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**Get Your Dog To Stop Whining**

**By Adam Katz**

Dear Mr. Katz

We have a 15–16 month old German Shorthaired Pointer named Copper. She is pretty well obedience trained (if a dog can be that). We have used a pinch collar and an electronic collar for her training. The one thing we would like to solve is her whining. I would like to find out what we could do to eliminate it. When we corrected her in the past for whining she'll stop for a few seconds, but then start right back up again. My first instinct is to continue to correct until she stops, but I wanted to get your opinion on the topic first.

Thank You, Mark

Dear Mark,

This tends to be a genetically motivated behavior. That is, we see some breeds that do it more than others.

In any event, it's unlikely that using a leash or e-collar correction will work for this behavior, or you'd have already seen results. (Note: It does work on some dogs if applied consistently).

Here's what you'll need to do:

1. Recognize that it's an anxiety-based behavior. The anxiety is usually the result of your dog not being able to contain her excitement for getting involved with the situation around her. For example, if the dog is made to hold a down-stay, but she sees another dog playing with a ball in the distance. This is when your dog will start whining.
2. PAY ATTENTION: Most owners will release their dog from the down-stay at this point, thus rewarding their dog for whining. Instead, wait until the dog is quiet for at least FIVE seconds before releasing the dog.

## Get Your Dog To Stop Whining

3. It is your job to convince the dog that: The longer she stays silent, the more likely it is that she will be rewarded with the ball/food/play/praise or whatever you're using as a motivator.
4. Be sure to NEVER reward the whining. Even though it may be a hassle in the beginning.
5. Recognize that you may never completely eliminate whining, but you should be able to minimize it to the point where it is no longer an annoyance.

That's all for now, folks! Adam

Adam G. Katz is the author of the book, "Secrets of a Professional Dog Trainer: An Insider's Guide To The Most Jealously Guarded Dog Training Secrets In History." Get a free copy of his report "Games To Play With Your Dog" when you sign up for his free weekly dog training tips e-zine at:

<http://www.dogproblems.com>

### **German Shepherd Whines When Left In Kennel**

**By Adam Katz**

Dear Mr. Katz:

I have a 6 month old German Shepherd named Thor. Having read your book, I applied your techniques to him and he responded very quickly, to my surprise!

He is quite good at a sit-stay and down-stay now, which is very, very useful. I do have one problem that I couldn't fix with him though.

Here are the circumstances and the problem:

Thor lives outside in a dog kennel/pen thing, I walk him every day and play ball with him and always make sure he has food and water, I brush him and I spend a lot of time with him. But whenever I leave him, he sits and whines for half an hour! He just won't be quiet! And if I go back out to make him stop, as soon as he sees me, he's quiet... but as soon as I leave, he starts whining and barking again, so I just ignore him, but it has gotten to be such a problem that the neighbors have started to complain about it. I don't make a big deal out of leaving him or anything. I just say 'Bye Thor' and leave.

Can you help? Christina Hathaway

Dear Christina:

Welcome to the wonderful world of German Shepherd ownership.

Here's what you can try:

## Get Your Dog To Stop Whining

1. Wait until he really starts whining and barking loudly. Then use the Bridging technique as described in the book (No, NO, No) and go back and correct him with the collar. Leave the pinch collar on, but keep the tab with you. Hook the tab on the collar, correct the dog, then take the tab off and walk away. Please note that you'll also want to later practice putting the tab on the dog, feeding him a cookie, then taking the tab off, so that the dog does not come to associate wearing a tab with a correction.

2. If Tip #1 doesn't work, pick a time when your neighbors are away. Ignore the dog. Wait until he finally settles down and is quiet... then wait another 2 minutes. Go back to the dog and let him out. Your goal is to teach the dog that being quiet will get him what he wants.

3. Simply ignore him. Eventually he will learn that this behavior does not product the results he desires, but it may take a couple of weeks. Also, increase his daily exercise regimen, substantially. You may also experiment with changing his dog food.

Different things work for different dogs when it comes to this behavior. Unfortunately, there is no quick cure—all.

That's all for now, folks! Adam

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