



# The Hempstead Hound



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Free



## Training Tails – Halloween is a Time for Treats All Around!

by Laura Garber, CPDT-KA

So we all know that chocolate is poisonous to dogs, but is keeping the pooch out of the Halloween stash our only concern on Halloween night? Not really. With trick'r'treaters traipsing around the street and, indeed, up to your door, some in costumes that would frighten even the human inhabitants, we need to consider the dog's perspective. Even the most even-keeled dog can be taken by surprise by outlandish human antics. My own dog Trista, who is rarely ever startled, was upset during the opening scene of an outdoor production of Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida*, which involved a swordfight. Now, that's not too different from a diminutive Darth Vader wielding a light saber, is it?

So how can we help our dogs tolerate or, dare we hope, enjoy the



antics of All Hallows' Eve?

### Get Tricky

For a dog who's comfortable and confident, come what may, having her perform some cute tricks will entertain the visitors and will give her a fun job to do. Rather than a boring evening that drags on for lack of dog-centric activities, she'll be tired by the end of the night from a job well done.

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## Pet Therapy & Humane Education

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](mailto:pettherapyandhumaneed@tohmail.org) for more information.

## Health & Nutrition

**Did you know?...** Fecal matter with a strong odor may indicate indigestible proteins in your dog's diet. And flatulency may indicate the presence of carbohydrates that are resistant to digestion.

Dogs who are shy and stressed do not digest their food well and often suffer from intestinal complications such as diarrhea. Their coats are often extremely dry and shed heavily.

Always feed a high quality diet where the first ingredient is a meat, the second a meat meal, and one with *no* corn. Adding an Omega 3 salmon oil supplement can also be very healthful.

## 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 – Crate Training

Dogs like to have a den to call their own. And the crate is a great training tool for you as well. To attract your dog to her crate, put a Kong stuffed with her favorite food in the crate and close the door, with the dog locked *out*. It won't take long for her to figure out which side of that door she'd rather be on! Make sure to build up her tolerance to time alone in the crate gradually.

## Training Tails (cont.)

Withhold her dinner until the witching hour and then have her work for her supper with tricks. You'll be the most talked about house on the block! (Check out my article *The Power of the Trick – The Tricks that Treat* for some ideas!)

### Helping the Nervous Nellie

For the dog who's a little anxious, do some exercise to take the edge off. The canine athlete might enjoy a good run or a trip to the dog park for some exuberant dog play. For the more sedate pooch, a nice early evening walk might work, as long as the sight of trick'r'treaters won't be too upsetting. Or a vigorous game of fetch in the yard might be a good alternative.

Next you need to decide whether you have the wherewithal to attend to the evening's guests *and* help your dog through the experience at the same time. If not, then it would be better to tuck your nervous pooch away in a quiet room with a tasty stuffed Kong.

Alternatively, you could decide to give her a little exposure to the evening's events. Crate her or have her tethered on her bed a good distance from the front door, a distance where she's comfortable, and then give her a stuffed puzzle toy to work away on. In so doing, you are giving her a tasty activity to associate with the challenging antics that the evening holds. The key here is that she needs to be far enough from the activity that she is able to eat and remain nonreactive. Too close and her survival instincts will kick in – she won't be able to eat.

(cont.)

### Hide and Seek

One way to burn off some mental energy is to find games that are especially well suited to a dog's natural talents, like his sense of smell

*Hide and seek* is just like you played as a kid... Put your dog in a sit-stay, then go off and hide. Say the release word "OK" and call his name. Let him sniff you out!

For a more active way of teaching her that the unexpected can reliably promise good things, use a Manners Minder, a food distribution device with a remote control. Remotely dispense a treat with the presence of a visitor.

### Say Goodnight, Gracie!

When your dog has had enough, it's time to say goodnight. Even the most social dog will reach a limit and your job as guardian is to see when that limit is coming and respond accordingly.

Further, for fearful dogs, even those who are in the midst of a behavior modification protocol to help them deal with their shyness around unusual strangers, Halloween is probably just beyond too much for them. In fact, it's likely to put a poor pooch back a few steps in the process. The crux of any behavior modification schedule is to keep the dog below threshold (desensitize) so that you can change their emotional minds (counter-condition) to the feared person. Halloween is likely to offer over-threshold interactions over and over again, something the learning theorist would call *flooding*, and flooding can have unintended consequences, most notably increased fear.

When the time has come, confine your pup to a room in the house cloistered from the night's activities with a yummy stuffed puzzle toy to keep them busy and happy.

It's on occasions such as these – Halloween, a big family gathering, a festive party – that you need to anticipate the lessons you would like your dog to learn and the experiences you would like her to have. With just a little bit of planning and preparation, you can fit her seamlessly and comfortably into the family's activities, which is exactly that she wants in life!

(See [www.myWoofGang.com](http://www.myWoofGang.com) for the complete article.)

## Volunteer Scuttlebutt

**Oct. Adoptions!:** *Whiskey, King, Mickey, Missy, Princeton, Goldie, Butterscotch, Noah, Buster, Jenny, Walter, Jiggy, Atticus, Clancy, Puffy, Goliath, Preston, Max, Rose, Diamond, Pollack, Frankie, Dexter, Aida, Coco, Sara, Romeo, Ross, Rum Raisin, Ethan, Hope, Rose, King.*

### Upcoming October Calendar:

**Buddy Training classes:** Wednesday nights at 6:30pm

### Dog Volunteer Orientations:

None until November.

Call *Dolores* at x4635 for details.

### On-site Adoption Events:

**10/12, Rabies/Microchip Clinic** with free adoptions, 9am-5pm

**10/19, Bully Breed Brigade** with free adoptions, 11am-4pm

### Off-site Adoption Events:

**10/5** at PetCo in Oceanside

**10/27** at Merrick Jewish Center

Call *Wendy* at x4628 for details.

Want to take on a special project dog for training or for the Buddy Project? Let *Laura* know at x4632!

## Featured Pup – DODGER



Dodger is a young, ebullient charmer who loves everyone! He's also fond of cats, he displays the charm and social skills of a cruise director among fellow dogs, is housetrained, and, while he is great in his crate, he is even happier when he can lie by a person's side, occasionally getting pets. Sadly, he has been in a shelter for a year of his incredibly short life.

Might you be his forever buddy?!