



# The Hempstead Hound



Vol. 13 No. 11

NOVEMBER 2013

Free



## **Training Tails – Demythacizing Pup Psychology** by Laura Garber, CPDT-KA

### **The Retribution Myth**

A client once described to me how her MultiPoo (who we'll call Fidget) looked her square in the eye as she squatted proudly in the middle of her favorite furry rug, peed, and then gleefully gave chase. Fidget was being spiteful, said my client ruefully. How could she be so stubborn and recalcitrant? After all, Fidget *knew* where her wee wee pad was!

My client committed the cardinal sin of anthropomorphism, the granting of human thoughts and motivations to non-human beings. We concoct in our heads why we would behave in such a way and then attribute it to our dogs. Unfortunately it leads to nothing but misunderstanding, miscommunication and, worst of all, misplaced punishment. And regrettably for the dog,



this punishment usually results in her displaying appeasement gestures – low body posture, low tail wag – all of which looks to us like guilt or apology. It's a body language dialog gone terribly awry.

In fact, Fidget yearns for attention and, through trial and error, she had discovered that there's no better way to get a rise out of her humans, and even to start a fun game of chase, than to pee in the middle of that nice rug.

*(continued on page 2)*

## **From the Vet Room – Mange**

by Dr. Jeffrey Siegel, DVM

Demodectic mange, or demodex, is a very common skin disease in dogs. It occurs when large numbers of demodex canis mites inhabit the hair follicles and glands of the skin. In small numbers, these mites are considered normal skin fauna. In fact, they usually pass from mother to puppies during nursing. They produce disease only when an abnormal or lowered immune system allows them to. Fortunately, demodex does not spread to other dogs through contact and, more importantly, it is not a zoonotic disease, meaning it is

*(continued on page 2)*

## **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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. The next one is offered November 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.toh.li/animal-shelter) or on FaceBook at **Hempstead Town Animal Shelter**. *Adopt, don't shop!*

## **The Pooch Scoop – Learning Separation**

Even when you're at home, it's important that your dog spends some time away from you. Otherwise she can develop separation distress or anxiety when she's left alone. The crate is a great place for her to get some quality alone-time. If your pup is upset when alone, <http://www.mywoofgang.com/handouts/SeparationAnxiety.pdf>

<b><i>From the Vet Room (cont.)</i></b>	<b><i>Training Tails (cont.)</i></b>	<b><i>Volunteer Scuttlebutt</i></b>
<p><i>not</i> contagious to humans.</p> <p>However, another more concerning form of mange is called sarcoptic mange. Unlike Demodex, sarcoptic mange <i>is</i> contagious and zoonotic, meaning that the affected animal needs to be kept in isolation during treatment and those handling the pet need to be gloved and gowned to protect themselves from contracting it.</p> <p>Mange is diagnosed by taking multiple skin scrapings and looking for mites under a microscope. Demodex cells have a unique characteristic cigar shape, while sarcoptic cells are more oval in shape. Skin lesions usually occur on the face and feet with thinning hair and intense pruritus (or itching). Secondary bacterial infections can follow.</p> <p>There are various methods of treatment for mange. At the shelter, we bathe the affected animal every two to three weeks with Mitaban (Amitraz) and treat with an oral parasite-killing medication called Ivermectin. We also use various flea and tick preparations that give good result in treating mange.</p> <p>Rather than bathing their own pets, owners will usually bring their pets in to their vet's office for periodic bathing, or dipping as it's called.</p> <p>So, if you discover an oval patch of missing fur with the skin having a scaly appearance, take your pet to your veterinarian immediately.</p>	<p>So she happily offers her invitation to the game, giving a come-hither look as she squats and goes, a look that she might just as easily have used while grabbing a toy for a spirited game of tug.</p> <p>My prescription to my client? Give Fidget plenty of exercise, initiate play on her terms rather than the dog's, reward Fidget for pottying in the right places as well as for quiet, independent activities, and offer the pup interactive puzzle toys to entertain and stimulate her mentally.</p> <p><b>The Dominance Myth</b></p> <p>A great many dogs have a tendency to jump up on people during greeting. They pull on leash and rush through doors ahead of us. A dominance play? We have no problem assessing a human loved one invading our personal space or pushing out the door first as rude, but give the family member fur and sharp canines and suddenly we see more sinister motives.</p> <p>We need for our dogs to understand that all the things that they value in their lives are generously granted by <i>us</i>. We control everything and will share richly, provided we are shown polite, respectful behavior.</p> <p>To do this, take stock of the things that your dog considers valuable in his life: food, petting and affection, going for walks, playing with toys, being on the furniture. Require polite behavior from your dog in order to earn these life rewards. Build impulse control when putting down his food or going out for a walk, and while playing games with him. Incorporate obedience into your day, and insist on four-on-the floor at all times. Finally, teach your dog to loose-leash walk and hold a solid down-stay. These respectful behaviors enrich the ways in which we can share our lives with our dogs. (Go to <a href="http://www.mywoofgang.com">www.mywoofgang.com</a> for more articles by this author.)</p>	<p><b>October Adoptions!:</b> Talia, Angel, Rusty, Max, Teddy, Apricot, Brent, Klondike, Amber, Candy, Precious, Samantha, Sky, Fawn, Buzz, Pup, Ty, Victoria, Nathan, Paige, Firefly, Gabbie, Bree, Max, Cleo, Parker, Ripley, Tuxedo, Petey, Spice, Layla, Henna, Kismet, Ginger, Gabrielle, Anderson, Felix, Ryder, Lumi, Ivy, Benjamin, Flash, Rufus, Carter, Ray Ban, Bowery, Diamond, Peanut, Pixie, Elisa, Benji, Allie, Hailey, Peanut, Sienna, Clara, Skyler.</p> <p><b>Upcoming June Calendar:</b></p> <p><b>Buddy Training classes:</b> Wednesday nights at 6:30pm</p> <p><b>Off-site Adoption Events:</b></p> <p><b>11/2</b> at ARF, Riverhead  <b>11/3</b> at PetCo Unleashed, Albertson  <b>11/9</b> at PetCo, Baldwin  <b>11/16-17</b> at Best Friends Animal Society, White Plains  <b>11/23</b> at PetCo, 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>Pet Therapy &amp; Humane Education</b></p> <p>Pet Therapy and Humane Education personnel can visit your group with the shelter's therapy dogs! <b>Free seminars</b> 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 <b>(516) 785-0197</b> or email <a href="mailto:pettherapyandhumaneed@tohmail.org">pettherapyandhumaneed@tohmail.org</a> for more information.</p>		<p><b>Featured Pup – THELMA</b></p>  <p>Thelma came in to the Town of Hempstead Animal Shelter as a stray in August, 2012. A gentle girl, she would likely enjoy being a playmate to older kids. Though she hasn't much to smile about with her current life situation, she always has a smile to share with whoever takes her out for a pleasant stroll in the sunshine. She is waiting patiently for just the right person...</p> <p>Might you be her forever buddy?!</p>