

Get Your Pooch "Tuned Up" for the FALL SEASON

By Peter H. Eeg, DVM,
National Veterinary Consultant, Invisible Fence® Brand



The fall is a beautiful time of year, full of cool weather, holiday festivities and increased activity for the family. It is also a wonderful time to plan for your dog's annual health exam, now that the summer rush is over and vacations are a fond memory. Your veterinarian can help you get your pet tuned up for the fall and winter months ahead. The following is a list of important tips to ensure your pet has a "cool" and healthy fall.

- Make sure your pet is healthy and able to join you for those long walks in the woods. Osteoarthritis and obesity can take all the fun out of this healthy activity if your dog is not in proper condition. New medications and specialty foods can give your pet the boost he or she needs to be an active member of the family.
- You may think that fleas and ticks are an unpleasant memory, but they're looking for a free ride into the winter. It is very important that you keep up on the preventatives you have been using through the summer. Ticks, especially, have a resurgence at this time of year, and the potential for them to transmit serious diseases to your pet is even more prevalent in the fall than the summer months. In temperate zones, where even occasional winter days see temperatures into the 60s, year-round prevention is a good idea.
- Halloween and Thanksgiving are the two major holidays that have the potential for unwanted gastrointestinal upset for your pet this time of year. Halloween is fun and exciting, but remember that candy, especially chocolates, can cause serious intestinal upset for your

pet. Halloween decorations, lighted pumpkins and children dressed in scary costumes also can make for unhappy behavior. Keeping your pet safe at home is even more important this time of year.

Thanksgiving is the favorite eating event of the year for many households. But don't make your pet the garbage disposal for leftovers. Your pet should stay on his or her regular diet. Consult with your veterinarian if you "must" have your pet join you at the Thanksgiving table.

- As the leaves fall and cover the ground, be sure that you have policed your yard for unseen holes, materials and objects that may cause injury to your pet. This time of year produces increased potential for joint and bone injury. Keeping your pets leashed and effectively contained within their Invisible Fence® boundary is the best way to keep them happy and safe.

The fall is a wonderful time of year to spend quality time with your pet and family. Keep in mind the simple tips above and you will have a super cool fall. 🐾

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Do You Speak “DOG”?

By Dan Kelley
Certified Dog Trainer
and Dealer,
Invisible Fence
of the Southern Tier

Speech. Where would humans be if we didn't talk to each other?

Human speech is so complex – we can say the same thing a dozen different ways. But how does our dog interpret what we say? Have you ever experienced the frustration of being on the outside of a conversation spoken in a foreign language? It can drive you crazy.

That might be how our dogs occasionally feel. We are so tied to speech that we carry on one-sided conversations with our pets, totally convinced they understand every word. Of course, this thinking leads us to believe that our dog is ignoring us when she refuses to

come when called or stops barking as we yell quiet!

Canines communicate (speak) in a totally different language – one without words. Your dog “speaks” to you mostly with its body parts. From the tip of its tail to the end of its nose, she is constantly telling you something. The problem most dog owners face is they don't “speak” the language. They pick up on some of the information the dog is sending (a happy, relaxed wagging tail that says she is glad to see them), but often miss the important stuff (a stiffening body as a stranger enters the house...).

Your local Invisible Fence® team speaks dog fluently. Many are dog behavior experts and trainers who have studied dog behavior for years. And yet, we will be the first to tell you we still have a lot to learn. Like the culture of a foreign country, the canine culture has a long history. Being fluent in the language does not guarantee that you will always understand one another.

At the pace in which we live our lives today, the tolerance for unacceptable behavior is very short. But is the misbehaving our dog's fault or ours? We accept the responsibility of raising and caring for our canine companions, but we must realize that we have a special family member from a totally different culture that speaks a totally different language (like having a foreign exchange student join the

family). The resources available today to assist in understanding the canine culture are everywhere.

One of my favorite books, *The Other End Of The Leash*, by Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D., (Ballantine Books) has great insight into the communication barrier between people and dogs. In her book, she talks about the use of tone, repetition and variance of words and their impact upon the dog's interpretation. The book contains enlightening stories that shed light on the dog's perspective of what we say and how we say it.

Next time you start yelling at your barking dog to “be quiet,” understand that by yelling, he may think that you are barking as well. 🐾

Dan Kelley has been an Invisible Fence® dealer for 18 years and can be reached at invisiblefence@stny.rr.com

YOUR LOCAL LEASH LAWS: Leash Laws are local ordinances, usually written in general terms, designed to protect citizens regarding a dog's presence. Invisible Fence® professional dealers work closely with local communities to ensure pets' safety, health and well-being, while providing an effective and viable means of containment.



Featured Breed:



Boston Ter

From Zyrtec to Disney, companies nationwide are searching for Boston terriers to bark (er, hawk) their products. The Boston Terrier, the short-snouted, square-faced black-and-white pooch with saucer-sized eyes, has become the new “it” dog.

“Every breed or dog seems to have its day,” said Kevin Lane, a branding and marketing consultant in Palm Springs, Calif., in a recent article in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. “For a while, it was Jack Russell terriers. It seems that Bostons are definitely it right now.”

Companies including Frontline, Disney, Geico, Coca-Cola, McDonalds, and most recently, MasterCard have all featured these American dogs. The American Kennel Club (AKC) describes them as highly trainable, outgoing and fun-loving, and their blunt nose and black and white color make them appealing for television advertisements.

Move over, Rover, and make way for the “American gentleman.”

Breed Group: Mastiff, AKC Non-Sporting

Origin: Bred down in size from pit-fighting dogs of the bull and terrier types, the Boston Terrier originally weighed up to 44 pounds (20 kg.) It is difficult to believe that these dapper little dogs were once tough pit-fighters. In fact, their weight classifications were once divided as lightweight, middle and heavyweight. The Boston Terrier is one of the few breeds that was “Made in the USA.” –

Boston to be exact. The original Boston Terriers were a cross between the English Bulldog and now extinct English White Terrier. The breed was recognized by the AKC in 1893. In the early years, the color and markings were not very important, but by the 1900s, the breed's distinctive markings and color were written into the standard, becoming an essential feature. Terrier only in name, the Boston Terrier has lost most of its ruthless desire for mayhem, preferring the company of humans, although some males will still challenge other dogs if they feel their territory is being invaded.

Description: Boston Terriers, also called the Boston bull, are compact and well-muscled dogs. Their faces are unmistakable with a short, wide muzzle, dark, large, round eyes set far apart, and small, fine, erect ears. They have a broad, flat head without wrinkles and a short, square muzzle leading to an ample black nose. Its neck is slightly arched and its chest is broad. Its limbs are straight and muscular. Its hair is short,

Shy Dogs Need LOVE, Too

By Karyn Garvin,
Pet Behavior Specialist



continue. People hope that their pet will change its way of thinking and then the behavior will change. It's just the reverse! You need to change the behavior first so that their way of thinking will change. The goal is to have a happy, well-adjusted pet. Those are the kinds of behaviors you want to make happen and reward.

It's in our nature to nurture. For many of us, the act of nurturing our pets brings us as much joy as the love we hope to receive in return. We find it very rewarding to pamper them and see to their every need. When they're happy, we're happy!



It's easy to nurture a well-adapted pet. We only have to provide for their basic needs, teach them the things we need them to know, and life is rosy. A common misconception is how to best nurture a frightened pet. From

my perspective, there are far too many cats, dogs and pet owners that live in fear of things they don't need to be afraid of.

I often hear, "We didn't want to do anything that might make it worse." Believing this, the owner is afraid to do anything that might scare their pet. With this belief system, we nurture fear in our pets.

One common example would be, "My cat, (or dog) doesn't like to be held." Very likely, when it was first held, it found it frightening and scurried to get away, which is commonly known as the fight or flight instinct. Some well-meaning human being rewarded the behavior, believing that it just didn't like to be held, when in fact, it was afraid of being held. People usually tell themselves to quit trying because either the pet doesn't like it or once again, they're afraid of making things worse.

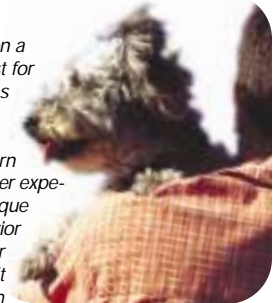
A parent wouldn't allow a shy child to hide, isolate himself and encourage inappropriate behavior. Why would a pet owner? Whatever behavior your pet is repeating is exactly what will get conditioned. Animals are lacking many of the creative skills and knowledge that we have as human beings. They don't know what to do differently and will not change without your support and redirection.

What makes an already fearful pet worse is allowing their fear-related behaviors to

Nurturing these pets will take courage and commitment on your part. The answer lies in embracing the fear as opposed to avoiding it. I can assure you that while the process may not always seem all that positive, the outcome will be.

What behaviors are you nurturing? Wayne Dwyer, a well-known author and speaker once said, "When we change the way we look at things, the things we look at change." 🐾

Karyn Garvin has been a pet behavior specialist for over 25 years, and has owned and operated the Invisible Fence® dealership for Southern Arizona since 1998. Her experience gives her a unique perspective on behavior problems in dogs. For more information, visit www.karyngarvin.com



riers... The New 'It' Breed

brilliant, and of a fine texture that comes in brindle and white or black and white and some are born brown and white.

Height: 15-17 inches (38.1-43cm.)

Weight: 10-25 pounds (4.5-11.3kg.)

Temperament: Though bred at first for use in dogfights, today's Boston Terrier has been bred to have less aggressive tendencies. It is gentle, alert, very intelligent, and well-mannered. Enthusiastic and occasionally rambunctious, this breed has a sense of humor. They are very sensitive to the tone of one's voice. This breed likes to learn and therefore is not difficult to train. Their intelligence ensures they pick things up quickly. At times they can be somewhat willful. Some owners have reported that their dogs are good watchdogs barking only when necessary, while other owners have reported their female Boston Terriers do not bark at the door at all. They are most reliable with children, especially good with elderly people, and very friendly with strangers. The Boston Terrier is playful, very affectionate and likes to be part of the family. It is very popular in the United States, due, above all, to its excellent character. They generally get along well with non-canine pets. Some males are dominant and may fight with other dogs. These little dogs may be difficult to housebreak.

Health Problems: These short-faced dogs may have breathing



difficulties when stressed by exertion in hot or cold weather and can overheat if they are pushed too hard. They may also snore or drool. Whelping is often difficult as the pelvis is narrow and the large-headed pups are often delivered by Cesarean section. Heart and skin tumors are common problems in this breed. The prominent eyes are prone to injury. Some badly bred Boston Terriers may have a bone defect in the skull that stunts brain growth, resulting in a dog with mental impairment.

Living Conditions: Boston Terriers are good for apartment as well as country living. They are relatively inactive indoors and do okay without a yard. This breed is sensitive to weather extremes.

Exercise: Regular walks or sessions of free play in yards with pet containment are all the Boston Terrier needs to stay in shape. This little Terrier has no desire for long walks, but does like to go everywhere you go. They are fairly light-weight and can easily be carried.

Grooming: The smooth, short-haired coat is easy to groom. Comb and brush with a firm bristle brush and bathe only when necessary. Wipe the face with a damp cloth every day and clean the prominent eyes carefully. Check both the ears and eyes for grass seeds. Ticks may also lurk in the ears. The nails should be clipped from time to time. This breed is an average shedder.

Life Expectancy: About 15 or more years. 🐾



Your Dog Safe at Home:



Safe Camping Tips for You and Your Dog

Source: www.pedigree.com

Taking your dog camping in the fall can be a great experience for both of you. Your dog will be fascinated with all the new sights, sounds and smells. And you'll love knowing that your best friend is sharing your love of the great outdoors. If you are thinking of bringing your dog along with you on your next camping trip, there are a few things you need to consider.

Is your dog up to it physically?

In an outdoor environment, your dog will most likely experience an increase in his physical activity. What's more, the terrain may be dramatically different from what he's used to (steep hills, rocky paths, etc.) That's not to say that your dog has to be in star-athlete condition. Just be sure that it's not going to be too taxing for him. The best thing to do is take your dog to the vet for a check-up to ensure that he's up to it physically.

You should also take your dog's personality into consideration. While you might not be

bothered by your dog's early morning barking, your fellow campers might be.

Make sure vaccinations are up to date

First of all, it's very important that all of your dog's vaccinations are up to date especially if your dog is going to be in contact with other pets. You might also want to talk to your vet about giving your dog a Lyme vaccination in case he comes in contact with ticks.

Bring the leash

Even though you're far away from sidewalks and city streets, there will still be times when you need to keep your dog on a leash. This is especially important when you're close to other campers who may not be dog lovers like yourself, or in an area where your dog



could wander off a path and encounter less than friendly wildlife. Also, make sure your dog has his identification tags in case he gets lost. You should also bring along a recent photo should you need to show other campers or a park ranger in the event your dog goes missing.

Other helpful tips

- Make sure you pack plenty of water.
- You may be on vacation, but don't take a break from grooming your dog.
- Bring along your dog's brush or comb.
- Bring a first aid kit for your dog, along with the number of a vet that's closest to your camping area.
- Pack plenty of plastic bags so you can clean up after your dog.
- Never leave your dog outside alone.
- Don't leave your dog's food out in the open when he's not eating it. It could attract unwanted insects or wildlife. 🐾