



# Golden Views

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OTTAWA VALLEY GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB

## LIVING WITH GOLDENS!!

In the last year, you have had the privilege of being treated to our wonderfully formatted and entertaining newsletters covering a wide variety of performance issues, such as obedience, agility, and field training. The knowledgeable contributors are experienced, and in some cases, professional “dog people” who either make a living or spend an extraordinary amount of time immersing themselves in the hectic world of canine performance.

Most golden trainers/experts were not born as professionals of any kind. On the contrary, most of us were simply pet owners who took a couple of obedience lessons, and were suddenly swallowed up by the golden world! We discovered we loved training our dogs and entering performance events. When we passed a test, we acquired titles, ribbons and other “neat stuff”!

Recognizing that most Golden owners do not have the inclination or time to pursue loftier goals, we have geared this issue to those who are just happy to have their big, hairy couch potato grace the floors and sofas of their homes. You, the pet owners, are the “unsung heroes” of the dog world, as the majority of litters go the pet homes. Where would we be without you? Hopefully, you will find some of the submissions in this newsletter helpful, and even thought-provoking.

For instance; when is the last time you taught your dog a trick? When is the last time you baked for your dog? (Yes, some of us do!) When is the last time you cut his nails? (Oh, yuck!) You will find the articles pertaining to the above interesting.

Don’t forget – skunk & flea season will soon be here. Look for the “natural” and home-made cures in this issue.



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## Golden Retriever Club of Canada News

Darwin Boles

OVGRC President

I am very pleased to announce that I have taken on the role as interim President of the Golden Retriever Club of Canada until at least until the next Annual General Meeting to be held in conjunction with the Golden National Specialty being held in Stratford Ontario in July. The GRCC has nine affiliate clubs within its area of responsibility, including our own OVGRC.

Laureen Kinney, an OVGRC member, has been the President of the Golden Retriever Club of Canada for the past several years. Due to work pressures involved in her position in Transport Canada managing aviation security across Canada, Laureen has decided to take on the role as Past President.

So OVGRC now has the Interim President and Past President of the GRCC as club members.



### Your Contributing Editor for this Newsletter

Pat Enright



I have trained and exhibited Golden Retrievers under the “Manistee” prefix since 1976. Since then, I have put show championships, obedience and field titles on 8 Golden Retrievers. (And one Weimaraner). My husband, Kevin, and I live on a 90 acre farm in Pakenham, where we raise 50 head of beef cattle.

I grew up in the Detroit suburbs literally surrounded by dogs of all types. My extended family had Weimaraners, Brussels Griffon, Norwegian Elkhounds and Greyhounds. I had a beagle, two cocker spaniels, an Irish Setter and a Doberman Pinscher growing up.

We hunted over the spaniels and setter.

I have been an all-breed professional dog groomer since 1972, but lately have confined my grooming to exclusively Golden Retrievers on a part time basis.

I am a founding member of the OVGRC (1979), and have spent a majority of the last 31 years on the board of directors. I have been a member of the Canadian Kennel Club for 28 years, and served 3 years on the Appeal Committee. I was also appointed to the Eastern Ontario Committee on Puppy Mills and Mass Importation.

In 1994, I helped found the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog program in Ottawa, along with a few other club members. I organized the first temperament test and volunteer dog and handler teams that visited the various hospitals and nursing homes. My “Rocky”, “Ch. Shaynedoro’s Rifleman JH, WCI, CDX “, was the first certified St. John’s therapy dog to visit a residence.

When I am not working as Payroll/Administrator for First Student Canada (formerly Laidlaw), I am training Bo for field and obedience, which is my favorite pastime!



## Introducing Lola and Stix—Members of the Young-Bouvette Family Lindsay Bouvette (age 11) and Catherine Young (age unknown)



In October 2008, a Golden Retriever named Lola (Turngold's Ginuwine Gold) age 6, was adopted into a wonderful place--our home. Lola had been mother of 29 puppies from 3 litters, and she was looking for a retirement home. We were in need of a dog, so it was a perfect match. Lola is now eight years old, turning nine on September 14, 2010.

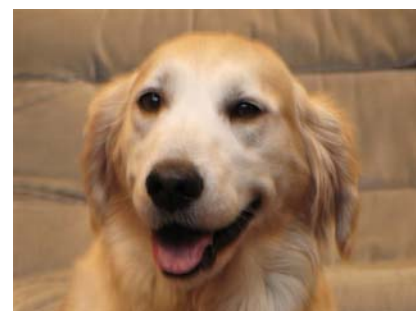
Lola has one amazing big fluffy tail that she is very proud of.

She also likes to carry her dish around the house – her favorite time to do this is when we have company at the door. When someone is at the door, Lola will quietly go and pick up her food dish and pace around with it, weaving around people's legs with her head low and tail wagging slowly to show the world that she is a poor forlorn dog whose dish is always empty. It is her word against ours --not surprising, she is more often believed.

Lola is a very happy dog -- she loves to smile and quietly "talk". She also loves to be patted and scratched which suits her perfectly for her role as a member of the "Brightening Lives Animal Visits Program" run by the Ottawa Humane Society. *Brightening Lives* is an animal visiting program whereby volunteers (usually with their own animals)

visit long-term care facilities to provide animal visits to residents. In return, the animals receive pats and sometimes goodies. It is a pretty sweet deal for all involved. More info about the Brightening Lives program can be found under this link. <http://www.ottawahumane.ca/volunteer/blav.cfm>. New volunteers are welcome.

In April 2009 a Golden Retriever puppy named Stix (Ambertru's Styx and Stones) was adopted into our family. Stix was nine months old when we got her. Her birthday is July 4<sup>th</sup>. She loves to chew nylabones, to chase Frisbees and balls, and to go for runs alongside owner Catherine Young on the bicycle. Stix also likes play-wrestling with other dogs. Lola doesn't like to wrestle much anymore so Stix has a dog friend who comes over to play everyday. Stix has a lot of energy, especially in the morning, which is useful since she has the important job of jumping on beds to wake everyone up. Stix learned to swim last summer. She loves the cottage. Stix is one cute puppy!--she wrinkles her nose, makes her eyes squinty, and madly wags her tail when she is happy to see people. We love her very much.



## OVGRC Obedience Trial Weekend Feb 13-14<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Darwin Boles

Obedience Trial Chair

Most likely, all of us started out in a similar way with our dogs. First and foremost, our dogs are our pets. We probably took our dogs to obedience classes to learn how to get them to sit and come and stay. And one day when we were leaving our basic obedience class we watched with amazement as the people going into the next class were doing pretty cool stuff with their dogs e.g. having their dogs walk beside them, perhaps even without a leash. You might have even heard through the grapevine that there were something called "Trials" where people could compete in obedience.

Well, OVGRC recently held its annual winter trial weekend and people brought their "A" game in a big way. Maybe it was the Olympic spirit but whatever the reason, competitors and spectators got to witness a wonderful weekend of skills and good sportspersonship.

I cannot say enough about the volunteers who gave up their time and energy to make sure that the event was a success. Without the volunteers, we literally could not run any of our events.

The caliber of the performances in all divisions the whole weekend was wonderful. A perfect score in Obedience is 200 and to achieve a perfect score is understandably very rare. We were treated to seeing 3 perfect scores being awarded to competitors over the weekend, two of which went to OVGRC members i.e. Pam Martin and Lisa Day, both in the Utility class. This very unusual turn of events was very exciting to see unfold. Pam and Lisa both earned perfect scores so the judge called them back in for the run off. Neither Pam nor Lisa knew their scores when the run-offs were being held.

The judge announced "and as the result of the run-off for first place with a perfect score of 200, Pam Martin". The spectators also knew now that Lisa Day had also had a 200 as her score was tied with Pam's perfect score. Well done Pam and Lisa.

What a great and exciting demonstration of precision work, in Utility no less. Lisa has likely earned the rare distinction of having earned a 200 and getting a 2nd place rosette.

Deb Brunner-Walker earned her MOTCH with some wonderful scores.. Liz Doran earned her CDX . The caliber of the competitors was so high that Ellie Beals and Fracas had the run of her life with a 199 in Open B and didn't make it into the placements for that class.

I can hardly wait to see what the spring and summer obedience circuit will look like as our members take their "A" games into the rings. I understand that Syracuse might be the scene of a Canadian invasion at the end of March.

**Don't miss the OVGRC'S AGM!!**

Thursday, April 22nd, 2010

7:00

Cheshire Cat Pub

located at the corner of Carp Road and Richardson Side Road



## New Companion Dog Excellent!

Casey (Brackenridge's I'm Casey, CGN, CD, RE) can now add CDX to his list of titles! He earned his new title in Open A at the OVGRC trials in February. He qualified in all four trials with very nice scores and four first place finishes! Casey also earned his first two RAE legs in Rally at the Bytown trials in January. He ended his day with a perfect score in Excellent B.



## New Working Certificate!

Catherine Young is pleased to announce that her girl Ambertru's Styx N Stones WC obtained her Working Certificate at the OVGRC trials in September 2009. Styx was adopted at 9 months old in April 2009, and quickly made herself part of the family.

## New Addition!!

Pat Enright (Manistee) is proud to announce the arrival of "Maggie". Ch. Manistee Bodacious Maximus CDX, WCI, JH x Brackenridge Spring to Action "Maggie" is learning to retrieve cats. We are learning to go without sleep.



## Do all Golden Retrievers Do This?

Darwin Boles

*For further discussion on chewing, please see the article a little further on.*

I was recently visiting my Dad in the hospital and a staff member asked me a question related to her daughter's golden. I will summarize the scenario she presented to me, which ended in the following question and statement "Is this behavior a trait in golden retrievers? Breeders should be telling prospective dog owners about this trait".

The scenario presented to me was that on several occasions, the family would return from work to find that the family pet, a golden retriever, had eaten chunks of the mat in the kitchen. In a tragic turn of events last year, the family found the golden retriever in such discomfort one evening that the owners took the pet to the Vet. \$4000 and two operations later, the golden retriever was not able to recover from the mat-eating orgy and was put to sleep.

The family loved the golden retriever as a pet so recently they brought a golden retriever puppy into the house. Guess what the new golden retriever is doing? Yep, that darn golden retriever is chewing the mats on the floor. So, you can see why the owner might be asking if mat chewing is a golden retriever trait.

I didn't enter into a discussion as to whether what her daughter had been experiencing was in fact a golden retriever trait. I deflected that question by asking one of my own i.e. "is there anyone home, with the golden retriever during the day?" The response that I got was not a surprise i.e. "no, both my daughter and her husband work so they are out of the house for at least 9 hours each day".

I followed up with the BIG question, to which I was pretty sure that I already knew the answer i.e., "While the golden retriever is left alone in the house, is the dog allowed full access to the house?" Anyone wish to take a guess as to what the response to this question was?

In a textbook response from an owner not truly understanding the needs and welfare of the dog, I heard the following reaction "of course she is, we do not think that it is fair to the animal to be crated up in one of those horrible crates all day!"

I recommended that they at least try to consider the use of a crate or a safe room or X-pen to ensure the dog's safety if there is no one there to watch over the dog's actions. I must admit that I had to bite my tongue from saying what was really on my mind i.e. that fear of not being fair to the dog had resulted in the premature and totally preventable death of their family pet and the odds were high that their current pet might suffer the same fate.

I don't think that I fully responded to the question of "but why are the golden retrievers chewing those mats?" All I could tell the person was "because they are there!" The real issue is that the golden retrievers are chewing and not what they are chewing. I used the words "boredom" and "frustration" to perhaps explain the chewing behaviour. I also reinforced that it is not only bored and frustrated golden retrievers that chew, it is a dog issue.

I did tell that person that crate and/or kennel training of your golden retrievers is one of the best gifts you can give to your pet. They have to earn their freedom to be loose in the house and it has nothing to do with being fair to the dog.

## Why Dogs Bark

Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine  
Animal Health Newsletter

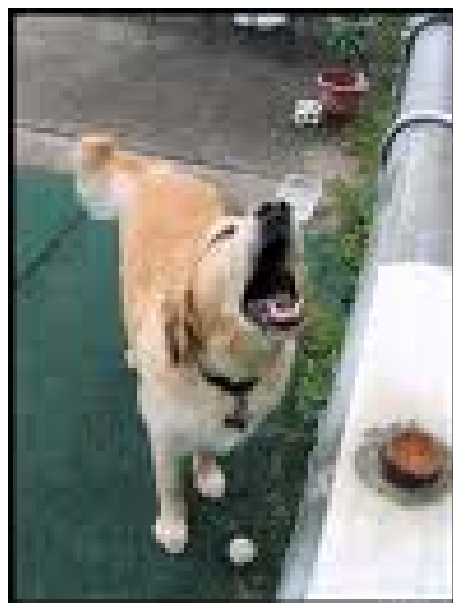
There may be as many theories as to why dogs bark as there are barking dogs. Perhaps the latest entry is that dogs bark because, in evolutionary terms, they are stuck at an adolescent stage of development. Therefore, like other adolescents with whom you might be acquainted, they are loud, obstreperous, repetitious and a general noisy nuisance.

There can be no doubt about the noise. The theory's authors, biologist Raymond Coppinger and linguist Mark Feinstein, both of Hampshire College in Amherst, MA cite a report that clocked a Cocker Spaniel's 907 barks in a ten-minute period. Shades of heavy metal! The reasons dogs bark are to sound an alarm, to warn intruders off a marked territory, to express anxiety, to greet owners, and so on. Dogs also bark more than their evolutionary ancestor, the wolf, which seldom barks after it is no longer a pup.

So what's wrong with the dog as we know and hear it? In their report, which appeared in Smithsonian magazine, these researchers say that the dog as we hear it today is the result of an evolutionary process that has gone somewhat awry. In more scientific terms, the dog's heterochronic evolutionary mechanism has been slowed down. A heterochronic mechanism can either speed up or slow down the rate at which an animal grows from newborn to adult. If slowed down, the animal will not attain its normal adult form, leaving it, as it were, a perpetual adolescent. That means it will lack some of the full physical and psychologic maturity of a normal adult. The result can be behavior that appears non-functional -- like 907 barks in 10 minutes.

According to Coppinger and Feinstein, dogs are heterochronically slowed down and frozen in adolescent life, perpetually mixing bits and pieces of infantile behavior with more mature behavior. So, to paraphrase this report, dogs bark so much because that is what juvenile canids normally do.

There you are -- they won't clean up their room and they won't turn down the noise. And now they have evolutionary theory on their side!



## Help! He won't stop chewing!!

To set the record straight, normal, healthy dogs of all ages chew; dogs chew a lot!

- Dogs explore the world using their mouths.
- Chewing eases tooth pain during teething and at other times in a dog's life.
- Dogs find chewing fun and stimulating.
- Bored dogs may occupy themselves with chewing and thus develop a serious chewing habit.
- Retrievers have been bred to put things in their mouths.

As an owner, it is your job to develop good chewing habits in your dog.

“Good” chewing habits means your dog knows what to chew and will make an effort to go and get an appropriate chew toy, rather than grabbing the closest piece of furniture. This education effort should start when they are very young (6-8 weeks) and continue through teething (3-7 months) and into adulthood. Habits take a while to develop so your diligence and consistency is essential during the learning process.



### *Safe Chew Toys*

Think of your dog as a chewing machine. How are you going to feed the machine? With lots and lots of safe, good quality chew toys. All chew toys should be monitored and regularly checked for loose pieces that could be choked on or changed shapes that might cause them to cut or otherwise injure your dog. The safe chew toys listed below are those that either do not break into small pieces easily or are made to break into pieces that are easily swallowed and passed. They are also rugged enough to withstand a dog's jaws for quite some time without becoming hazardous. And, finally, they are ones that dogs find interesting enough to keep chewing. Here are some safe chew toys that can be given to most dogs in unlimited amounts, after a gradual introduction:

- Kongs
- Nylabones
- Raw bones (rib for small dogs or marrow/knuckle bones for large dogs)
- unflavored unsmoked North American rawhide

Safe chew toys best offered in moderation include the following items. For many dogs, these are treats rather than chew toys but they can be effective in attracting a dog that is determined to chew on your couch.

- pigs ears
- lambs ears, and
- bully sticks.



Unsafe chew toys that should not be offered are:

- foreign rawhide,
- hooves, and
- pressed rawhide.



### ***Rules for Developing Good Chewing Habits***

1. Exercise your dog! Bored dogs tend to become compulsive chewers because they have nothing else to do to occupy themselves.
2. Manage your dog's environment. Until well beyond the teething months (3-7 months), your dog should be confined with a number of interesting chew toys if you can't directly watch him. If your older dog has already developed bad chewing habits, confine him until you can teach him better ones.
3. Have chew toys in every room that your dog spends time in. Your dog needs lots and lots of good things to chew.
4. Teach your dog "Find your toy" so that he will go looking for a chew toy when he feels the urge to chew. Do this initially by playing with your dog with the toys. Start with "fetch" with the toys, saying "find your toy" when you toss it a few feet. If your dog doesn't fetch, then tie a string on the toy and drag it enticingly across the floor. Then, rather than tossing the toy, help him look for one that is nearby and make a big deal out of him when he finds it. Gradually make this into a game of hide and seek where your dog will search out hidden chew toys.
5. Make safe chew toys attractive. Dogs need new toys regularly and needs the toys made attractive though interesting smells or tastes.
6. Positive reinforcement for good chewing. Look for times when your dog grabs a safe chew toy and lies down for a gnaw. Lavish quiet praise on him when he does this. Kongs should be stuffed with interesting goodies (treats, vegetables, cheese, peanut butter or frozen with broth in the summer). You can use Kongs to feed your dog his breakfast if you are going out. Nylabones and rawhide can be dipped in broth to make them more enticing.
7. Teach your dog to "leave it." Once he knows this, take him around the house telling him "leave it" on some of the most obvious things he might want to chew: table legs, chair rungs, corners, etc. Then, encourage him to take a chew toy and praise, praise, praise.
8. Use bitter-tasting sprays on areas where your dog shouldn't chew. Bitter Apple and Bitter Orange are two that are widely available.

### ***Correcting Inappropriate Chewing***

1. If you see your dog chewing on something he shouldn't, startle him by calling his name sharply and telling him "LEAVE IT!"
2. Follow that immediately with "Find your toy! Find your toy!"
3. Help your dog find a chew toy and praise him enthusiastically when he does.

If you do not catch your dog in the act, do not punish him in any way for inappropriate chewing. He will not understand your actions and will think you are insane. Instead, resolve to be more diligent in confining your dog and ensuring he has attractive, safe toys to chew.

## The Trade - How to Get Something Away from Your Golden

One hundred years of careful and selective breeding for the desire to retrieve has produced the modern Golden Retriever who wants nothing more than to bring you his toy or the treasure he found in the hamper or on the closet floor. Golden Retrievers were properly named because they instinctively have the need to retrieve and hold items in their mouths. However, there are times when your dog's choice of item to carry may not be appropriate.

If your dog has an inappropriate item, do not chastise him or make him feel defensive by severe reprimands or punishments. Do not chase him, scream at him, or roughly grab the item. This approach will make your dog frightened, defensive or confused. You could unintentionally force your dog into protecting himself and the cherished item. Remember that nice, stable dogs will growl, snap and bite if frightened.

If your dog gets an inappropriate item - use your head and keep your cool. Rarely is it an emergency to get the item away from the dog, so take a moment and use your common sense. Consider how you would want to be treated if you had made a mistake or had something that was off limits. Would you prefer a screaming, yelling, angry person grabbing you or ripping the item out of your hands, or would you prefer someone to calmly ask for the item and give you something in return? If you are like most of us, you would prefer the calm exchange program instead of the forceful techniques.

Most dogs pick up the wrong items because they do not understand which items are off limits, or the item is readily available when the dog gets the urge to retrieve. Many dogs retrieve items when they greet you or to show off how wonderful they are with this great prize in their mouths. Some items, like socks, underwear and children's toys, are highly attractive to dogs. A dog that picks up items to seek attention can be unintentionally taught by the owner that grabbing the wrong things results in the most attention. He may learn that you or the children make a fuss and chase him around the house, turning the situation into a game. In this case, you could be encouraging the wrong behaviour by mistake.

The "Trade" is exchanging another valued object for the one your dog gives up. It is a barter that avoids unpleasant confrontations with your dog and makes both parties happy. You get the inappropriate item away from your dog and he gets an item of equal or greater value. The most common valued (trade) object to use is food. Dog biscuits, a piece of cheese, a carrot or whatever kind of food your dog likes equally or more than the object he already has. (A few dogs will trade for an appropriate toy or bone of their own or for a quick game of fetch.) If you are going to "trade" with your dog, NEVER offer the trade object and then withdraw it at the last moment. Offering the item and then not following through creates distrust and your dog will quickly learn that you are not offering a fair trade.

The two step "Trade" is easy. First: When your dog has an inappropriate item, get the trade item (dog biscuit) and show it to your dog while simultaneously saying "Trade" in a calm and friendly voice. Once your dog realizes that you have something better, he will most likely drop the item he has and take the new one. Quiet praise for making the trade will help reinforce your dog's desired behaviour. Do not force the trade item on your dog or corner your dog when trading. Remember that you are giving your dog the CHOICE, not forcing him. If your dog is under the furniture, allow enough room for him to get out in order to get the trade item. Be patient. Second: Once the trade is complete, give your dog an appropriate toy to carry around and praise him lavishly for holding an acceptable item. This second step teaches your dog which items are acceptable. If you do not have an acceptable alternative object, go out and get one! If your dog tends to pick up soft or cloth items, try giving him his own stuffed dog toy, or an old towel of his own.

All family members, including older children, should learn and practice the "Trade." This can be done by asking your dog to trade away his toy or ball (an appropriate item) and then giving it back to him after he eats his treat. When practicing, only do two or three repetitions at a time so your dog does not get tired or frustrated with the exercise. Small children should never try to grab items away from dogs. Instruct small children to find an adult if they need to get something away from the dog. Always provide supervision with dogs and small children to avoid putting your child at risk.

If your dog is protective of items (growls or snaps) or refuses to trade, call a qualified dog trainer to get immediate advice. In most cases, you can work through the undesirable behaviour with some guidance. While waiting for help, avoid the situation and do not challenge your dog.

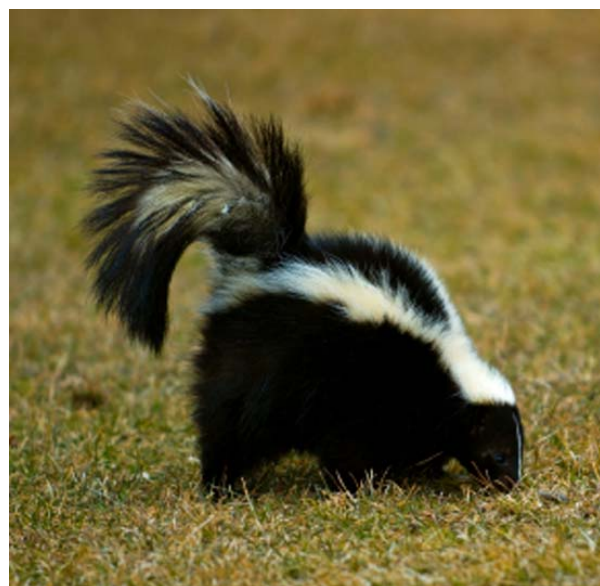


## Out, out darn skunk!!

*Got skunked? Here's the recipe for a great de-skunking "shampoo".*

Mix 1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide, ¼ cup baking soda and 1 teaspoon of liquid soap (dishwashing). Without wetting your dog, spread the mixture over the skunked areas and let sit for a few minutes before rinsing and then bathing. It works by chemically changing the skunk essence into sulphuric acid, a completely odourless chemical. Don't spray the eyes, nose or mouth. And don't leave mixture in bottle, it could explode.

This really works!



## Dog First Aid Kit

Here are a few suggestions for helpful items to keep in your first aid kit for your pets and some suggestions for treating minor health problems.

### **Equipment**

- Anal thermometer (digital is easiest)—normal temperature is 100°- 102.6°F
- Scissors, preferable blunt nosed
- Nail trimmers and/or nail file
- Assorted bandage material
  - Gauze pads (3" and larger)
  - Gauze rolls
  - Bandage tape
  - Vet wrap
- Syringe (for giving liquid medication)
- Tweezers
- Q-tips
- Cotton balls (must be cotton not synthetic)



### **Over-the-counter Items and Medications to have on hand.**

Consult your veterinarian for dosage and frequency before using.

- Antibiotic ointment, such as Polysporin
- Vaseline to lubricate thermometer and to apply to feet in the snow or when pads crack
- Quick Stop to stop bleeding nails
- Hydrogen peroxide to clean cuts and to induce vomiting
- Alcohol to clean thermometer
- Ascriptin (coated aspirin) for minor aches and pains give by dog's weight, twice daily:
  - < 10 pounds – ½ baby aspirin tablet
  - 10-25 pounds – 1 baby aspirin tablet
  - 25-50 pounds – ½ adult regular-strength Ascriptin tablet
  - > 50 pounds – 1 adult regular-strength Ascriptin tablet
 Discontinue if vomiting or diarrhea occurs.
- Pepto-Bismol tablets for upset stomachs. Give by dog's weight, twice daily:
  - < 10 pounds – ½ tablet
  - 10-25 pounds – 1 tablet
  - 25-50 pounds – 2 tablets
  - > 50 pounds – 3 tablets
- Immodium AD tablets for diarrhea. Give by dog's weight, after each bout of diarrhea to a maximum of two times. Do not exceed dosage!
  - < 50 pounds – ½ tablet
  - > 50 pounds – 1 tablet
- Benedryl for allergic reactions (facial swelling, puffiness) to bee stings, spider bites, etc. Give by dog's weight, twice daily:
  - < 10 pounds – ½ tablet
  - 10-25 pounds – 1 tablet
  - 25-50 pounds – 2 tablets
  - > 50 pounds – 3 tablets

### **Common Minor Health Problems**

#### **Car Sickness**

Dramamine. Turn your dog's crate sideways in the car. Or try ginger cookies



*Diarrhea (Mild)*

Fast your dog for 24 hours from his last meal to empty and rest his gut. Re-introduce food using very mild items such as boiled rice and chicken or boiled rice and hamburger. Ensure you drain all fat off the meat. Feed small meals initially. Begin mixing your dog's normal food back in after a few diarrhea-free days.

*Getting Pills Down*

If it is okay for your pet to eat, put the pill in a little cream cheese, butter or peanut butter. If your dog should not have food while taking the pills, put the pill as far back on his tongue as you can, then close his mouth and blow in his nose. Blowing in his nose causes him to gulp, thus helping the pill go down.

*Inducing vomiting*

Use 1-3 teaspoons of hydrogen peroxide every 10 minutes. Repeat up to 3 times.

*Protecting bandages*

Dogs will often bother bandages or stitches, causing further problems. Put a small sock over a foot problem. Use a t-shirt to cover problems on the dog's torso. Elizabethan collars will help but are often very stressful for your dog.

*Sharp objects*

If your dog eats sharp objects like glass, contact your veterinarian immediately. If unable to get through to a vet, do not induce vomiting. Keep cotton balls on hand and a quart of half-and-half coffee cream in the freezer. Should your dog eat glass, defrost the half-and-half and pour some in a bowl. Dip cotton balls into the cream and feed them to your dog. Dogs under 10 lbs should eat 2 balls torn into small pieces. Dogs from 10-50 lbs should eat 3-5 balls and larger dogs should eat 5-7. You may feed larger dogs an entire cotton ball at once. Dogs seem to like these strange treats and eat them readily. As the cotton works its way through the digestive tract it will find all the glass pieces and wrap itself around them. Even the teeniest shards of glass will be caught and wrapped in the cotton fibers and the cotton will protect the intestines from damage by the glass. Your dogs' stools will be really weird for a few days and you will have to be careful to check for fresh blood or a black, tarry appearance to the stool. If either of the latter symptoms appear you should rush your dog to the vet for a check-up but, in most cases, the dogs will be just fine.

*Temperature.*

Get your dog accustomed to having his temperature taken throughout his life. Use a traditional or a digital rectal thermometer, lubricated well with KY jelly or vaseline. Either have the dog stand or lay him on his side with someone at his head, rubbing his ears or belly and talking to him. Insert the thermometer gently and keep a good grip on it. Your dog's temperature should normally be 100 – 102.6 degrees Fahrenheit.

*Urinary Tract Infection (Mild)*

Add cranberry tablets to your dog's meals for a week or so. Female puppies have a tendency to get UTIs so have cranberry on hand.

Always consult your veterinarian for your dog's health problems.



## How to Feed a Golden Retriever

(Or, what I've accidentally learned about preventing hot spots, lick sores, "allergies", dry coats, intermittent multi-colored loose stools, fleas and much more) by Golden owner (but not a vet) Kathy Partridge

Goldens are getting a bad rap. They've become famous for their "hereditary skin allergies" and some vets are now referring to them as "tumor factories" as well. They are riddled with genetic defects - so the experts tell us.

I disagree. While there is no doubt that hereditary problems do exist in the breed, it is my contention that many, (many!) of the chronic problems besetting our dogs have their true roots in the commercial diets we feed. Do I have scientific proof of this? Nope. But I am currently owned by 14 Goldens, and I have seen with my own eyes the amazing transformation that took place once I began feeding them like the carnivores they are. That's all the proof I need.

The biggest genetic problem Goldens have is that they are dogs. Goldens are not bovine or equine, they are *Canis lupus familiaris* - first cousins (maybe closer) to wolves, or *Canis lupus*. The sooner we start acknowledging this, the sooner our breed will begin to regain its health.

### **WHAT SHOULD YOU FEED?**

Many people want the definitive (and easy) answer to the question: "What's the best food to feed my Golden?"

Sorry to disappoint you, but there is no "best food". Do not be fooled by claims of nutrient precision. Every dog is an individual. I also believe that different breeds have different needs - but here, we'll just consider the needs of Goldens.

While I can name a few good brands (and there are very few), what I'd really like to do is encourage people to think for themselves and take responsibility for their own dogs' health. Don't do it because I said so. Pick lots of folks' brains. Read everything you can get your hands on. Do not close your mind to any information - you do not necessarily have to act on it, but keep it in mind. Pay attention to the science, but realize that science is not perfect, science does not have all the answers, and very often, science and profits go hand in hand. Science has something to offer, but so do laypeople. Experienced dog people can be excellent sources of real-life practical information and they have nothing to gain (no money, no fame, no glory) when they share it with you. Among dog folks a Great Dane breeder and a Samoyed breeder were gold-mines of information for me. You don't have to listen to just Golden people.

Think for yourself! Make up your own mind - what are you comfortable with? What can you handle? What makes sense? If you do not empower yourself in this way, you are at the mercy of the dog food companies and their pitchmen. They will tell you what they want you to know, no more. They will regularly try to entice you



to buy their latest fad formula - no, it's not necessarily what your dog needs, but they're hoping to increase their market share with it.

Every dog has to be fed as an individual. One size does not fit all. Laypeople can and do figure this stuff out - it is not brain surgery or rocket science. The dog food companies have brainwashed us all (including our vets) into thinking that the subject of canine nutrition is just too complicated for our feeble little brains.

### **KISSING COUSINS**

Why has it gotten so complicated? Because we've moved so far from the fundamentals. If you're so stupid, how have you managed to feed yourself and your family? And how the heck do wild canines do it? What food chemists and PhD nutritionist balances their diets? Wolves kill and eat whatever's available. It's never cooked and processed. Their diets include a variety of foods but by far, the majority of what they eat are animal tissues. They do not graze fields of soy, eat corn by the bushel and wait anxiously for the wheat harvest to come in. Their prey may eat some of this stuff (only seasonally), but by the time the wolves get to it (in the intestines), it's been thoroughly chewed and partially digested. Wolves and wild dogs eat the entire carcass of all but the largest prey animals (like moose). They eat the organs, the intestinal contents, and the muscle meat. Later they finish off the entire skeletal remains as well as the hide, and hooves. They occasionally eat some grasses and vegetation on their own (often covered with blood from the recent kill), but they are carnivores. Consider the following: "Robert Wayne, now of UCLA, studied the molecular evolution of the dog family. He found the earliest fossil remains of the domestic dog to be 10-15 thousand years old. [And let me point out here that we've only been feeding commercial kibble for the last 50 years or so] Mitochondrial DNA studies of 7 breeds of domestic dogs vs 23 wolf populations showed a difference of only .2% (that's 2/10 of 1%). So, measured against natural selection, we don't seem to have done an awful lot of irredeemable damage..." If this is true, then our domestic dogs and wolves still are very close kissing cousins, and very likely still have similar nutritional needs. Perhaps we can take a few dietary lessons from the wolves, yes?

### **KIBBLE GUIDELINES**

With literally hundreds of products on the market, how do you choose the few that might suit your Golden? These are my personal guidelines for a top of the line, high protein (25 - 30%) food. Of course, in each line there will also be lower protein foods with a higher % of cereal/grains, which is okay (within reason) as these do serve an important function for some dogs. Not all dogs need (or should be) to be on a 30% protein food. However, I have found that if the base kibble I feed fits these criteria, my Golden will likely do well on it. I apply the following to all foods in a manufacturer's line:



1. First ingredient on the list is a meat or poultry meal (not fresh which generally gets to be first on the list because of its 70% water weight).
2. At least two meat or poultry meals in the first four ingredients. For a 20 - 24% protein food, this will be 2 within the first 5 or 6 ingredients.
3. At least three different animal proteins in the food, not counting the eggs (for example lamb, chicken and fish).

4. No by-products (exception: Bil-Jac as they only use "good" by-products that they render themselves, like livers and kidneys, no hooves, horns, heads, etc.)

5. No soy

6. Minimal duplication of cereals, ie. brewer's rice, rice gluten, rice flour. Many, many premium foods use this little deception. When you see it, it's a sure sign that it's a cereal based food with a little animal protein added. Add up all those rice variations (or corn, or wheat, etc.) and you have a rice-based food.



7. No peanut hulls or cellulose.

8. Food must include probiotics

9. Preferably preserved with C and E, although this is very difficult with the high protein/fat foods. The issue of preservatives is the most likely area you'll have to compromise in, in order to get the other good qualities of a food. It always amazes me how many people pass up an excellent but synthetically preserved food in favor of grain-based junk simply because it uses C and E. They then spend a fortune at the vet's trying to figure out their dogs' "allergies" with little success. (By the way, allergies are not due to a lack of prednisone in the body.)

10. No added ethoxyquin

11. Vitamins and minerals that are sequestered or chelated for better absorption.

12. A list of actual food ingredients that is as long as possible. This is a sign that the company is formulating their products so that the bulk of nutrients come from real food, not just synthetic and crude vitamins and minerals.

13. No sugar in any form (sucrose, fructose, etc.)



Of course feeding any commercial food is an exercise in compromise. I don't think there are any that meet all 13 of my requirements, so I do the best I can. By the way, the more animal proteins there are in the food, the more likely I am to "forgive" a fresh ingredient being first on the list. Example: Bil-Jac dry has 5 animal proteins in the first 7 ingredients, and 4 of them are fresh. Since B-J dry only has one grain - corn - it's a pretty safe bet that this is still a meat-based food. However it also uses 2 preservatives - sodium propionate and BHA - and no probiotics. See? Compromise, compromise!



## My Golden Is Ill and the Vet Is Closed—What To Do!

Dr. Dawn Burke

Courtesy of Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue

It happens to all of us sooner or later. It's after hours, your veterinary hospital is closed, and your golden has a problem. What do you do? The best thing is to plan ahead and talk to your veterinarian about their after hours emergency procedures. Do they handle after hours emergency work and if so, are they a 24-hour care facility (someone is there 24 hours a day)? This is important because many medical and surgical problems require 24-hour care. If they are not a 24-hour care facility, or they do not see after hours emergencies, where do they refer these cases? You should be familiar with the 24-hour care facility in your area: How long does it take to get there? Is their phone number readily available? Have all your phone numbers, including your cell phone, to give to the hospital if your golden has to stay. It can also be helpful to have an alternate contact in case they can't reach you.

Another thing you should have is a folder containing your golden's pertinent health information, including the name and number of your veterinarian, vaccination history, and a current rabies certificate. If your golden is on medication be sure you have the name, strength, and dosage instructions in the file. If your golden has a chronic disease (like seizures, Cushing's disease, Addison's disease, etc.) which requires periodic monitoring, ask your veterinarian for a copy of the lab work to keep in the file. Know the normal values for a dog's temperature, pulse, and respiratory rate. You can take your dog's temperature rectally with a digital thermometer. You just need a little Vaseline. The normal rectal temperature for a dog is 100 to 102.8 degrees. Normal pulse rate is between 70-180 beats per minute. In general, the smaller the dog the faster the pulse. Frightened or nervous dogs may also have higher pulse rates. The respiratory rate in a dog is 20-40 breaths per minute. Many dogs in pain will pant.

The next question you need to ask yourself is, "Is this truly an emergency, or can it wait until our vet's office is open?" Conditions that require immediate attention include traumatic injuries, severe bleeding, bloat, difficulty breathing, collapse, and severe depression. In the case of a vomiting dog, ask yourself: "How long has it been going on? Is he still bright and alert and acting otherwise normal? Could he have gotten into something?" In general if he is acting normal, many times withholding food and water for several hours to rest the stomach, then gradually reintroducing food and water can do the trick. For diarrhea, a bland diet of chicken and rice for 24-48 hours may resolve the problem. If the diarrhea does not improve in 48 to 72 hours or the dog is depressed, has severe watery or bloody diarrhea, or seems dehydrated (gums feel sticky and dry, not moist) veterinary advice should be sought.

Goldens are a breed that have a tendency to eat what they shouldn't. If your golden has eaten a foreign object like a sock, panty hose, a child's toy, or anything of that nature, call your veterinarian for advice! It could save your pet from pain and suffering down the road. When in doubt, it is better to be safe than sorry and have your best friend examined by a veterinarian. However, planning ahead will make a stressful situation a little easier to handle.



## Easing Your Dog Into Old Age

Eve Adamson, courtesy of Dog Fancy Magazine

There has never been a better time to be a "mature" pet. The advances in veterinary medicine since your pet was a puppy or kitten are truly remarkable, and help veterinarians to identify and combat the common problems associated with aging. Our pets are living longer, healthier lives than ever before. Here is a checklist to assist in early recognition of problems and a suggested Senior Pet Care Package for an annual examination.

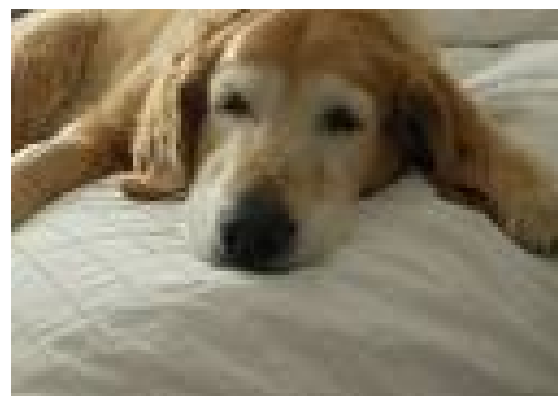
Old age is difficult for dog and owner, but you can make your aging dog's existence easier and happier. Dogs are creatures of habit, and the older a dog becomes, the more it depends on its schedule. If your dog is losing its sight or hearing, don't rearrange the furniture in your house. An older dog is intimately familiar with its house and doesn't necessarily need to see or hear to get around -- unless you pull a fast one and move the couch and the end table.

Don't change your dog's eating or sleeping habits, and try not to alter your dog's daily routine. Any household disruption will be stressful to your dog so try to minimize the effects by keeping it out of the way of chaos. Older dogs need to be groomed and periodically examined for abnormal lumps but also touched and cuddled to reassure them the dog-owner bond is still intact. Touch is an extremely important factor of life for older dogs, especially those who can't hear or see well.

Let your dog know you are still there. Thank your senior dog for a lifetime of love, loyalty and companionship. Your dog has devoted its life to loving you. The least you can do is everything possible to keep your aging dog healthy, fit and confident in your affection.

### *How Old is Old?*

The rule of thumb that one human year equals seven dog years is not exactly true. A toy poodle is full-sized, physically mature in less than one year. An English Mastiff can reach old age in six years. The onset of age related disorders in cats is very variable. To keep things simple, we suggest geriatric testing at eight years old for all pets except the true giant breeds - St. Bernards, Mastiffs, etc., who should be tested at age six.



### *Senior Pet Checklist - What to Watch For*

It is normal for pets to slow down with age, just as humans do. However, many problems, such as the onset of arthritis, are treatable and are not a "normal" stiffening of the joints. Also, dog owners can't be expected to catch every sign that their dogs may be suffering from a serious condition. Owners can, however, watch for a few general indicators of disease. Call your veterinarian if you notice any of the following behaviours in your pet:

**Coughing, panting, shortness of breath:** They could mean your dog is becoming overweight. However, they also could signal a heart condition. Fainting is another serious sign of heart disease.

**Weight loss or any change in weight:** Most weight gain is caused by overfeeding and leads to obesity, which can predispose your dog to diabetes. Weight loss for no apparent reason can indicate a number of serious problems.

**Increased water consumption:** Most of us don't know how much our dog drinks, but if you notice that you are filling the water bowl more than usual or that your dog seems constantly thirsty, your dog could have diabetes.

**Increased frequency of urination:** This can accompany increased water consumption and be another sign of diabetes, or it could signal urinary or even neurological problems. If your dog suddenly can't last through the night without going out or starts having accidents in the house, call your veterinarian.

Changes in appetite: Diabetic dogs have an increased appetite but also lose weight, because they can't burn sugar for energy. They burn fat instead. A declining appetite can signal liver or kidney disease.

Vomiting and diarrhea: These are obvious symptoms of illness. Periodically examine your dog's stool. Firm, brown stools are healthy; soft stools or those with blood or mucus can indicate many problems, including digestive disorders.

Sudden behavioural changes: Becoming more or less interactive with the family, acting disoriented or lethargic, displaying disturbed sleeping or waking cycles, aimless wandering, inappropriate vocalizing, withdrawing increasingly and losing house training may all signal cognitive disorder, a condition similar to Alzheimer's Disease. Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome is a documented condition in older dogs for which medication is available.

Decreased vision or hearing: Examine your dog's eyes for cloudiness. Does he bump into things or seem to have trouble recognizing people he knows? Does your dog fail to respond when you call, seem surprised when you come home or become startled when someone walks in the door? One good way to test whether your dog is actually experiencing hearing loss or is merely being "selectively deaf" is to turn on the electric can opener or jingle the cookie jar lid. If your dog can hear, he'll come running.

Sudden onset of bad breath: This can indicate dental problems.

Lack of mobility: If your dog has more trouble getting up in the morning, it could be suffering from arthritis or age-related changes in muscle tone.

Changes in skin and coat: Rougher skin, coarser hair and greying are signs of age or poor health.

Fatigue while exercising: Older dogs should receive moderate exercise, but watch for excessive panting and a drooping tail. These are signs your dog is tiring. Exercise helps maintain your dog's lean body mass -- but don't overdo it.

Additional signs to watch for include:

- Difficulty chewing or swallowing
- Non-healing sores
- Tremors/shaking
- Change in the size, color, firmness of lumps, bumps, warts, etc.

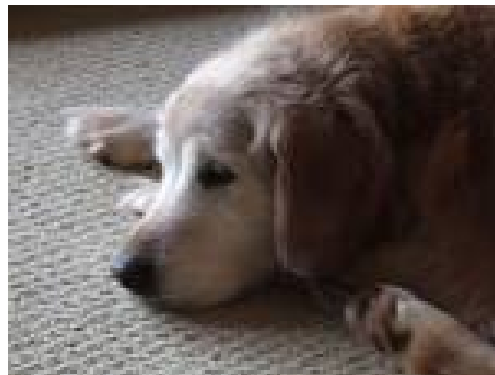
You know your pet best. Any sudden or significant change in your pet's usual eating, exercise or behaviour patterns can signal an underlying problem. In addition, a senior pet check up is recommended for all pets eight years and older. Major health problems can be detected with a physical exam. Pets age faster than humans and hide health problems. Don't neglect your pet's physical.



## Brown eyes of wisdom

Brian McGrory, Boston Globe

They should come with a warning label, these creatures. They should come with a label that says you're going to fall hopelessly in love, only to have your heart shattered before you could ever possibly prepare. And then you face one of life's truly wrenching decisions. Which is where I am now. Specifically, as I type these words I am on the back deck of a rented house in Maine surrounded by fields and forest, watching a sleeping Golden retriever named Harry drift another day closer to death.



He is gorgeous, this dog, with a gray face that shows the wisdom gained from his 10 years on Earth and brown eyes that are the most thoughtful I've ever seen. He is sprawled out on the wood, his blond fur damp from his morning swim and his breathing laboured from his disease. And I ponder the question that has dominated my thoughts for weeks: How will I know when the time is right?

He arrived in my life nearly a decade ago on one of those storybook Christmas season nights that is too good to ever forget. He was a gift to my wife, and when she opened the box the tears that spilled down her face were those of joy. Women, of course, come and go, but dogs are forever, so when the marriage ended, Harry stayed with me. Since then, we've moved from Boston to Washington, D.C., and back again, fetched maybe a quarter of a million throws, walked, I would wager, over 10,000 miles together. He carried a tennis ball in his mouth for most of them, convinced that anyone who saw him would be duly impressed. And, judging by their reactions, he's right.

Throughout, he has shown me sunrises and sunsets that I wouldn't otherwise have seen. He has taught me that snow is a gift, that the ocean is there for swimming, that the coldest winter mornings and the hottest summer days are never as bad as people say. He has introduced me to people, kind people, whom I otherwise wouldn't have met. He has forced me to take time every morning to contemplate the day ahead. With his tail-swishing swagger, he has taught me to slow down, to pause in an Esplanade field or on a Public Garden bench, the journey being as good as the destination. The big ruse, which I think he figured out years ago, was that all these walks were meant for him.

He has been an anchor in bad times, a ballast amid occasional uncertainty, a dose of humility when things might be going a little too well. He has been a sanctuary, a confidant, and an occasional excuse. He regards it as his personal mission to make me laugh, whether by a ritualistic dance over a pig's ear or a gushing lick to my face. He's never once said the wrong thing, and it's impossible to be in a bad mood around him. All along, he lives by one simple mantra: Count me in.

Anything I'm doing, he wants to do as well, no leash or nagging required. At home, he prefers to lie on the stoop of our condominium building, presiding over the world around him.

His time, though, is fleeting, a fact that he's starting to understand. In April, his lifelong veterinarian, Pam Bendock, blinked back tears as she informed me that his stomach pains were caused by lymphoma. Several rounds of chemotherapy failed to do what was hoped. Two weeks ago, I stopped his treatments.

These days, he has lost 10 pounds or more and can't keep food inside. He often wakes in the dark before dawn moaning softly in pain. But by daybreak, he is urging me toward the beach or guiding me on another walk, ball in mouth, ready to fetch, albeit slowly. Maybe I should be embarrassed to admit that a dog can change a man, but I'm not. So as the clock winds out on a life well lived, I look back at the lessons learned from this calm and dignified creature, lessons of temperance, patience, and compassion that will guide us to the end. And I look into those handsome brown eyes for the sign that the time has come. He'll give it to me, when he's ready. And hard as it will be, we'll both know the journey was better than we could have ever possibly hoped.



## Farewell to Fleas

Frances Gavin - Canine Natural Cures

*Spring. Flowers and...fleas! Here are some natural ways to consider when controlling these bothersome creatures!*

Are you worried about the effects of chemicals on your dog? Why not make your own safe, non-toxic flea repellents?

**CITRUS REPELLENT:** Cut a lemon into quarters and place in a pint jug. Cover the lemon with boiling water and let it steep overnight. Next day you have a flea repellent that you can use in a spray bottle. Spray all over your dog remembering especially behind the ears and around the head generally (careful of eyes), around the base of the tail (once again keep away from delicate bits) and under your dog's "armpits."

**AROMATHERAPY REPELLENT:** Using 10 ml. of Pure Almond Carrier Oil as your base, add 10 drops of Lavender Essential Oil and 5 drops of Cedarwood Essential Oil. Shake well and use 1 or 2 drops [of this mixture] spread over the skin at least twice a week to keep the fleas away. A flea collar can be made by rubbing a few drops of one of the following into an ordinary webbing or rope collar or even a doggy bandanna: Eucalyptus Essential Oil, Tea Tree Essential Oil, Citronella Essential Oil, Lavender Essential Oil or Geranium Essential Oil. Don't forget to do this weekly.

**YOUR HOME:** Fleas spend most of their time in your furnishings and only hop onto your dog or you for their next meal. Make sure you wash your dog's bedding regularly because no flea ever survived a hot wash cycle. If you add Eucalyptus Essential Oil to the final rinse it will also kill 99% of house dust mites according to research from the University of Sydney, Australia. Vacuum your home very thoroughly and sprinkle a fine layer of ordinary table salt over your upholstery and carpets and leave overnight before vacuuming again to evict your unwelcome guests safely but don't forget to empty your vacuum bag.

**BATHING:** A badly infested dog really needs to be bathed so use your favorite dog shampoo. Rinse the dog off very thoroughly and in the final rinse add a couple of drops of Tea Tree Essential Oil or Lavender Essential Oil. An alternative is to make your own herbal flea dip which will also work on ticks. Steep two cups of fresh Rosemary Leaf in two pints of boiling water for 30 minutes. Strain the liquid, discard the leaves and make it up to one gallon (8 pints) with warm water. Pour this mixture over the dog until it's saturated. Do not rinse off and allow the dog to dry naturally so this is a remedy to use on hot summer days.

**INTERNAL FLEA REPELLENTS:** Garlic may not be your favorite cologne and it's not the flea's favorite smell either. When your dog eats garlic, the smell is excreted through the dog's skin making your dog less likely to be the flea's next meal. In case you think you might need to give your dog a breath freshener along with the garlic, my dogs, Mack and Josh, eat garlic every day and I don't find their breath smells from it at all. Brewer's yeast tablets will also help to make your dog less attractive to fleas because once again the smell is excreted through the skin.

Adding a dessertspoon of natural apple cider vinegar to the water bowl will make the skin more acidic and unpleasant to fleas and ticks. If your dogs don't fancy apple cider vinegar in the water bowl, dilute it 50/50 with water and use in a spray bottle instead of the citrus repellent.

Concerned about additives, artificial preservatives and dyes in commercial dog treats? Give yourself peace of mind by taking the time to make your own!

### **Microwavable Dog Treats**

#### Ingredients

2 c. whole wheat flour  
2/3 c. chicken or beef broth  
1 large egg  
3 tbsp. quick cooking oats

#### Directions:

1. To start, crack the egg into a mixing bowl and lightly beat it.
2. Next, stir or whisk in the chicken/beef broth.
3. Stir in the whole wheat flour.
4. Mix in the oats.
5. Now, form the mixture into a ball. You can either roll out the dough or take it by spoonfuls and place it on a microwave safe plate.
6. Microwave in batches\* for 10 minutes on high.

\*The reason for the batches is that you don't want the biscuits sticking together, so leave some space in between them on the plate used for micro-waving. Voila! Cool and serve.



### **Peanut Butter Dog Biscuit**

This peanut butter dog biscuit recipe is what you're looking for if you want an easy dog treat recipe. With only four ingredients, one of which is water, you're likely to have all of the ingredients on hand in your pantry.

#### Ingredients:

2 cups whole wheat flour (use another kind of flour if you suspect your dog is allergic to wheat)  
1 cup rolled oats  
1/3 cup peanut butter, chunky or smooth (I used smooth this time)  
1 1/4 cups hot water  
Additional flour for rolling

#### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350° F
  2. Mix dry ingredients together.
  3. Mix in the peanut butter and hot water. You may need to add more water if the dough is too sticky.
  4. Knead the dough well.
  5. Roll out the dough into 1/4" thickness and cut into shapes with dog cookie cutters.
- Note - This recipe doesn't call for it, but I put an egg wash (one egg whisked with a fork and then brushed on with a pastry brush) on the treats before I baked them. It gives them a nice sheen once they're baked.
6. Bake on a lightly greased cookie sheet for 40 minutes. Turn off the oven and let them cool overnight.

### Wheat Free Dog Treat Recipes: Apple Carrot Nibbles

Yes, these wheat free dog treats are so easy to make; you'll wonder why you've waited so long to bake them for your dog!

#### Ingredients:

1 cup rice flour  
1 cup rolled oats  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1/2 cup applesauce, unsweetened  
1/2 cup finely grated carrot (see note)  
2 eggs  
3 tbsp molasses

#### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 ° F
2. In a medium bowl, stir together the rice flour, rolled oats, and cinnamon.
3. In a small bowl, combine the applesauce, grated carrot, eggs, and molasses.
4. Make a well in the medium bowl and pour in the applesauce mixture.
5. Mix thoroughly until well combined.
6. Lightly spray a baking sheet with cooking spray or line with parchment paper.
7. Drop teaspoon sized clusters on the baking sheet.
8. Bake for 20 minutes, or until golden brown.



### *Spring...*

Pro: Receding snow line

Con: The dog, who, when you call them in from the yard, hightails it to you from around the sunny corner of the house where the fallow veggie garden lies....



Well, at least someone is happy...



## Dog Training - How to do it right!

Sue Averill

Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue

Training is an integral part of bonding with your dog. Young puppies will learn at a faster rate when they are exposed to training early on. They not only learn the specific exercises you teach, but they also learn to learn. Older dogs can learn new tricks, but you may have to try to get them to replace old behaviors (stealing off the table) with new behaviors (staying on their dog bed while you eat). Training also allows you to create two way communications between you and your dog. Some people may believe training is just teaching a dog a series of 'tricks', but a well trained dog will actually not just 'perform' on command, but also look to its owner for cues about how to respond events in its daily life.

For any training to succeed, all members of the household must work together. Owners must clearly define and consistently apply fair rules within a structured environment. Different rules applied inconstantly will only serve to confuse and stress the dog.

There are several different ways to have a trained dog. You can work with a trainer, either at home or in a class. You can work at home with multi media backup. There are many books, DVD's and blogs about training on the market, and some can be used very successfully. Just try remembering that training can be a very subtle art. It sometimes requires some skilled instruction to figure certain issues out.

While you can send your dog to a day care or boarding facility that will train your dog for you, we do not recommend 'board and train' facilities. Once the dog is out of your hands, you have no idea how the dog is being trained and handled. Boarding is stressful, even in an excellent environment, and stressed dogs have a greater difficulty in learning. Placing your new dog in the hands of others will do nothing to build your relationship.

By far and away the best thing you can do for your dog is to work with a skilled trainer. Private lessons in the home with a skilled trainer can do wonders for issues within the home. Timid or highly distractible dogs may need to begin their training in the home so they are less stressed and can therefore progress faster. Some wildly out of control dogs may need to start with private lessons at a training center prior to being transitioned into class.

Young puppies will benefit greatly in a well run class situation where they can safely encounter many different people and breeds of dogs. Classes for adult dogs are usually enjoyable for both dog and owner. Other participants in the class can also be a great resource. Someone might recommend a great dog park, vet or dog walker. Some might live in your area and be up for neighborhood walks or play dates.

### *Method vs. result based training*

Once you have sorted out where your dog is going to be trained, you have to figure out how you will train. There are two basic camps in which to start your search. One is 'method based' training and the other is 'result based' training. Method based trainers use one style of training and unerringly sticks to it. They may use physical corrections only or never use corrections. They may use food or never food, only praise or petting. Usually there is a specific equipment requirement and no other equipment is allowed. Method based trainers will work through all issues via their own specific methodology. It is therefore important to keep in mind that if you feel that your dog is stressed or not progressing or you are having trouble in the class, you need to have



a frank discussion with your trainer. If they can't offer you any help to progress, find another trainer with a different method.

Results based trainers usually have a methodology that they favor, but are willing to use different methods either in certain situations or for certain dogs or handlers. Usually they have preferred equipment, but will switch from a buckle collar to a head collar, harness or prong collar as the situation warrants. They may use a combination of food praise and mild corrections.

### *Finding a trainer*

With all that in mind you need to find a trainer. Ask as many people you can find who they recommend. Vets, pet food stores and groomers should be able to give you some options. Local dog clubs (*such as the OVGRC!*) usually are a great source of information and many hold classes. Most trainers have no problem with a potential student watching a class. Check to see that the facility seems safe and clean. All the dogs and handlers should be under the watchful eye and control of the trainer. Classes are usually grouped in levels, and some dogs may be better behaved than others. Watch for an instructor that keeps all his students in mind and doesn't let a certain dog (or handler!) monopolize the entire class. Instructors may be 'certified' from any number of organizations. Sometimes this may mean attending workshops, joining the organization and filling out a questionnaire, or course work and apprenticeships. There are also many excellent trainers with years of experience that have no affiliations or certifications.

When you go to class, keep your eyes, ears and mind wide open. Learn by watching issues other students are having with their dogs. You might not need the info now, but down the road it might be helpful. And remember, your dog's mental and physical wellbeing rests solely with you. If you are ever uncomfortable about what the trainer is asking you or another student to do with your dog, or you are concerned about your safety, Leave. Never put yourself, your dog or your relationship at risk.



## How to Find A Lost Pet

Based on 7,100 cases in three years of operation, National Pet Recovery in the United States (a private pet recovery company) found that:

- Less than 2 percent of all missing pets NPR recovered wore identification tags.
- At least 95 percent of the families that reported a missing pet within two weeks of the animal's disappearance were reunited.
- More than 83 percent of missing dogs NPR recovered were retrieved more than 30 miles away from the spot where they disappeared.
- At least 200 posters (sometimes up to 1,500) are needed to locate a missing dog.
- Stolen dogs make up 41 percent of the cases.
- 67 percent of those dogs were stolen from a secured area for personal use and medical laboratory testing.
- 17 percent of stolen dogs were stolen from their owner's homes.
- 14 percent were stolen from vehicles.
- Of the stolen dogs, 23 percent were taken by someone the pet owner knows.
- Dogs allowed to run loose make up 47 percent of the cases.
- Dogs that escape from their homes or a secured area make up 12 percent of the cases.

### *Lost and Found Tips*

The most effective means of ensuring that your missing pet is returned to you safely is to provide it with a collar and current license and identification tags. And that goes for cats too! A meager 2 percent of all cats that find themselves in shelters are ever reclaimed by their owners. An identification tag is a ticket home for your pet! (Some means of providing permanent identification include microchipping and tattooing.)

If your pet is missing, follow these steps immediately:

- File lost or found reports with animal shelters in your area.
- Place and check lost or found ads with newspapers and cable TV stations.
- Place posters in your neighbourhood (or the area where your pet was lost) which include a thorough description of your pet along with photo. Keep a recent photo of your pet on hand in the event that he becomes lost. (Some experts suggest that you withhold one element of the dog's description so you can outwit callers who pretend to have your dog, but do not.)
- Alert neighbours, delivery people, and your mail carrier to be on the lookout for your pet.
- Visit the animal shelters regularly. Shelter staff turns over frequently and it is up to you, not them, to find your dog.
- Check with local police or the health department.

### Websites To Help Find Your Dog

If you have ever lost a pet, you should know about the following free services available on the web:

[missingpet.net](http://missingpet.net)

[Findfido.com](http://Findfido.com)

[petfinder.com](http://petfinder.com)

[petshester.net](http://petshester.net)

The sites allow anyone to post a virtual flyer or a listing on the world's largest bulletin board. If you have lost a dog, you can post your pet's information on the sites. If you have found a pet, you can do the same. Search capabilities vary from site to site and the sites are not comprehensive, but they offer a terrific public service.

## Inside of a Dog, by Alexandra Horowitz: The Perfect Marriage

Ellie Beals

I am an avid reader of non-fiction studies about dogs, and about the relationship between dogs and people. Inside of a Dog, by Alexandra Horowitz has been for me, the most rewarding and enjoyable such book I've read, because of the way it spans the divide between the lyric and anecdotal love story (like *Merle's Door*) and the scientific treatise (say, anything by Konrad Lorenz).

Horowitz teaches psychology at Barnard College. She earned her PhD in cognitive science and has studied the cognition of humans, rhinoceroses, bonobos and dogs. So she has the scientific licks (so to speak) to support the creative but rigorous experimentation and observation she details so well in this book. She does so with great courage, appearing to feel no need to restrain or obfuscate her love for her subjects, for fear that it might endanger her objectivity. Her descriptions of the canine behaviours she observes are intense and animated: "What is called, appropriately "rough-and-tumble" play between two competent athletic dogs is a gymnastic marvel to witness. The playing dogs seem to give a perfunctory greeting to each other before they suddenly mutually attack, teeth bared; tumbling together in precarious free fall; jumping on and over each other; bodies bent and tangled." The underlying affection apparent in her scientific descriptions blossoms into overt love in the italicized passages she injects about her own dog: "Thunder outside. Pump's ears, velvet equilateral triangles that fold perfectly along the side of her head, prick into long isosceles. Head up, eyes to the window, she identifies the sound: a storm, a frightful thing.....I coo to her consolingly and watch her ears for feedback."

So - does this emotional backdrop weaken her scholarly findings? Not if you believe that fascination, awe, and wonder intensifies the drive to discover more than simple intellectual curiosity would. That's what I believe. I think it is because of, not despite her emotional investment, that Horowitz has helped clarify some discomforts I've long entertained about the prevailing paradigms about the dog-human relationship.

Like, let's say – the concepts of anti-anthropomorphism, and of pack dominance: "To evoke the outdated, simplistic model of packs glosses over real differences between dog and wolf behaviour and misses some of the most interesting features of packs in wolves. We do better to explain dogs' taking commands from us, deferring to us, and indulging us by the fact that we are their source of food than by reasoning that we are alpha. We can certainly make dogs totally submissive to us, but that is neither biologically necessary nor particularly enriching for either of us. The pack analogy does nothing but replace our anthropomorphisms with a kind of "beastomorphism" whose crazy philosophy seems to be something like "dogs aren't human, so we must see them as precisely un-human in every way".

So, conceptually - Inside of a Dog was a rich and interesting read. It also provided practical insights than I can and will incorporate into my training and handling. I have long-wondered about a particular kind of chuffing-huffing breathing that my young male partner characteristically displays when in the ring. I feared it was stress-related though he generally does not seem a stressed-out guy in the ring. Horowitz presents exactly this behaviour as a canine equivalent of excited laughter. How incredibly reassuring it is to think that you are going into the ring with a guy who is laughing in delight!

Horowitz also spends more time on the intricacies and wonder of dog attention and eye-contact than any writer I've read previously. I can't help but feel that my enriched understanding of both is likely to improve my own creativity and effectiveness as I strive to create and enhance that bond of attention between me and my boy.

This book delivers as both science and celebration. I see Inside of a Dog as the perfect marriage of scientific study and love story, and recommend it highly to anyone interested in either or both genres.

## The Ethical Dog

Marc Bekoff and Jessica Pierce

Scientific American

Every dog owner knows a pooch can learn the house rules—and when she breaks one, her subsequent grovelling is usually ingratiating enough to ensure quick forgiveness. But few people have stopped to ask why dogs have such a keen sense of right and wrong. Chimpanzees and other nonhuman primates regularly make the news when researchers, logically looking to our closest relatives for traits similar to our own, uncover evidence of their instinct for fairness. But our work has suggested that wild canine societies may be even better analogues for early hominid groups—and when we study dogs, wolves and coyotes, we discover behaviours that hint at the roots of human morality.

Morality, as we define it in our book *Wild Justice*, is a suite of interrelated other-regarding behaviours that cultivate and regulate social interactions. These behaviours, including altruism, tolerance, forgiveness, reciprocity and fairness, are readily evident in the egalitarian way wolves and coyotes play with one another. Canids (animals in the dog family) follow a strict code of conduct when they play, which teaches pups the rules of social engagement that allow their societies to succeed. Play also builds trusting relationships among pack members, which enables divisions of labour, dominance hierarchies and cooperation in hunting, raising young, and defending food and territory. Because this social organization closely resembles that of early humans (as anthropologists and other experts believe it existed), studying canid play may offer a glimpse of the moral code that allowed our ancestral societies to grow and flourish.

### *Playing by the Rules*

When canids and other animals play, they use actions such as vigorous biting, mounting and body slamming that could be easily misinterpreted by the participants. Years of painstaking video analyses by one of us (Bekoff) and his students show, however, that individuals carefully negotiate play, following four general rules to prevent play from escalating into fighting.

Communicate clearly. Animals announce that they want to play and not fight or mate. Canids use a bow to solicit play, crouching on their forelimbs while standing on their hind legs. Bows are used almost exclusively during play and are highly stereotyped—that is, they always look the same—so the message “Come play with me” or “I still want to play” is clear. Even when an individual follows a play bow with seemingly aggressive actions such as baring teeth, growling or biting, his companions demonstrate submission or avoidance only around 15 percent of the time, which suggests they trust the bow’s message that whatever follows is meant in fun. Trust in one another’s honest communication is vital for a smoothly functioning social group.

Mind your manners. Animals consider their play partners’ abilities and engage in self-handicapping and role reversing to create and maintain equal footing. For instance, a coyote might not bite her play partner as hard as she can, handicapping herself to keep things fair. And a dominant pack member might perform a role reversal, rolling over on her back (a sign of submission that she would never offer during real aggression) to let her lower-status play partner take a turn at “winning”. Human children also behave this way when they play, for instance, taking turns overpowering each other in a mock wrestling match. By keeping things fair in this manner, every member of the group can play with every other member, building bonds that keep the group cohesive and strong.

Admit when you are wrong. Even when everyone wants to keep things fair, play can sometimes get out of hand. When an animal misbehaves or accidentally hurts his play partner, he apologizes—just like a human would. After an intense bite, a bow sends the message, “Sorry I bit you so hard—this is still play regardless of what I just did. Don’t leave; I’ll play fair.” For play to continue, the other individual must forgive the wrongdoing. And forgiveness is almost always offered; understanding and tolerance are abundant during play as well as in daily pack life.

Be honest. An apology, like an invitation to play, must be sincere—individuals who continue to play unfairly or send dishonest signals will quickly find themselves ostracized. This has far greater consequences than simply reduced play-



time; for instance, Bekoff's long-term field research shows that juvenile coyotes who do not play fair often end up leaving their pack and are up to four times more likely to die than those individuals who remain with others. Violating social norms, established during play, is not good for perpetuating one's genes.

Fair play, then, can be understood as an evolved adaptation that allows individuals to form and maintain social bonds. Canids, like humans, form intricate networks of social relationships and live by rules of conduct that maintain a stable society, which is necessary to ensure the survival of each individual. Basic rules of fairness guide social play, and similar rules are the foundation for fairness among adults. This moral intelligence, so evident in both wild canines and in domesticated dogs, probably closely resembles that of our early human ancestors. And it may have been just this sense of right and wrong that allowed human societies to flourish and spread across the world.

*MARC BEKOFF is professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Colorado at Boulder and a scholar in residence at the Institute for Human-Animal Connection at the University of Denver. JESSICA PIERCE is an ethicist and associate faculty at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center at the Center for Bioethics and Humanities.*





## Dog Tricks to Teach Your Dog

Karen Pryor

*Looking for something to do on a rainy day? Give this a try.*

Teaching dog tricks is one of the greatest joys of having a canine companion in your life. Dog trick training is the best way I found to **truly interact with my dogs** and it is a sure fire way to forge a **strong bond together**. Teaching and performing dog tricks helps to build happy, confident dogs and is a great outlet for all of their energy.

Dog trick training is not as serious as say, dog obedience training, but it does provide many of the same benefits - to you and your dog:

- In the process of learning new tricks you open up a **genuine form of two way communication** between you and your dog - as a result you'll find you are more in-tune with each other.
- Trick training helps to build **confident dogs** that are **not afraid to experiment** in the training process - which is important.
- Dog tricks are great if you or your dog is partial to showing off!
- Dog trick training is great for **calming overly energetic dogs**. Your dog's energy must come out in one way or another so why not channel it into something constructive and fun like trick training?
- Dog tricks can be called on as an **"alternate behavior"** when your dog is doing something undesirable. For example, if your dog is barking at the door or jumping up on guests, you could call on your "play dead" trick to redirect his/her behavior.
- People who are nervous around dogs are often **put at ease by a dog performing a cool trick** like a "take-a-bow" or "roll-over" - your dog suddenly appears less threatening to them.

### *How Do We Teach Dog Tricks?*

We use proven behavioral science principles that were developed in the lab but are now put to good use throughout the animal training world.

We use proven behavioral science principles that were developed in the lab but are now put to good use throughout the animal training world. When teaching new tricks we make it a very **simple step by step process** for our dogs to follow. Training sessions are fun, short and focused on one easy skill at a time for your dog to master. Then we **gradually raise our goal** or expectations and take it to a slightly higher level, until we have the complete and polished trick. Then we start all over again with a new trick!

We rely on consistency, timely feedback, **positive reinforcement** and repetition to shape new tricks. There is no place for excessive force or intimidation in any dog training - especially when it comes to teaching fun dog tricks.

If you would like to read a more in-depth definition of clicker training and operant conditioning visit Karen Pryor's great website.

### *Tools of a Dog Trick Trainer*

To be honest, the only absolute essential "tool" is your willing canine friend. To help the trick training process along I like to utilize the following tools:

#### **Clicker:**

The clicker is also sometimes referred to as a **"conditioned reinforcer"**. When you make the distinctive clicking sound you are marking that *exact moment* of time in your dog's mind. You are communicating to your dog - "Yes that's what I want, well done, do that again!". A clicker is simply a little plastic box; it is not magic but is very very effective when used properly.



### Treats/Motivation:

Training treats are also known as the "**primary reinforcer**". After you click to mark certain behaviour you desire the **treat or reward *must always follow***. If you find your dog's favourite treat or motivation he/she will do almost anything to receive one. My little Shih-Tzu Macy loves liver treats and small pieces of cheese. It's important to note that the use of a clicker and the treats is necessary when shaping a new trick but can be phased out when the time is right.

### Target Stick:

Target sticks are very handy for guiding your dog into the positions you want from them. This method is called "**targeting**" - it is a great way to build a wide range of cool dog tricks. You will also call upon "**capturing**", "**shaping**" and "**luring**" in your trick training sessions - don't worry you don't need to understand these terms yet



### *General Rules to Keep In Mind When Teaching Your Dog Tricks*

You will find more detailed and specific instruction within the text and videos provided for each individual dog trick. Below are a few general rules to keep in mind whenever you are doing some dog trick training:

- All dogs are different. There is no set way to teach tricks that will work for every dog on the block. It's up to you to **discover what works best for your individual dog** in regard to the motivation you use, length of training sessions and how quickly you progress through each new skill.
- When you start out training a new trick always **keep it simple for your dog**. Start out with an easy skill, in a familiar place to your dog and with no other distractions present. Then build the trick up **piece by piece** and add some distractions when you feel your dog is ready.
- Always provide **clear, consistent and timely feedback** to your dog. It's amazing how much your dog will look to you for cues and guidance. Ensure that you are relaying the right message to your dog in a timely and consistent fashion.
- Generally speaking you are better off not **training tricks immediately after feeding** your dog or when he/she is bursting with energy. It's ideal if your dog is in a somewhat calm state, and ready to focus on the task at hand - I know, this is not easy!
- Always get the behavior (trick) you want your dog to perform first - then attach your cue or command to it. Not the other way around.
- No dog is too young or old for some fun trick training sessions. As long as your dog is not restricted by any health problems you can get started right now!
- **Dogs don't generalize well**. What this means in the context of trick training is that if you want your dog to perform his jaw dropping "roll-over" trick wherever you go, you must teach him how to do it everywhere you go.

Some **basic obedience training is helpful** before you begin to teach your dog tricks. Apart from helping the trick training process, obedience training is vital for your dog's safety and well-being.

### *Shake Hands*

Start by having your dog sit. Say, "Shake hands," and take his paw with your hand. Hold his paw and say, "Good dog!" Let go of his paw. Do this a few times every day. TIP: After a while, say, "Shake hands," but don't take his paw. See if he raises his paw by himself. If not, keep showing him what to do by saying, "Shake hands," and taking his paw with your hand. Your dog is not slow; he is just learning!

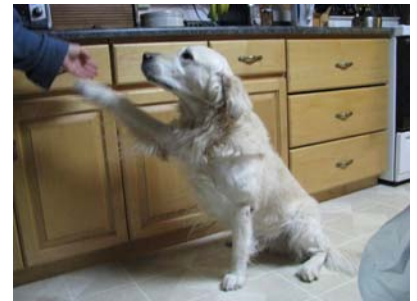


***Crawl***

Start by having your dog lie down. Hold a treat just in front of his nose and say, "Crawl." If he starts to stand up, say, "No, down...crawl." Pull the treat away, keeping it low, near the ground and say, "Craaawl." When your dog moves even an inch or two without standing up, praise him and say, "Good dog! Craaawl." TIP: Your dog must know 'Down' before he can learn this trick.

***Wave***

Your dog should know how to shake hands before learning this trick. Face your dog and hold out your hand as if you are going to shake. When your dog lifts her paw to shake, don't grab it, just pull back your hand, and say "Wave". Then give your dog a treat. TIP: At first your dog may not lift her paw very high. But once she realizes that you're going to give her a treat if she holds it up there, she'll get it. You may have to tease her a little with your hand so she thinks you are going to shake with her. Waving your hand a little may help to get her paw into a waving motion as well.



*Here's one of Ann Lambert's girls showing what a good mother she is — "sit down or you'll fall out"!!*

## Grooming Your Golden Pat Enright

Tools needed:

Comb, pin brush, nail clippers scissors (preferably blunt-nosed or short-blade scissors for working around the face), and spray bottle with water.



Typical hairy Golden Retriever



So, you have been elected to groom the Hairy Monster. I know; you've been looking forward to this like a root canal. Really, it's not that difficult. True, it is a bit time consuming; but once you establish a grooming method and commit to a good brushing and nail trimming every few weeks, you'll wonder what all the fuss was about.

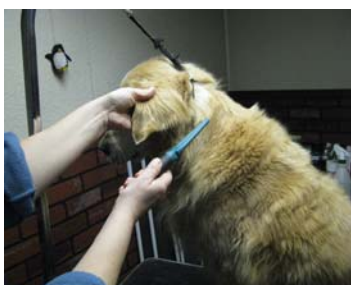


Body: Spray the dog all over, working the water into his coat. Using the slicker brush, start at the back just above the tail by pushing the hair forward. Start brushing toward you while your hand is moving the hair forward on the dog. Make sure the brush and comb are almost making contact with the skin, and getting through the soft undercoat.



Brush from bottom;  
work your way up

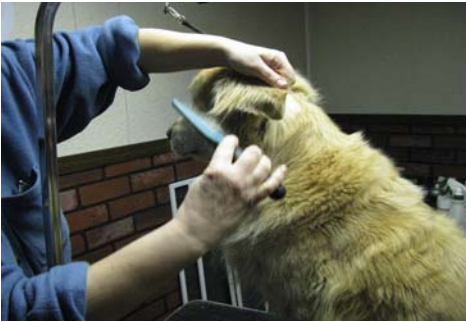
Scissor down and  
away from face



Neck and Chest: Lightly spray with water, and using the pin brush, start at bottom of chest and brush your way up to the neck, just under the chin. Comb hair straight out from chest. Starting under the chin, scissor downward and away from the head, leaving 1" to 2" of feathering. Comb out hair under ear. Lift ear and scissor downward, leaving about 1" of feathering.



Ears: Comb or brush hair to right side of ear. Lift ear flap up and trim excess from outer edge of ear. Next, brush hair to left side of ear and trim away excess from edge.



Comb hair to right side of ear

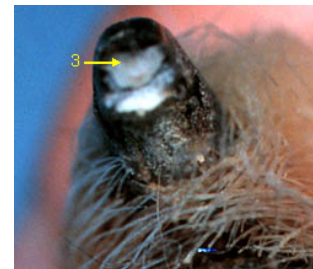
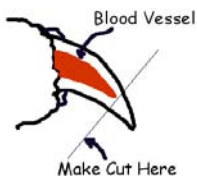


Scissor excess from edge of ear flap

Nails!!!!

Now don't go and run screaming into the night...YOU CAN DO THIS! I know some of you might get a little "squeamish" at the prospect of mistakenly cutting the vein. A little blood is not going to kill the dog or you.

Nails that are left too long cause the paw to flatten and forces abnormal pressure on the pastern, cannon bone (front leg) and upper arm. You also run the risk of having the nails snag on something and get torn off at the root. This means a very painful and costly trip to the Vet's.



Have your dog sitting or lying down. It would also help if you had someone sitting behind him, holding his leg out by the elbow. You hold his paw by the pastern (wrist). Try not to grab the paw and squeeze, as this forces blood down into the pads and nails making that area more sensitive.

Trim a small piece off and look at the end of the nail. On a white nail, keep trimming until you see a pink dot. On a black nail, trim until you see the black dot gets bigger. If you see pink (photo above-3) that is the quick, and do not cut any further.

Note to the accident prone: If you cut a nail and it bleeds even a little bit ...your dog is going to DIE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

No he isn't; I lied. Now quit looking for an excuse to quit and keep going!

If you do happen to cut too far and he bleeds, stick the nail into the jar of styptic powder.

If your dog is "pitching a fit", get some treats that he really likes and break them into small pieces. Give him a piece and cut a nail. Keep doing this until all the nails are done. He still won't like it, but if he knows treats are coming he won't put up as big a fight. Next time, give him a treat and cut TWO nails. Eventually, you should be able to trim the whole paw and give





him a treat at the end. No dog likes having his nails cut. Some hate it more than others, but they have to learn to at least tolerate it because it has to be done!

Feet: Trim the top of the paw by brushing the hair upward. Don't forget to lift the hair from in between toes. Trim the hair evenly with the TOP of the pads; NEVER in between the pads. Brush hair up on bottom of pads and trim hair evenly across top of pads, and edge of paw. Do not trim hair in between pads



Trim hair evenly across top of paw

Scissor evenly across pads and edge of paw



Front Legs: Lightly spray the feathering on the front leg with water, and brush hair out straight from the leg. While holding the paw with one hand, lift the front leg forward toward the front of the dog, and with the other hand, trim feathering down to about 2 inches.



Back Legs: Lightly spray feathering on back of legs and under tail with water. Using the slicker brush, start brushing at the bottom of feathering above the hock, and work your way up to under the tail. Brush out and trim downward leaving about 2 inches.



Comb hair on hocks straight out from leg and trim downward toward, trimming off enough hair to leave about 1 inch.



Tummy And Tail: Lightly spray feathering under chest and rib cage. Comb downward, and trim hair on chest, underneath from front of dog to back legs, leaving about 2 inches.



For the tail - lightly spray and brush/comb down on both sides and underneath. Hold the tail by the end, and give a light shake; letting the hair fall naturally. Before trimming, hold your thumb over the end of the tail bone (which is also his spine, by the way) and start trimming 1 inch out from the tail bone. Trim down and around bottom of tail feathering leaving a SABER-SHAPED tail. Try to avoid a straight cut, setter- like tail, which leaves a harsh and uncharacteristic outline.

There; you're done! Now step back and admire your handy-work!



*I sure hope the owner of this golden has Pat's article handy.....*



**THANK YOU FOR READING OUR NEWSLETTERS OVER THE PAST YEAR. WE HOPE YOU'VE ENJOYED THE THEME ISSUES AND HOPE TO MEET EVERYONE IN PERSON AT THE AGM!!**

