

THE NATIONAL WOLFDOG ALLIANCE PERSPECTIVE



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The NWA Perspective

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Goals

NWA proposes to accomplish the following goals:

1. Provide educational materials on all aspects of responsible wolfdog ownership.
2. Maintain a listing of impending legislation as it pertains to wolfdogs.
3. Assist in the coordination of nationwide rescue efforts, and provide an online database of animals in need of placement.

Mission Statement

The National Wolfdog Alliance is a coalition of wolf dog organizations and enthusiasts that concentrates on, and is dedicated to the educational and legal aspects of responsible wolf dog ownership, wolf dog responsible rescue and education to the public in a national effort to protect the rights of responsible private ownership.



[NWA Web Site](#)

Wolfdog Owners Again Faced With Legislation to Restrict Ownership

The Association of Sanctuaries has recently joined forces with the Animal Protection Institute. They are taking a very close look at the exotic animal market from dealers, breeders, pet stores, pet owners, canned hunts, game ranches, circuses, zoos and roadside zoos. Their overall goal is to decrease the demand for wild and exotic "pets". They intend to create a set of education and public outreach materials to discourage the private ownership of wild and exotic pets.

TAOS officials said they intend to support the Animal Protection Institute's (API) advocacy campaign to **end private ownership** of exotic pets. They are currently discussing what the traits & characteristics of exotic pets are and the standards for a desirable pet. They were heard to say more than once that wolves and possibly wolfdogs would be included in the list of targeted animals. **They will be working on this throughout 2002 & plan to hit legislators across the country hard in 2003.**

TAOS is the same organization to which Tippi Hedren of Hitchcock's "The Birds" fame belongs. As many of you may remember in the 2000 legislative session, Ms. Hedren and others of TAOS attempted to have a bill named the "Shambala Wild Animal Protection Act of 2000" passed by our federal congress. A copy of that bill can be found at:

<http://www.wolfdogalliance.org/legislation/5057.pdf>

This bill would have severely limited our ability to own and maintain our current wolfdogs and would almost surely have meant we would never own another. While we have no knowledge what new the legislation might look like, it is probable it would be very similar to the previous bill but from the statement they "plan to hit legislators across the country hard in 2003", it appears it may be a state by state effort this time. It looks like we, as wolfdog owners, are going to have our work cut out for us one more time.



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All comments and letters to the editor should be addressed to: NLeditor@wolfdogalliance.org

Featured Articles



Behavioral Development of Canines

By Pam Thompson

Edited by Norla M. Antinoro, Ph.D.

Acknowledgment:

I wish to thank Norla M. Antinoro and Kim Miles, for their time and patience in editing this material. Also, special thanks to all of those who were kind enough to make suggestions and give feedback.

All dogs will not exhibit the same set of social behaviors. Environment and the degree of dependence on humans are likely to have an effect on the inherited aspects. Because of human intervention, it is unlikely that the social system of dogs can operate in an entirely unrestricted way long enough to exhibit all of the complexity and diversity of which canines are capable.

This article addresses both the physical and behavioral development of pups and is divided into four stages: neonatal, transitional, socialization, and juvenile. Below is a brief description of what can be expected during each of

these stages.

NEONATAL:

The two-week period from birth until the eyes are open is known as the neonatal stage. When first born, a pup's brain is sufficiently developed only to control its breathing, heartbeat, balance and equilibrium. Its eyes and ear canals are closed and it cannot regulate its body temperature. However, most researchers believe pups are born with some sense of taste and smell.

During the neonatal stage, licking and grooming by the mother serves several purposes. First, it acts to imprint the mother and pup and starts the crucial process of bonding. In addition, it serves to mark the pups with the mother's scent enabling her to recognize and locate her pups more easily. Grooming the pups also serves to warn other animals away by her smell, and

grooming herself shows the pups where to nurse.

The mother's grooming also serves to stimulate the ano-urethral regions of the pup to prompt them to defecate and urinate. Pups that are separated from the mother before three weeks of age will not only need to be bottle fed, but will have to have their groin and genitalia massaged with a warm, damp cloth to stimulate urination and defecation, since they are not able to do this without assistance.

Behaviorally, a pup will seek warmth and will whimper when it is cold or hungry. Research shows that short periods of human interaction such as daily handling and other physical stimuli during this phase can have marked effects on the behavioral and physical development of a pup. Such effects include accelerated maturation of the nervous

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system, more rapid hair growth and weight gain, and enhanced development of motor and problem solving skills. Daily handling, including petting or massage, has also been shown to improve the pup's ability to thrive.

TRANSITIONAL:

The transitional period lasts about a week and is one of rapid physical change. By three weeks, the brain is sufficiently developed to more effectively regulate body temperature and metabolism. This period begins when the eyes open and ends when the ear canals open --- at which time, the pup will begin to respond to loud noises. The pup begins to see, but it will not reach the adult level of sight for several more weeks. A pup's hearing ability fully matures about a week before its sight.

Also during this one-week transitional period, a pup will begin to crawl backwards as well as forward and to walk clumsily. It will also begin to defecate and urinate outside of the nest and no longer require stimulation in order to eliminate. During this stage the teeth begin to erupt through the gums and a pup first shows interest in solid food. Puppies start play fighting with littermates, and show social behaviors such as growling and tail wagging. This early playing signals the beginning of hierarchy placement.

Pups no longer need stimulation to nurse and the first parent-pup conflict is experienced as the mother begins the weaning process around the third week. The transitional phase can also be the time of the first stress-related fear. If a pup finds itself outside of the nesting area it will cry in distress even though it is warm and dry. Research indicates that fear is probably an inherent behavior. (Grandin & Deesing, 1998). Being outside of the nesting area is analogous to wolf pups leaving the birthing den for the first time.

SOCIALIZATION:

This phase is referred to as the "critical bonding period," or "sensitive period." (Serpell &

Jagoe, 1999). It was once believed that pups that did not form bonds to other pups (4-6 weeks) and to humans (6 -12 weeks) would never be able to socialize or make good pets. Even though most still believe that bonding is critical during this phase, the specific times are considered to be more flexible --- falling between the third and twelfth weeks with peak times for bonding being between the sixth and eighth weeks.

By the fourth week, a pup can see, smell, and feel. Although the major hormonal influences occur at puberty, male pups have already received a surge of testosterone that will cause them to behave differently than females. Until now, the pup has only experienced care and dependency. However, future relationships will be directed more towards dominance, subordination, and submission.

How pups treat other pups and are treated by their littermates is just as important to us as it is to them. There are three areas that will be the primary focus in this stage: play; dominance; and submission.

Play

Play within the litter helps to establish four important social functions:

1. Play teaches communal behavior that creates social bonds with other dogs;
2. Play molds adult social behavior by teaching communication skills;
3. Play predicts future dominance patterns, establishing which dogs are more dominant and which are more submissive.
4. Play teaches skills such as improved coordination, mental and physical dexterity, problem solving techniques, and bite inhibition.

Dominance and Submission

Since Dogs are social animals, they must develop a hierarchy and establish a pecking order of dominance and submission. To do this, dogs have signals (*i.e.*, body language) that become well developed during the socialization period.

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Dominant (agonistic) behaviors are as follows:

- Stalking;
- Chasing and ambushing;
- Standing over a littermate;
- Circling the littermate with a stiff wagging tail
- Attacking and biting;
- Raised hackles;
- Baring teeth and snarling;
- Direct stare with dilated pupil;
- Shoulder and hip slams;
- Standing with forepaws on littermate's Back;
- Boxing;
- Mounting (with or without pelvic thrust);
- Wagging tip of erect tail;
- Erect or completely flattened ears; and
- Taking play fighting to extremes.

Though these behaviors may appear cute or amusing to us, they are very serious to the pups, indicating the rules of the pack. In addition, they can have lifelong consequences. Recognizing submissive behaviors is as important as recognizing dominant behaviors.

Signs of submission include the following:

- Tail tucked between its legs, head hung low with depressed ears and eyes averted from the aggressor;
- Submissive grin;
- Licking lips;
- Rolling on back;
- Lying on side and lifting the hind leg to expose genitals;
- Urinating;
- Defecating;
- Remaining stationary while aggressor circles or places paws on shoulders; and
- Remaining stationary while aggressor mounts.

Play fighting is necessary for pups to establish social rank and learn canine behavior and should not be interfered with unless there is a risk of serious injury.

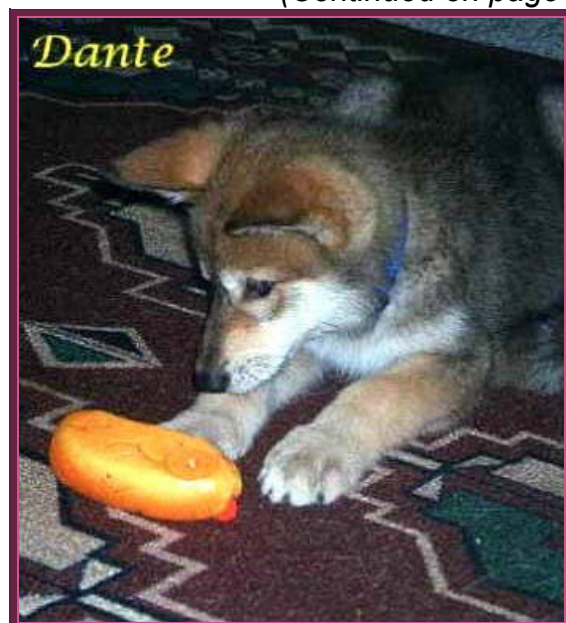
Young pups will only make contact with strangers for a very short period. This is normal behavior that not only allows a pup to

bond with his own species but also protects him later in life from potential predators. As humans, we take advantage of this critical period by inserting ourselves into the dog's world. However the dog has no intention of acting like a human and expects us to conform to his world.

Between six and eight weeks, a pup's willingness to approach and make contact with strangers outweighs his natural wariness. This time frame is considered the optimum period to introduce a pup into its new home and surroundings. New studies however suggest a shorter time frame --- 7 ½ - 8 weeks as being the optimum time. (Serpell & Jagoe, 1999; Slabbert & Rassa, 1993; and Fox and Stelzner, 1966.)

During this phase, a pup should be gradually exposed to potentially frightening stimuli such as kids, the postman, vacuum cleaners, spray cans, street noises, loud noises, etc. By the time a pup is 8-12 weeks of age, it should also be introduced to the places, circumstances, and conditions that he is likely to have to face as an adult. Not only do pups form attachments to people during this sensitive stage, but also to places. (NOTE: Pups should be vaccinated before carrying them to places frequented by other dogs.)

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New Puppy?

By

Noreen Overeem, DVM

It's sometimes difficult to think of what could go wrong and how to prevent it when you get a new bundle of wonderful fur, but this is exactly why you should set an appointment with your new puppy's future veterinarian – right now! Although the following is about wolfdogs, it is applicable to other dog breeds also. All advice given here is a reflection of my own experience and opinions. You may find a Vet whose opinions differ on proposed vaccinations and other things. I will attempt to detail potential controversial areas among veterinarians regarding vaccinations.

Most Vets will agree that the puppy gets its first passive antibodies (those made without any effort on the puppy's part – i.e., received from its mother) through the first milk or colostrum. These antibodies (provided the mother was currently vaccinated and able to make her own antibodies, and therefore pass them onto her puppies) will provide immunity against various diseases (especially Distemper and Parvovirus) up to at least 6 weeks old, and possibly all the way till 16 weeks old. As long as the puppy has passive immunity remaining in its body, it will be unable to make any antibodies on its own in response to a vaccination. This is the reason we give a series of vaccinations to puppies, lasting up to 16 weeks of age. A 3-week interval is commonly used, although some Vets may use 2-week intervals. Once the passive im-

munity is gone, the puppy can respond to the vaccines with its own antibodies, called Active Immunity. One method of telling when Active immunity starts would be to run vaccine titers every 2 weeks and stop vaccinating once you saw that the puppy was now immuno-competent (making its own antibodies). This is feasible, but costs more than the vaccinations, requires frequent blood draws on a wriggling puppy, and is not absolutely foolproof. However, a number of Veterinarians are using this method with adult dogs.

The typical set of vaccinations will include Distemper, Parvovirus, Adenovirus, Hepatitis, Corona, and Bordetella. The particular series that I use in my clinic would go like this:

6 weeks: Dist, Parvo, Adeno, Hepatitis

9 weeks: Dist, Parvo, Adeno, Hepatitis, Bordetella

12 weeks: Dist Parvo, Adeno, Hepatitis, Bordetella, Corona, Plus Lymes if tick exposure is expected, and Giardia

15-16 weeks: Dist, Parvo, Adeno, Hepatitis, Bordetella, Corona, 2nd Lymes and 2nd Giardia, and Rabies (1 year Rabies only at this point)

The first visit should include lots of questions by the Vet about your puppy - where did you get it? What are you feeding (and proper diet recommendations and prohibitions)? Socialization methods and exposure to children,

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(Vet article continued from page 7)

loud noises, other dogs, streets, cars, toenail trimmers, combs and brushes, pilling, handling the pup's mouth/feet/ears, etc., Housebreaking, and whether this will be an outside or inside dog, and previous vaccination and worming history. I generally check a fecal sample and worm appropriately. Roundworms and Hookworms take 2 wormings, 3 weeks apart (because of the life cycle of these worms - the second worming 3 weeks later will get the new adults which were still larval stages at the first worming); Coccidia or Giardia will take 10 days of appropriate medication (generally Albon for Coccidia and Metronidazole for Giardia); Tapeworms, if present, are taken care of with Droncit (or Dron-tal); Whipworms may occasionally be found in puppies over 3 months of age (these have a 3 month life cycle so you'd never find them in a puppy less than 3 months old). Some veterinarians worm for Rounds and Hooks routinely without waiting for a positive fecal sample. This is ok, as long as a Fecal still gets checked for Coccidia and Giardia. Other potential parasites will also be dealt with at this time if needed, such as: fleas, lice, mites (Sarcoptic, Demodectic, ((2 different skin mites)), or Otodectes (ear mites). I rarely find ear mites in dogs unless they're around cats, or if they came from a kennel where ear mites were rampant.

I also stress Heartworm prevention, starting out at 6 weeks old. There is no immunity from heartworms from the mother dog. The adult heartworms live in the dog's heart, and are transmitted from dog to dog through mosquitoes. Some heartworm infections in an adult dog will produce microfilaria (the larval forms of the heartworm) circulating throughout the bloodstream. A pregnant dog, positive for heartworms and microfilaria) can sometimes pass the microfilaria onto her puppies' in utero so that the puppies can be born with microfilaria. Microfilaria never de-

velop into adult heartworms. However, microfilaria in a puppy may cause immune reactions in the kidneys and elsewhere; Therefore, if the pup's mother was positive for microfilaria, the puppy should be tested via the filter technique and treated if necessary. There is absolutely no reason to wait till the puppy is older before starting the preventative - mosquitoes won't wait till the puppy is older!!!

I personally do vaccinate wolfdogs for Rabies after first giving the owner as much information as possible. The way the Compendium for Rabies Vaccination still reads, the wolf dog isn't considered a breed of dog, but a different species and therefore not necessarily protected by the approved vaccines. (This could be another entire article about the fact that wolf and dog are the same species according to USDA and Mammalogists world wide, and wolfdog is just another type of dog - but the Compendium STILL doesn't recognize this). Because of this, no state will actually recognize Rabies vaccination in an animal they consider to be a wolf or a wolfdog, thereby requiring brain examination (killing the animal to obtain the brain obviously) to show whether the animal has Rabies if there was a human bite/scratch etc. I will vaccinate wolfdogs using Imrab 3 from Merial since it

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has 6 species approved for this vaccine, more than any other vaccine, and probably would be the first to actually get approval for the "species" wolf. Personally I also recommend that the new owner, proud as they may be of their new puppy, refrain from telling everyone of the puppy's wolf ancestry. Why get the word out in the neighborhood - and all the potential problems that may occur ... awful lot of Shep/husky/mal something crosses out there!!!.

There is a recent trend among University and private practice veterinarians to reduce the number of vaccinations given to dogs and cats to every 3 years, because of the potential of vaccination caused autoimmune problems. This is still controversial and is being researched - but you will find very adamant opinions out there about this issue. Numerous web sites are devoted

to anecdotal narratives on how their dog got all of its vaccines and 3 months later mysteriously developed Lupus, or another immune-mediated disease.. Now for my thoughts on this matter: I recommend yearly vaccinations, which the vaccine manufacturers also recommend. There are several 3 year Rabies vaccines out there, and they have been tested to show 3 years of immunity produced. But there are no 3-year distemper or parvo vaccines out there. The business of running titers to see if the individual dog still has immunity from the last vaccine has a bit of merit - but the results are only really good for the day you're running the test. There's no way to predict how long that immunity will last - suppose it's gone in 1 month - then the dog is unprotected for another 11 months until it comes back to the Vet for its yearly exam and vaccinations! And the logic of saying that the dog was vaccinated and came down with something 3 months later----what else also happened 3 months ago? - The dog ate some pizza, the dog went swimming in the lake or dirty pond, the dog played with a new neighborhood dog, the dog ate garbage and got a toxic gut reaction - you get the idea. It's not very scientific to label just the vaccine

as the only possible cause of the subsequent immune reaction in the dog. So this is where I stand on this issue at this Talk with your Vet, and get his/her opinion, but keep an open mind and really think it through if you're going to try to reduce vaccinations to every other or every 3rd year please. And if you and your Veterinarian choose to go to every other year, you should still get your dog into the Vet at least once a year for a good physical examination, heartworm exam (and I routinely test for Lymes and Ehrlichia along with the heartworm testing, and have found quite a few positives which were detected before the debilitating symptoms occurred).

So, enjoy and love your new puppy, train it and feed it well (feeding - now that's another whole issue also!), and find a good caring Veterinarian to work with you who'll know your animal because they see it often enough to be able to detect subtle changes that you might have missed, and be able to catch problems while still in the early stages.

**Dr. Noreen C. Overeem,
DVM**

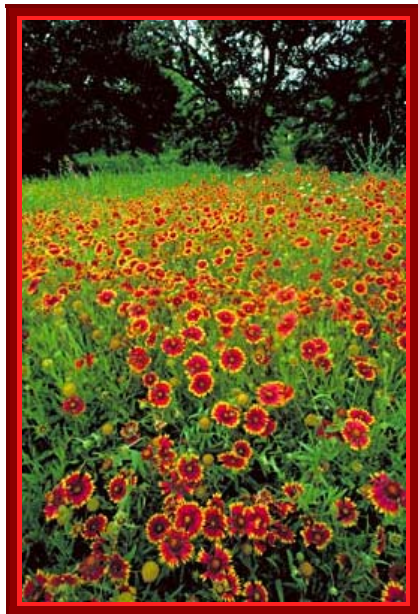
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FLOWER ESSENCE THERAPY FOR ANIMALS

By

Mary J. Getten, Animal Communicator



Flower essence therapy is a relatively new yet quickly growing discipline.

Flower remedies have been used throughout history but were first popularized by British physician, Dr. Edward Bach in the 1930s. Bach felt that imbalances in the emotions and spiritual state of a person led to disease.

While working to correct these imbalances, he discovered that each flower has a unique energy pattern that directly corresponds to the energy fields in the human body including their mental and emotional components. By taking the appropriate flower essence, a person's energy system is balanced.

Dr. Bach prepared and worked with 38 essences that he felt addressed the emotional issues of the time.

Today, there are thousands of flower essences produced all over the world. You can find complete lines from Australia, Alaska and even the Pacific Northwest. There are also several lines that were designed specifically for animals. The essences I prefer come from the Flower Essence Society in Nevada City, CA. I completed their flower essence practitioner course several years ago and spent about 10 days on site. FES essences are prepared with the utmost integrity, planning and spiritual work which makes them very powerful.

Flower essences are different from essential oils or aromatherapy. They are liquid extracts with no scent, prepared from a sun infusion of wildflowers that is diluted, potentized and preserved in brandy or vegetable glycerin. Like homeopathic remedies, flower essences are vibrational in nature. Flower essences do not directly impact the body's biochemistry but are catalysts that stimulate and encourage transformation of mental, emotional and spiritual issues.

Flower essences were originally designed for humans, but have been adapted for animal use. Our animal friends face many of the same emotional and spiritual issues that we do and

the essences are very effective at helping shift their energy and behavior. Essences are most effective and build strength through regular consistent use. I find it is easiest to put 4 drops of the essence in the animal's water dish and stir vigorously.

This way your friend gets some every time he drinks. Add drops whenever you refill or change the water. Essences should be given for about a month and then re-evaluated.

To decide which essences your animal needs can be tricky. A telepathic animal communication session can help you determine the correct issues, but sometimes you can pick the right essence on your own. These substances are non-toxic and cannot hurt your animal; so don't be afraid to try one on your own. If you are wrong, all you've lost is time and \$10 for the essence.

To help you choose a flower essence, I've listed several that I commonly recommend for animals. You may find just what you need listed below.

RESCUE REMEDY or FIVE FLOWER REMEDY:

This is the most commonly used remedy for animals and consists of five different flower essences. It has an overall calming effect and is

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wonderful for emergencies or stressful situations like going to the vet. It can also be used long term to address hyperactivity or old issues of trauma and abuse. Never leave home without it!

WALNUT:

Walnut is the essence for change and transformation. Use it to prepare for things like divorce, moving, new people or animals in the home.

I recommend using Walnut and Rescue remedy for one month before and after a move to assure a smooth transition. You should also take it.

HOLLY:

This is an excellent remedy for opening the heart. It addresses jealousy, anger and the feeling that there is not enough love. I give Holly when an animal needs to open its heart, feel more compassion and love others.

QUAKING GRASS:

Do you have a group of animals that aren't getting along? Try this essence. Quaking grass helps promote harmony and cooperation in groups and is very helpful when a new animal is introduced.

ASPEN:

Aspen is the essence for fear - especially fear of the unknown and anxiety. It works well with animals that spook easily and are afraid of new things. Aspen encourages trust and confidence to meet the unfamiliar.

MIMULUS:

This is also for fear, but indicated for everyday fears like thunder or the car. It addresses nervousness, shyness and timidity - the quintessential fraidy cat remedy.

OREGON GRAPE:

When an animal is paranoid or expects hostility from others, this remedy may help. Oregon grape brings an ability to trust and expectation of good will from others.

TIGER LILY:

When there is aggression, competition or a hostile attitude, this may be the remedy you need. Tiger Lily helps to transmute these tendencies into cooperation with others and brings inner peace and harmony that will extend to outer relationships.

BEECH:

Beech is for those who constantly complain, are very picky or intolerant. This essence helps them accept others as they are and brings tolerance on many levels.

SNAPDRAGON:

When there is tension in the jaw, biting, barking or cribbing, this is the essence to use. Snapdragon curbs verbal aggression and hostility and brings relaxation to the mouth and jaw.

CHESTNUT BUD:

This essence is all about learning. It helps animals break free of bad habits and habitual patterns, especially when they fail to learn from their mistakes. It's also helpful when learning new things,

such as during training.

WHITE CHESTNUT:

If you or your pet suffers from mental mind chatter, worrisome or repetitive thoughts, you could benefit from this essence.

White Chestnut helps to calm and quiet the mind and also helps animals break obsessive-compulsive behaviors.

POISON OAK:

Animals that are protective of their personal boundaries, are afraid of intimate contact, or exhibit hostile or distant behavior are in need of this remedy. They put up barriers to keep themselves safe. Poison Oak dissolves the walls and opens them.

Feel free to experiment with flower essences. If you are not sure what you're animal's issues are, and would like to try this gentle yet effective therapy, call an animal communicator who works with essences.

Good luck!

(Mary J. Getten is an animal communicator and flower essence practitioner who also teaches How to Communicate with Animals and Flower Essences for Animals workshops.

Call her at 360-376-7606 for more information or to schedule a consultation.

<http://www.MaryGetten.com>



Animal Elders

By
Marta Williams

There's something irresistibly appealing about older animals; they hold your heart with their eyes. I find I want to make especially sure that they are comfortable and happy. Here are some of the things I do for them.

Since I now know that animals can understand and absorb everything we say, think or feel I work to stay positive about their age and health, even when they're ill. I tell my older animals that as far as I'm concerned they may choose to live as long as they want and be healthy and happy to the day they die. I instruct them not to believe anything negative that people may say about aging or death.

I've noticed that people are very careless in this regard, saying things they would never say around an older person. I now tend not to tell people about my animals' physical problems or their advanced age to avoid eliciting such comments. For instance, with my cat, Jenny, I switched to saying, "I'm not sure how old she is, but she's a grandmother." I found that when I revealed her true age people would say something like, "Oh the poor old thing! She's not going to live much longer then." But they found it harder to react that way to the idea of a grandmother cat. Now that Jenny is going on 21, still in great shape, jumping, running and free from pain, I'm willing to tell her age. And now people just stare in amazement and say, "You've got to be kidding."

I also often tell my animals how much I appreciate all they've done for me. This is especially important to do at the time of an animal's death, or, if death was sudden, to tell the animal in spirit. I've come to view animals as master teachers and healers. I know my

Pit/lab Daisy taught me how to love unconditionally, and naturally, when she died I was inconsolable. That's the trouble with living with animals. As Irving Townsend put it, "We who choose to surround ourselves with lives even more temporary than our own live within a fragile circle..." But animals are here to teach us about death too; that may even be their greatest teaching. When I finally realized that Daisy's spirit was still with me even though I had lost her body forever, everything shifted.

Now I recommend to my clients that they sit in the dark with their dying animal without touching to learn how to sense and find the animal's spirit. I've told each of my animals that whenever he or she wants to go it's all right with me and that they have only to ask if they want help with dying. I have to admit though, that I'm hedging my bets. After two of my animals died of cancer I switched over to mostly holistic care and whole food diets. My animals are definitely enjoying an extended, sprightlier old age. Here are some of the guides I used to achieve healthier animal elders: *The Nature of Animal Healing* by Dr. Martin Goldstein and *Give Your Dog A Bone* by Dr. Ian Billinghurst (I extrapolated for my cats). To order call 800-776 2665 or check out the website at www.dogandcatbooks.com.

For horses, call to get an order list of the back issues of the *Whole Horse Journal* at 800-424-7887. (It is no longer published.) Also check out the "Suggested Readings" and "Useful Links" pages on my website.

Marta Williams, Animal Communicator
www.martawilliams.com

Animals are masters of intuitive communication.



Does Your Wolfdog FOLLOW THE LEADER?

By Nicole Wilde

Part One: Does Might Make Right?

I recently attended a lecture given by a self-styled “dog psychologist” on how to improve your relationship with your dog. One of the main points made was that canines don’t need a loving leader, but rather, a strong leader who uses “domination.” I was saddened to hear this regurgitation of the old, strong-arm techniques in a new, softer guise. The truth is, you can be both a strong *and* a loving leader.

Techniques like the alpha roll (forcing the dog on his back and staring until he submits) and scruff shakes are purportedly based on wolf behavior. Studies done in the wild years ago reported that wolves use the alpha roll to discipline and control other pack members. In later years, those studies were disproved. What ethologists found was that when a wolf wanted to dominate another, he would “muzzle pin,” i.e. place his own muzzle, mouth wide open, teeth bared, gently over the muzzle of the other. The pinned wolf would then roll over and submit *voluntarily*. That’s an important distinction. In fact, if a wolf forcefully slams another to the ground, teeth around his neck, staring hard, chances are he means to kill that ani-



mal. Is that really the message you want to send to your wolfdog?

If your wolfdog has any aggression issues, using force will only make the problem worse. It may look for the moment like you’ve solved the issue, because the aggressive display stops immediately. Of course it does; you’re threatening him. His freezing or giving signals of submission is called self-preservation. In reality, you’re only suppressing the aggression, and causing stress that will assuredly resurface--and it won’t be pretty. It may reappear as other seemingly unrelated behavior problems, or even worse aggression. Besides, what happens if one family member uses force, but the others are not as physically or psychologically capable of doing so? I can tell you, because that’s the case with many families I’ve

been called in to work with. When the domineering person (usually the husband) is gone, the wolfdog challenges the one he sees he might have a chance of dominating, which is usually the wife.

Another little known wolf fact is that the “alpha” or top-ranking wolf does not need to prove a thing. Good alphas rule with a calm air of dignity. They are assertive when necessary, but are not bullies. At Wolf Park, a research and educational facility in Indiana, those alpha wolves who ruled with a heavy paw were quickly deposed by other pack members. Those who ruled wisely ruled longer. It’s actually the middle-ranking, wanna-be alphas that do all the squabbling. They have something to prove. You shouldn’t.

Part Two: Be A Good Pack Leader

So where does this all leave us? How *does* a human act as good pack leader? We have already established that good, benevolent leadership does not depend on physical coercion. One can be a strong, effective leader while still being loving, patient and consistent. However, just as with children, there must be a rules and boundaries in place. Children who grow up with no guidance of this sort

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are often described as “wild and out of control.” Canines are no different.

A staple of any leadership program is maintaining control of resources. Parents of teenage kids control allowance, curfew and use of the car. (Okay, stop laughing. It starts out that way, anyway.) To wolfdogs, the most important resource is food. Food is literally the difference between life and death! In your house, is food, that great life-giving substance, bestowed directly upon the wolfdog from you, Oh Great Leader? Or does it come from that magical round thing on the floor that’s always miraculously full? Be sure to feed your wolfdog twice daily (or once if you prefer) and pick up any remaining food after 10-15 minutes. Don’t worry if he leaves most of it the first few times; he’ll adjust quickly. No animal will starve itself. (Note: While water is another valuable resource, it should be available at all times.)

Instead of leaving ten different toys strewn around, bring out one special toy and engage your wolfdog in play. Now you are the source of fun and the provider of valuable items. (If your wolfdog is left alone, leave him with a few things such as bones and interactive food toys to keep him occupied.) Put the special toy away when you’re done. A less obvious resource is space. Canines understand physical space. In a wolf pack, if a lower ranking wolf doesn’t have the good sense to move aside as a higher ranking one walks by, he will be on the receiving end of a “hip bump.” (If you’ve ever walked down a New York street, you may have experienced this!) If your wolfdog zig-zags in front of you as you walk, gently shuffle your feet along the floor as though you are walking *through* him. If he encroaches on your space while you are sitting, i.e. pushes into or climbs onto you, fold your arms, bend forward

and turn slightly to the side, then gently push with the space between your elbow and shoulder, like a football player. Try not to shove him away with your hands; that’s a great game for canines, and he’ll likely keep doing it, as you’re rewarding him.

Speaking of access to space, should you allow your wolfdog up on the furniture, or to sleep on your bed? That depends. If you have absolutely no leadership problems with your wolfdog, and he removes himself immediately and without complaint when asked, I say, go for it! If, however, when asked to move, he gives you the Billy Idol Lip Curl, I’d say that’s a wolfdog who does not need to be allowed up on high places. Height can equal status in a canine’s mind, and pushy wolfdogs with dominance issues do not get these privileges.

Another staple of the leadership program is having the wolfdog earn everything. Here’s where our leadership program really kicks in. Think about what’s rewarding to your wolfdog in everyday life. Receiving food, going for a walk, having a ball thrown and being petted are common ones. Unfortunately, most fur-kids are never asked to do a thing to earn them! If your wolfdog has even the most basic obedience, a Sit, you’re in business. Any time your wolfdog is to receive something valuable, ask him to sit first. When he sits for the leash to be put on, a walk is the reward. When sitting for food, the meal is the reward. Sitting before a toss of the ball earns a great chase; you get the idea. Next time you’re hanging out on the couch and that cute canine comes over and paws at your leg, giving you those big brown pet-me eyes, ask him to lie down and *then* pet him. Speaking of petting, if your wolfdog is not used to being handled, make a point of doing gradual massage work with him until you can touch him anywhere without protest. A good leader should be trusted to allowed to touch wherever is necessary. (This will also make grooming and vet visits easier on everyone.)

Incorporating these things into your everyday life is simple and will soon become second nature. Be sure to take the time to do daily basic obedience training as well. Training with positive methods will reinforce your leadership, while providing your wolfdog with mental and physical stimulation. Besides, training together is fun and enhances the dog-owner bond. Remember above all that good leaders are not bullies. Verbally reprimand if necessary, then forgive and move on.

Be a kind leader!

Creating My First Enclosure

By Stormy Renee'

Recently, I built my first high content wolf-dog enclosure. The reason I mention content is that various contents have different requirements.

Some people choose to have their wolfdogs live in the home. My first wolfdog Kodiak, who is a 44% F2 destroyed my house during his first year. Low and mid content wolfdogs are manageable inside the house compared to high contents and captive raised wolves.

One of the reasons he did this was out of boredom when I was at work. He needed a companion to keep him busy, and his mind off idle things. Wolfdogs are pack animals and should live with a companion, either large dogs or wolfdogs. So, I got him Luna. Luna and Kodiak lived half-and-half, half the day in the house, and half the day outside in their yard. Being more dogs than wolf they did well in the house after the first year. They grew out of their destructiveness, as they got older.

High content wolfdogs can be in the house for short periods of time if you are supervising them constantly. However, they are thieves. They will steal anything within reach, and bound out doors with it. They can and will mark anywhere they want inside of your house with very strong musk like urine. It smells terrible and will ruin furniture, wood floors, and linoleum. They can easily jump through a screen or window if they so desire without so much as a blink. (The same goes for any large strong willed dog.)

High content wolfdogs and captive raised wolves prefer to live outside. To make them stay indoors is doing them a disservice and is plain selfish.

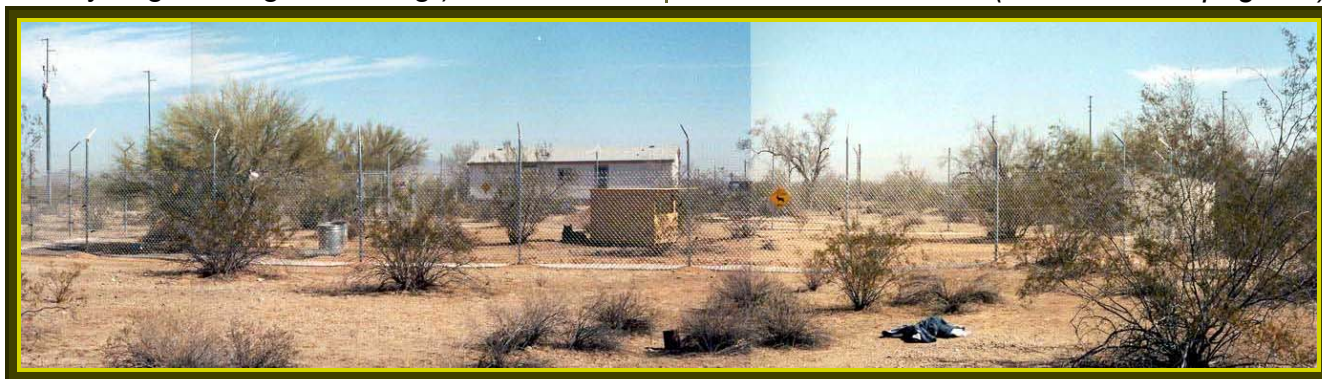
I have spent several years around captive raised wolves. Based on my experiences first hand I know they enjoy the outdoors. I spent a great deal of time researching different enclosures from the ones at Wolfwood Ranch, to Cedar Hills, to the wolfdog enclosures on the net.

Since this was my first, I wanted to try to make it right the first time. High content wolfdogs can easily jump a 6-foot fence. They can dig out underneath the fence if they desire.

Many people would like to assume wolfdogs would not climb out, or dig under to escape. That's just not true in most cases. They are adventurous, curious and if you are out in your garden, or working on your car they may just want to keep you company. Most times they get out of their enclosure "because they can"; nothing more, nothing less. Captive raised wolves and wolfdogs do not "yearn for the wild" and try to escape. That is a huge myth. <G>

I live in an area where there are coyotes, kit foxes, javalina, cougars, and many feral dogs that run loose. Most do not wear collars or tags and for "my own wolfdogs" protection I wanted to use hotwire in the enclosure so, they would not get close enough to the fence

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that wildlife, or wild dogs could fence fight. Nor do I care for my animals that have always had their proper inoculations to catch anything from feral dogs.

Due to time constraints I had to shorten my enclosure by 100 feet. I will add it in the future to make it ¼ acre or 100 X 100.

I made a 300-foot perimeter. (See picture on previous page.) I had thirty- (30) 10-inch wide holes dug 27 inches deep for the poles. All of my poles are 10 foot tall. This gives two feet into the cement in the ground. I used 2 to 3 60-pound bags of post mix in each posthole. I let it dry a week before I hung the link.

The corner posts are heavy duty, thicker than the line posts. I put 1-½ foot barb arms on top of the poles for added security. I made a double-gated entry, both locked. (I bought a 6 X 6 12-gauge dog kennel for the outside gate and topped it with lighter gauge welded wire. See photo below.)



I used 9 gauge 6-foot tall 50-foot rolls of link for the main fence. On top of the 6-foot main chain link, I put 3-foot lighter gauge welded wire to make the height a total of 8-foot not including the height of the barb arms. On the barb arms I will be putting a strand of hotwire, and dog wire.

I used 11-½ gauge 4 foot chain link on the inside perimeter of the fence hog ringed to the main fence so they could not dig out. I purchased 5 ton of Granite gravel to pour over the

dig out wire to approx. a 4-inch height.

There is one strand of hot wire approx. 10 inches from the ground and another strand approx. 4 or 5 foot from the ground. I used Red Snapper Solar powered 10-mile charger, and have the charger suspended inside the double entry gate.

I put in a 140-gallon stock tank big enough for them to jump inside and get half of their bodies totally wet during the hot months.



I built a 5 X 4 X 5 foot dog house with ½ inch plywood, 4 X 4 beams and the roof extends outwards to make shade on different sides of the house all times during the day. It is on 4 X 4 beams so there is enough height rain will not flood the house, and air can flow underneath. The two sides and front of the house have ½ wood and are open space for airflow. They also like to stand up and look out of the house at all angles. They don't seem to like being enclosed where they cannot see out of the doghouses.

They have a good shade tree (lucky to have a tree period, I live in the desert) to lie under, can dig dens to china if they desire. But to make it more enjoyable and to give them more to do I am in the process of building a ramp so they can lay or stand on top of the doghouse. I am adding a misting system over their shade tree and house for when the heat exceeds 100 degrees here to keep them cool.

I will be adding bales of straw for them to jump up on as well. If they need to cool off meanwhile they can dig 3 inches into the sand it is

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very cool. It is very easy for them to dig and cool off in the shade.

This fall I am adding the extra section to the fence will be building a 4 X 5-foot half-underground blockhouse to keep them cool next summer. And I will be adding two separation pens for separation during season. This size pen is good size for two or 3 adults, or 2 adults and two puppies (5 month old). I will eventually have three (3) 100 X 100 pens with two adults in each.

The key is to keep them cool and dry during rain & heat. In the colder areas of the country keeping them warm and their water not frozen is a priority. But alas, how many times have we seen in the extreme hot sun one of our woofers lying in the sun! Or how many times have we seen they playing in the snow when it was 50 below zero totally ignoring their houses or shelter??? Oh well, better to have than not to have!!!!

High content wolfdogs and captive raised wolves should never live on a chain/tether or smaller enclosure permanently. (No other dog should either for that matter.) It is inhumane and they cannot enjoy their daily games of jumping or playing tag in a 20 X 20 pen. If they are kept on

a chain or in a small pen they may become aggressive, unsociable, and even neurotic. If one does their research and really wants to give their wolfdogs a quality life, they will give them plenty of space, and plenty to keep them busy.

They are very high-energy animals and need enrichment in their lives. Playing games with them by hiding treats, building structures they can play on and in helps them enjoy themselves.

I recommend NO less than nine gauge for the first 6 foot of fence. Wolfdogs and even d-dogs can easily chew through 12-gauge link. If you have wolves or wolfdogs in 12-gauge link, you are likely to eventually lose your animal.

Building enclosures for wolfdogs is very costly. I built mine completely by myself with two exceptions: I cannot dig; it causes pain in my lower back and arms. I had the postholes dug for me. (However, the dirt fell into them and I had to re-dig them out. Still easier than doing it from scratch) and I had my boyfriend hang the hotwire. He is very good at it and I wanted it done correctly. Other than that, I did everything else. I spent 4000 dollars for materials. By no means am I a wealthy person.

I bought what I could with each paycheck and it took approx 5 months to build. With the extreme heat here, most of the building took place between 5am and 11pm, and 6pm until 3am.

This saying below by Konrad Lorenz is all to true. I live by it and anyone responsible will too.

“Wolves housed in cages, which are far too small, are among the most pitiful of all caged animals...”

I am thankful to all of the people who gave me advice during the building of my first enclosure. I have tried to learn by others mistakes what TO do, and what NOT do.



Tala on her 2nd birthday



The Joys of Kong

By Kat Mills

As I figure out ways to make things easier for all of us to co-exist happily with all the rest of us around here, I have discovered the Joys of Kong.

Recently, I read "Culture Clash" by Jean Donaldson. She discusses "Predatory Sequence Behaviors", and "predatory play" in particular as an avenue for releasing a great deal of energy for your companion. She discusses the need to provide energy outlets for your companion as a way to direct behaviors that are counterproductive to a mutually beneficial human-animal relationship. I really advise anyone to get this book, and Karen Pryor's "Don't Shoot the Dog" and read them, nay, ingest them as soon as possible.

She makes a lot of sense. Here is one of her suggestions:

Hide & Seek Put your dog on a sit/stay (or if you do not have a reliable sit/stay, remove them from the hiding area) and hide a toy, such as a stuffed Kong. Release them after the toy is hidden, and say with enthusiasm "Where's your Toy!!???" and encourage them to search. As soon as possible, stop helping them find it, you don't want to bail them out all the time, they will "learn helplessness", and learn that giving up is the best strategy for receiving the reward, the (in this case) stuffed Kong, rather than persevering. Persevering uses more energy. You WANT to

use up energy.

This activity's benefits include:

- 1) Predatory energy burner: both by making the dog use his nose to find, and by working in some retriever or tug -of-war play/reward.
- 2) Teaches the dog to actively search for his own chew toys.
- 3) Multiple rehearsal potential of sit/stay with excited dog.
- 4) Fun, of which there is too little in life.

(Page 26 "Culture Clash" by Jean Donaldson)

Kongs are also a great distraction for separation anxiety. It eases the blow of the initial separation, and gives an activity that is "acceptable destruction" to focus on. I have been using mine in the crate at night, lightly packed with dry cookies. I use dry cookies (especially those ones with odd shaped ends, as you can cram them in to make a bit of a puzzle out of it) because they tend to not cause bowel distress in the middle of the night.

<http://www.kongcompany.com/how2use.html>

KONG STUFFING RECIPES

As you create recipes, be sensitive to your dog's tummy as you experiment. Following are recipes created by veterinarians, dog trainers and dog lovers worldwide.

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BANANA RAMA: 1 fresh banana · 2 Tbs. wheat germ · 1 Tbs. plain yogurt (can use your pet's favorite flavor as well) · Kong Toy that best fits your pet's chewing temperament In a bowl, mash up banana. Then, add wheat germ and yogurt. Mash all ingredients together and use spoon to add to Kong. Freeze for 4 hours. Makes 1 serving for Medium Kong. Double the amount for every Kong Size that is bigger.

PHILLY STEAK: steak scraps · 1-ounce cream cheese · appropriate Kong Toy Place small scraps of the steak inside Kong toy. Spread cream cheese in large hole to hold scraps.

FRUIT SALAD: apple and carrot chunks · 1/4th of banana · appropriate Kong Toy. Place apples and carrots in Kong Toy. Mash the banana in large hole to hold fruit in place. You can include other fruits and veggies: orange slices · peach and/or nectarine chunks · celery sticks · broccoli and/or cauliflower · tomato and black olive mixture.

VEGGIE KONG OMELET: 1 egg · your choice of shredded cheese · any vegetables that your pet may like · appropriate Kong Toy Scramble egg and fold in vegetables. Put into Kong toy. Sprinkle some cheese over the top and microwave for about 20 seconds. Cool thoroughly before giving to dog.

MAC 'N CHEESE: Leftover macaroni and cheese · small cube of Velveeta · appropriate Kong Toy Melt Velveeta in microwave until gooey. Add mac 'n cheese to Kong Toy. Pour heated Velveeta into Kong. Make sure it has cooled before giving to your pet.

Make sure you get the REAL Kong, as some of the knock-offs are NOT as indestructible. My "krew" has destroyed the cheaper knock-offs within minutes. There are inherent health problems with ingested foreign objects of this kind of material, so please beware.

Until next time, Happy Howling!

****Kat****

CARNIVOUS KIBBLE

2 c. whole wheat flour
1 c. cooked rice
1 c. nonfat powdered milk
1 t. bone meal
1/2 t. salt
2 eggs
1/2 c. liquid meat fats
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 T. Worcestershire sauce
1 1/2 c. meat drippings
2 c. (about 1 lb.) cooked ground beef, pork or veal (Retain all drippings for liquids listed above)
3 Tbsp. Cod Liver Oil

Preheat oven to 250* degrees and grease a large baking sheet.

In a large mixing bowl, combine whole wheat flour,



Offered for Your Woofers' Dining Pleasure

By
Kat Mills

rice, milk powder, bone meal and salt.

In a small bowl, beat eggs. Blend in oil.

Stir in garlic and Worcestershire sauce. Add drippings to flour mixture and blend well.

Fold in egg mixture and mix thoroughly.

Add meat and press it into dough, distributing evenly. Spread mixture evenly 1/2 inch thick on baking sheet and bake 45-60 minutes, or until dry.

Cook kibble, and then break into small pieces.

Store in covered container in fridge, or divide into individual servings, place in freezer bags and freeze. Makes 4 cups kibble.

Canine Development by Pam Thompson continued from page 6

Research has shown that there is a short hypersensitive period between the fifth and eighth week during which distressing psychological or physical stimuli can have long-term effects. (Serpell & Jagoe, 1999; DeHasse, 1994; and Fox and Stelzner, 1966). Before the fifth week, effects of conditioning were unstable and quickly forgotten; after the twelfth week, the effects were overridden by positive affiliative tendencies towards humans established during the socialization period.

Pups that are not socialized to other canines during this phase almost always do not make good mothers and are fearful or aggressive towards other dogs once they mature. Those denied play activity show a greater fear of humans, animals, and noises. Pups that are kenneled throughout the socialization period tend to be poor learners and will try to avoid stimulation. They also tend to be fearful of strange environments and either excessively excitable or excessively inhibited. If a pup does not meet people during this phase, he will be antisocial. This is the most sensitive period of a pup's life. If there is any rule to remember at this time, it is that one should never play fight with potentially aggressive or dominant dogs because it creates potentially serious problems for the future.

JUVENILE:

The juvenile period begins about the twelfth week and lasts until maturity (two years of age). By the juvenile stage, a pup has been influenced by genetic inheritance in combination with the events that took place during the first three phases of his life. While learning continues throughout the pup's life, the juvenile stage is when the basis for all behavior patterns and future learning is established. It is also the time that behavioral problems can emerge.

Learning

Types of learning that occurs in the juvenile state are observation, classical conditioning, and operant conditioning.

Observation is the most common form of learning. A pup watching another animal do something and then performing the action has learned to do the action through observation.

Classical conditioning is also referred to as stimulus-reaction or behavior-reward. This type of learning is involuntary and the response is automatic. Pavlov's famous dog experiments epitomize classical stimulation. Pavlov rang a bell before each meal; the dog soon realized that each time the bell rang; food was going to be produced. Soon the dog began to salivate immediately upon the ringing of the bell.

Operant conditioning, the third form of learning, is also

called the action-reaction response-reward. Technically speaking, in operant training there is a controller --- an individual who rewards the response the controller wants the pup to do. If the controller asks the pup to sit and then provides a treat, then the word "sit" will be implemented into the conditioning.

A pup will use these three forms of learning as the basis for his future behavior.

Pre-Puberty

A pup's ability to form strong or significant emotional ties to new individuals begins to diminish early in the juvenile stage. At about the middle of the juvenile stage (i.e., at 10 months old) growth will begin to level off, but emotional and psychological changes continue until the pups reach maturity (2 -4 years).

Previous influences from the transitional and socialization phase will play an important part in this phase of the pup's life. For instance, competition for food is limited to littermates when the pups are five weeks of age. By the time they are 16 weeks, the pups must take their place at the bottom of the hierarchy and are limited to what is left after the dominant members eat. Regardless of the pup's rank with littermates, he must now show submission to the dominant members of the family pack. Pups that are indulged and hand fed during

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Image © wolfphotography.com

this time can associate the behavior as dominance over their owners. Indulging and hand feeding after others family members have eaten is a good way to lessen food aggression along with a "work to eat" program.

Clinical studies have revealed that dogs can develop a phobic behavior and show signs of anxiety toward their surroundings and toward familiar humans with which the dog has little contact during pre-puberty, even though they were well socialized and experienced sensorial enrichment between three weeks and four months (Fogle, 1990; Fox, 1978; Dehasse, 1990).

Studies demonstrate that there is a phylogenetic¹ and/or epigenetic tendency for pre-puberty sensitization (Dehasse, 1990; Fox, 1978). In one noted experiment, dogs remained attached to the trainer until they reached maturity at which time they became less tolerant (Fox,

1978). At maturity, the dogs became less tolerant of contact with or proximity of the trainer.

Age of puberty, temperament, emotivity, sociability, etc., can vary among breeds and individuals. There is a correlation between canine wariness and the onset of puberty. During the juvenile state, it is not uncommon to see the appearance of wariness towards strangers and the unknown, and can develop as early as 6 to 18 months in wolves and some dogs and as late as two years in other dog breeds.

The most plausible explanation would be that most dogs (and wolves) are born with a biological "preparedness" to learn to fear certain evolutionarily relevant or pre-potent stimuli (Shull-Selcer & Stagg, 1991; Serpell & Jagoe, 1999). Socialization during the later part of the socialization period and early juvenile period plays a major part in determining which fears are acquired.

Puberty

As a pup reaches puberty, he will view the relationship between humans and himself as inter-action between pack members. The remainder of

secondary sexual characteristics will develop during puberty. Needless to say, this can be a time of drastic behavioral changes and when animals often choose to challenge the human pack members for leadership of the group.

Intra-specific socialization is followed by several crucial periods of hierarchical development (Dehasse, 1990; Fox, 1978). The following can occur in successive phases and end in problem behaviors such as food aggression, territorial aggression, dominance aggression, and socio-sexual aggression at puberty, and maturity.

Hierarchy for food begins to be established among pups at five weeks and is established among pups between three and twelve months, and with adults around 4 ½ months. This is the first phase of social aggressiveness. Animals that are dominant eat first and are allowed the first choice of food.

Territorial aggression is one of the most common behavioral problems in Dogs. Many dogs, like wolves, will show aggression towards intruders entering their home

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¹ Refers to genetic 'relatedness'; a phylogeny, then is a diagram illustrating genetic relatedness. From a layperson's perspective, a phylogeny can be thought of as a lineage or a genealogy – except that 'lineage' refers to a particular animal and 'genealogy' to particular person or family, whereas 'phylogeny' can refer to individual organisms within a species, groups of related species, or even individual genes.

Hey! You change that back. I was watching Lassie!



range. The home range usually means the immediate vicinity of the owner's home, but can also include areas where a dog is regularly walked. Hostility in wolf pups towards intruders appears around 16-20 weeks, which coincides with the sudden heightened sensitivity to novel or fear-evoking stimuli and is also about the time when young wolves start moving away from the familiar den and rendezvous sites.

Dominance aggression usually occurs in homes with kindly non-authoritarian owners who often allow the dog to have its own way, or that treat their dogs as equals. The problem with these kindly gestures is that the animal views the human as weak and will challenge for a higher pack rank. In order to avoid dominance aggression, owners should establish a firm leadership position by making the dog do something for them before they do something for the dog (action-reaction-reward). Some dog breeds may establish dominance relationship as early as wolves, while others may never develop stable dominance relationships regardless of circumstances.

Socio-sexual aggression occurs in stages: The first stage is at pre-puberty and coincides with that of food aggression set out above. Pre-pubescent dogs emit pheromones that will activate demonstrations of authority by the group's dominant dog. The second stage deals with sexual, social, and zonal-spatial issues, and coincides with the production of sexual steroids (puberty) and territorial aggression. Young dogs will begin to develop an attraction for the opposite sex as

well as the areas occupied by the dominant members of his family group. The dominant member reacts by pushing the adolescent to the fringe of the group.

Sexual pheromones are awakened at puberty and the adolescent will exhibit the first signs of courting. The same sexed dominant member will openly discourage or become aggressive in response to this behavior because he/she is the only one in the pack who is allowed to exhibit its sexuality. Again, the adolescent is pushed from the preferred areas occupied by the dominant pack members. The adolescent loses the right of greetings, licking, and other social attentions given by the other dogs.

Maturity:

The third stage occurs at maturity and is much like the second stage. The most distinguishing difference between behaviors exhibited in the easier phase and those exhibited now is that at maturity, all of the weapons, strengths, and passions of a mature adult are in place.

Dogs view aggression as competition for pack rank. The sex of the animal, age, size, hormonal status, territory, personal distance, dominance/subordination hierarchy, and what was learned in previous encounters all could have an influence on aggression. Therefore, aggression is both inherent and learned. A dog's natural predisposition to move up in the social hierarchy, along with the overlapping of phases, often makes pinpointing the exact cause of aggressive tendencies hard to diagnose.

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Summary of Changes:

1-2 weeks:

Brain is only developed enough to control breathing, heartbeat, balance and equilibrium.

Pup needs stimulation to nurse, and eliminate.

Pup can smell and taste.

3 weeks:

Brain is sufficiently developed to control regulation of body temperature and metabolism.

Pup no longer needs stimulation to nurse or eliminate.

The eyes and ears canals are open and pup is able to see and hear (maturity of sight and hearing will take several weeks).

Teeth begin to erupt through the gums.

Pup is able to crawl forward and backward, and walk clumsily.

Pub begins to urinate and defecate outside of the nest.

Shows interest in solid food.

Play fighting with littermates begins.

Time of first stress related fear.

4th- 6th week:

Pups learn social behaviors with other pups and should begin socialization with humans.

The mother weans pups.

5th-8th week:

Hypersensitive period when distressing psychological or physical stimuli can have long term effects.

12th week:

Pups ability to form significant emotional ties to new individuals begins to diminish.

16-20 weeks:

Heightened sensitivity to novel or fear evoking stimuli.

4-4 1/2 months:

Sheds baby teeth.

10th month:

Physical growth begins to level off.

Heightened pre-puberty wariness can occur.

10-18th month:

Puberty can cause males and some females to challenge for higher rank within the family pack.

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Howlings



Animal “Rights” Organizations

By
Christine Burkett

Many wolfdog and other animal owners believe PETA and other such organizations actually have animals’ best interest at their core. WRONG!

A quote by Ingrid Newkirk co-founder and President of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals back in April 2001 says it pretty plainly, in my opinion.

"I OPENLY HOPE THAT IT COMES HERE," said Ingrid Newkirk. "It will bring economic harm only for those who profit from giving people heart attacks and giving animals a concentration camp like existence. It would be good for animals, good for human health and good for the environment."

The "it" she was referring to was the spread of Europe's lethal plague of foot-and-mouth disease to the United States. Her justification was that the animals were going to die anyway. If they were infected with "hoof & mouth" as it was called when I was growing up, they would be unfit for consumption.

She once said, "A rat is a dog is a boy". It is her belief and that of her ilk that no one should own animals, eat animals, use animals for medical experimentation or in any other way hold dominion over animals. They are our equals.

Australian born bioethicist Dr. Peter Singer who authored the 1975 book Animal Libera-

tion, believes rats should have rights equal or superior to those of a human child. Singer has argued that parents should have a right to, not only abort their unborn children but also have the right to, what he has termed, "post-natal abortion" up to a year after the birth of the child but animals should not be killed to sustain human life or to cure diseases that kill humans.

Yes, these 2 individuals are more radical than some but we know HSUS is very opposed to the private ownership of wolves and wolfdogs. They were instrumental in the Michigan wolfdog ban as well as the bans in Alabama and Georgia. I suspect if we checked, we would find their heavy hand in each and every piece of legislation restricting ownership throughout the country.

Before you donate your hard earned dollars to ANY organization, you should take the time to find out what their true agenda is and where that money will actually be used. Most of the organizations of this type never really spend money on true animal "welfare". It is spent on animal "rights" issues or goes to pay the exorbitant salaries and travel expenses, etc. for their executives and employees. Yes, there are good ones out there but be SURE before you give.

See you next issue!