



## Beware of Stings: What to Do If Your Dog Encounters a Bee, Wasp or Hornet

by Dr. Marty Becker, DVM

July 11, 2016

They say that curiosity killed the cat, but curious dogs don't fare much better. Our pets become intrigued or aggravated by stinging insects, such as bees, hornets and wasps and zing! They've been stung. Although most of our dogs have a protective covering of fur over their skin, a bee sting hurts them as much as it does us. Besides being painful, a sting may trigger an allergic reaction that ranges from mild to wild—in a bad way. Here's how to recognize signs of trouble and relieve the pain if a bee, wasp or hornet stings your pet.

### What a Sting Looks Like

Pets, dogs in particular, often get stung on their noses (because they stick them where they shouldn't go) or in their mouths, after snapping at buzzing bees. So the first sign of trouble may be a swollen muzzle.

If you didn't see your dog get stung but he's running in circles and crying out, or pawing at his face and rubbing it on the ground, it's a good bet that's what happened. Look around for evidence, such as a bee on the ground, bees buzzing around flowers in your yard or a nearby beehive or wasp nest.

Canines can experience a variety of reactions to bee stings. In mild cases, you may notice them scratching, rubbing, licking or biting at the area stung. The skin may look red. If you've ever been stung yourself, you know that it can cause a burning or itching sensation for several minutes.

More serious signs include the aforementioned swelling in the head or neck area, severe pain, hives, vomiting and difficulty breathing. *A severe allergic reaction to a sting can result in anaphylactic shock, and it's an emergency.* Some pets may collapse or die if they are extremely sensitive or if they are stung many times. Earlier this year, three dogs in Scottsdale, Arizona, died after being stung multiple times by a swarm of bees. □

## How To Help Your Dogs' Anxiety When Your Kids Start School!

— <http://petpav.com>

September 7, 2016

Summer is coming to an end and as your kids go back to school, the house is seemingly quiet. While you might just love the new-found peacefulness, your dogs might not feel the same way. After all, the household goes from a lively, playful place to a home with much less action and activity. And, for some dogs, it can be cause them anxiety and they can lash out destructively or simply just be very sad.

**Below are some tips to help your dog's anxiety:**

### **Make sure to get a long walk in the morning.**

Make sure to take your dog out for a long morning walk which is a way to release the pent-up anxiety. Exercise can also enrich your dog's life, decrease stress and provide the right outlets for normal behavior. Plus, a tired dog doesn't have much excess energy to burn when he's left alone! He'll start the day all tired and you will already be away when he wakes up.

### **Make sure that breakfast is the biggest meal.**

Make sure to give your pup(s) a big breakfast. Between the walk and the meal, your dogs will most likely nap after they eat and the goal is that your dog will snooze away much of his time alone (we know how eating makes our pups sleepy!). Or at least, when you leave the house, your pup will be resting and it won't be as traumatic from them.

### **Give your dog a special chew toy for**

### **when you leave each day.**

Make sure to give your dog a great chew toy that is only used or given to your dog when you are away to keep your dog focused on something other than your departure. And, make sure that the chew toy is safe to leave with your dog that is alone all day. If your dog associates being alone with something good, like a tasty treat or toy, it can reduce or resolve the problem.

### **When you leave every morning or your kids do,**

### **make it a non-event**

Many dogs know when you're about to leave the house and will get anxious or try to stop your departure altogether. When saying goodbye, just give your dog a pat on the head, say goodbye and leave. Similarly, when arriving home, say hello to your dog and then don't pay any more attention to

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("How To Help Your Dogs' Anxiety When Your Kids Start School" cont.)

him until he's calm and relaxed.

**Don't ever punish your dog for being anxious or destructive.**

Anxious behaviors are not the result of disobedience, so don't scold or punish your dog (ever) if he doesn't overcome his fear quickly. If you punish or even scold your dog, your pup may become even more upset and the problem could get worse. Be patient, and work with your dog until he feels comfortable and enjoys spending time alone again. Even if your dog gets to your favorite shoes or furniture, he is only acting out because you have not provided him the tools to calm your pup down and he is just frustrated! ☐



**Improve Your Dog's Manners By Teaching These Three Behaviors**

by Mikkel Becker

Mat-training your dog (teaching him to move to a designated spot like a mat or his bed when asked) comes in handy in many situations as do other good manners.

Recently, I talked with a frustrated dog owner who felt like she had missed her chance to teach her dog good manners. "I want to train my Sheltie to stop barking every 30 seconds," she lamented, "but he's four years old now and it's too late to change him!"

I hear that a lot, and while I understand why a pet parent would think that way, I'm always happy to tell them that it's not true. The fallacy that an old dog can't learn a new trick has been disproven time and again. And there's more good news: teaching a dog of any age new tricks and better manners usually doesn't require extensive effort or hours of training.

Training can provide a fresh start for your dog, whether he's newly adopted and still learning the boundaries of his new household or a longtime family member who needs a brush-up on his manners. No matter how old your dog is, training that emphasizes rewards can help to reframe patterns of interaction in a way that rewards and builds desired behavior in place of undesirable habits. This is a win-win situation for you and your dog since you get less barking and more behaving, and he gets rewards for doing what he's asked.

For many dogs, the foundation for acquiring better manners is as simple as focusing on three basic behaviors: go to your place, make eye contact and tolerate touch. Here's how training each of these behaviors can change your relationship with your dog for the better.

**Go to Your Spot**

One of the most useful behaviors you can teach your dog is to move to a designated spot (like a mat or his bed) when asked. Teaching this behavior can help solve a variety of problems, including begging at the dinner table and dashing out the door. Teaching your dog to go to a designated spot can also provide a strategy for steering your dog away from problem behaviors like jumping or chasing the cat. In each of these situations, your dog replaces an undesirable ➤

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("Improve Your Dog's Manners" cont.)

behavior (jumping or chasing) with a behavior that you reward with treats and praise.

In addition, "go to your spot" can be useful when you and your dog are navigating situations where your canine may need to be directed to a designated area (for example: when you're unloading groceries and don't want your dog underfoot or when guests are arriving or leaving and you need to be sure your dog isn't tempted to slip out an open door). "Go to your spot" can also help to increase your dog's independence by reinforcing that it's okay for him to be separated from you for limited periods of time.

**Make Eye Contact**

In a dog's world, direct, prolonged eye contact can often be perceived as a threat or as a challenge. For this reason, many dogs are fearful of direct eye contact from people. But because eye contact is a normal part of human interactions, it is something your dog is likely to encounter. Teaching your dog to make eye contact and treating it as something positive that leads to rewards and praise can help to build your dog's self confidence and may help reduce anxiety or stress associated with human interactions.

Making eye contact can be helpful when you need to have your dog's attention in order to distract him from behaviors you would like to see extinguished. Rather than simply yelling at him to stop barking, you can ask for eye contact and then follow up by offering a reward or asking for another, more desirable behavior like a down stay.

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# DO YOU HAVE A HERDING DOG?

Part II

by David Kelly

Last issue I discussed getting started in herding with an instinct test. This issue I discuss what to expect from an Instinct Trial and things that go wrong.

My family has four Shelties and all of them came from Pam SADBERRY of Seven Oaks Shelties. I have two from the same litter—Ben who was the first to climb out of the box and Shiloh who was born 14 hours after the litter and was pampered for the first few weeks because of feet problems. The second set are brother and sister from different litters—Reggie and Charlotte. These are four dogs with extremely different personalities and dispositions.

I took Ben and Shiloh (at four months of age) and Reggie (at 16 months) with my mother for an instinct test. Dogs learn from each other and by observation. The trainer had us line up on the ring side to watch the other dogs work the sheep before we went in for our test. On that day there were a number of seasoned sheep dogs getting ready for competition and our dogs watched them work intently. When I released Ben he wasted no time assembling the herd and moved them to the far end of the ring. The only difference was he made use of the fence to keep the herd together. When one of the larger Ram sheep attempted to challenge Ben, Ben put him right back in his place. We made a second run around the ring, but this time the sheep attempted to hide behind some obstacles which Ben quickly implemented a solution.

Shiloh was the next to be tested. Shiloh watched his brother and was excited to enter the ring, but he panicked when his brother was taken out of the ring. He ran in the opposite direction of the sheep relieved a heavy load and went to the gate. We sent Ben back in the ring which instantly restored Shiloh's confidence. The two pups performed as a flawless team with six sheep. When the herd would split Ben would hold the herd and Shiloh would round up the strays. The two of them moved the herd to the far end of the arena and called it quits and walked back to the gate together.

It would take several months for Shiloh to develop enough self-confidence to work sheep on his own. Techniques we would use to develop Shiloh's confidence included placing him on top of a sheep so he could feel dominance over the sheep, having Ben in the ring first then letting Shiloh in to help Ben. The difference here is if we put Shiloh in first then Ben, Shiloh would feel he needed help and Ben was coming in to take over.



*Shiloh, pictured at four months, learned a new position from a Border Collie who is in the arena with him.*

Reggie was tested last. When I released him he took off like a shot, assembled the herd and brought the herd to me. Then he followed me with the herd as I moved to the far end of the arena. On our second lap the trainers used his crook to have ↗

(*Do You Have A Herding Dog?* cont.)

Reggie change direction which he did promptly. Reggie then increased his distance from the herd too far for the trainer to just reach out with his crook, so he threw the crook to create an invisible wall in front of Reggie. This is a technique when the crook drops in front of the dog the dog will turn the other way, except Reggie was moving too fast and the crook crowned him on the bridge of the nose. Reggie stopped and walked back to the gate. We tried and tried that day to get Reggie to go after the sheep again but he refused.

Over the next year I took Reggie to other training centers. I even ran after the sheep myself hoping Reggie would follow me, but he wouldn't. Reggie finally came to life when I was at Ted Ondrak's training site. I was in the ring with Reggie and the trainer. Reggie wouldn't budge he had been very excited about the sheep waiting his turn and now nothing. Then the trainer had to leave the ring, Reggie watched the trainer leave and when she was out of sight Reggie took out after the sheep. Together we worked the herd from one end of the ring to the other. When the trainer returned Reggie stopped. Reggie understood that the sheep belonged to the other person and if you chase after them you'll get cracked in the nose. I understood we would have the same results with a judge in the ring too.

Reggie would not be a stock herding dog, but something unexpected happened. We had a wild duck trying to walk her ducklings down the highway, I decided to rescue them after mother duck flew away. I tried and tried to catch the ducklings but they would scatter in 16 different directions. Then it occurred to me that I have a herding dog. I grabbed Reggie and in less than a minute he brought me a herd of ducklings. I would scope us a few chicks the rest would scatter Reggie would reassemble the herd and I'd grab another scope of chicks. Reggie had the perfect disposition for herding ducks. The two of us took the box full of duckling in my truck with mother duck riding in the back to the ranger at the local park. Then Reggie and the ranger walked slowly behind mother duck as she marched her family to the lake. Duck herding is another AKC event that takes a dog with patience.

Charlotte was 18 months younger than Reggie. We tested her when she was nine months old. Charlotte was very excited watching the other dogs work sheep. Her first time in the ring was a big event for her she was just excited to run off leash and chase the sheep then she break and greet the other dogs along the fence. The second time in the ring she was showing some potential.

We came back a week later and Charlotte couldn't wait to get into the ring that she practically dragged my mother a 100 yards to the gate. She was so excited that she could hardly control herself. We thought this is going to be a great day. Then when she entered the ring she had no interest in the sheep at all. I put Shiloh in the ring with her. Shiloh would work the sheep and Charlotte would just wander around. Charlotte has become an exceptional obedience dog and we'll give her another chance with sheep next year.

Every dog will be different when it comes to instinct and their interest. Herding allows you a very special opportunity to work as a team with your dog. Some people use herding time as a means

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("Do You Have A Herding Dog?" cont.)

to let their dog release stress and burn off excess energy others are in it for the gold. I do it because I enjoy working with my dog and being outdoors.



Ben and Shiloh are pictured at four months. Both dogs "stop" and "stay" on command. Ben will be removed from the arena and Shiloh will finish. Jerry, the coach is on the right. The dirt mound in the background was an interesting obstacle to the pups. □

A good attitude doesn't come from having the best of everything in life, it comes from making the best of everything in life!



## Can Pets Get the West Nile or Zika Virus?

by Dr. Jenna Ashton, DVM, MS, DACVIM

During the summer, news programs are rife with stories about the Zika and West Nile viruses. Infectious disease specialists warn about the potential for disease in people. But what about your pets, are they at risk, too?

### West Nile Virus in People and Horses

Once limited to Africa, Europe, India, the Middle East, Asia and Australia, West Nile virus (WNV) crossed the ocean to North America in 1999 and has since advanced across the United States and Canada. Most commonly spread by infected mosquitoes, the virus usually infects people and horses.

Infected people and horses may have a fever or show no signs at all. With severe infections, they may display signs associated with encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord), such as disorientation, seizures or paralysis.

Typically, people and horses infected with WNV have very low levels of the virus circulating in their blood, so the virus usually isn't transmitted to mosquitoes during feeding. That means an otherwise uninfected mosquito generally can't spread the virus from one horse to another, from a horse to a human or vice versa. To spread the virus, a mosquito must first feed on birds or in some cases rodents, which typically carry higher levels of circulating virus.

### The Impact on Dogs and Cats

Little information is available regarding the susceptibility of dogs and cats to WNV infection. It appears that dogs and cats may be exposed to the virus through a mosquito bite or through ingestion of infected small mammals or wild birds. However, the virus does not appear to cause overt disease in our small companion animals.

In a study of dogs experimentally infected with the West Nile virus, none of the dogs showed clinical signs of disease. The dogs did have measurable amounts of virus in their blood, but the quantity was so low, it was unlikely to result in transmission of the virus to feeding mosquitoes.

Cats experimentally infected with WNV showed mild, nonspecific signs of disease, including lethargy, decreased appetite and fever. Com-

pared with dogs in the study, cats had a higher virus concentration in their blood, which may be enough to infect mosquitoes but not as effectively as infected birds could.

These studies indicate that although dogs and cats can become infected by the WNV, they may not show obvious signs, and neither species is likely to be a source of infection for people.

### The Zika Virus in People

Like WNV, Zika virus is spread to people through the bite of an infected mosquito, but in this case, it's primarily the Aedes species of mosquito. In people, the most common signs of infection include painful joints, fever, rash and eye inflammation. Signs are typically mild and may last for several days to a week. However, if a woman becomes infected while pregnant, the virus can cause a serious birth defect that impacts fetal brain development.

### The Outlook for Pets

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), animals in the United States are not at risk of developing disease from the Zika virus. At this time, there's no evidence that animals spread the Zika virus, and infected people do not appear to spread the virus to animals.

Currently, monkeys and apes apparently have the ability to become infected with the virus, but the signs tend to be mild and transient (i.e., lasting only a short time). A very limited study from the late 1970s showed that cows, horses, goats, water buffaloes, ducks and bats could become infected as well, but they did not develop disease or pose a risk for viral transmission to humans. Even so, additional research is needed to better understand how Zika virus affects animals.

### Consult Your Veterinarian

Still concerned about the risk of these viruses to your pet? Then speak with your family veterinarian. Numerous veterinary products are available that can kill and/or repel mosquitoes, and your veterinarian can recommend one that's right for your pet. In addition, you can help reduce your pet's exposure to mosquitoes by making sure all window and door screens are intact and removing standing water from your yard. □





## Five Litterbox Mistakes You Could Be Making

by Laura Cross

Does this situation sound familiar? You head to your kitty's litterbox to scoop it out and discover that he's decided to go to the bathroom elsewhere. How frustrating! But don't blame your cat just yet. He might have a medical condition that needs attention.

In fact, the first thing you should do if he's improperly eliminating is take him to the vet to rule out any medical problems. If it turns out that the issue isn't health related, then look at other potential reasons. In fact, you might be the cause of his litterbox issues.

Check out these common litterbox mistakes you may be making and how to fix them.

### **You're not cleaning his litterbox enough.**

Many cats won't use the litterbox if it's not in pristine condition. We know it's probably not your favorite chore, but you should scoop it out at least twice daily and add more litter as needed. Clean the actual box with baking soda or unscented soap once a week. To make your life a little easier, make a litterbox kit with all the essentials (litter, bags and scoop), so you have everything handy.

### **It's in a less than ideal location.**

Place your cat's litterbox in an area that is quiet and away from his resting areas, as well as his food and water bowls. If there's too much foot traffic or if it's too close to where he eats, he might opt to go to the bathroom somewhere else. Also consider how much privacy the location offers and how easy it for your cat to access it.

### **You don't have enough litterboxes.**

For many cats, having just one litterbox to use is not going to cut it. Instead follow this general rule: one litterbox per cat plus one. So if you have one cat, you'll need two litterboxes and for two cats need three litterboxes, etc. More boxes might be necessary if your house is large or has multiple floors.

### **It's not big enough.**

When it comes to litterboxes size matters. A 2014 study conducted by veterinarian and behaviorist Norma Guy found that cats tend to prefer big litterboxes to small ones. Ideally, the litterbox should be at least one and half times the length of the cat's body (not including the tail). Additionally, cats are not always fans of covered litterboxes, so you should try leaving it uncovered.

### **You're not addressing your cat's stressors.**

If your cat is missing the litterbox, it could be a sign that he has anxiety. Common stressors are when there is a move or a new baby or a new pet in the household. If you have multiple cats, one could be bullying your kitty and preventing him from using the litterbox. The stressor could even be more subtle than that. For instance, he might be stressed that you changed to a new type of litter, moved his litterbox to a new location or that the depth of litter has changed. If you're not sure what's causing your kitty to miss the litterbox, talk to your veterinarian, who may refer you to a veterinary behaviorist. □

## Amazing Cat Facts

- A single pair of cats and their offspring can produce as many as 420,000 in just seven years. That's the equivalent to 60,000 per year.
- Outdoor intact (tom cats) males cover 3 to 5 miles of their trails of previously marked territory. Daily rounds assure the cat that his turf is well scented.
- 10 million more cats are kept as pets than dogs.
- Most adult cats lack the enzymes necessary to digest milk.
- Most of a kitten's growth takes place during sleep.
- After a successful hunt for mice or a toy, many cats engage in a tension releasing dance. It builds the cats self-esteem and confidence.
- Cats prefer foods at body temperature which is the temperature of freshly killed prey.
- While hunting, whiskers can reach forward to give information about the prey they stalk.
- The cat's whiskers have developed into antennae and help detect movement nearby.
- A cat's sensitive whiskers can detect even slight changes in air pressure and air currents—giving the cat "radar" at night, or insight of a storm about to come. □

(*"Improve Your Dog's Manners"* cont.)

### **Tolerate Touch**

Teaching your dog to tolerate and respond to touch offers one more way to get your dog's attention when he is exhibiting behavior you would rather not see. Touch can be used to redirect your dog when he engages in unwanted behavior. Training him to allow you to touch or gently hold his collar can be useful for situations where you need to get his attention in order to ask for an acceptable behavior.

Training him to accept being touched by unfamiliar objects can also be helpful in minimizing certain fears and eliminating the related behavior. If your dog hides when it's time to trim his nails, try introducing the clippers by simply touching them to his paw and rewarding him for calm behavior.

Every canine is unique in the behaviors they'll benefit from the most, but for the majority of canines, these three behaviors can be used to create a framework upon which to build better manners. And no matter how old your dog is, it typically doesn't take a lot of effort to teach these behaviors—particularly once you commit to making them part of your everyday interactions with your dog. □



## Five Ways To Stop Your Dog From Barking!

If your dog barks incessantly, it can drive you and your neighbors crazy! While this a hard habit to break, it can be done. And, of course, the longer your dog has been barking, the longer it will take your pup to change this behavior.

**Below are five ways to stop your dog from barking —**

### 1. Remove the cause or motivation for the barking:

Your dog gets some kind of reward when he barks even if it is just your reaction to your dog’s barking. Otherwise, your pup wouldn’t do it! Figure out what your dog gets out of barking. There has to be a reason he is barking and it is important that you don’t give your dog the opportunity to continue this behavior.

### 2. Teach your dog the “quiet” command:

The first step of is to teach your dog to bark on command. Give your dog the command to “speak,” wait for him to bark two or three times, and then place his favorite treat in front of his nose. When he stops barking to sniff the treat, praise him and give him the treat. Repeat until he starts barking as soon as you say “speak.”

Once your dog can reliably bark on command, teach him the “quiet” command. In a calm environment with no distractions, tell him to “speak.” When he starts barking, say “quiet” and stick a treat in front of his nose. Praise him for being quiet and give him the treat.

### 3. Ignore the barking:

Ignore your dog’s barking for as long as it takes him to stop; don’t give him any attention when he’s barking. Your reaction only rewards your dog for being noisy. Don’t talk to him, don’t touch him, and don’t even look at him. When your dog finally quiets down, even to take a breath, reward him with a toy.

### 4. When your dog starts barking, ask him to do something that immediately stops the barking:

When your dog starts barking, ask him to do something that’s incompatible with barking. Try to teach your dog to react to barking with something that inhibits him from barking, such as lying down in his bed is a great way to ➔

(“Five Ways To Stop Your Dog From Barking!” cont.)

stop the behavior. Even sitting will make your dog focus and stop barking.

### 5. Exercise, exercise, exercise:

Make sure your dog is getting enough physical and mental exercise every day. A tired dog is a good dog and one who is less likely to bark from boredom or frustration. Depending on your dog’s age, it might take a lot of walks as well as playing with some interactive toys to keep him or her quiet.

With time and patience, your dog will stop barking if you can find the cause and/or teach him not to with rewards and discipline. Never yell at your dog to be quiet as it is counterproductive. Be consistent and use the same training method every time your dog barks inappropriately. ☐

## Informative Reading & Viewing

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This handy, one-of-a-kind encyclopedia contains over 2,000 helpful hints and trade secrets for owners of all dogs (show dogs and pets alike) in a single comprehensive book.

Compiled by Nancy Lee Cathcart (the creator, publisher and editor of an award-winning international dog fanciers' publication that spanned over 30 years), this invaluable guide contains amazing secrets and solutions from professionals in the dog-show world and from pet owners. Of the thousands of hints received, those included in this book were carefully selected to best represent the most helpful and informative solutions available. In addition, for 15 years this author owned, bred and showed consistently-winning dogs (breaking several breed records within the competitive world of dog shows), and her background proved invaluable in creating this detailed reference book.

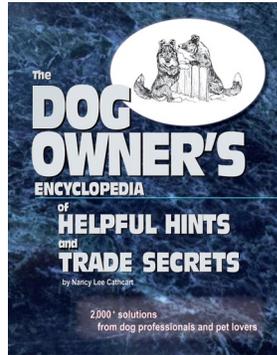
Organized for ease of use, *The Dog Owner's Encyclopedia of Helpful Hints and Trade Secrets* is not only separated alphabetically into categories of hints and ideas, but is cross-referenced into 199 different topics.

It's a true encyclopedia packed with valuable solutions and trade secrets directly from dog professionals and pet owners. This handy reference book will become an integral part of your library.

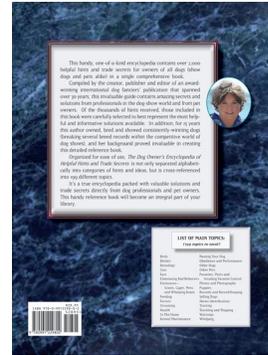
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