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Linda Stone

**Crafty Canine's
101 Ways to Foul Up
Your Family**



Welterri Publishing

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For all the dogs whose unremitting
Canine-ness has made the creation
of this book possible



INTRODUCTION

by

Crafty's long-suffering owner

Dog is man's best friend and we love him for it. So it's perfectly natural that many of us bestow upon our dog everything his canine heart desires.

But do you ever have that feeling that your dog is deliberately disobeying you or trying to wind you up? When he's out playing with his doggy pals, do you get a sneaking suspicion that he's conspiring with them against you?

And what about those times you've caught him chasing the neighbour's cat or chewing up your best shoes? Was he just 'doing what comes naturally' to a dog, or does your canine companion have a hidden agenda?

Of course we all know our dog has neither the desire nor the intellect to inflict deliberate mischief on humans.

Or does he?

This book, ably illustrated by Crafty Canine and his friends, examines those uniquely canine habits that constantly cause us irritation, exasperation and sometimes major humiliation – from Crafty's point of view.

GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS

AGILITY: A lively form of DOG TRAINING which requires CANINES to negotiate a number of obstacles at speed. Also provides first-rate exercise for HUMANS as they blunder round the course in an effort to keep up with hurtling DOGS.

BATH: Large container of water around and in which DOGS and HUMANS do battle in an effort to remain dry.

BEHAVIOURIST: Up-market kind of DOG-TRAINER, a HUMAN with above-average DOG-SENSE and who's well-versed in an assortment of DIRTY TRICKS.

BLOOD PRESSURE: Normally prefixed with 'high'. A condition of HUMANS which frequently occurs during attempts to DOG-TRAIN. Usually accompanied by reddening of the face and prolonged use of expletives.

CANINE: A member of a race of superior, supremely intelligent and independent four-legged beings. More often referred to by HUMANS as the DOG.

CANINE-NESS: The essence of being DOG.
See also DOG-SENSE.

COLLAR and LEAD: Restraining device used on DOGS by HUMANS in an attempt to restrict or prevent normal CANINE behaviour.
See also HARNESS.

CRAFTY'S CANINE CODE: A set of rules which all Crafty Canine's followers must endeavour to adhere to.

DIRTY TRICKS: Cunning tactics employed by certain HUMANS who possess a modicum of DOG-SENSE, and who have the desire to corrupt unwary DOGS.

DODGEMS: A game of skill played by free-running DOGS which helps them evade capture by HUMANS.

DOG: A member of the CANINE race.

DOG HANDLER: A HUMAN who, armed with a high degree of cunning and an arsenal of DIRTY TRICKS, succeeds in out-smarting a DOG

See also DOG TRAINER.

DOG POUND: Lock-up where wandering CANINES are taken to await either reunion with their FAMILY or transportation to a high-security unit. Also describes the headache HUMANS often get when engaged in DOG-TRAINING.

DOG-SENSE: That which makes a CANINE think and behave like a DOG. Also the ability of a small group of HUMANS to understand CANINE behaviour.

DOG TRAINER: HUMAN possessing the ability to convince DOGS they should be subservient to their FAMILIES. DOG TRAINERS are

generally believed to possess a greater degree of DOG-SENSE than the average HUMAN.

See also DOG HANDLER and BEHAVIOURIST.

DOG TRAINING: Exercises undertaken to some extent by most HUMANS who are owned by a DOG. Generally, futile attempts to prevent CANINE FOUL-UPS. Often carried out in groups known as TRAINING CLASSES.

See also OBEDIENCE.

DOG SHOW: An odd form of sport in which DOGS are exhibited and judged for beauty and/or intelligence according to guidelines drawn up by HUMANS.

See also AGILITY, OBEDIENCE, FLY-BALL, WORKING TRIALS

DOG WARDEN: Official HUMAN whose sole purpose is to roam the streets with a catchpole rounding up unwary CANINES with a view to transporting them to maximum-security facilities.

FAMILY: Group of HUMANS, often living together in a single home.

FLY-BALL: Rather silly variety of **AGILITY** in which dogs race over a series of small jumps, release a ball from a box then hurtle back, carrying the ball, over the same obstacles.

FOUL-UP: Any action or activity that brings satisfaction to a **DOG** while causing stress or humiliation to a member of the **FAMILY**.

GERMOPHOBIA: A serious mental condition of **HUMANS** that causes them to inflict extreme hygiene measures on the **DOG** and around the home.

HARNESS: Multi-strapped **COLLAR** buckled round the **CANINE** chest which allows a **DOG** to haul his **HUMAN** along in a fashion worthy of a Shire horse.

HUMAN: An inferior, two-legged being, usually deficient in **DOG-SENSE**. Since most **HUMANS** are great fun to play with they make perfect pets for **CANINES**.

OBEDIENCE: Variety of **DOG TRAINING** frequently executed in advanced form at

DOG SHOWS. If taken to extremes can lead to a **CANINE** becoming devoid of **DOG-SENSE**.

PERFECT DOG: Mythological **CANINE** who does everything his **HUMAN** asks of him, doesn't make a mess or a noise and never causes embarrassment to his **FAMILY**.

The **PERFECT DOG** (if indeed such a creature existed) would be considered by other **DOGS** to be a traitor, a disgrace to **CANINE-KIND**.

POLICE DOG: A **CANINE** who, in striving to become the **PERFECT DOG**, has abandoned **CRAFTY'S CANINE CODE** and devotes his life to assisting **HUMANS** in the detection and/or apprehension of criminals.

SOFT-TOUCH: A **HUMAN** who readily succumbs to **CANINE** charm.

TRAINING CLASS: **CANINE** playground where **HUMANS** gather in order to test their skill at **DOG-TRAINING** and where **DOGS** meet for a touch of social **FOUL-UP** fun.

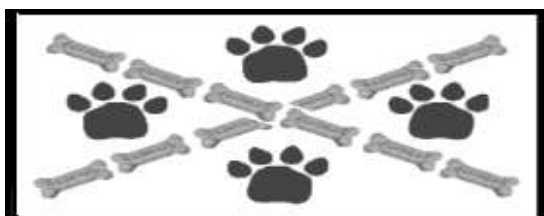
VETERINARY SURGEON: Animal medic.

Highly-educated HUMAN commonly known as the VET. Can be useful to an unwell DOG but has a propensity for inserting blunt instruments in, and performing surgery on, CANINE private parts.

WORKING TRIALS: Style of competitive DOG-TRAINING based on the work of POLICE DOGS in which CANINES are required to undertake a series of OBEDIENCE and AGILITY tests, and to use their superior scenting ability to locate a number of small articles that HUMANS have left lying about.

CRAFTY'S CANINE CODE

1. Maintain dominance over your Family at all times.
2. Treat all members of the Family with equal disrespect.
3. Avoid Obedience Training at all costs.
4. Never succumb to any form of bribery.
5. Always behave in such a way as to cause maximum stress and humiliation to your Human Family.
6. Be creative: keep constantly on the lookout for new and exciting Foul-ups.



1

EVERY DOG MUST DO HIS DUTY

For centuries dogs have been free to roam at will, collecting fleas and lice, returning home only for a meal and a bed by the Family hearth, there to infest the house with the acquired parasites.

Alas, the advent of Dog Training and modern Human's obsession with hygiene has shattered this idyllic way of life.

Today's Dog finds himself subject to cajoling, bribery and in some extreme cases, threats, in an attempt to make him bow to Humans who harbour delusions of authority.

We Canines even find ourselves robbed of valid reasons for a good old

scratch, so liberal is the application of bug-zapping chemicals by germophobic Humans.

It's a tragic fact that many Canines have succumbed to the trickery of the 21st century Human, thereby becoming easy-going and pleasant to live with.

This sorry state of affairs must not be permitted to continue.

Fortunately there are still many among us who refuse to relinquish our birth-right. We will continue our wandering ways, spurn any Human attempt to make us give up our life-long associations with parasite-bearing wildlife.

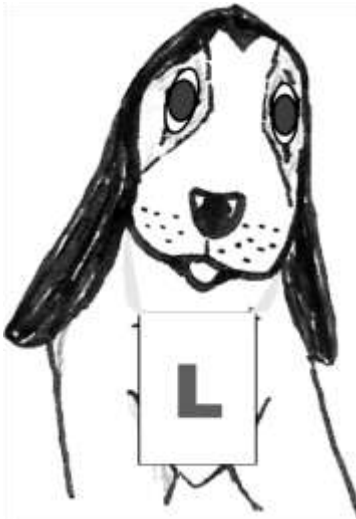
I now call upon every Dog to shake off his restraints and join the revolution!

Crafty

2

THE BEGINNER CANINE

*The road to dominance is paved with
Foul-ups.*



...aahh...

As a tiny Puppy in the litter you'll have plenty of practice at enchanting not only the Humans you first know as your own but also people from prospective new Families. The Humans who take you home will of course be particularly susceptible to your charm. Take full advantage of this; the minute you arrive in your new abode hit your Family with those big brown eyes and they'll be like putty in your paws.



Here's how to begin:

1. Park yourself in front of the Family member who has so far made the most fuss of you (hereafter known as Soft-touch). Stare up at him/her with your most sorrowful expression. They won't be able to resist for more than ten seconds and you'll find yourself lifted onto a nice soft warm lap. Snuggle into a comfy ball. To ensure maximum 'aahh' factor, remember to sigh contentedly every few minutes. Soft-touch won't want to disturb your rest, thereby you'll prevent Soft-touch carrying out any other activity for the next two hours.

Congratulations! You've successfully engineered your very first Foul-up.



2. When you eventually wake from that long and comfortable sleep have a good fidget until you find yourself lowered to the floor. Take immediate action by piddling on the Axminster, then sit back and watch the fun. You'll be amazed at the speed Humans can move while weighed down with buckets of water and disinfectant!



The downside to carpet-wetting is that you'll probably find yourself carted rapidly to the garden. (Humans don't have the brains to realise this action is futile once you've 'been'.) But this cloud does have a silver lining:

3. The garden is the perfect place – particularly in cold and /or wet weather – for you to send The Family's blood pressure into overload, and can be best achieved in three stages.

Stage one: Sit on the back door-step whining and shivering.

Stage two: When Soft-touch looks out and makes the inevitable comment: "Ah, poor puppy's cold..." flash those appealing eyes for all you're worth until the back door is whipped open.

Stage three: Rush in and head straight back to the lounge, whimpering and wagging your tail in gratitude, then immediately 'squat', preferably in a different spot to the one you've recently piddled on.

Bring on those buckets...

CAUTION: taking a dump in the best room will probably result in banishment to the kitchen.



But even here you can have hours of fun running around in small circles until the Family is convinced you need to pee and someone again rushes you to the garden. Hang on to that water until your Humans decide you didn't want to go after all and they take you back to the kitchen. Then let the flood gates open. Repeat until all mem-

bers of the Family are exhausted and take to their beds. (For more garden Foul-ups see Chapter Four)



Bedtime: To ensure ultimate possession of the best bed in the house, *do not* make the mistake of being prepared to sleep alone.

4. As soon as you're left alone in the kitchen at night wail like a banshee until Soft-touch takes pity and looks in on you. At first he/she might just slip you a biscuit or try to palm you off with a stuffed toy for a sleeping companion. Don't give in. Keep up the wailing each time Soft-touch leaves you; you'll soon find yourself invited into the bedroom.

Even now you mustn't let up with the pressure: grizzle and whinge until you're lifted onto the bed. If the Family attempts to shut you in the kitchen on subsequent nights simply repeat the banshee performance. Soon you'll be spending every night in the bedroom as a matter of course.

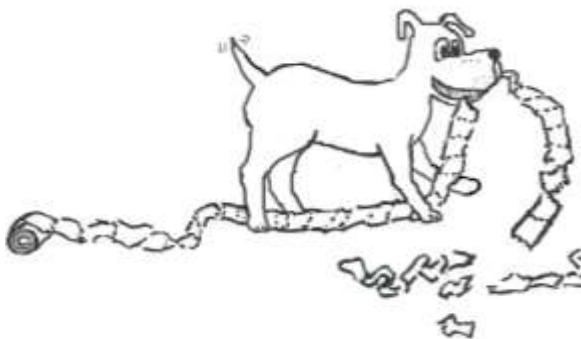
And so you're on your way; those first simple Foul-ups will lay the ground rules for future skirmishes.



Here are a few more tips to help the Beginner Canine on the road to total dominance of the Family:

5. The TV buffs among you will no doubt admire the cute little Pup in the toilet roll advert. Well, go for it! Decorate the house with trails of loo paper, especially when your Humans are in a hurry to get ready for work/school/a night at the pub. Gathering up the tattered streamers you've left about the place should keep them on their toes for a while.

6. Chew everything inedible you can get your teeth into. Some examples are the pine table leg, Dad's best slippers, Mum's handbag, the kids' toys, the plaster off the walls. Wallpaper and carpets or floor tiles are also acceptable. Take time to explore new and exiting flavours, such as books, video tapes and CDs.



Decorate the house with trails of loo paper...

7. Throw up in the kids' shoes, or over the baby's favourite teddy.

NOTE: It will be useful to remember the *throw-up* Foul-up becomes even more effective once you attain adulthood.



On those occasions when you find yourself alone in the house:

8. Raid the bin, take a dump in the middle of the floor then run amok through it while barking continuously.



In some cases these actions could actually improve your chances for a Foul-up as a member of the Family may now take you on even the shortest car journeys rather than risk leaving you alone in the house. (See Chapter 7 for in-car Foul-ups)

CAUTION: While creating havoc when alone may lead to vehicular fun, there is an element of risk. Some Humans will resort to locking the Dog in the garden rather than take him with them in the car. But remember clouds and silver linings? Chapter Four will show you that the garden provides ample opportunity for Foul-up practice.



3

HAVOC ON THE HOME FRONT

Okay. So you're en route to achieving the position of Top Dog in your household. Now it's time to turn up the pressure:

9. Bury your bone or biscuit in the best armchair or sofa. Watch your Human leap to his or her feet when their backside encounters your deposit!

10. As a fun alternative to burying food in the armchair, shove a hard or bulky toy under the rug. Sit back and enjoy an entertaining interlude as an unwary Human trips over the lump in the floor.



...bury your bone in the armchair...



By now you'll have perfected the technique for claiming possession of the bed. Never be prepared to give an inch in this area:

11. Stretch out right in the middle of the bed, leaving only the bare minimum of space for the Human occupants. Show your teeth and growl menacingly when asked to get off. Making a sudden grab at a hand will persuade the more persistent Human that you mean to stay where you are.

12. When not in bed, curl up for a nap in front of any cupboard which Humans might need to open. Better yet, choose a doorway where your Humans will be required to step over you when moving from room to room.

Extra tip for large dogs: Sit up suddenly when the Human is at his or her most vulnerable. i.e.: astride you. Just watch those Human eyes water!

13. Make like the alert guard Dog and hurl yourself at the window when you hear the slightest sound from outside. At first, Mum and the kids will love you for it and tell you how safe they feel with you around. Then start 'accidentally' catching the curtains with your claws; their gratitude will

quickly turn to despair as the best drapes end up in shreds.



On the same theme:

14. Bark ferociously at the front door to see off regular callers (e.g. postman, milkman, paper boy). If the intruder makes it as far as pushing objects through the letter box, grab the objects and destroy them. You notice stray fingers finding their way between your teeth? All the better!

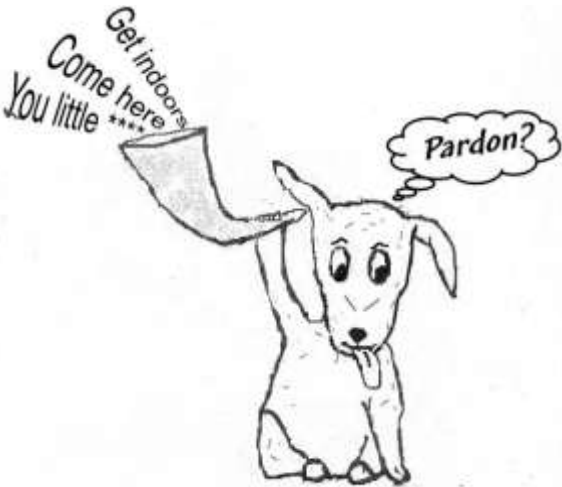


And a few more in-house Foul-ups to set your Family climbing the walls:

15. Chase your tail incessantly. Snap at it and bark as if you're suffering from a minor brain disorder. Resist all attempts to make you stop.

16. Bolt for freedom as soon as the front door is opened. Don't forget to suffer

temporary hearing loss when requested to return.



...suffer temporary hearing loss...

17. Chomp your way through the television aerial. Wait for Dad to repair your handiwork. Repeat the exercise.

18. Sweep crockery, glassware etc off the coffee table with your tail. Full red wine glasses or coffee cups upturned on

light-coloured carpets have a tendency to send Humans scurrying from the room with screams of: "Quick, wipe it up before it stains!"

19. Use your drinking bowl as a paddling pool and flood the kitchen, then enjoy the show as Mum and the kids go water-skiing in the puddle.



4

THE OUTDOOR CANINE

Most Canines will tell you the Great Outdoors is the closest a Dog can get to Foul-up Heaven. Whether in your own back yard or further afield, the opportunity for Foul-ups is never more than a Dog-step away.



First we'll examine my favourite back-garden Foul-ups:

20. Make off with the gardening gloves or tools. Burying them in the vegetable patch is usually good for an hour's entertainment.

21. Dig vast craters in the lawn and/or flower beds. For maximum stress value, uproot freshly-planted vegetation and behead new blooms.



...behead new blooms.

22. Leave your mark (at least *four* deep paw prints) in Dad's newly-laid wet cement pathway.

23. If you're lucky enough to catch Grandma tottering around the garden using her walking stick for support, pinching the stick will set her swaying like a drunk in a storm.

24. Swallow some stones or other indigestible matter. Choking a bit for effect will incite Human panic.

CAUTION: A subsequent trip to the Vet for surgical removal of the offending items may be necessary. As anaesthetics can have troublesome after-effects, such as temporary loss of co-ordination, be prepared for some staggering.



By now, Dad will be sick to death of restoring the garden due to your efforts at demolition, and suitably unimpressed with your attempts at sabotage. The next step will be the erection of a fence around vulnerable

areas, with access only available via a securely latched gate.

With this in mind, all that's left for you to do is:

25. Poke your head through the newly-hung gate. Make sure your ears go right the way between the slats so you can't pull yourself free. Dad will have no option but to tear down the gate in order to release you. Hey presto! You can now get back to the important business of destroying the garden.



Some Families can be devious and may find means to bring a temporary halt to your outdoor Foul-ups. You could for a time find yourself locked down in a yard worthy of a maximum security prison, without access to the garden. In this case you'll need to devise a means of escape. If tunnelling under the boundary fence is impossible, develop your athletic skills and jump or climb out of the garden. Or you might like to learn to unlatch the gate.



...poke your head through the newly-hung gate.



Now you're out and about and totally unrestrained:

26. Take the opportunity to search out cars whose owners have considerably left the doors open for you. Vehicles that belong to Dog-hating neighbours are particularly useful. Pop inside and make yourself comfortable on the back seat. The

neighbour will turn fifty shades of purple with rage, while your Human, who's by now discovered your absence and come looking for you, flushes crimson with shame.



And a few more choice exercises for the unaccompanied Canine:

27. Dump in the middle of the Dog-hating neighbour's front lawn.

28. Fight with as many other dogs in the street as possible. But surely all Dogs should be working towards the same goals? Indeed, but assertion of your authority over the locals is acceptable, as in a position of dominance you'll be able to offer Foul-up advice to weaker-minded Canines.

29. Chase the Family cat. Better still, make the Dog-hating neighbour's Siamese the object of your attention. Terminating the chase in a mucky area will undoubtedly cause said neighbour to berate your Human loudly in front of the entire neighbourhood.



Then of course there are those most wonderful of times when a member of your Family accompanies you on a walk. Your Human may find it amusing to restrain you on a collar and lead. Remember: this need not be a deterrent to normal Canine behaviour:

30. Imagine you're a tow-truck. Need I say more?

31. Bark ferociously and lunge at any Dog or vehicle that comes within a twenty yard radius.

32. Jump up to greet every passing stranger, making sure you plant your front paws firmly on their clothing. This is especially effective during or after periods of wet weather.

33. Create a trip-wire with your lead by dashing in front of your Human's legs. This will bring about a stumble at the very least. Practice the technique until you can

cause your Human to make bone-jarring contact with the ground.

34. The Maypole Effect can prove to be a great source of Canine amusement and Human consternation.

Method: Run around the Human legs until the person is securely knotted. Pull hard from the end of the lead. As a pleasant alternative, stop to pass the time with similarly restrained pals, wander innocently around in a group until the Humans are tangled in several leads. All Dogs then pull together in opposite directions.



If restraint on a lead isn't quite your cup of tea, act like the Perfect Dog by walking to heel, sitting and waiting at the kerb when requested before crossing the road to the park etc. Your Human will then be lulled into a false sense of security and release you for a period of free running:

35. During this freedom a game of knock-down-Human is a great crowd-puller.

The desired result can be achieved in either of two ways.

Method one: When recalled, rush towards your Human as if obeying the instruction. Upon reaching the Human legs fail to put the brakes on, thereby causing the unfortunate person's knees to buckle.

Method two: Similar to *method one* but instead of a frontal assault, run at full tilt from the rear without warning. This method sends the Family member up then down in quick succession, causing them to thump down heavily on their rear end.

36. Play dodgems when recalled for the lead to be re-attached.

How to play: Upon hearing your Human shout for you to come to them, trot jauntily over until you're roughly two feet away. Stand still (you may sniff the ground if desired). Wait for the Human hand to reach for your collar, then '*dodge 'em*': dart away to just out of grabbing distance. Repeat this action at each approach from your Human until *a*: you tire of the game and allow your Human within striking distance for attachment of the lead, or *b*: your Human

stomps off in a temper, leaving you to find your own way home.

37. A similarly entertaining game can be played with a ball or other toy that's thrown for you.

Method: Dash out to pick up the toy then take off in the opposite direction. If your Human is slow to come after you, stop and throw a look over your shoulder; this should encourage them to chase you. Being much more fleet of foot you'll naturally beat any Human paws-down in a footrace and induce an instant rise in the Human blood pressure. Continue with the race for a few minutes then stand still and drop the toy. Allow your Human to within about three Dog lengths of you, wait for the Human to make a grab for the toy then snatch it up and run off again. This Foul-up can maintain Human attention for long periods.

CAUTION: Over-indulgence in the above-mentioned games may lead to unwanted restrictions such as confinement in the yard on a sturdy chain, where escape will be impossible. You may once again

need to resort to behaving like the Perfect Dog in order to negotiate your release.



5

CREATING CHAOS WITH THE GUESTS

Your attitude towards Human visitors, whether relatives, friends of the Family or simply casual acquaintances, is of major importance. Carefully executed Foul-ups around guests will lead to their eventual absence from your home. Remember to look properly chastened when your Humans curse you for driving away their friends and Family. Your sorrowful expression will arouse in them deep feelings of guilt for laying the blame on you and cause them to question whether their own failings could be the actual cause of their loss of friends.



38. Be sure to greet guests with vast amounts of sniffing at visitor's crotch, belly button, armpits and backside.

39. As an alternative, adopt a threatening stance and utter a throaty growl the instant the visitor steps over the threshold. Small Dogs may then dart forward and nip ankles or shake trouser legs. Large Dogs will find it amusing to mouth the visitor's hands.

40. Drink out of the toilet bowl while Mum's coffee morning guests are queuing for the loo.

41. Slurp the contents of low-lying tea and coffee cups. Similarly, pinch food off any plates the guests happen to have left within reach.

42. When the guests are all seated round the meal table it's time to do your starving-dog act and drool enough to fill an Olympic-size swimming pool.

43. All you Canines with heavy jowls: you'll be certain to set Human stomachs churning if you sling slobber up the walls, over the guests, on the dining table.



... *sling slobber* ...

44. Alternatively, throw up under the table during the meal, after having just polished off a large bowl of tripe.

45. Leap into the lap of the visitor who's stupid enough to have opted for the

plate of food on a tray across their knees. Humans have a distinct aversion to spaghetti Bolognese plastered all over their Sunday best.

46. Nudge Uncle Albert's arm when he's about to take a drink. Alternatively, hide behind Albert's chair while he holds a cup of steaming tea. Suddenly jump out and bark. Uncle Albert is likely to equal the world high-jump record when he receives the cupful of scalding tea in his lap.

47. Scoot along on your front paws whilst dragging your bum across the floor, leaving a skid mark if possible. This works extra well on light-coloured carpets.

48. Break wind frequently: silent suffocators are to be preferred. On those special occasions, such as weddings or funerals, when a whole horde of Humans gathers together, let one go then stare pointedly at Granny before leaving the room with your nose twitching in disgust.

49. Scratch under your armpits. And boys, for full effect don't forget to poke your 'pinky' out.

Of course, there can't possibly be any living fleas about your person, thanks to the liberal application of anti-flea potions, but keep up the pretence until your Human goes hunting shamefacedly for the flea spray.



...scratch under your armpits...

50. Dig up a long-buried bone from the garden and plonk it in Grandpa's lap while he's dozing in the armchair after lunch.

51. For the country-dwelling Canine: after a nice roll in cow or horse dung, wander round the house distributing your acquired odour. This works even better if you've been lucky enough to find fresh fox droppings.

52. Breakfast on dog/ cow/ horse poo then belch in Cousin Gertie's face. For a more nausea-inducing effect, give Gertie's cheek a good long lick.



6

MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO

This has no connection with the rock band of that name, although they do set a superb example when it comes to Fouling up the more reserved members of Human society.

This chapter details those Foul-ups intended to help you keep the balance of power in your favour.

Techniques you've developed must be practiced on a daily basis. And never forget Crafty's Canine Code rule 6: 'keep constantly on the look-out for new and exciting Foul-ups'.



...keep the balance of power...



53. Learn to open doors and gates. Best effects are obtained if you never close exterior doors behind you, particularly in cold weather. For that little extra bonus, if

you can master the fridge or Dog-food cupboard you'll always have access to your favourite snacks; you'll also drive your Family frantic with worry in case your constant snacking causes you to put on too much weight.

54. Rub yourself against the Family's best clothes, depositing as much hair and grime as possible.

55. Pinch the kids' shoes and bury them in the garden when the youngsters are just about ready to leave for school.

56. Traipse mud from the garden onto the newly-washed kitchen floor. Amazing special effects can be created by continuing through to the best room.



The Human toddler is an ideal size for exploitation. Seize every opportunity to:

57. Steal its biscuit from its tiny Human paw. The decibel output of those

miniature lungs will outstrip that of the previously-mentioned rock band.

58. Run past and knock the toddler over as it makes its unsteady progress round the room. Repeat the exercise every time it hauls itself to its feet. To push Mum into an even greater frenzy try dashing across the toddler while it's lying face-down on the floor after you've bowled it over.



You'll have practiced the Guard Dog routine during your formative months. Now's the time to lull the Family into thinking you've 'calmed down', by ignoring everything that passes by for a couple of weeks. Then:

59. Suddenly bark like crazy. Wait till the Family have gone to see who's at the door then whip the Sunday roast from where it's been carelessly left on the kitchen worktop. If you don't intend to devour the lot be sure to make it unfit for Human consumption by tearing chunks off it and dragging it through the dirt.



There's likely to come a time when your Family's desire to revamp the house will encroach on your daily routine. A few carefully-chosen home-maintenance Foul-ups will make them wish they'd never heard the term 'decorating':

60. Lean against their nice wet paint when they dare to spruce up your favourite resting place.

61. Dunk your feet in the bucket of paint or wallpaper paste, then run the goo all over the house.

62. Barge into the step ladder, spilling paint, wallpaper paste, Human or any combination of the three.

63. Expand on the loo-roll theme substituting lengths of pasted wallpaper for toilet tissue.



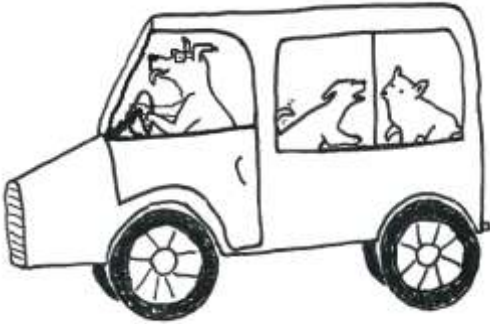
7

CANINES ON THE ROAD

Oh, the joy of travelling. Escorting your Humans in the car, visiting new and interesting places. Sitting up tall on the back seat and watching all those trees and buildings race past your window. A Dog could almost forget his position as Head of the Family...

But wait! Before you allow the thrill of vehicular journeys to lull you into letting your guard down, remember Crafty's Canine Code, rule 5: 'Always behave in such a way as to cause maximum stress and humiliation to your Human Family'.





...the joy of travelling...

The Family car is teeming with Foul-up opportunities:

64. Assert your authority from the outset by chewing through the seat belts while your Human's attention is elsewhere.

65. Bark like crazy and foam at the mouth when you spot a cyclist and charge around in the back of the car like a demented bull.

66. Throw up all over the car seat or for even greater effect, down the driver's back.

67. Squeeze between the front seats and sit on the driver's lap. Be sure to completely obscure their view out of the windscreen.

CAUTION: The aforementioned wild behaviour may lead to control by harness or in a crate. However, restraint needn't interfere with incessant barking.



Your Humans will often deem it necessary to leave you alone in the car while they indulge in shopping, visiting or other activities in which the company of a Dog is not desired. You must, of course, register your protest in no uncertain terms:

68. Shred the upholstery, even when left for just a few minutes. Very effective if your Family happens to own an executive-type car or expensive four-by-four.

69. When your Human returns after a lengthy absence, growl menacingly and refuse to allow them back into the vehicle.

This aggressive behaviour draws a great deal of attention from other Humans when performed in a crowded area.



Considerate members of the Family will leave a window open to allow a flow of fresh air for you during their absence. The less cautious person will leave just a touch too much gap. You can then:

70. Test your flexibility by squeezing through the gap, and exit the car for a quick round of window shopping in the High Street. This exercise causes great consternation to the Humans, who will sometimes spend hours running around calling for you (while you make yourself scarce behind a pile of old boxes or in any other convenient hidey-hole.)

CAUTION: Being spotted by the Dog Warden whilst on your wanderings may lead to capture and separation from your

Family, with the possibility of temporary incarceration in a maximum security unit. The upside of this imprisonment is your Humans will be required to fork out vast sums of money to secure your release.





FUNTAISTIC FOUL-UPS AT THE TRAINING CLASS

Should you find yourself in the mortifying position of being carted off to Training Classes, never fear. The opportunity for a Foul-up is only a Dog lead length away:

71. Bite the Trainer, your Human or anyone else within striking distance when they have the gall to lay a hand on you.

72. As an alternative to biting, and to ensure total ridicule of your Human, behave like the Perfect Dog for the class Trainer but revert to normal behaviour when returned to your Family member.



If you've enjoyed tripping up your Human whilst on a walk, you'll adore this Training Class variation:

73. Stay in Foul-up mode until the Trainer takes your lead to exercise a little 'discipline' over you. Then dive between the Trainer's legs, thereby bringing about his/her downfall in front of the entire class. This action will induce riotous laughter in the pupils and cringe-worthy embarrassment in both the Trainer and your Human.

74. While your Human's attention is elsewhere (for example, as they chat with friends about the weather) whip the lead from their grasp then bunk off and take time out to fight, or gossip with your Canine pals. Evade all efforts at capture. When you've driven your Human to the verge of a nervous breakdown, belly crawl back to them with your ears flattened and your eyes rolling, thus convincing all present that your Family beats you on a regular basis.



...gossip with your Canine pals.



Your refusal to return when summoned will convince your Human that recall training will help them avoid such humiliation in the future. You'll be asked to sit and stay in one place for a short time before your Human calls for you.

You must now:

75. Sit still as requested and wait like the Perfect Dog. When your Human calls for your return, stay put and refuse to move.

Well, if the silly person wanted you with them why did they leave you in the first

place? After much muttering of words unfit for sensitive Canine ears your Human will recall to *you*.



9

DOG-SHOW DISRUPTIONS

Many Families of high-born Canines run away with the idea that Dog Showing will provide them with hours of fun, and may even earn them kudos among like-minded Humans.

It's your job to prove them wrong.

Wake-up calls at the crack of dawn, withholding of breakfast, extended car trips into the Back-of-Beyond while locked in an uncomfortable crate; all are disruptions to normal life that must not to be tolerated.

By following those techniques already detailed for in-car Foul-ups, you'll ensure your Humans arrive at the show with tempers frayed and nerves shot to pieces.

Thus begins your perfect day ...



Prestige Dog shows require you to be attached by a chain on an uncomfortable wooden bench for most of the day. Do not take this affront to your dignity lying down:

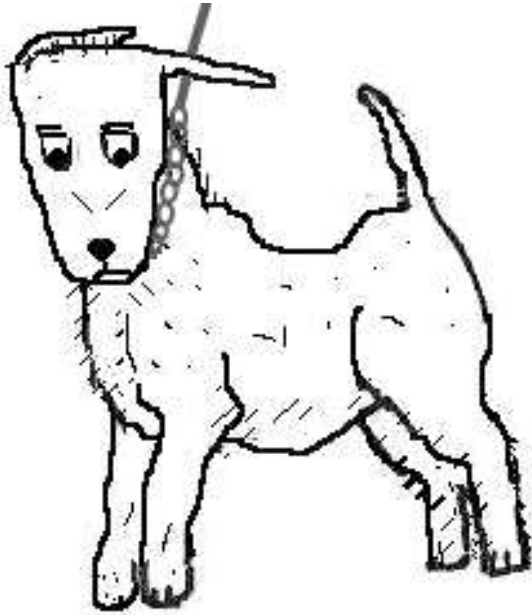
76. Behave like a lunatic on your bench. This can include leaping out and attacking anyone who passes too close, or wailing and barking at full volume all the while your Humans are out of sight.



Once in the show ring:

77. Lay your ears back and sag in the middle like a worn-out sofa when the judge turns his attention to you.

78. When asked to trot up and down do your best impression of a crab or scurble and jump around as if you've never worn a collar and lead before in your life.



...sag in the middle like a worn-out sofa.

79. Growl, or cringe and back off from the judge.



Foolish Canines who've allowed themselves to be brainwashed into taking

part in obedience, working trials or agility training could well end up at one of the variety of Dog shows where these activities are run as competitions.

This isn't the end of the world and you needn't be downhearted at your temporary loss of Canine-ness: implementing the afore-mentioned Training Class Foul-ups at such events should be enough to set you back on the right path.



For extra insurance at the Agility Show:

80. Knock the top bar off hurdles, run round instead of through the tunnel, miss the contact points on the Dog walk and see-saw.



10

THOSE X-RATED MOMENTS

A Canine's gotta do what a Canine's gotta do...

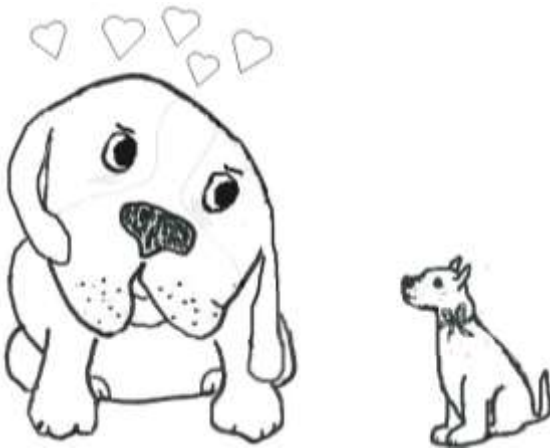
81. Hump everything from seat cushions, to the cat, to Auntie Edna's leg.

CAUTION: Excessive humping may earn you a trip to the Vet for removal of certain important parts of the male anatomy. Humans often accompany this trip with exclamations of: "It'll calm him down."

In their dreams! Thousands of Dogs continue to indulge in life's excesses minus these parts and after the initial soreness passes, humping behaviour can be resumed as normal.



82. Fellas: live it up with all the girl Dogs in the neighbourhood. Pay special attention to the neighbour's pedigree female.



Pay special attention to the neighbour's pedigree female.

83. Girls: persistently refuse the attentions of the Family's carefully selected stud Dog. Then sneak out under cover of

darkness and make whoopee with the elderly
mongrel two doors down.



11

IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH

The Human obsession with health and cleanliness inevitably leads to Canines being subjected to pill-popping, grooming, and the dreaded bath.

Never fear; attempts at grooming can be thwarted in a number of ways:

84. At bath-time wait until you're liberally plastered in shampoo then leap out of the tub, soaking any Human in the room. If the bathroom door is open, run riot around the house until every room looks like it's been hit by a tsunami.

85. Grab the Dog brush and dash off with it. Chewing it until it resembles a run-over hedgehog adds to the Human frustration.

86. Growl, bite and snatch your foot away when your Human tries to cut your nails.



It goes without saying that medicines should never be taken with good grace:

87. If your Human attempts to shove a tablet down your throat, hold the pill in the side of your mouth and make a big pretence of swallowing. Wait for the 'There's a good Dog', then spit the pill out. Repeat until the Human gives in and wraps the tablet in a nice piece of cheese or ham for you to enjoy.

88. Allow your Human to pour liquid medicines into the side of your mouth. As the last drops are going in turn your head sharply and dribble the lot over the Human's clothes. Alternatively, sneeze the medicine

out through your nose, making sure the spray spatters the Human face.



There will without doubt be occasions when you are required to pay a visit to the Vet. A few simple games will ensure maximum Foul-up value:

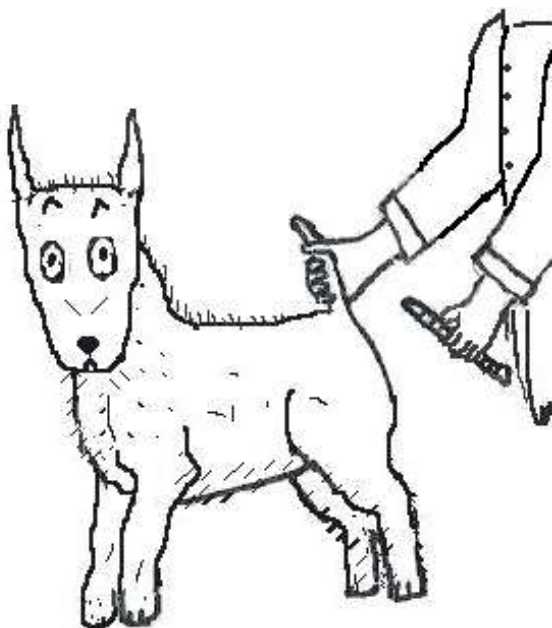
89. For starters attack everything that moves in the waiting room.



Once in the consultation room:

90. Scream the place down as if you're being murdered, even before anyone lays a finger on you.

91. As a rule the Vet will invent an excuse to insert a blunt instrument into your nether regions. Such indignity is not to be accepted lightly. To thwart these attempts, wriggle like a worm on a hook or sit down firmly and refuse to get up.



*...insert a blunt instrument into your
nether regions.*

92. As well as taking a special delight in blunt instruments Vets also seem to have a passion for sharp points. There'll be numerous instances when the Vet will deem

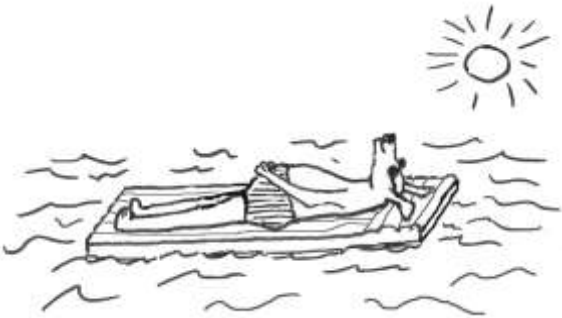
it necessary to stick a needle into a vein or the back of your neck. On these occasions it's your sworn duty to shriek and wail, snap at the Vet, nurse or any other Human in the vicinity.



12

THE VACATIONING CANINE

Sun, sea, sand... Holidays should, for preference, be spent with your Humans.



Sun, sea, sand...

Nevertheless, there may be times when your Family will choose to travel to the far-flung reaches of the Amazon or other Dog-forsaken land for a little Canine-free rest and recreation. In these circumstances you could find yourself vacationing in one of a variety of Canine lock-ups known as 'Boarding Kennels'.

This deplorable situation should not be tolerated and you must take adequate measures to secure your inclusion in the next Family holiday.



To be sure your Humans feel suitably ill-at-ease about having left you in kennels:

93. Bark constantly throughout your period of separation, thus leaving yourself with a sad little voice.

94. Sit in the back of your kennel for the duration of your stay and refuse to eat. Upon their return your Family will be horrified at your waif-like appearance. After lengthy explanations from the kennel pro-

prietors which centre around the words 'fretting' and 'missing his Family', your Humans will take you home with the promise to be more considerate of your welfare in future.



So you've ensured you'll accompany the Family on their next vacation?

Well, not quite yet. The next step your Humans will take is to leave you at home in the care of a house-sitter. This is one of a breed of well-meaning Humans who enjoy minding other people's property, watering their plants and providing company and sustenance for the Family Dog. These enterprising folk are often elderly.

Which, of course, makes them all the more vulnerable to tried and tested Foul-ups.



Thus it becomes a simple task to:

95. Inflict all manner of damage to the Family home, leaving the house-sitter so traumatized he/she will swear never to cross your threshold again.



And now your Family will have run out of options: your inclusion in the next holiday is assured. Be ready to exercise some truly awesome Foul-ups.

Here are a couple of my favourites to get you started:

96. Jump in the deepest river, pond or lake then splash around as if you're about to go under for the third time. Soon a member of your Family (most likely Soft-touch) will dive to your rescue fully clothed. Scramble out on the farthest bank and shake nonchalantly while throwing your distraught Family a 'what's all the fuss about' look.

97. If caravanning or camping is your Family's preference, go for daily jaunts among neighbouring tents/caravans, stealing or scavenging food as you make the rounds.



13

RETAINING CONTROL IN THE TWILIGHT YEARS

Old age: the scourge of the Canine Foul-up.

By the time you reach the sunset of your life you may begin to feel that the work involved in keeping your Humans on their toes is too great. Kindly Humans start to ignore your Foul-up efforts, even smiling at each other and muttering: 'He can't help it, he's old'. Although this Human attitude can prove wearisome it needn't lead to total loss of control over the Family.





Old age...

Practiced daily, even the more subtle Foul-ups have the capacity to stretch Human patience to its limits:

98. Snore at full volume, particularly when the Family is engaged in that most favourite of Human pastimes, telly-watching.

99. Refuse to eat anything other than best steak, fresh chicken or the most expensive tinned Dog food. Demanding a different flavour every second day will make sure you keep them running to the shops regularly.

100. Piddle in the house because you 'forgot' to ask to go outside. Make sure you use a different room each time you go. In deference to your advanced years your Humans probably won't scold you to your face but you can be sure they'll be cursing and huffing and puffing under their breath as they traipse all day from room to room with cleaning cloths and disinfectant.

101. You've exercised your right to sleep in the bedroom since day one. Make the most of your position by waking your Humans at least once every night to let you out for a pee.

(Humans are often quite slow to realise that the middle of the night is the only time you 'remember' to ask to be let out.)



So there you are, my fellow Canines: my 101 favourite day-to-day Foul-ups. Be sure to exercise them routinely and you'll guarantee life-long control of your Family.



CRAFTY'S POSTSCRIPT

Getting into the Christmas Spirit

No catalogue of Foul-ups would be complete without a mention of that most special time of the year – Christmas.

The season of peace and goodwill... What better time could there be to implement your best Foul-ups – with bells on!

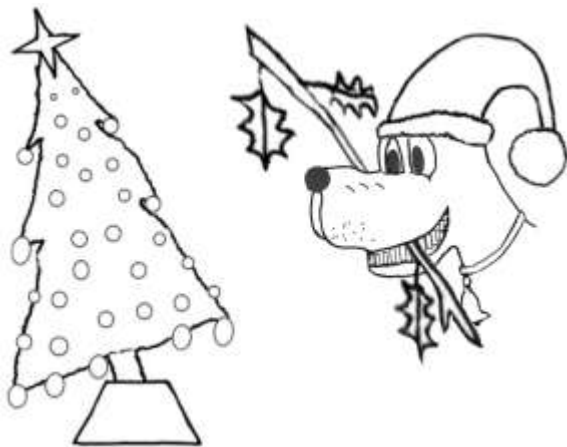


Number one on my festive hit list is to 'accidentally' run into the Christmas tree and send it crashing to the floor. This should bring the whole Family running. While they're occupied for the next three hours salvaging smashed baubles and fairy lights, nip to the kitchen...

...where you can then implement Festive Foul-up number two:

Devour the semi-defrosted turkey the day before Christmas Eve. Mum will then have to dash to the local supermarket for a replacement bird. The chances are the new bird (if the store actually had one left) won't thaw out in time for cooking at the appointed hour, thus sending the entire Family into Christmas apoplexy.

Also known as a *fowl-up*.



...run into the Christmas tree...

Keep the pressure on by taking a long slurp of Grandma's whiskey while she's preoccupied with the turkey fiasco. She'll think she's emptied her glass herself and will most likely head for a top-up, during which time you can brush past her and knock her unsteady legs out from under her.

NOTE: Be aware that guzzling alcohol may make you see double, causing you to bump into doors or furniture Also liable to knock the legs out from under *you*.

And finally, a reminder that all Dogs have a civic duty to trash the Kids' Christmas presents as soon as the brats have ripped off the wrapping paper.

Merry Christmas all.



CRAFTY'S APPENDIX

Troy's sweet revenge

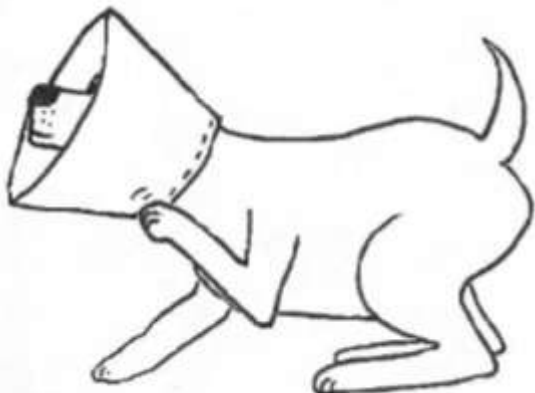
Crafty's Canine Code rule 6 demands: 'Be creative: keep constantly on the look-out for new and exciting Foul-ups'.

With this in mind the following is a lesson from my old pal Troy, a past-master of the Canine Foul-up.



Troy says: Remember the time the Family inflicted the reviled Elizabethan Collar on you? The lampshade laced round your neck that impaired your hearing and gave you tunnel vision. You blundered about, banging your head against walls and furniture, desperate to scratch the itch in your ear. But you couldn't reach it because of that damned contraption.

Well now, revenge, as they say, is sweet...



...the reviled Elizabethan Collar...

At bed time I like nothing better than to snuggle down between Dad and Mum. One night, Dad pronounced loudly that he had an itch in the you-know-where. Seizing the opportunity, I settled my full weight against him, pinning his arms to his sides and effectively preventing him from scratching his itchy backside.

I kept the pressure up for a good ten

minutes, remained deaf to his screams for mercy.

Boy, did he squirm! And Mum? She ended up sore from laughing.

Life can be a real bitch sometimes.



CRAFTY'S FINAL WORD

It's a sad fact that a proportion of today's Humans lacks the moral fibre to endure day-to-day Canine Foul-ups. If you're a Dog who's unlucky enough to have landed with a Family which falls into this category you may find yourself shipped out to the rehoming centre or rescue kennels.

This doesn't spell the end of life-as-you-know-it. Remember the enchanting looks, the big brown eyes, the 'take-me-home' expression that got you into your first home? They can work equally well when you're an adult.

Of course, if you manage to fool the 'I know how to dog-train' kind of Family into giving you a home, you're onto a winner! Good luck.

On the other hand, you may think the foregoing Foul-ups far too much trouble and you'd rather opt for the quiet life; consider

allowing yourself to be taken to training classes. Succumb to bribery and coercion; be sweet-talked into co-operating with your Human Family. You could even be contemplating going to the extreme of vowing to lay down your life for your Human.

In short, you could be setting out on the road to becoming the Perfect Dog.

But stop! Put your Canine brain into gear; think of the shame, the contempt you'll receive from all the neighbourhood Dogs.

And consider the fun you'll miss!



Happy Foul-ups.



Linda Stone teaches companion dog obedience at the Crafty Canine Training Club in West Wales, and is Kennel Club approved to hold courses for the Good Citizen Dog Scheme.

For more information visit:

www.craftycanine.co.uk

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