

LABEST OF TIMES

Myths About Dogs

1) Dogs jump just to irritate us?

Dogs are communicators but the only way they can communicate is to get into your face. Picture yourself as the dog. What the dogs are looking for is your face and your face is way up there so the only way They can talk to you is to jump to get in your face. It does not matter what the conversation is- they have a lot to tell you.

2) Rub a dogs nose where they potty to teach them not to potty

Rubbing their nose where they potty does not teach them not to potty at that spot. It will give them a dirty nose and an untrusting relationship with you. Set up a designated area for the puppy to relate to like a little picket fence in the back yard. Take the puppy to the spot that you need cleaned and whatever you use to clean the area up with, like paper towels, then take the soiled items and the puppy to the designated area. Have the puppy watch you place the item down and put a rock on it to hold it there. The smell of the soiled item will help teach the puppy to potty in the right spot.

3) When house breaking your dog should not see you go potty

Old myth. Dogs want attention from you at any time especially when you sit, not any different from sitting on the toilet. Attention is their main objective.

4) Shaving your dog down keeps them cooler

Dogs don't sweat like we do; their sweat glands are on the bottom of their pads and noses. Dogs use their coat to protect their skin from harmful sun rays and the environment. The coat is used to keep them warm in the winter and in the summer once undercoat is removed the hair is like an umbrella (it allows the breeze into the coat to cool them and to keep the sun and heat off the skin.)

5) Dogs that sleep with you or sit on your lap will think they are above you and won't listen

Where a dog sleeps on the bed does make a difference but only if they are sleep up by your head. Sleeping by your feet does not mean they won't listen. Sitting on your lap does not have the same impact as sleeping arrangements.

6) Dogs only hump when their are sexually stimulated

As sexual as dogs could be the theory of them humping is not always the dog being sexually stimulated. Dogs will hump for dominance. A female humping a male or a little dog humping a large dog is dominance behavior, this types of behaviors is whom will be top dog. Dogs have a natural instinct of the pecking order with each other as well as with humans.

7) Cold wet noses means they are healthy

Wet noses can be a temperature guide to telling us how they maybe feeling on the inside but not necessarily mean that they are ill or healthy. Temperature gauges only mean the internal body is cool or warm. How healthy our pets are is more determined on the dog's behavioral and physical responses than a wet nose.

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Continued from Page 1**8) Dogs eat grass to throw up.**

By nature our dogs are instinctive to knowing what their body needs. If they have an upset stomach or eat something that does not agree with them, they will eat the right type of grass to throw up. Not all grass will make them regurgitate but instead may give them the nutrition their body desires.

9) Old dogs can't be taught new tricks

The age of a dog does not make a dog un-teachable. Their body may not function as well as they did when they were young but their mind is sharp as tack. Learning new tricks is exactly what the doctor ordered. Keeping the mind active will lengthen the longevity of our dogs lives.

10) Dogs know they are in trouble when they potty in the house

Dogs recognize human behavior by the way we respond to situations. Although pottying is a natural behavior we all have, we expect our pets to not potty when they have to relieve themselves but hold it instead and, sometimes that's not possible. Unless you catch the dog in the act of losing bladder or bowel control the dog's only reaction is from your response to the unexpected surprise. They definitely know you're mad but have no clue what you're mad at.

11) If your dog cowers, it has been abused

Cowering may be an unbecoming behavior but does not mean it comes from abuse. Some dogs are introverts and yet dominant so the way they get you to respond to them is to get you to their level. One way is for them to cower down so that you would have to bend over to pet them, bringing you to their territorial area.

12) Dogs with black mouths are aggressive

Not true, the pigment in the tongue is just pigment. Many breeds have black in their tongues. Chow, Shari pa, Newfoundland are just a few of the wonderful Breeds that have black tongues. Aggression can be from breeding to environment but the color of a dog's tongue does not represent the temperament of the breed.

13) Black dogs are bad dogs

Some people are superstitious but the reality of black dogs or even black cats is that they are not any different than of the rest of the animals with other colors. Behaviors are the reflection of our environment, genetics and development stages of life. How we raise them and their interpretation of understanding their life style is directly related to their behavior.

14) Rescue dogs have too many problems

Just because a dog is homeless does not mean it has more problems than a puppy that comes from a breeder. There are lots of good dogs that need good homes that are very grateful and appreciative of the kind grace of humans that will share their life with them.

15) All dog's issues are directly related to the owner

This is not necessarily true. Even though home environments can effect a dog's response to their family does not mean the owner is the cause of all issues. Animals that are abused, mishandled by others or traumatized before coming into a new home will have a different thought process and respond differently than an animal that has not had these negative situations.

16) Dogs will work out their problems among each other

Even if nature teaches that dogs need to work out their issues themselves this does not mean that this is the best way of handling issue. In fact that is the worse thing we could do. If you understand a pack mentality than you may relate to the fact that if the dogs are working things out themselves and you do not step in to control the issues, the dogs know you are not ahead of the pack. So over time neither one of the dogs will listen to you because your are not ahead of the pack as a leader.

17) Dogs are pack animals and will always get along

Dogs find their place with in the pack through challenging each other. There will always be moments in time that they will challenge that placement through dominance.. Depending on the pack group that may include challenging all two legged humans as well as four legged animals. Dogs can be taught equality but only by human intervention.

Summer's Here: Help Your Pet Beat The Summer Heat!

Everyone knows how important it is to stay hydrated and cool in the hot summer months. People frequently lather their children with sunscreen, shade them with hats or umbrellas, and fret when they seem the least bit dehydrated, but often they forget that it's equally important to care for their pets too! Dogs actually have a higher susceptibility to heat exhaustion than people do. They cool themselves much less effectively because they have few sweat glands and rely mostly on panting for heat dissipation. Sweat glands are found in the bottom of the feet and nose and panting helps reduce the dissipation of heat. Also, dogs don't regulate their activity like people can. A person knows to rest and drink when hot and thirsty, but some dogs lack the proper insight. Some dogs such as older dogs, overweight dogs, and dogs with pre-existing medical conditions (especially dogs with impaired breathing) cool themselves even less effectively and are at high risk for heat-stroke. Also short-nosed breeds of dogs like Bulldogs, Mastiffs, Pugs and Pekingese also fall into the category of high-risk dogs. Dark coats are more susceptible to heat exhaustion than light coated dogs. Even in the shade dogs can suffer from heat issues.

Pets that are left in vehicles for any length of time with out air conditioning can be deadly. If the temperature is 75 degrees outside, your car can heat up 10 degrees or higher inside. Since canines can't take off their coats to cool down they will become overheated quickly. Try the test yourself, shut off your car and wait about 3-5 minutes in the vehicle and if you feel hot then its critical not to leave your pets with out air-conditioning. Springtime is the most critical season because it seems cool so we travel with our pets more and assume our pets will stay cool. The majority of vet emergencies in the spring is due to heat exhaustion. So remember if it's slightly hot to you then keep the air on for your pets.

In order to prevent dehydration and heat stroke:

Do not expose dogs to prolonged heat (Especially in small confined areas that heat up quickly, like automobiles).

Restrict exercise during the heat of the day (Play and take walks in the cooler hours) and take frequent breaks.

Crate dogs in open wire cages.

Provide cool water and shade in outdoor at all times.

Place pets in front of fans.

Cooling jackets are available for outings where heat is an issue.



Continued from Page 2**18) Dogs who don't listen think they're in charge**

Although dominance is one of the driving behaviors that cause dogs not to respond to owners, that does not mean that is the true answer. If a dog is nervous, unsure of the owner's response if they come to them or even if the dog may have a hearing problem, there is more than one reason for dogs to not listen. For a dog being in charge does not mean that's the position they want to be in-they may feel that's the position they have to do.

19) If a dog does not like a person, does that mean the person is bad

Not always, but dogs do have a natural instinct to recognize when people are not right. Whether they are under the influence of drugs, alcohol, having a heart attack or stroke dogs have a natural ability to indicate inappropriate behaviors. Because of this it's important to socialize your dogs to all that seems normal so your dog starts to recognize the right behavior so they can learn to respond appropriately.

20) Dogs are only happy off leash.

To some dogs the leash may look like a punishment instead of a reward. It's important the dog feels like the leash is a way of getting to do an outing with their pack instead of punishment. Happiness in dogs is when they are comfortable with their environment and have the leaders of the pack being all humans within the structure of the home. Only then the dog will be happy on or off leash.

21) If the dog chews up things in the home, it means the dog is mad at you.

Dogs chew to release frustration. They learn this behavior through the teething stages during their earlier years in life. The highest level of frustration for most dogs is when you leave the home. The dog assumes that all two legged humans are part of their pack. Since the dogs are pack animals and part of the pack just walked out the door, the dog's frustration level is heightened dramatically. The only way they know how to calm down is to chew.

22) Your dog will not perform when given treats

What drives a dog in this way is the dog understands how it is to respond to our guidance. Treats, toys, communication are keys to getting your dog to do what you want. But overindulgence of treats can cause the dog's thought process to think that the only time they have to perform is when getting a treat. Treats can be a great tool to encourage communication but can backfire if used too much or improperly. Use a variety of different types of communication training tools to make this pleasant for you and the dog.

Continued From Page 3**Signs of dehydration:**

Loss of skin elasticity and dryness of the mouth.

Later signs are sunken eyes and circulatory collapse.

Signs of heat stroke:

Excessive panting or difficulty breathing, unresponsiveness, difficulty rising, increased heart rate and respiratory rate and redder-than-normal gums

Later signs are bloody diarrhea, vomiting, collapse, stupor, seizures and coma

If your pet has any symptoms get them out of the heat immediately and call your vet. Also taking their temperature is a good indication of heat exhaustion. A dog's normal body temperature is between 100.2 and 102.8 degrees. A body temperature above 104 warrants concern, above 107 means severe damage and above 109 indicates possible irreversible damage. You can also begin treating them at home. Don't immerse dogs with cool water, blowing air on them from a fan and mist rubbing alcohol on body to draw heat away from body is much better than just setting them in cool water.

This will lower the dog's body temperature. Cold water and ice bags actually inhibit cooling by constricting blood vessels and making heat dissipation more difficult. However, even if the dog seems to recover without medical treatment contact your vet because you might miss something.

Your Pet and the Fireworks

Many pet owners know that fireworks can cause a great deal of stress for some animals.

Commonly seen signs include:

- Shaking, trembling
- Excessive drooling
- Barking, howling
- Trying to hide or get into/out of the house, fence, or other enclosure
- Refusing to eat food
- Loss of bladder or bowel control or temporary diarrhea



Keep pets indoors or have them boarded at LaBest Pet Resort. If this is not a possibility then put your pet in an area like a basement to do activities. It is a good idea to close the curtains and turn on the TV or radio to provide a distraction, You can also do any activity around the home that would make noise. A quiet place, like a carrier, may provide your pet with a sense of security and comfort. Also use a leash so that you can keep them by your side. If you must be outside with your pet, keep the pet on a leash or in a carrier at all times. Always keep pets away from matches, open fires, and fireworks, your pet could eat them or their coat could catch on fire. If something does happen do not over react about the situation, this may upset your pet. Try to take your pet on a walk before the fireworks start. Make sure he/she has time to go to the bathroom to avoid an accident. Remember to make sure your pet has proper ID tags on, with current information, in case he/she gets away.

Some animals are not bothered by fireworks, especially if their owner is near or talking in a soothing voice . Other pets cannot be calmed at all, even by doing all of these relaxing techniques without professional help. Animals that are frightened or stressed can hurt themselves and possibly escape if left alone, and the results can be fatal in some cases. Frightened animals running loose are in tremendous danger of being hit by a car. For these types of animals, it is best to provide a safe place, such as a carrier, to be in while the fireworks last. If you have an issue pertaining to this subject, LaBest can help. If the carrier is not enough to calm the animal, medication may be warranted. **ONLY** use this technique as a last resort. Tranquilizers are not for every pet. Before you use any type of medication contact your behavioral counselor to help with the decision.

Please do not leave pets in cars at any time! Even if you are in the shade... Even with the windows open... Even if it is only 75 F degrees outside! Cars heat up amazingly fast, and, combined with a



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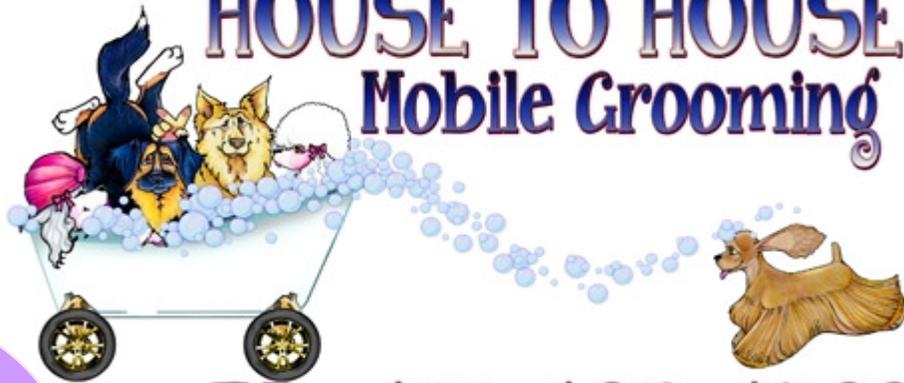


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Tuesday August 28, 2012	
Novice II (Performance Off Lead)	
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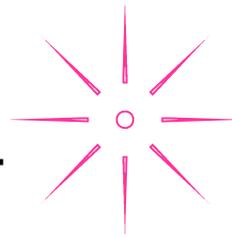
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