



Making life less stressful for you and your dog

THE DOG DORK DIGEST

NEWS FROM POSITIVE INTERACTIONS DOG BEHAVIOR AND TRAINING

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✧ Highlights ✧

Tough As Nails

Many dogs are uncomfortable having their paws touched and handled which can make trimming their nails challenging. Because of that challenge, a guardian may choose to take their dog to the veterinarian for nail trims. The stress of nail trims combined with the anxiety many dogs experience by visiting the vet, can often intensify negative feelings of having nails trimmed. For that reason, you might want to consider learning how to trim your own dogs' nails.

Why does your dog need to have his nails trimmed? The Whole Dog Journal, "The Importance of Nail Trimming" (By [Denise Flaim](#), March 11, 2016) states, "Long, unkempt nails not only look unattractive, but over time they can do serious damage to your dog (not to mention your floors). When nails are so long that they constantly touch the ground, they exert force back into the nail bed, creating pain for the dog (imagine wearing a too-tight shoe) and pressure on the toe joint. Long term, this can actually realign the joints of the foreleg and make the foot look flattened and splayed.

Again, this isn't just an aesthetic problem, it's a functional one: Compromising your dog's weight distribution and natural alignment can leave her more susceptible to injuries and make walking and running difficult and painful. This is especially important in older dogs, whose posture can be dramatically improved by cutting back neglected nails.

In extreme cases, overgrown nails can curve and grow into the pad of the foot. But even if they are not that out of control, long nails can get torn or split, which is very painful and, depending on severity, may need to be treated by a veterinarian.”

Nails are typically trimmed using nail clippers, scissors, or Dremel (grinder). Learning how to use these tools appropriately and safely is important and should be discussed with your vet if this is something you wish to learn how to do. Another option is to teach your dog to use a scratch board. If you and your dog are comfortable, this might be a husbandry task you can do yourself from the comfort of your home. Even if you decide nail trims aren't a task you want to take on, you can ease some of your dog's stress by helping him learn that paw touches and handling can be a pleasant experience.

For help with this or to learn how to teach your dog to use a scratch board to trim his own nails, contact Positive Interactions Dog Behavior and Training.

DOGS IN ACTION



Guardians of the Gateway

When you think of security at an airport, you might conjure images of uniformed officers, stringent screenings, and those exasperating queues. Yet there's another diligent force working behind the scenes — detection dogs. These remarkable dogs, often German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois, Labrador Retrievers, Beagles, and Springer Spaniels, play a pivotal role in ensuring the safety of air travel.

Trained as expert olfactory detectives, these dogs have a nose for trouble—specifically, the scents of prohibited items, explosives, and illicit substances. Detection dogs undergo rigorous and ongoing training to stay sharp and adapt to evolving threats. Their keen sense of smell, vastly superior to humans, allows them to detect minute traces of odors, even in the bustling environment of an airport.

Unlike static screening methods, detection dogs provide a dynamic and efficient approach. They can navigate through crowds at various airport checkpoints, scanning passengers and luggage for potential threats. In a fast-paced airport environment, their ability to cover vast areas in a short time is a game-changer.

Imagine the countless scenarios where detection dogs have thwarted potential dangers: a subtle whiff of explosives hidden in luggage, the scent of narcotics lingering on a passenger, or the trace odor of illicit substances on cargo. So, there's a big thank you to these impressive canine professionals keeping the skies safe!

HEALTHY DOG



Ticks and Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is a tick-transmitted disease that has been found in nearly all states in the U.S. and in large areas in Europe and Asia. While acquired cases aren't found in Australia and New Zealand, it has occasionally been diagnosed in overseas travelers. Dogs are 50 to 100 times more likely than humans to encounter disease-carrying ticks. Common symptoms include lameness (especially recurrent), fever, lethargy, and swollen lymph nodes. Ticks must be attached to your dog for 48 hours for him to contract Lyme disease, so daily checks and quick removal dramatically ups your chances of keeping your pooch healthy.

To remove a tick, dab the area with rubbing alcohol, then use a pair of tweezers to grab the tick as close to your dog's skin as possible (leaving parts of the tick behind can cause serious problems). Pull straight up; don't twist or jerk the tick. Disinfect the area, wash your hands, and sterilize the tweezers. Monitor the bite site for the next few weeks. If you see redness or swelling, visit your vet right away.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT



The Afghan Hound

This sleek, silk-coated aristocrat of the canine world was originally bred for life in rough mountainous terrain. They now spend more time at the doggie equivalent of the runway: the dog show. Afghans, like other supermodels, require a great deal of grooming and maintenance. A sighthound bred to catch deer, gazelles, and leopards, the Afghan boasts a top speed of 40 miles an hour and a 270-degree field of vision. The stunning exterior and strong personality of Afghans have inspired writers and artists all through history, not least Picasso, who depicted his beloved Afghan Kabul in both paintings and sculpture. Appropriately, the human companion of Prissy the Afghan in Disney's *One Hundred and One Dalmatians* is an artist. Who better to appreciate a dog as graceful as a ballet of swans?

To re-home an Afghan, search online for a rescue group near you.

Anonymous

“If you can look at a dog and not feel vicarious excitement and affection, you must be a cat.”



OUR SERVICES

Dog Training Gift Cards!

Looking for a thoughtful and useful gift for someone? Give the gift that keeps on giving with a gift card for dog training and behavior modification services with Positive Interactions Dog Behavior and Training.

This is a great gift for that friend or family member who just brought home a new puppy and is a bit overwhelmed with housetraining issues, and the chewing and nipping that all puppies do. Or the co-worker who just rescued a pup and needs some help with leash walking skills for her dog. Consider giving this gift as adonation to your favorite shelter or rescue for a dog or two that needs professional help with their behaviors so that they can find and stay in their furever homes.

It's easy to do.


- Go to positiveinteractionsdogbehaviorandtraining.com under the “Resources” tab, scroll down and click on “Purchase Gift Card”.
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