

Meeting summary for May's Q&A (05/09/2024)

Quick recap

The group discussed various issues related to pet care, with a focus on dogs' behavior, health, and safety in the heat. They also shared personal experiences and coping mechanisms, and discussed the use of cooling mats and other tools. Additionally, they explored topics such as pet crates, car upgrades, and the establishment of a Facebook group, with Rachel promising to provide more information on suitable car crates in the future.

Next steps

- Emma will follow up with Yogi's vet to discuss potential causes of his barking behavior and explore environmental triggers.
- Hannah will monitor Yogi's behavior and barking during car rides to assess if the metal crate in the boot improves his settling and behavior.

Summary

New Members and Pet Heat Management Strategies

Rachel initiated an introductory session for new members and a discussion about pets dealing with the heat. Members shared their experiences and concerns, with a particular focus on dogs. The group also discussed strategies for managing the heat, such as providing shade, using fans, and adjusting crate setups. Personal anecdotes and coping mechanisms of pets were shared, and specific concerns were raised about Chips, a 12-year-old lab, and Luna, a 3.5-year-old lab with allergies and sensitivities. The group also welcomed new member Laura, who shared her experiences working with Rachel to manage her lab's allergies and behavioral issues.

Dog Training and Behavior Improvement

Rachel Rodgers MSc, BSc(Hons), PGCE
Clinical Animal Behaviourist

Full member of the APBC – Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors
Animal Training Instructor with PACT – Professional Association of Canine Trainers

Tel: 07506059019

Email: info@nosetotrail.co.uk

Web: www.nosetotrail.co.uk



APBC

ASSOCIATION OF PET
BEHAVIOUR COUNSELLORS



NOSE TO TRAIL

PET BEHAVIOUR SERVICES

Emma introduced her Maltese dog, Eric, who has been working with Rachel for about a year on improving his confidence and behavior around dogs and strangers. Lynn then shared about her rescue dog, Jeff, who has been struggling with reactivity and excessive barking since they adopted him six years ago. They discussed Jeff's progress with Rachel, highlighting the improvements in his behavior and responsiveness to commands. Rachel suggested finding a distant dog for Jeff to help him cope with his reactivity, indicating a plan to continue and possibly intensify their training sessions.

Reactive Dogs and Separation Anxiety Discussion

Lynn, Rachel, and Hannah discussed issues related to dog behavior and reactivity. They talked about the challenges of managing reactive dogs in a group setting and the potential for such dogs to serve as 'stage dogs' to help others. Hannah shared her experiences with her new dog, Austin, who has been easy to handle, and her ongoing issues with Yogi, who exhibits separation anxiety and accidents in the house. Despite veterinary assurances that Yogi's issues are behavioral, the exact trigger for his accidents remains undetermined.

Yogi's Urinary Issues Discussed

Hannah, Rachel, and iPhone discussed concerns regarding a dog named Yogi's urinary issues. Despite various tests, including an MRI, CT, blood, and ultrasound, being normal, Yogi continued to experience accidents. The team speculated that there could be a weakness or a nerve issue affecting the muscle and nerve connection to the bladder. They considered the possibility of scar tissue from recurrent infections causing a reduced bladder capacity. They planned to ask Yogi's owners several questions about his drinking habits and other potential contributing factors. Yogi's owners were unaware of the discussions about their dog's health, as the meeting took place on Yogi's second birthday.

Dog Eating Habits and Custom Feeders

Rachel shared an interesting observation about certain dog breeds having a genetic predisposition to never feel full, which prompted a discussion about the eating habits of the participants' dogs. It was noted that some dogs, like Rico and Luna, eat small amounts and then fall asleep, while others, like Maisie and Beth, seem to have an insatiable appetite. The group also discussed how consistent meal times and regular feeding habits seemed to contribute to more predictable and better behavior in their dogs. Rachel also mentioned a solution for households with multiple pets to prevent food theft and ensure proper nutrition, which involves custom-built feeders for each animal.

Rachel Rodgers MSc, BSc(Hons), PGCE
Clinical Animal Behaviourist

Full member of the APBC – Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors
Animal Training Instructor with PACT – Professional Association of Canine Trainers

Tel: 07506059019

Email: info@nosetotrail.co.uk

Web: www.nosetotrail.co.uk



APBC

ASSOCIATION OF PET
BEHAVIOUR COUNSELLORS

Luna's Health and Behavior Concerns

Rachel, iPhone, and Lynn discussed concerns about Luna's health and behavior. Luna had recently undergone blood tests to check her immune therapy was on track, as she had been experiencing itching and other symptoms. iPhone shared that Luna's behavior had become more sensitive and irritable, possibly due to environmental factors and allergies. They speculated that Luna might be developing more allergies as she aged. Rachel proposed keeping a diary to track flare-ups, and noted that another dog under her care was also experiencing worsening allergies. They agreed on the importance of continuing to manage Luna's allergies and monitoring her symptoms closely.

Cooling Mats, Pet Crates, and Car Upgrades

Rachel, Lynn, and iPhone discussed the use of cooling mats for dogs and expressed concerns about their effectiveness, with Lynn's dog, Jeff, being reluctant to use them. They also talked about the potential hazards if dogs chew on the mats, and Rachel shared her experience of finding a website that rates different cooling mats. Additionally, they discussed various topics including pet crates, car upgrades, and the establishment of a Facebook group. Rachel's recent car purchase decision, influenced by the need to accommodate her dog's crate, and Lynn's suggestion to consider space for a fan now that the weather has improved were also part of the discussion.

Exploring Car Crate Options for Ford Fiesta

Hannah was seeking recommendations for a suitable car crate for her Ford Fiesta, and Rachel offered various options including Trans K 9 and Mimsafe. Hannah agreed to explore these options further. Additionally, Rachel promised to provide photos of the different types of crates available in the upcoming coffee morning. No further issues were raised in the meeting.

Rachel Rodgers MSc, BSc(Hons), PGCE
Clinical Animal Behaviourist

Full member of the APBC – Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors
Animal Training Instructor with PACT – Professional Association of Canine Trainers

Tel: 07506059019

Email: info@nosetotrail.co.uk

Web: www.nosetotrail.co.uk



APBC

ASSOCIATION OF PET
BEHAVIOUR COUNSELLORS