



A Letter from Sam Kappel



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Letter
- Top 5 Concerns With Dog Interactions
- Top 5 Mistakes Made With Puppies/Dogs
- 5 Things Toxic to Pets
- Top 5 Ways to Create an Ideal Litter Box
- Top 5 Summer Activities for Dogs
- 5 Presidents and Their Dogs
- 5 Ways to Keep Your Kids Safe Around Dogs
- 5 Fabulous Quotes About Dogs

If you haven't already done so, check out our website. It has been completely redesigned with lots of helpful articles and links!



www.petbehaviorsolutions.com

Contact us at 480-200-2011 or info@petbehaviorsolutions.com

"Like" us on our **Facebook** page: We post photos, links to articles, tips, and updates so please keep up with us on Facebook.

Click here: [facebook](#)

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer! We were really lucky with the cool spring and then slammed with intense heat! Please think about how heat affects your pets. I still see people walking their dogs in the heat of the summer day. Remember that dogs feel the heat of the pavement and can get burns on their paws!

We are in our summer monsoon and that brings with it a horrible problem for some dogs—storm phobia. Did you know that 90% of

dogs with storm phobia also have other noise phobias and 70% of dogs with storm phobia also have separation anxiety? Please, get help for your dog as soon as possible. It really is horrible for those dogs.

Our program, Edu-Care for Dogs™, has been an amazing success! We have seen huge improvements in dogs' behavior in ways we never expected. One dog who came in to the program fearfully aggressive with other dogs has become the rock-star of the group with amazing negotiation skills and an ability to make new friends of all sizes and

personalities! Dogs are acquiring more confidence, social skills, more polite behaviors, becoming more compliant, etc. It has been wonderful to see! We developed a web page specifically for this program due to its uniqueness. Check us out at www.educarefordogs.com.

Thank you again for the trust you have placed in us and we will work to continually earn that. Have a wonderful summer!



Top 5 Concerns with Dog Interactions

1. **Rough wrestling.** Wrestling is one of the many ways that dogs have to play but it shouldn't be the only way they play. Too much wrestling can cause dogs to become defensive and competitive. Wrestling should have breaks with play bows and chase games to dilute its intensity.

2. **Competitive – play-to-win play style.** Dogs should have a good time when they play together. Play should look fun and not serious. Dogs who play competitively and play to win take things too seriously. This play style can lead to fights. Often, dogs who play with these competitive dogs are victims of the play and are defending themselves more than having fun.

3. **Bossy behavior.** Bossy dogs are no fun for anyone. Bossy

dogs micromanage all interactions – they won't let others play, chew on toys, get attention, etc. They barge in and push the other dog out of the way or barge in to stop whatever is going on. This is something that needs to be addressed. Bossy dogs aren't dominant and they aren't leaders. They are usually insecure, are socially incompetent, frustrated, and angry.

4. **Dogs that are unable to change roles.** Dogs need to negotiate social situations and be flexible in their interactions. Dogs shouldn't take one role and stick with it. Dogs need to learn to try different approaches when something doesn't work. They also need to learn to approach different dogs according to the individual interaction. When dogs learn to "have a conversa-

tion" instead of dictating the interaction, things go much more smoothly.

5. **Guarding.** Dogs with guarding tendencies can be difficult to manage in a multi-pet household. The general guideline is as follows: it is appropriate for a dog to guard what he possesses, but not appropriate for him to aggressively take things from others or guard things from a distance. It is also inappropriate for a dog to covet and hoard things from others.

If you need have any questions or concerns about your dog's interaction, please contact us at info@petbehaviorsolutions.com.



Top 5 Mistakes Made with Puppies/Dogs

1. **Too Much Freedom** – Dogs should earn the amount of freedom they are given based on their behavior. Many problems such as housebreaking, chewing, digging, etc. result from having too much freedom. When a dog is unsupervised, it is nearly impossible to provide a consequence for inappropriate behaviors. When dogs have the freedom to do these things when they can't be caught it can be really challenging to resolve! Supervision and restriction or confinement is the key!

“Dogs need to learn what they CAN do and be rewarded for the right behaviors.”

2. **Nagging** – When we want a dog to stop doing something, often owners resort to “nagging” to try to stop the behavior. All too often, I will hear owners repetitively reprimand their dogs for the same behaviors. Sometimes the dog stops when he is told to stop, but he has not learned to not do that behavior again. Repetitive punishments are rarely effective and can be stressful for both dogs and owners. Dogs need to learn what they CAN do and be rewarded for the right behaviors. Spend more time training your dog as to what you want him to do and less time nagging him for the things you don't like. There are effective punishments for problem behaviors when necessary so be

sure to get expert advice before embarking on a course of punishment.

3. **Mixed Signals** – It is a wonder that dogs learn as well as they do in the confusing world of humans! Unfortunately, humans are extremely inconsistent. Dogs quickly learn that when we are too tired or too busy – rules are far more relaxed! Like children, dogs must get consistent feedback (good and bad) for their behavior. Consistency is the only way we can shape their behavior according to our rules and expectations. If you are too busy or too tired, your dog should be restricted, confined, or occupied with an appropriate activity.

4. **Not Having to Work for Things** – In this age of convenience, we have dogs that are free fed, have a dog door, have free access to all the toys they want, are allowed on every piece of furniture, etc. It can be very difficult to reinforce training with your dog when there is nothing he has to work for or earn.

Dogs need to think and comply with commands in order for those commands to be useful. You should make your dog do something to get something in every possible situation. They shouldn't push past you through doors or gates either. Dogs should learn to “sit” or “down” for things, they should also know commands such as “back-up,” “wait,” “stay,” “come,” etc.

5. **Making Excuses** – Often we see dogs that are doing things they really shouldn't be doing but owners make excuses for that behavior. For example, dogs over 6-months old that continue to mouth or puppy-bite or are not fully housebroken; dogs that bark excessively, or are extremely fearful; dogs that are aggressive with strangers, etc. These are all examples of behaviors that need to be addressed. Too often, owners make excuses such as, ‘it's just puppy stuff,’ ‘he's had a hard life’, or ‘he's still pretty new to the household.’ Don't let inappropriate behaviors become habits. Issues need to be addressed at the earliest possible time before they become problems.



5 Things Toxic to Pets

By: Stefanie Strackbein

We all know chocolate can be dangerous for dogs and cats but here are five other items commonly found in and around our homes that many people do not realize can be just as deadly:

1. Grapes, raisins and currants can cause kidney failure in dogs if enough is ingested.

2. Onions and garlic can cause anemia in both cats and dogs.

3. Xylitol, often used to sweeten sugar-free gums, mints and candy, can cause low blood sugar and liver failure in dogs.



4. Human medications. The ASPCA poison control hotline reports that in 2010 almost 25 percent of their calls concerned human medications accidentally ingested by pets. The most common culprits were over-the-counter medications (e.g., ibuprofen, acetaminophen), antidepressants, and ADHD medications.

5. Sago Palms are commonly found at do-it-yourself home stores and nurseries but they are *incredibly* toxic. Sago Palms cause liver failure and can cause death in both dogs and cats if any part of the plant is ingested.

This list is just half the items the ASPCA considers the “Top Toxins of 2010”. For a more complete list of plants and other household items that are dangerous to pets visit: www.aspc.org. It's also a good idea to keep the ASPCA's poison control number handy just in case: #1-888-426-4435.



Top 5 Ways to Create an Ideal Litter Box

1. Maintain a depth of about 2 inches of scoopable litter. Studies show that cats prefer a depth of between 1½ to 2 inches of litter. Your cat may have preferences different than that, but this is a good place to start.

2. Place the litter box as far away from food and water as possible. Unfortunately, this is a very common mistake. Cats are fastidiously clean animals and don't want to eliminate where they eat. To make your kitties as

happy as possible, have the food and water completely separate from the litter box.

"To make your kitties as happy as possible, have the food and water completely separate from the litter box.."

3. Since cats are fastidiously clean, their litter box needs to be clean as well. Litter boxes should be scooped daily.

4. Studies show that most cats prefer open litter boxes to covered boxes. Again, your cat may have different preferences, but when in doubt, keep it open.

5. An ideal litter box should be placed in an area that has multiple points of entry and exit as well as an open viewing area. Cats are quite vulnerable when they are in their litter box! Cats need to be able to watch for any potential ambushes by other pets and have more than one way out.



Top 5 Summer Activities for Dogs

By: Stefanie Strackbein

Summer is here and some days it's just too hot to take walks with Fido (Hint: if the sidewalk is too hot for YOUR bare feet, it's too hot for theirs!) Dogs still need physical and mental challenges to stay happy and healthy. With a little creativity, you can find ways to entertain your canine companion while the outside temperatures rise. Bring the games inside or play games that keep you both cool. Five of our favorites:



1. Play Hide and Seek

A classic kids' game adapted for your canine companion. Have your dog sit and stay (or have someone hold your dog) while you hide. Start off hiding in easy-to-find locations like behind a door, behind a chair, etc. Once you are hidden, call out "Fido, find me!" and let your dog use his canine super powers to find where you are. Once he finds you, praise him wildly. Next time you hide try hiding in a more challenging place like the bathtub, in a closet, under the bed, etc. Keep challenging your dog by hiding in harder-to-find locations. Most dogs figure out quickly what they are supposed to do (find Mom or Dad) and love this game!

2. Play Red Light, Green Light

This variation of the kids' game doubles as an impulse control training game. The object is for your dog to go wild when you say

"Green light!" and sit as quickly as possible when you say "Red light!" When you say "Green light!" encourage your dog to jump, run in a circle, chase you, etc. Praise your dog for joining in. After a few seconds, say "Red light, sit!" and be very still.

Reward your pup the second he or she sits. Then say "Green light!" and encourage wild behavior again. Say "Red light, sit!" and ask him or her to sit a little longer before receiving a treat. Eventually you will only need to say "Red light!" and your dog will know you are asking for a sit. Vary the amount of time between "Green light!" and "Red light!" as well as the amount of time your dog must stay in a "sit" position before receiving a treat.

3. Buried Treasure

Start by letting your dog watch you hide a treat somewhere in the room. Begin with a simple hiding place like under a chair. Then cue your dog to "Find it!" Your dog will most likely go right to the treat and eat it. Praise wildly. Practice a few times until your dog understands what this game is about. Once he's got the hang of it, increase the challenge by hiding the treat behind a pillow, under a blanket or rug, etc. Use the cue "Find it!" and let the hunt begin! This game helps dog develop



impulse control and appeals to their prey drive.

4. Bring out the bubbles

Most of the dogs I know love to catch, pop, eat, or just watch bubbles. And it's fun for you too! Look for non-toxic formulas or specialty "bubbles for cats" or "bubble for dogs" at your favorite pet supply store. Word of warning: some dogs become over-zealous in their quest to catch all the bubbles and will do death-defying leaps to get them. If your dog is one of these, keep the bubbles low to the ground to prevent injury.

5. Arctic Freeze

There are two variations of this game. In the first variation, all you need is a curious canine and a bag of ice. Give your dog one cube at a time or indulge him with a whole pile of cubes. Minimize the mess by keeping the ice in a Styrofoam cooler and your dog can help himself. Sit back and watch the fun! The second variation keeps your pup extra cool: get a kiddie pool (available at most grocery stores or toy stores) and fill with water. Toss in your ice and see what your dog does. Some will enjoy having the ice in the water; others may scoop out the cubes one-by-one. Both you and your dog will be entertained and keep cool at the same time.

Only five presidents have lived in the White House without having canine companionship. While some presidents have also adopted alligators, snakes, raccoons, and zebras, the dog is clearly the favorite for presidential pet. Here are five presidents and their pups:

1. Abraham Lincoln lived with Jip and Fido, breeds are unknown.

2. Theodore Roosevelt lived with Pete, a Bull Terrier, Sailor Boy, a Chesapeake Bay retriever, Skip, a mixed breed, Manchu, a Pekinese, and terriers Jack and Peter.

3. Dwight D. Eisenhower lived with a Weimaraner named Heidi.

4. Jimmy Carter lived with Grits, a mixed breed who eventually had his White House privileges revoked for refusing to be house trained (guess he should have called Pet Behavior Solutions!)

5. Ronald Reagan lived with a Bouvier des Flandres named Lucky and a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel named Rex.



5 Ways to Keep your Kids Safe Around Dogs

By: Stefanie Strackbein

Kids are naturally drawn to dogs (aren't we all) but did you know that in the U.S. over 1,000 people visit the ER every day because of a dog bite? More than half of these victims are children. According to DogBiteLaw.com, most dog bites come from a dog the victim knows. Teach your kids about dog behavior and help keep them safe.

1. Never take anything from a dog's mouth, even if it's something he shouldn't have. Kids should get help from an adult. Adults, try trading the forbidden object for a really tasty treat. Also, never approach a dog that is eating or chewing something as many dogs will protect their food and chew toys..



2. Most dogs don't appreciate hugs and kisses like we think they do. A better way to show Fido you love him is by petting his side, scratching him under the chin or on his chest. Hugging can seem threatening to some dogs and puts your face in a very vulnerable position if the dog decides he's uncomfortable with your affection.

3. Don't approach dogs that are tied up, in cars, or behind fences. These dogs, while they do draw our sympathy, can be very territorial, feel threatened or scared. If a dog looks like he might be in danger, call the Sheriff's Animal Cruelty Hotline: 602-876-1681 or the Arizona Humane Society: 602-395-3874 and ask for Field Operations. If the animal's life is in immediate danger, call 9-1-1.

4. If approaching an unfamiliar dog on the street or in a park, always ask the owner if it's okay to pet the dog. Even the sweetest looking dog may be afraid of kids and could bite. If you have a dog that is uncomfortable with strangers, it's okay to say "No" when people ask if they can pet your dog.

5. Be respectful and never tease a dog (or any animal.) Pulling tails, ears or legs, or blowing in faces can hurt or annoy a dog and they might feel they need to resort to biting in order to be left alone. Teach kids to recognize a dog's "warning" signs: lip-curling, growling, ears back, etc. to help them understand when a dog isn't having fun. Impress upon young children that animals have the same feelings as people and certain actions hurt!

5 Fabulous Quotes About Dogs

1. "In order to really enjoy a dog, one doesn't merely try to train him to be semi human. The point of it is to open oneself to the possibility of becoming partly a dog." - Edward Hoagland

2. "Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring--it was peace." - Milan Kundera

3. "I think we are drawn to dogs because they are the uninhibited creatures we might be if we weren't certain we knew better." - George Bird Evans, "Troubles with Bird Dogs"

4. "I hope if dogs ever take over the world, and they chose a king, they don't just go by size, because I bet there are some Chihuahuas with some good ideas." - Taken from "DEEP THOUGHTS" by Jack Handy

5. "Dogs' lives are too short. Their only fault, really." ~Agnes Sligh Turnbull