

Special Report. Why You Shouldn't Use A Dog Trainer (yet).

**A dog trainer's view on how dog owners waste their money
on dog training.**



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About the Authors:

This book has been carefully prepared, researched and edited by a team of canine information experts. Our authors are, first and foremost, passionate about dogs and share a mutual satisfaction in assisting people who are experiencing problems with their pets. Our works have been read by more than 12 million pet owners globally.

Why You Shouldn't Use A Dog Trainer (yet)

Author: Mike Deathe

Every hydraulic system has a set pressure it can withstand. Go over that allowed pressure (or exceed “critical mass,” and...well BOOM). You can look at your dog's behaviour the same way...each behaviour has its own tank; barking, digging, jumping, play biting and yes even pulling on a leash. If we are smart owners, and keep the pressure under “critical mass,” the behaviours remain normal, problems never surface and life is good. But if we allow the pressure to build...you probably already know and may be experiencing that answer or you would not be reading this Special Report. If your dog pulls like a demon, you have allowed that tank to overflow and consequently, you probably hate walking your dog.

What you have not considered is that once the walking tank overfills, that pressure has to go somewhere. Now you not only have a leash issue, but your dog has started barking at everything. As the barking tank overflows, your dog might now start digging to China in your back yard...and so the story goes until I, the dog trainer, receive a phone call from a prospective client telling me their dog is completely out of control. But the simple translation is a dog whose pressure capacity has been taxed to the point of complete hydraulic failure. At this point, take a deep breath and realise this now out of control conduct actually started with just one behaviour and the only way to fix this, is to fix the behaviours the same way they occurred: One at a time.

The key to a happy, healthy and well behaved dog is simple...exercise. This is the action we very rarely consider for our out of control, over pressured and now bleeding hydraulic systems. The only way to fix the leak is to first lower the pressure in the system (exercise) and re-train (increase the pressure capacity) of the system. So, what is energy in regards to a dog, and just how do we exercise or vent the system? While it might seem a simple question, all dogs are different. That means energy types and requirements are as different as the dogs in question.

Take, for example, a Golden Retriever - they have been bred for retrieving, thus their energy type is generally running and fetching things. In comparison, a Schnauzer, bred as a hunter, has energy geared to tracking small moving critters, and they really like to bark. Beagles are similar in that they love to bark, but they use their nose to scent, rather than tracking the moving objects. What about a Husky or a Malamute? They were bred to pull sleds (and everything else attached to them), or an Australian Shepherd, whose goal in life is to herd things. Now, consider the classic (and my favorite) the Mutt. They could have parts of some if not all of these dog energy types. Needless to say, you had better be willing to do some “homework” on your dog and really find out what “trips their trigger”.



Always ask yourself “why” when your dog is misbehaving.

I bring this up because, to many dog owners, the backyard, a 15 minute walk (really only an excuse to pee.) or a day or two a week in “doggy day care” are foolishly considered to be enough of a mental and physical work out for their pet. This is the point, as a dog trainer and volunteer in animal shelters, I stress - people must think before they get a dog as a pet. If you know your lifestyle is one where hour long walks, trips to the dog park, ability to afford or schedule classes in agility, rally or scent work (let alone basic obedience) are not achievable...DON'T do it. Dogs actually require work. There is no law saying every family is required or even ought to own a dog. OK off my soapbox and back to exercise.

Exercise needs to be both mental as well as physical. Dogs cannot live off bread (exercise) alone, they need some variety. Simply walking your dog daily won't cut it. You might need to add agility, and/or rally obedience work, to exercise the mind as well. It might even require finding a herding class to allow your dog's more primal needs to come to the surface. If, as an owner, you are going to be unable to exercise your dog on any given week, maybe you could add 3 days a week of doggy day care, which will also help with socialization. The point here is, there is no one "magic bullet", but we do know that what you are doing now is not enough. Unless of course you are a dog junky or trainer, and are reading this blog, nodding your head in agreement because you have a dog whose pressure regulator is in tip-top condition.

So what do you do now? I cannot believe I am saying this, but calling a dog trainer is not the first step. You need to take a serious look in the mirror and ask yourself, am I giving my dog all the exercise and mental stimulation needed to make him happy and balanced? I would guess if you are honest, the answer is no, and your first step to fixing the problem is staring back at you in the mirror...it's you. Before calling a trainer to prescribe a "magic" dog training pill - get out and start living life with your dog and help them. Spend time with them and just be with them. If you are lucky, you just might solve your "problem behaviours" without having to call a dog trainer.

So you've determined your dog's energy type and needs...what's next? Well, you might need to call that trainer with step two, for help with the retraining to find better outlets to allow for a higher pressure limit in your dog's hydraulic system. But calling a trainer before you actually take the time to exercise your dog is futile and expensive, since all we (the dog trainers) are going to do is charge you your hard earned money to tell you to walk your dog more, take them to a dog park, enrol in a fun competition style class or challenge their mind with interactive toys or games. Doesn't that sound just like what I shared with you in the above paragraphs, and for free? Why, you ask, is this exercise piece so important? Because, without cutting the edge (decreasing their pressure) from the dog first, formal training or obedience will be essentially impossible.

I guess the take away here is...there is no magic pill or silver bullet when working with dogs, or kids for that matter. There is only time and effort. You and your dog will bond better, love more and be better friends the sooner we get everyone on board with this idea. I leave you with two thoughts to chew on...

1. A Tired Dog Is A Good Dog.
2. Nothing good ever comes from less, only from effort.

As always...Keep it Simple Stupid, and please don't forget to have some fun while you are at it. Wasn't that why you got your dog in the first place?

About Mutz R Us

Muttz R Us was founded in 2009 by me and my wife Kate. Several years earlier I decided to quit my job as a district manager of an automotive care firm and became a stay at home dad. Kate worked for the Federal Government and was traveling up to three weeks a month. Between the two of us we decided one of us should take a step back so that someone was home with the kids. We have two boys, Donovan and Dylan.

Life went on, with me being Mr. Mom (my love and respect go out to all the stay-at-home moms and dads...it's harder than it looks.) I told Kate "I've got to get a part-time job." After 15 years of being in the workforce, I needed something besides game shows and soap operas while the kids were in school.

I took a part-time job at a national pet supply chain and before I knew it, I became a dog trainer. A passion was born. I have had dogs since I was four years old and currently my family owns four. We have three muttz, Penny, Lexie and Bear, and we also have a Purebred (yes, even I own a purebred.) Leonberger named Leo. She was adopted, just like my other three muttz. She is sight impaired with roughly 70% vision loss, which adds a different aspect to socialization and training for a dog.

I primarily train on weekends, which are the same two days the company I work for invites adoption groups into the store. I regularly saw the number of dogs and cats that never found a home. It made me wonder how many people actually realise the number of wonderful and viable pets that are wanting and needing loving homes. We decided that "Adopt a Pet, Save A Life" should be our philanthropic motto. We paired that along with our desire to help animal organizations raise funds and came up with T-shirts to make fun of our Purebred cousins (remember, I own one too..), and "Ta Da.", Muttz "R" Us was born.

RESOURCES:

Petfriendlyworld.com (Find dog trainers and behaviourists across the UK)
www.petfriendlyworld.com

Diamond Dog Behaviour - North East dog behaviourist (positive training)
www.diamonddog.org

VetsMediCover – Lifetime pet insurance cover
www.vetsmedicover.co.uk