J. Frick



OUR SERVICES

Leash Reactivity

A dog who barks and lunges on the leash at other dogs, people, bikes, and trucks can be unpleasant and challenging to walk with. Often, due to their behavior, a leash reactive dog gets walked less frequently and sometimes not at all, which can add to the dog's existing stress.

Positive Interactions Dog Behavior and Training offers training packages designed specifically to help modify leash reactivity.

Contact Positive Interactions Dog Behavior and Training to find out how to get help for your leash reactive dog.



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