



Howl-o-ween Training

Hi

One of the best times to work on the old “My dog won’t stop barking at the door” complaint, is on Halloween night! You bet! Think about how many times the door bell rings and your dog let’s you know someone is there. In our Family Dog Training manual you’ll find an article written by Sandra Kruczek called Speak and Shush. It’s on page 35. On Halloween night, you’ll be provided with multiple times to work on this exercise. I’ve used it with my own dogs. It takes one person to answer the door and give away the goodies and the other person to work with the dog. So, if this sounds like a good idea to you then dig out your training manual and plan to teach your dog to “Speak” when the doorbell rings and “Shush” when you ask. And just in case you don’t have that article I’m attaching it so you can add it to your files.



Summer City Dog Training - Training with distractions

We held our first City Dog class in Craig this summer. The dogs and owners attending this class have started with the foundation training learned in our Family Dog class. This foundation training was taken to the next level by teaching our students additional skills to help their dogs stay calm and under control in a variety of outdoor situations. After initially working in our training center in Craig, we worked downtown and around the farmers market. It was a very successful class!

I met with our Steamboat Parks and Recreation board of directors this summer and we now plan to teach our City Dog class in Steamboat next summer. Watch for upcoming newsletter updates to stay informed.



● So, what's with all the letters after our names? CPDT-KA?

The Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers was created in 2001. I've copied a part of the description from the CCPDT web site below.

This professional testing program was originally created by the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, the largest association of dog trainers in the world. Early on, the APDT recognized the need for certification for its profession. Pet dog trainers needed a credible means of measuring their knowledge and skills and the dog-owning public needed a credible barometer for choosing a trainer.

A task force, of approximately 20 nationally-known dog training professionals and behaviorists, worked for three years to research and develop the comprehensive written examination. The APDT also hired Professional Testing Corporation to ensure the process met professional testing standards. It then created a separate, independent organization-the Certification Council for Pet Dog Trainers (CCPDT)-to manage the accreditation and pursue future development. Today, the APDT and CCPDT are two completely independent and separate organizations.

Candidates who pass the CCPDT's written examination for professional dog trainers earn the title Certified Professional Dog Trainer-Knowledge Assessed and may use the designation, "CPDT-KA," after their names. All certified trainers must earn continuing education credits to maintain their designations. They must also adhere to a strict Code of Ethics in their dog training practices.

You can read more about the CCPDT at their web site: www.ccpdt.org

You can also learn more on the Association of Pet Dog Trainers web site; www.apdt.org

Our instructors work diligently to stay at the forefront of scientific based research on our canine companion animals. We continually study and develop our curriculum to reflect the best training techniques while maintaining the standard of "Do No Harm." Plus we just like teaching people and teaching dogs.



So you can teach old dog new tricks!

My good friend, training partner and lifelong mentor in the art of training dogs, Sandra Kruczek, has earned her CPDT-KA credentials this September. We are continuing our quest to learn and grow and offer our students the best chance for success with their chosen family dogs.



Dog Books Galore!

We have teamed up the Dogwise, a national dog book distributor. (I think I should definitely own stock in this company!) They have the most comprehensive selection of dog behavior and training books on planet earth! You can now access this great web site from our own www.totalteamworktraining.com web site. Just start there and click on any dogwise button and it will take you right to their web site. On occasion, we will recommend a new book and will feature it on our site. There are many fine authors with lots of good ideas on training and dog behavior. If you see a book you like and want an opinion or recommendation just send us an email or give one of us a call.

Continuing Education/Fun

We have plans to teach a variety of classes in the future including our Family Dog Training class, Head Start Puppy Training, City Dog and more... We will continue to offer group classes, small group classes, advanced classes and one on one private training.

Be safe and keep your paws dry! Laura

Speak and Shush (Bark on Cue - Shush on Cue)

By Sandra Kruczek

FACT: Dogs communicate in many different ways. They use their eyes, they wag their tails, they posture with their bodies, they can make their hair stand on end, and they can use their voices; they **bark** or vocalize. We view barking as a nuisance when we feel we cannot predict it or control it, or if our dogs bark when we are gone from our home or if they are outside in their yard too long and bark because they are lonely or excited by a squirrel or some children playing, or when the mail man comes walking by or has just been to our front door.

NOTE: Sometimes **we** want it both ways. We want our dog to “alarm” bark if there is a prowler outside but we don’t want him to bark at every passing person during the day. Be particular about what it is you want your dog to do. We encourage him to bark and act up when we feel like playing, but get grumpy when we want to watch TV or read a book and he wants to initiate our rough housing noisy play time.

BEHAVIOR: Here’s a hint: In any activity you wish to do with your dog, such as tug of war or hide and seek and you encourage your dog to engage in boisterous barking, start taking the role of leader of the pack. You own the toys, tugs, treats and you initiate the game and you end it and put the toys away. You may be surprised at how your dog respects these rules and boundaries. He actually will be less stressed than if he felt he had to be the one who took charge of these activities. He likes having you as the activity director.

TRAINING: An easy way to start taking charge of “people walking by” barking is to move in on him as he races to the front window, calmly check out the window and say “that’s enough”, take a hold of his collar, displace him (move into his space) on the couch or where he stands by the window and move him away. If you have to put his leash on and tether him to you so that he doesn’t rush back to the window, so be it. But take charge and let him know that you are okay with his letting you know he saw something, but **that is where his responsibility ends.**

You can set up a training scenario and be prepared to put a bark on cue and put a shush on cue. (Have a toy and training treats ready) If your dog is especially willing to bark at the drop of a hat, encourage him to bark or vocalize in any manner (holding a favorite toy for example) or use a hand gesture of your own design, and when he does speak, stop him immediately with a word such as “yes” “good boy“. Immediately have a treat ready and **hold it very close to his nose.** (Do **NOT** give it to him) Use a visual gesture such as we would normally do when we say “shush” to quiet someone. Simultaneously hold the treat so that he can sniff it. Your dog cannot sniff and bark at the same time. Be very calm and quiet and softly say, “shush”, “yes” “good boy” as he waits and is silent. Then quietly give him the treat. Repeat this scene at least five times and then give him a rest.

MANAGEMENT: Dogs that bark incessantly outside usually are telling us that they are spending too much time in the yard, alone. When I get calls from families who are being threatened by their neighbors for keeping them awake during the day or night, the first question I

ask is, “How much time does your dog spend in your yard during the day?” Almost always the answer is, “all day” or “all night”. This is not a barking issue. This is a management issue.

Dogs are pack animals and will try in any way they can to tell us that they need help. It is not natural for a dog to hang out in the yard alone (and by the way not eat the trees and tear up the garden). They will find something to do and recreational barking is high on the lonely, bored dog list.

Exercise is a huge part of keeping dogs happy during the day. It is not an option. It is a necessity. Our modern dogs are healthy, well fed and ready to go with us in our active lives. It is unreasonable to expect a dog to just wait and do nothing all day, without coming up with some solutions on his own. Set up his inside home environment so that he wins. Read on.

When I counsel pet owners about the “outside barking dog” problem, I get them to commit to serious pet exercise before going to work and coming home at lunch time to let the dog out to exercise before going back to work. (You might hire a reliable friend or young person to take the dog for a walk or play with him after school.) I recommend keeping the dog inside the house, in his crate (or using baby gates when appropriate) with freshly stuffed chew toys. I recommend using “white noise” when you are away from home such as leaving the radio or TV on. Try to recreate what your house environment is like when you are at home.

I have discovered that if I can help pet owners realize that their dog doesn't **need to be outside for his happiness** in their absence, that the whole neighborhood is happy and most especially the dog wins because he will keep his happy home. My dogs spend very little time in our yard. They basically want to be with me. They are house dogs.

If I am in my yard, gardening or playing, my dogs are with me, enjoying the yard under my supervision. They don't bark very much either. I have set them up to win.

Good boy, good shush.