



24Q1 Newsletter Volume 1

✧ Highlights ✧

What is a veterinary behaviorist and why would my dog need to see one?

What is a veterinary behaviorist and why might your dog need to see one? As a dog trainer and behavior consultant, dog owners contact me for help with various behavior problems. Typically, the training plan I recommend for my clients, will result in some level of progress towards the goals of that plan. However, if a dog is experiencing significant anxiety in daily life, has multiple stressors that occur daily and are unavoidable, progress can be slower than expected or not seen at all. When this happens, I will often refer the client to a veterinary behaviorist to further evaluate their dog.

The American College of Veterinary Behaviorists says, "A Veterinary Behaviorist is in a unique position to diagnose medical conditions that can affect a pet's behavior, as well as treat conditions that are purely behavioral.

Additionally, these specialists determine which medication(s), if any, would be most appropriate as part of an integrated treatment program that includes behavioral modification plans appropriate to the individual patient."

Behavioral issues can be complex and have many causes. Working with a veterinary behaviorist can help implement and optimize a treatment plan to help you bring about positive change for your dog and you.



Successful Canine Housemates

A new puppy or dog is a time of fizzy excitement and anticipation. If you have an existing dog at home, some careful planning can make things a whole lot smoother. Here are some tips for making the introduction a positive and stress-free experience for both furry friends.

Prepare Your Space: Before the big introduction, consider a neutral space where both dogs can meet for the first time. This helps to reduce the likelihood of tension. Remove any items that your existing dog might be possessive about to avoid potential conflicts.

Controlled Introduction: Keep both dogs on leash during the initial meeting. This allows you better control and an easy way to step in if needed. Choose a calm and quiet environment to minimize distractions and stress for the dogs.

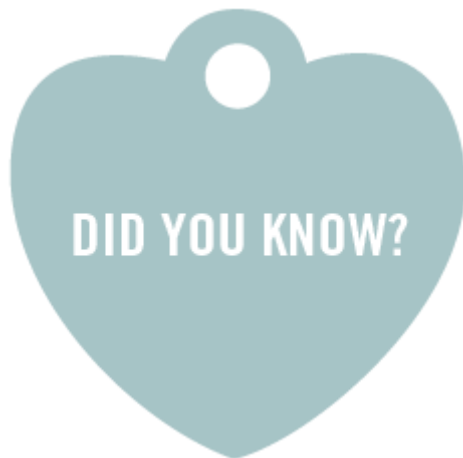
Observe Body Language: Pay close attention to what both dogs communicate with their bodies. Look for signs of curiosity, playfulness, or tension. Positive body language, such as loose wagging tails and relaxed postures, signals smoother sailing. If either dog

displays signs of upset or discomfort, such as stiffness, growling, or bared teeth, separate them and try the introduction again later.

Separate Spaces: Provide each dog their own safe haven, complete with beds, bowls, and toys. This allows your dogs to relax while they get used to each other and reduces the likelihood of conflicts over resources.

Gradual Familiarization: After the initial meeting, gradually increase the time your dogs spend together, always under supervision. Continue to monitor their behavior closely and reinforce positive interactions with praise and treats until you are confident they've formed a solid relationship.

Remember, every dog is unique, and the introduction process may take time. Be patient, stay positive, and celebrate small victories along the way. And if you have concerns, contact a force-free trainer for guidance.



How Many Dog Breeds Exist?

Dogs come in an astonishing variety of breeds, each with its unique characteristics, appearance, and temperament.

- The FCI (World Canine Organization) recognizes over 360 officially registered dog breeds, and the American Kennel Club acknowledges around 197 breeds.
- These numbers are continually evolving as new breeds are developed and recognized. Some arise from intentional crossbreeding, while others result from natural evolution and adaptation to specific environments.
- Originally, dogs were selectively bred for specific purposes, such as herding, hunting, guarding, or companionship. This selective breeding led to the creation of breeds tailored to excel in their designated roles.

Ambrose Bierce

“The most affectionate creature in the world is a wet 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.

Dog Training for Montgomery and Bucks counties in Pa. including Lansdale, Souderton, Harleysville, Perkasie, Doylestown, Warrington, Blue Bell, Skippack, Ambler and Plymouth Meeting. Visits to locations outside this service area may require an additional travel fee.



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