

Bad Behavior in Dogs

Do you suspect your dog of acting out? Is your dog behaving badly, or are his actions causing you frustration? Understanding the causes of your dog's behavior can help you begin to explore ways to correct it.

Here are a few remedies for troubling behavior:

PULLING ON THE LEASH

When your dog is on his leash, ask him to heel, and then move forward while the leash is loose. If he pulls on the leash at all, stop right away and don't move. When your dog turns to look back, call him back to heel position and start again. If he pulls on the leash, stop and repeat the process. Move forward only when the leash is loose.

GOING TO THE BATHROOM WHERE HE SHOULDN'T

If your dog is suddenly going where he shouldn't, consult your veterinarian. He may have a health issue and it's always better to be safe than sorry.

Even well trained dogs sometimes have accidents or go where they shouldn't. Clean the area with a pet odor neutralizer so your dog won't be tempted to repeat his mistake. Here are some tips to help prevent accidents:

- Avoid making sudden changes in your dog's diet.
- Avoid giving your dog late night snacks.
- Make sure he spends enough time outdoors.

EXCESSIVE BARKING

There are many reasons why your dog might be barking: separation anxiety, loneliness, protecting his territory or even just inviting you to play. If you suspect that his barking is due to a larger problem, address that issue in addition to working on this behavior. To reduce or eliminate barking while you're away, work on crate training your dog. While you're at home, say a firm "no" and reward your dog with praise when he stops barking. Remember that any action to deter your dog from barking must be taken while he is barking. After-the-fact corrective action only confuses him. Use a strong, firm voice, but avoid yelling.

CHEWING AND DIGGING

If your dog chews on something that is off-limits, say "no" or "eh" in a low voice, then immediately give your dog a safe chew toy. Praise him for good behavior. Remember to give your dog safe chew toys instead of household items like old shoes, because they could encourage him to chew on new shoes as well. ➔

("Bad Behavior in Dogs." cont.)

During the summer months, if your dog digs a hole to cool himself, consider providing a cool location for him during the day, such as an umbrella or other source of shade. Also, make sure that fresh drinking water is always available to him.

Some dogs will dig under a fence to get out of the yard. Ideally, a fence should fit tightly to the ground or be buried a few inches underneath it in order to prevent a dog's crawling or digging out from under it.

If you find it virtually impossible to discourage your dog from digging, provide him with a "digging area." When your dog digs in this designated area, praise and reward him with attention or a treat. If your dog digs outside this area and is caught in the act, a firm "no" is usually enough of a deterrent.

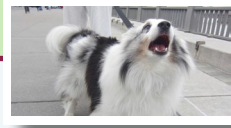
RESOURCE GUARDING

First, evaluate how generalized the situation is. Is your dog always trying to protect resources, is he just protecting a specific toy, or is he acting this way only during meal-times? If fights break out only around mealtime or when a certain toy comes out, a simple management solution may be the answer.

"A suitable management option may be to feed the dogs in separate areas or rooms of your home," explains Lindsay Wood, behaviorist at the Humane Society of Boulder Valley. "If tension occurs only when chewing special chew-bones or playing with a specific toy, the dogs should enjoy their individual toys or bones in separate areas and be reintroduced to one another only after all remnants of the bones have been finished and the toys removed."

If the problem is more generalized, or if the intensity of the guarding behavior is high, you may have to consult with a dog behavior expert.

Use this as a general guide to understanding and correcting your dog's bad behavior. We hope the advice and tips above are a helpful starting point for addressing your dog's more puzzling actions. ☐



How to Stop Your Dog From Barking at Other Dogs

Dogs will bark for many reasons as it is their way to communicate and react. And we never want our dogs to stop barking as it can help us to understand how our dogs are feeling or if there is a threat nearby. However, if your dog constantly barks at other dogs, it can be a headache for you and distressing. There are many things you can do to get your dog to stop barking at other dogs.

Below are some of the things you can try to keep your dog from barking at other dogs. As always, consistency and repetition is key to stop the barking and/or any unwanted behavior. You and all family members need to be on-board with the same behavior techniques to keep the training consistent.

Remove the motivation that causes your dog to bark

Your dog gets some kind of reward when he barks. Even if it is just attention from you. If you can figure out what he gets out of barking and remove it, it's the simplest deterrent.

If your dog barks at other dogs passing by the living room window, manage your dog's behavior by closing the curtains or putting your dog in another room. If you live in an apartment, try keeping the music or TV on to mask the barking sounds.

Block your dog's access to doors and windows while he is indoors so he can't see outside if the barking is continuous or put him in another room as other dogs pass by (at least while you are training).

There are also some devices that you can use that create a loud noise when your dog starts barking like the Doggie Don't Device which are very effective to stop the barking.

Ignore the barking

Ignore your dog's barking for as long as it takes him to stop. Which means don't give him any attention at all while he's barking; don't talk to him and don't even look at him. When your dog finally quiets down, than reward him with a treat or a hug. The point is that when the barking is done, all is good!

Be patient even if he barks for a very long time...just let the barking session end and then reward your dog at the end. Your dog will learn that he gets the reward when he stops barking.

Desensitize your dog to the stimulus

which in this case means other dogs

Gradually get your dog used to whatever is causing him to bark or in this case, other dogs. Try to get your dog used to the idea that merely hearing and seeing other dogs does not mean (or allow) barking.

A training technique that works is to have someone, a friend, relative who owns a dog to have his or her dog on a leash and walk towards you. When your friend approaches, let her feed your dog treats. When the dog walks away, you stop feeding your dog treats and therefore the dog will learn that when another dog is visible and your dog does not bark is a good thing! And rewarded.

This can take some time so be patient and it's a big behavior to learn. It could take weeks or months. ↗

(“How to Stop Your Dog From Barking...” cont.)

Use the “quiet” command when your dog barks

When your dog starts to bark, teach him the “quiet” command. When he starts barking, say “quiet” and stick a treat in front of his face. Praise him for being quiet and give him the treat. Your dog will learn that “quiet” gets a treat and positive reinforcement. If your dog masters the quiet command, you can apply it to other times when he starts barking. Praise and reinforce the good, quiet behavior and don't yell “quiet”—it will scare your dog and he won't understand it.

Ask your dog for an incompatible behavior while barking

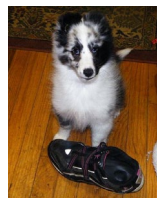
When your dog starts barking, ask him to do something that's incompatible with barking. Teach your dog to react to barking with something that stops him from barking, such as lying down in his bed or chasing his favorite toy or ball. In fact, you can even give him a toy or a chew toy to put in his mouth which will certainly stop the barking. Barking, chew toy—no sound!

Make sure that your dog isn't bored and gets daily 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. Exercising is important for your dog for so many reasons and it can also help to control the barking.

If none of the above work and you really need more help, it's best to hire a trainer who can work with you and your dog to stop the barking. Always keep the training positive and don't overdue the treats so your dog gains weight. A hug and a 'good boy' is great for positive reinforcement too. ☐





Three Ways to Correct Destructive Dog Chewing

by Jocelyn Brown

Chewing is a common activity for dogs—we all know this, and it is nothing to worry about. But sometimes, dogs start to exhibit other strange behaviors, like chewing their paws excessively or chewing other things to the point of destruction. While some chewing is permissible, destructive chewing is not, and you should be aware of the difference.

If your dog is destructively chewing furniture, shoes, or other items in your home, you may have a problem on your hands—especially if your dog is no longer a puppy. Generally speaking, a dog's deciduous teeth (puppy teeth) should be replaced with permanent teeth when they are four to six months of age, meaning the chewing should gradually stop. For owners hoping to put an end to your dog's inappropriate, destructive chewing, here are three ways to correct your dog's chewing habit:

1. Rule out medical issues

Before trying anything else, you should take the proper steps to rule out any serious medical concerns that your dog may have. In some cases, nutritional deficiencies that are a result of intestinal issues or a poor diet can lead to inappropriate chewing. Also, any gastrointestinal problems are liable to cause nausea which may also trigger chewing as a method to cope. Making a quick appointment with your veterinarian to rule out any underlying medical issues that may be causing the chewing will be extremely helpful in the long term.

2. Encourage proper chewing

What's the alternative to destructive chewing? Teaching your dog how to properly chew. Providing your dog with appropriate chew toys that are healthy for their teeth and can even combat dental diseases will be constructive in teaching your dog to be less destructive. If your dog has designated toys for chewing, he or she will be less likely to chew on random household items and furniture. Try not to provide toys that resemble inappropriate items, so your dog doesn't get confused and learns to differentiate between what is okay to chew and what is not.

3. Make time for play

Since destructive chewing is usually a consequence of your dog feeling overly energetic, stressed, or anxious, it is crucial to engage in playtime during the day. Most owners know that your dog will not settle down if you do not exercise with him/her each day. Since a tired dog is a well-behaved dog, you should always make time to play with your dog to expel his/her energy. This way, your dog won't have to expend all its energy inside the house by destructively chewing things that it shouldn't.

By ruling out medical issues, encouraging proper chewing, and making time for play, dog owners can teach their dog ↗

("Three Ways to Correct Destructive Dog Chewing" cont.)

constructive behaviors that will lead them away from inappropriate, destructive chewing.

Jocelyn Brown is a professional freelancer writer and mother. She loves the freedom that comes with freelancing and the versatility it allows her in covering many different topics and themes. When not at work she enjoys running, hikes in the country and making the most of family time. □



Lifelong Immunity...

Why Vets Are Pushing Back

by Dana Scott

Did you know your dog's (and your cat's) vaccines last a lot longer than three years?

The duration of immunity for rabies vaccine, canine distemper vaccine, canine parvovirus vaccine, feline panleukopenia vaccine, feline rhinotracheitis, feline calicivirus, have all been shown to last a minimum of seven years by serology (measuring blood antibody levels) for rabies and challenge studies for all the rest.

In the *Duration of Immunity to Canine Vaccines: What We Know and What We Don't Know, Proceedings – Canine Infectious Diseases: From Clinics to Molecular Pathogenesis*, Ithaca, NY, 1999, Dr Ronald Schultz, a veterinary immunologist at the forefront of vaccine research and chair of the University of Wisconsin's Department of Pathobiological Sciences, outlines the duration of immunity for the following vaccines:

Minimum Duration Of Immunity For Canine Vaccines

- Distemper- 7 years by challenge/15 years by serology
- Parvovirus – 7 years by challenge/ 7 years by serology
- Adenovirus – 7 years by challenge/ 9 years by serology
- Canine rabies – 3 years by challenge/ 7 years by serology

Dr. Schultz concludes: "Vaccines for diseases like distemper and canine parvovirus, once administered to adult animals, provide lifetime immunity." (*Are we vaccinating too much?* JAVMA, No. 4, August 15, 1995, pg. 421)

Yet vets continue to vaccinate annually. Dog owners feel that their vets are doing their dogs a great service by vaccinating every three years instead of annually. Why do we allow it when these studies were done over thirty years ago and have been replicated time and again by other researchers?

"Vaccines for diseases like distemper and canine parvovirus, once administered to adult animals, provide lifetime immunity," Dr Ronald Schultz.

Ian Tizard states, "With modified live virus vaccines like canine parvovirus, canine distemper and feline panleukopenia

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("Lifelong Immunity..." cont.)

nia, calicivirus, and rhinotracheitis the virus in the vaccine must replicate to stimulate the immune system. In a patient who has been previously immunized, antibodies from the previous vaccine will block the replication of the new vaccinal virus. Antibody titers are not significantly boosted. Memory cell populations are not expanded. The immune status of the patient is not enhanced.

After the second rabies vaccination, re-administration of rabies vaccine does not enhance the immune status of the patient at one or two year intervals. We do not know the interval at which re-administration of vaccines will enhance the immunity of a significant percentage of the pet population, but it is certainly not at one or two year intervals." (Tizard Ian, Yawei N, *Use of serologic testing to assess immune status of companion animals*, JAVMA, vol 213, No 1, July 1, 1998.)

"The recommendation for annual re-vaccination is a practice that was officially started in 1978, says Dr. Schultz. "This recommendation was made without any scientific validation of the need to booster immunity so frequently. In fact the presence of good humoral antibody levels blocks the anamnestic response to vaccine boosters just as maternal antibody blocks the response in some young animals."

He adds, "The patient receives no benefit and may be placed at serious risk when an unnecessary vaccine is given. Few or no scientific studies have demonstrated a need for cats or dogs to be revaccinated. Annual vaccination for diseases caused by CDV, CPV2, FPLP and FeLV has not been shown to provide a level of immunity any different from the immunity in an animal vaccinated and immunized at an early age and challenged years later. We have found that annual revaccination with the vaccines that provide long-term immunity provides no demonstrable benefit."

Why then, have vets not embraced the concept of lifelong immunity in dogs?

"Profits are what vaccine critics believe is at the root of the profession's resistance to update its protocols. Without the lure of vaccines, clients might be less inclined to make yearly veterinary visits. Vaccines add up to 14 percent of the average practice's income, AAHA reports, and veterinarians stand to lose big. I suspect some are ignoring my work," says Schultz, who claims some distemper vaccines last as long as 15 years. "Tying vaccinations into the annual visit became prominent in the 1980s and a way of practicing in the 1990s. Now veterinarians don't want to give it up."

The report of the American Animal Hospital Association Canine Vaccine Taskforce in JAAHA (39 March/April 2003) includes the following information for vets:

"Misunderstanding, misinformation and the conservative nature of our profession have largely slowed adoption of protocols advocating decreased frequency of vaccination'; 'Immunological memory provides durations of immunity for core infectious diseases that far exceed the traditional recommendations for annual vaccination.

'This is supported by a growing body of veterinary information as well-developed epidemiological vigilance in human ↗

("Lifelong Immunity..." cont.)

medicine that indicates immunity induced by vaccination is extremely long lasting and, in most cases, lifelong.'

Both the AAHA and the AVMA must do more to "step up to the plate" says noted immunologist, Dr. Richard Ford. But the reality is the vets do not have to listen to the AAHA or the AVMA and it appears the state veterinary medical boards are not interested in enforcing vaccine schedules, opting to leave it up to the individual vet.

Dr. Bob Rogers hired a Chicago based law firm and initiated a class action suit for pet owners who were not given informed consent and full disclosure prior to vaccination administration. His article entitled "The Courage to Embrace the Truth," states "While attending conferences like WSVMA and NAVMC I have asked over 400 DVMs from various parts of the country if they attended the seminars on New Vaccination Protocols. I was told by all but one, "I don't care what the data says, I am not changing." One DVM here on VIN even said "I am not changing until the AVMA makes me change."

Profits are what vaccine critics believe is at the root of the profession's resistance to update its protocols. Without the lure of vaccines, clients might be less inclined to make yearly veterinary visits. Vaccines add up to 14 percent of the average practice's income, AAHA reports, and veterinarians stand to lose big, Immunologist Dr Ronald Shultz.

It seems that pet owners are against the wall when it comes to vaccination.

You need to educate yourself on vaccination and start being a more active partner in your dog's vaccine decisions. You can start by grabbing our Free Vaccine Guide (http://get.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/vaccine/vaccinating-too-much-optin/?_ga=2.88499996.622420014.1523036701-197305629.1522861744) to see if your dog is at risk for health issues because he's getting too many vaccines.

At the very least, question every vaccine that goes into your animal—but none of the above information indicates you will get an honest or well-informed answer from your vet.

Be your dog's advocate—protect him with knowledge and by taking a stand against unnecessary vaccination.

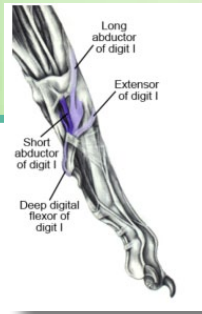
His life may depend on it!

About the author — Dana Scott is the Founder and CEO of Dogs Naturally Magazine. She also breeds award winning Labrador Retrievers under the Fallriver prefix. Dana has been a raw feeding, natural rearing breeder since the 90's and is a sought after speaker and outspoken advocate for natural health care for dogs and people. Dana works tirelessly to educate pet owners so they can influence veterinary medicine and change current vaccine, food and preventive health practices. Visit Dana's Labradors at Fallriver Labs (<http://fallriver-labrador-retrievers.com/>). □



DEWCLAWS: DO 'EM OR LOSE 'EM?

from "Kristen's Happy Tails"



Dewclaws are those odd thumb-like nails found partway up a dog's inner forelegs. You have probably heard that they are useless and that dogs don't need them and shouldn't even have them. But how much do you really know about dewclaws? Are they really as useless as you think?

Dewclaws: Should we do 'em or should we lose 'em?

In recent years in the United States, dewclaw removal has been pushed and recommended, because dewclaws were believed to be a "useless, vestigial" part of a dog's anatomy. An attitude has even been developed by some people in this country that good breeders remove dewclaws, but irresponsible breeders try to cut corners and don't remove them to save some money.

I want to shake up that idea a little bit. There have been some veterinarians and doctors making observations about dewclaws and how dogs use them that have begun to reshape our opinions on whether or not they should be removed.

As a side note, did you know that it is *illegal* in the UK to dock tails, dock ears, and remove dewclaws? In the UK, these are viewed as painful, cosmetic procedures with little to no medical benefit. Tail docking and dewclaw removal are usually done to puppies at only a few days old without anesthesia.

So today, I'd like you to put aside any biases and previous opinions about dewclaws, and let's take a look at the pros and cons of dewclaws. As with any medical procedure, there are always risks and benefits. It is up to you as a dog owner and me as a breeder to wisely weigh these risks and benefits and decide which option is best for a particular breed or a particular dog.

Let's begin with some of the reasons that dewclaws are removed. Dewclaws are usually removed when puppies are just days old. It is done to prevent dewclaw injury as an adult. Sometimes, adults with dewclaws have a serious injury or repeated minor injuries involving a dewclaw that makes it necessary for it to be removed.

Here are three problems that dewclaws can create:

1. They can become overgrown or even ingrown if not properly maintained.
2. Like any other toenail, they can become infected. However, because of their not as noticeable location, owners may not identify the infection as quickly.
3. They can catch on something and be torn off. Obviously, this kind of injury is quite painful and will bleed. ↗

(*Dewclaws: Do 'Em or Lose 'Em* cont.)

The first two problems are easily prevented by proper care. The third problem is unpredictable. Some dogs will go a lifetime without experiencing any injury, while some may be subject to repeated injury. I will touch later on what can make a certain dog or certain breed more prone to injury than others.

Now let's look at what purpose dewclaws serve and the benefits of keeping them. Most of the quotes and information presented here come from the article "Do the Dew(claws)?" by Christine Zink, DVM, PhD, DACVSMR. She has worked for many years with sporting dogs used in hunting, agility competitions, and other athletic events. First off, let's debunk that widely-believed myth that dogs don't use their dewclaws. Take a look at these two pictures.



In these pictures, you can clearly see how much of a dog's foot actually touches the ground. When running, a dog's dewclaw does touch the ground, especially when navigating a turn like in these pictures.

After a good romp, it's not unusual to find grass or dirt on a dewclaw. This above picture shows the points of a dog's foot and leg that contact the ground when running. Notice the two distinct green patches, one at the dewclaw itself and one higher up on the leg at the pad.



Did you know some highly active dogs that spend a lot of time outdoors can wear down their dewclaws naturally?

The lead illustration comes from Christine Zink's article. It shows the anatomy of a dog's foreleg.

There are five tendons that attach to the dewclaws. This means there are five muscles associated with the dewclaws. If the dewclaws are removed, these muscles will atrophy from disuse. Removing the dewclaws prevents the leg muscles and joints from fully functioning as they were designed to do.

Zink says, "Those muscles indicate that the dewclaws have a function. That function is to prevent torque on the leg. Each time the foot lands on the ground, particularly when the dog is cantering or galloping, the dewclaw is in touch with the ground. If the dog then needs

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(*"Dewclaws: Do 'Em or Lose 'Em" cont.*)

to turn, the dewclaw digs into the ground to support the lower leg and prevent torque. If the dog doesn't have a dewclaw, the leg twists. A lifetime of that and the result can be carpal arthritis, or perhaps injuries to other joints such as the elbow, shoulder and toes. Remember: the dog is doing the activity regardless, and the pressures on the leg have to go somewhere."

"I have seen many dogs now, especially field trial/hunt test and agility dogs, that have had chronic carpal arthritis, frequently so severe that they have to be retired or at least carefully managed for the rest of their careers. Of the over 30 dogs I have seen with carpal arthritis, *only one has had dewclaws* (emphasis added)."



Dogs also use dewclaws to grab and hold things, much like we do with our thumbs.

Here is a link for a fascinating video about how dogs can use their dewclaws (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4XflsMEk-k&feature=youtu.be>).

The video shows waterfowl hunting dogs retrieving birds on partially frozen lakes. (Don't panic about the dogs in the icy water. Remember, these dogs are bred and trained for it. The hunters with them know how to properly care for their hunting dogs.) The dogs use their dewclaws as ice picks when they are pulling themselves out of the water and onto the ice. You see them turn their legs outward, dig their dewclaws into the ice, and use them to pull themselves out of the water. The dogs without dewclaws have a much greater struggle getting out of the water, as their legs continually slip on the ice. They have nothing with which they can grip the ice.

I'm going to guess that most of the people reading this don't have dogs that regularly swim in frozen lakes, but it's very interesting to note the way God has designed dewclaws to function. Useless and vestigial? I think not.

I'm sure you have already assumed from the tone of my post so far, that we have made the decision not to remove our dogs' dewclaws. Is this the right decision for everyone? Not necessarily. Here is why we have decided it is best for our dogs and puppies to retain their dewclaws.

We have an Irish Setter, a Golden Retriever and a Mini Golden-doodle. The setter and retriever are both sporting breeds. We regularly have these dogs out in the field hunting or hiking. Even though a Goldendoodle isn't a pure sporting breed, she is still very active and does well in high energy activities like hiking and agility. Our dogs spend much of their time outside running and playing. They get a lot of exercise. When out in the woods hiking or hunting, they are going through thick underbrush, brambles, and high grasses. They navigate steep banks. When swimming, they are on slippery river banks.

Because of the lifestyle our dogs lead, I firmly believe that they need their dewclaws. They use them! With the high activity level, they put a lot of stress on their legs, and it's best for them if their muscles and joints are able to function properly to prevent unnecessary strain. (I especially think of this with Golden. Because this breed is ↗

(*"Dewclaws: Do 'Em or Lose 'Em" cont.*)

already genetically prone to bone and joint problems, I want to avoid any unnecessary strain and torque on her joints!)

We have also decided it is in our puppies' best interest if they retain their dewclaws. The great thing about dewclaws is this: if need be, they can always be removed later in life. If you don't agree with our stance on dewclaws and would prefer to have your puppy's dewclaws removed, it can easily be done later. Many people spay or neuter their pets, and it can be convenient to remove dewclaws during that procedure if you chose to.

I do believe, though, that there are times when it is necessary for dewclaws to be removed. Some breeds are known to have dewclaws that are very loosely attached. These dogs may be prone to repeatedly catching their dewclaws and tearing them. It's very important to keep dewclaws trimmed short. Because they get less wear than other nails, they will need to be trimmed more frequently. Less active dogs will not wear down the dewclaws at all. Some breeds even have dewclaws on their rear legs. Often these rear claws are loosely attached and more prone to injury. Sometimes, sporting or working dogs will tear their dewclaws in the normal nature of their work, simply because they are using their dewclaws a lot. In some cases, if the injury is severe, the dewclaw may need to be removed. Most times, this is not the case; but it can happen. Although many dogs go a lifetime with no injury, these injuries are very painful if they do happen.

Conclusion: It is important for pet owners to be aware of the risks and benefits of dewclaws. Do your research. Know your dog. Understand that dewclaws serve an important purpose in a dog's leg and movement, but also know the potential problems to watch out for and work to prevent. Every medical decision regarding your dog has risks and benefits, and the decision that is right for one dog may not be the decision that is best for another. Be a responsible owner, and educate yourself!

For this household, though, we have decided to "do the dew." ☐



Are You An Ethical Breeder?

	Ethical Breeder	Puppy Farmer	Backyard Breeder
Registers their puppies with KUSA	Always	Mostly	Sometimes
Shows their dogs	Yes	Rarely	Never
Places breeding restrictions on all puppies, which can be lifted only with permission later on	Yes	Rarely	Never
Places all puppies on contract to approved homes	Yes	Rarely	Hardly ever
Performs standard health tests on all breeding dogs prior to breeding	Yes	Rarely	Hardly ever
Removes dogs with health problems from breeding programme	Yes	Only if they receive many complaints	No - they are normally unaware
Allows visits to their premises to view the dogs and facilities	Yes	Yes, but with very limited access	Mostly
Will take back a puppy at any stage or help find a suitable home	Yes - no conditions attached	If they can use them for breeding, Yes. If not, No.	Never
Only breeds with mature dogs	Yes	Mostly	Mostly
Is honest with puppy buyers at all times	Yes	Rarely	Mostly
Sells puppies to pet stores/agents	Never	Sometimes	Yes
Deliberately breeds non-breed standard "exotic" colours and markets as "rare"	Never	Often	Rarely
Understands harlequin genetics and the dangers associated with the "h gene"	Yes	Rarely	Never
Offers a special "two for the price of one" rate	Never	Sometimes	Often
Advertises their puppies on Gumtree, OLX etc	Never	Sometimes	Mostly



Why Do Cats Love Bags and Boxes?

Any feline owner knows that cats love paper bags, plastic bags and all sorts of boxes. A box arrives to your home and within five minutes, your cat is inside it! But, it's not just boxes, but other enclosed objects, including bags, laundry baskets, suitcases and backpacks. So, what's the rub?

Boxes offer cats a sense of security and a place to play or prey!

Cats instinctively seek out confined spaces. In the wild, confined spaces allow cats to both hide from predators and sneakily stalk prey!

While inside a box, cats feel as if they are hiding and can't be snuck up on from behind or the side. Anything or anyone that wants to approach them must will be directly in their field of vision. Boxes let cats watch the world around them without being seen. And, of course, hiding is natural for cats as they run and hide to a confined space when they are scared or stressed.

Boxes of all shapes and sizes provide a sense of warmth

Cats love to curl up in boxes and other strange places that provide warmth. Think of how most cats jump right into a laundry basket just after you finish a load! Cardboard is a great insulator and allows your cat to ball up inside which helps maintain their own heat. Cats become so comfortable in their own boxes that they go there to relax, play, and bathe themselves. Their own little home!

Cats love to play and pounce in paper bags

Many cats love paper bags for the same reason as boxes... they are a great hiding place and an ideal fit for a cat's small body. Apart from hiding, our crazy felines love to attack paper bags by pouncing on them and stalking out of them!

Cats also enjoy paper bags for solitary play

Cats enjoy paper bags for solitary play purposes. If a cat is fixated on a specific item, whether a paper bag or a little tennis ball, this is how they play on their own terms. They can enjoy it all to themselves!

Cats also like plastic bags to pounce on and even lick! (But, be careful, they can be dangerous)

Our silly felines will sometimes pounce on a plastic bag or rip it apart or even lick them. There is an ingredient in plastic bags that cats are attracted to called "tallow," an animal fat used in making plastic bags. Some cats have such a strong sense of smell, they are attracted to the bag and enjoy the taste. But, clearly, this isn't great for your cat, but certainly explains a lot! So there you have it: boxes and bags are insulated, stress-reducing, comfort zones where cats can hide, nap and occasionally launch a sneak attack against anyone who passes by! ☐



Tips For Easier Vet Visits

Did you know that 83% of cats visit the veterinarian before their 1st birthday, but over 50% don't return until they become sick or are in pain? With regular health care, your veterinarian can often detect conditions that may affect your cat's long-term health. Watch my video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJ-kUZ2ILtY&feature=youtu.be&t=3m45s%2F%3Futm_source%3D8-17&utm_medium=Email&utm_source=Jackson+Galaxy&utm_campaign=57d4coe49c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_08_17&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8e6baa28f8-57d4coe49c-344220453&goal=0_8e6baa28f8-57d4coe49c-344220453&mc_cid=57d4coe49c&mc_eid=3eab360497) with Dr. Elizabeth Collaren former President of the American Association of Feline Practitioners to learn more.

Still not convinced they need to go regularly? Here are five reasons from the American Association of Feline Practitioners that postponing your cat's check-up does not pay off.

1. **Cats age much more rapidly than humans.** A cat reaches the human age of 15 during its first year and 24 by its second year. Each year after, your cat ages four "cat years" for every calendar year. Annual veterinary care is crucial because a lot can happen in four cat years.
2. **Cats are masters of hiding illness and pain.** Cats are excellent at hiding signs they are sick or in pain. Your cat could be developing a health condition long before you notice anything is wrong.
3. **Your cat may be overweight.** Over 50% of cats are overweight or obese. Your vet will check your cat's weight and provide recommendations to help keep your cat at its ideal weight.
4. **Let your vet know about any behavior changes.** Make a list of information, concerns, and questions to share at your cat's annual check-up. You may not recognize some behavior changes as being significant but these subtle changes may help uncover hidden issues.
5. **Preventative care is better than reactive care.** Regular exams help avoid medical emergencies since vets can often detect conditions or diseases long before they become significant, painful or costly to treat. ☐

Simple Formula For Living

- Live beneath your means.
- Return everything you borrow.
- Stop blaming other people.
- Admit it when you make a mistake.
- Give clothes not worn to charity.
- Do something nice and try not to get caught.
- Listen more and talk less.
- Take a 30-minute walk everyday.
- Strive for excellence, not perfection.
- Be on time. Don't make excuses.
- Don't argue.
- Get organized.
- Be kind to unkind people.
- Let someone cut ahead of you in line.
- Take time to be alone.
- Cultivate good manners.
- Be humble.
- Realize and accept that life isn't fair.
- Know when to keep your mouth shut.
- Go an entire day without criticizing anyone.
- Learn from the past. Plan for the future.
- Live in the present.
- Don't sweat the small stuff. It's all small stuff.

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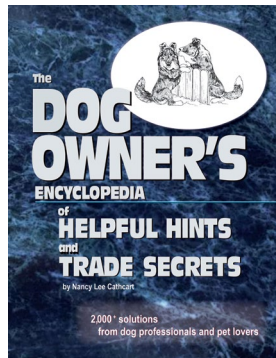
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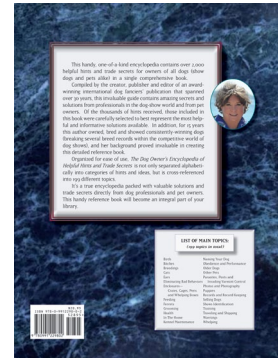
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