



THE CANINE CODE TRAINING

DOG BEHAVIOR DISORDERS



THE DIGITAL PRATICAL
GUIDE 2018

The principal disorders of the behavior of the dog and the solutions to train them: barking, aggressiveness, bad character, disobedience, destruction, fugue, cleanliness, fear ..

The synoptic Of Training



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Unit 1

BARKING DOG

Operational objective

Your dog is noisy, he barks a lot and his barking bother you? Here are the solutions for him to stop barking.



Pedagogical objectives

My dog barks

My dog barks as soon as he hears a noise

My dog growls

Why does the dog bark?

How to react when the dog barks?

What to do so that the dog stops barking?

Dog anti bark collar

Dog Training Collar



My dog barks

The behavior of the barking dog is the source of many misunderstandings between neighbors, both in town and in the countryside. The teacher must always consider the neighbors' complaints, even if the dog has reason to bark.

Why my dog barks

Excessive barking may be due to fear, the defense of the territory, a claim (food, play, need to go out ...) or an anxious state. The dog can bark as soon as someone walks past the house or when he hears the elevator. This behavior usually occurs between 4 and 6 months in animals that are not necessarily dominant.

Indeed, the "shy" can react as well. An abnormal situation for the animal, even repeated, can trigger the barking. A dog who lives with his masters during the day and who is put in the garden at night will have this type of behavior. Some small breeds are predisposed to barking. It is necessary, given the risks, to refuse the slightest "slippage" from the youngest age.



My dog barks as soon as he hears a noise

Your dog barks as soon as he hears a daily noise like a horn, another dog bark, a ringing phone ... Fortunately, there are simple solutions to remove these barking that bother you.

As a dog grows up and gets used to his environment, he loses the habit of barking in response to everyday noises that pose no threat to the home, the family and himself. A dog unaccustomed to noises is timid. He does not inform the situation by barking but his emotional state. How to remove barking?

The secret of eliminating unwanted barking would be to train the dog to obey simple commands, such as “come”, “sit”, “rest” or “lying down”. This workout allows the owner to interrupt unwanted behaviors and replace them with an easy-to-execute, rewarding command.

Thus, if the dog barks because he sees the neighbor gardening, his master may ask the animal to come and sit. Once the dog has obeyed (desirable behavior), the master can reward him. This measure makes it possible to make the neighbor forget the dog so that he stops barking and loses this bad habit.

Over time, by frequently asking the dog to come and sit, the teacher teaches him that there is no need to be on guard and that the acceptable behavior (the one who is rewarded) does not include not the barking. The goal is to calm the dog and reward him for his acceptable behavior. The barking warning

Do not shout after the dog as he will bark even harder to cover you. Your screams will excite him and confirm that the situation required many barking. He will not understand that it is after him that you shout.



Ask him to stop by “stop”, stay in front of him without moving until he stops. Wait a few moments and congratulate him. Then go see what’s going on without him.

It is necessary to correct this disorder that a person causes noises in the house. You ask the dog not to move at first then you will see without him and then with him, but he must stay behind you. Then you allow him to go alone and bark only when he is in front of the abnormal “thing”.

The dog must understand little by little that one or two “signals” are enough to warn the master.



My dog growls

Grunting is an integral part of the dog's language, just as speech is part of human language. To want to suppress the growling in the dog would be to forbid the human being to speak.

The causes of the growl

Crouching and showing teeth is part of the dog's natural vocabulary. The dog growls for different reasons, here are the main ones:

- to prevent
- to express his pain
- to express one's fear of the other
- to ensure the defense of the territory
- to prohibit others
- for the defense of his children

The territorial grunt

Defend his territory, his bone, his privileges, his children, etc. The dog growls to defend his space and /or deny access to anything.

In this case, it is very important to analyze the situation and to remain consistent in one's actions. If, for example, you congratulate your dog because he grunts to keep away the rascals making noise in front of your gate, do not be offended if he grumbles during the first visit of your nephew!

Similarly, a mother will naturally protect her cubs, everyone can understand it.

In which case is the growling not acceptable?

The problem arises when the dog claims privileges that are not acceptable. One can not admit that a dog growls to forbid access to an armchair for example, because it is inadmissible for the



dog to claim ownership of the chair.

But it is not the fact that he grunts who is to reprimand, it is the fact that he can think about it that is to modify, upstream.

To answer the grunt by an aggressiveness directed towards the dog, it is to accept the challenge; it is thus to comfort the dog in its position. To give in and let go is just as bad. It is therefore essential to identify the cause of the grunt in order to be able to adopt the appropriate reaction.

If he grunts with pain, for example, take him to the vet without reprimanding him, this is a normal reaction to express discomfort.

However, if he does not want to dislodge the chair in which you would like to sit, it must stop his grunt. Train him with food to his cart to make his bed more attractive than the chair.

If it defends its territory (its garden and its house) when birds come to settle there or that cars pass there a little too close, invite him to be quiet or ignore it but in these cases do not Do not be afraid to bark when a stranger knocks on the door.

In short, each case is different; it's up to you to identify the cause of the grunt to provide the appropriate response and avoid possible behavioral problems that may occur if you do not have the right attitude to the grunts of your dog.



Why does the dog bark?

Your dog spends a lot of time barking, and you really do not understand what he wants to say to you? This article should answer all your questions!

It is important to understand the reasons that cause your dog to bark. If you understand why your dog is barking, it becomes possible to act on the cause before dealing with the annoying behavior.

This is essential because the behavior of your dog is an answer, so if it barks, it is not to annoy you, nor so that you have problems with your neighborhood, even if it will not fail to happen if you do nothing. For example, if your dog is barking because he is bored, you must leave him enough to occupy his long days of loneliness. If your dog is barking in your presence, it's probably because he realized that you were reacting to his barking, so you have to learn to ignore him when he barks and pay attention to him. He is calm in order to make him understand what is necessary and what not to do.

It is possible that your dog barks because he is in great demand from the window or through the fence of the garden: to leave it in another room or to lay a canisse will limit greatly or completely his sight and will probably reduce partially and perhaps even totally his barking.

Finding the cause of your dog's barking should be the first step in solving this problem.

Here are the main reasons that cause a dog to bark:

boredom: the dog expresses his stress of being alone and /or he makes a call to whoever wants to hear him

the vision: he sees people, other dogs or a cat on the wall and gets upset after them, calls them or barks to express his frustration at not being able to join them



noises: he hears a slamming door or elevator, children in the street, another dog barking in the distance ...

the attention: it seeks that one is interested in him and it works, even if it would be to silence him!

compulsive behavior: barking has become a ritual that reassures him, he no longer needs reason, the barking has become a habit

fear: the dog barks to reassure himself, like a child who speaks loudly and speaks to other imaginary people to feel less alone and give himself courage

he speaks: some dogs have learned to interact with humans and express themselves a lot, note that it is quite rare.



How to react when the dog barks?

In an apartment

many dogs have not learned to be alone. For the dog, social animal if it is, loneliness is not natural, so he must learn to stay alone during the day without destroying everything, or to do his needs, nor to kill himself or bark!

Teaching the dog to stay alone very gradually is the solution. Several times 5 minutes the first days. Several times 10 minutes the second week and so on, until your dog can stay a whole day alone at home.

At home

It's about the same thing with an extra step: dogs who have not learned to be alone in it will soon find themselves in the garden where all the reasons for barking are multiplied. If the dog knows how to stay alone in the house calmly, the barking is even less annoying.

It is possible to offer him to be in the garden it is even more pleasant for him: possibility to do his needs when he wants, to stretch his legs, and see the animation of the outside, with a slightly greater risk of barking. The dog's education is essential to limit the phenomenon because very often the dog barks at what he does not know or what scares him.

Therefore, the more your dog will come out and have experience and the less there is reason to bark. It should be known that there are different types of barking, that of boredom (often long and plaintive), that of threat (more dull and accompanied by an unequivocal posture), that of hunting (more acute often pushed by the dog in full race), that of play (more jerky).

Dogs playing barking are a bit of a nuisance, but I admit I do not have the heart to try to stop them, the game is and must remain a moment of relaxation with the least possible constraint,



this is an opportunity for him to do things that would be banned in other situations ... like barking for example!



How to educate your dog to bark less?

Consistency is one of the four most important concepts in canine education, with sociability, obedience, and rewards. We have seen that the more the dog is socialized, the less he will react to the stimuli around him. The more obedient the dog is, the easier it will be for a simple commandment to obtain silence. That he will be silent all the more quickly and durably that this attitude will be rewarded; finally, and it is an essential condition, and let us say it, preliminary: when you say “silence”, your dog must be silent.

What seems like a mere truism is actually a point to remember. Too many masters vociferated on their barking dog in the hope of silencing him without realizing that they are talking to him: I added the translation “dog” for clarity:

“Silence!

- wow wow (ah, nice! someone who agrees to talk).

- Shut up.

- wow wow (what exactly do you want?).

- I said silence name of a pipe!

- wow wow (be clearer!).

- SHUT UP!

- wow whoua (louder? alright!). “....

To ask for silence or any other command while whispering is a good thing for three reasons: first, your dog is not deaf, then you force him to be attentive to your voice (concentration). Finally, you keep yourself the possibility of turning up the volume if necessary.

Let's go back to our consistency, which means that you get what you just ordered from the dog, in this case, silence.

“Silence! And you act, choosing from these different solutions:



1. Baffle the dog (to avoid, he does not deserve this).
2. Ignore the dog (very effective, we will develop this technique further).
3. Produce a disruptive behavior or action (throw something near the dog, whistle, offer a treat); the dog stops barking because he is surprised or busy with something else.

The treat works very well, that's why. Can you bark? Please, make an effort, that's fine, again, perfect, now breathe a big blow through the nose, thank you again. And now, do both at the same time! You can not? No worries no one can, your dog either.

Conclusion: when your dog barks and you offer him a treat, two things one: either he continues to bark, and he does not get his reward, or he chooses to take the treat but he can not bark anymore and you reward the last thing he did, that is, stop barking! Simple no?

Ignore, very effective if done well. We do not look at the dog; we do not touch him, we do not talk to him, he does not exist anymore or at least he is transparent. This technique works well for dogs seeking attention if it is done properly. The worst, ignore the dog 5, 10 or 20 minutes to finally "crack" and simply react, whether gently with a small "silence" or violently with a thunderer "but you will close yes or no! ".

Because in this case, far from playing the card of extinction, you have instead played that of strengthening. You have "told" your dog "OK! for me to react, you have to struggle for at least 20 minutes, do you feel able? ". Be sure that his answer will be: "No problem, I noticed that you became a little deaf and I had to bark louder and longer, it is confirmed! "

In case you choose to stop barking your dog, for more efficiency, you must do it as soon as possible. In some cases, even before it starts if you are able to anticipate, if not from the first, the first would be better, woof. The more the dog barks, the more it gets excited, the harder it will be to stop it. As a general rule and unlike food, for example, barking is not a source of satiety.

So the dog will continue to bark as long as you do not pay attention, or as the world goes on the



street or something scares him. Except in case of attention seeking, see above, it is useless to wait for it to calm itself. Better to quickly seek to occupy it.



What to do so that the dog stops barking?

◇ Barking on command

As paradoxical as it sounds, teaching the dog to bark on command is a good way to teach him a second-time silence. You'll have noticed the nuance: we do not teach the dog to bark, but to do it on command.

To teach him two solutions, enjoy the moments when he barks to say "barks! Or "speak" then, after a moment, reward. Once the dog begins to bark when you pronounce either of these words, you will proceed to the second step, trigger it by "barking! (The dog is waiting for his reward), ask him to shut up (get the silence) and then reward him.

Your dog knows how to bark and keep quiet on command, better: he has learned to keep quiet even if he has started barking alone.

Radio whouawhoua

It is often advised to leave the radio to the dog to avoid being bored. In fact, the goal is twofold: to partially cover the outside noises that cause barking and, if this technique is correctly used, let the dog believe that you are there.

Here's how: get out of the room and turn on the radio. Come back quickly to the room. Repeat several times. The goal is for the dog to associate the sound of the radio with your presence in the room next door. The day you really miss, the radio will partly cover your departure but will be especially for the dog proof that you are in the room. Cunning and efficient.

Anti-barking and muzzle collars

There are very many variants of anti-bark collars, to quote the most frequently encountered: electric collars, citronella necklace, mustard necklace, forced air collar, ultrasonic necklace.



Their principle is pretty close: give the dog a penalty every time it barks. It is necessary to make reservations. Many dogs get used to it.

Whether by habituation, because the dog has a big character (hard to the pain) or because it is on the contrary very sensitive (risk of traumatizing the dog), their use is to recommend with tweezers. It should be known that in some countries of the European Union their marketing is subject to use with a professional. Some are more sophisticated than others, sometimes more fragile too.

Some distinguish between the wearer of the bark collar and other dogs, from the house or neighborhood. Very useful so that your dog is not punished because of another! In any case, their use can prevent some dogs from being abandoned, even euthanized (between two evils, I choose the least) but none solves the basic problem: the cause of the bark, so it is better to consider them as emergency and waiting solutions.

Note that these collars are often ineffective for dogs who moan or scream at death. The muzzle, if it physically prevents the dog from barking, can absolutely not be left to the dog for a whole day, especially in the absence of his master. The dog can not drink (risk of dehydration), he would be unable to vomit if he needed it (risk of suffocation) and finally can not pant, which in hot weather is imperative (risk of heat stroke very fast).

Better late than ...

Note to end on a note of hope that whatever the age of your dog it is possible to act. In the best case, you will simply stop the annoying behavior and, at worst, you can mitigate it.

◇ The water pistol

Some dogs love water, but even among those, few like to be showered or watered. To roll in a filthy puddle still goes, but to pass under a jet, that never, rather to keep quiet! It is therefore perfectly possible to silence a dog by threatening him with a weapon: a pistol and to be precise a water pistol.



Economical with purchase and use. Allowing for aiming from far, not messy, silent, it has everything to please. You can always try, and if it does not work with your pet, there will always be a child to please. Note that for greater higher efficiency some add a few drops of lemon in the tank (in this case beware of the eyes of the dog).

A question of genes!

The question of genes regularly comes back on the scene. However, within the limits of current scientific knowledge, it is not possible to prove that genes are responsible for the aggressiveness or the barking of certain breeds of dogs, or even of individuals.

Stigmatizing races by categorizing them as dangerous would be as ridiculous as pretending that one or the other dog is barking because he is of such a race. It's convenient, it's easy, it's fast, but it's wrong. Before being of such breed, your dog is a dog, and as such he has physical and behavioral reactions specific to his species. So...

Conclusion

Dogs bark because they are dogs, admit that if yours mewed or spoke, it would surprise you! They also bark because we put them in situations where they can, I would be tempted to say: must do it. And very often because their teacher did not teach them to shut up when the teacher does not reinforce them involuntarily in this way.

As often, rather than accuse our dogs of barking, let us be responsible and teach them good behavior and good manners in our human world. They will be grateful to us, perhaps with a lick!



Dog Training Collar

Before wanting to stop the barking of a dog with a training collar, it is necessary to identify the cause of these barking. Some will express excitement, joy or worry. They vary in intensity, frequency or volume, but in all cases, they express a message.

Barking can be thought of as a safety valve that releases stress as much as boredom. Unfortunately, these vocalizations are often unpleasant for the master and even more so for the neighbors because it is often in the absence of the owner that these sound crimes are committed.

Difficult to intervene effectively by being absent; especially when you know that the dog lives in the present. Indeed, if we want to remove bad behavior, we must act on the fact and systematically.

To remedy this problem, it is possible to use anti-bark collars also called dog training collars. Whether electric or spray, they have the main advantage of triggering automatically and therefore do not require the presence of the master.

◇ Anti-barking spray collars

The operating principle is simple. A receiver collar is placed under the dog's neck. When it barks, a microphone triggers the emission of a spray directed under the mouth of the dog. This stimulus based on surprise acts simultaneously on:

- hearing with the triggering of the spray
- the view with the spray cloud
- touch with the cold and wet contact of the product
- smell thanks to refills with lemongrass, mustard or lavender.

This principle-based solely on surprise is completely harmless for the animal.

Studies have shown that, in 70% of cases, barking is permanently stopped and in 28% of cases partially. We can now stop these nuisances without using painful sanctions.



◇ Anti-Bark Collars

Their operating principle of the anti-bark collar is similar to spray collars, but they only act on the tactile sense. When barking, the dog will receive an electrostatic discharge. This punishment may in some cases be painful for the animal. It is therefore important that the penalty be adjustable. Indeed, just like humans, dogs have different sensitivities. It would, therefore, be detrimental if the power can not be calibrated.

On some models, this setting is automatic depending on the intensity and frequency of the barking. We must, therefore, exclude those who are not adjustable. It is also advisable not to leave the collar permanently around the dog's neck. The electrodes that conduct the current can necrotic the skin of the dog.

◇ The effectiveness limits of training collars

Whether spray or electric, collars have their limit of effectiveness. In the case of separation hyperanxiety or significant social phobias, these necklaces will treat the consequences but not the cause.

As a result, it is not uncommon to see dogs barking no more but to express their discomfort by heavy licking, which may include self-mutilation, the destruction of their environment or large droppings in their homes. living spaces. A third of barking dogs may be concerned by this case.

It is therefore desirable for the animal that the master consults his treating veterinarian before investing in such devices.

◇ Other anti-barking solutions

Apinesin Canine DAP diffuser 28 days

A synthetic analog of the pheromone produced by the suckling dog, this substance immediately soothes all stressed and anxious dogs. Use in case of destruction, dirt, and howls when the dog is alone. The diffuser connects to a simple electrical outlet, treats an area of 70m² and does not cause any smell perceptible by humans.



Apaisin Canine DAP Necklace

The soothing pheromone now diffuse from a collar: to reassure the dog alone in a garden, the dogs fearful in town or phobic (fears firecrackers, thunderstorms ...). The collar is effective for 1 month.

Medication

They are all to be used under the prescription of a veterinarian.





Unit 2

AGGRESSIVE DOG

Operational objective

Is your dog aggressive with you, strangers or other dogs? Here are the solutions to make it less aggressive.

Pedagogical objectives

The aggressiveness of the dog

Aggressive dog: the causes

Predatory aggression of the dog

The aggressive dog with humans

The aggressive dog with other dogs

Territorial aggression of the dog

The aggressive dog during the game

The aggressive dog by irritation or fear

The redirected aggression of the dog

Idiopathic aggressiveness or rabies syndrome

Why is my dog aggressive?

How to prevent and correct the aggressiveness of the dog?

Dog aggressive to humans: the solutions

How to behave in front of an aggressive dog?

My dog is fighting

What to do in case of a fight?



The aggressiveness of the dog

Aggressiveness is a disproportionate response to an unknown situation or emotion. The dog has not learned to control himself, and he often attacks for fear of a situation without real danger for him.

Socialization and hierarchisation are two indispensable notions for the establishment of a system of correct communication of the dog with his fellow creatures and with man. Communication is for all the basis of the balance of social life. Aggression is an unacceptable communication system.

Education uses socialization, communication and helps to get a perfect dog. The secret of a balanced dog is in respect of these bases which are a real prevention of disorders. The master must learn to observe his dog and to impose limits on him while respecting his nature.

The choice of a breed adapted to the master is essential. The education to be given to the dog according to his character must be that which the master is able to give. If you put a dog that needs authority in the hands of an indolent master, failure is imminent. The dogs are all different, the masters too, the match between the master and a dog is the basis of prevention of behavioral disorders.

Aggressive dogs are often dominant or shy dogs that need a suitable master.

Canine aggressiveness is certainly the most prominent behavioral disorder. More than 15 000 bites are to be deplored, and children represent the majority of the victims. 4,000 children are presented to the emergency department each year. This table is not meant for the trial of dogs or masters, but to make every prospective purchaser of a dog aware of his duty to avoid all behavioral disorders including aggressiveness in order to respect others.



The abandonment of dogs whose behavior does not conform to what the master hoped was more and more frequent. Euthanasia also remains one of the solutions considered, mainly in case of bites. All these extreme solutions could be limited thanks to information, education of the masters.

It is obvious that the psychological balance of the master is essential for a good maturity of the puppy. Understanding is the first step towards healing and especially towards prevention.

The key words: prevention, choice of race, information, knowledge, education. The first step is to know what you think of your dog. The goal is not to say: “It does not suit me, I separate myself” but: “I know what annoys me the most and so I have priority orders for his rehabilitation.”

aggressiveness

There is a normal aggression that is a survival instinct in the wild. But “useful” aggression is not harmful to others and is not intended solely for rebellion against established rules. The dog’s aggressiveness is abnormal when it is the expression of a dominant position that manages the situation as if he were the leader.

The aggressive attitude

Whatever the reason for aggression, the dog often has the same attitudes. He bristles the hair; roll up the chops; growls. If the dog is sure of himself, the tail is raised, if he is afraid, it is lowered. The most dangerous dog is one who will not show these signs before the attack. He does not warn.

The bite

It can be a simple pinch often minimized by the masters. Similarly, when the dog bites and then go, the teachers consider it less serious than if he persists. It is not so. The gripping dog is aware of its strength and dominating position. He thinks himself strong enough to allow himself to give only one warning; it is the most dangerous of all.



Aggressive dog: the causes

The dog is instinctively aggressive, but his aggressiveness is not an end in itself as it is used to hunt other animals (for food) and to defend the territory and the pack. It is precisely for his ability to defend his property and his master that the faithful companion of human has been domesticated.

In general, the aggression between congeners is ritualized: before reaching the fight, they adopt characteristic attitudes and postures with the objective of warning the opponent of their intentions in order to avoid physical confrontation and all consequences that would ensue. However, dogs are not always content to be challenged by behaviors. They sometimes go so far as to attack violently by causing serious injuries during these clashes.

It is important to remember that when the dog shows aggressive behavior, he always follows the same sequence. If the animal has nibbled, check that the following sequence has been respected: first the grunt, then the bite and finally the return to calm. When this order is not present or missing a passage, the diagnosis is more serious and, given the context, the dog is more dangerous.

◇ What makes the dog aggressive?

The dog is aggressive in specific circumstances: for example, with strangers (while behaving amicably with his master) or when people are outside the closed area (he becomes familiar with them when they enter in the House).

There are different factors that influence a dog's aggressiveness: the degree of socialization, gender, genetic makeup and the presence of diseases. Aggressive behavior can be addressed:

- other dogs or animals; this is particularly the case of struggles between males or females and violent reactions to the intrusion on its territory.

- to the man, when the ratio dominance /submission is not clearly defined.

◇ The degree of socialization



The experiences acquired by the dog during the early stages of his life can influence his behavior. If from his youngest age, between the third and the twelfth week, he has lived isolated and without contact with man, he can develop forms of aversion and fear towards human beings. If, on the other hand, he has been deprived of the company of his fellows, he may become more aggressive towards his fellows.

In these situations, it is important to establish a correct hierarchy between the master and the dog. This is why it is useful to train him to obedience in order to succeed in controlling violent manifestations.

◇ Sex

The male fights for dominance, territory, and mating, while the female is more combative when she has puppies. Male aggression is due to testosterone, a hormone produced in the testes. This is why castration can calm an aggressive animal, although it is not enough on its own: it must be associated with appropriate behavioral therapy.

If you have a male, you have to be careful if you want to adopt another, because problems may arise when both animals reach sexual maturity.

◇ The race

Some breeds, selected to attack and fight, have a greater tendency to aggression; others are quieter. When buying an animal, do not be influenced by fashion but pay attention to his character, examine his family line and evaluate the skills of the breed to which he belongs.

Human is responsible for increasing the number of aggressive dogs because, through a selection to further the external appearance that character, he created animals increasingly inclined to bite and dominate.



◇ Diseases

A dog can become aggressive as a result of diseases that can affect different devices in the body. Neoplasms, traumatic brain injuries and acute or chronic inflammatory processes (osteoarthritis, inflammation of the muscles, otitis externa, perianal fistulas, etc.) are among the most common pathologies.

Visual deficits can also be the cause of aggressive behavior because if the dog does not see well, he can confuse friendly gestures and threatening gestures, and attack. Some breeds, whose eyes are covered by an abundant hair (Briard, Bobtail, Schnauzer, etc.), present the same problems because their “fringe” limits their visual field.



Predatory aggression of the dog

The dog has inherited from the wolf many instincts that he has, with domestication, modified, attenuated, repressed, but which may however reappear: this is particularly the case of the instinct of predation.

The new demands of life-related to domestication have made hunting unnecessary; the dog still feels the urge to follow prey, block and kill it, even if it no longer targets the wild animals that wolves once pursued.

Nowadays, the dog gives chase to smaller animals such as cats, rabbits, birds, sheep, or to humans and to moving objects like cars or bicycles. Predatory aggression can be directed against other dogs or other animals, against humans or moving objects.

The characteristics of predatory aggression:

- it is caused by an animal or a moving object. If the prey remains immobile, the dog is inhibited and does not attack.
- When it grabs its prey, the dog does not deploy all his ritual repertoire to manifest his authority or his submission. He does not growl, is not threatening, but jumps on her and tries to kill her by grabbing him by the neck.
- if the aggressiveness is directed against inanimate objects (cars or bicycles) which do not have the aspect of the traditional preys, before catching them, it stops at a certain distance and barks.

These behaviors are characteristic and make it possible to differentiate between predatory aggression and social aggressiveness, even if they are theoretical schematizations with possible variants. Indeed, it can also attack before the prey starts moving, especially when the victim is another dog.

This phenomenon is observed in subjects who have attacked several times and who do not



need a specific reason to pursue their prey. You have to be very careful with dogs specialized in prosecution because they do not always respect the rules.

Predatory aggression against other dogs or other animals, such as the house cat, may occur unexpectedly, even when your faithful friend has been peacefully cohabiting for years with the prey animal. Unfortunately, if the subject starts to hunt, he takes a liking to it: pursuing and blocking a being in motion gratifies him a lot; he will repeat this behavior.

The violence of aggression increases if the hunt is conducted in groups. The problem of predatory aggression against humans requires different treatment depending on whether it is directed against adults or children. In the first case, the victims are usually sportsmen who are jogging in a park or people who are moving quickly. The advice to give them is to stop and remain motionless; they should thus block the hunting instinct of the “faithful friend of man”. The conditional is de rigueur because it is a very delicate situation, with evolution difficult to predict.

When the prey is a child, this form of aggression is even more dangerous. The dog is prone to attack a child who walks on all fours or starts to walk: he is attracted by the little cries of joy of the baby or the sound of toys; he does not recognize him anymore, takes him for a prey and attacks him. It is not uncommon for the victim to be the same baby, who remained in his pram or park, whom the dog had been defending a few days before, or to whom he paid no attention. It is normally the movement of the child that is at the origin of the aggressive gesture.

The consequences of such behavior are always serious. If the dog has been the protagonist of such an episode - and even if the predatory aggression is not directed specifically against the child - do not let them especially together and consult a behaviorist who will tell you how to act. What attitude to adopt?

The assessment of the severity of this pathology varies if the aggressiveness is directed against small animals (cats), automobiles or people (children in particular). It is better to prevent it than to face the problem later. You have to work with the puppies, accustoming them to situations



that awaken their hunting instinct, and stopping them - before they start to hunt - with a dry “no” and a sudden blow on the leash.



The aggressive dog with humans

The dog manifests his superiority over other animals or Human in different ways, but this form of aggression always follows the same pattern:

he communicates his intentions to his adversary by the language of the body, to warn him of danger.

- he responds to a gesture (even involuntary) that he interprets as a threat and reacts by aggressing.

The dog can direct his aggression against his master as well as against strangers. This behavior is usually observed between one and two years, when the dog reaches sexual maturity, even if episodes of aggression can be seen before. This is a phenomenon that is found especially in the male because, seeking new spaces, he rebels against his master; the cases of aggression between females are however not rare.

A serious mistake, made by many masters, is to consider all members of the dog /human pack as equals, because they think that establishing a hierarchical relationship (with the man, pack leader, and the dog subject) reduces the freedom of the animal.

But as absurd as it may seem, the dog, if he does not recognize his master as the leader, feels responsible for the group to which he belongs and authorized to make decisions for his master as well: he then rebels against his authority and manifest aggression against him.

The dominant dog that bites his master is the one who usually sleeps on his bed (with one distinction: the dominant dog and the anxious dog, too much attached to his master, can both sleep on the bed, but while the first 'occupies Reads, grunting if his master tries to get in, the second goes to bed near the person, in direct contact, and he does not move from there), occupies the couch, growls if we try to take away his bowl, seizes objects not to let go, shreds, pulls on his leash, does not obey orders like "Sitting! Or "Lying! And do not answer when called.



He is jealous of other family members, especially children who have arrived after him in the house. He agrees to be caressed only on certain occasions, rebelling when he “wants to be left alone” (in this case, it is more correct to speak of aggressiveness by irritation).

It is a dog who always defies the authority of his master, which allows, does not impose, justifies all his behavior and tries to calm him by spoiling and stroking, aggravating his pathology at the same time. If it is a subject that directs his aggressiveness against strangers, he behaves in an ambivalent manner. He can let himself be caressed and suddenly bite the hand that cuddles him or allow a guest to enter the property he keeps, then nibble while he turns to leave.

The dog is not always aggressive in all situations presented. It can be when it is intimate to get off the bed but may not show any aggression when removing his bowl. Some subjects only bite in the presence of their master. They are overprotected dogs who are braver in his presence, who attack, then become shy and foolish when they are alone.

The temperament of the dog has a direct bearing on the tendency to dominance and aggression, but it is mainly the lack of education and the lack of a strict hierarchy - where the pack leader (the man) does not exercise authority - which promotes rebelliousness and incivility.

What attitude to adopt?

To contain the social aggressiveness of his dog, the master must manage to regain control, never forgetting that this is a behavioral pathology very difficult to heal. Punishment can work well, but its use is only recommended for very determined people who have a long experience of cohabitation with animals.

It is possible to lift small dogs by the ribs and shake them slightly, but a good spanking with a newspaper can also serve to counteract their aggression. If they are taller, they can also be rushed with the leash.



The aggressive dog with other dogs

Dogs fight among themselves to designate the leader of the pack, while females fight during the heat season. Introducing a new element into the family can create problems because its arrival causes a break in the hierarchical relationships already established.

Belligerent animals show social aggressiveness whenever they meet other dogs, as the owners know, who take them to play in the park near the house, and often attend fights.

Before introducing a dog to a place frequented by other congeners, it is better to try to learn about their character. The fights between dogs not living under the same roof or meeting only occasionally are due to the lack of socialization of the dogs with their congeners when they are small.

What attitude to adopt?

Anyone with an aggressive dog must regain control of the initiative and assert their right to pack.

1. When the aggression target is an unknown congener, the aggressive dog can be accustomed to his fellow creatures. It is necessary to organize sessions with another dog, placed far enough so that the one to be treated does not show aggressiveness, and controlling this one with the leash, and staying at its sides to calm it down. When he gives no sign of nervousness, he is rewarded with a treat. It is necessary to repeat this training session several days with different dogs to be closer little by little until he accepts their presence without showing any sign of aggression.

2. Some aggressive dogs may benefit from a training session because cohabitation with other animals promotes their socialization. We must choose a lesson in which obedience is taught gently, without pressure and, of course, all necessary measures must be taken to avoid aggression against people and other animals (use the leash and the muzzle).

The struggles between males for females



They occur in females in heat: this behavior is not pathological, but rather physiological in healthy subjects. Quite often, two dogs who cohabit peacefully begin to argue once their sexual maturity is reached: these struggles serve to establish who is stronger. This form of aggression appears in males around two years of age, that is to say when they have now reached sexual maturity. Females argue too, especially when they are in heat.

What attitude to adopt during struggles between males?

In struggles between males, whether or not part of the pack, it is very important that the situation is taken over by the master who must control it more. If the fighting is aimed at mating, and if the subjects cohabit, it is possible to reduce the tension by surgically castrating one of the two dogs, intervening on the one that seems the most predisposed to the submission. When struggles continue, consider the possibility of giving up one.

It is important to note that this form of aggression, be it dog-to-person or aggression between members of the same species, does not concern just one element of the pack; it is a problem or better of a suffering of the whole pack, known under the name of “sociopathy”, that is to say of a pathology due to social factors.



Territorial aggression of the dog

The defense of the territory is an instinct that the dog has preserved in spite of the domestication and that the human has cultivated in his interest. Some dogs perform this task with too much zeal, attacking anyone who enters the area they control.

The dog shows territorial aggression around the age of one year. He can attack anyone or attack only certain categories of people, men in uniform for example.

Our faithful friend may consider the house, the court, the car as his territory, which he defends by barking and growling against approaching passers-by. A guard dog is useful because it protects the property, but it can become dangerous when the master can no longer control his aggression. You have to be very careful about dogs wagging their tail while grumbling against a stranger.

This is an ambiguous behavior because they have not yet decided if they will attack or welcome the newcomer. Territorial aggression is a behavioral problem that is difficult to diagnose because it can be confused with other forms of aggression. In order to avoid mistakes, it is better to consult a specialist able to give advice.

What attitude to adopt if it defends property excessively?

If one is dealing with an animal very gifted for the guard, one must first consolidate his authority over the dog. If we want him to preserve his predispositions to defend the territory, it is better to manage to control it with the voice, and to stop it, if necessary, by a sudden “That’s enough!”, Reinforced by a loud noise or that of an ultrasonic whistle. You can at the same time water it with a jet of water which will divert it from the action undertaken.

In order to correct this behavior, it is necessary to use the technique of systematic desensitiza-



tion and deconditioning. You have to go to a helpful friend who will pretend to be a visitor.

You will order “Sitting! To the dog, showing him in the distance the person who arrives, then, in a slow progression, you will make him hear the footsteps, the doorbell, the gate that is opened, you will bring in the human and let them get close to the dog. Reward the dog by congratulating him and offering him treats if he behaves well. If not, repeat the exercise from the beginning.

During the first stages of training, the dog can be put on a leash, which is easier to recover if he throws himself on the visitor and, if necessary, a muzzle that will prevent him from biting. Depending on the circumstances, it is good to exercise the dog with different people (men, women, men in uniform), and in various places (for example in the car, if it considers it as its territory that must be defended).

When a real situation arises, it must be prepared by ordering “Sitting! But, if it is not yet sufficiently trained, it will be necessary to lock it in a box.

Locking up the dog does not serve to cure his behavioral pathology, but makes him temporarily harmless. Avoid any form of punishment, because the subject could revolt and attack his master (redirected aggression).



The aggressive dog during the game

Aggressiveness during play, which is found in both young dogs and adult dogs, is characterized by small bites during a normal play activity with the master. It is not about serious injuries, but about pinching.

The faithful friend of the man, taken by the excitement of the game, aims especially the arms and legs. In reality, it is not a true form of aggression (the sequence of aggression is not present).

It's more a question of lack of self-control - such behavior is unacceptable for a 4-5-month-old puppy, whereas before it is normal - and this can be a symptom of a behavioral pathology known as «hypersensitivity-hyperactivity syndrome “.

What attitude to adopt?

This is not a form of serious aggression; you just have to control the dog to prevent the game from degenerating into a real aggression. If the subject has a strong tendency to dominate, avoid games that may excite, such as tug of war, whether it is actually a rag or a stick.



The aggressive dog by irritation or fear

The dog attacks when he is afraid of something or someone. This attitude is observed in subjects who possess a strong sense of self-preservation. This type of aggression can be related both to the fear of feeling pain already experienced and to the fear of feeling when touched, a pain still present.

The classic example is the fear of the veterinarian, justifiable to the extent that the first encounter of the dog with the doctor is almost always traumatic, because it is taken and placed on the consultation table where he is surrounded by strangers, touched with objects he does not know and subjected to manipulations that, if they do not cause physical pain, humiliate (psychological pain).

A negative experience, linked to a painful event, is enough to trigger fear even if the pain has already disappeared. The frightened dog adopts a typical attitude: tail between the legs, ears flattened on the head and, if it blocks any possible outcome, it tends to take refuge in a corner grunting.

If he feels a real pain that persists - if he suffers, for example, from osteoarthritis or presents with otitis externa or a perianal fistula - he will revolt and attack whenever he is in pain. The aggression linked to fear is sudden, without warning signs. Also, the dog does not regulate the violence of the bite, which is always very serious.

He sometimes shows more aggressiveness in the presence of his master (for example at the veterinarian or the groomer), because he perceives it as a refuge where he can run and seek protection. In this case, no therapy should be attempted to change this behavior. It is enough to leave him alone during the consultation or the bath: having no one from whom to take refuge after having bitten, he will consent to be examined and combed.



What attitude to adopt?

The source of pain must first be eliminated, even if the memory of a fact may be enough to trigger aggression. In this case, it is necessary to present to the dog the situation or the person who remind him of the pain and the fear, but at a certain distance so that it does not move and with a “bait” (a treat or a caress), gradually reducing the distance when he looks more relaxed.

To obtain a positive result, it will first be necessary to deprive him of a reward, for example, to ignore him during the two hours preceding the session or to leave him on an empty stomach. If it is impossible to eliminate the pain, in case of chronic diseases, for example, we must be careful not to touch the dog at the sensitive place, or make him perform painful gestures.

If he continues to behave aggressively even after healing, it is possible to resort to the technique of desensitization, approaching the dog and lightly touching the part concerned: if he does not react violently it will be rewarded with greed (deconditioning).

This therapeutic approach provides for two sessions a day of a dozen exercises per session, for at least two weeks. In the most severe cases of fear aggression, it is possible to combine drugs with therapy, but only under veterinary control. Do not inflict punishment because it is useless, while it may be profitable to increase the authority of the teacher by teaching obedience to the dog.

When aggression by fear is limited to certain circumstances, and if it is only very rarely observed, it is useless to resort to behavioral therapy. It is enough to control the dog with a muzzle or, if it is possible, not to expose it to the situation which scares it (one can, for example, wash it at home and not at the groomer). If the problem, on the other hand, tends to worsen, address yourself without hesitation to a behaviorist.



Warning: aggression by fear can hide very serious behavioral pathologies, such as sensory deprivation syndrome, primary dissociation, post-traumatic phobia, which require an organized therapeutic intervention.



The redirected aggression of the dog

We meet this form of aggression when two male dogs, who stand guard, throw themselves against the portal by barking because a stranger approached. Suddenly, one of the two, over-excited, turns to the other and bites him violently, continuing until their master arrives and separates them.

If the intruder goes away, the tension falls, and the two dogs become friends, to fight again in a similar situation.

Usually, it is the dominant dog that unloads the tension accumulated on the dominated dog because it can not attack the visitor, who is protected by the portal. The redirected aggression can be against an animal, of the same or completely different species, and against the man.

What attitude to adopt?

1. Control the subject further.
2. Do not introduce another dog, especially male, if the one present is a male and has a strong tendency to dominate.
3. If he bites his peers but not humans, the subject with a behavioral pathology may have no problem in another family where there are no other dogs. The idea of finding another master is not to be discarded.



Idiopathic aggressiveness or rabies syndrome

Some researchers believe that the causes of this behavioral pathology that is the rabies syndrome are a genetic predisposition or an inflammatory process of the brain, but nothing has yet been proven; others think, on the contrary, that this type of aggression is nothing more than an exacerbated form of social aggression.

The dog, after a period when he has behaved normally, but accumulating emotional tension, explodes and assaults his master or a member of the family.

The most affected breeds are the Cocker Spaniel, the Mastiff of the Pyrenees, the English Bull Terrier; isolated cases have been observed in Lhasa Apso, Westie, Yorkshire Terrier, Jack Russell Terrier.

But the incidence is more important of this pathology in the Dobermann, the German Shepherd, the Bernese Mountain Dog and the Bouvier des Flandres. Idiopathic aggression appears suddenly and for no apparent reason; it manifests itself in a very violent way, and the dog behaves normally between one crisis and the other.

Recent studies seem to support the hypothesis that such behavior is attributable to brain damage, particularly to congenital or acquired hydrocephalia, and to familial predisposition rather than race; Today, this pathology is called bipolar dysthymia.

What attitude to adopt?

Given the seriousness of this behavioral disorder, it is strongly discouraged to attempt therapy without first consulting a specialist. Unfortunately, most of the time, euthanasia is the only solution.



Why is my dog aggressive?

It seems important to me to point out that aggression is something that is normal in dogs, such as fear or curiosity (which is called exploratory behavior). It is only an exaggerated behavior in this area that is problematic. That a dog has the character is not so serious, that it has a dirty character or that it no longer knows how to control itself in case of crisis is much more annoying.

Besides the fact that the dog comes down from the wolf (but the aggressiveness that it had at the time and which allowed it to survive has partly lessened since it no longer has to be), a dog like a human being is a living being that has its character. There are shy people, laid people, very confident people and people who are downright aggressive.

In dogs, it's exactly the same thing. Of course, education and the environment partly modify this character. Real point of divergence between the two species: the death penalty (euthanasia) is not abolished in dogs! So it's about their life to be able to control them and avoid the irreparable.

Definition of aggression

“To harm someone’s physical or mental integrity. It should be noted that in this definition, the simple fact of threatening can be perceived as an aggression, at the limit the mere fact of being impressive could already be aggressive! I believe that in this area we must be careful and we will examine only proven aggressions, and of course the means to prevent them.

The concept of threat is nevertheless most interesting because you have to understand what the threat is for. Take an infamous example, the atomic bomb; all countries possessing it swear by their great gods that it is only a deterrent to prevent a potential adversary from attacking them.



As such, the threat to the dog (growling, lift the chops, take a very stiff attitude, fix the other right in the eyes ...) is particularly explicit. The dog shows the extent of his power so as not to have to use it. We will come back to this notion by talking about the special case of children who, unfortunately, most often do not understand the threat.

Like other behaviors, aggression is divided into three stages: an appetitive phase (here the threat), a consumptive phase (the aggression itself), a phase of appeasement (too often taken for a request for forgiveness of dog and sometimes source of a second attack!). We just saw that the threat was to not go on the attack. This is why it is at the top of the behavioral process.

It should be noted that whatever the behavior of your dog if you want to stop it, it will always be easier if you interrupt during the first phase. In this case, it is easier to stop a dog from biting than to stop it. It is the same for two or more dogs because if it becomes difficult to retain them, it is then almost impossible to let them go (pack effect).

You have already seen what reasons cause a dog to bite. Let's go back to four of them. The first is fear, a source identified or not of a very large number of bites. The second is the ignorance of the masters who again involuntarily lead their dog to "the supreme fault" especially when it takes place on their own person. A partial or total lack of obedience seems to me to be the third element.

Finally, the notion of critical distance and flight distance which induces that in which the dog is (or feels, it is his perception which is important) cornered and in his head almost obliged to attack. Another important criterion in the notion of aggression: the idea that we make of it. Let's take a concrete example. During my seven years at the SPA, it was common for a dog to arrive during a colleague's absence.

When he returns, he gets back to work and takes care of the dog without any worries. Until the moment it is warned that this dog is there because he has bitten. His attitude changes, he is initially a retrospective fear but usually does not approach the dog like the first time when he did



not know yet. Everything is linked together. Hence some advertising campaigns that ask people not to be manipulated by the media in terms of dangerous dog and dangerous dogs.

Explanation of an ordinary assault

Take a dog, a two-year-old hen, a male who has not had a lesson, education or sociability. To attack, it must rise in pressure up to the trigger point which is 10/10. It is a dog who is afraid of the noise of trucks and buses in the street; he knows the children without there being in his home.

Sunday morning, the weather is nice, and his teachers decide to



How to prevent and correct the aggressiveness of the dog?

The aggressiveness of the dog is not an end in itself, there are corrective techniques to overcome this major defect, but the most important is the prevention, hence the usefulness of a good education of the dog.

1. Teach him to stay calm in all situations that could trigger the hunting instinct.
2. Make the dog live with other animals such as kittens, rabbits, chickens and prevent him from chasing the birds, even by game. Socializing with subjects belonging to another species is not a definitive thing, but requires frequent attendance, and is not a generalizable phenomenon. If a dog and a cat cohabit in peace, it does not mean that the same dog accepts all cats; he will be able to attack another kitten entering his territory. Do not allow him to run after joggers, cyclists or cars.
3. Accompany your dog to the presence of children and their noises.

There is no special treatment for predatory aggression, but it is possible to intervene by accentuating the master's authority over his dog. It is therefore important to teach him the basics of obedience: "Sitting! ", "Rest! And especially "Come! ". To teach your faithful friend the meaning of "Come! Take him to a large field, far from the road, and let him frolic to call him back at your pleasure; when he correctly executes your order, reward him with a treat or a caress.

The first few times, you can use a retractable leash that facilitates the recall. If the dog, on the other hand, escapes by not obeying, do not insist and do not punish him especially when he comes back, because he could associate the return to the punishment and, later, not approach by fear. Quickly turn around and move away in the opposite direction; the dog, seeing you no more, will come back to look for you.



Let him come near, without trying to catch him by the collar, and order him “Sit! Rewarding him with a treat, then resume the walk together.

When your dog becomes obedient, recreate the situation that triggered his aggression, retaining him at the beginning with a retractable leash in order to retain him. This type of intervention works when the subject attacks his prey in the presence of his master.

Another way to correct this behavior is to desensitize and unpack the dog: it must be presented prey by associating it with a pleasant activity. You will start by showing your dog a cat, a car or a person in a situation that is not a cause for aggression (live prey while sleeping, cars and people when they are still and at a safe distance); if he remains relaxed, you will reward him with caresses or a treat.

You will then bring it closer to the prey (it may be useful to control it by holding it on a leash), or it will start moving faster and faster; if the dog sketches a reaction, you will stop it with a dry “no” and resume training at the previous stage. To be really effective, the “no” must precede by a few seconds the action that one wishes to prevent.

Obviously, during the training, it is necessary to avoid the unexpected which pushes the subject to attack. The punishment is difficult to correct this behavior, and to use it must be very clever anyway, because the animal must associate with the prey and not his master. You can try throwing a bucket of water on your faithful friend or frightening him with noise when he begins to follow a potential victim.

If the dog associates the unpleasant experience (negative reinforcement) with the pursuit, it will not start again; when it reacts well, that is to say, if it stops, it must be rewarded immediately by caresses or treats (positive reinforcement).

The simultaneous use of systematic desensitization and deconditioning techniques to treat predatory aggression requires some experience to achieve good results and is not without risks



for the master and his dog. It is, therefore, better to address a behavioral veterinarian, who may also be useful because predatory aggression is sometimes a symptom of certain behavioral pathologies, in particular, the syndrome of sensory deprivation (predation concerns species with which the dog does not). has not socialized), or hypersensitivity-hyperactivity syndrome.



Dog aggressive to humans: the solutions

The punishment against the aggressive dog, even if it is useful, has drawbacks; without referring to the violence done to the dog - justified by his aggressiveness - but to the fact that the human does not always succeed in winning the physical confrontation with the animal and that he runs the risk of being bitten. In addition, it can raise emotional tension; the dog then submits only on this occasion, to bite as soon as he manages to escape the authority of his master.

The dog that obeys under the threat of punishment usually respects only one person, rebelling against others. In these cases, it is better to intervene with a mild treatment that will, if used from the first behaviors that may suggest a form of social aggression, prevent situations even more challenging to manage.

1. Teach the dog to obey as soon as he is little, teaching him the meaning of “Sitting! “, “Layer! “, “Rest! “, “ Come ! “.
2. Act so that no situation triggering social aggression occurs during training.
3. Avoid situations that increase the dominance of the dog: the master should, for example, never allow him to sleep on his bed because he feels so important as to transgress orders; and if he authorizes him to do so, he must also be able to move him away when he wishes. Moreover, he should forbid him to stop in the places of passage, in front of the doors, in the corridors, because these are places where he could control the actions of people, and if he wanted to, prevent his master from passing, grunting or biting.
4. Prohibit dog access to rooms in the house where he behaves violently.
5. Avoid contact with the dog, do not look at him, do not talk to him, do not pet him, do not give him treats, etc. A master who ignores his dog increases his hold on him because in animals,



such an attitude is synonymous with domination. Moreover, if the dog no longer gets the usual attention, when he receives them again, he equates them to a reward.

6. Call her, give her an order, for example, “Sitting! And caress him: if he does not obey, he must be ignored (by doing so, the master takes the initiative).

7. Reward only submission attitudes, punishing dominant behaviors.

8. All family members must behave in a consistent and consistent manner. If the dog shows greater aggression against a friend or a family member, it is this person and she alone who, for a fortnight, will have to give him food and show him signs of affection, but only when the dog has obeyed an order, “Sit! “ for example. All other family members will avoid it.

9. In particularly serious situations, it is possible to use the muzzle, which makes the dog less dangerous and the master safer.

10. It is also possible to use drugs (under veterinary control) that calm the aggressive subject.

As the dog becomes controllable, we put him in situations that trigger his aggressiveness, but gradually (systematic desensitization) and tranquilizing with a treat.

If the dog is a male, it may be useful to associate behavioral treatment with castration (after consulting the veterinarian), because by blocking the secretion of testosterone, it reduces aggression.

Never confront the problem of social aggression in a superficial way, because you can control it but never eradicate it. Do not hesitate to ask the help of a behaviorist.



How to behave in front of an aggressive dog?

Several decisive gestures are to be made against an aggressive dog who tries to show you that he is dominant.

Visually:

- You fix eyes: never look away before him.
- You look down on him: you're up, never up to him.
- Dominate him but do not scare him.
- As soon as he submits, you stop the dominance signals.

Corporally:

- Rather bow to the front, standing in front of him.

Vocally:

- Short words, your dry, very precise orders.

Touch:

- Caress on the head: expression of your dominance.



My dog is fighting

Some dogs can fight each other occasionally. This is the example of male dogs who fight by feeling the proximity of a bitch in heat. We must analyze what triggers the situation to prevent it from happening again.

Dogs who fight fiercely and for no apparent reason as soon as they meet another animal need to be looked at. These dogs are difficult to manage for the masters, who tend to avoid other animals. This “isolation” only reinforces the aggressive behavior towards the next animal that these dogs will cross in their path.

◇ The causes

The notions of territory and hierarchy are fundamental in this behavioral disorder.

◇ The territory

The most frequent case is a territorial conflict. It does not seem obvious at first, because the dog appropriates a territory that is not actually his. You go out, for example, your dog on a leash to do his needs. If it is a male, he will urinate a little everywhere to define his territory. If another dog comes and is in the same place, the fight may break out because this attitude is an affront to your pet. Keeping them on a leash and the presence of the master only increase the risk of attack.

◇ The obstacle

Dogs also fight when something separates them. If you put a fence in the middle of a yard to separate two dogs, they will fight through the fence. If you remove it, they will stop. It is often better not to put any obstacle between two dogs who are likely to face each other, even if this step seems strange. We must let them establish their hierarchy.

◇ The hierarchy



The lack of hierarchy is also at the origin of such behavior. The dog wants to defend his master or shows him that he is the strongest. He fights in his presence and “for him”.



What to do in case of a fight?

When the fight is unleashed, do not scream. The other recommendations have already been mentioned. Do not avoid risky situations. On the contrary, we must provoke them to control them better. If you have two dogs at home that fight often, do not separate them. Some teachers spend their time opening a door and closing the other to avoid contact between the two dogs, until the day the fight bursts out of carelessness.

Separation increases the risk of fighting. It is necessary to divert the attention of the animals during the meeting. Play with them, call them. The most anxious to the idea of this contact, finally, are especially the masters. For “dominant” problems, refer to the section on prioritization above.

What to do if your dog is a fighter?

If you have a fighting dog, try to find another understanding master (and friend!) Who helps you. You will then take your dog outside and, when meeting with the other dog, you will show great joy vis-à-vis the master without taking care of his dog. If your dog is hyper protective, he will be happy to see you as well.

If he tries to get your attention by jumping on the master, pull the leash and put your dog behind you. If he grumbles after the other dog and prepares for the attack, shorten the conversation quickly but without brusquerie and always in joy. Your dog should not feel that it is because of him that we are leaving.

Repeat this exercise the next day. The idea is to meet each time a different dog. Then stroll together, the two dogs and the two masters, so that your pet understands that the street is for everyone.





Unit 3

CHARACTERISTIC DOG

Operational objective

Your dog with the character, it does at its head? Here are the solutions to make it too much.



Pedagogical objectives

My dog has character

Disadvantages of a dog character

Benefits of a dog with character

What if his dog has character?



My dog has character

We hear a lot of teachers complaining (or on the contrary making them proud) of having a dog with character. But what does it mean to have a dog with character? Which dogs have character?

The first point I think it is important to make is that a dog that is said to have character does not necessarily have a bad character. It's a nuance that makes a big difference. I am one of those who thinks that dogs, beyond their race, as individuals have their own character.

So we meet friendly dogs, all crazy, eternal kids, kings gaffes but also ticklish and some with a real dirty temperament. Far more frequent are those who have character. Whose fault is it? But in fact, is it a fault, an error, a defect to have character? Not so sure! and without provocation, we could even say that it may be a quality! In fact, everything depends on the function that you want to entrust to your dog.

For a pet dog, qualities such as tenderness, good humor and the taste of the game are essential; for working or sport dogs, a certain strength of character that allows you to withstand the pressure and certain constraints is undeniably a plus. Some breeds are better equipped than others.

In any case, whether by a long, utilitarian selection or by the mere "education" of their master, the behavior of each dog is largely man-made.

Warning! If your dog seems to be bad character and before calling a dog trainer to correct it, it is prudent to first contact his veterinarian so that it excludes any physiological or pathological cause that may explain this behavior.

Character: a question of races?



I think the answer to that question is, “It’s a matter of hooked atoms between a human and a dog. As far as I’m concerned, I have no problem with most breeds of dogs.

I find some particularly easy to live or work, for example: Leonberger, German Shepherds, Borders, Goldens, Cavaliers, Spaniels ... and of course I have some difficulties with others, that I will quote you without taking the precaution of saying that this is only my opinion and that I know other educators whose lists could be exactly opposite! I admit to having trouble with the Bull Terriers, with the Naples Mats and the Sharpies.

Honesty makes me recognize that sometimes, among these races, I meet an individual who rejoices and tempers my judgment, as, among my “favorite” races, I happen to meet unattractive individuals. It’s life, in all its diversity.



Disadvantages of a dog character

Having a dog of character can be a disadvantage in some cases: some masters are better at handling dogs with characters than others.

Many people today still choose a dog on its only physical appearance, a serious mistake that they pay dearly afterwards, by a great disillusionment but also worries, costs and sometimes injuries. The importance of taking into account the character of a dog in his selection can not be overemphasized.

The first to be concerned is the breeders, and if some even put forward this criterion, others by idleness, negligence, ignorance or incompetence do not take it into account. How many professional or amateur breeders breed dogs that are “unmanageable” but of great bloodline, regardless of the transmittable traits, whether we speak of fear or “big temperament”, not to mention a dirty character?

In a second step, it is up to the future owner to base his choice above all on behavioral qualities rather than on aesthetic criteria. Some are “favored” because, in some breeds, one finds lines of “beauty” and others of “work”; the former favoring the physical (sometimes to the detriment of a real behavioral selection), the second offering dogs for work tests (more character and a less sharp standard of compliance).

The general trend is to turn breeds originally designed to serve a utility function into pet breeds, but decades of breeding do not fade so easily in a few years. What’s more, a dog remains a dog with characteristics specific to its species *Canis lupus familiaris*, a canine with a real dog character!



The Léonberg, a story apart

A particularly impressive German Molosser, the Leonberger is an exception in the dog world. Indeed, it is probably the only big dog that was not created to work but directly to become a pet dog. His excellent character allows him to fulfill this role wonderfully.

But then, why the hell do you talk about this big-hearted giant in a book about the dog with character? Simply because its standard specifies that the Leonberger is an impavid dog. Do not run for your dictionary (I did it for you): unpatriotic means that the Leonberger is inaccessible to fear, just that! Of course, it is not so, at most it is a breeder's dream or a commercial argument before the hour!

Fortunately, this does not prevent this dog from being an almost ideal family dog. A dog with a character is a little trickier to manage than a good dough, it's obvious, but that does not mean that it has to be beaten like plaster on the pretext that it is not easy. This is what generations of masters have done under the pretext that their dog was supposedly dominant.

Dominance, today widely questioned, has above all been a formidable pretext for abuse of authority of all kinds. If you have to be firm to manage a dog with a strong character, firm is not synonymous with brutal. By the way ...

Some are not capable of firmness: perhaps should not they choose high potential breeds?

There is a category of master /dog couple where the dog ends badly: abandoned or even euthanized because he was "unmanageable". Very often, if we can intervene before it is too late, we realize that the dog was unmanageable, or "dominant" as they say by the force of things. Let me explain: this same dog managed by someone else or put in another family is often no longer worrying.

From there to say that these first masters were partly responsible for this state of affairs, there is only one step that I crossed briskly. As rightly said a great horseman: "If you are not part of the



solution, you are probably part of the problem!

Having a dog with a character you do not know well means that the walks will be a source of anxiety; anguish to cross congeners, a human approaches to ask his way or a child comes to caress him (normally innocuous situations)!

Receiving friends or deliverymen or just the postman becomes a story; Go to a friend's house or hotel for a very risky adventure rather than a good time shared; the visits to the Veterinary, Course veterinarian ... In short, the inconvenience far outweighs the pleasure of owning a dog.

Karl, a character Rottweiler!

To say of a Rottweiler that he has character is a pleonasm. It is true that they are dogs with a strong temperament. Karl is the Rottweiler I adopted at the SPA, at the age of 2 years. If I recognize him as a character, I will never blame him. It is a dog that has perfectly mastered a pack of nearly fifteen individuals without ever hurting anyone. Its day-to-day management required unwavering attention but nothing impossible.

My wife has kept it many times without worry, so veterinarians have always been impressed by his good manners during annual visits. In short, a dog of character, and not character! Well kept in hand by responsible masters, it does not pose a problem.



Benefits of a dog with character

◇ Benefits dog character

If for some masters, having a dog of character is a real ordeal, for others it can be a real pleasure and a source of joy in everyday life!

The point with the canine educator Antonio Ruiz, who explains to us why the dog must know to show character and to what masters this type of dog is particularly suitable.

◇ Dogs of character, for which master?

Man is so made that some are proud to have “a dog not convenient” even if they are unable to master it, look for the mistake! Others more responsible, able to hold their “fierce”, like to feel masters of this power.

Still, others, knowing that they are rough and difficult to live on a daily basis, are looking for a dog that can psychologically withstand the pressure. We are there in an area of the human mind that a shrink would have happiness to explore.

For those who practice sporting or utilitarian activities, a dog with character is, however, a real blessing.

◇ Who are the dogs of character and why are they?

How many breeds of hunting dogs have been selected to deal with game not always friendly (would you be if we were trying to eliminate you?)

Still, in front of a wild boar or a badger in his burrow, dogs must show a strong character.

Hence a strong character common to all breeds of hunting dogs (Brittany spaniel, English cocker spaniel, setters, etc.), which combines tenacity and obstinacy.



The dog of a security or police dog handler who is patrolling an insecure zone and who has to intervene in front of a gang of criminals also has an interest in showing character and even courage. Army dogs in theaters of operation must, for example, be able to accomplish their mission despite a hostile environment.

Rescue dogs also need to be persistent in the debris to save lives. An environment of the most dangerous as well physically (risk of injury) as psychologically (tension, hyper noisy atmosphere ...).

◇ A dog of character in a family?

For the standard family, managing a dog with character is less simple every day. Even if some people like to believe that the dog will be able to show heroism in case of danger and save the woman or the children of robbers, a swimming accident or a fire. Unfortunately, the few stories that the press echoes are only exceptional cases, whether the dog has character or not.

If you have a dog of character in spite of you, take care to bring him a firm and flexible education in a well-defined frame, pledge of a harmonious relationship based on the complicity.

If you do not have one, but it is a necessary criterion in the acquisition of your future dog, think carefully: having a dog with character is not easy on a daily basis and will ask for more. Patience and education throughout his life ... The animal, character or not, should in no way serve as a stooge, as a beautiful car or a beautiful watch.



What if my dog has character?

Having a dog of character can quickly become unmanageable for his master. But this is not inevitable; there are ways to regain the upper hand.

We must question ourselves and say that we have every chance to manage his dog if we give ourselves the means. The professionals who can help you are many: professional dog trainers, but also veterinary behaviorists and others.

Some basic rules can already be useful to you: who says dog of character says master firm, that is to say, a master who will obtain what he wants if he insisted at length. Many dogs end up getting what they want because they have “had” their master to wear.

The dog has nothing to do with his day, satisfy his desires, not you. So the first rule is not to give in.

The second is to ... do not give in! To those who tell you: it is necessary to “break” (“break” his character, the mater), I answer with three arguments:

- the first is the risk of seeing the dog rebound (rightly) and bite you.
- the second: you may actually “break” the dog and make him fearful and /or unstable, so potentially even more dangerous.
- finally, and this is undoubtedly the main one: there are other solutions that are more efficient and less risky.

So do not listen to counselors who, as you know, are not the payers. Here it is the dog who is likely to pay high prices for such methods.

Another important point: I think it is possible with a very good education to master a dog of character. But to take a speaking image, one must see the character of the dog as a wall that is covered with a layer of polish good manners. If the varnish gives way (because not sufficiently



maintained), the imperfections will only be more visible. It's up to you to remain vigilant and watch over your dog's obedience and sociability on a daily basis.

Confusion between different terms: character, temperamental, dominant, aggressive, disobedient, independent, asocial

We have just seen what distinction could be made between a dog of character and a temperamental dog (who would have bad temper or mood swings). A dog is not dominant in the absolute, in the sense that the dog does not breathe in dominating, he does not eat dominating, he does not do his needs by dominating.

Many things have been said about this often wrongly. Many behaviors classified as "dominant" are just simple elements of communication behind which one must not see an irrepressible desire to dominate everything that moves. Aggressiveness has nothing to do with character; aggression is a response to a given situation.

How many dogs that are scared to death have aggressive behavior, while being the opposite of dogs of character! Disobedience is only a pretext behind which the owners who have not made the effort to work their dog hide. Independence is a notion specific to certain individuals or certain races. For example, the Shepherds of Anatolia are watchdogs and herdsman in Turkey.

To fulfill their mission, they face extreme living conditions and predators such as wolves and other bears. A drastic selection encouraged dogs with strong character, able to withstand these conditions. Transformed into a pet dog, its qualities can be perceived by some as a defect.

Man is often responsible for the social character of a dog. Dogs like most canines are social animals. The learning adults give to the youngest in nature is not always done by the human who has no qualms about qualifying his dog as antisocial! What's more, we would like our dogs to be everyone's friends, other dogs, humans, other races, while we are totally unable to, but the human is not at a paradox!





Unit 4

DISOBEDIENT DOG

Operational objective

Your dog does not obey you? Here are the solutions to make him less disobedient.



Pedagogical objectives

Why does my dog disobey?

Does the dog really disobey?

How to improve your dog's obedience?

Methods to rehabilitate your dog



Why does my dog disobey?

Having a disobedient dog is one of the things the master dreads the most. But do not panic, there is always an explanation (and a solution). And most of the time, it's on the master's side that you have to look.

This is a sensitive topic for an educator because very often the owners who use our services justify their lack of results and the punishments they inflict on their dog under the pretext that it is disobedient.

As one well-informed said, if you're not part of the solution, you're certainly part of the problem. If you will, I will "dissect" this disobedience in three points. The first is the part which belongs to the master; the second will be the responsibility of the dog. Finally, we will see how to remedy one and the other.

◇ The responsibility of the master

Yet with such a "name", the human should be the champion of learning. Well, believe me, or not, it is actually in most cases the source of the difficulties encountered. Let us quote pell-mell: its incoherence, its weakness even its laxity, its authority wrongly or abusively. If you mix everything, you get inconsistent.

His pride (which prevents him from questioning himself and which would justify to him that his dog is naturally obedient to him). His lack of clarity in command. I continue? Believe me, I could, but let's look at these first elements already:

inconsistency

In my eyes, the worst of faults. How is it manifested? You give an order, your dog does not run it and ... you move on to something else (other order, games, crosswords or TV, whatever!).

Let's say it once and for all, even get ahead of our third part: when you give an order, the dog



must obey. It does not matter how long or how enthusiastic it will be, but it must finally do what you ordered.

◇ From weakness to laxity

There are those who simply do not want to make authority or even give simple orders to their dog. Very good! Everyone is free to choose. I respect their choice on two conditions: they do not complain that they do not control their dog and they recognize that this lack of education can be dangerous for their dog (story to think).

◇ Authority and abuse of authority

At the other end of the chain, you have the masters who wear and often abuse their power. Either they scream at their dog who is not deaf (he even hears better than they do if I'm not mistaken!), Or they do not leave the dog alone for more than two seconds in a row. "Sitting", "lying", "not moving", and it starts again "sitting" "at the foot" ... It's useless, it's even used for the master, it literally stupefies the poor dog and it does not give any way no good result. A tip, relax!whimsical

Some even push the vice to go from a baba-cool state to that of chief warrant officer in less time than it takes to write it. Example lived daily by hundreds of thousands of dogs: during the walk in the park, the dog is let go, he lives his small life cushy, sniffing right and left, away from their master who does not pay attention.

When the dog is far, far, far away, beyond the authority of his owner, he decides to call him back. Everything starts quietly (I would say softly): "Come Kiki, come, go be nice, come see dad" and as the dog seems to answer "nothing to do", the master gets upset. He screams: "At the foot, I said at the foot and faster than that, are you deaf or what? And there the dog usually reacts with something like, "Oh dear, if I go now, what am I going to take!" "

In short too soft to hard without passing through the firm and assured authority: poor results guaranteed.

Pride ... misplaced



It is not easy to tell yourself that if something goes wrong between your dog and you, it surely comes from you. Why would it be more of my own than that of this beast? Well yes, in most cases, it is there that we must seek a beginning of solution. The human commits many errors simply because of his alleged superiority.

Lack of clarity

You have already read it but twice are better than one: no dogs do not speak French, neither English nor German nor Turkish. For simplicity, they do not speak for themselves, nor do they understand human language. Just associate a sound and an action (“sitting” with “I put my buttocks on the floor”).

So there is no point in making long speeches that they will only catch at the best of their name and a known sound. Given that in a normal relationship, the order is rather from the master to the dog, it is essential to start working on the start of the sequence, so on the master.

We do not have the same values in dog training! Let me explain. During each assessment I make with my new clients, I ask them what their dog already knows how to do. Very often they answer me: “The” sitting “is not too bad, the” bedtime “is harder”. The rest ?

And when I ask for a demonstration, the party begins! There are some dogs that actually have a “seated” and sometimes even a “lying”, some know how to stay a long time, a good foundation, but most of the time, the master must repeat five or six times his order, before pressing the buttocks of his dog so that it puts them a half-second! I hear then either a “you see” quite proud, or a more realistic “yes, it’s true and then it does not stay long”.



Does the dog really disobey?

We often hear some teachers complaining about having a disobedient dog, but are there really “disobedient dogs”?

A dog does not disobey to make you go crazy. Be sure of it! He almost always disobeys because between your order and something else he chose the other thing. Because it seemed more fun, more interesting, more “profitable” for him, but in no case to make you turn goat in spite of appearances.

Three questions to ask before talking about disobedience:

1. Your dog may not have heard your order! (It is sometimes necessary to check that the dog has no hearing problems.)
2. Maybe he did not understand it?
3. Does he have reasons not to obey you? Note that I chose this formula rather than “not to obey”!

See the development phases of the puppy; a puppy who has been deficient during this period will have much greater difficulties in obeying you as an adult. She then developed the peculiarities of each race and even within a race the individualities. So many elements that must be taken into account when taking stock of a “disobedient” dog.

Many dogs do not obey because they are not in a position to do so. Why are not they? Because they are scared and when you have such a feeling, it is very difficult to concentrate. Restore confidence to your dog and do not put it in fear and you will see that it will progress quickly.

Some breeds probably obey more easily than others, but for those who care, there is nothing



impossible to make listen to the finger and the eye a burrow or a Nordic dog, or even a greyhound . You must take into account in your program the starting level of your team (your dog but also your knowledge and skills in dog training), your final goal (good companion dog, or sport dog or working dog ...) and the means you give yourself to achieve it.



How to improve your dog's obedience?

It is possible to make a dog more obedient, but this is not done without education.

There are not fifty ways to teach something to a dog. Let's say we can reward him for doing something good, punishing him for doing wrong, or in the latter case ignoring him. Today, more and more trainers are using positive methods that rely almost entirely on rewards, dog motivation and "soft" techniques (lure, game, clicker ...).

Others are still old-fashioned and punish as much if not more than reason. We know today that this is not the most pleasant way to proceed (ask the dogs what they think!) But especially not the most effective. Rejecting the punishment 100% seems to be a permissive error fraught with consequences, but a proportion of 90/10 in favor of rewards and other incentives to the detriment of sanctions seems to me a good average.

Many people are rather on a base of 5% rewards, 10% punishments and 85% non-reaction. Not terrible! Because if to stop bad behavior (jumps, barking, pilfering ...), we can resort to extinction (which is not to react), do not react when the dog has worked well is counterproductive. That said, it's typically human!

How many times has your boss garbled you for a foul? Often and it was deserved... and how many times did he congratulate you on a job well done? Never, too bad! Of course, you are paid to do this job, but an encouragement or a congratulation are still fun, right? Dogs also appreciate.

Some concrete examples

Ideally, you have to associate good behavior with a reward, it's as simple as that. Your dog comes back; he is rewarded. He does not come back: ask yourself why and try not to put him in a failure situation.



An excellent colleague often says that you should not create a bad scenario, I think he is right. Reduce the distance between you, use a lanyard, work in a less disturbing (tempting) place for your dog. Gradually increase the difficulties, and you will see that they will flush themselves.

Your dog jumps on the visitors: hold him on a leash to control him and then work him down, so that he calms down and do not forget to reward him with your friends when he is wise so that he understands where is his interest. He barks, offer him a market: do you want a treat? If he accepts, he will not be able to (both physically) eat his treat and bark at the same time. So if he takes the croquette, he is silent. Once, the silence obtained, occupy his mind with another command, “lying down” for example. You will see, very few dogs can bark while lying down.

If your dog is a coward or a vacuum cleaner, work the refusal of bait, “spit” and rather than punish him because he has caught something forbidden, reward him for having obeyed your orders; “Not touch” or “leave”.

Your dog destroys everything in your absence? Start by asking yourself why he is doing this: is it boredom, stress or some other reason? Work on the causes rather than the consequences. Whether your dog is riding on armchairs or sofas, getting into your room, or getting on your bed does not seem so bad.

Yes, even among professionals we do not always have the same approaches! Attention is not so serious with 3 conditions:

- your dog is not a terror and is not aggressive
- it is your choice to allow him access to these places
- you can forbid it, take it out or get out of a simple verbal order

If these 3 conditions are met, go ahead, you have my blessing. If you miss even one, pay attention and seek help from a professional. One of the bases of a good relationship with his dog is: “to be able to control the space and the displacements of his companion”.



Since we are talking about dominance, I would simply like to remind those who think they are pack leaders of this maxim: “In good dominance, know how to dominate”.

Conclusion

Dogs are not born obedient (not even guide dogs or helper dogs), they become so. It is up to humans, breeders, owners, educators, veterinarians, behaviorists to help them. Good obedience is based on the notions of understanding and respect.

The master will be firm, fair, consistent and above all not shy about rewards. His dog will be content to be a happy dog, faithful and always ready to please his master to find his own account. As with children, there will always be well-behaved children who will fit into society without worries and those who will have to fend for themselves and for whom it will be more difficult.

Be really the master of your dog for his good, that of your entourage, and you can be legitimately proud of him and you.



Methods to rehabilitate your dog

To reeducate his dog, two sets of methods exist: those that will remove harmful behavior and those whose purpose is to reveal a pleasant behavior.

◇ The punishment

It must respect certain rules. It is often only a one-off solution:

- the punishment must stop as soon as the dog is subjected
- she must be fair
- it must be given on the moment and not delayed compared to the stupidity
- she must not hurt the dog
- it must be systematic for the same fault
- it must be put in place at the beginning of the education

◇ Extinction

We suppress harmful behavior by removing the cause. We re-educate a dog that destroys everything during your absence by removing the rituals of departure (take his keys ...).

◇ Habituation

The stimulus causing the undesirable behavior is caused but in a very short time so that the reaction of the animal becomes normal even in the presence of stimulation. The dog is afraid of noise. It is reproduced for a very short time to get used to it.

◇ Desensitization

The stimulus is presented at a very low dose and then increased, but it must never provoke a reaction. If the dog reacts, the level of stimulus has come down. The dog is afraid of noise; it is reproduced with a very weak intensity at the beginning.

◇ Counter-conditioning

The situation that triggers bad behavior is associated with behavior that can not exist at the same time as the unwanted one.



For example, the game, the meal, all the behaviors that will divert the animal from its trouble in the presence of the triggering situation. The passing car scares the puppy; we play with him at the precise moment of his passage.

◇ The immersion

The animal is put in the situation that triggers its abnormal behavior: an example of the hunter who fires with the dog who is afraid. This method should be considered with the help of a professional who follows you closely. Another solution is to show good behavior.

◇ The reward

This method is also called positive reinforcement. It consists of ignoring the unwanted behavior and caressing the dog or giving him a treat as soon as he acts well. The animal will associate your joy with the behavior and reproduce it.

◇ The association

The dog is associated with another dog so that he can model his behavior on him. This is the example of young hunting dogs who hunt with more experienced for the first time.





Unit 5

DESTRUCTIVE DOG

Operational objective

Your dog is destructive, he breaks everything and jumps everywhere? Here are the solutions to make it less turbulent.



Pedagogical objectives

The destructive dog

The dog “digger” or “scraper”

The dog “Eater”

The restless dog

The hyperactive and excitable dog

The dog “jumper”



The destructive dog

The pathological destruction of the dog is, with aggression, the behavioral disorder most frequently encountered. It is also the most difficult for the master to bear. This abnormal behavior is one of the first causes of abandonment.

The master cannot bear to see the stay “ransacked” after each of his absences. Conflicts in families about the attitude to be adopted are then difficult to solve, which is distressing when a good education would be enough to avoid this situation.

The destruction can range from simple nibbling of furniture and objects to the careful and systematic shredding of sofas. Puppies learn about their environment by mouth: they lick and then nibble everything.

It's an instinctive behavior, but you must quickly make them understand that you should not adopt it at home (by scolding them, not playing games of tugging and giving them toys to them). For all behavioral disorders, one must always try to find the cause to put in place an effective “treatment”.

The destroyer is defined as a dog that reacts to an embarrassment by an organized destruction of its environment. It is understood that the pup who tries to bite everything is to educate but not to re-educate. This is a normal phase of its development, however, it should neither be amplified nor last. Rehabilitation concerns the animal which, having reached the age of 8 months, keeps a behavior of nibbling and destruction.

The causes

The destruction may be due to the fear of being alone, to boredom or revenge.



1. The fear of being alone predominates in the many cases of “vandalism”. As with the barking dog, separation anxiety is often the cause of this disorder. The animal too attached to his family cannot bear the physical or emotional isolation. This can happen at home, at friends’ homes or in the car. This can even happen at the first signs of the master’s departure. The dog seizes, for example, a cushion that shakes violently. Punishment will never be an effective remedy for this situation. It will aggravate it, on the contrary.

2. **Boredom:** This may seem excessive, but a dog can actually be bored, especially when he is alone. He is not afraid to be alone but he does not know what to do! The only occupation he finds is to take all the foam out of the chair.

3. **Vengeance:** Animals sometimes feel unfair. But revenge is often more an interpretation of the master than a reality. The dog rarely “avenges” even if he feels “hurt”. What is happening is that, above all, he can not control himself. However, this behavior that looks like revenge can occur, and we allow ourselves to consider it.

If the revenge response is really causing the disaster, be sure to resolve the issues before leaving your dog alone and never “give up” after a reprimand. Do not lock him in a room when you leave neither in the car nor for a punishment. Never forget that a punishment must take place at the very moment the fault is committed, otherwise the dog will not understand and may even start again.

The cures

1. Remedy for loneliness

If the dog destroys everything for fear of loneliness, it is necessary to resume all the learning concerning it. Some people take their puppy everywhere to get him used to all situations. Then, as an adult, he becomes more bulky, and he has to stay at home. The result is that he is used to everything except loneliness.



Let's start again from scratch. The fear of loneliness is often linked to a hyper-attachment to the master. In practice, do not scold the dog when you return. Act as if nothing had happened (even if the damage is significant). Tell him to go to his basket and then come out soon after saying: "Lying! " Before leaving. Come back within five minutes. Congratulate calmly on the dog if he is still in the same place.

If he has time to get up to destroy something, shorten your exit. The dog must associate your departure and your return with his good behavior and your satisfaction. Do not give him time to do anything stupid. Then gradually extend the duration of your absences.

2. Remedy for boredom

If the dog gets bored, you have to distract him. If he persists in everything, give him something to do. Put at his disposal many dog toys that he can destroy. If he destroys his basket, do not change him.

You can use bitter products to basting on objects, but it is best to get a natural correction of the troubles. You can also give him a personal item to keep. He will feel proud of this new role.



The dog “digger” or “scraper”

This type of “destruction” occurs only outside the home but can still be badly felt by the masters (or neighbors).

◇ The digger dog

Garden diggers sometimes only imitate their masters. If your dog shows this tendency, you can try to avoid gardening in his presence. It’s very fun for him to see you bury something and imagine digging it up later! Teachers often excuse this behavior in puppies.

But we must take it back right away. Ask him to sit next to you. It is also the manifestation of a construction instinct of a burrow. Pregnant females do this often. If they do not live in a garden, they scratch the cushions or the carpet. This behavior is normal; To prevent damage to the floor of your home, simply put a cardboard box with rags in it. They will thus make their “nest”. Females who have nerve pregnancies also have this behavior.

You can also put a niche in the garden. But give the dog time to settle there. If the master is anxious to see the animal lie down in the doghouse, the dog may become “allergic” to the shelter. The digging animal can sometimes express frustration at home. This is the case of the dog that is sent to the garden to punish him.

While digging, he will not take revenge but free himself from this feeling of exclusion. The garden should be a place of relaxation and not isolation. If the dog digs to escape under the fence, it can be distracted by putting a bullet in the hole. He will then think more about taking the ball out of the hole than digging to save himself. It can also be a runaway dog that wants to escape at any cost.

◇ The dog “scraper”

Scratching dogs often pound on doors or furniture. Some females scratch the armchair of their master. This is the case of dogs that have not been “pushed back” enough to puberty and who



take a sexual attitude vis-à-vis their master.

Do not caress them too much during hot weather and “regulate” your own caresses. This scraping situation also occurs when the dog is locked in a room at the arrival of visitors. He’s at home; he’s not the one to isolate.



The dog “Eater”

The puppy also uses the taste to explore the world around him. He bites stones, pieces of wood or plastic, and any object with which he comes into contact. Then he goes to a quiet place and begins to chew and gnaw them, finding this game very pleasant.

In addition, dogs are attracted by strong odors, such as those that come from garbage bags, they lacerated to swallow the contents. The dog has an instinctive predilection for decaying foods because his ancestors hid the remains of their prey underground and consumed them later.

This behavior is also observable today in some dogs that bury bones and bread to eat when they feel like it. The master who sees his dog with something inedible in his mouth, and tries to take it away from him, risk fighting with him. The animal indeed, amused by this new game, fled.

When finally the master joins him and tries to remove the object he holds between the fangs, the animal growls and pulls in the opposite direction: the intervention, rather than dissuading him, becomes a good reason to continue this Pica (ingestion of inedible substances) is a symptom of psychological discomfort when it occurs in dogs with little social contact with other animals and humans.

Boredom is indeed one of the causes of this behavior, which is not uncommon to find associated with coprophagia. The desire to attract the attention of the master is also a motivation that pushes him to swallow stones, wood, plastic, etc., especially if the first episodes were reinforced by a pursuit (as for coprophagia).

What attitude to adopt?

To correct this behavior, it is important to obtain the dog's complete obedience, in order to stop him by throwing him an order before he puts something in his mouth. Accompany him



on a walk, on a leash, and when he puts his nose on the ground, shout a dry “No” and decided, exerting a slight pull.

If he obeys, reward him with a treat or hugs; if not, do not shout, but take it by force. If the dog walks freely in the garden, control it from a distance, intervening as soon as it tries to take something in the mouth, with a dry “No” and decided: distract him by using an ultrasonic whistle or the jet of a water pistol.

It is important that he does not make any connection between this diversion and his master, because he could, in his absence, eat whatever he wants. The muzzle is an excellent deterrent, and even for some subjects a good treatment.

Do not gratify the behavior of the dog: do not pay attention to him to convince him to let go of what he has caught in his mouth because he will start again if he understands that he increases your interest.



The restless dog

Some dogs do not hold up. The manifestations of this agitation are barking, jumping, tugging on the leash, fifty trips back and forth along the garden ... Apartment life is difficult. The dog climbs on the armchairs, comes down at the slightest opportunity. He sleeps very little.

This irritates the master who, no longer supporting the dog, scolds him or avoids his contact. The dog will then try to get his attention by struggling even more. A solution must be found quickly, as agitation, like destruction, is a common cause of separation.

Triggering causes:

◇ Anxiety

Anxiety is often associated with the contributing causes, the catalyst that allows the appearance of the disorder. The dog can not control himself when he sees the departure of his master when he is in a new place, where he is confronted with an unknown situation. He becomes irritable, and the master avoids these new situations.

◇ Socialization

Bad initial socialization can also trigger agitation. The puppy that has never seen other animals will be excited when it comes into contact with an animal. It will, similarly, struggle to control itself in the presence of several people. The children will excite him easily. The game sessions with uncontrolled enthusiasm (tugging, screaming ...) also lead to a permanent excitation behavior.

The contributing causes:

It is often alone that we attribute this abnormal behavior. But in fact, they must be associated with triggering causes.



◇ The race

It must be recognized that there are some breeds prone to agitation. We insist again on the interest of the good choice of a race. It is obvious that it is better to choose a very calm race when you have children (like the King Charles) or if you are old. Poodles, Fox Terriers or Braques are very often nervous, although they are not necessarily all excited.

◇ The age

The young dog is more agitated than the adult, but this agitation must have limits. A puppy that devours everything and keeps moving can be classified in “abnormally” agitated animals.

◇ Their way of life

The living conditions of the master that do not suit the needs of the dog promote agitation. The dog may suffer from a lack of exercise. The personality of the master also intervenes: those who are constantly “running” tend to “make” a restless animal.

What to do if your dog is restless?

If you have chosen a breed predisposed to this type of behavior, it is necessary to privilege the learning of the orders of calm recall, that is to say: “Sitting!”, “Layer! »And« In the basket! You have to pay attention to the play sessions at home and away. They must always be controlled by the master and can be interrupted as soon as he wishes.

You can do “game-exercises” to force the animal to interrupt a session with the word “Stop! To avoid any excitement. As soon as a nervous dog is excited, it is necessary to lose interest in him momentarily and then to congratulate him as soon as he calms down and goes to bed.

Calm above all: You have to have a calm attitude yourself. Avoid cries, noise ... You must impose calm before each situation. You can also use the game sessions if they are very structured.

Launch an item that the dog must bring back. In order for him to control himself, ask him to drop it at your feet.



Take care of the dog and congratulate him only when he has let go of the object, has gone to bed and is calm again.

The key is to limit the causes of excitement at first and do nothing when the dog is excited (no walks, no hugs ...). Then multiply the situations “at risk” little by little and congratulate the dog when he remains calm or when he finds it.



The hyperactive and excitable dog

◇ Hyperactive dog

The young wolf never stays alone and inactive during the day: usually, the pack is made up of adults and other puppies with whom he can play. The dog's life, which, in general, does not enjoy the company of other animals, is quite different: he spends most of his time without communicating with anyone and without outside stimulation. When his master arrives, he frees himself frantically.

It's very important to remember this when you're looking at a dog who has hyperkinesia because it helps us understand if he's sick or if he behaves this way because he has to release all the accumulated energy and repressed during his moments of loneliness.

If he spends much of the day locked in a box, at home or tied to a chain, it is natural for him to run like crazy and jump on his master when he is released. This hyperactivity of the dog is only one way to express his joy.

It is also normal that a dog that is brought to walk in the fields pulls on his leash or, if he is free, that he abandons himself to frantic races and wants to mix the human with his games, that he considers himself a member of the pack.

◇ Control your dog

However, even if these behaviors are to be considered physiological, it is good that the master is able to control the exuberance of his animal. He must be able to call him back when he gets too far away and must be able to stop the game when he gets too upset. If he has difficulty in getting the dog away, he must "block" immediately with a leash unwinding.



Some masters usually do not tolerate their dog continually waving and jumping on people (especially guests), especially if he is doing it to attract attention (other behaviors are associated with this attitude, such as barking insistently, urinating or defecating).

When an unknown person arrives at home, some dogs do not know how to behave: at first, they stay in their corner, then as soon as they start to trust him, they start to jump, to run, to bark ... to get his attention.

Others, more expansive, throw themselves on the unknown and submerge caresses, licks, and paws. These two attitudes adopted by the dog are in fact a trap: if his master reprimands him or follows him to lock him in another room or to recover an object he holds in his mouth, he encourages his behavior (remember : the dog who wants to attract attention does not make the difference between reprimand and encouragement).

Our four-legged friend finds the chases very amusing and, as soon as he has the opportunity, he tries to mix his master again in a game he finds very entertaining. Overexcited behavior is also observed in dogs suffering from separation anxiety.

◇ More active breeds than others

There are breeds for which a great physical activity is a real requirement, a safety valve which serves to unload all their energy: these are working breeds (hunting dogs, in particular, sled dogs, herding dogs).) and very playful races.

Even though most hyperactive dogs are not sick, it's important to remember that moving frantically can also be a symptom of a nerve disease. Hyperthyroidism is another pathology that causes agitation and hyperactivity.

However, to ensure that a disease is not the cause of too much dog behavior, it is essential to contact a veterinarian who, with specific examinations, will confirm or eliminate this suspicion and will prescribe the good treatment.

What attitude to adopt against a hyperactive dog?



Increase self-discipline through specific exercises to control the “restless” animal: a good lesson in obedience training can be used to achieve this goal. When the subject has acquired a minimum of self-control, complete the educational exercises at home.

Start an order like “Sitting! Followed by “Rest! Then count to ten and, if he does not move, reward him. Repeat the exercise if he does not obey. Continue the training by gradually lengthening its duration, without reprimanding your dog when he does not behave properly.

He thus learns to concentrate on order and, consequently, to remain calm. These exercises are suitable especially for young dogs and healthy; a little less to old dogs who could get tired and be stressed.

If your dog spends a lot of time alone at home, on your return, take him to let off steam in a meadow: let him run or play stick toss with him. Stop behaviors.



The dog “jumper”

It is normal for a puppy to jump on people in the first few months. It is indeed what he does with his mother and his brothers and sisters. But you must teach him not to do so with people. Some dogs keep this bad habit.

◇ The causes

Dogs that do not tolerate loneliness manifest excessive joy in the form of jumps on each return of the master or simply when they meet someone or another animal. They also jump on everything they do not know. We find, at the origin of this disorder, again the anxiety of separation, the lack of stimulation and socialization.

◇ What to do?

If the dog jumps on you, you must squat to greet him and keep him on the ground, saying, “Stay! Or “Sit! “. Praise him if he keeps this position when you get up. Avoid that it replaces the jump by licking the face. If he does, push him away. Masters accept and seek this mark of “tenderness”. But it is not a sign of affection on the part of the dog but a sign of domination and overprotection. The bitch licks her little ones.

You can also take a few steps back, gently, at the last moment. The dog will jump into the void. Then tell him to sit down. It is necessary, in this reeducation, to multiply the exercises of this type. It is necessary to provoke the bad behavior to be able to correct it as often as possible.

Train yourself to these exercises and check that this good behavior is generalized during the visit of friends. It is necessary that little by little, the dog understands that your joy is triggered not by its exuberant manifestations but on the contrary by its calm. This bad attitude is very often reinforced either by the masters or by the passers-by, who find charming a puppy who jumps on everybody.





Unit 6

RUNAWAY DOG

Operational objective

Your dog runs away, he often runs away from home? Here are the causes and solutions anti fugue.



Pedagogical objectives

My dog runs away

The different runaway dogs

Adapted therapy for the runaway dog

The runaway dog: causes and solutions

What if my dog runs away?

What to do when the dog escapes by all means?

Fence for dogs

Dog collar



My dog runs away

The fugue is the prolonged absence of the dog out of its territory. He will run away from home of his own free will. He knows he is coming out of his house, that he is not allowed to do so and that he does not intend to return soon. The feeling of “fault” is present in his mind. He will try to deceive you.

The case of the dog that is lost is different. Your dog may indeed be away from you momentarily in a place that is unfamiliar to him (forest, park) and no longer finds you. The runaway is aware of his escape.

◇ The causes

The character of the dog, the conditions in which he lives and all the changes of his close entourage can generate fugues, but also and especially sexuality. Fear more often causes a flight reaction, but can also be the cause of running away.

◇ Sexuality

Sexual activity and the search for a partner, in male dogs, in particular, are the main cause of running away. This phenomenon is very common in cats; castration is in their case the best remedy. Dogs are only rarely smeared because education must be able to retain them. Moreover, this operation is more effective to correct the behavior of a biting dog than that of a runaway animal.

The dog begins to scratch the doors, then want to go out as soon as one of them opens. The reaction of the masters to attach the dog during these rutting periods only makes the situation worse. The dog only tries to escape. It is common to see males jumping from very high fences or slipping underneath while digging huge holes. A few seconds of inattention and this is your dog in the wild!



◇ The family environment

The dog can run away because he is uncomfortable in his family environment. This is the case when a modification has occurred: a baby is born, a new dog has arrived, a move has taken place ...

The dog will look “elsewhere” (he does not know where) some security and affection that he “thinks” have lost at home. It’s more a leak of one environment than the immediate search for another. But if the opportunity arises, he will “choose” a new family. That’s how adorable dogs are collected: they have not all suffered bad teachers, they flee because the situation does not seem more pleasant.

◇ The breeds

It should not be denied that some breeds are more runny than others. Nordic dogs are an example, as are some hunting dogs. This does not mean that you have to give up and excuse the dog, you just have to be more vigilant. We can keep a Husky in a garden without having to go out looking for him, if he is well educated.

The fear: Some dogs run away during storms or July 14th. Refer to the paragraph above on the shy dog. Puppies tend to run away with “unconsciousness”. They must be monitored a lot if the living environment is at risk (unfenced garden, for example).

What to do?

“Treatment” is a function of the origin of the fugue.

◇ The fugue of sexual origin

Education is unfortunately not very useful in this case. For the fugues of sexual origin, you can calm the desires of the animal with hormonal products. On the other hand, it is not advisable to lock him up, because this can cause him to feel unfair.



◇ The fugue due to family change

It is then necessary to give the dog a place in the family. If a change has occurred, give him confidence by strolling, caressing and playing with him. Attention always keeps his place of “dominated” even in the pampering.

◇ Fugue due to race

Education is, in this case, an effective remedy. If you have a “risky” puppy, you will need to pay close attention to learning to call back and walk on a leash. Some breeds are said to be runny, but it is quite possible to walk them without a leash. We must simply privilege this teaching among these races in relation to others. If you had the adult dog, resume learning from scratch by focusing exclusively on booster exercises.



The different types of runaway dogs

Here are the different types of runaway dogs:

◇ The dog “sexually excited”

This is one of the main causes of running away. This behavior is especially observed in males who go in search of a partner. Attaching the animal is not the solution: escaping then becomes an obsession, which will inevitably happen at the slightest moment of inattention.

Education can sometimes work, but if that’s not enough, try to calm the animal with hormonal products. Dogs become sexually mature at about 7 months old. An entire dog is motivated by a strong and natural desire to look for a companion. It can be very challenging to prevent an entire dog from running away because his motivation is particularly strong. In this case, have your dog neutered. Studies have shown that castration reduces sexual vagrancy in about 90% of cases.

However, if a male has a habit of running away, he may continue to do so by habit, even after being castrated. It is therefore vital to have your dog neutered as soon as possible. If you have a dog, have her operated. If your unoperated dog escapes from your garden during her heat, she is likely to wait for pups later (and she could be fertilized even if she stays in your garden).

◇ The shy dog

Puppies sometimes get scared when they hear an unknown noise (thunder, a washing machine, an alarm ...), which makes them more likely to run away than to run away. You must watch your puppy and go with him to these new sounds. If your garden does not have fences, it is better to limit your living space when you can not watch it.

Your dog may escape in response to something that frightens him if he runs away when exposed to loud noises, such as thunder, fireworks, firecrackers or construction noises.



Identify what scares your dog and desensitize him. Check with your veterinarian for the possibility of giving your dog anti-anxiety medication while you work on behavior modification. Leave your dog indoors when there are opportunities for him to meet the stimulus that scares him. Reduce the noise by leaving it in a windowless bathroom for example, and leave the TV or radio on.

Give your dog access to a “safe place”. Observe where he likes to go when he feels anxious, and free access to it, or create a similar space that you reserve for him to use when the stimulus that scares him.

The independent dog

It will monitor because you can not change his character.

The dog “hungry”

Education can overcome it.

The disobedient dog

Same, it’s a question of education



Adapted therapy for the runaway dog

To set up a therapy adapted to cure the runaway dog, it is necessary to individualize the reasons for the escapade. The advice given to prevent sexual leakage is also good for treating dogs that are used to running away.

Castrate the male

For leaks of sexual origin, castration is useful: in 90% of cases, the problem is solved especially if we intervene on young males who have not yet fully tasted the joys of freedom and freedom. sex. When the surgery is not enough, or the owner does not agree, it is necessary to resort to behavioral therapy.

The program plans to keep the dog fasting for 24-48 hours and then give him 75% of his ration during the actual therapy. Every hour (or half-hour) go out into the garden and offer him a treat, continuing for a few days. Let more and more time pass between delicacy and the other, and alternate the outlets where you offer the dog a strengthening and those where you do not offer him anything.

With this therapy, he will understand that if he stays home, he has the opportunity to be rewarded with something he loves so much, and he will not run away.

How to punish the runaway dog?

In some cases, the indirect punishment also works: you have to convince a friend to punish your dog when he reaches his goal, by sprinkling him with plenty of water so that he associates this place with a bad experience.

By exploiting the corrective power of punishment, a system comparable to the “electric shepherd”, used to keep cows in a meadow, has been developed. We define the area in which we want to confine the dog with an electrified wire that sends a signal to the collar.



When the animal gets too close to the wire, it receives a slight electric shock through the collar. It will associate the wire with the discharge and will not approach anymore, staying in the circumscribed area, even if the wire is no longer electrified.

Punishment, as we have also pointed out many times about other problems, is a difficult and painful corrective method for the dog. It is therefore recommended to use it only when all other systems have failed.



The runaway dog: causes and solutions

RuizFugue, with aggression, seems to be one of the most difficult dog problems to solve. Nevertheless, solutions exist, here is an anthology. Of course, some prevent the dog from running away without attacking the very causes of the runaway, while others go back to the source of the problem; in any case, it eliminates the desire of the dog to run away.

It is also useful to specify that a dog who does not return during the walk or when his master opens the door is not a runaway dog but an animal without a reminder. It is also a work that needs to be done but has nothing to do with our subject (see above). A runaway dog goes under the fence, over, sometimes through! A running dog can open the doors, damaging a window to get out “at any cost”.

We even saw a German Shepherd gently take the key already in the padlock, turn it with his mouth before pushing the truffle said padlock open and out of his pen! Incredible but true ... Like what a motivated dog can turn into a king of escape.

What drives a dog to run away?

A lack of exercise, the desire to join friends or a female in heat or humans, hunger, the desire to fight with a congener are just some of the reasons that encourage dogs to save themselves.

When boredom is the cause of your dog's escapades, you must occupy it, simple no?

Toys (if possible made for that) that will occupy it by randomly distributing food, another animal or sometimes just a radio or television set turned on. Honesty is that you specify, before you make your decision, that the arrival of another friend, including a dog, it's like a bet or double. The second dog can occupy the first and “prevent” and run away or on the contrary, find that the first has great ideas and accompany him on his hikes.

What some people call “separation anxiety” (a reason that can cause the dog to leave home to



find you or at least find humans) is a problem that begins to be dealt with in your presence! You must leave the dog in another room, in the garden if you are in the house and vice versa. The dog must get used to short absences. Sharing good times with you yes, being so dependent on you that a separation is no longer possible: no!

I often hear people complaining that their dog is running away and easily recognize that they have no fence! Even if some dogs are able to stay in an area without exceeding “virtual” limits, they remain exceptions. Common sense is that we start talking about running away from the moment you have a fence in good condition and adapted to the size of your dog.

The size and physical abilities of the dog are to be taken into account as well as his motivation. For example, at the time when we practiced the ring (defense sport), with Karl, my Rottweiler, this one was able to jump on order the hedge (1,30 meter) without touching it and the wall (2.10 meters) while clinging and taking a little more than 1 meter of momentum.

It is an athletic rottweiler of 65 centimeters at the withers for 45 kilograms. Rest assured, it is not necessary to mount the fences to more than 2 meters to be quiet. 1.60 meters, 1.70 meters are sufficient if you take care to make a “return” (a piece of wire hanging on a pole end tilted inwards at about 45 degrees).

Be careful not to walk a dog that has a tendency to leak in the area, especially if you leave your home on foot. In fact, we find that these dogs tend to consider both sides of the barrier as their “territory”: it becomes normal and even essential that there “patrol”. Leaving your home by car can be the solution. Just walk a few kilometers (2 or 3) before walking the dog on a leash or let him frolic.

Much more common, the case of these owners who, under the pretext that they have a large garden, do not go out or more their dog, phenomenon aggravated by these uneducated dogs, who pull on their leash, transforming the walks into galleys. It is necessary to start by working the steps on a leash and steps at the foot then take out the dog.



Indeed, if your field is big, be sure that your dog has been around for a long time.

Dogs love to go out with their owners because they spend a moment with the one they consider to be the most important in the world because they know they will meet friends and a whole world of odors. In addition, all outings contribute to the socialization of our dogs. Conclusion: whether you live in an apartment or a large house with a huge park of several hectares, take your dog out ... for his good.

If your dog goes out to attack other dogs or humans or any living being, and even mechanics (cars ...), you will probably improve things greatly by working sociability. In any case, the outings in these conditions must be painful and dangerous, unless you are already part of those people we mentioned in the previous paragraph!

For dogs who take themselves for moles and dig under the fence, there is a simple solution to implement and very effective. A piece of wire netting fixed on the bottom of the existing fence and returning to the ground (like a square) about 40 to 50 centimeters. Vegetation ends up pushing through the part on the ground (it contributes to its fixation and camouflage) and the distance (a few tens of centimeters) deters your dog from digging.

We started by saying that the reason that pushes the dog to “cut the road” can solve the problem. If you find your dog systematically with neighbors having one or more females, not necessarily in heat elsewhere, castration will surely calm the ardor of your Casanova.

Some dogs do not spend enough, so they go out alone to stretch their legs; the solution is then self-evident: take it for a walk and, with a bit of training, why not run with him or tie him to the bike to make larger courses? Be careful, however, that your dog can follow physically (contraindications or precautions for puppies, old dogs, flattened faces and dogs with health problems).



Some dogs have an appetite that leads them to become the terror of the neighborhood garbage cans when it is not the hen farmer hut that toast! (In garbage cans or garbage dumps, the simple pleasure of digging into such a large source of odors can also explain what we consider to be an ugly fault.) If this is the case with your Gargantua, you can try giving it his ration in several meals and, even better, at different times.

The dog does not really know the time of his bowl; it is likely that he remains at home. It seems incredible, but I have already met people who, in good faith, gave too low doses (or too high) to their dog. If this one carapaces to eat, check the quantities (directly related to the “wealth” of the product).

Some people are sorry to see their dog run away, even when they go out into their garden for short periods, but to the question, “Why do not you leave him indoors?” The answer falls like a cleaver: “It’s impossible it destroys everything! Or how to move from one problem to another before, perhaps, in the future, in the face of repeated fugues, to consider the worst: the abandonment or even the worst of the worst: euthanasia.

Simply because we did not bother to teach the dog to stay alone for a few hours in the house.



What if my dog runs away?

◇ puppy standing fence fugue

Running away is a problem well known to dog owners. Occasional or chronic, the fugue of the dog represents a danger for the animal delivered to itself in nature but also a source of anxiety for his master who is bad blood.

Fortunately, there are solutions to this dog behavior problem. Is there not a saying that says “every problem has its solution”?

◇ Why the dog runs away

Separation anxiety: this disorder can appear due to an absence or bad socialization in the puppy in his first weeks of life. It results in destructive behaviors (on objects but also on itself), sometimes fugues and in the most serious cases, a lack of communication and difficulties to feed.

Loneliness: the dog can start to run away because he is bored when you are not at home, or following a change in his host family (move, baby, new dog ...). If the animal feels frustrated, it will naturally seek elsewhere what it does not find, or more in sufficient quantity, at home.

Sexuality: your dog can also be beautiful to satisfy his sexual needs. Its flight will then be motivated by the search for a partner, which may correspond to the hot periods of females.

Fear: a noise, a firecracker, a storm ... Sources of nuisance that can scare your pet are numerous. The animal who is trying to hide at all costs can then run away.

Hunger: It is well known, the majority of dogs think with their bellies. If the animal smells pleasantly floating in the air, it may be tempting to look for the source.

The need to exercise, the game: the desire to join other animals to play, walk, run may be a fac-



tor triggering the fugue of the dog.

◇ Runaway dog, what solutions?

Rest assured, solutions exist to remedy this problem. Not all cases are treated the same, and some dogs are more difficult to (re) educate than others.

◇ The fugue due to heat

If it is a fugue of sexual origin, castration will not be the miracle cure contrary to popular belief. Indeed, this kind of operation will be more effective in an aggressive dog than a runaway dog. Instead, prefer the hormonal treatments that will calm your dog punctually without altering his character or personality permanently.

◇ The loneliness of the dog

If your pet tends to run away because he feels lonely, you can choose the classic radio trick left on during the day. Thus, the dog will feel less alone when hearing human pathways. When you are in his presence, do not be stingy in caresses and attentions towards him so that he associates your presence with a certain well-being.

◇ Hunger

If hunger is the trigger for your dog's escape, you may choose to shift your meals or give them at different times depending on the day. Thus deprived of landmarks, the dog will be less tempted to run away for fear of missing the hour of his bowl.

◇ Dog education

Educate your dog to prevent running away: If you have just adopted a puppy, a few basic lessons will teach him why he should not go out alone. Thus sensitized at an early age, the dog will be less likely to falsify you in the future. It should also be known that some breeds of dogs are more predisposed to this type of behavior (Nordic dogs sled dogs or even hunting dogs).

◇ The fear

Your dog runs away because he's scared? The first thing is to identify the reason for his fear if it is not obvious at first. If he is frightened by a noise (thunder, fireworks ...), do not comfort him to reassure him! It may be hard, but reassuring your dog will comfort him with the idea that his fear was justified.



The best method is to divert your attention from the noise, to associate it with something pleasant (candy, game ...)

◇ A family change

If the dog runs away due to a family change, then it will be necessary to take care to give him an important place within the family. Stroll, stroke and play with him while still keeping his dominated position in your relationship.

◇ Some anti fugue tips

To prevent it from escaping, you can add a “return” to your fence, that is to say, an extension located at its summit and inclined towards the interior of the garden. This will prevent him from jumping over. On the ground, you can arrange pieces of wire to dissuade him from digging a hole under the fence.

◇ The fugal fence

If your pet finds a way to escape anyway, the anti-fugue fence can be a good alternative. As soon as the dog enters “forbidden zones”, the device emits a signal that will not stop until the dog leaves. Obviously, you will have to assist it at the beginning so that it seizes the good behavior to adopt.

◇ Praise rather than punish

Important: when your dog runs away and comes back, you must congratulate him and not punish him. Even if it seems illogical to you and the dog knew he was not allowed to leave the house, he will not understand that you punish him on his return. It is always necessary to punish a dog just after his stupidity so that he can associate him with the punishment.

◇ Behavioral therapy

Finally, if the solutions mentioned above do not bear fruit, it will be necessary to think eventually of a behavioral therapy with a behavioral animalist. There is no shame in getting help, and these specialists will find good practices to get your dog back on track.



What to do when the dog escapes by all means?

The opinion of the educator Antonio Ruiz: For the kings of the escape, three solutions of the last chance

Let's start with the one I like the least: the fastener. I find "incanin" to leave his dog attached hours, days, weeks, months, we are there! whole years attached, without other forms of trial: incarcerate men without a good reason? In any case, the obstacle has something of "slavery" that disgusts me.

However, for short or temporary periods (the time to remake a fence worthy of the name), better a tie than a fugue coupled with an accident. That being said, the attachment must meet certain rules to be legal: for starters, no puppy of less than 6 months at the tie, for the older ones the leash must have a minimum length of 3 meters, be provided at the end of a carabiner swivel so that the leash does not kink with each movement of the dog while reducing itself then skin of sorrow.

The floor must be hard so that it does not become a wallet and can be cleaned. The dog must have a sufficiently spacious shelter and oriented correctly in relation to the wind and therefore the weather. The shelter must be insulated for heat and elevated from the ground to limit moisture.

Finally, the dog must always have a bowl of water accessible, but it can not overthrow with its attachment. Strict conditions, which is the least of the things for who plans to leave the dog long in this situation. I repeat again that there may be other ways to keep your dog from going, especially for a long time.

For this type of dog, the two other solutions that I will present to you seem to me "less worse". The first is simply a large kennel built on a hard floor, with screen-proof and covered wire



screens (to discourage jumpers and climbers), some types of roofs offering more areas of shade.

Be careful. However, some materials act as heat amplifiers and quickly turn the kennel into microwave. A kennel may not be extraordinary but at least the dog has no chain around his neck, and he is “relatively” free of his movements. The surface of such a kennel depends of course on the size of your dog, but about fifteen square meters seems to me a minimum for a dog of average size.

Finally, the electric fence (there are different models: traditional cow fence, invisible perimeter fence or with a base ...) that comes directly from the United States can be very dissuasive. To my knowledge, after selling dozens, I have only met one dog that has gone beyond.

Of an extraordinary size, the current seemed to dissolve in its fat! All the other runaways before the Lord and despite the skepticism displayed by their masters did not go beyond the stage of the first attempt, then remaining at a reasonable distance from the flags indicating the limit not to cross. Its advantages: very effective and operational immediately, easy to install, aesthetic since invisible for models of this type.

Its disadvantage: the price can put off some (that said, compared to the sums of damage that the dog can cause, it is a good investment). I can already hear the animal friends (which I think I belong to) screaming about the ignominy of the pain and the stress this is putting on the dog, to which I answer two things: first, a “stroke of juice Given by one of these systems, however unpleasant it is, is not mortal and secundo, between two evils I choose the least. Which means that between a discharge “dosed” and a rolled-ball under 38 tons, I do not hesitate a moment.

An alternative to the electric fence? Test the anti-fugue dog collar.

Conclusion

If your dog runs away, you have a serious problem to solve. I think that reading this site will have given you some ways to get there.



Do it for him, his life depends on it, and do not forget that the pound is only the best thing that could happen to him, the worst being to stay hooked on caravans for years to poach and serve as breeding for puppies who will then be sold!, to be sold to an unscrupulous laboratory for unpleasant experiences or in another genre to serve as “snacks” during training fights for future clandestine dog fighting. All but not that, I think you will agree with me.

To finish on a productive advice, if your dog runs away, do not correct him if he comes home alone; for rest assured that it would take longer to come back the next time. The only way to fix it is to take it at the moment when it will cross the limits, not after and especially not when it comes back to the house or to you. Who would be in a hurry to go for a “rust”?

So many reasons why I tried to give you ways to prevent it from achieving its ends. I insist on the benefits you would get by looking for the causes of your “travel” desires. A challenge is sometimes beneficial and can avoid a lot of hassles, but your purchase proves that you are looking for solutions, well done, keep going!



Anti-fugue fence for dogs

◇ Fence fugue dog

It is extremely difficult to confine the dog inside a restricted space without a dog fence, especially if the animal has already taken bad habits. It should not be forgotten that by exploring the area, the dog enlarges more and more its territory.

To eliminate such behavior, the dog should be closely monitored in order to systematically punish him whenever he crosses the territorial boundaries and if possible in a circuitous way so that he does not associate punishment with the presence of the master, which means that would urge to book outings when the master is away.

For this purpose, many gardens are equipped with an underground electric fence system, and the dog is provided with an anti-fugue dog collar that sends a slight electric shock each time it crosses the border leading to the forbidden zone. Do not forget the rewards if the dog stops at the limit!

◇ Do not punish the dog on his return

What you absolutely do not want to do is punish the dog on the return because it would associate the punishment with the fact of returning to the fold and would thus be encouraged to lengthen more and more its walks or cross the dog fence more often.

Some dogs jump over fences, but most of the time, they climb the fence, using some of the wire to propel themselves to the other side. A dog can also dig under a fence, chew the fence and pass through, learn to open a gate or use a combination of these different methods to get out of the field.

Knowing how your dog flees will help you change your pitch. However, you will only really be able to solve the problem when you know why your dog wants to escape, and you have man-



aged to reduce his motivation to do so. Otherwise, the following recommendations will not be as effective.

◇ Prevent dog fugue

For dogs climbing and jumping: Add an extension to your fence that tilts to the ground. The extension does not have to greatly increase the height of the fence, but the inclination must be about 45 degrees inland. Make sure there are no structures next to the fence, such as a table, chairs or niche, that your dog could use to jump over the fence.

For digging dogs: Bury tight mesh at the base of your dog fence (with sharp edges rolled inward), or place large stones at the base or spread grilling on the ground.

Never chained or attached your dog to a fixed object to keep it confined. Chaining or tying a dog is not only cruel, but it leads to aggressive behavior.

The electronic anti-fugue fence for dogs

The electric fence for dogs is certified safe, practical and effective for all dogs from 5 kg. The system works as follows. A radio signal is sent from the fence transmitter on an antenna wire measuring up to 600 meters. The antenna wire, which is buried or attached to a fixed object, delimits the authorized area.

This area is temporarily defined by delineation flags that serve as visual cues when training your pet. Your pet wears a receiver collar with contactors that touch his neck and, once erected, can move freely in the authorized area.

When your pet reaches the warning zone, the anti-fugue receiver collar gives a warning signal. If the animal continues on its way into the electrostatic correction zone, it receives, via the contactors, a harmless electrostatic correction intended to attract its attention until it returns to the authorized zone.



Anti-fugue dog collar

Support for learning the territory in dogs, the anti-fugue collar helps your dog understand the limits of its territory. But it requires specific learning for it to work properly.

In the range of educational collars and dog training collars, the anti-fugue collar is the one that has better press.

Indeed, necklace anti bark necklace education and electrical impulses or spray are often criticized by some behaviorists or canine educators.

Also called anti-fugue fence, this collar is a support to the learning of the territory by the dog. The anti-fugue collar alone will not be enough to instill the limits of its territory to your dog.

It must be taken at an early age, and if it turns out to be a rebel on all fours, you may need the help of a dog behaviorist to prevent your dog from running away.

When the dog runs away

The fugue of the dog is an anxiety of every moment for his master. First of all, there is the risk of him getting lost, having an accident, being kidnapped, or poisoning by malicious neighbors ...

But there is also the damage he can do outside. The flower beds of your neighbor torn off, the hens of another throat ... The complaints of the neighborhood can lead to the removal of your pet.

To avoid this, you must quickly prevent your dog from getting out of your home, and the anti-fugue collar can help you.



◇ Why the anti runaway collar?

It is sometimes impossible to leave your dog inside the house. Indeed, an energetic dog needs to go out regularly. A dog that needs to go out but is stuck at home risks “letting go” on what he has available: furniture, clothes, wallpaper ... anything can pass.

Others do not have the opportunity to let their dog feel comfortable in their garden: it is not always easy to have a fence and a gate.

For these, the anti-fugue collar is a temporary solution that will prevent the dog from exceeding the physical limits that you will fix him.

Let's emphasize that this is a temporary solution and that it will eventually be necessary to find a way to fence his garden, or better, to teach the dog to stay at home.

◇ How does the anti-fugue collar work?

An antenna wire (which measures an average of 1,500 meters) is connected to a radio transmitter, attached to the dog's collar.

With the antenna wire (which you bury), you define the perimeter in which your dog can move.

If the dog approaches too close to the fixed territory limit, the transceiver attached to his neck will beep and vibrate. If he continues to move forward, the dog will receive a small electrostatic discharge, which is often programmable and will discourage him from running away.





Unit 7

MESSY DOG

Operational objective

Your dog is destructive, he breaks everything and jumps everywhere? Here are the solutions to make it less turbulent.



Pedagogical objectives

My dog is dirty

The dog “excrement eater”

Markings of the dog with urine

Urinary disorders of dog submission

Emotional urinary disorders of the dog

Nighttime urinary disorders of dogs



My dog is dirty

The “accident” must be clearly distinguished from permanent dirtiness. Accidents can be due to a great deal of emotion (joy or fear), or simply to learning about cleanliness. If the dog is dirty all the time, you have to react.

Too lax learning is often responsible for this situation. The concept of territory is still very important in this case. There are two types of uncleanliness to be distinguished: diarrhea stool anywhere in the house and well-molded stools at specific locations (often in height). The former are due to a phenomenon of separation anxiety and the second to a symptom of dominance (refer to the definition of these terms).

◇ The origins of uncleanliness

The master: Uncleanliness is the very example of the disorder for which the master must question himself (without feeling guilty): in fact, the majority of cases result from a poor training in cleanliness. We must find a solution and help your dog rather than reject it, which we see frequently.

A change: The origin can also be a change of situation (baby, other animal, move). The dog needs to mark his territory to find his position. He is worried about finding his place in the family.

Sexuality: The presence of a bitch in heat excites the males and leads to a marking of the territory. This situation is normal, but its reason is not always known to the masters.

The territory: Remember to respect the area of your dog. Do not lock it up when a friend or other dog comes. He will urinate when he leaves. The fact that an unknown dog comes to urinate under your windows can also trigger an excretion behavior of your dog inside the house.

◇ What to do?



Of all the causes listed above, look for the one that seems to be closest to your situation. As a first step, try to determine if your companion is more like the dominant or the anxious.

When the animal lasts in the house, give him food at the exact spot where he has done. If the dog changes the place to urinate always in the house, “make follow” his bowl. Dogs know very well to differentiate the meal area and the area of need, they avoid doing their needs where they eat.

As soon as you see your dog sniffing, say, “Stop! And congratulate him as soon as he obeys. Then take it out. If a change of situation occurs and the dog does not support it, give him confidence. Take him out, spend a few moments with him without the “stranger” responsible for his behavior. Reassuring him and giving him his place help to treat this disorder.

If the adult dog is always urinating, we must try to “neutralize” situations. If he is urinating on your departure or return, give him few signs as possible of these steps. If your dog is very emotional, stimulate him.



The dog “excrement eater”

In the past, it was thought that the main cause of coprophagia (ingesting stools) was the deficiency of minerals due to insufficient diet, which the dog completed using the substances removed by the stools.

Today, the diet is much more balanced, and it is difficult to suffer from a food deficit, which can, however, be seen in the case of a disease with vomiting or dysentery, such as viral or bacteriological gastroenteritis.

In most cases, the dog begins to eat his excrement to attract the attention of his master, but some dogs eat those of the cat because they find abundant traces of meat that make them, so to speak, “Appetizing”.

One of the reasons for coprophagy is boredom (a direct consequence of social isolation). Dogs living in kennels, and those who spend their day locked up in a pen without stimuli, are bored, and some, by reaction, eat their excrement.

In the presence of such a situation, it is not enough to convince the animal not to do so, but it is necessary to investigate thoroughly to individualize the problem that causes this behavior. Coprophagia can also be a natural conduct. Indeed, mothers, to keep the nest clean, swallow the droppings of newborns. When young are weaned, some females maintain this habit by ingesting theirs.

What attitude to adopt?

Teach your dog to help in a designated place, especially if he lives inside the house. Coprophagia appears more easily in untrained subjects who defecate and urinate everywhere.

In these cases, droppings must be removed quickly and cleaned with products that mask the odor (commercially available, or use a solution of water and vinegar).



Use a remote punishment to dissuade him: prepare baits, that is to say, stools stuffed with irritating or pungent substances (Tabasco, hot pepper) so that when swallowing, he is so sick that he gives up eating them afterwards.

In commerce too, there are products that, added to the food, make the taste of the stool “unpleasant” (the dog does not eat them anymore). The same effect is achieved by putting four or five drops of anise in the diet. A good way to deter the dog from doing so is to distract him, when he is eating, with a loud noise (the sound of a whistle) or a jet of water, rewarding him when he he gives up. A high protein diet seems to prevent coprophagia.



Markings of the dog with urine

The dog uses urine to delineate its territory, thus making it clear to potential intruders that they are out of their area. In addition, the urine contains substances that inform the congeners of the sex of the one who deposited it.

The problem of marking with urine occurs when the dog reaches sexual maturity, that is to say between the age of one and two years, and concerns more the male. The frequency of tagging increases if the animal is stimulated by the presence of other dogs, who could challenge its leadership in this territory.

To mark an object, the dog raises the hind leg and pulls it outward, holding it stiff to direct the stream toward the chosen target. Some animals perform real acrobatics by trying to urinate as high as possible to make them believe they are bigger and bigger than they actually are and to scare off an intruder by getting him to leave.

The dog can mark objects in the house, but this is rare because he instinctively maintains his own place of life (like the wolf in his lair). There are, however, certain situations, for example, a new environment rich in odors or the presence of another dog, which are stronger than education and instinct.

To correct this behavioral problem, if the urine is still deposited in the same places, the function can be modified by installing the food, water and basket bowls. We can also use deterrents such as the classic mouse fobs, turned to the ground. When he approaches to do his needs, they are triggered and frightened.

If the dog only marks in the presence of his master, it is necessary to identify the triggering cause, which could be the sound of the doorbell announcing the arrival of a guest, and to inflict a punishment fulfilling the following conditions:



- timely (less than 60 seconds after the mischief)
- sudden (to surprise and stop immediately)
- not too severe so as not to traumatize it (just spray it with water)

It is necessary to use punishments with great care, especially in dominant animals, because if they are used inappropriately, they are not effective and may increase aggression.

Castration of the male may be another solution, which solves the problem in 50-60% of cases, but this decision must obviously be taken after consultation with a veterinarian.

It is less effective if urine marking is practiced outside the home. In this case, it can be associated with a drug treatment, which may be advised by the doctor. Sterilization must always be accompanied by a behavioral therapy to teach the dog to do his needs in a pre-established place.

The problem of urine marking may hide others, especially if it occurs as a result of changes in the dog's life or the adult.

The pathologies where this behavior is observable are:

- social aggression or sociopathy (it appears when there is a hierarchical conflict between the dog, and his master, the stool is in very visible places, it is formed, and the subject deposits it in the absence of his master).
- the defective self-control: (the saddles are deposited in the presence or the absence of the master).
- Pathologies of the glands (testes, thyroid, adrenal). In these cases, it is advisable to consult a specialist who will be able to identify the real cause of this behavior.



Urinary disorders of dog submission

When the dog submits, he adopts a typical position: a flank to the ground, hind legs open to expose his genitals and, in some cases, issuing a little urine. It is an involuntary act linked to fear: by this attitude; the animal communicates to his opponent that he will not react to threats and recognizes his supremacy.

If the dog adopts the same attitude in the presence of the master or a stranger, it means that he submits to the man. This is ethically acceptable but, if it is too marked, it may be a sign of old fears (for example, he was beaten when he was small because he was too agitated) or of a stressful situation to which he is subjected.

One must search for the cause that induces the urination of submission and try to avoid it. We must not reprimand him or beat him because we increase his fear, which accentuates his tendency to submission. It is just as useless to comfort him because it also reinforces the wrong behavior.

If the dog submits when you go to him or stroke him, avoid doing it until he is relaxed. Approach in a squatting position, distract him with a ball or signal with which you invite him to play. If the problem persists, act as if nothing was wrong: do not scold him, do not look at him and do not do not talk to him. Do not clean in his absence because, seeing you in this position, he could interpret it as an invitation to play.

Submissive urination is usually seen in puppies. This situation improves as they grow older and gain more self-confidence. This is why we must agree that we must avoid any type of punishment, limit ourselves to placing the puppy in conditions where an “accident” will have no consequence and act as if nothing had happened. When that happens.

If the problem persists in the adult dog, training sessions should be scheduled starting with a



situation of relative stress and rewarding him with food if he remains calm and does not urinate, then gradually increase the level of training. Difficulty.

If he is agitated and urinating at the sight of an unknown person, show him at a sufficient distance so that he does not become angry, ordering him to sit down and rewarding him with food or hugs if he behaves well. Then let her approach and touch the dog, which must remain quiet.

It may be useful to inflict a remote punishment, such as spraying with a water pistol, but it should not be able to associate it with you: you can ask for the help of a friend, who will intervene when he will urinate. If the problem persists, it is advisable to consult a specialist and follow his advice.



Emotional urinary disorders of the dog

Emotional urination is involuntary like that of submission: the dog can not hold his urine because he is agitated or frightened. It is typical of the animal that, when entering the veterinary practice, begins to shake and urinate. The uncomfortable environment, the memory of unpleasant experiences and unknown odors worry the dog who begins to urinate.

This behavior is also observed in the playful and expansive dog who, when returning to his master's house, runs to him to party, accompanied by a few drops of urine. It is useless to scold him because it is not a voluntary act and the punishment would have no other objective than to make it more uncertain and frightened.

If it is a puppy, it will heal growing up and taking confidence in him and his master. If he is an adult, he must be gradually corrected (systematic desensitization and counter-conditioning) by avoiding at first the situations that excite or frighten him.

Emotional urination (remember that the dog can also defecate), associated with fear or excitement, can be a symptom of a behavioral pathology: in the first case, phobia, anxiety or depression; in the second, absence of control, characteristic of hyperkinesis.

Such pathologies require a specific behavioral intervention, and it is necessary to consult a behavioral veterinarian. However, as an immediate intervention, it is advisable, when the master returns home, not to greet the dog immediately but to ignore him (he must not look at him, touch him or talk to him) to give him a way to let off steam. a little and calm down.

Only when he has calmed down, will he approach him slowly to caress him and talk to him not too long not to excite him. When guests arrive home, warn them to ignore the dog and not take care of him until he is calm.



This training must be repeated for several days and, since “accidents” are frequent at the beginning, it should be done if possible in the garden. If not, it is advisable to protect the ground with newspapers. If the problem persists, contact an animal behavior specialist.



Nighttime urinary disorders of dogs

The problem of nocturnal urination does not only concern puppies because adult dogs can also be subject to it: the presence at home of a stranger, the noise caused by a “roommate” during the night, the wandering of other dogs or animals around the dwelling, a state of anxiety are all possible causes of nocturnal urination.

Before treating it as a behavioral problem, check that your faithful companion is not affected by a pathology of the urinary tract. Once the dog is found to be in good health (through a veterinary visit), one must discover the motive for these “accidents” and seek to eliminate them, especially if they are caused by a state of anxiety.

Nighttime urination often indicates more serious psychological discomfort, which only a behavioral specialist can identify and treat. The hours of exit must be modified, by retreating the last one (it is advisable to take it to lighten up towards midnight) and by advancing the first one.

If by varying the schedule, the dog can not help urinating during the whole night, it will be necessary to identify when it is urinating to get ahead of it (by getting up and out) or by trying to move gradually the Night out early in the morning. It will take about two weeks of training because the progression must be slow and constant.

If it is impossible to get him out during the night, it is advisable to keep him in a closed room or a pen and cover the floor with newspapers. A very practical solution, but only feasible if you have a garden or a private or closed yard, is to install in the door a door that allows the dog to enter and exit freely.

Enuresis and encopresis, that is to say, the incontinence of urine or stool while the dog sleeps, are quite special situations. These are disorders that are observed in the case of depression, especially in the elderly, unless, of course, a physical pathology is at the origin of such behavior.





Unit 8

DOG BITING

Operational objective

Your dog is biting? How to react in case of bite and the solutions so that the dog does not bite anymore.



Pedagogical objectives

The dog biting

How to rehabilitate a dog bite?

How to avoid being bitten by his dog?

What behavior against a dog bite?

How to react if my dog bites?

What to do in case of a dog bite?



The dog biting

Aggression is unfortunately, the main behavioral disorder in dogs. This is all the more heart-breaking because the main victims are the children. In addition, the bites often reach the face or hands.

The term “bite” is controversial. The masters often say, “He did not bite, he just pinched. In our opinion, it is more serious. Indeed, the dog that pinches knows that he dominates his master and that it is enough to “pinch” to get the upper hand. The dog that bites for the first time is less aware of its strength. It will be if we do not correct this disorder and he realizes that it scares by biting.

All these demonstrations prove an aggressive attitude. The dog develops, for any answer to any embarrassment, that aggression. It is obvious that a bite can have more serious consequences. What we mean by “more serious” is the fact that a dog that bites today can pinch tomorrow, and this is not a sign of “healing”, on the contrary. If your dog shows this attitude, do not underestimate the risks. Let’s try to understand why such behavior appears and how to make it disappear.

◇ What to do?

It is important not to give up, either by separating from the dog or by giving in. Some teachers prefer to take care not to be bitten rather than to attempt rehabilitation. This is not the best solution.

We must find a normal order in the dog-family relationship. All members of the family must be dominant. You will not be able to make him understand the dog in words. We will have to intervene in typical situations.

These situations of intervention are four in number: the meal, the rest, the sexuality, the “passage first”.



Let's detail what can be changed to control a biting dog at first, then to "heal" it. We saw the basic rules. The dog eats after his masters, alone, he does not sleep in the room, the master accepts no sexual manifestation, and he keeps the initiative of any decision.

In the dominant biting dog, none of these rules are respected. The master does not do this consciously. These are often easy solutions: it is easier to feed the dog before oneself. We do not always measure the consequences. Now you have to force yourself to impose these rules on your dog. Make him eat after you, without giving anything to him during your meal. If he growls, take him back and say, "Lying! Or: "Sitting! If you do not control it, do not touch it, but do not give in.

This is a first step towards rehabilitation. Make it a cozy rest area and close the door of your room. Hold on tight if he screams. If all situations are repeated at the same time, the dog must quickly understand that his social status is reversed. Take the initiative of everything. Masters are often amused by a dog bringing his leash and opening the door to go out.

This situation is not amusing for a biting dog because it is a sign of dominance on the part of the dog. Your dog must always "pass last". You must regain your rank of dominant, and this for all daily situations.

◇ Fat

If the dog has exceptionally bitten an unknown person, we can not talk about behavioral disorder, even if this reaction is abnormal. On the other hand, if the dog systematically bites the factor, we must act.

It is then the learning of the territory that must be taken again. Get someone in your presence and ask the dog to stay behind you. If he barks violently, do not be interested in him and congratulate him as soon as he stops.

He will understand that this person does not challenge him on entering his territory, but that is normal. Renew the experience several times a few days apart.



Only in this way will he be able to detect the true intruders of people you know.

◇ The suffering dog

Older animals often suffer from chronic pain such as osteoarthritis, and they are sometimes aggressive. They are especially very irritable in case of crisis. Although the master must control the situation, it is necessary to “excuse” these dogs, and the “re-education” essentially passes by an indulgence of the entourage not to provoke the bite. Medical treatments intended to relieve the dog are an effective remedy against this type of bite.

Never be proud of your dog if it bites, even if it seems justified to you. Do not put him in a critical situation: dog tied to a chain, locked in a car ... Sometimes some aggressive males are castrated; see with your veterinarian if this treatment can be adapted to your pet.



How to rehabilitate a dog bite?

First of all, let's remember what bite inhibition is. This notion makes it possible to understand when the bite behavior can begin. Around 4 to 5 weeks, during the socialization period, the puppy becomes aware that the bite can hurt others. He nibbles the siblings of the litter to play. The bitten pup cries and the biter stops biting him.

The puppy learns very quickly not to bite any more. The master must reinforce this inhibition by forbidding nibbling. During the game, the master must show the dog that it hurt him. Do not play tugging games that reinforce biting and competition with the dog. If there is a bite, it is because the inhibition has not been understood by the dog and his hierarchical status is not good.

Behavioral rehabilitation

Two sets of methods exist: those that will remove harmful behavior and those whose purpose is to reveal a pleasant behavior. There are again different devices to achieve this goal.

◇ The punishment

It must respect certain rules. It is often only a one-off solution: - the punishment must stop as soon as the dog is subjected; - it must be right; - it must be given on the moment and not delayed with respect to stupidity; - it must not hurt the dog; - it must be systematic for the same fault; - it must be put in place at the beginning of the education.

◇ Extinction

We suppress harmful behavior by removing the cause. We reeducate a dog that destroys everything during your absence by removing the rituals of departure (take his keys ...). The habituation The stimulus causing the undesirable behavior is caused but in a very short way so that the reaction of the animal becomes normal even in the presence of the stimulation. The dog is afraid of a noise. It is reproduced for a very short time to get used to it.



◇ Desensitization

The stimulus is presented at a very low dose and then increased, but it must never provoke a reaction. If the dog reacts, the level of stimulus has come down. The dog is afraid of a noise, it is reproduced with a very weak intensity at the beginning.

◇ Counter-conditioning

The situation that triggers bad behavior is associated with behavior that can not exist at the same time as the unwanted one. For example, the game, the meal, all the behaviors that will divert the animal from its trouble in the presence of the triggering situation. The passing car scares the puppy, we play with him at the precise moment of his passage.

◇ The immersion

The animal is put in the situation that triggers its abnormal behavior: example of the hunter who fires with the dog who is afraid. This method should be considered with the help of a professional who follows you closely.

◇ The reward

This method is also called positive reinforcement. It consists of ignoring the unwanted behavior and caressing the dog or giving him a treat as soon as he acts well. The animal will associate your joy with the behavior and reproduce it.

◇ The association

The dog is associated with another dog so that he can model his behavior on him. This is the example of young hunting dogs who hunt with more experienced for the first time.

Alternative solution: Medications

It can be considered a medical solution that calms the animal and that will thus restore confidence to the master and make the dog accept his hierarchical position.

Indeed, the most important is that the dog finds a submissive position within the family.



Finding a physical activity involving the dog and the master can be a solution, but it will not be a game for the master who must analyze the situation constantly to control it perfectly.

Drugs can only be prescribed by a veterinarian who can associate them with behavioral therapy.



How to avoid being bitten by his dog?

I think the most important thing in this area is my job. To avoid a bite you need a dog well socialized and well educated. Well socialized means that, from an early age, we take every opportunity for the puppy (or adopted adult dog) has a maximum of experiences (without going to weariness or stupor, attention!) and it is understood that these experiences must be positive.

A negative experience will be more lasting than ten positive experiences. Hence the ratio: when working with your dog, at least ten awards for a penalty! Otherwise there is imbalance. This sociability must be put in place and maintained vis-à-vis humans of course, taking care to alternate between women, men and children (sometimes more difficult for dogs to bear) but also compared to others dogs and even to other species like cats, horses ...

By “generalization”, we mean that these experiences must take place in diverse and varied places: village, garden, forest, city, shopping centers ... The element that makes this socialization easy to implement is obviously the education of the dog that keeps you in control whatever the circumstances.

Teaching the dog not to shoot, to sit down (“sit” or “lie down”), to come back when called is a reliable means of control that will be useful throughout life. They guarantee the safety of the dog and by allowing this socialization, they guarantee the safety of all those that the dog will cross.

At first, for dogs with particularly strong character, the use of a leash but also a loin or a muzzle may be advisable. Keeping the dog under control and preventing it from biting no matter what happens, these tools make it possible to conduct the socialization program safely and thus in all serenity.

Paradoxically, it is not uncommon to see parents forbid their child to approach a muzzled dog



because he is “naughty” but to let him touch an unknown dog from behind because it seems harmless to them. .

These same parents will often be outraged if you dare to point out that you do not do this without asking the master’s consent. The sentence returning the most being then “if it is bad, you have only to muzzle it”. Stupidity when you hold us, common sense and logic go away from us!

Little anecdote

I worked for years with my rottweiler on the Paris region, in the city. More often than not, my rott was detached and not muzzled, like other dogs, result: no reaction from the people crossed. If I put my dog on a “chassable” or a backpack, whole families would come and say “look how cute he is”.

And if I put a spiked collar on him and his muzzle, I was sure to see the sidewalk empty as we progressed. I’ll let you think about it!

The fear of the dog



What behavior against a dog bite?

To reduce the risk of aggression, it is important to try not to be afraid or at least not to show it. It is true that it is much easier to write it than to do it, but it is possible.

I think that it is a question of willpower and of work on oneself which takes time but whose benefits are consequent. You must try not to scream, not to run, not to make big gestures, not to fix the dog straight in the eyes.

◇ The most risky situations

- when the dog is sitting on a bed or sofa
- when the dog eats
- when he has grabbed a toy, or any object (even if it belongs to you, your dog knows nothing about it and anyway he does not care!)
- a dog that is being pushed (attention: very variable notion and sensation)
- a dog who is not accustomed to restraint and /or manipulation

◇ Let's take them one by one:

- If your dog has a big character or if it becomes difficult to manage, you will have to regain control of the space; so for these dogs, beds, armchairs and other sofas, new or used regardless of where they are (living room, veranda, entrance, basement ...) are now prohibited in your presence and congested in your absence.

- When the dog eats, my advice is very simple: "leave him alone", without this preventing you from working outside meals refusal of bait (the help of a professional is recommended).

- Possession is an important concept in dogs, most defend what they managed to catch, sometimes to the bite. Obviously the value of the resource is decisive in determining the dog.

Some will gladly drop a stick, others will fight harshly for a simple tennis ball, while others will



show signs of aggression only for fresh meat or bone marrow! Even between them, they do not have identical values.

- Leaving an exit door is one of the fundamentals for limiting risks. A dog or a human who has nothing to lose and no other choice most often “will sell dearly his fear, sorry his skin”. I deliberately left this typo because to drive a dog is to put him in a worrying situation that he must stop. If he can not flee, what remains to him?

- Being able to touch each part of the dog’s body, holding it by the collar are things that must be taught to the dog so that he accepts them without reserve in case of need or urgency.

◇ A little trick

If, during a walk, you are threatened by a dog, stay calm and prepare something (bag, sweater, umbrella ...) to interpose between the dog and you. Dogs almost always bite the first thing that comes up, it’s better to puncture your umbrella than your arm. Interfering does not mean threatening: do not shake the umbrella and do not hold it like a stick with which you would like to hit it because if it can scare some dog, no doubt it will trigger many more.

A large number of attacks are to be blamed on the dog’s fear. We have seen how one can make one’s dog, if not stingy, at least emotionally stable (what specialists call emotional homeostasis).

The trick is to associate what scares your dog: other dogs, the street, people ... to something nice: a treat or his favorite toy.

◇ Little anecdote

I worked a york on Versailles, and in the street, he wanted to “eat” everyone: man, woman, children, cyclists, joggers, incidentally car and truck. Not every time but very often. In fact, this dog was frightened by what surrounded him. We started by teaching him the rudiments of obedience, and then we offered him every “start” a treat.

After a quarter of an hour of walking, the dog saw a bike coming and rather than start barking



on it, he looked at us with a real questioning air: “Uh, I’m not entitled to a kibble there?” “

Of course, the answer was yes, croquette and papouille. Bingo! The dog had associated an element of his fear with something positive, so he did not need to be assaulted. The other great idea in this matter is almost a truism: if you avoid frightening him (or placing him in a situation of being afraid), no unfortunate consequences will be to be feared.



How to react if my dog bites?

I think it is important to distinguish the severity of the bites, even if the most insignificant of them must be taken for what it is: a strong signal from the dog.

In almost all cases, a fight between dogs has no consequences, I know that if you, who read these lines, you had a dog injured or killed by one or more congeners, you will scream, but I maintain that these cases are exceptional. Moreover, as is often the case, they are perpetrators of recidivism, for which I am in favor of the most severe sanctions and some cases of euthanasia.

For others, do not worry because two dogs have an explanation. Dogs in this area are much better. Human is probably the smartest person on this planet, but that does not make him the wisest animal, far from it. Let me explain: a properly raised dog acquires during the first weeks of life what we call “inhibition of bite” which allows him to perfectly measure the power of his bite.

This is why my Border is able to catch the nose of a child who tightens his neck too closely without leaving any trace on the nose; despite all his message could not be more explicit! In addition, the dogs recognize their defeat, and the winner is “magnanimous” in the sense that he does not fight (we always speak well-bred dog).

We can consider that badly bred dogs are more dangerous but whose fault is it? Let's not forget, when it suits us, our responsibilities. We love to have omnipotence on our dogs except when it comes to assuming a fault. It's worse when the human lends itself to the game of predictions: “dog biting, biting”.

If the same circumstances happen again and between the two nothing has been done so that the reaction of the dog is different, then yes, it will overpower. If after the first bite we took care to think about its causes and we worked with the dog, then the answer will probably be no, it will



not be over.

Little anecdote

Several years ago, in the summer, the SPA called me following a request for abandonment so that I go to people and I test the dog to be sure it will be replaceable. It was a mountain in the Pyrenees that had just bit a child. Rendered there, his masters explain to me that they came from province where they lived in a very quiet village to settle in the Paris region, in a pavilion whose street leads to a school.

For months, children morning, noon and evening pass the dog and some annoy, excite, tickle. The last Sunday in date, no school obviously, so the masters leave their gate open. Lack of luck, a child goes through there, and the dog does neither one nor two, goes out and catches the child in the arm, without great consequences, I reassure you. And yet the reaction of the masters is immediate: it should not be kept since “dog who bit ...”.

I explain to them that it is not so and calls the SPA to say that nothing is opposed to taking the dog. Shelter agreement that for overcrowding demands three weeks of delay. I then explain to the masters that for the future record of the dog, it might be well to counterbalance the bite of presenting an obedient dog.

At that time “Vidocq” did not even know how to sit. And eternal optimistic, I add: “If everything is going well, maybe you will come back on your decision. The masters agree to educate the dog. Years later he spent peaceful days at home and never again.

Warning! Even if they are rare, there are dogs that smile and others that express themselves a lot. In the first case, it is not necessary to believe that it shows the teeth to threaten and in the second it is not about grunts.

Conclusion



The aggressiveness of the dog is a real problem because it goes beyond the bite, there is a whole imaginary (dog Baskerville, Baxter, and other Cujo Stephen King). Modern human is losing more and more his relationship with nature and animals, add to this that our sanitized society refuses to run the slightest risk, but life without risk does not exist.

Living with a dog presents immense joys, small moments of indescribable happiness but also constraints, homework and some minimal risks for those who give themselves the means. The number of bites is of course too high, especially when you know that most could be avoided.

Finally to finish on an optimistic note, remember that even a dog that has bitten can very often be saved. Professionals are here to help you, call on them.

Refuge dogs are neither worse nor better than others, and this rule applies even for bites.

Remember that shelter officials no longer accept any dog as in the past (see anecdote on the mountain).

As a result, dogs in shelters are not crazy, have not been beaten, and are not necessarily traumatized by their stay behind bars. When staff and volunteers realize that this or that dog is not easy, they take even more precautions when placing, knowing that a some adopters are looking for dogs to work or for keep.

These less easy dogs are for them. Shelters have no interest in placing an animal that you bring back very quickly so trust them and make a nice gesture; adopt your dog in a shelter. Believe me; I am not a preacher: we have at home no less than fourteen dogs coming from the SPA.



What to do in case of dog bite?

It is often the children who are the victims. Bites are the result of oppositional behavioral interactions between the child and the dog.

According to one study, there would be 200 bites per 100,000 inhabitants per year in France. In Lyon, a survey of pet owners reveals a much higher annual rate: around 6,000 bites per 100,000 people, most of the victims being part of the family.

Hospital statistics show that dog bites account for 0.5 to 1% of all consultations in surgical emergency departments. Hospitalization is rarely indicated and is linked to the need for wound exploration under general anesthesia.

The majority of the bites are benign, but some of them are very serious. These include aesthetic sequelae in the face; the face is indeed affected in 75 to 85% of cases (lips, cheeks, nose, eyelids).

The age of bitten children has been well studied. There are two peaks of frequency, one between 1 and 4 years, the other between 11 and 13 years. More than 50% of all bites are between 0 and 18 years old, with a fairly clear predominance for males.

The association “small child-big dog” is a pejorative factor in the frequency and severity of the bites. Large dogs, and especially German shepherds, are the most cited in the statistics, but this accusation of particular aggression must be tempered because bastards are often wrongly included in this category. It should also be noted that bites of large dogs give rise to more consultation than those caused by small animals, because of lesions more severe in relation to the size and strength of the jaws.

Driving in front of a dog bite



A dog bite is still a carrier of microbes because canine dental flora contains many anaerobic germs including *Clostridium perfringens* and tetani, streptococci and *Pasteurella*.

The owner of the dog must urgently provide the vaccination book of the animal whose surveillance in a veterinary environment is mandatory (Ministerial Decree of 1 May 1976), at the expense of the master. If the latter refuses to submit to it, a complaint must be lodged at the town hall or the gendarmerie. The animal must undergo three successive examinations in fifteen days. If it is normal on day 5, the probability of rabies becomes low.

The examination of the wound is done at the same time as the cleaning with water and soap with a compress. The disinfection of the wound then requires the wide application of antiseptics (choice: hydrogen peroxide, Betadine, Mercryl, Hibitane or diluted bleach, these products should not be mixed together). A clean wound must be left without debris, dirt or devitalised areas.

Any bite being contaminated by anaerobic bacterial flora, early suturing is not recommended, except for the face. The surgeons put up, on the wound left wide open, a fatty dressing renewed every day (Biogas, Antibiotulle, etc.). If after 3 days, the edges of the bite remain healthy and uninfected, a suture is performed.

Tetanus prevention is based on the tetanus toxoid vaccine and anti-tetanus gammaglobulin regimens. The problem of rabies remains. If there is a deep bite in the face or when the dog has disappeared, the child must be referred to one of 60 anti-rabies treatment centers for vaccination within 48 to 72 hours.

The 4 or 6 injections protocol is undertaken at the slightest doubt. In case of severe, multiple or deep bite sitting on the face or extremities, specific immunoglobulins of human origin are injected in a complementary manner the same day.

Most of the surgical problems posed by dog bites in children involve the plastic surgeon in that



it is primarily a skin aggression, which poses immediate problems septic and closure, more long-term healing and, ultimately, aesthetic, with possible resumption of plastic surgery including the face.

Instructions:

Instructions:

Rabies contamination can occur either by biting or by contact with virulent saliva on a wound or cutaneous excoriation. After contamination, you must:

1. Provide first aid

- Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water
- do not suture
- practice a tetanus vaccination booster

2. Find and isolate the responsible animal

If the animal is free from rabies, treatment is not started. Therefore, as far as possible, the animal should be captured without killing it. May also call on the police station, the gendarmerie or the fire brigade (decree of authorization of legal intervention for the collection [or the capture] of animals rabid or suspects of rabies by the police forces.

Address the animal to a veterinarian by avoiding biting and protecting yourself from saliva. If the animal is to be slaughtered, respect the cranial box. If possible, transport the head into a refrigerated container (temperature between 4 and 10 ° C, without freezing).

3. Refer the patient to the nearest rabies center whether the animal has been found or not.





Unit 9

SHY DOG

Operational objective

Your dog is scared, he is afraid of the noise, of the others, of the car? Here are the solutions to make him less fearful.



Pedagogical objectives

Separation anxiety in dogs

How to prevent separation anxiety?

My dog is afraid of thunderstorms

My dog is afraid of resounding noises

My dog is afraid of dogs and people

My dog is scared of car



Separation anxiety in dogs

The dog is a sociable animal, perhaps the most sociable of all, who therefore feels the desire and the need to live in company. The dog who does not give in to anxiety, when his master goes out to work, has a great inner balance and was trained at an early age to calmly wait for his return.

◇ What is separation anxiety?

He who, on the contrary, moves and behaves as we shall see later, is unable to face the world around him alone. Separation anxiety is a behavioral disorder that affects, regardless of race and size, males and females, old dogs and young, those who live in the house and those who live in the garden.

How the dog is raised may be a mitigating circumstance. Puppies who have always lived with their master, and of whom they depend in everything and for everything, suffer the most from this disorder. Growing up, they can not stand to break this link and search for it constantly. A small dog who never separates from his master and who follows him as his shadow imitating his attitude (he only eats when the human eats, he does not go to sleep until he goes to bed, and so on), represents a borderline but emblematic case.

◇ How to avoid this disorder?

It testifies how much the dog /human bond is strong and dangerous for the animal, especially if one does not accustom him to be independent and to have a place of his own in the house. It is important to establish rules that take into account the requirements of the master and those of his four-legged friend.

The master may very well allow his dog to sleep on his bed if that does not bother him, but he must be able, when he wishes, to move him away and make him sleep in his basket. There is nothing wrong with spending part of the day in the house, but if a guest who does not like the animals or is afraid of them, he or she must go out or leave the house.



Let lock in a box without making history.

Man must meet the dog's requirements only when he wants and if he thinks they are right (be careful, it does not allow him to abuse him, but forces him to use "common sense"). Unfortunately, many owners are not of this opinion and do not use their puppy to stay alone for long.

Once the first few months of euphoria have passed (in which they never separate from him), they discover that their dog can no longer do without them (separation anxiety) and when they return after a brief absence, they find their home in a lamentable state. The boredom, tension and stress accumulated during hours of loneliness (and not just the fear of being left alone) can also be good reasons for the dog to destroy objects within reach.

◇ Different manifestations of separation anxiety

Dogs, who suffer from separation anxiety, behave differently: there are those who scratch the front door hoping to join their master, others who gnaw furniture and carpets, who dirty everywhere (with a special preference for the bed and divans) and those who destroy the shoes that drag in the house.

Some bark unceasingly, others howl or scream, the most imaginative associate destructive actions with vocalizations. It is obvious that a dog that behaves this way can never become the perfect companion for a person who works all day: this is valid for both animals living in a flat in the city, as for those living in a house. In the countryside.

Indeed, if the dog has a yard or, even better, a garden, he can frolic freely and unwind its tensions by digging deep holes in the meadow or under the gate of the fence. He will run like a madman along the enclosure or lie down sad and inconsolable in front of the front door waiting for the return of his master and, if the absence is prolonged, he will begin to moan or bark insistently.

The dog can associate specific facts and gestures that his master accomplishes before going out to his absence, and show excitement even before he is left alone.



Some dogs become anxious when their master changes clothes when he takes the keys of the house or puts on his coat.

In this case, they must be taught to remain quiet during the preparations which precede the departure, so that they do not associate these gestures with the absence of their master. It is usually sufficient to change the order in which certain operations are performed such as closing windows and doors, dressing, searching for keys, etc.

A dog suffering from separation anxiety puts his master's nerves under severe strain; indeed, it is not pleasant to go home, after a day's work, and find the carpet half eaten. If these episodes are repeated systematically, it is likely that the master is seriously thinking of separating from his furry friend



How to prevent separation anxiety?

To prevent this problem of behavior, one must try to increase the self-control of the dog. We proceed in a progressive manner, by accustoming him to face brief periods of solitude, which is prolonged little by little, making sure that he does not show signs of anxiety.

Rebalance the relationship between master and dog

The first step is to teach him if he does not know them yet, the basic orders of obedience: “Sit!”, “Lay!”, “Rest! And “Come! “. Because the main cause of separation anxiety is the close bond between the dog and his master, which allows him to do whatever he wants and to dispose of him at any time of the day. Train him to obedience, like all other exercises that we suggest, serves to rebalance the reports while allowing the master to take things in hand.

When he will be able to execute these orders correctly, you must teach him not to follow you everywhere, either at home or in the garden. Take him with you to a room or a corner of the garden, sit down to read and order “Sitting! Or “Lying! “. After five minutes, get up, move away without leaving his field of vision.

If the dog reacts properly, reward him for a treat; if he shows signs of agitation (he gets up and walks up and down in the room or the garden), start again from the beginning without reprimanding him or punishing him.

Then repeat the same exercise by missing two minutes. It is important to repeat this exercise several times, gradually extending the time during which he remains alone.

It may be useful, morning or afternoon, to ignore the dog for an hour. If he approaches to receive caresses, do not look at him, do not touch him and do not talk to him; if he insists, send him back brutally with an ostentatious gesture. This exercise serves to reduce the dog’s attachment to his master.



If he sleeps on your bed, get him to spend the night by your side but in a dog's basket. Then move the basket to another room (the kitchen for example). Stay away from the dog can serve to diminish the attachment he has for his master. If he becomes anxious, do not dismiss him, but show authority by teaching him to get up and down the bed whenever you ask him.

A place of his own

It is also important that he has a specific place where he can lie down, which will be delimited by a blanket or a towel. When you decide to let him rest on your bed, show him his corner by saying, "To the niche! ": Your faithful friend will have to respect the order, or he will be thrown out of bed.

It is very helpful to prepare a place of his own in the house, with his basket, his bowl and his toys, where he can feel safe and take refuge when he is alone. To build a niche in the house, use the angle of a room (for example in the kitchen if you live in an apartment), whose walls will be two sides of the niche, while you can make the other two with moving wooden panels or a fence.

Get him used to sleeping and eating here, and if he agrees, lock him in before going out. A "personal" space helps him to remain calm during your absence and, so that the box is pleasant, make him welcoming by putting all his belongings there. It is also useful to stay with your dog to play or even read while sitting, your friend lying at your feet. By using these ploys, the pen, initially associated with a place of isolation, will become a safe and comfortable refuge.

Training continues with the simulation of a start: get your dog to sit down or lie down, then get dressed and do all the usual things you do before going out, greet the dog quickly and walk out the door. It is important not to spend too much time saying goodbyes, so as not to make him anxious.

To understand how your dog behaves in your absence, stay silently on the landing for a few



seconds, then come back when you will not hear any more noise (to control, you can mount a peephole on the door).

Avoid going back when the dog barks because you reinforce the behavior that you want to see disappear. When you have confidence, you can begin to stay away for longer, for example, to go to the newsagent or go shopping.

To understand if he is expressing his anxiety by screaming or barking, leave a tape recorder on while you are away. This can be helpful in finding out if it is your departure that triggers panic or a noise, such as the doorbell or the arrival of the elevator.



My dog is scared of thunderstorms

Many dogs fear thunderstorms and move before they burst, because their senses are more developed than ours, and allow them to perceive changes in atmospheric pressure that precede the arrival of a disturbance. If they are free, they try to flee, if they are locked in a pen, they scratch the ground and bite the grid to open a passage and escape.

If they succeed, they run for miles, trying to drive thunder and lightning away from them, risking their own loss. Others take refuge in a dark place, yelping and shaking for the duration of the storm.

Some dogs are looking for their master; it is for this reason that, if they are shut up outside, they furiously scratch the doors, or try to enter through the windows, calming themselves only when they manage to lie down near him.

What attitude to adopt?

To cure the dog of its phobia of the storm, it must be used to the stimulus anxiety (the sound of thunder) to eliminate fear. There are two techniques:

1. The systematic desensitization which consists of making the sound heard at a very low intensity so as not to frighten it, then to increase it gradually until reaching the intensity that triggers the phobic behavior.
2. The deconditioning that consists of making him listen to the noise while he is engaged in a pleasant activity, such as eating so that he associates the thunder with a positive experience. Although it is possible to desensitize and decondition a dog that fears a storm, it is a long process that requires a lot of patience. Before starting this therapy, it is necessary to evaluate the severity of the pathology, and if the noise of the thunder is not repeated frequently, it is better to find another solution.



You can, for example, install a niche in the house where the dog can take refuge when the storm breaks out. It is better to choose this solution than to try to calm it by stroking it, which could be considered a “reward” and produce effects contrary to those sought.

Fear of the storm may hide other dog behavior problems such as the first stage sensory deprivation syndrome, a post-traumatic phobia, or a state of psychic over-excitement which must be individualized by resorting to if necessary, with the help of a specialist.

How to desensitize and decondition the dog?

1. Darken the room and find a place to put yourself with the dog.
2. Stay close to him, and get ready to respond to each of the dog's reactions.
3. Before starting the therapy, teach him the meaning of “Sitting! And “Lying! “Orders you give at the beginning of the session.
4. Prepare the scene, make him listen to the recording of a storm by lowering the volume, almost imperceptible to the human ear. Caress him and offer him treats to keep him quiet - you can also train him while he consumes his daily meal -. If he shows signs of nervousness (he moves, he breathes faster), turn off the recording and resume lowering the volume.
5. Let him listen to the sounds of the storm for about 5 minutes; if it is agitated, wait 10 minutes to see if it calms down, but if it does not relax, turn down the volume again.
6. The sessions should last between 10 to 15 minutes and should be close to each other. It is possible to not always train the dog at the same time, and in different rooms, or to connect the recording to a timer (so that it starts automatically, and you can check the reactions of the subject of the outside of the house).



Finally, you can also add other elements of the storm, such as lightning, using a flash. Each time you add a new item to the scene, turn down the volume. True thunderstorms should be avoided during the dressage lesson, but if there is one that breaks out, calm your dog right away by administering tranquilizers if necessary: if he sees a frightening situation during therapy, her learning can regress.

In this case, it is necessary to resume the training of the dog since the beginning, but do not be discouraged, because the lost time will be quickly recovered. When your dog looks cured, refresh his memory with a few sessions. If, indeed, too much time elapses between behavior therapy and a real storm, your faithful friend may forget some of the things he has learned and become fearful again.



My dog is afraid of resounding noises

The dog may come into contact with a series of sounds that may scare him: fireworks, fire-crackers, sirens, doorbell or telephone ringing, small and large appliances. In most subjects, the condition is not serious enough to require behavioral therapy; indeed, it is sufficient to remove the animal when using household appliances or to administer sedatives for celebrations with fireworks.

When frightened by the sirens, one can try to calm him by caressing or distracting him while playing. If the noises that cause the phobia are frequent, or if the dog is agitated excessively, we can use this therapy: we make him listen to a recording of what scares him by lowering the volume, by following the recommended progression for fear of the storm.

The dog can also be exposed to noise for a short time and at a distance to avoid scare him, then increase the duration and gradually reduce the distance until he gets used to the precise noise. . It is always better to try to prevent these behavioral problems by habituating the dog, as soon as he is a puppy, to the most common noises - like those of household appliances - so that he is not afraid as an adult.

To cure the phobia of shots, B. L. Hart and L. L. Hart suggest a simple and effective method. It consists of gradually getting the dog used up, using a white-loaded 22 caliber pistol and cardboard boxes that will have to be inserted into each other, to stifle the noise. It is necessary to organize a series of sessions of deconditioning where one makes listen to the dog a ten shots, by removing a box every three / four sessions.

If the cardboard does not soften enough, you can use blankets to surround the boxes. They must be thick enough so that the noise does not scare the animal, that one calms with the help of caresses and treats.



If he shows signs of nervousness during a weakly attenuated shot, it is necessary to resume the training at a previous stage, that is to say, that we add some boxes that had already been eliminated. Hunters will be able to use this technique to accustom dogs who fear the sound of gunfire. But be careful, it will make you a lot of time and continuous training to get good results.



My dog is afraid of dogs and people

The fear of dogs and people (relational phobia) is observed in subjects reared without the company of other puppies and the mother, and also in dogs having had contact only with the breeder. The lack of social relationships makes them fearful and suspicious of people they do not know.

This fear is sometimes the consequence of an unpleasant experience, such as the blows or the painful joke of a rascal. Many teachers complain that their dog is afraid of a family member, while he behaves affectionately with other people. This behavior is apparently not motivated, but, looking good, we discover that the dog has experienced an unpleasant episode in the presence of the person he fears.

Fear of other dogs can also occur as a result of a traumatic event: the attempt of a male to project a female from the first heat can frighten her so much that she will flee as soon as she encounters another.

The most common behavior in dogs that are afraid of an animal or a person is flight; they can also hide behind a piece of furniture or behind something that protects them. The dog who has not learned to face a danger will avoid it during all his life, interposing between him and what frightens him a distance of security or a barrier of protection.

If this is impossible, he will take refuge in a corner, his ears low, his tail between his legs, trembling and panting, and he will drool and crawl forward, belly down. If he has no choice, he will grumble and attack. In some very dangerous cases, it can bite directly without having previously grunted. It is usually a subject prone to submission that deploys, in a dangerous situation, all his dominated dog repertoire.

What attitude to adopt?



- It is necessary to individualize the cause of the phobia of the dog (is it a human or an animal?), And to establish a classification between the people and the animals which frighten him the most (feared it especially men, those in uniform, women, dogs or other species?).
- You have to schedule sessions, starting with situations that do not scare you, to get to those that trigger fear.
- Before starting a training session, it is advisable to let the dog relax by taking him or her to walk in a place that is not frequented by people or animals, or by playing with him. It is important that he knows the meaning of “Sitting! And “Lying! “Orders that allow you to block it when exposed to an anxiety stimulus.
- If the dog is afraid of the strangers he meets outside, you have to organize exercises in the garden: make him sit down and sit by his side to calm him when needed. He is shown a person standing at a safe distance (so that he is not agitated), and when he is used to his presence, he is invited to approach a little.

The next step is to move the arms to the stranger, then to enter the garden and let him approach and stroke the dog. The transition from one stage to another must take place when you are sure that your faithful friend shows no sign of fear (he must not be agitated, panting or trying to flee); if it is, it is because you are going too fast.

- If the dog is afraid when a guest he does not know enters the house, therapy should take place between the home walls. During the first stages of training, we put the dog in a box placed in a room frequented by both family members and guests (if the dog is small, a baby park is quite appropriate), so he allows to get used to strangers while feeling protected.

We start with a friend, whom the dog knows, whom we bring in and who sits near him, but who must pretend to ignore him. When the animal acquires a certain degree of self-discipline, he is taken out of the enclosure and asked to sit near his master. Subsequently, we introduce a strang-



er into the house, and we proceed in the same way. The master must always stroke his dog and, if he is agitated, try to calm him without allowing him to flee.

If the animal tolerates the unknown but does not approach him, one can let him go freely in the room; the guest should not interact, but ignore him and wait for the dog to come first. When he has become accustomed to the unknown, the latter drops a treat near the dog's paws, then a second (to be accepted) by approaching more and more the animal until touching it. and caress him. For the progression of training, what has been said before is still valid.

- If food is used as a reward for proper action, the dog should be left on an empty stomach the day before each session. If caresses and compliments are used, the teacher and the family members must ignore him during the hours preceding the exercises because deprived of the attention of the persons who usually take care of him, he will be obliged to look for them at home. the guests overcoming his fear.
- During therapy, the dog should be avoided from contact with strangers (except those chosen for training),and if this is not possible, guests must be indifferent to him (they should not look at him, neither touch him or talk to him).
- To reduce the fear of other dogs, train with other dogs as trainers. Before starting, it is advisable to prepare the dog by playing it for a while, so that it relaxes.

We act like people's phobias: we show him at a safe distance (which we gradually reduce) a dog that he does not know, and we caress him continuously to reassure him. If we do not manage to organize sessions such as those aimed at controlling the fear of people, we can bring the animal to places where there are other dogs and approach the calmer and small ones size, under the control of their master. To prevent him from escaping at first contact, he must be kept on a leash by encouraging him with soft words.

It is important that he socialize with others; if he tries to leave, hold him back and reassure him.



Therapy should continue in a gradual manner, slowly approaching one of his fellows, and if he exhibits a particular fear, he must continue to talk to him to calm him, but without allowing him to go away.

When the shy dog is playing quietly with another dog, remove the leash and move away so he can face him alone. If he behaves properly, reward him with hugs and treats and continue the therapy using various objects to stimulate him.



My dog is scared by car

The car evokes different sensations to dogs. Some are so enthusiastic that they climb on every occasion; others hate it cordially and try by all means to escape it. Getting around by car is not part of dogs' natural behaviors. It is therefore understandable that they are suspicious.

It is important to teach puppies not to be afraid. Indeed, all the happy dog owners say they used them very early to the car, taking them to pleasant places (in the park, the countryside, the sea or on vacation) and it is only after that they have faced "unpleasant" trips (to the veterinarian).

The fear of the car can also occur during a traumatic experience, such as a car accident. Some dogs are restless not because they are afraid, but because they are all excited about the landscape. They may think that the more they move, the more images they will see through the window will be interesting.

Another cause of car intolerance is the inability to control the situation. The dog does not understand why the landscape moves so quickly, and where does all this noise come from. Usually, the master, to calm, caress and talk to him gently, but this attitude, instead of quiet, excites even more and allows him to continue, precisely because he sees the behavior (that the 'we want to stop) rewarded.

The fear of the car can occur in dogs:

- when he sees her
- when it starts
- by making determined routes (the route to visit the veterinarian)
- at the sight of some people (the pump attendant for example)

Your faithful friend is angry when he stays locked up alone in a car: it is not because he is afraid to travel, but because he has a kind of territorial aggression. A dog suffering from "car sickness"



is agitated, drooling, vomiting, can urinate or defecate; some gnaw on seat belts and seats or bark and howl all the way.

It is possible to overcome the fear of traveling with appropriate therapy, but it is easier to prevent it. To achieve this, the puppy must be used to the car from its first weeks of life (from the third), by presenting it as a pleasant thing, for example by playing on the car with him, or by accompanying him to the car. Park or in the countryside, where he can run and have fun. The first time a dog is taken by car, it is better for him to fast for at least 8-10 hours, so that he does not vomit.

What attitude to adopt?

To overcome the dog's fear of traveling, the technique of systematic desensitization is used. We first try to individualize the stimulus that causes agitation and then act on it. You must train the dog every day with a series of exercises.

- Show him a car at a sufficient distance so that he does not become agitated (in the very serious forms of transport phobia, the sight of the car is enough to make him flee). Ask him to sit down and stay by his side, calm him down, gradually reducing the distance to the car until he can touch her; let him then turn around and sniff it.
- When he is familiar with the car, with the engine off, open the trunk and get your dog up and down again right after; repeat the exercise, interrupting it at the first sign of trouble. Have it also climb into the cockpit, first in front and then behind. You can also throw a toy on the car and order your dog to take it and bring it back. When he reacts correctly, reward him immediately with a candy or caresses.
- If he does not move when he gets into the stopped car, turn it on and repeat the previous exercises. At first, turn on the engine for a few seconds, then turn it off right away. When he is familiar with the new noise, keep it on a little more. The first stage of training requires more or less time depending on the subject. Do not be impatient because going too fast; you could ruin



everything.

- Once the dog has become accustomed to the car and has become accustomed to both noise and jolts, it is possible to make the first small trip. Have a friend drive and place the dog in the trunk or the back seat, ordering him to sit and stay close to reassure him. Gradually lengthen the ride, leaving him alone. If he is fidgeting, do not reprimand him or caress him to calm him down, pretend nothing and resume the exercise at a previous stage.
- It is possible to solve the problem of the dog who is excited at the sight of the landscape that scrolls by preventing him from looking out. For small and medium-sized dogs, the solution is to travel in a closed transport cage on all sides (there are plastic and metal in the trade). As for big dogs, it is preferable to put them in the trunk or in the back seat, darkening the windows with small curtains.

In France, the transport of domestic animals is regulated by the Highway Code which in article 169 “Transport of persons, animals, and objects on motor vehicles” declares:

1. In all vehicles, the driver shall have the greatest possible freedom of movement in order to perform the maneuvers necessary for driving [...]
6. In vehicles other than those authorized by art. 38 of the Decree of 8 February 1954, No. 320 (2), it is forbidden to carry more than one domestic animal and under conditions constituting an obstacle or a danger for driving.

The transport of domestic animals, even in numbers greater than one, is granted only to the extent that the animals are placed in cages provided for this purpose, containers or behind the driver’s seat expressly isolated by a grid or by any other suitable means which, if they are permanently installed, require the authorization of the General Directorate of the Ministry of Transport.



In summary, for the transport of a dog, a protective grid is not obligatory as long as the animal does not constitute an obstacle or a danger for driving; if there are several dogs, it is necessary to put a grid provided for this purpose or another similar means and have them homologated.





Unit 10

OTHER DISORDERS

Operational objective

Other dog behavior disorders: dog thief, dog anorexia, dog obsessed with sex, self-injury ... Causes and solutions to your problems.



Pedagogical objectives

The thief dog

The anorexic dog

The sex obsessed dog

Nervous pregnancy in the bitch

Self-mutilation and false dog limping

What is a dangerous dog?

What education for what breed of dog?

Dangerous dogs: the responsibility of the master



The thief dog

It is, at first, the master not to provoke this behavior. Do not give anything to your dog when you are at the table and especially not “softly”. Do not throw food into the puppy’s bowl. Put it in when he does not see you.

If you scold the animal, even on the fact, it will try to fly in your absence. It is necessary to correct the disorder and not the dog. Thefts are often about food, but dogs also steal items they hide in a corner of the house: socks, rags, shoes ...

The attitude of the master is very important. He must not find it amusing but react quickly. Give him only dog toys. If he has stolen something, do not run after him as long as he has the object in his mouth. Do not ask him to report it to you: he would take it for a game.

Remove stolen items from the hiding place out of the dog’s presence and put them back in place. If the dog prefers to steal something specific, you can associate the flight of this thing with an unpleasant feeling. He has a predilection for shoes? For example, put a pile of cardboard boxes in their closets that will crumble when they open it.

If the dog is wading through garbage cans, spray a bitter product on it. You can also associate the flight with a very impressive noise, which will have, in addition, the advantage to warn you.



The anorexic dog

A healthy and happy dog must voraciously throw himself on the food and eat it with pleasure, by carefully licking the bowl to leave nothing: it is not always the case.

Indeed, the number of teachers, who worry because their dog is lazy, that he eats only what he wants or that he spends whole days without touching food and then begging for a few bites when the whole family is reunited for the meal, keeps increasing.

We must be very careful because these behaviors could be the warning signs of a behavioral pathology known as “sociopathy”, requiring the intervention of a specialist.

Nowadays, we tend to force the dog, feeding at all hours of the day and varying the type of food. In reality, he must be fed at fixed times: a breakfast in the morning and an evening meal prepared with the same ingredients. If you use dry food (croquettes), serve it as is. If you prefer a “homemade” diet, you must use three or four types of food and prepare two identical meals (meat with rice and vegetables, or meat with pasta and vegetables, etc.).

Leave the food available for five minutes, then remove it, whether it has eaten everything or not, without giving it anything else during the day.

A healthy dog can also become anorexic in specific situations, for example when you leave him in boarding school or if one of his playmates or a person to whom he was very close dies, or if another animal or a child arrives at home (a behavioral consultation is recommended to confirm or deny a pathology: acute depression).

In any case, it must be stimulated with food that he likes (which makes him drool), helping him to overcome the critical period, to gradually return to a normal diet. Be careful not to spoil your dog too much. You can invite him to eat by offering him food directly from your hands, but



you must first ask him to obey, for example by ordering “Sitting! “.

If anorexia is an excuse to attract the master’s attention, you must not give in to blackmail; if he does not eat, leave him on an empty stomach for a day, then give him half the daily ration, leaving him available for a few minutes (not more than five). If it does not touch, remove the bowl without giving anything until evening.

Increase the amount gradually, remembering that the dog must finish all the food he has at his disposal and lick the bowl. Getting accustomed to eating attached can also be helpful, but first you have to make this freedom restriction enjoyable.

The trick is to call him and tie him up for a few seconds, rewarding him with a candy, and repeating the exercise until he willingly accepts this new situation. Competition with another dog is a great way to make an anorexic subject eat. Before starting a behavioral therapy, to rehab your faithful friend to eat, submit to a veterinary visit to make sure he is not sick.



The sex obsessed dog

What irritates and annoys most the owner of a male dog is to see him ride other animals, cushions or legs of the guests.

The rising of people or inanimate objects is the symptom of a pathology known as hypersexuality, which can also be manifested by aggression, excitability, marking its territory, wandering or destroying Objects. According to a survey conducted in Great Britain on 391 subjects, 65% of dogs over one year old have at least one of these symptoms; the percentage drops to 52% for those who are less than one year old.

It is important to distinguish between true projection, with erection and ejaculation (which may involve dogs, objects or people of the other sex) and social projection, without erection, which involves dogs or people of the other sex or not. Some games that males do when growing up provide for reciprocal riding; in this way, they learn the social behavior they will use as adults to interact with each other.

It is not a pathological attitude, but a stage of growth influenced by a hormone (testosterone). Do not intervene by reprimanding them, because, in general, the problem solves itself as they grow up. The adult dog rides the objects (cushions, blankets, stuffed animals), or the legs of the guests to release the accumulated tension (for example, when a stranger arrives, when he does not know if he will welcome him friendly or aggressive): this is a “scattered” activity.

By adopting this attitude, he can also try to attract attention. This situation can hide other problems that need to be taken into consideration, sometimes even with the help of a specialist. The dog repeats this behavior because he is encouraged by his master who pays attention to him, at first because he finds the game fun, then to reprimand him (remember that the dog who seeks the attention of his master achieves his goal of being rewarded with caresses or punished); in these cases, the best thing to do is to ignore it, and it is by acting in this way that the problem re-



solves itself.

The adult dog, with a marked tendency to dominance, can use the breeding as a means to increase his authority over his master. Only the pack leader rides in public in front of other dogs; if your faithful friend does, it is better to consult a behaviorist.

What attitude to adopt?

- Hide the cushions or stuffed animals on which he releases his sexual urges.
- When the dog climbs the guests' legs, invite them to ignore him (do not look, greet or talk to him). If this is not enough, it must be removed when the arrival of strangers or people who have been the object of his sexual attentions; if it is impossible to remove it, keep it on a leash and distract it.
- Occupy your dog with an activity that replaces the overhang, so that he can relieve his nervous tension. If you punish him and he continues, it will not help: the punishment may become reinforcement and encourage him to start again to get your attention.
- Intervene just as he begins to mount an object or person and divert his attention by throwing an order ("Sitting!" Is fine) or making a loud noise. Then take it to the garden and play it, or take a walk.

Castration

The castration of the male dog (if it is a female, one can resort to complete sterilization so that the heat disappears) can be useful to eliminate the behavioral problems related to the sexuality.

According to Dr. B. Hart's research, 60% of dogs, of all ages, who ride animals, people or objects, get better after castrating, and this percentage increases when it comes to subjects youth.

Not all behavioral researchers are convinced of the effectiveness of castration; moreover, not all



teachers are willing to sterilize their male. It is, therefore, useful to consult the veterinarian who can assess whether the surgery is necessary (he is also able to provide you with information).

Castration improves the situation in much behavioral pathology: fighting between males, escape for sexual reasons, and riding objects and people. Basically, it is not a disability that affects the life of the dog, which usually becomes softer and more affectionate while maintaining its usual behavior (stand guard, hunt, etc.), as evidenced by dogs truffles that are sterilized to improve their performances: not being attracted by females, they concentrate more on the search for tubers.

The only contraindication to this type of intervention is the tendency of the animal to grow; but, with a suitable diet, this problem can be solved without difficulty.



Nervous pregnancy in the bitch

Nervous pregnancy affects many bitches. It is therefore important to know the symptoms and know what to help your dog.

The nerve pregnancy of the dog is a problem not only physical, but also behavioral. It is a pathology that, among the animals, affects the dog almost exclusively, with a high incidence: 50-75% of the females are affected in a more or less serious way.

After the heat, the dog, if it has not been raised, has a period of sexual tranquility; if it is coupled, pregnancy can begin. In case of a nervous pregnancy, the female behaves as if she were pregnant, even if she was not taken or if the sexual intercourse was not complete.

Some authors do not consider this situation pathological, because from a physical point of view it is nothing but “an exasperation of the physiological processes of the state of non-pregnancy” (Edward C. Feldman, Richard W Nelson, 1992). In fact, the bitch “makes a rise of milk” because there is an increase of prolactin, the hormone that triggers secretion.

The symptoms of nerve pregnancy

At the same time, the physical appearance and behavior of the dog changes because of the change in the amount of two other hormones that regulate the sexual cycle: progesterone and estrogen. False pregnancy is manifested by obvious symptoms between the sixth and twelfth week of the heat.

The female isolates, prepares the nest, her breasts grow and secrete a whitish or brown substance (similar to milk), she becomes nervous and irritable, licks her vulva and breasts intensely, moves less and does not eat. Some look for dolls, stuffed animals or cushions that they take to their kennels or where they have prepared the nest, and treat them as if they were puppies.



As the “natural” expiry of pregnancy approaches, in some cases mucus outflow of the vulva is noticed, and some bitches even have contractions. Owners are especially concerned about swollen breasts and rising milk, because they fear the occurrence of mastitis or breast neoplasia but, fortunately, these pathologies are manifested very rarely.

Nervous pregnancy has a behavioral meaning. Indeed, the life of the pack is structured so that only the dominant pair can reproduce. If the females, who therefore occupy a lower position, make a rise of milk, they can help the one who has just given birth to feed her young, thus increasing, in a large range, the chances of growing puppies.

This behavior, although it has no functional significance, has been preserved by the domestic dog and occurs occasionally. It is for this reason that we can not consider the nervous pregnancy as a pathology, but as something painful that disturb the owners.

What attitude to adopt?

If the symptoms of nerve pregnancy are not obvious, do not take any action. It will disappear spontaneously after one to three weeks. If not, remove all items that the dog has adopted; if she becomes too anxious, you can leave her something for the first few days. It is very important to distract the female with long walks in the countryside, or to amuse her with her favorite toy.

It serves to move it away from the nest it has built and its imaginary puppies. If she is looking for caresses and becomes unpleasant, keep a detached and distant attitude, moving away brutally. The rise of milk is also a problem, but the drugs that block it, for sale in pharmacies, provide solutions.

Limit water intake and administer a laxative or diuretic (under veterinary control) to reduce udder congestion. Do not massage them with hot or cold compresses, because they stimulate the secretion of milk and, if the dog licks them insistently, put it a collar.

In the most serious cases, when the nerve pregnancy is repeated at each heat, we can try the



coupling. If the symptoms do not disappear with the suggested treatments, the dog should be sterilized (it is not recommended to perform this procedure if there is still milk, or if the female takes medication to reduce the rise of milk).



Self-mutilation and false dog limping

The dog is a born actor, able to adapt to different situations and imitate behaviors from which he derives benefits (caresses, attention of people or food). Self-mutilation, false limping and chasing after his tail are all examples of his great acting abilities.

When he is sick, you caress him, and he becomes the center of your attention; the whole family complains with phrases such as “poor little dog, you’re so sick” or “poor puppy, how sad you are,” followed by a caress or greed he prefers.

The dog understands that this situation is favorable and tries to make it last even when it is cured, continuing to limp for example. Licking a limb or flank, running after his tail and biting him to the point of injury are situations that can be observed even in dogs left alone, which by doing so deceive time.

The owner worries about the injuries his dog gets by self-mutilation, takes him to the vet and has him treated, spending more time with him. In summary, he surrounded her with attention, which the dog was missing, encouraging her to repeat self-mutilation.

In all forms of self-injury, it must always be ensured that no pathology (articular osteoarthritis, for example) is at the origin of the phenomenon, especially if it is an old animal.

What attitude to adopt?

The treatment is to deprive the dog of attention to remove the behavior. When he begins to limp, or to lick a part of the body or to follow his tail, he must be ignored and go away. If the procedure is fast, and by doing so many times, the problem disappears, but if the habit is well rooted, it is more difficult to eliminate.



In the most severe cases, the dog must be prevented from continuing to injure himself by surrounding the affected limb with a bandage covered with a repellent substance, such as a mixture of honey and hot pepper, or a specific product that you can find in the trade. If this is not enough, put a collar (plastic cone attached to the collar that prevents the dog from licking or biting).

If the social isolation of the animal is the cause of the self-injury, the only treatment is to spend more time with him, taking long walks together and playing, or taking another dog that will keep him company.

These types of interventions that we define as “symptomatic” are more appropriate to cope with the situation, but it is essential to consult a behavioral veterinarian as soon as possible so that he establishes a diagnosis and a therapy (behavioral and /or pharmacological). Appropriate.



What is a dangerous dog?

◇ Dangerous dogs

“What is a dangerous dog?” For me this question is untimely. Ask me if the dog is a potentially dangerous species and there I would answer yes, no doubt. Dangerous because of its natural aggressiveness, its morphology, and its predatory nature.

And yes! Even your Labrador or Dachshund are still predators, carnivores that nature has equipped with tools to feed, defend, defend its territory and its social rank. As for aggression, it is a natural tendency necessary for the conservation of the species.

We are not lacking either, of course, call it combativeness or tenacity, or as you want but the fact is there, aggression is necessary to make a place (do not confuse aggressiveness and violence).

◇ The bite of the dog: what does it mean?

A bite is dangerous, whether it comes from a dog or a dog. First, by the suffering, it inflicts and then by its hidden meaning. Most of the time, what is to be taken into account are the motivations that have led to the dangerous behavior as well as the circumstances in which the dog acts out.

It seems important to me to quickly return to the origin of dog breeds. There are now between 700 and 800 dog breeds, all consequences of the intervention of human in the life and reproduction of canines.

The human having understood how this animal could be useful because sociable, holder of very sharp senses and great learning abilities, created the breeds for specific needs.

Dog breeds, creations of the human hand



By crossing selected individuals for their flair, tenacity, endurance, alertness or muscular power ... Lines were obtained and then breeds for well-defined tasks (hunting, flock, research, guard ...). Genetics was then used to develop breeds with skills that are passed on from generation to generation.

Today, the dog's place with us has changed. We expect him, regardless of race, to be a good pet dog too. However, his skills are still there, maybe a little softened but underlying.

It sometimes happens that these traits do not always stick with the life of companion dogs and with masters little aware of the origin of the race they have chosen or the notion of hierarchy essential to any dog.

When we say Yorkshire, many of us see the little parlor dog with a knot on his head. Know that this little breed is a formidable hunting dog in the burrows. I happen to meet in consultation with masters distraught at the tenacity and resistance of their York disguised behind his small size, proves to be literally tyrannical. Transpose that to an Argentinean Dog ... here you are!

◇ Where does the dog's aggressiveness come from?

Add to that, the fashion effect, the flourishing market of the pet, and you get degraded lines with deviant behaviors and therefore some dangerousness.

A dog separated from his mother before 8 weeks (limited legal in France for the sale of puppy), resulting from a dubious breeding in terms of lineage (consanguinity) or environment (breeding in battery with little stimulation and bitches that reach over litters), suffering from an illness or disability (often ignored by the masters) or living in inappropriate conditions, can present (and will certainly present) behavioral problems and act out.

The gravity is not the same if it is a Poodle or a Rottweiler, it goes without saying, and yet the rules to be respected are the same.



It is essential to accept the idea that, no, we do not know our animal by heart and that it is impossible to predict its least reactions since the dog adapts to the situation he encounters. Even if it is the good big Labrador of the family who, at the age of 8, has never, even grumbled on someone.

When I go for consultation for an aggressive dog, the masters are often surprised to see that their dog does not welcome me as it usually does with everyone. This is because I knew how to introduce myself to this dog and position myself immediately (in a few seconds) so that the dog does not feel authorized to act. Surprised, he acts indeed differently.

◇ Understand the psychology of the dog

There is an attitude to have vis-à-vis a dog that we do not know, even a small. When will we learn this from our children, who are too often victims because of their mouths!

A dog never acts by chance, the animal in general either. The free act does not exist in the dog; it is just difficult sometimes to make the relationship of cause and effect.

It must also be accepted: the logic of the dog escapes us most of the time because it is not the same as ours.

So yes, the dog is a potentially dangerous animal. Avoiding assaults, however, is possible by learning about the conditions and rules of the dog's life, by educating him adequately and by reflecting on the commitment that the presence of a dog generates.

The aggression of a dog is unacceptable, but it often happens as a result of the living conditions that we impose on him. Without accountability or control of the origin of our animals, we will always, and I think, more and more, face these situations.



What education for what breed of dog?

◇ dog breed dog education

To the question are there breeds that require special education I would answer YES without hesitation but not for the reasons mentioned in the current “dangerous dogs”.

Indeed, there are many elements to take into account to adapt the dog training that is lavished on a dog. Race is one of the things to consider. This is not because some breeds are more dangerous or more aggressive than others, but for different criteria that are to cross between them:

- race and its role at the origin
- morphology
- the predatory status of any dog as well as his vital need for hierarchy
- other needs of the dog
- the “personality” of a dog
- the motivations and objectives of the master

Far be it from me to stigmatize certain breeds, this is by no means my goal, but it is clear that races have been created by human for specific tasks.

◇ Dog breeds adapted to work

Before becoming a pet, many breeds were intended for work. By selecting individuals with certain specific skills and by crossing them, we obtained lines refined, improved and perfectly adapted to the “trade” to which we intended them.

Take the hunting dog for example; tenacity, courage, endurance, pugnacity and resistance are necessary characteristics for tracking down the pursuit of a game.

Do you believe that because your Jack Russel or Fox do not hunt, these traits are annihilated?



Of course not, they are still there. You see that this is not aggression, but as with all dogs, it can become so.

What about so-called guard dogs? German Shepherd, Dobermann, Malinois, Rottweiler ... Attentive, responsive and capable, to perform their duty, able to demonstrate dissuasive aggressiveness; these races therefore need a firm and precise education (firm obviously not wanting to say violent) in order to channel this reactivity.

Similarly, shepherd dogs whose alertness and precision of the reactions make them extremely attentive, reactive and energetic dogs, also require a specific education that could be described as an iron fist in a velvet glove. It is a subtle education that will respect the emotions and energy of these dogs.

◇ Education of the dog according to the characteristics of his race

Aggressiveness or dangerousness are therefore not the real criteria to be taken into account but rather the characteristics of the breeds and what they were created for. It is therefore important to be well informed before choosing a breed.

Then, logically, when you choose a dog that in adulthood will be 40 kilos (or more), I think it wise to educate him by being firm on certain points such as walking on a leash, the “no “simply because you will probably have to take it to other people, take it on vacation or to friends, because your children will want to hold the leash, that you may find yourself in agglomeration with him ...

What will happen if you can not keep it on a leash? Falls, traffic accidents, fugue.... A bit of good citizenship for the safety of all, human as a dog. Make it a little easier for him, after all, he did not ask for anything!

◇ Dominated or dominant: all dogs need hierarchy

A dog, whoever he may be, is a social predator who lives in a hierarchical pack in which everyone has their place for the safety and safeguarding of all, individually and collectively.



We are his pack every day, and it is not because he is no longer with his peers that his life codes have changed. A stable hierarchy is necessary for the dog to flourish.

A dog will inevitably try to dominate. According to his “personality he will try in different ways and can, therefore, appeal to his “innate aggressive capital”. Cross this with the breed and the size of the dog, and you get a cocktail that can be explosive. Education and good habits of life make it possible to indicate to the dog its place and to avoid many inconveniences.

Each dog has a tendency at birth. It can be dominated, dominant, dominant aggressive or dominant subject (yes it exists). It is important to know how to detect this and then adapt the education to put in place with this dog. The role of the breeder or behaviorist is crucial here. To know your dog’s dominance trend, you can take the Campbell Test

It is quite possible to establish an extraordinary relationship with an aggressive, dominant dog. On the other hand, these trends can of course reverse and are not definitive.

Obviously it must be entrusted to teachers who will be ready to get involved in a very firm education and who will have to be consistent, which is not the case for everyone and it is normal. I take an extreme example voluntarily but know that this dominant trend exists in all dogs without exception. The difference lies in how to claim it.

◇ Choose a dog according to his lifestyle

The needs of the dog must be respected hence the importance, and I repeat it, to think carefully about the breed that will best fit the lifestyle of the masters. A very dynamic dog that needs a lot of exercises like the Husky, the Australian Shepherd or the Jack Russel (you can see that the size does not mean anything, neither regarding energy nor terms of aggressiveness) will not be suitable for masters casaniers little inclined to the walks.



Frustration with lack of exercise can trigger aggressive reactions. Once again it is necessary, I would even say imperative, to learn about the race chosen to know the specific needs. The effect of fashion or beauty are all too often the main motivations for the purchase of a dog.

Then, it is necessary to take into account what the master wants to do with his dog. An educator who does not question you about your motivations and goals for dog training is only part of his job.

Yes, there are breeds that require specific education. This implies on the part of the masters to choose their companion, having in mind what has just been developed above.

Make a dog (all breeds) live by being aware of all this and providing all that he needs, and you will save him and yourself and those around you from potentially aggressive and dangerous reactions.



Dangerous dogs: the responsibility of the master

Dangerous dogs: education responsibility of the master

Today, the fact that we have influence on the behavior of our dogs is more or less accepted by all. It is to our contact that animals manifest certain behaviors, and living with us is not always easy for our companions capable of understanding many things.

Proof is, they often have behaviors that do not exist in the natural state but appear at our touch.

This influence goes far beyond what we imagine, therefore it is essential to realize the scope to assume our share of responsibility for the behavior of the dog.

If one starts from the principle (proven) that the dog has an intelligence of situation, it reacts directly to the conditions of life which we impose on him.

From the moment a dog is in good health, has been weaned correctly and does not come from a genetically degraded line (consanguine for example), his differences of behavior are direct consequences of the context. In which we make it live, of our own behavior and of what we expect of it (consciously or otherwise). The responsibility of choosing it right, of taking good care of it, of educating it is 100% our responsibility.

Adopting a dog is a decision that will have implications for ourselves, our surroundings, our daily lives and for the dog, and this for several years. It is therefore necessary to think carefully, to choose well his companion and to be accompanied in this process.

This is not to point the finger at the masters but to draw attention to this notion of responsibility and the preventive measures to be taken to ensure that everything goes well. Bringing a dog into our lives is a decision that belongs to us and must be taken into account.



Here are some basic questions and principles that are the responsibility of the prospective adopter:

Before adopting a puppy:

- which breed will be best for my lifestyle?
- what does this breed need (exercise, maintenance, education ...)
- will I have the time to release it several times a day, to devote time for care, education ...
- if I travel often, to whom to entrust it?
- where to go to buy my dog? Take the time to contact breeders, to compare. Be careful when buying pet shop, fairs, markets or free newspapers. Privilege breeding or individuals that you can meet and where you can see the parents of the puppy
- your puppy must have 8 weeks, especially not less and have a health record for monitoring vaccinations!
- Anticipate the budget that you will have to provide (veterinary, conventional care, food, accessories, maintenance ...)

Your 8 week old puppy arrives at home:

- make a quick appointment with the veterinarian for vaccine recalls
- start upon arrival at the house to set rules. It is not because he is very young that he will not take advantage of it to take his ease
- explain to children how to caress him, how to respect his tranquility, play with him and make him respect the puppy
- learn about good daily habits so that the role of dominant you right (the advice of your breeders, your veterinarian and the help of a behaviorist are valuable to start on a good basis)
- at the least stupidity, learn about how to react to prevent this from happening again
- you have questions, call a professional
- you can also do some education so that your puppy keeps contact with other dogs and is as sociable as possible

Everything is going well and ... your dog is showing unusual behavior:



- consult your veterinarian for a report and test his senses (hearing and sight in particular)
- do not wait for it to happen again and address yourself to a behaviorist to understand the reaction, know what has generated it to anticipate. We have so much the impression of knowing our dog by heart that we sometimes put them in situations that they do not understand, and in this case, the dog can perfectly react in a surprising way for its masters.
- Keep in mind that as you get older, a dog may become more susceptible, less patient (a bit like us) and especially with children. Some reframing in your lifestyle with him may be necessary

Be careful not to rush to a dog trainer, at least not right away. It is first necessary to take the time to find the origin of the behavior and solve the problem first.

You adopt a dog in a SPA or an already big dog:

To the extent that you do not know what this dog has lived before, 2 measures are necessary:

- Go to the vet for a checkup
- Bring a behaviorist who will advise you on how to position yourself and the reactions to facing an adult dog that will necessarily try to take over or that, at least, will have reminiscences of his past behavior. By your behavior you will impose new rules that the dog will adapt.

Once all is well at home, you can also do some dog training that will strengthen the relationship and complicity with your dog.

The vagaries of life

Life is full of surprises, good and bad, and we sometimes have to reconsider aspects of our habits that will cause an upheaval of our daily life (arrival of a child, a move, illness, loss of employment...).

It should be kept in mind that the dog reacts according to a context and that any upheaval in your life and therefore in his own, can be at the origin of the appearance of certain behaviors.

So how do we deal with these imponderables that sometimes impose themselves on us without us having the choice? Again, having you advised to find a way to establish new rules with your



dog based on your new situation. I do not say that it is always possible, each case is unique, but that often there are compromises that a competent professional will find with you.

Dog training

Canine education is a good way to strengthen the relationship you have with your dog and establish rules of obedience that will make your daily life more convenient (to him and to you). However, there is a time for everything and dog training if it appears as a useful tool can also cause problems. Some tips to help you make a decision:

- at first, it is necessary to establish good rules of life at home. Doing education with a dog who is the master at home is useless and can even have a ticking effect the day you want to impose something on him
- some learning is inappropriate or even banish for a dog intended for the company as the mordant or the attack for example (useful for working dogs because trigger controlled aggression)
- the dog trainer should ask you what are your motivations and wishes regarding education (pay attention to those who sell you entry 10 or 15 sessions)
- a session with a puppy does not last an hour (half an hour at most) in a group of ten couples master /dogs maximum
- your dog has a sensitivity of its own the educator will have to detect it to explain to you how intensely reward or punish your dog and also detect its limits
- in case of hyper-attachment syndrome, education is not recommended because it could reinforce this behavior

After all that, you can tell yourself that it's complicated to take a dog home. In fact, no, but it's a big responsibility; you just have to take the time to think, to learn properly and especially to get advice from the start.

Your dog is a predator, very nice and endearing certainly, but a predator all the same! It is, therefore, necessary to remain vigilant throughout one's life with you. No question of being alarmist but just reasonably cautious, it is the least of things for our children in particular.



Prevention remains the keyword to establish a relationship that will promise you a life of complicity with your companion. It is not a question of changing your life to adapt to the needs of your dog but rather to learn how to cope with your daily life in respect of the needs of each one. How to adapt your dog's needs and your lifestyle habits day by day.

Good professionals from the animal world are at your disposal for health, behavior, and education so it would be a shame to deprive yourself of some advice that would often be enough to build confidence and harmony with your companion!

