



# The Hempstead Hound



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Free



## **Training Tails – Inhibiting Common Behavior Problems**

by Laura Garber, CPDT-KA

There is no greater reminder of the differences between dog and human than in the behaviors that so annoy us and yet are so innate to them. Barking, jumping on us and on our things, tearing apart the garbage – how exasperating! Here are some techniques to alleviate these nuisances:

### **Demand Barking**

It is in our nature to respond and comfort the cries of our babies, whether they be of the human or canine persuasion. Of course, cries of true distress should not be ignored, but demand behaviors are a different matter. Yips of protest when your dog is first left alone in the crate, or an attention-seeking pup shoving her head under your hand any time she wants petting, should not get the



desired result, or you will be beleaguered by these behaviors for life. Instead, ask your dog for a polite sit (the doggie equivalent of “please”) before petting her. Approach her crate only when she’s calm and quiet. If your puppy barks at you for attention or for food, turn your back to her, or put her food away and leave the kitchen. In so doing, you’re teaching her that these behaviors impede progress rather than hasten it.

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## **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](http://www.toh.li/animal-shelter) or on FaceBook at **Hempstead Town Animal Shelter**.

**Adopt, don’t shop!**

## **The Pooch Scoop – The Pit Bull Debunked**

Pit Bulls are typically very friendly, even with strangers. They love people and thrive on attention and affection. A highly intelligent, energetic breed, they were prized as wonderful family dogs in the past. They once had the moniker of “nanny dog” because of their wonderful demeanor with kids.

Know the facts. **Fight breed bias!**

## **Helping a Stray Dog**

by Jill Schuster,  
Animal Control Officer

Often dogs make their way out of their own yards and into ours. But what should you do to safely address the problem of a stray dog? Firstly, if you are in your house or car, stay where you are and call your local animal control. But, if you are outside and have no way to avoid an interaction, first observe the dog’s posture. Body language is a dog’s best means of communication.

If the dog’s ears are laid back, legs are stiff and tail is stiff or low, this is a dog’s way of telling you to stay away. And barking, growling and showing teeth are further indication that “I might bite if pushed.” Remember that a lost dog is out of its comfort zone and feeling stressed.



*(picture courtesy of the ASPCA)*

Additional images available at:  
<http://www.mywoofgang.com/handouts/DogBodyLanguage.pdf>

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<b><i>Training Tails (cont.)</i></b>	<b><i>Helping a Stray Dog (cont.)</i></b>	<b><i>Volunteer Scuttlebutt</i></b>
<p><b>Jumping Up</b></p> <p>Dogs are very aware of personal space. Jumping up, while usually an attempt to greet face-to-face, is a rude behavior and an invasion of <i>your</i> space. Though a small puppy jumping up to seek your attention might seem harmless enough, the behavior won't seem so trifling when the puppy has grown into a 140-pound Great Dane. And few others will appreciate being accosted by your rambunctious adolescent.</p> <p>When your pup jumps up on you, cross your arms across your chest and turn away from her. In this way, you are withholding the very thing she seeks: your attention. When she drops back to the floor, you can turn around and reward her polite behavior with pets and love. Remember: Don't use your hands to push her off of you; this is in itself a form of attention and will inadvertently reward the behavior.</p> <p>Should you decide that having your pup jump on you is something you enjoy, you might decide to put the behavior on cue, so that patting your hands to your thighs or chest is an invitation to jump up. Without invitation, though, the behavior should not be allowed.</p> <p>For tips on other behavior problems such as recreational barking, counter-surfing, garbage-raiding, and territorial behavior, see the complete article: <a href="http://mywoofgang.com/archive_CF_in_hibitBehProbs.php">http://mywoofgang.com/archive_CF_in_hibitBehProbs.php</a></p>	<p>In this case, try to walk <i>slowly</i> away to someplace safe, keeping an eye on the dog with your peripheral vision, and, once there, call your local animal control. It is important that you do <i>not</i> run! Dogs often consider this to be a game of chase which can have tragic consequences. Remember: It is nearly impossible to outrun a dog!</p> <p>Many stray dogs are friendly and rely on us to help them find their way home. Again, posture will send their message. The posture of a friendly dog is visibly different from that of a fearful or defensive dog. A confident, friendly dog may have ears up with an inviting, sweeping tail wag and a loose body. A more shy, submissive dog may try to make its body smaller and low, with a low, flicking tail wag.</p> <p>If you have determined that it is a friendly dog, try to find a way to secure the dog in a fenced-in area or with a makeshift leash. If the dog has a collar with ID tags, see if there is a phone number or address with the owner's information and contact them. A dog without ID should be brought to your local shelter; it is the first place the owner will look when they discover their dog is missing.</p> <p>If a stray dog does approach you aggressively, a firm "Sit!" command might stall the dog's advance and buy you some time. But ultimately, if you are attacked, curl into a ball on the ground and protect your face with your arms. Do not swing your arms and legs around, as this may intensify its bite. Try to remain still, yell for help and continue to give the dog a firm "no!" or "uh-uh!" After such an attack, see a doctor, and report the attack to your local animal control and health department. Try to remember as many details about the dog as you can: breed, color, size, the presence of a collar or tags, etc.</p> <p>Although most stray dogs are not aggressive, you should treat every stray as if it might be. <i>Caution</i> is always your best approach!</p>	<p><b><i>June Adoptions!:</i></b> Chispita, Tilly, Macho, Penny, Luna, Tatiana, Holly, Bear, Athena, Mazey, TugBoat, Gigi, Liza, Pudge, Princess Leia, Beethoven, Flora, Cheddar, Tracker, Sunflower, Butch, Pandora, Beauty, Nugget, Eskimo, DinkaLink</p> <p><b><i>Upcoming July Calendar:</i></b>  <b>Behavior Modification clinics:</b> Tuesdays at 3pm  <b>Buddy Training classes:</b> Wednesday nights at 6:30pm  <b>Dog Volunteer Orientations:</b> Saturday 6/20 at 2pm  Call <i>Dolores</i> at x4635 for details.</p> <p><b>Off-site Adoption Events:</b>  <b>7/6</b> at PetSmart in Levittown  <b>7/12</b> at PetCo in Patchogue  <b>7/20</b> at Unleashed in Manhattan  <b>7/27</b> at PetCo in Massapequa  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><b><i>Featured Pup – PAIGE</i></b></p>  <p>Paige hasn't had the greatest start in life, having spent her puppyhood at the Town of Hempstead Animal Shelter. She came in with painfully itchy skin from a bad case of mange. But with the love and attention of shelter staff and volunteers, she's becoming a proper, polite pitizen.</p> <p>Might you be her forever buddy?!</p>
<p><b><i>Free Adopter Basic Training Group Classes</i></b></p> <p>The Town of Hempstead Animal Shelter is offering free training classes to shelter adopters by certified profession dog trainer and behavior specialist <i>Laura Garber, CPDT-KA</i>. Classes are one hour in length, meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month at 11am, weather permitting. Each adopter is entitled to 2 free classes and registration is first-come-first-serve.</p> <p>Please call the shelter at <b>(516) 785-5220</b> to reserve a spot.</p>		