



Tail Wags



Bold Canine Dog Obedience

Newsletter

Winter 2007

Special points of interest:

- * Our First Newsletter!
- * Gunner Top Shiloh for 2006
- * Coprophagia, possibly the most disgusting habit!!
- * Coming Events

I am often asked "what's new?" so thought to myself, it's time for the Bold Canine newsletter! I hope to provide this publication quarterly, and pack it full of information in regards to Behavior tips, nutrition, veterinary care, product reviews and just general dog stuff. I hope you will enjoy this publication, If you would like a special topic addressed please email me with your questions!

info@boldcanine.com

Sincerely,

Caroline

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Introducing Our Newsletter!



We are proud to announce that once again, Gunner was the #1 Canadian Shiloh Shepherd for the 2006 show season, #1 in the Herding group, and 4th overall! With over 200 different dogs of rare breeds participating in these shows every year, we sure are proud of our special guy!

Let's talk behavior!

Coprophagia,

Sounds like a fancy term, but basically is, in my opinion, one of the most disgusting habits dogs can have...eating their own feces. Yuck. Many people ask me why a dog would do that, to us it is repulsive, to them,

it's a tasty treat! Although no one has been able to pinpoint exactly why dogs exhibit this behavior, many veterinarians and behaviorist have stipulated that it may be due to several reasons. Here are a few of them:

- Hunger
- Diet is lacking some nutrients
- Dog pack theory
- Boredom

Coprophagia (continued from page 1)

Let's go over these 4 points.

-Dog is hungry

If your dog is very active and at a healthy weight or underweight, his/her food intake should be proportional to that. Many dog owner's follow the feeding guidelines at the back of the dog food bag, but forget to take their dog's activity level into consideration. Sometimes increasing your dog's food intake by 1/2 cup, can make the difference.

-Diet is lacking some nutrients

Although this theory has never been proven scientifically, many people speculate that this is the true reason dog's exhibit this behavior. The eat it to absorb back some of the nutrients.

-Dog pack theory

This, to me, is the most logical reason. It has been classified as a survival instinct, to keep their den clean and free of disease as well as to not attract predators in the wild. This behavior is especially seen in females that are nursing their pups, they are

constantly cleaning the nest to ensure a sanitary environment.

-Boredom

This is another plausible reason to me. You put your dog outside, and after he has chased the squirrel away, barked at the neighbors, played with his toys, he gets bored and decides to eat his poop.

-Learned behavior

Your pup may have learned this behavior while in the care of his mom and litter mates.

"This can work, unless you have a Labrador retriever, who thinks you just jazzed up his meal, and likes the taste even better!"

So what do we do about Coprophagia?

Well, the most obvious way to get rid of this problem is to pick up right after your dog goes #2. But we all know that when Fido is out and about in the backyard, in the middle of winter, sometimes we are lazy and don't want to go out, yes, I am guilty of that too!!

Other tricks that can work is after your dog defecates, to go out and add some hot sauce or cayenne pepper to deter them from eating it. This can work, unless you have a Labrador retriever, who thinks you just jazzed up his meal, and likes the taste even better!

They have products on the market, I believe most claim a 95-98% success rate. I have tried some of them with my own crew, but they have not worked well for us. You can find most of these products at your local pet supply store.

Probably the most effective way to stop your dog from eating stool, is

to teach it a reliable "leave it" command. To do this, you would have to take your dog out on a leash every time it goes to the bathroom. When the business is done, let your dog turn around and sniff if he so desires. Then tell him to leave it in a good firm voice, nice and loud, and walk him away from the stinky pile. You can then try again by walking him back up to it. Do this exercise 3 times in a row, and then make sure you pick it up. Because as soon as you leave him alone, snack time!

After doing this exercise for about 1 week (may take shorter or longer, depending on the dog) still on leash, tell your dog to leave it when he is only looking at it, So don't allow him to sniff it. As soon as he is done his business, if he turns towards the pile you say "leave it" in a firm voice, and walk him away. Again 3 times, and pick it up. What you will find is that

after a few weeks, he will not even bother with it anymore. And you will be able to use the "leave it" command with other things.

I have even heard of a strange technique using Listerine pocket patches. Right after the dog eats the stool, you stick one of these patches in his mouth. A trainer friend of mine tells me this worked well for her Shepherds, so I still have to try that one!

The few things the experts all agree concerning coprophagia, is that it is a normal behavior in the dog world, and no one is really sure the exact cause.

Top 5 reasons to hire a dog walker

#1, dog is home alone for 6 or more hours

#2, dog is overweight and needs some extra exercise

#3, dog gets bored alone at home during the day or has separation anxiety, and is destructive

#4, Dog has accidents during the day, when the family is away at work

#5, Highly energetic breed, combined with a busy lifestyle, and not much time to get Sparky out for his exercise.

Hiring a dog walking service is an affordable way to ensure your dog is getting the attention he needs during the day. Ideal for busy professionals that spend long hours at the office, or for older dogs and puppies

who just can't "hold it" for long periods of time. And above all, it's a great way to spoil your dog. Clients that use our dog walking service will tell you, their dogs are much more relaxed when they come home.

Bold Canine does offer dog walking and pet sitting services, call us now to book a free consultation @ 519-833-1031

Winter blues, and dry coats!

We all feel dry this time of year. And with some dogs, even if you feed them the best food in the world, they need an extra boost to help that itchy flaky skin!

Here are a few tips, if you find your best friends coat is a bit dull...

Of course, the number one rule is to feed a high quality diet, read the ingredients on your dog food, and avoid by-products of any kind. The first ingredient must always be meat, and it must be identified (chicken, lamb, venison...)

Flaxseed Oil

Depending on the size of your dog, adding 1 or 2 Tbsp of flaxseed oil to their kibble can improve that dry itchy skin very quickly. Flaxseed oil is rich in Omega 3 & omega 6 fatty acids, which helps the body in many ways. Including protection against bone and joint disease, cardiac disease, autoimmune diseases and of course gives the coat a beautiful sheen. It apparently also helps restore cracked paws due to hard winter conditions.

Raw Eggs??

Yes! Raw eggs. Eggs are packed with complex fatty acids, the kind that make the coat shine! During the winter months, or when show season approaches, our guys get 1 raw egg in their morning meal. They love it! If you don't feel good about the "raw" part, you can always cook the eggs, but just don't add anything more to them. Plain is better.

Of course, please consult your veterinarian before changing or adding anything to your dogs diet. Always use common sense .

Fish Oil

Fish oil is also a great way to boost that dull winter coat. Packed with Omegas. It also contains DHA, which has been proven to help enhance learning skills and develop cognitive skills in puppies.

Different forms exist, with cod liver oil being the most popular.

Please consult your veterinarian before making any changes in your dog's diet.

"Of course, the number one rule is to feed a high quality diet, read the ingredients on your dog food, and avoid by-products of any kind. The first ingredient must always be meat, and it must be identified (chicken, lamb, venison...)"



COMING EVENTS

Saturday March 10th
Thursday March 29th

2 New group obedience classes starting at the Erin Pet depot, for dogs over 5 months of age, all dogs are welcomed, no prerequisites Necessary.

Saturday March 24th

New puppy class starting for puppies younger than 5 months of age.

March 17th & 18th

Come visit us at the Toronto Sportsman show, Our very own Shiloh Shepherds Gunner and Aly will be competing at the rare breed dog show. For more info contact us or www.sportsmensshows.com

TBD spring 2007

The Erin home & lifestyle show. We had a great time last year, and plan on doing it again this year!

Check our website often for updates on events we will be attending!

Contact information



Bold Canine offers a variety of pet services, including private training, group training, dog walking and pet sitting. We specialize in challenging behavior issues, including all forms of aggression. Call now to book a free evaluation or register for one of our classes.

The Behavior expert!

Phone: 519-833-1031

E-mail: info@boldcanine.com

Bold Canine is committed to educating people how to best communicate with their dogs, to understand and improve their behavior as well as assist families in caring for their pets. When in our care for dog walking and pet sitting, every animal will be treated as we would our own, with understanding, love and respect.

We promote humane training techniques, and we feel that every dog should be given an opportunity to succeed and become a great family pet.

At Bold Canine, every dog is given a chance and cared for, no matter how challenging or aggressive they may be.

[www.boldcanine.com]