

DOGS' LIFE™

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YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR HELP WITH YOUR DOG



What Went Wrong With Buddy?

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Buddy was the cutest puppy they had ever seen. He was curious and fun loving, and the perfect buddy for their three year old daughter, Julie. They wanted to do everything right and follow everything their veterinarian suggested. Since their veterinarian didn't provide pet behavior counseling, they just did what seemed natural.

To keep Buddy safe, they kept him isolated from other dogs and people. To keep him entertained, they gave him anything he wanted as a toy. Everyone shared when Buddy asked for food. After all, he was one of the family. Whatever Buddy wanted, he got. He rested on their furniture, and slept on their bed.

At four months, he began demanding attention by barking or nudging, and they gave it freely. At about five months old, they noticed sometimes he didn't like being touched, so they respected his wishes. They thought it was cute that he growled when anyone went near his food dish. At about six months old, they considered obedience school, but never got around to it. They resisted neutering after a friend told them it might change his personality.

One day, Mom tried to move Buddy off the couch and he snapped at her. They figured Buddy's feelings were hurt, so they

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From the **EDITOR:**

It is almost impossible to talk about human beings and their relationships with their pets without pitching headfirst into a veritable maelstrom of clichés. That is not because animal lovers think or feel in clichés, but rather because our language is woefully lacking in the words we need to describe what we feel.

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

tried to soothe him. After that, Buddy became increasingly short tempered. No matter how much they petted and reassured him, he still acted tense all the time, and was increasingly disobedient. It seemed he was always shaking head, as if saying, "No, I won't do that." When he began urine marking and destroying things, Buddy became an "outdoor dog."

When Buddy was seven months old, he bit the neighbor who came over for a visit. They assumed the neighbor did something to deserve it. When he attacked a friendly dog on a walk, they thought, "Buddy is just that way." They took him on fewer walks after that.

One day Julie decided to give Buddy a kiss, and didn't notice she was near his food dish. When the Doctor told them Julie had permanent damage to her face, they were shocked that Buddy would "turn vicious." That very day Buddy became history and a bitter memory. Everyone in the family was permanently scarred. They began to warn everyone not to own a dog because dogs are untrustworthy, and can cause such heartache.

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What went **WRONG** with Buddy?

Puppy selection testing might have shown that Buddy had a genetic tendency toward dominate aggression. When Buddy was young, he missed Puppy Socialization And Training class. Therefore, he didn't learn how to make friends with other dogs and people when properly introduced. He didn't learn manners that would have allowed him to stay indoors with his pack. Most importantly he didn't learn to think of all humans as higher ranking pack members.

When Buddy could choose anything in the house as a toy, he mistakenly assumed that everything was his. Then he discovered that he could paw or nudge anybody anytime, and he could control them to not touch him whenever he wanted. He could demand food or attention and they gave it submissively. They also unintentionally gave Buddy the message he was the leader, by allowing him to sleep in the high status places. He could go anywhere, but could tell them to stay away from certain areas. His male hormones further encouraged Buddy to dominate others.

Another early sign of dominance was Buddy's disobedience. It seemed each time Buddy displayed his status by ignoring their commands or growling, they rewarded him by petting and talking to him in soothing subordinate tones. When the big female tried to move him from his favorite resting spot, he put her in her place with a warning snap. Soon Buddy thought he controlled the world. He enjoyed his power and position. Since the other dog on the walk and the neighbor didn't show sufficient submissiveness to Buddy, it was his job as leader to put them in their place. After all, Buddy was put in charge by the big male and female pack members.

From Buddy's point of view, attacking Julie was necessary. When the child tried to kiss Buddy, he interpreted this close approach with eye contact as an attempt to take his dominant position in the pack.

Invisible Fence BRAND TIPS

There are several things to consider when training a new puppy to the Invisible Fence® system.

1. Your puppy should be at least five months old. Puppies go through a very important developmental stage at or around eleven weeks of age. In this period, dogs may develop personality traits that stay with them forever. So it is important to be sure your dog is beyond any sensitivity period prior to training him to the Invisible Fence system.
2. A puppy should be able to perform basic training commands such as sit, stay and come, before introducing him to the Invisible Fence. These simple training exercises will help condition your pup to training in general before introducing your dog to the Invisible Fence system.

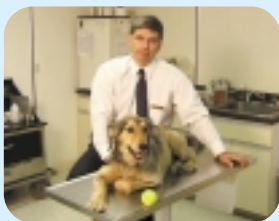


Considering the previous messages that he was the leader, it became Buddy's duty to attack this insubordinate challenger.

Buddy's family had unintentionally selected a dog with a predisposition for dominance aggressive. Then, with all the best intentions, they unwittingly molded him so he would predictably attack dogs, adults and children. The only reason this doesn't happen more often, is that dominance tendencies have been bred out of most non-guard dogs.

Consult your veterinarian or dog trainer immediately about any behavior concerns you have. 🐾

INVISIBLE FENCE® UPDATES



Invisible Fence Brand sponsors a demonstration on *Safe and Practical Behavior and Training Techniques* at the **North American Veterinary Conference**. Marc Street, the owner of The Happy Dog, a

companion animal training school in Martha's Vineyard, demonstrates the training tips while Peter H. Eeg, DVM and owner of Poolesville Veterinary Clinic in Poolesville, Maryland, discusses the professional value of understanding and marketing veterinary behavior counseling to clients.

At the **Western Veterinary Conference** in Las Vegas, Invisible Fence sponsors another seminar on the *importance of breed selection, training and early intervention*. Presenters include Brian Kilcommons, one



of the nation's leading training experts and noted author, Dr. Peter Eeg and Marc Street. For more information visit www.westernveterinary.org.



Animal Planet's resident dog and puppy training expert, Dr. Rolan Tripp, conducts a personal seminar for Invisible Fence professionals to help in their continuing canine behavior education. Dr. Tripp's research has shown that many of the behavior problems he meets in dogs can be prevented in 'puppyhood'. Through educational videos for veterinarians and pet owners alike, Dr. Tripp has developed some of the most simple and practical training techniques available. Your Invisible Fence professional takes these training techniques home to help clients and pets lead happier and more stress-free lives together. If you're starting to train your puppy, turn to your neighborhood Invisible Fence professional. 🐾

A Celebration OF DOGS

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

People who live alone do not usually live as long as people who have a satisfactory relationship with someone or something else. Single people die earlier than married people, on the national average. Single people who live alone get sick more often than solidly bonded people, and they suffer more severe cases of whatever diseases they have. All of this has been known for some time. What no one seemed to notice before a couple of years ago was that people bonding to dogs (and other pets) experience pretty much the same benefits as people who are married. There may be differences in degree, but people are much healthier and happier when bonded to animals.

Findings show that if you had heart trouble, you would probably have a much better chance of surviving for a longer period of time if you were bonded to a companion animal than if you weren't.

Bonding. Call it love; call it whatever you wish, but don't make the silly suggestion that dog lovers are people haters. So what is the nature of the bond?

First, dogs are non-judgmental. It doesn't matter where you are in your own personal development, nor does it matter where you have been culturally; dogs simply don't pass judgment on you the way some people seem to do. Your dog won't whisper behind your back, nor will he blame you for what goes wrong.

Flunk a French exam? Misfortune coming at you from all quarters? Got fired? Lost money on the stock market? Your dog will give you a hearty greeting regardless. The non-judgmental quality of an animal companion is the glue that binds us to so unlikely a friend. Unlikely? Four-legged, dependent, non-verbal, of a much lower intelligence, capable of transmitting one of history's most dreaded diseases – rabies – yet adored. Unlikely, but adored to the point of near ecstasy by some people and by some cultures.

What I find so amazing is that anyone finds all this amazing. 🐾



From the book
A CELEBRATION OF
DOGS by Roger Caras.
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Puppy Personality

When choosing a puppy, it's nice to know the personality traits of different breeds. Here are some popular breeds, their origin, personality traits, and possible behavior issues that may occur in your dog.



Labrador Retriever

A rugged dog from Labrador, this Retriever is the most popular dog in America. Labs tolerate children extremely well, they tend to be forgiving and sweet. They are prone to jumping up, pulling on a lead, and mouthing. These behaviors are manageable with training, exercise and supervision.



Brittany Spaniel

The French created the Brittany as a hunting companion and house dog. This breed is very athletic, active, and easy to manage if exercised enough. They're generally good with other animals and people. If left alone all day or under-exercised, expect hyperactivity, restlessness, chewing, jumping, and other undesirable behavior.



Australian Shepherd

Despite its name, this American dog is descended from European, probably Spanish herding/guard stock. This breed has a wide range of temperaments, from happy to hardworking, from intensely shy to dangerously unstable. Chronic barking, shyness, hyperactivity, aggression, car chasing and more are all common.



Golden Retriever

The Golden Retriever, originally from Scotland, has a sweet and loving personality. This breed is devoted to their owner. Recently, Goldens have begun showing aggression towards other dogs, both dominance and territorial. There are also fearful, groveling Goldens.



Poodle

Descended from retrievers of waterfowl in 16th Century Germany, this is one of the most popular companion dogs in history. Poodles tend to be smart, loyal, protective, playful, clownish and elegant. Generally, the smaller the Poodle, the more prone it may be to yapping, hyperactivity, and house breaking problems.



Jack Russell Terrier

Only about 200 years old, the Jack Russell was created for use in English Fox Hunts. Jack Russells' are bright, athletic, playful and curious dogs. They often respond to stimulation of any kind with aggression or the showing of teeth.



Miniature Schnauzer

A dog of German descent, this dog originally bred to chase rats has evolved through the centuries into a delightful companion dog. Schnauzers are charming, devoted and self-confident dogs. This breed can be noisy and chase smaller animals. A few will snap. Generally, easier to control than other Terriers. 🐾



To learn more about the many benefits of owning Invisible Fence® systems, visit www.invisiblefence.com



How Much Does it Really **COST** to Own and Care for a Dog?

Depending on where you live, and the type of dog you are considering, there can be substantial differences in the costs to acquire and care for a new pet. The following list summarizes the most common expenditures you will face in caring for your dog. The figures are averages, and are based on information compiled from various sources around the US.

BUYING A DOG

- Animal Shelter: \$15 - \$75 – may include shots and neutering
- Breeder: \$250 - \$1500 – varies depending on breed and lineage

DOG FOOD

- Small Dogs: \$100/\$300 per year
- Medium Dogs: \$200/\$400 per year
- Large Dogs: \$300/\$500 per year

VETERINARY CARE

- Shots for 1st year: \$50 - \$200
- Annual checkups: \$50 - \$200 per year – standard treatment
- Spay/Neutering: \$30 - \$150 - females are more expensive

LICENSE

- \$5 - \$30 per year – not required in all areas

GROOMING

- \$100 - \$400 per year based on breed and coat length

OBEDIENCE TRAINING

- Puppy Kindergarten: \$50 - \$150
- Group Lessons: \$50 - \$150
- One-on-one: \$150 - \$500

MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES

- \$50 - \$800 – can vary widely

Owning a dog is not inexpensive. But the overwhelming majority of owners would agree that the rewards of unqualified love and companionship make the union between dog and owner a very fulfilling, desirable, and worthwhile experience! 🐾

NewPet.com

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