

HIDDEN VALLEY OBEDIENCE CLUB

BEGINNER II CLASS Handout

AVERTING A DOG ATTACK

Clues to recognize aggression:

Ears erect, teeth baring, snarling, tail erect (cosmetic changes can fool you.e.g.docked tail and/or ears)

Ears back, (fear biter)

If dog lowers body, ears flatten, intensifies snarling, barking

What to do & what NOT to do:

Don't run...you may be perceived by the dog as prey

Stand still, stand straight or lean to side...don't bend over or crouch down

Don't turn your back

Do NOT make direct eye contact (dog may perceive as a threat)

Turn slowly sideways

Try saying "no" or "go home" but don't yell or scream

Offer something else, a book, backpack, jacket.

Don't try to break up dogs

You may have to let your dog loose, especially if he is restricted by a leash and/or can't defend himself. If he is small, slowly pick him up.

Things you can carry with you on your walks (but beware they could backfire)

1)treats to toss on the ground

2)spring open umbrella (surprises dog and puts a shield between you and the dog)

3) a stick (or cane or backpack) to distract him from your dog – let him attack the item rather than you or your dog

4) pepper spray (be careful not to spray your own dog)

If attacked, hit ground and roll into a ball, use arms to protect your head

Other Warnings to Heed:

Never leave children or other small pets alone with the dog. (Surprisingly 77% of bites happen with dogs that are familiar (family, neighbors, friends dogs))

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GAMES TO REINFORCE THE SIT-STAY (Can also be used for Down-Stays)

- 1) Dog must sit-stay while you *skip* ten feet away and stop. Dog must remain sitting for 10 seconds after you stop.
- 2) Dog must sit-stay while you *skip* ten feet away and stop. Dog must remain sitting for 15 seconds after you stop.
- 3) Dog must sit-stay from a standing position, following a hand signal. You can talk but no verbal command.
- 4) Dog must sit-stay following a verbal signal (no hand signal).
- 5) Dog must sit-stay while you place a treat on the floor six inches in front of him. You back up 10 feet. Dog cannot touch treat for at least ten seconds after you move back.
- 6) Dog must sit-stay while you *run* ten feet away and stop. Dog must remain in sit for ten seconds once you stop.
- 7) Dog must sit-stay while you *walk* ten feet away, wait ten seconds, then give command to come.
- 8) Dog must sit-stay while you *run* around a chair ten feet away and then return. (If you are really good then have your dog run around the chair and return.)
- 9) Dog must come to you then sit-stay while you lie on the floor. Dog must sit for a count of ten. You may not get up until the trick is over.
- 10) Dog must sit-stay while another family member goes to the front door and knocks. Dog must remain sitting for 15 seconds and must not bark more than three times.
- 11) Place and open sheet of newspaper on the floor. Dog must sit-stay directly on the paper with no body parts, except the tail, touching the floor. (Not good for dogs that have been paper trained.)
- 12) Dog must sit-stay while you *turn, walk* ten feet away and stop. You must keep your back to the dog for twenty seconds with dog remaining in position.
- 13) Dog must sit-stay while you *hop* fifteen feet away and then count fifteen seconds.
- 14) Dog must sit-stay following a verbal command while you *sit* on the floor with your back to the dog.
- 15) Dog must sit-stay while you *walk* away, placing a treat on the floor every foot for a distance of ten feet. Dog must go to you when called without picking up a treat from the floor.
- 16) Dog must balance a treat (sit-stay) on its snout for ten seconds.
- 17) Dog must sit-stay while you *get down on all fours and crawl* five feet away. Dog must remain sitting for twenty seconds.
- 18) Dog must sit-stay while everyone in the family walks in a circle, ten feet in diameter, around the dog. Only you can use the dog's name. Dog must stay in place for 60 seconds.

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BEGINNER II CLASS Handout

Kids And Dogs: Safety First

High-pitched laughter peeling behind her, Nancy ran around the corner of the house smack dab into the dog chained by the garage. Unnerved by the noise and startled by the child, the dog lunged and bit Nancy on the nose. She screamed, and the dog bit again. Nancy ended up with several stitches in her face and nightmares; the dog was euthanized for biting; and both families were traumatized.

The tragedy could have been avoided if Nancy's folks and the dog's owners had been prepared.

First of all, a dog should never be chained outside unattended. Most dogs of guard or working heritage suffer personality quirks when tied and many become downright aggressive. Dogs are better off in fenced areas, where they can see the barrier between them and the world, where they can feel somewhat safe from noisy, frolicking children. In addition, many dogs instinctively equate the high-pitched sounds of children with the distress sounds of prey animals, and they react by biting the child as they would have bitten the prey animal in the wild.

Second, children should be taught how to behave around dogs, even if their own family does not own a dog. For example, a child should never approach a strange dog without asking the owner if it's OK to pat the dog. If the child sees a loose dog on the street, he should not approach it even if he knows the dog belongs to his friend. He should tell someone that he saw the dog, but should make no attempt to pat or grab it.

Nor should he scream or run away, for these actions can result in an attack by the dog. A running being frequently says "prey" to the dog and triggers the chase response in his brain. Once triggered, this response is almost impossible to interrupt. The dog is reacting to chemical stimulus, not rational thought, and is extremely difficult to sidetrack.

Most dogs, even those that are well-trained, do not consider children as figures of authority. Furthermore, since children frequently stare intently at animals, a dog may feel threatened by this short person who is trying to catch him. Even the best-natured dog may bite to protect himself in these circumstances, especially if he feels cornered.

Once a child is given permission to approach a dog, she should present her closed fist for the dog to sniff. This protects the fingers in case the dog is frightened and tries to nip.

Children should never hug a dog that is not their own, and should only hug their own dog very gently if the dog can tolerate the hug. Children should be taught to never hit dogs with their hands or an object, to lower their voices when playing with the dog, to leave the dog alone when he's sleeping, eating, or ill, and to never tease a dog in any fashion. Many dog bites occur because the child teases the pet beyond endurance.

Dog owners share the responsibility for bite prevention as well. They should socialize their puppies to small children at an early age. (It helps to buy from a breeder who has started this socialization prior to the puppy purchase, for the younger the puppy is exposed to gentle children, the more tolerant of children it will become.)

Kids And Dogs: Safety First (PAGE 2)

Socialization can be as simple as walking the dog near a playground where children are making noise, running about, playing ball or Frisbee or soccer or walking through the neighborhood while the kids wait for the school bus. The dog can be told to walk at heel through a crowd of children, to sit-stay and watch the play or allow the children to pet his head, to down-stay until the end of the game. Constant exposure of this type will accustom the dog to the presence and antics of children.

1. **The dog should never be left alone with a child less than five years of age.** A young child may challenge or injure the dog unintentionally and the result could be tragic. Dogs and children should be separated at snack time so the dog doesn't learn to steal food from tiny hands.
2. **The dog should have a place he can call his own, a retreat, a private room, a den.** This can be a pen in the back yard or a crate in the house. The children should never be allowed to bother the dog when he is in his place.
3. **If the dog has access to a fenced yard, owners should make sure that neighborhood children cannot accidentally or intentionally tease him.** Kids often begin by goading the dog to bark, then to snarl. Or they may throw things at him to chase him away from the fence. However it begins, the end result is usually the same: the kids learn that teasing the dog gives them a feeling of power tinged with the possibility of danger and the dog learns to hate kids. This hatred may be manifest as fear or as aggression, and may end when a child is bitten and the dog is taken to the pound to be placed in a new home, (if lucky).
4. **If the dog does not like the children, the children must change their behavior.** Most dogs are wary of staring, of quick movements, and of high-pitched screams, all of which are typical of small children. Here's a few hints to alleviate the tension between dog and children.
5. **Provide a crate where the dog can escape the attention of boisterous or over-zealous children.**
6. **Teach children to leave Ranger alone when he's in the crate, to pat him gently--no squeezing around the neck, please--and to leave him alone while he's eating.**
7. **Do not play tug-of-war with any dog who has access to children.** A dog that learns to tug on any item will soon figure that anything he can grab is his, even if it's a child's toy, clothing, or appendage.
8. **Teach children not to run past the dog and scream,** for this can excite the dog and lead to dominant and even aggressive behavior.
9. **Never tie a dog in the yard.** Children tend to tease tethered dogs even without realizing it, which can lead to aggressive behavior. Many instances of dogs attacking children occur when the dog is tethered in the yard and a screaming or running child enters its space.

The sight of a child and a dog napping together on the sofa or the floor, playing in the yard, or contemplating the sunset is a wondrous thing. The potential relationship between a child and the dog who considers himself the family guardian is precious, and it needs to be nurtured and guided. Families can accomplish this by teaching the dog and the child to respect and cherish each other. If this can be done, fewer children will be bitten and fewer dogs will be euthanized for aggressive behavior.

**HIDDEN VALLEY OBEDIENCE CLUB
BEGINNER II CLASS Handout**

MOCK CGC EXAM (LAST CLASS BEFORE CGC EXAM)

Dog's Name _____

Station (1)

Test #4 Out for a Walk (Loose Leash) Pass or *Areas to Concentrate*

1. Not attentive to handler 2. Strains at end of the leash 3. Excessive Sniffing 4. Not changing direction

Station (2)

Test #1 Accepting a Friendly Stranger Pass or *Areas to Concentrate*

1. Shows resentment/aggression 2. Jumps/rushes evaluator 3. Lunges 4. Handler uses excessive force to control dog

Test #2 Sit Politely for Petting Pass or *Areas to Concentrate*

1. Shows excessive shyness/resentment 2. Struggles/pulls away 3. Lunges or jumps 4. Excessive movement/wiggly

Test #3 Appearance and Grooming Pass or *Areas to Concentrate*

1. Excessive movement/wiggly 2. Pulls away to avoid grooming

Station (3)

Test #6 Sit and Down on Command/Stay in Place Pass or *Areas to Concentrate*

1. Handler forces dog into position 2. Handler uses harsh collar correction 3. Leaves spot where left 4. Walks forward to handler 5. Fails to sit/down after reasonable time

Test #7 Coming When Called Pass or *Areas to Concentrate*

1. Handler uses repeated attempts to call dog 2. Handler "reels" dog in 3. Handler fails to touch collar

Station (4)

Test #8 Reaction to Another Dog Pass or *Areas to Concentrate*

1. Attempts to go to other dog 2. Attempts to jump on other dog 3. Crosses over to see other dog 4. Turns to follow other dog

Station (5)

Test #9 Reaction to Distractions Pass or *Areas to Concentrate*

1. Panics and tries to get away 2. Overly frightened 3. Growls and/or lunges

Test #5 Walking Through a Crowd Pass or *Areas to Concentrate*

1. Overly exuberant 2. Demonstrate shyness/resentment 3. Jumps on people 4. Shows more than a mild interest in crowd. 5. Strains at end of leash

Station (6)

Test #10 Supervised Separation Pass or *Areas to Concentrate*

1. Continually barks/whines 2. Paces unnecessarily 3. Shows extreme stress/agitation 4. Tries to get away/lunges 5. Insists on attention

Other 1. Dog urinates during test (exception Test #10) 2. Dogs shows aggression during test 3. Handler uses excessive force/commands

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PERFECTION IS IMPOSSIBLE

Jean Donaldson, a well known trainer/author, offers this advice to dog handlers, particularly those handlers who feel frustrated with the training process or their dog's pace in learning:

Not until you have trained into the 6 digits can you feel confident that your dog will sit immediately, every time, under any circumstance and in any place.

1. Handlers expect perfection must faster than is actually possible.
2. Training only increases the "probability" of a response, never perfection.
3. When a dog makes a mistake it is beneficial to the learning process, because it helps to improve communication between the dog and the handler.
4. Some handlers take dog's mistakes personally, when in reality the dog hasn't learned the behavior yet (see #2 above).
5. Many handlers don't realize that dogs cannot generalize; the dog needs to practice the same thing in as many possible places, at as many different times, with as many different distractions as possible before you can even begin to count on the response.
6. Use food, toys and the dog's desire for training and don't feel the need to quit using these motivators too soon.

Reasons why a dog will not respond correctly:

- 1) Handler doesn't have control of the dog.
- 2) Communication between the dog and handler is poor.
- 3) The training has been insufficient to expect a correct response.
- 4) There is too much distraction for this place in training.
- 5) The dog has been conditioned to more than one command.
- 6) The dog guesses wrong.
- 7) The picture has changed and the dog hasn't been trained during these conditions/circumstances.

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Top Ten Things We Know About Real Dogs (opposed to Walt Disney Dogs)

courtesy of Jean Donaldson, author, animal trainer,& animal behaviorist. Excerpt taken from The Culture Clash.

- 1) It is all chew toys to them (no concept of artifacts, tokens or symbols)
- 2) Amoral (no right vs. wrong, only safe vs. dangerous)
- 3) Self-interested (no desire to please)
- 4) Lemon-brains (i.e., small & relatively unconvoluted brains which learn only through operant and classical conditioning)
- 5) Predators (search, chase, grab & hold, dissect, chew, all strongly wired)
- 6) Highly social & don't cope well with isolation
- 7) Finite socialization period (fight or flee anything they're not socialized to)
- 8) Opportunistic & keen scavengers (if it's edible, eat it, NOW)
- 9) Resolve conflicts through ritualized aggression (never write letters to editor, never sue)
- 10) Well-developed olfactory (sniffing, et al) system

**HIDDEN VALLEY OBEDIENCE CLUB
BEGINNER II CLASS Handout (STAR STUDENTS)**

OUR EXERCISE PLAN

Dog's Name _____

Mental Stimulation (teaching tricks, practicing obedience commands, providing interactive toys, etc.)

days per week _____ Approx daily time _____

describe _____

Physical Well-Being (walking, swimming, biking, hiking, tread mill)

days per week _____ Approx daily time _____

describe _____

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**HIDDEN VALLEY OBEDIENCE CLUB
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APRIL FOOL'S DOG KNOWLEDGE CHALLENGE! (Or Any Other Month!)

The "Truth or Not" About Dog Behavior

(For each statement circle T for true or F for false)

1. **T F** The main association most dogs have with punishment is the presence of a stranger.
2. **T F** Dogs have an innate desire to please
3. **T F** Dogs might deliberately, maliciously and/or out of spite chew up your shoes; tear up the furniture; pee on the carpet, etc.
4. **T F** If you use food to train, the dog is doing it for the food and not for you.
5. **T F** Dogs will monitor your every movement because they have grown to worship you
6. **T F** Biting/aggression is primarily a dominance problem
7. **T F** Dogs rush through doors ahead of their owners because they don't understand the hierarchy of the pack (they don't understand that you, the leader of the pack, goes first)
8. **T F** Using aversive control methods (shock collars, strangle holds) makes a dog feel submissive
9. **T F** Under-socialized, and/or under-stimulated dogs are the result of poor breeding or letting puppies/dogs engage in rough play with other dogs
10. **T F** Dogs can be very stubborn and at times, spiteful

Record the # of True _____ # of False _____

BEGINNER II CLASS

TRIVIA FUN

- 1) What are the 3 D's of dog training?
Answer: distance, duration, distraction
- 2) The canine nose works how much more efficiently than the human nose?
Answer: one MILLION times on average
- 3) When training a new command why do we seek the behavior first?
Answer: we must show our dog "a picture" so he understands what we want (language is not innate to a dog)
- 4) Do Dogs Favor One Paw over the Other?
Answer: yes, dogs tend to be right or left pawed. They also tend to favor circling in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction.
- 5) Dogs Do Not Sweat by Salivating. How do they sweat?
Answer: through the pads of their paws
- 6) Why doesn't a dog like being petted on the top of his head? (you can train him to at least tolerate it)
Answer: primarily, it blocks his vision. For some dogs a hand reaching toward his face is perceived as a threat.
- 7) Why is it best to remain relaxed and calm when training?
Answer: stress and anxiety travels down the leash
- 8) If my dog lunges towards another dog or person, why should I NOT pull him back and speak loudly and harshly?
Answer: Yanking and shrieking tells your dog that you are as excited and nervous about the stranger as he is so he must be doing the right thing. It is best to stay calm and get his attention back on you as to turn him away from the other dog or person. (Aggression begets aggression.)
- 9) How long is a dog's attention span?
Answer: it varies by age and breed. The average is about 15 minutes...so ideally you benefit by keeping training sessions short. Several 5 to 10 minute sessions are more beneficial than an hour long sessions days apart.

BEGINNER II CLASS

Quick Reminders

- “off” “leave it” and “stay” are not scolding words...keep your voice low and firm (not loud!)
- Dogs can be particular about surfaces – practice on different types (grass, cement, linoleum, etc.)
- Do not compare your to others in class..like people, they learn at different rates & retention varies, as well
- Ignore the obnoxious behavior and reward the good behaviors.
- Where you treat is where your dog’s nose ends up (too high and he will jump up or sit; too low he might lie down; etc.) Keep food lures and/or rewarding where you want his head to be.
- Never call your dog to reprimand him...he will quickly learn not to come to you.
- When your dog looks up at you or “checks in” it is a BIG DEAL at this stage of learning
- Most dogs give a sign when they are about to break a “stay” (a look away, a sniff away and then they “go away”). Watch for the cues.
- Jibber Jabber....some folks love to talk, talk, talk to their dogs...to the point that the dog tunes you out or misses the important thing you have to say, such as “Sit”!
- Your goal after luring and treating in teaching a command is to move to “life rewards”, e.g., a scratch behind the ears, a belly rub, a ball toss, some time on the couch, etc.