

Meeting summary for February's Q&A (02/06/2024)

Quick recap

Rachel Rodgers and Hannah discussed their dogs' behavioral issues, including Yogi's nervous barking on walks and a dog's itching and walking difficulty. They agreed to update each other on their progress and suggested studying Temple Grandin's work on animal behavior. They also discussed the importance of proper dog ownership education, the dangers of certain breeds, and the need for improved legislation. The conversation also touched on parenting and discipline in schools, as well as upcoming events and birthdays.

Summary

Dog Behavior and Walking Issue Discussion

Rachel Rodgers and the iPhone user discussed potential connections between a dog's itching and its behavior, as well as a problem with the iPhone user's pet's walking ability in a specific area. Rachel suggested that the walking issue might be related to the location, not the dog's behavior. They speculated that the problem could be due to scent or trauma from past incidents. They agreed to continue working on addressing the issue, with Rachel suggesting studying the work of Temple Grandin, a scientist who has written extensively on animal behavior. They also agreed to update each other on their progress.

Doggy Discussions and Work Challenges

Rachel and Hannah had a discussion about their dogs. Hannah shared that her dog, Yogi, had been doing well, with no accidents or urinary tract infections. She was unsure if these improvements were due to ensuring Yogi emptied his bladder properly. Rachel advised Hannah to enjoy the peaceful periods without looking for problems. Hannah mentioned that Yogi was becoming barky on walks, which she suspected was due to nervousness. She planned to enroll Yogi in reducing reactivity sessions but was struggling to find a suitable time due to work commitments. Rachel offered to help Hannah and Mel with their new accounts on a different booking

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system, and mentioned that they were waiting for photos from a professional photoshoot.

Dog Owners Discuss Behavior and Training Solutions

Hannah and Rachel discussed their experiences with their dogs. Hannah expressed concerns about her dog Yogi's loud behavior and its effects on others, while Rachel suggested focusing on more serious issues. They agreed that the health and wellbeing of their pets should be the main priority. Rachel suggested that Hannah's dog could attend group classes that she, Mel, or Hannah conduct. She also mentioned that some members of their group, such as Polly, Buddy, and Diane Hugo, attend these intermittently to maintain their dogs' exposure to other dogs.

Pet Photos and Animal Behavior Book Discussion

Rachel Rodgers shared some recently taken photos, featuring her team and their pets, including a dog named Rico Macy, a small spaniel named Margo, and a dog named Harry. She praised the photographer, Nikki, for her ability to capture natural and appealing shots of the dogs. She also mentioned a book about animal behavior titled "Animals in Translation" by Temple Grandin, which she found intriguing and recommended to others. She plans to post these photos on social media and the website.

Cockapoo Dangers and Legislation Ineffectiveness

Hannah and Rachel discussed the potential challenges and dangers of Cockapoos, a cross between a Cocker Spaniel and a Poodle, often marketed as good family dogs. They emphasized the importance of proper exercise and care for these active working breeds and highlighted the issue of irresponsible breeding. They also shared a specific case of a Cockapoo causing harm to a child, leading to a police report and a discussion on the need for proper control and supervision for both dogs and children. The conversation concluded with a discussion on the ineffective legislation surrounding exempt bullies.

Parenting, Discipline, and Pet Ownership Discussions

Rachel and Hannah discussed attitudes towards parenting and discipline in schools, noting how parents often blame teachers instead of admitting their child's misbehavior. They also observed a shift in the perception of misbehavior over time, with actions seen as problematic in the past now viewed as individual expressions.

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The conversation then shifted to the trend of younger people buying dogs without considering the responsibilities, with Rachel expressing concerns and suggesting offering a free webinar or ebook on preparing for dog ownership. They also discussed the impulse buying of pets, potential issues, and the need for breeders to provide information on returned dogs. They planned to start a discussion in their Facebook group about ways to keep dogs in homes longer and shared upcoming events, including their birthdays and a trail session in Shrewsbury.

Next steps

- Rachel will look into the connection between itching and behavior in dogs and consider bringing in a vet for a discussion.
- Hannah will consider attending a reducing reactivity session for Yogi.

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