

DOGS' LIFE™

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YOUR DOG IS SO MUCH MORE THAN A PET™



"Dogs in the landscape." For many homeowners, this simple statement can conjure up visions of terror and destruction. As a professional landscaper, I too have seen the fury of the fur time and time again.

One incident I recall happened years ago, when I was a young and rather inexperienced landscaper. My clients, Bob and Margie, were having trouble with their two Weimaraners. The dogs had worn a path into the soil around the yard's perimeter fence and dug multiple holes throughout the courtyard and around the water feature. My solution to Bob and Margie's predicament was to build a stone wall with a wooden gate to separate the water feature and courtyard. In addition,



I planted a row of ornamental grasses about five feet out from the fence. I thought this would hide the path of damage, and allow the dogs to run between the ornamental grass and the fence. I hoped this solution would work. It didn't. The dogs dug up the grasses, dug new holes, and even chewed on the wooden gate. The stone wall was the only survivor.

Over the years I saw many homeowners combat the canines; encountering dogs that dug holes, chewed expensive trees, pulled out shrubs, and devoured everything from low voltage lighting systems and weed fabric, to pool covers and patio furniture.

From the **EDITOR:**

"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion."

– Unknown

Needless to say, after those experiences, I came to the conclusion that dogs and nice landscapes just don't mix, and told my clients if they wanted to preserve their landscape, they should not have dogs.

And then one day, my position was challenged. I found myself on the front line in the war for the landscape, and this time the battle was in my own backyard. Not wanting to deprive my children of a life with a dog, I broke down and brought one home; thinking I could train it to behave in the landscape.



However, I soon realized, that while training a dog is possible, it takes an enormous amount of time. And like most folks with a job and a family, I just didn't have the time to invest in effective training.

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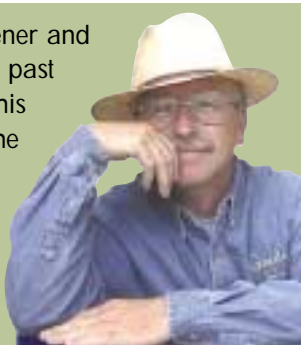


So I found myself in the same predicament as all those clients I worked with through the years — how to have a dog, and also have a nice landscape.

After researching various methods, a friend suggested Invisible Fence. And with one phone call to my local Invisible Fence professional, the war was over. I was able to give my dog the freedom to run and at the same time, preserve my landscape. It is my

opinion as a professional landscaper, a homeowner, and a dog owner that there is no better way than Invisible Fence to keep your dog safe, and keep your landscape intact. 🐾

Joe Sherinski is a Master Gardener and professional landscaper. For the past 10 years, he has been sharing his knowledge and expertise with the public on his television series, Gardenpower. In addition, he has been seen on the Discovery Channel, The Home and Leisure Network, and Animal Planet.



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 4-6 months old. Puppies go through a very important developmental stage at or around 11 weeks of age. In this critical period, dogs may develop personality traits that stay with them forever. So it is important to be sure your dog is beyond the 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.



Maintaining a Healthy Adolescent Canine



By Peter H. Eeg DVM
Owner Poolesville Veterinary Clinic, Poolesville, Maryland

The age at which your canine friend reaches adolescence is between eight to twelve months. This is equivalent to a nine to twelve year old human.

By this time your dog should have received all of his/her vaccinations to provide adequate immunity against a number of diseases. These may vary slightly depending on where you live, but should include vaccinations for distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza, parvo, corona, and rabies viruses. Also protection against lyme spirochete, and bordetella bacteria should have been completed.

Monthly Heart Worm/Anti-parasitic medication should also have been initiated by this time in your dogs' life to further protect him/her from these debilitating and potentially fatal diseases. These preventative medications are available in both oral and topical forms. A six-month injectable

preventative HeartWorm is also now available from your veterinarian. You should always check with your veterinarian before beginning any preventative therapy of this type.

Your adolescent canine friend should also have been neutered or spayed by this time in his/her development to prevent unwanted pregnancy and reduce the less desirable behaviors associated with the onset of the adult secondary sex characteristics. Key to this behavior modification is the reduction in roaming by both sexes in search of a suitable mate. Neutering and Spaying can also have a pronounced effect on reduction of aggression and inappropriate inter-dog interactions.

The adolescent canine is still in an active growth phase during this portion of his development to adulthood. It is very important that you work with your veterinarian to maintain the optimal level and type of nutrition for your specific breed of dog. Often times at this point in his development the "puppy food" being fed can be mixed with "adult food" to maintain adequate nutrition. In large and giant breed dogs this blending of food sources can minimize the potential for changes to the growing joints and ligaments that could result in damage from stresses incurred during play and exercise.

Certain inherited medical conditions can begin to surface during this period of development. It is important to have a basic understanding from your veterinarian of what your specific breed of dog may be genetically susceptible to from its lineage.

The preventative measures that you institute now and the more knowledge you are forearmed with about your specific breed of canine companion can help to set the tone for your dog to have an active, healthy, and long adult life. 🐾



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How to NAME Your Pet

Here are some useful tips in choosing a name for your dog or cat. Please remember that the pet-name you choose will be used dozens of times a day to call, praise and perhaps scold.

- Pick a name that the pet can easily recognize. Animals respond better to one or two syllable names.
- Choose a name that's both easy to call out and one that you are happy calling out. Calling out "Jack" or "Zoe" in the park may be far less embarrassing than calling out "Death Breath."
- For dogs avoid names that sound like the standard commands of No, Stay, Sit, Come, Down or Fetch. For exam-

ple "Joe" is probably too close to "No". It can be difficult for dogs to tell the difference between similar sounding words.

- If choosing a long name keep in mind the shortened version. A long name will inevitably be shortened, but it may ruin the effect that you were originally looking for.
- The pet's breed heritage can provide some useful inspiration. For example Orientals (Siamese and Burmese), German (Shepherds, Dachshunds and Schnauzers), French (Poodle), Scottish (Terriers), or Irish (Wolfhounds and Setters). The Human Name and Foreign Name categories may assist here.
- Waiting a few days to study your pet's behavior can help pick the right name. The Personality, Affectionate and Appearance categories may assist here.
- Pick a name that will grow with the pet. For example "Kitten" may be less appropriate for a full-grown cat.

Other than this, be adventurous!

Naming pets has far more leeway than naming children, where thought has to be given to peer group acceptance, blending first and last names and how the initials may appear.

For more on names, check out Bow Wow Meow which runs a fun web site all about pet names at www.bowwow.com.au. 🐾

BASSET HOUND



BREED GROUP: Hound

NICKNAME: Basset

ORIGIN: The Basset Hound with its long, floppy ears, soulful eyes, short legs with "crooked knees" and musical bark can trace its origin back to medieval monks. Because of their short stature and agility the monks used this scent hound to hunt in dense, impenetrable underbrush. With a nose second only to the Bloodhound's they are used today to hunt rabbit, fox, opossum, raccoon, and pheasant. Slow paced, Bassets usually hunt in packs but can hunt alone. Directly related to the French bassets they get their name from the French word "bas" meaning low. The Basset's popularity spread to the English nobility when they were introduced at the Paris Dog Show in 1863. George Washington is said to have owned Basset Hounds that were gifts from the Marquis de Lafayette after the American Revolution. The Basset is it one of the few hounds that have become popular as companion dogs in the United States. Their popularity may be due in part to their frequent use in advertising campaigns such as The Hush Puppy™ spokesdog.

COLOR: White with black, tan or lemon, or a combination of these colors.

HEIGHT: 14 – 15 inches (35 – 38 cm)

WEIGHT: 40 – 60 pounds (18 – 26 kg)

TEMPERAMENT: Basset hounds are intelligent, good-natured, friendly, devoted and naturally well-behaved. Mild but not timid dogs, they are friendly with children and very affectionate with their masters.

TRAINING: This breed can be very stubborn and calls for firm and consistent training. Even the most obedient Basset may ignore you if it picks up an interesting smell. Housebreaking the Basset can also difficult but with patience and persistence it can be accomplished.

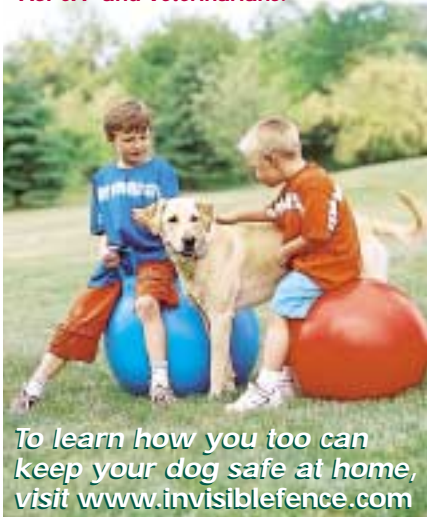
EXERCISE: Because the Basset has a tendency to be lazy they should be given plenty of exercise. Jumping and activities that stress the front legs should be discouraged.

GROOMING: Bassets have a smooth, shorthaired coat that requires little grooming. Their ears need regular attention. They are constant shedders.

POSSIBLE HEALTH CONCERNS: Bassets are prone to obesity, back problems, bloat and ear infections.

LIFE EXPECTANCY: About 10-12 years 🐾

For over 25 years Invisible Fence® has contained dogs of all breeds with an amazing 99.2% success rate. Over a million customers keep their dogs safe with a system that's endorsed by the ASPCA® and veterinarians.



To learn how you too can keep your dog safe at home, visit www.invisiblefence.com

Is there something about pets that keeps people healthy?

Recent studies have shown the health benefits of pet ownership.

A study published in the American Journal of Cardiology in 1995 found that having a pet might prolong one's life. Pet owners who had suffered a heart attack had a significantly higher one-year survival rate than non-pet owners did, even after accounting for such other factors as the severity of heart disease.

Research published in an Australian medical journal in 1992 also found that having pets is heart-healthy. The study concluded that pet owners are at lower risk for heart attack and heart disease than those without companion animals.

Scientists also have found that senior citizens who own pets are more active than those without pets, and are less likely to experience depression.

Some researchers speculate that companion animals help reduce stress and keep people more physically active. "There's a feeling of contentment and joy from the unconditional love an animal brings into your life," says Dr. Edward Creagan, a Mayo Clinic oncologist who frequently speaks on the correlation between pets and well being. "I think [having a pet] is one of the best things people can do to stay healthy and happy." 🐾