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## Tips On Eliminating Your Puppy Bad Habits Of Whining, Excessive Barking And Chewing

By Jonathan Cheong

Anyone who owns a dog or puppy will eventually run into the need to eliminate unwanted habits. While most dogs are eager to please their owners and smart enough to do what is asked of them, it is important for the owner to properly communicate just what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable behaviors.

Each type of unacceptable behavior requires its own specific cures, and in most cases the cures will need to be tailored to fit the specific personality of the dog. Every breed of dog has its own unique personality characteristics, and every individual within that breed has his or her own unique personality.

Whining, howling and excessive barking

Let's start with one of the most frequently encountered problem behaviors in both dogs and puppies. While some barking and other vocalizing is perfectly normal, in many cases barking, howling and whining can become problematic. This is particularly important for those living in apartment buildings, or in closely spaced homes. Fielding complaints about barking is not the best way for you and your dog to meet the neighbors.

Some tips of dealing with excessive whining, barking and howling include:

- If your puppy or dog is howling or whining while confined to its crate, immediately take it to its toilet area. Most puppies and dogs will whine when they need to do their business.
- It is important to teach a dog or a puppy to accept being alone. Many dogs suffer from

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separation anxiety, and these stressed dogs can exhibit all sorts of destructive and annoying behaviors. It is important to accustom the puppy to being left on its own, even when the owner is at home.

- Always strive to make the puppy or dog as comfortable as possible. Always attend to the physical and psychological needs of the dog by providing food, water and toys.
- If the dog is whining, check for obvious reasons first. Is the water dish empty? Is the dog showing signs of illness? Has his or her favorite toy rolled under the furniture? Is the temperature of the room too hot or too cold?
  
- Do not reward the puppy or dog for whining. If the dog whines when left alone, for instance, it would be a mistake to go to the dog every time it whines.
  
- After you have ensured that the dog's physical needs are being met, and that discomfort is not responsible for the whining, do not hesitate to reprimand the dog for inappropriate behavior.

### Problem Chewing

Puppies naturally chew, and they tend to explore their world using their mouths and teeth. While chewing may be normal, however, it is not acceptable, and it is important to nip any chewing problems in the bud to prevent the chewing puppy from growing into a chewing dog.

Providing a variety of chew toys is important when teaching a puppy what is appropriate to chew and what is not. Providing a variety of attractive chew toys is a good way to keep the puppy entertained and to keep his teeth and gums exercised. Scented or flavored toys are great choices for most puppies.

The puppy should be encouraged to play with these chosen toys, and the puppy should be effusively praised every time he or she plays with or chews these toys.

Another great strategy is to encourage the puppy to get a toy every time he or she greets you. Every time the puppy greets you or a member of your family, teach him to get one of his toys.

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It is also important to exercise good housekeeping techniques when training a puppy not to chew on inappropriate items. Keeping the area to which the puppy has access free and clean is important. Keeping items out of reach of the puppy will go a long way toward discouraging inappropriate chewing. Try to keep the puppy's area free of shoes, trash, and other items, and always make sure that the area has been properly puppy proofed.

If the puppy does pick up an inappropriate item like a shoe, distract the puppy and quickly replace the item with one of its toys. After the puppy has taken the toy, praise it for playing with and chewing that toy.

Try booby trapping items the dog should avoid by spraying them with bitter apple, Tabasco sauce or other nasty but non-toxic items.

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### **Pit Bull Terrier Puppies And Excessive Barking: Dog Training Tips**

**By Tim Amherst**

As an owner of a Pit Bull puppy, you have probably already encountered one of his annoying habits, barking. Dogs bark for various reasons, and there is no one solution to solve the problem. Many Pit Bulls bark at night, bark when you are away from home, bark at the ringing telephone, and some just bark all of the time.

The easiest way to stop your Pit Bull puppy from barking at nighttime is just to ignore him. Your Pit Bull puppy has probably learned he will gain your attention if he barks during the night. It may take several nights of ignoring his barking to get him trained to stop, but in the end it will buy some valuable sleep time once he stops. By jumping out of bed every time your Pit Bull puppy barks at something, you are teaching him that you will come when he barks, therefore reinforcing the habit.

Most of the time, not all the time, your Pit Bull puppy's barking while you are away is due to an irresponsible owner. If you teach your Pit Bull that he can have free reign of the house, and if you are constantly playing with him and giving him your attention, then of course, he is going to be upset when you have to leave, because the fun ends. The best way to curb this behavior is by ignoring your Pit Bull when it is time to leave. I am not saying to never pay attention to him, but stop about ten minutes or so

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before it is time for you to go. Then when you come home, do something else for the first few minutes so he doesn't think he got you to come home by barking. Going straight to a barking puppy as soon as you enter the house will only serve to make him think that if he barks you will come home sooner, making the problem worse.

For some reason, some Pit Bull puppies like to bark at a ringing telephone. It is important not to yell at your Pit Bull if he does this, as it will usually only make him bark more. You will need to enlist some help from a friend to teach him not to do this. Have your friend call you several times, and ignore the phone when it rings. After doing this for a few calls, your Pit Bull will probably stop barking when the phone rings.

If your Pit Bull seems to bark all the time for no reason, he probably has not had significant socialization training, or has been left to his own devices too long by his owner. Pit Bulls crave love and attention, and don't do well in very busy households. It is important to get socialization for your puppy beginning at around eight weeks of age, and that will help curb the barking.

To learn all about owning, raising, and caring for American Pit Bull Terriers, visit

<http://www.PitBullsRevealed.com/>

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