

February Coffee Morning

## Meeting summary for Coffee Morning (02/22/2024)

### Quick recap

Rachel and iPhone discussed their dogs' behavior and training. They agreed on the benefits of breaking down interactions into manageable tasks and using techniques such as the 'tee junction' method to build resilience and impulse control. They also discussed the importance of positive reinforcement and the need to choose a dog that suits the owner's lifestyle and ability.

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### Summary

#### Dog Owners Discuss Behavior and Training

Rachel and iPhone discussed their experiences with their respective dogs. They touched upon their dogs' behavior and training, with iPhone sharing her concerns about her dog's reactions to other dogs. They also talked about a workshop their dogs attended, where the dogs were rewarded with treats. iOS mentioned that she was going away for a few days and shared her strategy of discouraging dogs from approaching her dog, Luna. Rachel suggested using resources from their website to help manage Luna's interactions with other dogs. They agreed that breaking down interactions into manageable tasks would be beneficial for their dogs.

#### Dog Training and Positive Reinforcement

Rachel and the iPhone participant discussed dog training, with a focus on managing encounters with other dogs. Rachel suggested a gradual approach, starting with familiar dogs and gradually introducing unfamiliar ones. She also recommended using techniques such as the 'tee junction' method and running towards something good to build resilience and impulse control. The iPhone participant mentioned Luna's anxiety towards certain animals and they agreed on having Luna interact with

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a familiar dog, Hugo, before introducing unfamiliar ones. Rachel also recommended using treats and positive reinforcement to build Luna's confidence. They agreed on breaking down the training into steps and building a positive 'bank' for Luna given her past negative experiences and ongoing health issues.

### **Dog Owners' Behavior Discussion**

Rachel and Di expressed their frustration about the behavior of some dog owners and its impact on their pets. They compared the attitudes towards dogs in different countries, noting that in places like Austria and Germany, dogs are more highly respected and better controlled. They also discussed a few incidents involving badly behaved dogs, leading Rachel to suggest rebranding their coffee morning and Q&A sessions into a venting session about dog owners. Di and others agreed on the need to share such incidents.

### **Dog Owners' Responsibility and Hugo's Resource Guarding Issues**

Di, Rachel, and others had a discussion about their experiences with dog owners at Lindo Common Car Park. They expressed frustration with irresponsible dog owners who let their pets run around, putting other people and animals at risk. The group also discussed scheduling a future meeting, settling on a 5 o'clock time slot. Additionally, they shared concerns about Hugo's resource guarding issues, specifically when people or objects are near his home.

### **Hugo's Protective Behavior Solutions**

Di and Rachel discussed potential solutions for Di's dog, Hugo, who exhibits protective behavior toward their home. Rachel suggested teaching Hugo to target a specific object, such as a post, as a form of incompatible behavior. This method would train Hugo to move away from the source of his anxiety. Rachel also recommended using a 'new queue' to replace the 'old queue' of alerting to potential threats. By consistently rewarding Hugo for performing the 'new queue', it could become a natural response for him. This method could also reduce the risk of Hugo injuring himself or others due to his protective behavior.

### **Dog Breeds and Grooming Concerns Discussed**

Rachel and Di discussed the issues and concerns related to various dog breeds, focusing on the UK market. They highlighted the grooming difficulties with certain breeds like the Golden Doodle and the lack of information about specific care needs

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provided by breeders. The conversation also touched upon the shift in the UK's most popular dog breeds, with cocker spaniels becoming the second most popular. Health concerns associated with French bulldogs and the rise in demand for dogs during the Covid pandemic were also discussed. The conversation concluded with Rachel suggesting a game to spot dogs, acknowledging the difficulty in accurately identifying breeds based on physical appearances alone.

### **Dog Living Conditions and Breed Trends in London**

Di and Rachel discussed the living conditions for dogs in London and other cities. They noted that despite space limitations, there are ample parks and green areas for dogs to play. Rachel introduced the concept of dog-friendly high-rise flats, which require proof of vaccination and pet records. They also touched on the breeds of dogs they frequently encounter in their work and the increasing number of clients with excel bullies. Rachel found a topic related to dog breeds interesting and considered sharing a link to a full article about it. Both Di and an anonymous person expressed interest in reading the full article.

### **Online Dog Purchase and Training Ethics**

Rachel and Di discussed the trend of people buying dogs online, particularly pedigree breeds. They raised concerns about the ethics of certain breeders and the treatment of these dogs. They also talked about specific training methods like cropping and docking, which are not allowed in the UK. Rachel wondered if this trend might be driven by young women seeking protection, while Di suggested that some trainers might recommend these tools for owners who struggle to control their dogs. The discussion also emphasized the importance of choosing a dog that suits the owner's lifestyle and ability. Rachel and Di also discussed the training and use of assistance dogs for people with physical disabilities, emphasizing the importance of fair treatment of the dogs. Rachel expressed her concern over the use of certain training methods and the working conditions of assistance dogs.

### **Training Challenges and Special Offers**

Rachel, Di, and others discussed the challenges of certain training methods and the benefits of lead stroking for both human blood pressure and stress levels. The conversation also touched on the difficulties of managing multiple dogs in a household, with Rachel suggesting a muzzle-training strategy before reintegration. Rachel reminded the team about a special offer for booking services with a 5-pound

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discount and mentioned the upcoming schedule for April, clarifying that this offer would not apply to VIP members. Di expressed appreciation for Rachel's efforts.

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