



Training Tails – Inadvertently Reinforced Bad Behaviors

by Laura Garber, CPDT-KA

Now here's an alarming fact: Every interaction you have with your dog results in his learning something, whether you intentionally meant to train him *or not!* In a young dog, this is especially significant, since he has less of a history with you and so each interaction has a greater impact.

So what are the most common unintentionally trained bad behaviors?! See if these sound familiar...

The Pushy Pooch

You're walking with your dog when you run into a friend. You stop to chat and your dog sits quietly beside you and waits. After a while, he gets impatient and fidgety, tired of the boring human chatter, and he starts to bark and jump on you, eager to resume the journey. To buy yourself a little more time, you give your pup some treats in an effort to quiet him.



Sasha is a polite companion

Now you've noticed that he starts barking and jumping on you almost immediately when you meet people on the street.

So how did he learn that? Unfortunately this one is the most common and the most insidious. The pitfall is that the good behavior is so easily overlooked but the bad behavior is overt and annoying and rather hard to ignore. In the example, when your dog

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From the Vet Room – Holiday Hazards

by Christine Giuliani, LVT

With the excitement and joy of the holidays upon us, the last thing anyone wants on the holiday agenda is an unexpected trip to the vet's office with your pet! Here are some helpful tips to help prevent Christmas chaos...

The Christmas tree is full of holiday hazards. You may decide an artificial tree is a better option. Real trees shed needles, which can be ingested, and the water at their base, if drunk, can cause stomach upset leading to diarrhea or vomiting. A real tree also has more
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Free Ask The Trainer Seminar

The Town of Hempstead Animal Shelter is offering an *Ask the Trainer* seminar to shelter adopters presented by certified professional dog trainer and behavior specialist Laura Garber, CPDT-KA. The seminar is one hour in length, meeting the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. The next one is offered December 19th at 6:30pm.

Please call the shelter at **(516) 785-5220** to reserve a spot.

About the Town of Hempstead Animal Shelter

The Town of Hempstead Animal Shelter fosters a community of compassion and respect, and provides animals in need with a chance at a lifelong, loving home. Dogs like Candy take refuge at our shelter until they can find the loving forever home that they deserve. Won't you join our community and help our mission?

If now's not a good time for a new furry family member, help us in other ways, by sending donated items from our wish list or volunteer some of your time to our very critical mission.

Stop in to the shelter, call us at **(516) 785-5220**, check us out online at www.toh.li/animal-shelter or on Facebook at **Hempstead Town Animal Shelter**. **Adopt, don't shop!**

The Pooch Scoop – Talkin' Trash on the Street

Dogs who lunge and bark at passing dogs on the street are usually doing so out of fear or anxiety. Giving your dog a correction for her behavior tends to make it worse. A more effective approach is to change her feelings about other dogs from one of fear to one of happy anticipation! Feel free to contact the shelter's behavior department if you have questions or need some help.

<i>From the Vet Room (cont.)</i>	<i>Training Tails (cont.)</i>	<i>Volunteer Scuttlebutt</i>
<p>of a chance of being off balance and falling on your pet. Whatever tree you choose should be anchored to the wall, especially if you have cats who like to climb them! Putting a lemon scented car air freshener in the tree's branches may be an effective deterrent. You might also decide to put a gate around the tree to thwart a playful pooch. Make sure to hide the wires for the tree lights so that your pet doesn't chew them and suffer an electrical shock or burns in his mouth. Ornaments, if chewed, can cause cuts in their mouths and intestinal blockage. Tinsel, extremely fun for cats to play with, can also cause intestinal blockage. In severe cases of blockage, surgery may be required.</p> <p>Holiday plants such as mistletoe, holly, poinsettias, and lilies can cause gastrointestinal upset (nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea). Further, in cats, mistletoe can cause cardiovascular problems and lilies can cause kidney failure if ingested. You may opt for artificial plants as a safer alternative.</p> <p>Alcoholic beverages may cause weakness, even comas, in pets so don't leave cocktails unattended! Also, stick to your pet's food and treats because many of the foods we eat are toxic to them.</p> <p>And finally – it should go without saying – never leave burning candles unattended!</p> <p>The best way to prevent accidents is to keep your pets in a separate room when you cannot supervise them.</p> <p><i>Enjoy the holidays and keep your pets safe!</i></p>	<p>was sitting quietly and patiently, his behavior went unnoticed and unappreciated. When he became impatient and demanding, his behavior was rewarded with hush money.</p> <p>And how do you fix it? This is a time when you should step on your dog's leash at a distance from him where he can sit or stand comfortably but where he cannot jump up. Cue him to sit and start giving him little pieces of treats, first fairly frequently, then increasing the duration between treats. We're working on building his patience. Should your dog bark at you, give him a time-out by turning your back on him (with your foot still on the leash) and ignoring him, only turning to face him when he's quiet.</p> <p>In these early practices, stop along the street without conversing with anyone. You'll need to devote your full attention to these early exercises. As he gets better, recruit friends to join you, as having other people around changes the exercise for you <i>and</i> for him. You will be somewhat distracted at first and a friend will understand this and not expect you to carry on a complete conversation. Soon enough, you'll both be ready for prime time!</p> <p><i>The Upshot</i></p> <p>When troublesome behaviors worsen, turn a critical eye to what might be inadvertently reinforcing them. Investigate management techniques (the leash can be a great tool) that will help inhibit the bad behavior while alternate behaviors are shaped. Finally, envision what you'd rather your dog do than the behavior he's chosen – for instance, sitting rather than jumping up – and help him find his way to being a better dog!</p> <p>For the complete article, which includes <i>The Rude Greeter, the Sock Stealer, and The Party Pooper</i>, go to www.myWoofGang.com/virtual_training.php.</p>	<p><i>November Adoptions!:</i> <i>Cyrano, JJ, Niki, Dallas, Officer, Daisy, Lucas, Cashmere, Butch, Easton, Toby, Bea, Fiona, Gypsy, Christa, Bella, Lilly, Honeybee, Brittany, Babette, Josh, Heer, Dixie, Cotton, Spot, Carmello, Dasher, Timmy Mackey, Buddha.</i></p> <p><i>Upcoming December Calendar:</i> Buddy Training classes: Wednesday nights at 6:30pm Dog Volunteer Orientations: Thursday 12/12 at 6pm Call <i>Dolores</i> at x4635 for details.</p> <p>On-site Adoption Events: 12/14 Home for the Holidays adoption event with free adoptions! Off-site Adoption Events: 12/7 at PetsMart in Valley Stream, including photos with Santa! Call <i>Wendy</i> at x4628 for details.</p> <p>Want to take on a special project dog for training or for the Buddy Project? Let <i>Laura</i> know at x4632!</p>
<p align="center">Pet Therapy & Humane Education</p> <p>Pet Therapy and Humane Education personnel can visit your group with the shelter's therapy dogs! Free seminars are available teaching pet care, safety and responsibility to students, seniors and special needs groups. Are you a scout or group leader? Contact us for a free shelter tour at (516) 785-0197 or email pettherapyandhumaneed@tohmail.org for more information.</p>		<p><i>Featured Pup – SUNSHINE</i></p>  <p><i>Sunshine</i> came to the Town of Hempstead Shelter with her mate and their two puppies in April but, alas, only Sunshine remains, still waiting patiently for her forever family to find her. She loves fetching tennis balls and playing with other dogs. She earned her name Sunshine due to a very special quality she has... she submissive grins, smiling from ear to ear with pleasure! Come in to experience her special gift of grin!</p> <p><i>Might you be her forever buddy?!</i></p>