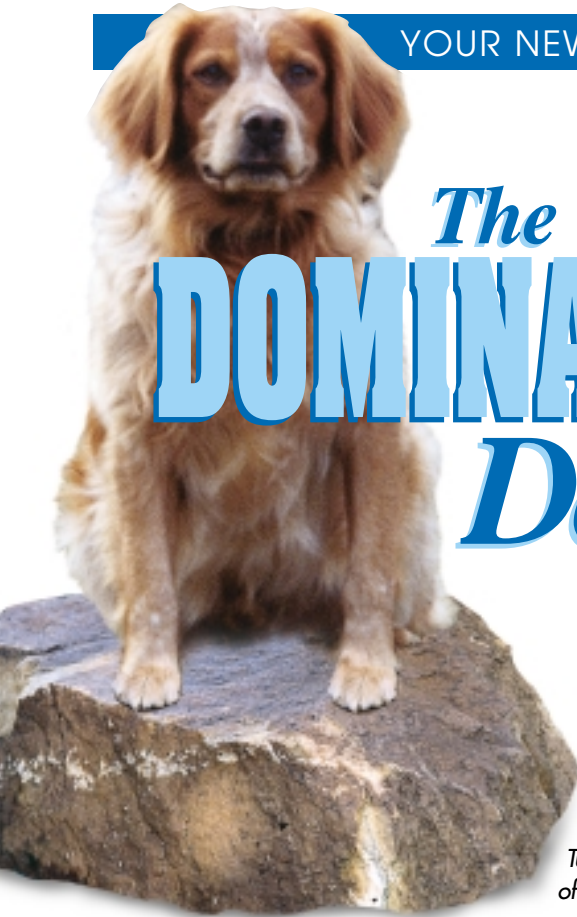


# DOGS' LIFE™

YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR HELP WITH YOUR DOG VOL. 2 • NO. 4



## The DOMINANT Dog

By Dr. Nicholas H. Dodman –  
*Professor and Head,  
Section of Animal  
Behavior; Director  
of Behavior Clinic,  
Tufts University School  
of Veterinary Medicine*

**D**ominance is a personality trait of dogs (and people) that creates an individual who is both independent and willful. Such individuals not only know their own minds but are more than willing to “act out” to achieve their goals should the need arise. I call dominance the “George Foreman syndrome” because the attitude conjures up Foreman’s unforgettable words in the Meineke advertisement, “I am not going to pay a lot for this muffler.”

For dominant dogs, food, toys, a favorite resting place, certain postural interventions (a positioned hand over the dog’s head), and an unwillingness to be controlled or disciplined are often the bones of contention.

Dominance is not necessarily undesirable, and in some working dogs, is even viewed as an advantage because it confers character and initiative.

Many owners think of dominance and aggression as synonymous, but this is not necessarily so. In fact, dominance and aggression may move in opposite direc-

tions. Some of the most dominant dogs are often not particularly aggressive while their more insecure, anxious counterparts, the dominant “wannabes,” seem preoccupied with one-upmanship and getting their own way. Sounds almost human, doesn’t it?

**Dominance is not necessarily undesirable**

### From the **EDITOR:**

Dogs are not our whole lives, but they make our lives whole.

— Roger Caras  
*President Emeritus, ASPCA*

Nature and nurture combine to produce the dominant aggressive dog. While a genetic tendency toward dominance is an essential ingredient for its expression, life’s experiences hone the final product. Inadequate leadership by well-meaning but misinformed owners is one of the more common environmental influences permitting dominance aggression to rear its ugly head.

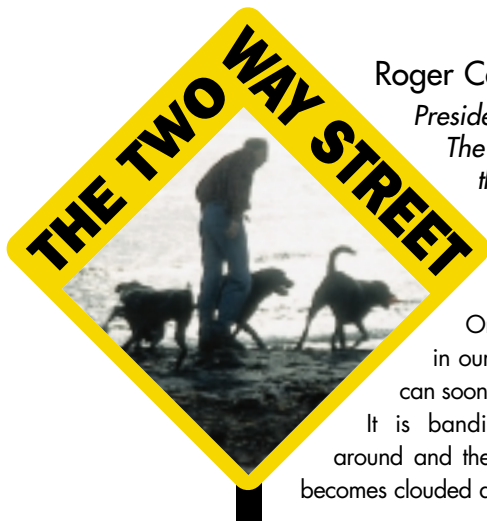
As with other behavior problems, prevention of dominance aggression is better than a cure and new puppy owners should establish some ground rules for their pet right from the get-go. For example, it is important to insist that the would-be dominant dog should be trained to obey a one word command, such as “sit” or “down,” in order to receive its food and treats.

**New puppy owners should establish some ground rules**

Even when dominance aggression has expressed itself in a mature dog, owners can still regain control by implementing a tough love program often known as, “Nothing in Life is Free.” Nine out of ten owners report that their dog’s aggression is much improved following such a program and seventy percent of these regard their dog as “cured.” So, for those owners whose dogs literally bite the hand that feeds, there is still light at the end of the tunnel. 🐾

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Roger Caras –  
*President Emeritus,  
The American Society for  
the Prevention of Cruelty  
to Animals (ASPCA)*

Once an idea catches on  
in our contemporary culture it  
can soon become a virtual cliché.  
It is bandied about and tossed  
around and the real thinking behind it  
becomes clouded and near forgotten.

Take the concept of people bonding with animals, the so-called human-animal bond. Magazines, books, newspapers all flash this concept as if it were a new and sudden truth sprung whole-cloth in our midst as the answer to all questions, the solution, somehow, to all problems. Although referred to in hushed tones, it is given nowhere near the respect it deserves.

In fact, this human-animal bond is a rich and important element in our culture, which is just now, in this generation, being realized and appreciated as it has been in practice for nearly 200 centuries! It will take philosophers and psychiatrists and behaviorists many more generations of study yet to figure most of it out, and they may never really figure all of it out, at least not in the foreseeable future.

This bond we have with other species is truly a two way street. To whatever degree they, the other animals in this equation, think, they apparently hold us in very high regard. Take our dogs, for example. Note how they look at us, sit near us and watch us. Their responsiveness to training is legendary. Even when they are being disobedient they often display what we can perceive as a form of teasing, as sense of humor. No one knows how far we can go in stretching these perceptions, but even without the boundaries clearly drawn, we can sense, if not define,

the push and pull of the relationship, it's two-way character. Mankind and dogkind are in lots of things together and at the root of it all is this thing we call a bond.

Take the Invisible Fence® pet containment system as an example of the push-me, pull-you relationship. No accidents here! The system was invented and perfected specifically as a means of keeping our companion animals out of harm's way. Beyond its limits lie trouble, danger, death and maiming injury. Within its clearly defined boundaries there is safety. A big element in its development is the ease with which it can be taught. The fact that almost any dog can have it down pat in a few days is paramount to its success. If it took much longer, even for a puppy, to understand it would be nearly useless.

See, then, what happened. We have animals that we want to grant as much freedom as possible. It is good for them and clearly makes them happy. That is a positive experience for us. But we have vehicles that make boundaries not only neat but a matter of life and death. With our population growth it has become mandatory for something to help us to control or at least guide the animals' movements. It is that kind of thing that makes this two-way street work. Without effort our animals are guided in a safe lifestyle and we have the pleasure of their company without the tragedy of their deaths. 🐾



## INVISIBLE FENCE® UPDATES

### www.invisiblefence.com HAS A NEW LOOK!

Have you visited invisiblefence.com lately? It's got a whole new look, along with some fantastic new features!

You will be able to read about the Invisible Fence product line, see products in action, sign up to get email updates, and learn what other satisfied customers have to say about their systems. There's also an on-line coupon book with special offers from some great pet stores. With a new look and easier navigation, invisiblefence.com will be a favorite site for pet lovers everywhere. 🐾



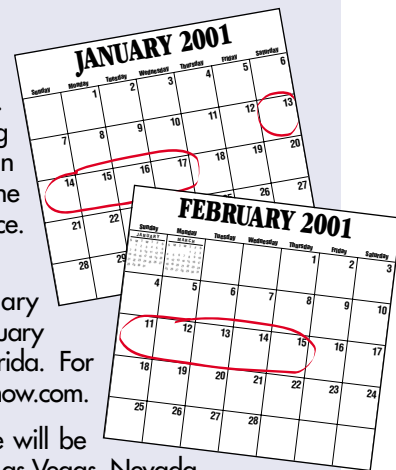
### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Two major veterinary conferences are gearing up for 2001. Invisible Fence will be exhibiting at both the North American Veterinary Conference and the Western Veterinary Conference. Don't miss these great events!

The North American Veterinary Conference will be held January 13-17, 2001 in Orlando, Florida. For more information visit [www.vetshow.com](http://www.vetshow.com).

Western Veterinary Conference will be held February 11-15, 2001 in Las Vegas, Nevada. For more information visit [www.westernveterinary.org](http://www.westernveterinary.org).

At both of these conferences, Invisible Fence will be demonstrating dog training solutions resulting in a stronger human-animal bond. 🐾



# Is Your Home Safe? Part II

By Wendy Christensen

Excerpted from the June 2000 issue of Your Dog

**A**h, a dog's life. Licking the kitchen floor for those last bits of snack; discovering tasty tidbits in the garbage can; and that all time doggie favorite, drinking from the toilet bowl.

Sounds wonderful – and familiar, right? ? But every one of these perfectly natural doggy activities can be harmful – or even fatal – to your pet.

## The Kitchen

Most folks store remarkably large quantities of cleaning and household maintenance chemicals in the kitchen, often in a lower cabinet. Many dogs easily learn to open cabinets, tip over containers, break glass jars, or knock off loose bottle lids.

One solution? Put inexpensive childproof locks on all cabinets that contain anything that might interest, or harm, your dog. These simple plastic locks are easy for adults and quickly become automatic – but are virtually impossible for a child or pet to manage.

A second solution is to reconsider your housecleaning strategies. Rather than use caustic and poisonous chemicals, consider cleaning with steam. There are also citrus-based and other natural or 'green' cleaners that are safer than traditional chemical cleaners.

The kitchen garbage pail is full of potential dangers. Even a cover cannot deter a clever canine. Common throwaways, such as apple cores, potato skins and moldy cheese can make dogs sick. Other edible dangers around the house include pennies, metal game tokens, lead drapery weights, fishing sinkers, or any small, sharp object.



## Most Common Indoor DOG Poisons

Special thanks to  
Dr. Steven Hanson,  
Senior Vice President of the  
National Animal Poison Control  
Center for his contributions  
to this piece.

### ▼ Household Cleaning Agents

- Drain Cleaner is extremely dangerous – very toxic and deadly
- Tub & tile cleaners that removes lime
- Products containing disinfectants can be caustic

### ▼ Medications

- Medicine bottles are seen as rattling toys to a puppy, who once he gnaws the bottle open, can eat the pills inside as treats
- Human medication and the possible combinations that can occur in a dog can be deadly

### ▼ Mouse & Rat Baits

- Bait can cause bleeding or seizures, place bait in an unavailable area
- Plastic casings are seen as a challenge to get to the treat inside

### ▼ Ant/Roach Poison

- These baits are not poisonous to dogs
- The true danger comes from the plastic casings, which, if eaten, can harm a dog's insides

## The Bathroom

It's a good practice to keep the toilet lid down. Your dog may be lapping up not only water, but also a nasty brew of bacteria and harsh cleaning chemicals. Satisfy your dog's thirst by keeping at least two bowls of cool, fresh water available at all times. Clean the bowls daily, scrubbing as necessary (with hot water – no soap or detergents) to remove scum, film or debris.

## Less Obvious Villans

Rodenticides are usually incorporated into a fatty, grain-based bait that dogs just love. These are especially lethal when they're spread directly on the ground. Hiding poison-laced bait inside plastic containers offers little additional protection for dogs, who rip the containers apart to get at the 'treat' inside.

Carpet cleaners and 'carpet fresheners' are also dangerous to your pets. They leave residues in the carpet, upon which your dog will then loll and roll. Sooner or later the cleaner residue will be in his mouth.

## Next Steps

What if your careful precautions fail, and your dog gets into something he shouldn't? Call your vet immediately – or drive the dog to the veterinary emergency clinic. Bring the suspected toxin with you so the veterinarian will be able to identify the source of the problem and determine the appropriate treatment.

If you can't reach your vet or a clinic quickly, call the National Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435. 🐾

### Editor's Note:

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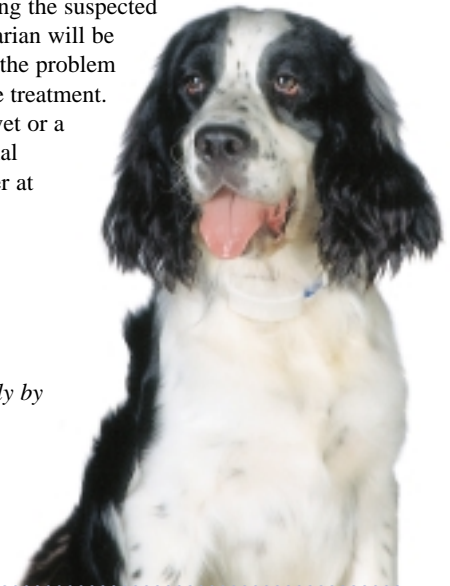
Your Dog is published monthly by

Belvoir Publications, Inc.

Greenwich, CT 06836-2626.

For subscription information,

call 800-829-5116.



### ▼ Foods

- Caffeine - can be found in chocolate, coffee, coffee grounds, soda, etc. – can cause an irregular heartbeat and affects the nervous system
- Onions & Garlic affect the blood
- Rising dough – fermentation creates alcohol and the rising of the dough can cause bloat.
- Macadamia Nuts cause weakness
- Moldy foods, especially dairy can cause tremors
- Bones – they may look like fun, but some, like chicken bones, can splinter easily

### ▼ Potpourri

- Contains irritating substances
- Can cause mouth sores

### ▼ Mothballs

- Can affect the nervous system and/or the lungs

### ▼ Pennies

- Most newer pennies (after 1983) have a zinc core that is dangerous to pets
- When swallowed, the outer core dissolves leaving the zinc core to poison the pet damaging blood cells and leading to kidney failure

In case of an emergency get to your vet, the local animal hospital or call **1-888-4 ANI-HELP (888-426-4435)**. For more information visit: [www.napcc.aspc.org](http://www.napcc.aspc.org) 🐾





Savings for you...  
Stuff for your dog.

Visit our on-line  
coupon book at  
[www.invisiblefence.com](http://www.invisiblefence.com)

## Useful Pet Tips



*Whether you are celebrating the holidays or just throwing a party, don't forget about your furry friends! Your dog has special needs – here are a few to remember:*

### **1. It's cold out there!**

Just because Wilbur has fur doesn't mean that he

can withstand snow for long periods of time. Monitor his outdoor activity and be sure to remove ice from his paws when he comes inside.

**2. There are too many people!** If you plan on having visitors, remember that Molly may not be used to having that many people around. Make sure there is somewhere for her to go and escape the hustle and bustle.

**3. Is this for me?** Imagine how appealing decorations or gift-wrapped presents are to your dog. Suddenly his house is full of new 'toys' for him to play with, rip open, and eat. Limit his access to rooms that may hold presents, food, or other decorations that you want to survive.

**4. Yummy!** People food is the best. Well, for you, but not for your dog. You may have the urge to pass on scraps to Midnight, but those scraps could be harmful, even poisonous to her. Also, the extra food and decrease in outdoor exercise could lead to an overweight pooch. 🐾



## Invisible Fence <sup>BRAND</sup> TiPS

With winter approaching, please take time to check the fit of your dog's Invisible Fence® Computer Collar.® Most dogs (and some people too) put on a few extra pounds in the winter months. Some dogs will also grow a thicker coat to prepare them for the colder temperatures. Both of these can make the Computer Collar too tight and possibly cause your dog's neck to become irritated.

To check the fit of your dog's collar, you should be able to fit one finger between one of the collar's posts and your pet's skin. If one finger won't fit, the collar is too tight. If you can fit more than one finger, the collar is too loose.