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How to Go About Training Your Dog

Dog Training by Choke Chain: The Reasons Some Trainers Refuse to Use It

Many dog owners assume that they need to use a choke chain for their dog's everyday collar. While the choke chain can be effective in trained hands, on the whole most dog trainers do not recommend it. There are several reasons for this, including risk of injury to the dog, accidental death of the dog, and the fact that there are plenty of other, more humane, ways of restraining a dog.

The choke chain can cause injury to your dog, especially to the neck and esophageal area. The choke chain is designed to provide a quick check and release form of correction for your dog; however this is not how it is most often used. If your dog insists on pulling hard against being restrained, he will keep tightening the choke chain around his neck. This causes him to gasp for air, and sometimes pull even harder. This can cause damage to his esophagus and windpipes. The collar will continue to tighten until the pressure against it is released.

If the choke chain is pulled too hard too quickly, your dog's neck can become injured. The vertebrae can be pulled out of place or the muscles can be strained. Many times these injuries go unnoticed, as animals are good at hiding discomfort. It does, however, hurt the dog, and may cause some long-term damage. Since these injuries often go undetected until later problems emerge, they are not often seen as a direct result from using a choke chain.

Another, more devastating, risk of using a choke chain can be the accidental death of your dog. If your dog happens to catch the end ring of the chain on something, the collar will start to tighten. Your dog will naturally struggle to get free, thus tightening the chain even more. Eventually, the chain will tighten to the point of cutting off all air supply to the lungs, and your dog will choke to death. There have been incidents of dogs jumping a fence, only to get stuck by the collar on a piece of the fence and are left hanging to die. It is a gruesome picture, but it is all too real of a risk.

Many dog trainers refuse to use the choke chain, preferring other restraints such as a harness or a traditional collar that goes around the neck and connects with a buckle or a clasp. The harness is growing in popularity, as it puts the least amount of pressure on the dog's neck. There are some styles that resemble a horse halter in that a part of it goes around the snout and another part around the neck.

The idea being that where the nose goes, the dog will follow. Mother dogs will guide their young puppies by pushing on their noses or necks. Trainers have observed this behavior and tried to replicate that same communication with the new halter styled harnesses.

Another reason trainers are hesitant to use the choke chain is that they cannot control how the owner will use it once the training session is over. An experienced dog trainer will be able to use the choke chain the way it was intended to be used. Even if the dog owner is trained the proper way, there is no way to know if the owner will continue to use it the way he was taught

to use it. This potentially leads to the misuse of the choke chain, thus endangering the health of the dog.

Some dog owners feel that the choke chain is necessary if their dog is a large breed or is thick necked. They feel that it is the only way to control such a large dog. Dog trainers will often disagree with this line of thinking. There are many effective ways to train a dog, ways that are more gentle and effective than the choke chain. If the looks of a choke chain appeal to the dog owner, then the owner should use a harness or other style of collar for restrain purposes and leave the choke chain as an accessory item.

The choke chain has a few benefits, but it also carries many risks with its regular use. Dog owners are advised to talk to experienced dog trainers before purchasing a choke chain for their dog.

Clickity Click: The Click Method in Dog Training

A relatively new and gentle approach at dog training is gaining popularity amongst dog owners. Known as the click method, this type of dog training is revolutionary in that it waits for the dog to act, then comes the command, and then the reward. Traditional methods give a command, and then expect the dog to comply. The click method makes it easier to train a puppy, and can sometimes be used to train an older dog.

The click method utilizes a clicker. This is a little box, about one inch long and a half an inch wide, which has a flexible piece of metal on one side. Depressing the metal piece inside the box produces the click sound. It is the sound of the click that the dog learns to associate with desired behavior. He also learns to expect a treat or reward after hearing the click.

To get started with click training a dog, all the dog owner needs is a clicker, a bag of treats, and patience. The owner will sit on the floor, and simply observe the dog. As soon as the dog begins to sit on its own, the owner will depress the clicker and give the dog a treat. Only one treat per sit is necessary. The dog owner will continue with this pattern for a few sessions. At first the dog will not understand the connection between action, click and reward, but it will not take long before he catches on to the pattern.

Once the dog understands what the desired action is expected of him, the dog owner can begin to add the word "sit" to the training process. It will no longer be necessary for the owner to reward the dog every time he sits, and the dog will gladly repeat the action several times with the knowledge that the behavior will eventually be rewarded. This would also be the time to start working on other commands, such as lie down and stay.

Many dog trainers prefer the click method for training to the traditional methods. For one, it does not require the owner to touch the dog. Traditional methods can be especially tiresome when training a squirming puppy that does not understand what is going on. By waiting for the puppy to act on its own, then clicking and rewarding, the dog is happier as will be the owner. Neither party will be frustrated by the end of the training session.

The click method is a gentler approach in that it does not employ force, punishment, aversive methods or choke collars. This makes the method safe for use in puppies whose disposition and bodies need to be handled with care. Training a dog is a two-way communication, and puppies will respond better to their owners if they are treated with respect. It is not necessary to break the dog of habits. Instead, the click method reinforces desired behaviors that the dog already possesses.

Patience is a key ingredient to the success of the click method. If the owner is used to using traditional methods for training, it will be tough at first to restrain from telling the dog what to do. Learning to be patient will pay off once the dog understands the action, click, and reward process and becomes an enthusiastic learner.

Because patience is required, it may be harder to click train an older dog that was initially trained using traditional methods. The older dog may become stressed and lose interest because it does not understand what is required of it. If this happens, the dog's mind will shut down to the idea of learning and the click method will be ineffective. However, some older dogs will adapt quickly to this new way of learning and the transition to the click method will be easy.

As many dog-training methods have come and gone over the ages, some have stayed with us and some continue to revolutionize how dogs are trained. The click method is one such revolutionary program. If it continues to grow in popularity, choke chains and forceful techniques will no longer be needed to train our dogs. The click method will create a lifelong friendship between the owner and the dog that is rewarding for both parties.

Dog Potty Breaks: Seven Tips to House Training Your Dog

Welcoming a new puppy into your home does not have to be a frustrating experience. House training a new puppy takes a lot of time and energy, but there are several ways to make the training easier on both of you. Highlighted below are seven tips to help you and your puppy during this transitional time.

Set up a potty schedule: Your puppy will have limited bladder control at first. It is up to you to set the schedule for potty breaks. In general, puppies have to use the bathroom first thing in the morning, right after waking up from naps, about a half an hour after eating and right before going to bed at night. Other than those times, you should take your puppy outside every hour or so.

Prevention is the key to success: Your goal as a new puppy owner should be to prevent accidents from happening. By keeping to the potty schedule as well as looking for visual cues from your pup, you should be successful at this. Anticipate his potty needs, and place him outside in the appropriate area. Give him plenty of time to finish his business, and then praise him.

Puppies will usually have a bowel movement after meals, so make sure you give him time to accomplish that. Some get their business done quickly, while others take a little longer to find that perfect spot. A walk around the yard can help speed things up a bit for the slower pup.

Purchase a crate and/or baby gate: Since you won't be able to keep a close watch over your puppy 24 hours a day, you will need to create a safe place to keep him when you can't keep an eye on him. A dog crate is an excellent place for your pup as it creates a snug area for him to call his own. Most dogs will be reluctant to soil their sleeping area, so you shouldn't have to worry about that too much.

Baby gates also work as a way to keep the dog out of certain areas of the house. Confining him to the kitchen while you are away from the house will help make clean ups easier than letting him run all over the carpet.

Feed your puppy dry dog food: Dry dog food is the better choice for your puppy, as it is not saturated with liquid like the canned foods. Moistened canned foods put extra fluids in your puppy's system, thus causing an increase in the need to urinate.

Do not punish for mistakes: If you catch your puppy urinating on the floor, scoop him up immediately and place him outside in the appropriate spot. Let him finish, and then bring him back indoors. Screaming, spanking or rubbing his nose in the spot on the floor is not necessary and may even make the problem worse. If you are confident your puppy has an understanding of where the appropriate place to go potty is located and he still goes in the house, scold him for the mistake, but do not punish him.

Thoroughly clean up any accidents: Dogs like to return to the same spots to go potty, so it is necessary to make sure you remove all traces of accident from your floor. An enzyme based cleaner will get rid of the smell breaking down the bacteria and ammonia of which urine odor is comprised. Do not use ammonia-based cleaners, as they will make the problem worse.

Above all, be patient: It will take time for your puppy to become fully house trained. Do not expect immediate results. If you get frustrated, your puppy will pick up on that and it may impede the training process. Keep your cool, be patient and know that eventually your efforts will pay off.

Although these tips at house training a dog are aimed at training a puppy, it is possible to retrain an older dog. Sometimes dogs will go through a phase of testing the boundaries, so to speak, and you will need to be firm and teach him that it is not okay to use the house as a bathroom.

Doggie Crate Training: The Humane Way

Using a dog crate is a humane and effective way to train your new puppy. A crate gives the puppy a place he can call his own, and is often a place of refuge for him. It also gives you a place to put the puppy when you cannot watch him closely, such as at night or while you are at work.

By instinct, dogs will search out a den-like place to feel comforted and secure. Sometimes lying under a table will work, but the closeness of a crate is usually best. This den instinct stems from their relative, the wolf. Wolves make cozy dens in caves or holes dug in the ground. It is the

place they return to for comfort and security in times of danger. It is the place in which they sleep, eat their meals and raise their young. Domesticated dogs still have the need for a den of their own for the same purposes that the wolves use them.

Your puppy's crate does not need to be big. Your dog needs to have enough room to stand, turn around and lay down in it. If the crate is too big, your dog will be tempted to use one end as a bathroom.

Place a washable blanket and a few favorite toys in there, and your dog will enjoy being in his new space. You may even reward him for going into the crate by giving him a treat. Some owners begin using the command "kennel" once their dog enters the crate. The dog will not understand the connection at first, but will eventually learn to associate "kennel" with going into his crate.

Another way to help your dog feel at home in his new crate is to place his food and water bowls in there during meal time. This will not only feed his body but also his wolf instinct to eat in his den. The goal is to make the crate as inviting of a space as possible for your dog. While he is in the crate for extended periods of time you can place a water bowl in there for him as well. Some pet stores carry water bowls that attach to the sides of the crate to help prevent spills.

Puppies are naturally curious, and left to their own devices will explore every square inch of your house if left unattended. This leads to accidents on the carpet and chewing of furniture and other household items. The crate comes in handy for times when you cannot keep a close eye on your puppy, such as over night.

Placing your puppy in a crate over night is not cruel as long as you handle it in a positive way. He may howl and carry on for the first couple of nights, but you should try to not give in to his complaints. He will eventually settle down and go to sleep in his new room.

If you must crate your dog for a few hours, be sure to offset that with plenty of exercise and attention. A long walk or a romp in the yard will help exercise his muscles as well as exert some of the pent up energy he will have. Dogs love attention and affection from their owners, so make him feel loved and accepted. Just letting him out of his kennel and ignoring him will not help create a lifelong bond. If you find you don't have the time for your dog and use the crate to contain him quite often, then perhaps you should rethink having a dog.

Use of a crate becomes cruel when it is overused and or used as a means of punishment. If you come across your dog engaged in inappropriate behavior, it is okay to reprimand him. However, some owners will yell "NO" and drag the dog to the crate and leave him in there. The dog will be confused, and will associate the crate with being in trouble. As a result, the dog will not want to be in his crate and it will not longer be a comforting and safe place to him.

Your dog will love being in a crate if it is used appropriately for house training. It is a humane and loving way to keep your pup under control until he has learned the rules of the house.

One on One: Why Some Dogs Don't Train Well in a Group Setting

Dog trainers basically offer two different styles of training: group training and one-on-one training. It is important for you to know your dog's personality and learning style before signing up for training. Some dogs love the social aspect of a group setting and learn well by observing other dogs. On the other hand, there are some dogs that do not do well in social settings and would train better without the added distractions.

Most dogs, upon entering a new environment, will put their nose to the ground and sniff and explore every inch of the place to become familiarize with the new surroundings. For some dogs, this will only take a few minutes and they will settle down. These dogs will probably do well in a group training setting as their attention will no longer be on getting know the place, people and other pets. They will be calm enough to focus on the task at hand.

If your dog takes a couple of hours to acclimate to a new environment, you may want to consider one-on-one training. A dog trainer will come to your home, and conduct the lessons in your dog's own environment. There are several benefits to this method of training, as are described below.

One-on-one training at your home will give the trainer a better understanding of the dog's behavior. The trainer will be able to observe your dog in his own yard, in his own space so to speak. You will receive a behavioral analysis based on the trainer's observations. You and trainer will be able to customize a training program based on your dog's needs and personality.

This individualized training does not happen in a group setting, as the individual gets lost amongst the group as a whole. All dogs are expected to learn a certain command in a certain way within a certain time frame. Anyone who has spent time with more than one dog will quickly notice that they each have a unique personality and way of learning. The dog that loves to be around other people and dogs may get too excited and wound up in a group setting to focus on learning.

When the dog is at home in a place where he is already comfortable and secure, he will naturally learn better. The lessons will also have better relevance to the dog, as it is being learned at the place he spends most of his time. This is especially true if the behavior that needs correcting is specific to something at the home, such as constant jumping on the furniture or no regard for yard boundaries. Obviously, behavioral problems such as these cannot be corrected in a group setting that is held away from the home.

Another benefit to one-on-one training is the flexibility it affords you as the dog owner. You can schedule a time that fits your schedule to have the trainer come to your house. You do not have to worry about traveling to a different location as well as making sure you are available at a predetermined class time. For the dog owner with a hectic schedule, one-on-one training is the best answer. If you are less stressed when the training begins, your dog will respond in kind.

You may also want to consider the age of your dog. A very young dog will need more intensive training and will have a shorter attention span. One-on-one training may be the better choice for your puppy. An older dog might do okay in a group setting, however you need to take into

consideration how well he tolerates other dogs and adapts to new environments. If change is hard for your older dog, then you might want to consider hiring a trainer to come to your home.

While one-on-one training may be a bit more expensive than group setting training, the benefits outweigh the extra cost. Your dog will be more focused and secure with the training, thus achieving the desired results better and more efficiently. You will be happier with the arrangement as it occurs in the privacy of your own home. A happier you and a happier dog translate into a successful training session.

To Bark or Not to Bark: How to Tone Down Your Bark Happy Dog

Barking in and of itself is normal for a dog. It is completely unrealistic to think you can manage to keep your dog from never barking. Just as talking comes naturally to a human and meowing comes naturally to a cat, so does barking come naturally to a dog. Dogs bark as a “natural reaction to changes in their environment” such as when they are outside and it begins to rain, or if they see a cat walk by them when they are out for a walk.

Barking only becomes a problem if it happens too often and continues for long periods of time. As well when neighbors or people visiting you began to complain then you know that you must find an ample but also kind way to tone down your bark happy dog.

Be aware that dogs are very sociable animals and enjoy the company of people as well as other dogs. When dogs are left alone for long durations of time and/or are confined to a small area (such as a room in your house or a pen in the backyard) and therefore unable to run around they often look for a way to release energy and frustration that they have so they begin barking.

It sounds silly but often barking becomes a hobby to a dog because it has to find a way to entertain himself so he chooses to use his voice for that purpose. Many dogs like the sound of their own barking and continue to do it because it is fun. Keep in mind too that dogs often learn that barking will get your attention and therefore they do it so you will come running.

Keep in mind that most well adjusted happy dogs do not engage in consistent barking. Excessive barking is often the hallmark of a bored, frustrated, lonely or scared dog. You can work to make sure your dog never comes to feel desperate in any way. A dog that is happy and well adjusted is one that gets plenty of exercise, lots of water, adequate food and plenty of love and attention from you.

A dog that knows he or she is well loved is likely to be more with himself while you are away from home and will languish away the day with sleep instead of barking. Always set aside time every day for your dog. In that way he is very much like a child who wants you to pay attention. Play with your dog, take the time to train him or her and make exercise a regular part of his daily routine.

Obedience training is important to raise a well-behaved dog but always make it as creative and interesting as possible as this kind of dog training is as physical as it is mental. Dogs prefer the

physical more than the mental aspects so keep your focus on what is likely to keep your dog listening to you. Obedience training can help banish barking that can grate on the nerves.

Make your obedience time as much of a game as possible. Go for a fast moving game that engages all of the dog's physical and mental faculties, such as "Come here, sit, heel, sit, heel, down, stay ...come here for hugs, a massage, a celebration of praise and treats."

Don't keep your dog out in the backyard away from your family and other dogs for most of the time. If you do then why did you get a dog in the first place? Dogs crave love and, companionship and they are also very sociable. If your dog constantly barks when he or she is out in the backyard then loneliness is more than likely the problem.

Pay him or her more attention by allowing her some "social exercise" and "social time." Running around the backyard is not enough exercise for her. This is akin to what people do when they feel nervous or stressed, such as pacing and fidgeting. Take her for walks in the neighborhood so she can run, see, smell and explore what is around.

Dogs have an insatiable curiosity and want to learn everything they can about their surroundings. Allow your dog to investigate the environment. If you have a dog park in your area take your dog there so he or she can make other dog friends. It will give you the opportunity to get to know other dog owners as well.

Bring your dog inside when you are home and available to him or her. Make your dog feel as if she is an essential part of the family and continuous barking that annoys everyone is not likely to be a problem anymore. Also provide her with toys to play with and chew toys that are likely to keep her occupied and content.

Typical Tools of the Trade for Dog Training Your Pet

To properly train your dog, you need to have few tools on hand. You do not need to spend a fortune on training your dog, and a few simple tools will help you along. Listed below are some of the typical training tools you will need:

Collar and leash: A collar or restraint system is necessary for you to gain control over your dog. There are several styles from which to choose, and it is up to you to decide what you are comfortable using. A basic collar that attaches around the neck with a buckle or clasp is the most common style. It has a metal loop near the clasp to attach tags and a leash. The harness is gaining in popularity, as some believe it is healthier for the dog. The harness attaches around the neck and under the legs, and puts less pressure on the dog's neck when the leash is tugged.

Treats: Most dogs are motivated by food, so keep plenty of treats on hand when training your dog. The treats can be little morsels of chicken, pieces of dry dog food, cheerios, etc. When using them for rewards during training, try to keep the size of the treat to a minimum so as to not over feed your dog.

Crate: A crate is a must have for puppies and even older dogs. Crating your dog will help with house training for those times you cannot watch your dog closely. Your dog will also enjoy having a space just to himself that he can go to for comfort and security.

Baby gates: Baby gates are useful to block off areas of the house where you do not want your dog to be. This is especially helpful during the house-breaking period of time. Your puppy does not need to have unlimited access to your house and carpet. Keeping him contained in areas with easy to wash flooring will save you time and frustration. It will also save your carpet from becoming a favorite potty place.

Tennis ball or canvas retriever: Many dog owners enjoy a good game of fetch with their dogs. Teaching your dog to retrieve, or fetch, should not be too hard, especially if he enjoys the game. A tennis ball, canvas retriever or other appropriate toy will make the game fun. Not many dogs can resist the sight of a bright tennis ball bouncing through the yard. This will also give the two of you a break from more rigorous training activities.

Clicker or whistle: Depending on the method you plan to use for training your dog, you will often need to purchase an accessory such as a clicker or a whistle. The click method of training is a fairly new, but highly effective, way of training your dog using a gentle click to reinforce desirable behavior. Some dogs do well with hearing a whistle for positive reinforcement.

Patience: One of the most important tools to have during dog training is plenty of patience. Do not expect results on the first day of training. Dogs take time to learn, just like humans. If you stay calm and in control, your dog will act accordingly.

If you get frustrated and upset, you are more likely to start yelling at your dog, and this will hinder the training process. Be patient, and you will soon reap the rewards of the time you spent training your dog. You will have a well-behaved dog that readily responds to your voice and commands. He will be a joy to be around, not just for you but for your guests as well.

Although some dog trainers may be able to train a dog without some of these items, the majority recommends having them on hand. The most important items to have would probably be the collar and leash. All dogs need to be restrained at some point or other, and a collar and leash will make that job much easier.

Especially if you have a large breed that is difficult to handle when he is excited and struggling to get out of your grasp. You will save yourself and the dog some frustration by investing in a good collar and leash, as well as some of the other items listed above.

Top Five Reasons to Get Obedience Training for Your Dog

Do you own a dog? Or are you considering owning a dog? If so, you may want to consider obedience training for your pet. Obedience training has many positive benefits for both you and your dog, and is well worth the investment. There are many reasons to enroll your dog in obedience training, such as to regain control and character development. Five of the most important reasons to get obedience training for your dog are as follows:

It establishes good communication: Obedience training provides a language foundation that both you and your dog understand. You learn several commands, such as “sit” and “stay,” and your dog will learn to respond to them appropriately. As part of the training, you will learn to read your dog’s body language. Your dog will appreciate knowing that you can communicate effectively with him and it will help to avoid confusions.

It exercises your dog’s mind: Dogs need plenty of physical activity, but they also need their minds to be exercised. Obedience training is one way to provide your dog with a mental challenge. The task of figuring out what behavior you expect out of him when you give a command is a way to get his mind to work. Most dogs enjoy this activity, and readily want to engage in more learning activities. This makes training a joy for the both of you since an eager learner is a fast learner.

It gives your dog a sense of purpose: If you own a dog from one of the working breeds, obedience training will teach your dog his job. Working dogs have a lot of intelligence and energy, and if not trained properly, they will not know how to channel their energies appropriately. This tends to lead to destructive and obnoxious behaviors. These dogs need a sense of purpose, so it would be wise to invest in obedience training for the sanity of you both.

It puts you in the leadership role: Dogs love to belong to a pack, and your family becomes a pack for your dog. Each member within that pack needs to have a role, preferably with the humans as the leaders. Some dogs have a hard time accepting their owners as leaders, and obedience training is one way to establish that fact.

A good dog trainer will teach you how to exert yourself in a gentle but authoritative way that your dog will understand. As long as you remember that training, and maintain it, you should have no problem with your dog remembering his role in the pack.

It creates mutual respect: As in any relationship, you and your dog need to respect one another. When you engage in obedience training with your dog, that respect begins to grow. The two of you learn to communicate not only with words but with body language. This respect will help build a lifelong friendship that is rewarding for both you and your dog. You will find that if your dog respects you, he will obey your commands and will submit to you as his superior. If you respect him, you will be sensitive to his needs and will take care of him the way he wants to be taken care of.

Obedience training can take on many forms, and you will find a style that fits your needs and personality. What works for one owner and dog will not necessarily work for another. It may take a couple of tries to find the perfect one, but it is worth the time and energy. You may find your dog responds better to a whistle or a clicker than to verbal commands. Or you may find that a dog whisperer will work wonders for the two of you. Some dogs do well in a group setting and others like one on one training better. Observe your dog closely and you will soon understand his learning style.

A properly trained dog is a joy to be around. Your guests will be more comfortable around your dog, as they won’t be jumped on or barked at. You will have more peace of mind knowing that your dog will listen to your commands when you issue them. Your dog will be happier and so will you.

Curbing Car Sickness in Your Dog: Hints for a Happy Animal

You are ready to go on vacation and you are all prepared. The luggage is loaded into the trunk, and the remainder is securely strapped to the roof of the car. You are taking your canine companion on the trip with you, and so you have packed his food, water dish, toys, treats, leash, and even a doggie sweater in case those nights get cold.

You have popped a Dramamine to make sure that the time on the highway will not be marred by motion sickness, and you are ready to roll. A half an hour later you find yourself pulled over at a rest stop, attempting to placate a very unhappy little canine who just got sick all over the car seat and is decidedly not having a good time on this vacation at all. Is there anything you could do to curb car sickness in your dog?

First and foremost, it is important to remember that not all car sickness is created equal. While you can see a great many dogs riding in cars with their human companions, happily sticking their heads out the car windows and letting the breeze play with their floppy ears, there are also those dogs are plain and simply afraid of the car.

Perhaps it is the noise, or the smell, or quite possibly the unanticipated starting and stopping of the vehicle that frightens these dogs. Whatever the case may be, such dogs with a simple fear of the car will quite possibly become upset at riding in one that they may vomit.

To help a doggie that is scared of your car, take small steps. At first, simply allow her to sit with you in the car, but leave the doors open – obviously you want to have her on a leash at this point. Repeat this exercise until you are certain that she feels comfortable with it. She can see outside, she sits with you, and she will be able to feel safe. Next, allow her to sit in the car with you, but gently close the door.

Try to avoid slamming it shut as this loud noise may upset her. You might want to bring her favorite blanket, and just speak to her calmly. Repeat this again over the next few days. If she is comfortable at this point, simply turn on the car and see how she reacts. You may need to repeat this simple exercise a number of times or not at all, depending on your dog's tolerance. Once this is mastered, you could have her riding with you just around the block. Similar short trips over the next few days may very well boost her confidence in the moving vehicle, and before you know it, she may actually beg to go for a drive!

Of course, there are those dogs that will indeed have genuine motion sickness, which is a condition that has to do with the inner ear rather than fear. In those cases your vet may direct you to give your dog some Dramamine. For those canines that simply cannot let go of their fears, there are some prescriptions of mild tranquilizers available that will help calm your pooch's nerves and help her or him endure the time in the car without getting car sick.

Another thing to consider is your dog's tummy prior to the trip. If it is empty, perhaps she hates traveling on an empty stomach. Conversely, if it is full, this too may upset a dog. It is important to find out what works for your dog, personally.

Last but not least, if you are not sure about what you could do, there are a number of homeopathic remedies that may help to calm down your pet's tummy on a road trip. Some

suggest that feeding raw liver, for the high vitamin B contained therein, is a good step in avoiding and upset dog tummy. Another suggestion is ginger; such as it is found in ginger ale, sprinkled over a treat. While these remedies may or may not work, it is always best to go easy and try little steps before deciding to tranquilize your dog for the trip.

Great Doggie Tips to Tame the Chewing

Biting and chewing is often a normal part of the behavior of puppies as they strive to learn as much as they can about their environment. As well when puppies are teething they chew because it makes the sore areas of their mouth feel better because of course they are not aware of what is going on in their mouth.

Once puppies mature into adult dogs they generally leave the juvenile chewing behavior behind although some do not. Nobody wants to come home to find their favorite pair of slippers or shoes chewed up! Read on for some great doggie tips to tame the chewing.

When dogs chew items in a destructive manner it is often a result of them feeling anxious, bored or a combination thereof. If you come home to find a pillow or the leg of a living room chair destroyed then it is most likely because your dog was trying to find ways to entertain himself and past the time until you returned home.

People sometimes go to extremes to amuse themselves and stave off boredom and dogs are no different! When a dog isn't receiving enough exercise or stimulation from you he or she will often release that "pent-up energy or frustration" on just about anything in sight, be it a book, a shoe, a box or a cushion.

It is important to make exercise a regular part of your dog's routine. Don't just put him or her out in the backyard alone. There your dog will simply allow himself to become more stressed and anxious. Instead put on your sneakers and go for a brisk jaunt around your neighborhood and let your dog explore where it is safe to do so. If a dog park is nearby without delay take him or her there to spend some quality time and to run off some of that pent-up energy.

Take a ball or Frisbee with you and enjoy a game of catch. Dogs need both mental and physical stimulation and they will not get it unless you supply it to them. As well getting his fair share of exercise and fresh air will give your dog a good workout and make him tired and in need of a nice long nap. A dog that is happy, well adjusted and well stimulated is not interested in chewing things because he has other things to keep him occupied.

Make a trip to a pet supply store and purchase some toys especially meant for chewing. Most pet stores carry a good selection of nylon and rubber toys that are durable enough to withstand the chewing habits of a dog. As well there are hollow sterilized bones for dogs that can be filled with delicious treats that are sure to make your dog happy.

Examples of foods you could use include cheese, dry dog food combined with a little wet dog food and peanut butter. Don't allow your dog to get bored by trying different kinds of food fillers to keep him interested in "the game". An excellent idea is to wedge a piece of cheese

where there is an opening inside the bone and/or toy or perhaps even freeze a small morsel of wet dog food for him to dig out.

Remember that being mentally stimulated goes a long way in keeping your dog happy and busy so buy doggie toys that will engage your dog's intellect while you are away from home. For example many stores carry doggie puzzles that can occupy a dog's attention for a long period of time. As well these puzzles often have a spot where you can put a treat into for your dog to fish out (treats such as Buster Cubes or Kongs).

Never buy toys that contain small items such as bells, strings or feathers that can come off in a dog's mouth and be swallowed. Just because it is sold for dogs in a pet store doesn't mean that it is necessarily safe for your dog!

Vary the kinds of chewing toys you supply your dog with. Keep things interesting by experimenting with a multitude of odors, tastes, textures and even challenges for your pet. Add new things to your dog's play repertoire as you see fit and take things away that he has lost interest in. Keep in mind that dogs are very fond of cow hooves, Nylabones and frozen carrots. It is a good idea to keep toys for chewing inside the house and also outside in the yard so your dog never has to give into boredom.

Dogs Do Bite: How to Teach Your Kids to Avoid Those Teeth

No one likes to feel a dog's teeth sinking into their skin and it is so important to teach your kids how to avoid getting bit. Realize that dogs don't bite for any reason and they are usually provoked in some way to feel the need to defend themselves. Dogs most often bite out of a sense of fear. Most of the time dogs and children can live in harmony, however children sometimes do get bit by their dog or someone else's dog.

The CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) estimates that "almost five million people a year are bitten by a dog in the United States." Of these people a whopping 800,000 (often more than half of them children who are younger than thirteen years of age) need to be taken to a hospital for medical intervention and sadly, approximately a eight to twelve individuals die annually as the result of a dog bite.

Children are "at least three times more likely than adults to sustain a serious dog bite." The good news is that dog bites are largely preventable. It is necessary to educate your kids to avoid the possibility that a dog will bite them. It is an unfortunate aspect of life that most dogs that bite people have irresponsible owners who neglect their dog, mistreat it or don't provide it with the necessities of life so the dog is angry and lashes out at an unsuspecting person.

Always caution children to ask an owner's permission to pet their dog before they do so. If the answer is yes then be calm and quiet as you approach the dog taking slow steps. Before you touch the dog let him sniff you first and if he seems responsive to you then pet his sides, back or head in a gentle non-threatening manner.

Never attempt to pet a dog who is eating, sleeping or playing with a toy. When a dog is occupied with an activity he is enjoying himself and doesn't want to be bothered so leave him alone! Dogs are protective of their food and toys and might bite if they are startled, scared or afraid the child is trying to take "what is theirs" away from them.

Advise children to never attempt to pet a dog that is in a yard behind a fence or for that matter in a vehicle. Dogs are naturally territorial and will protect their property and personal space at all costs. Heed that warning and your kids are likely to not suffer a painful bite.

There are many other things that children must be taught in regards to avoiding a dog bite. Make sure children know that it is never wise to walk up to a dog that is a stranger to them and in cases when they are allowed by a parent and the owner to approach a dog always do so carefully, calmly and slowly making sure not to startle the dog.

As well tell children to avoid going near stray dogs. If a dog that is unfamiliar to them approaches a child advise them to stay as calm and still as possible. These bedraggled animals sadly are often starving and desperate and not likely to be in a friendly mood. Many people believe that tail wagging means a dog is necessarily friendly but that is not always the case. Upon meeting a new dog, for example at a friend or neighbor's house, don't rush at it, but instead let the animal come to you and sniff you before you touch it.

Dogs learn about strangers through the scent of them. This is one of the factors they use to decide whether or not they want to get close to you or not.

Children should always be aware of where all of the dogs in their neighborhood reside and they should never attempt to play with any dog if a parent or another adult does not supervise them. It is never advisable to run from any dog and yell as this could make the problem worse. In the event that a child is knocked over by a dog they should roll themselves into a ball and lie motionless.

If attacked by a dog a child should give the dog something to chew or munch on such as a book bag or a book. Also your kid must always protect certain parts of his body first and foremost- these include the face, head, neck and arms and direct eye contact with a dog is strongly advised against.

Preventative Measures to Keep Dogs From Biting in the First Place

There is no way to guarantee that your dog or dogs will never bite a human being but there are preventative measures you can take. The CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) has provided some excellent tips. First of all it is advisable to do your research before choosing a dog that is appropriate for your family.

Take your lifestyle as well as your immediate environment (your house, yard, neighboring houses, proximity to walking trails and parks, etc.) into consideration and if necessary speak to a professional who knows plenty about dogs and can advise you as to what kind of dog is right for you.

One of the best things you can do for your dog is to spay or neuter him/her. Dogs who are "fixed" are less likely to bite and tend to be better adjusted. Sterilization makes for less aggressive behavior in dogs and it also takes away their desire to want to break away from their home and roam around the neighborhood.

Always be as sensitive as you can be when it comes to how a child feels about a particular dog. Not all children feel comfortable around dogs and many can even be scared which can lead to tears. Foster an environment where a child will develop a love of dogs and all animals by not pushing them too hard and by allowing the love and interest in an animal to develop at a child's own pace.

As well it is important to explain to children ways to be safe and play safe around dogs. Children should be reminded of these things on a consistent basis until they become ingrained in their minds.

The CDC also recommends that to avoid the potential of a dog bite, no one should ever engage in aggressive play or rough games with a dog. Activities such as wrestling should never take place between a person and a dog. Although biting in this case may result from enthusiasm it can also breed aggression and confuse the dog.

Speaking of aggression, dogs that are known to have problems with aggression (such as dogs that were mistreated and encouraged to be aggressive by their irresponsible owners) are never appropriate for homes where there are children. This is an accident just waiting to happen.

To avoid the chance of a dog bite, never walk up to a stray dog or any dog that is not known to you. It is also wise to report stray dogs in your neighborhood to the appropriate authorities as well as dogs that are wandering around bothering people or dogs that appear ill and/or mistreated. If a dog you don't know does approach you on the street or anywhere you are, remain calm and stand still until it leaves you alone. Always protect your face, head and neck and never give into fear by yelling or running as this could make the situation worse.

A dog that is sleeping, eating, playing with toys or taking care of its young should never be disturbed. A dog that is awakened suddenly is likely to be angry while a dog that is eating or playing with toys is likely to feel very protective of his things and might assume that you are trying to steal them from him. He might lash out at you in the form of biting in order to keep what is his safe.

As well a mother dog that is taking care of her puppies does not want any interference from you, as her naturally ingrained motherly instinct is very strong. Any threat real, or not is likely to cause her to bite a person who ventures too close to her offspring. In this case look but do not touch is the best policy to follow.

It is important to train your dog as best as you can and to get him or her used to people in your life. Treat her well and take care of her and your dog is not as likely to act in a hostile manner towards others. Happy, healthy well-loved dogs tend to make the best pets and if their owner is good to them, they will return the favor many times over.

Be a responsible dog owner by having your dog licensed and taking it to the vet for shots as required. As well teach your dog not to roam, run out into the street and chase cars or bicyclists, and not to growl or react aggressively to visitors to your home, the newspaper delivery person, the milk man and so on. While dog bites do happen these preventative measures should cut down on their occurrence considerably.

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