



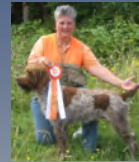
"Formed to preserve the Authentic Korthals Griffon"

www.korthalsgriffon.com

Facebook-Korthals Griffon Club of America

The club is officially a 501 (c) (6)

Officers



President:
Carol Ptak



Vice President:
Katherine March



Secretary/Treasurer:
Barbara Young

What is a Purebred Dog?

It is commonly accepted that a purebred dog is a dog with known and documented ancestry from a breed's foundation stock. A hybrid is not considered purebred, although crossbreds from the same two breeds of purebreds can have "identical qualities".

The difference is that hybrids do not breed true (meaning that progeny will show consistent, Replicable and predictable characteristics), and can only be reproduced by returning to the original two purebred breeds. Only documentation of the ancestry from a breed's foundation stock determines whether or not a dog is a purebred member of a breed."

President's Message

Next month is the opening of quail season here in Arizona. This is a time of excitement and a bit of sadness since this year we will be hunting over only our two boys, Z and Fiston. When you have a healthy 13-year-old you just expect that she will be there for the next hunting season and the next and the next just like your favorite shotgun. Hunting season will not be the same without our Sara (CH Usara von Herrenhausen JH with 5 qualifying MH scores)). She truly was the best hunting dog we have ever hunted over and there is not a day we don't miss her.

However that is the benefit of good breeding program. We are blessed to have her son, Z (GCH Am Intl CH UCH Zerubbabel von Herrenhausen CGC MHA) to hunt with this fall. Although he just turned 10, he is fit and ready to go. The Korthals Griffon should be expected to be long lived and capable of doing their job for a long healthy life. This is the reason why the Korthals Griffon Club of America was founded in 2013 with the following objectives:

- (a) to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred Korthals Griffons and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;
- (b) to urge members and breeders to accept the approved KGCA standard of the breed as the only standard of excellence by which the Korthals Griffon shall be judged;
- (c) to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at all events which the breed may qualify for.

The KGCA will accomplish these objectives by education of griffon breeders and increasing awareness of the puppy buyer to the choices available to them. The KGCA continue to grow with almost 300 people on Facebook from all over the world. It is wonderful to share experiences and accomplishments with the global griffon family. Weekly we get heartbreaking stories of heart conditions, autoimmune disease, severe dysplasia and sudden death in very young dogs and one thing in common is that these dogs are all hybrids. The only way to tell is through the pedigree and we are so blessed to have the database that Barbara Young has worked on for her entire life. That database contains dogs from the USA, UK, France, and Germany and now totals over 30,000 individual records. This database goes all the way back to Korthals original stock that was kept in the breeding program when the breeders set the breed standard.

Barbara has shared information with what used to be called the WPGCA and is now called the Bohemian Griffon club. This was the first outcross of the Korthals Griffon to the Cesky Fousek. Barbara was able to fill in some of their pedigree history. The KGCA is about education and sharing information. Breeders and buyers make their decisions after considering all available information.

A new club has been formed in the UK called the Korthals Griffon Association (korthalsgriffonsassociation.org) dedicated to the promotion and protection of the natural

President's Message Continued

hunting ability and physical conformation of the true Korthals Griffon. The board of the KGCA was honored that this new group has adopted much of the breed standard and other approach from the KGCA. We must communicate globally to preserve our beloved genuine Korthals Griffons. This new group made contact with the Italian Korthals Griffon group. We are working to see if we can get the Italian pedigrees and hopefully uncover some genuine breed stock available there.

The KGCA encourages owners of genuine Korthals Griffon stud dogs to get the dog's semen collected so that these rare dogs can be preserved. As is noted in the litter criteria (<http://korthalsgriffon.com/litter.htm>) page on the website, the KGCA has published the following criteria for the listing of litters on the site. Posting on the KGCA list or Facebook site is agreement to having the rating posted with the litter. The rating system would be as simple as grades in school – A, B, C, D, or U. The KGCA would consider only those dogs with an “A” rating to be genuine Korthals griffons. However, the club also realizes how scarce these dogs are and understands the need of a breeder to possibly use breeding stock with one outcross.

The KGCA does not endorse nor challenge any breeder's decision but rather to educate breeders and the public considering a puppy. It is the intent to provide information to the purchasing public on available litters. Any litter posted on the website or Facebook will have the following rating applied after research of the pedigree. The genuine Korthals Griffon CANNOT be verified by a genetic test like KBKB.

“A” rating would be a litter with no genetic evidence of an outcross on either the sire or dam's pedigree.

“B” rating would be a litter where there is one outcross on either side within a 10-generation pedigree.

“C” rating would be a litter where there is either more than one outcross on one side or there is one outcross on both sides.

“D” rating would be a litter with multiple incidences of the outcross on both sides.

“U” rating would be a litter where there is insufficient pedigree information

All litters must be posted with full sire and dam information and any available health clearances.

The defined outcross is the existence of Under Du Ruisseau Du Massacre LOF17921 or any of his descendants in a pedigree within 10 generations. To be very clear, the KGCA is not making any accusation or casting any dispersion on this dog or the breeder of this dog. This dog is simply the point at which the pedigrees of all the dogs carrying the tan point gene converge. However, the issue of color is not the point. The tri-color gene was simply a flag that allowed the genetic research to be done to determine that convergence point. This issue is one of health and capability of the dog to do the job for which it was intended. Recently the club was asked about the incidence of cancer in the breed. The board researched the database and discovered that every dog with reported cancer was a hybrid by the KGCA policy. This is not to say that every hybrid will have disease. Also it is unrealistic to assume that every authentic griffon will be healthy to an old age. We also realize that the publicly available information on cause of

Vice President's Message

THE MYSTERIES OF HEAT

My youngster, Devi, has recently gone through her first heat period. Since that makes me the expert, Barbara asked me to write about heat. I googled “heat in dogs”, and got 121 million hits, and at least on the first few pages this was not about using blankets or sitting by the fire. The number of hits is likely not due to any controversy on this subject, but if there are 70+ million dogs in the US alone, there are at least 35 million that are female that are going to go into heat, barring interfering circumstances, and thus there are plenty of people wanting to know what’s going on.

Sometimes the word “heat” is used to describe the more observable, roughly week period in which the bitch prepares for fertility (proestrus), is fertile (estrus), and is followed with the longer stage in which she is no longer fertile, but still has symptoms of fertility. Often “heat” refers to estrus only. “Heat cycle” sometimes refers to the 3 above stages, and sometimes it also includes a fourth stage (anestrus) in which the dog shows no symptoms, which is the months between the end of diestrus and the next proestrus. Since the definition of heat depends on who you talk to, let’s for now use that 3-week part that concerns us most.

We mammals have been forced to learn the basics of mating and breeding, and the fascinating biological story indeed would fill too many pages for a newsletter. Let’s focus on what we observe and how to deal with our dogs’ cycle along with what I learned:

Proestrus: We should thank whoever designed this part of a dog’s life for providing a period of warning of what’s to come. You may see the dog licking her genitals frequently. The vulva will begin to swell, there may be a clear to bloody discharge, and there may be frequent urination. Some experts will tell you to watch for increase or decrease in appetite or activity, and those symptoms are associated with plenty of disease or behavior processes. Changes in behavior are said to indicate the hormone change, but a trainer/breeder friend tells me that my dog was pulling my leg, pretending she had PMS, and had an excuse to pick on the other dogs. This stage may last about 9 days, but there is a tremendous variation in timing of these stages.

Now is the time to get ready for the fertility experience. Withdraw from the agility trial, tell your brother he can’t visit with his intact bulldog, and do not take your dog for those last walks in the neighborhood. That would be like pre-ordering a book on Amazon—you know it’s coming, where it will be, and what you want to do with it.

Devi and I were in a sporting puppy class at our kennel club when she showed signs of proestrus. At this stage she was clean and innocent, but I was told she would have to wear panties for the next two classes.

Heat Continued

Estrus: At this stage the dog will become fertile and mentally and physically willing to breed. Estrus and proestrus can last from 5-20 days, so don't use ink to put this on your calendar. Just ask a breeder doing AI how to get the right time. Although I have read that sometimes you can't tell this is happening, I just don't believe that. The vulva will usually be quite large, and even with the Griff hair you can't miss it. There may be a discharge, but the dog may keep that clean and difficult to detect. Most of all, if the female is around a male they will tell you if there is estrus.

At this time you must not let your dog out alone, even in a fenced yard. The closest canine testicles I know of belong to a Jack Russel terrier up the road. He's young and cute, and his biggest thrill is proving that he's faster and smarter than his owners. It pays to be good neighbors, and they were great about controlling him for a few weeks. He saw me at the barn at one time, and determined my leg smelled like a pretty Griff. When all this was over he dug under the gate. I once saw a Scottie climb a chain link kennel to reach a Lab on the inside. The off-leash runs in the forest were out for us, although my husband thought it might be OK if Devi wore her panties. Think about that. Devi and I had to skip two weeks of class because she could not stop trying to rip the cute polka dot panties off. I was shocked at how Coulee, my 8 year old castrated male, responded to all this. In order to keep things quiet and simple I spent any spare time I had separating and entertaining these two, and Coulee got lots of runs in the woods.

Diestrus: We must remember as we manage this that everything eventually calms down. For about 2-3 months a non-pregnant female will still have high progesterone levels, much like that of a pregnant dog. She will not be willing to breed as she was in estrus.

Anestrus: This is the quiet period that usually lasts from 4-5 months.

I have been told that they are either always coming in or going out. To keep you thinking, and wondering if you should believe everything on the internet, some sources say the dogs can become pregnant during estrus and diestrus. Don't let this deter you from getting a female.

Males go into heat on January 1, and it lasts until December 31.

Katherine



Secretary/Treasures Report

KGCA Meeting Minutes GotoMeeting June 21, 2016

Present: Carol Ptak, Barbara Young, Katherine March

President Carol Ptak: Update on activities

VP Katherine March: Current activities report

Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter Editor: Barbara Young

Gave update on membership renewals, newsletter, and financial report see below.

Old Business:

1. Membership renewals: William, rose & Patti Loftus (\$50.00), Thomas & Martha Parmelee (35.00), Curtis & Jocelyn Trammell (35.00) Pete McCool (35.00), Tom Olesen (35.00), Kenneth Mckean (35.00), Matthew Wetherill (35.00), Mark Schmitcke (35.00), Nicola Thain (35.00), Katherine March (35.00), Andy Dodson (30.00) +(150.00 donation Jean Castaing book), Carol Ptak, Barbara Young

A letter of thank you was suggested to Andy Dodson for his donation.

2. Bank balance \$1,045.60 (6/14/16) not including recent Andy Dodson amounts above.

New Business:

1. Colleen Porter requested a letter to Dr Barbara Scheck in Germany on AI procedures and success rates in the US. She thought with my experiences and success in the procedure it would be helpful to promote the procedure in Germany. It was thought that the expansion of the German AI procedure would be helpful in providing breeding stock to WPG females outside of Germany. It was discussed and decided a club letter from Carol as president, and a description of my experience from me would be done.

2. The excellent French web site for the breed was discussed.

3. Topics for next newsletter: Griffon Feet, Water introduction, Stripping Coats and a report on the Database.

Next meeting date: July 29th, 11:00 am

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Young

KGCA Meeting Minutes GotoMeeting July 29th, 2016

Present: Carol Ptak, Barbara Young, Katherine March

President Reports: General welcome and update.

Vice President Report: Nothing at this time.

Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter Editor: Reminder about upcoming newsletter.

Barbara Young

Old Business:

1. A discussion was held on the continued work on the database. All agreed that it was coming along well with regular additions and that it would be a well used resource for the International Korthals Griffon breeders and owners.

2. Bank balance \$1,079.28 (6/30/16) this includes 1 PayPal deposits of (\$33.68).

New Business:

1. Membership was discussed with a request for a membership list for the next meeting.

2. The next newsletter was discussed with a due date for material being at the first of the month.

3. Next meeting 9/1/2016 11:00 am

The meeting terminated at 11:45 am

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Young

Secretary/Treasurer Report

Hi everyone! This is just a note to let you know the odds and ends of what's been happening outside of the meeting minutes. A lot of work has been going into expanding the database on the herrenhausensportingdogs.com web site. It currently contains over 30,000 dogs worldwide, with the cooperation of the German Club and breeders who have submitted old Studbooks. These have made it possible to track pedigrees back to the early 1900's. I am still hand entering some information, which was not clear enough for computer entry and requires the human eye for detail.

For those starting to use the database for the first time: basic instructions are on the web site. You may search up to 10 generations on one dog by changing the number to be search at the beginning of the search. However, to advance to other dogs in the pedigree all you have to do is click on that dog for a more extensive look at their pedigree, or if you would like to advance back another 10 generations click on the 10th generation dogs link. and you will advance back another 10 generations. If you see missing information that you may have, please forward it too me for inclusion. I try to include all data that is public, for example: OFA records, NAVHDA records, Competition records when available etc. However, don't feel shy about adding your records, just send them to me. I just require actual AKC registration certificates or NAVHDA registrations etc. to keep the records correct.

The database is an extremely useful tool for the breed worldwide.

We have some new members to the club that I would like to send a **warm welcome to!** This is an educational group, so you will have a wealth of experiene to benefit from so don't be afraid to ask questions on our Facebook site "Korthals Griffon Club of America". Our President Carol Ptak, is an exceptional field trainer of the Gibbons Method, Katherine March is famaliar with Obedience, Rally, and Agility, and I cover the breeding and conformation portions of the group. We have a new addition that has just joined our team Jocelyn Trammell who has agreed to be our Registered Agent for the State Corporation Division. A warm welcome and thank you from us, for taking on this very important task. If you have free time and would like to be a more active member please contact one of us.

Best of all! Enjoy your Griffons! Continue learning thru the extensive information on our Facebook page.: Korthals Griffon Club of America.

Don't forget that hunting season is just around the corner! I have been busy getting a new puppy ready for her NAVHDA Natural Ability Test. Now, please remember I have never been a trainer but excell in breeding good dogs. So preparing a puppy for her test at age 70, has not been an easy task. However, I can't tell you how proud I was to see her just ace a track this morning. I don't know if that will continue but today it was wonderful.

Happy Training and Hunting

Barbara Young



Training Consistent Interactions

This means using everyday situations to train and continually strengthen good manners - without spending a lot of time on dedicated dog training sessions. It boils down to this: Whatever the dog wants, don't give it away for free. Don't open the door just because the dog paws at it; don't throw the ball just because he barks at you. For those and countless other privileges, ask the dog to say "please" first by doing something like sitting quietly.

The benefits of this approach are many. For one thing, good manners become part of everyday routines rather than something the dog is asked to do only in special training situations. Your dog also learns a degree of impulse control. He realizes that not immediately acting on impulse, but rather stopping to consider alternative options, can be rewarding. Training also becomes linked in the dog's mind to all his favorite activities: he will sit for having his leash put on for a walk, he will comply with a request before being invited onto the couch, he will have to look at you before getting his breakfast or a chew toy, and he will release the ball before tossing it again, and playing fetch with you. When all good things must be preceded by responding to a cue that you give, your dog quickly learns to behave politely.

The goal isn't to seek the perfect obedient response to "sit" or "stay"; it simply teaches your dog to say "please." If the dog puts his bottom to the floor, the item or attention will be provided. Soon it becomes second nature, and your dog might default into a "sit" behavior instead of jumping or pawing at you. You can then decide whether to ask for an additional behavior, such as a "down" or "look." This is also a safety precaution: if your dog defaults into a sit position everytime you get ready to open the car door, he will not bolt out and possibly get hurt. If he sits to have his leash put on, he will not run around and you will not have to chase him. This makes taking the dog out a pleasure instead of a struggle. Use a "please" action before:

- Throwing a ball, Frisbee, etc.;
- Handing over a toy;
- Putting the food bowl down;
- Giving a treat or chew toy;
- Opening a door



2016 Dodds Vaccination Protocol

The following vaccine protocol is offered for those dogs where minimal vaccinations are advisable or desirable. The schedule is one I recommend and should not be interpreted to mean that other protocols recommended by a veterinarian would be less satisfactory. It's a matter of professional judgment and choice.

9 - 10 weeks of age

Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV

e.g. Merck Nobivac (Intervet Progard) Puppy DPV

14 – 15 weeks of age Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV

18 weeks of age Parvovirus only, MLV

Note: New research states that last puppy parvovirus vaccine should be at 18 weeks old.

20 weeks or older, if allowable by law Rabies – give 3-4 weeks apart from other vaccines

1 year old Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV

This is an optional booster or titer. If the client intends *not* to booster after this optional booster or intends *to* retest titers in another three years, this optional booster at puberty is wise.

1 year old Rabies – give 3-4 weeks apart from other vaccines

Perform vaccine antibody titers for distemper and parvovirus every three years thereafter, or more often, if desired. Vaccinate for rabies virus according to the law, except where circumstances indicate that a written waiver needs to be obtained from the primary care veterinarian. In that case, a rabies antibody titer can also be performed to accompany the waiver request. Visit [The Rabies Challenge Fund](#) for more information.

W. Jean Dodds, DVM

[Hemopet](#) / [NutriScan](#)



Training Article

Water Introduction

A critical part of the versatile gun dog is the ability to perform as well in the water as on land. Expectations include not only the retrieve of a shot bird that the dog can see but also a search for a bird that has been shot and the dog did not see fall. The dog must be able to navigate around decoys, brush and other obstacles in the water. All of this requires a love of the water that is possible only with a positive water introduction.

Rule 1 about water introduction with a puppy is to make sure that the puppy is in the right frame of mind. There are typically two fear imprint periods in a dog's life. One is usually between 8-10 weeks and that usually coincides with the time that the puppy is taken to its new home. Everything during this time must be positive. The second is much longer and happens sometimes between 6 and 14 months. You will notice the puppy reacting differently to situations like loud noises, new people, new environments than before. This is NOT the time to take your pup to the water. When the puppy is comfortable and acting like its normal bold self, then time to go for a swim.

Best is if you can find still water with a sloped shore. A farm pond works great for this. You don't need a great deal of water. It just has to be at swimming depth. But you will need a pile of bumpers and an experienced dog – otherwise bring a swim suit or wading boots for yourself.

A great way to start is with a pack of puppies. We normally take each puppy individually first and have the other puppies watch. If the puppy has a good chase instinct, then use a small bumper or toy and tease the puppy with it and then toss it close to the shore where hopefully the puppy can walk out to it and bring it back. Praise the puppy and play on the shore. Then toss the bumper a little further. Expect when you toss it where they need to swim they will paw at the water because they can't walk to it. At this point they may decide to swim. If they do swim then you are done for the day. Always remember to leave each training session with the puppy wanting more. If they don't encourage them a bit and then toss another bumper a little bit closer so the puppy can be successful. Give that puppy a break and work with the next puppy. It is important that the puppies all get to watch. They learn from watching each other.

If the puppy swims then on the next session you can toss the bumper a little bit further and pretty soon they will be swimming happily. Now, for all the griffons I have had the pleasure of training that happens about once out of 100 times. Usually they take a little more work. If you have your pack of puppies, a great idea after you have attempted this with each individual is if you are in a safe place to turn them all loose at one time. Make sure you have enough people there to watch where all the puppies are doing. Make it into a game with lots of toys and fun. Usually this will get a few of the more reluctant puppies into the water.

Water Intro Part 2 Continued

Usually we try this a couple times and then you can identify which puppy is clearly telling you they don't want to swim. This is NOT the point to throw them in. Tossing a puppy into the water will scare them and you will have even more work to do. What we have discovered is to take two people and wade out into the water – remember it doesn't have to be over your head – just over the puppy's head. Carry the puppy out with you. This is when it is very good to do this when they are small. Having a 60-pound dog trying to climb you to stay out of the water is not pleasant – trust me on that one. Have your assistant stand between you and the shore. Preferably the assistant should be someone the puppy trusts. Gently place the puppy into the water and their instinct will kick in and they will swim to the other person. You will likely get the “swim to the sky” where they are splashing themselves because they are trying to swim in a vertical position. Gently reach for the rear end of the puppy and bring the puppy to level. They will quickly learn to do that themselves. Retrieve the puppy from the assistant and do the process again. The puppy will quickly swim back to the safe person. Do this only a couple of times and then allow the puppies to play together in the water. Again always remember to stop with the puppy wanting more.

A truly reluctant swimmer may need this assistance more than once. After they have successfully swam then we start at the shore for one bumper and then if they refuse then it is out in the water with them and allow them to swim to an assistant or back to shore if you are by yourself. Having an assistant with you in the water prevents you from having to wade back in, entice the puppy back to you and then carry it back to the water. You will find they are quite smart and will learn a great game of keep away pretty quickly. Do not allow that to happen because in their mind they have won. If I am alone and teaching swimming, then I have a light long line on the puppy so I have control. Remember that “come” is not an option. This is not the time to destroy the obedience work you have done. We use two commands in our house – one is “come” and that means right now and to me – not optional. I am also standing still when I use this command. The other one is “here” which is for them to change direction and come my way. Usually I am moving when I use this command. Make sure you set up the situation for the puppy to reinforce all the good stuff it already knows. Every time you are near your puppy you are training – make sure it is the message you want to reinforce.

We have also used that long line when we have a narrow body of water. The owner would be on the far side with one end of the line and I would hold the puppy on the near side. The owner then calls the puppy and pulls gently on the line. This works great if you have a long narrow body of water where the only option is to swim.

Water introduction is not a one and done activity. If your puppy is swimming in that pond, then it is time to go to another pond. Dogs do not generalize. You need to have your puppy swim in at least five different locations before you can be comfortable they will swim and even then you may get surprised. Try different places with steeper drop-offs and places where there is shade on the water and sunny areas. Try ponds with clean water where they can see the bottom and places where it is mucky. I watched a puppy that lived on an island in the Seattle area fail its NAVHDA NA test because the puppy wouldn't swim in the test pond

Water Into Part 3 Continued

because it couldn't see the bottom. The judges told the handler the puppy needed to be introduced to water. The handler tried to explain that the puppy was in the water daily but the puppy was accustomed to cold, clear salt water and the test was in warm murky pond water. A NAVHDA UT dog refused to cross the line where the shade was on the water on the duck search. The dog did a great job of searching in the shady area for that dog the sunny line was a real barrier. You have to look at it from their perspective. These are all different experiences. When we are out hunting, we put our young dogs into any water we find both to cool them off and to reinforce their water capability. I always carry a bumper in my hunting vest for the purpose.

Above all be patient. Some of the least enthusiastic swimmers go on to be wonderful water dogs. The key is to read the dog and listen to what it is saying to you. Do not attempt water introduction during a fear imprint period and never throw a puppy into water that it over its head. Yes, you may get wet and muddy but that is all fun with your new best hunting companion. That builds the relationship and that is what doing your own training is all about.

Happy hunting! Carol

Teach a Recall Call Early on For Best Results

Excerpted from Victoria Stilwell's book Train Your Dog Positively

It's never too early to teach your puppy cues such as "sit" and "come" that you can use to build a common language between you. A good recall cue is vital for safety of your puppy or dog in all environments, and the sooner you start teaching it, the more reliable it will be.

The Recall Cue

Most puppies will "come" to you whenever you decide to walk away because they instinctively like to follow you. Instilling a reliable response, however, usually takes months of consistency and positive reinforcement. The easiest way to teach your new puppy or dog the "come" cue is to begin using it as soon as you bring them home:

- 1 Whenever your puppy or dog is coming to you on his own, wait until he is a couple of feet from you and then say his name and the word "come".
- 2 When he gets to you, make a big fuss over him.
- 3 With this exercise, your dog will learn that coming to you is a really good thing. After a while, you can lengthen the distance between you before you say the cue word, but be careful that you don't go too far too soon.
- 4 If you want a reliable recall, do not chase your dog unless it is an emergency. Dogs love to be chased.
- 5 If you call your dog a number of times and he doesn't come back to you, don't tell him off when he eventually returns. It is understandably annoying when your dog ignores you, but if he comes back only to find that you're angry with him, he'll actually learn to avoid you more. He won't understand that you're angry because he ignored you and will think you're annoyed because he came back. Coming to you should always be rewarded, whatever the circumstance and no matter how long it took him to respond.
- 6 Motivate your dog to come by being excited, running away from him, waving a toy, or having delicious food for him when he gets to you. This will instill the idea that coming back to you is the best thing he can do.

How to Manage Unwanted Behavior

Excerpted from *Decoding Your Dog*

Nuisance behaviors can be changed to polite manners or managed to a point where they don't bother us, depending on our preference. Here are four strategies:

- Management techniques
- Training consistent interactions
- Training solutions
- Physical and mental stimulation

Management Techniques

Many annoying behaviors can be prevented or managed to a point where they no longer present a problem. Keep in mind that management isn't training. The dog isn't learning how we would prefer him to behave; he is simply prevented from behaving in an unwanted way in a situation because we control the options and outcomes. But management is a great short-term measure for getting relief, especially for young animals with nuisance behaviors, and it often works well enough to satisfy many people in the long term too.

Management also keeps the dog from practicing the problem behavior and thus learning bad habits by repeating the same behaviors over and over again. For example, keeping your dog out of the kitchen prevents him from jumping on the counter and being rewarded by finding leftover food. If he isn't allowed in the kitchen, he never learns that jumping on the counter yields rewards.

Remember, for a behavior to be ongoing, it must be reinforcing for the dog; that is why he repeats it.

Management techniques might include setting up barriers such as baby gates and exercise pens, using humane anti-pull devices such as head halters or harnesses, and simply dog-proofing the house, stowing away food, and placing desirable things out of reach.

Substitute sitting for jumping on you by rewarding your puppy only when he is sitting. No punishment is needed, because he learns very quickly that when he sits, he gets what he wants. This allows him to explore different behaviors and make the correct decision.

The puppy will very likely offer this sitting behavior again. If you are consistent in your reactions, soon he will default into a sit position for greetings.



Getting Rid of those Pesky Ear Infections

Heading to your veterinarian for help with an ear infection is always a good idea, especially if you haven't had previous experience with a canine ear infection and you aren't certain what it looks like, or if a previously treated infection has recurred. If you are going to take your dog to the vet, don't clean his ears that day; it may be helpful for the veterinarian to see the appearance and amount of the discharge.

The vet will clean and examine the ears, and usually will take a look deep inside the ear canal with an otoscope - that is, if the swelling in the ear canal is not too severe. Some brave veterinarians will also put their noses near the dog's ear and take a quick sniff; the odor of an infected ear is distinctive.

In mild cases, after cleaning the ear well, veterinarians will generally administer and give the owner a topical ear solution containing antibiotic, antifungal, and anti-inflammatory agents. This is typically used for a dog's first or infrequent ear infection because, no matter what the causative organism, this type of topical will address it. In many cases, that's all there is to the ear infection event.

However, if the infection recurs, it's likely that the treatment was incomplete, whether because the solution wasn't applied as frequently or as well as required (sometimes the outer ear looks good, but the infection continues to fester deep within the ear canal), or because the infectious organisms developed resistance to the antibiotic in the solution. In these cases, we may wonder why the infection keeps "coming back" when, in reality, it never ever went away.

When an ear infection recurs (if not before!), culturing a sample of the exudate is a must, to make sure that the next treatment is targeted to treat the specific pathogen. Oral antibiotics may be indicated in such severe cases in addition to topical therapy. Note that oral antibiotics are not the first go-to for a one-off ear infection and are rarely successful as the sole therapy. Chronic cases may also be helped by a Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine (TCVM) approach including acupuncture, and/or when used preventively such as prior to spring/summer if dealing with seasonal allergies. Also, acupuncture and laser therapy can relieve pain associated with infections.

