

The C ♦ H ♦ A ♦ C ♦ O Chimes

C.H.A.C.O Dog Training & Behavior Consulting

"Let the trainer do the training, so you can enjoy your dog"



* **Wanna Play? Keeping your dog engaged & happy while inside with inclement weather just got easier. Read about my new services on the back page!** *

✦ Highlights ✦

The Bay Area is truly like no other place in this country! One of the things that makes this area unique is the interest by dog guardians in attending dog parks. While attending a dog park is a wonderful way of relaxing and giving your animal companion some very welcome dog-to-dog interaction, there are a few things to keep in mind so that you both not only have fun but to ensure that your dog remains safe and exposed to good doggie manners. Here is a list of my favorite Do's & Don'ts at the dog park:

1. **Mind your dog, not your latte...**
Keep tabs on your dog and check frequently with him/her.
2. **Learn about dog body language and be observant of your dog as well as other dogs' signals.**

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"Train with
your brain, not pain."
- Pat Miller



LIVING WITH DOGS

5 Training Tips for Easier Walks

Spare Your Arms. Use a humane no-pull harness or head collar such as Easy Walk Harness, Sensation Harness, Halti, or Gentle Leader. All use natural counter-balance approaches to curb pulling without hurting the dog—unlike choke or prong collars that can slow pulling but have been shown to cause extensive tracheal damage and considerable pain. Walks should be enjoyable and painfree, for you and your dog.

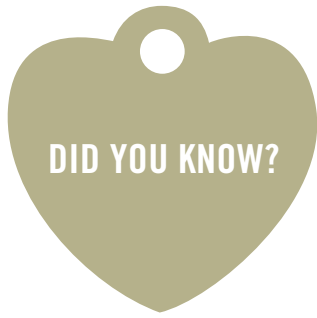
Develop Situational Awareness. Be on the lookout for cats, squirrels, other dogs who may not be comfortable greeting fellow canines on-leash, and toddlers who could get knocked over by a high-energy pooch. Be ready to cross the street or wait out of sight behind a parked car.



Come Prepared. Carry treats or a favorite toy to reward pleasing manners like sitting at curbs, not barking at other dogs, not chasing birds, polite greetings of friendly humans, and loose-leash walking. Any behavior you reinforce is going to happen more often. In other words: If you like it, reward it.

Go Often. If your dog's workout regiment amounts to a stroll around the block twice a day, surplus energy and under-stimulation will make it tough for him to behave when you take him out and about. The remedy? Amp it up. Find ways to allow him off-leash runs or playtime with other dogs, throw balls or Frisbees, take long hikes, hire a dog walker, or use a doggie daycare. The more exercise your dog gets, the more calm and attentive he'll be.

Get Help. If your dog is very challenging to walk, consider hiring a trainer to help you—or, if you're already working with a trainer, ask his or her advice. Your walks, too, can be a picture of interspecies harmony.



These Nose Jobs?

1. Land Mine Detection.

Dogs' sensitive olfactory receptors can pinpoint mines four inches underground or more. Trained to search in straight lines against their instincts, mine detection dogs prevent thousands of deaths and injuries in war-torn countries every year.

2. Scat Sniffing.

Dogs help wildlife researchers by locating scat from endangered species and, with their sophisticated inborn search technique, allow their handlers to cover vast areas.

3. Termite Detection.

Beagles and Labs are the exterminator's best friends. The dogs identify pest infestations in the hidden crawl spaces of houses that show no outward signs of termites.

4. Truffle Sniffing.

Why have dogs replaced pigs as the favorite tracking animal of Italy's truffle hunters? Pigs tend to eat what they find. Dogs settle for a biscuit.

5. Lifeboat Rescue.

When rivers flood or boats sink in lakes, dogs help track down survivors caught in vegetation.



A WORLD OF DOGS

The Hybrid Craze—When Only an Oodle Will Do

How can an adorable little Maltipoo inspire controversy? Who isn't charmed by a Puggle? Mixing two known breeds is very attractive to some and a hot-button subject to others. The story of hybrids begins with Labradoodles. An Australian breeder wanted a hypoallergenic guide dog for the blind and created one by mixing Labrador Retrievers with poodles. Over the next decade, he bred the resulting Labradoodles, as he named them, to other Labradoodles until the characteristics he sought were reliably present—breeding true, to use an industry term.



The Labradoodle zoomed to popularity in the US, and more poodle crosses followed. The idea of non-shedding versions of favorite breeds was a popular one, spawning yorkipoos, schnoodles, poovanese, goldendoodles, even cadoodles, a collie-poodle mix. Soon the allergy-friendly aspect became secondary. Every two-breed encounter, random or intentional, received its own label. Pugs crossed with Yorkshire terriers became Pugshires. A basset hound and a Beagle? A Bagel, of course.

Why the contention? Well, much of the enthusiasm for hybrids springs from the theory that a mix of two breeds results in the best of both worlds. Just as in run-of-the-mill mutts (a mix of unknown origin), this is often the case. But it's equally true that without careful selection through generations for the desired traits, there's absolutely no guarantee. A hybrid may just as well unite any health and behavioral problems that plague its purebred parent breeds. Plus, the current love affair with Oodles and Uggles naturally diverts attention from the perfectly lovable anybody's-best-guesses in the nation's shelters.

Polemics aside, for those with dreams of schnoodles—and for mutt lovers and purebred devotees—where you get your puppy matters. Just like you should adopt from a shelter, not from a cardboard box in an alley, it's prudent to do your homework before getting a hybrid. Ask lots of questions and meet your puppy's parents, if you can. Why risk getting, say, White Fang's un-trainable nature packaged with Scooby Doo's IQ?

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- 3. Be an advocate for your dog. If they are not having fun while interacting with another critter, help them out by calling your dog and moving on.
- 4. Teach your dog a reliable recall and practice in a myriad of locations.
- 5. Do not attempt to stop a dogfight with your hands or legs. This is how most bites occur. There are safer ways of dealing with dog fights.
- 6. Do not expect your dog to obey at all times. It is not realistic or fair to your dog.



DOGS IN ACTION

Agility

Dog lovers and dog ignorers alike recognize the tunnels and seesaws of an agility obstacle course. This fast-paced and spectator-friendly sport is popular across the globe and has spawned many championships, some international, some even televised. (The sport, by the way, is not just for dogs. Rabbit Agility is in vogue in Scandinavia and the UK.) The ubiquitous image of an agility champion is a Border Collie—or perhaps a Jack Russell Terrier—but title holders include yorkies, papillons, spaniels, boxers, poodle mixes, even a Belgian Tervuren.

Any breed of dog can compete, including mixed breeds, and most healthy, active dogs can be trained to compete at entry level. Physical strength, athleticism, and a high energy level are essential for anyone wishing to go further. If agility appeals, find a local club or training facility and sign up for classes. Or, if you live in a remote area, purchase an agility starter kit for your back garden and a good book on the subject. To learn more, visit United States Dog Agility Association at www.usdaa.com or North American Dog Agility Council at www.nadac.com.



HEALTHY DOG

When Pooches Get Pudgy

Most dog owners, when quizzed, readily agree that obesity is all-too-common in dogs. Few, however, feel the subject is relevant to them. That's because we're notoriously poor at assessing our pets' weight. (My dog isn't fat; he's just furry!) While some breeds are prone to overweight, no dog is immune. And the list of possible consequences is long and chilling. Arthritis, hip dysplasia, diabetes, kidney stones, cancer, heat intolerance, hypertension, and a decreased lifespan, to name but a few.

If your pooch is flabby, consult your vet about the appropriate amount of food and measure carefully at mealtimes. Switch to low-cal cookies or treat with carrots. Then amp up the exercise. If time is in short supply, consider hiring a dog walker or enrolling in a doggie day care. For advice and inspiration, read Marty Becker's book *Fitness Unleashed!*

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Labrador Retriever

Stomach on legs, expert swimmer and counter surfer, famously trainable—the Lab is a dog of many distinctions. The well-socialized Lab is bouncy outdoors, gentle when cuddling on the couch, and can put her paw to anything from tracking to agility, from competitive obedience to police and therapy work. The Lab is the most popular breed worldwide, even in countries where the Cottonelle Puppy ad has never run on TV. Life with a Lab is not without challenges, though. Given half a chance, she'll chew her way through carpets and shoes, eat candy wrappers off the sidewalk, and dive into any mudhole. The cure is training and ample exercise, essentials if your Lab is to thrive. For a Lab in the limelight, catch *Marley & Me* in theaters this holiday season.

To adopt a Lab, visit your local shelter or rescue group.



OUR SERVICES

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If you are anything like me, you chose to share your life with a dog in part because you like to play and be entertained with goofiness and spontaneity. Dogs very frequently remind us that play adds to our quality of life. The surely don't sweat the small stuff!

As part of my interest in having my clients play more with their dogs, I am offering a new service that will focus on play. During our session(s) I will teach you how to solicit playful behaviors from your dog. Conversely, I can do all the repetitive work involved in training and teaching your dog how to play. Some dogs play naturally while for others play is something they need to be encouraged to do.

Perhaps you wish that your dog (a non- natural retriever) was more interested in fetching.Or maybe your dog is too rambunctious to play appropriately with your children. Learning new, safe, and fun games (that could double as efficient training session) can be accomplished through these training sessions.

If on the other hand you are interested in having a more compliant dog while keeping things light and fresh, let me help you with the principles of clicker training. Clicker training allows you to communicate with your dog in a more direct way. It also opens the possibility for one-on-one interactions between the two of you. Dogs that are clicker trained are eager to engage and have a great association with their guardians and obedience training. Besides, clicker training works wonders as an energy burner for active dogs and builds confidence on shy ones.

Please visit my web-site: www.chacodogtraining.com to learn about up-coming educational presentations on these topics, Or contact me to schedule a one-on-one training session.



Wintertime Wisdom

- ✓ **Stick with biscuits.** Seasonal indulgences are for you, not your dog. Candy, chocolate, onions, turkey bones, and fattier-than-usual treats can all make dogs sick.
- ✓ **Guard the greenery.** Shiny presents and light chains on the Christmas tree could be mistaken for chew toys. Mistletoe, holly, poinsettias, and amaryllis bulbs are pooch poison.
- ✓ **Curb the merriment.** For your dog, that is. Big parties stress some dogs. If wearing antlers and being continually petted is not your dog's cup of tea, give him a quiet room or comfy crate to hang out in.
- ✓ **Be mindful of...** Antifreeze, salted sidewalks, frostbite, the need for doggie coats and increased food rations in the cold. And remember: Indoor puzzle games can entertain your dog on days when the weather is fit for neither man nor beast.

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Compassionate, **H**olistic, Approach to **C**anine **O**bedience



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