

K-9 CAPERS

DOG TRAINING ACADEMY

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Learning from Service Dog Training...

As a passionate trainer, I am constantly trying to find help for my clients, (especially the four legged ones). And being fascinated by behavior, I often reach out to the very best in the business to see if I can learn anything new that will help solve tough behavioral problems or to add new dog training techniques to our program.

Recently, I travelled to San Diego to apprentice with a service dog organization to sharpen my training skills. (After all we LOVE and admire the well-behaved service dog trailing close beside their master don't we?) What I learned was (1.) There are no short cuts in training and (2.) It is best to stick to the basics such as training and socialization. It is old lesson learned years ago at a workshop given by an Olympian horseback rider, "Learn the basics and do them very, very well" she advised.

So why do we have so much trouble? So much plays into behavior; genetics, parental influence, environment and of course the buzz word of this decade, socialization.



Mountains in Jamul, CA

Service dog training site

What I see is poor socialization more often than no socialization. So what IS Socialization anyway?

The dictionary states socialization is: A continuing process whereby an individual acquires a personal identity and learns the norms, values, behavior, and social skills appropriate to his or her social

position. Socialization is vital for proper mental and social development in dogs, and it needs to be offered **properly**. Mistakes in socialization, even if intentions are good, can backfire and may even produce an overly shy or overly aggressive dog.



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Therapy dog and Canine Good Citizen group classes starting in June and testing in September. Puppy Development Foundation classes are open enrollment (you may start anytime your vet approves) We offer Nose Work and Agility too



We offer day training at K-9 Capers Dog Training Academy day school, complete with proper socialization, age appropriate field trips..Let us train and socialize your pup while you are at work!



ASK FOR A **FOUNDATION PRIVATE LESSON** AND LEARN HOW TO INTRODUCE YOUR DOG OR PUPPY properly and start your basic training!



MEET LEANN LAMBERT !

K-9 CAPERS WELCOMES LEANN TO HELP WITH THE TRAINING AND SOCIALIZATION DAY SCHOOL!

Leann is married with a wonderful family and a coon dog named Blue. Leann has experience in doggie day care, therapy dog training and search and rescue. She also is a strong-willed person who has overcome a life threatening stroke in 2010. She continues her love for animals as a volunteer at the humane society and now we have the honor of having her work for us at k-9 Capers!

Workshop for rescued dogs/puppies

First Saturday of each month

3pm (free to rescued dogs)

Learn the 5 most important things to teach your dog

Get answers to real problems from a professional trainer

Get your training off to a good start with demos



K-9 Capers Training Academy now offers

Service Dog Training for the self-trained including, seizure and diabetic alert and autism support. Ask us about our Katie's Kids non-profit program and how you can help us in our service dog program.

Email or call and ask for an application if you are in need of a service dog.

MISTAKES IN SOCIALIZATION, EVEN IF INTENTIONS ARE GOOD, CAN BACKFIRE AND MAY EVEN PRODUCE AN OVERLY SHY OR OVERLY AGGRESSIVE DOG.

Good socialization introduces a puppy or dog to something new, maybe even challenges the dog a little. Good socialization provides a positive experience for the dog.

It's all about showing a puppy new things and letting the puppy "win" in the challenge presented. But too often people think only of showing the puppy new things, without taking care that the puppy feels very successful. In fact, sometimes what people intend as helpful socialization creates more problems than it prevents. For instance, if your dog does not like having his feet touched...grabbing them and assuming you may check it off the list does not work very well. You must work with them until they master the emotion about being handled. Ultimately you are responsible for socialization!

We now offer a foundation lesson that includes how to properly socialize your dog or puppy before any class to ensure you get the most out of your training. Call now for private foundation lesson. It is worth the extra time! 704 791 9888 or k9capers@gmail.com



NEW DOG BATH!

Bath your own

\$15

Full service bath

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Includes shampoo, cream rinse, blow dry
Large breeds add \$10 by appointment

Canine Fitness Workshop : FIT-PAWS

Pilates for pooches?

Join us to learn more about this Fit Paws exercises and equipment for :

- *Rehabilitation
- *Agility
- *Conformation
- *working dogs
- *family dog fitness



strengthening its muscles and muscle strength that they don't want to stop. And the program really works!

by using various wobble devices. Whether your dog is an athletic performance dog or a family pet, this common sense program will help meet your fitness goals for your dog. The dogs have so much fun while improving their balance, body awareness, flexibility

Contact us if you would like to attend our next **FITPAWS** workshop May 9th at 3pm for more information

\$15 donation to benefit the Humane Society

email us at k9capers@gmail.com

K-9 Capers Dog Training Academy

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Concord NC 28027



Fitness Equipment for the Family Pet!

Ray and Lorna Coppinger in the book "Dogs – A Startling New Understanding of Dog Origin, Behavior, and Evolution" discuss how 80% of a dog's brain is fully formed by 4 months of age, from 4 months to a year the remaining 20% of the brain develops. Most of a dog's brain growth occurs from 4 weeks to 4 months this is the most critical time and when socialization will make the biggest difference. Once the brain's growth stops, it becomes far more challenging to "change the wiring". At birth a puppy has essentially all the brain cells it is ever going to have during its whole life time. If the puppy brain has essentially the same number of cells as the adult brain, how can it grow ten times bigger? The answer is that brain growth is almost entirely in the connections between the cells. Of all the brain cells present at birth, a huge number are not connected or wired together. What takes place during puppy development is the wiring pattern of the nerve cells. (Coppinger, 2001) Coppinger's writing makes it clear that consistent socialization from 4 weeks to 4 months is critical for healthy brain development. So what are you waiting for!

Short story: Why is socialization so very important

When Daisy was adopted at 8 weeks of age from a private party (a friend), she was a sweet puppy - a little shy, but friendly and bright. She approached her new owners readily enough at the friend's house and bonded with them quickly. Almost at once, they considered Daisy a beloved family member. Two years later, Daisy was a large, powerful dog who had snapped at, even broken the skin several times. She was wary and defensive towards everyone outside her family, and often growled or bit if she thought strangers might approach her or her owners. Reaching out to pet her; moving through the living room; reaching over her fence; handing her treats: Daisy had come to view all these seemingly innocent activities as threats. What happened? Well, the simple answer is nothing. Daisy's owners didn't abuse her; in fact, they were exemplary owners in nearly every way. But between the ages of 7 weeks and 1 year, Daisy just didn't meet very many new people. It's hard to imagine that this alone could cause serious aggression, but trainers see similar scenarios every day. The problem is that many puppies just never develop an extended view of their family "pack".

Working owners may be too tired when they come home to take the dog to the park or to have guests over. Families with small children may be too busy. But the end result is that since the puppy doesn't meet many people outside the family, she begins to distrust anyone not in her magic inner circle. This is normal for wild canids, such as wolves, who live in small, tight-knit family groups and reject outsiders. But it's a sure failure for domestic dogs, whose behavior can signal their fates. The kindest thing we can do for dogs is to help them extend their concept of "family" to encompass any and all friendly people they meet. Even working people can do this by dealing with socialization proactively.

We call this technique the "Rule of Many." From the age of 4 weeks until 2 years, a puppy should meet many new people every day. Everyone he/she meets should give the puppy treats, or play with its favorite toy and as much variety as possible in terms of size, age, color, and personality type should be represented. The puppy should also go to 7 new places every 7 weeks (or at least one new place a week), and the places should be as different from each other as possible, such as a lake, a park, a shopping mall parking lot, the vet's office, a pet store, etc. And don't stop there!

These recommendations are minimums – the more people and places your puppy/dog experiences, the more well-adjusted she'll be as an adult. Keeping track of the people your puppy meets and the places she goes can be fun for young children and will ensure that you meet your goals. Be sure the puppy is put on her own four feet for these introductions and visits; holding her in your arms can send her the wrong signals and prevent her from experiencing the world on her own.

The wonderful end result is that, by seven months of age, a puppy whose owners have followed the Rule of Sevens has met and received treats, pets and praise from at least 196 new people and has gone to at least 28 new places! This lucky puppy will feel relaxed and happy around all types of people and at home almost anywhere. Best of all, whenever she meets someone new or goes to a strange place from now on, she'll tend to assume the best, rather than the worst. For the next 12-15 years, she'll truly be a companion to her family. And what about Daisy? Since no effort was made when she was a puppy to ensure that she experienced as many new people as possible, Daisy ended up with a first class case of defensive aggression. Fortunately, she isn't a lost cause, and she's come a long way with behavior modification. Every new person she meets plays ball with her which is her favorite game. But as her owners now realize, what happened to Daisy could have been prevented if they had known about and followed the Rule of "many" right from the start. They'll definitely be following it next time around. This is a fictional story based on 100's of dogs I have worked with. (this is a common occurrence of the many, many dogs and puppies that I have seen come into the shelter over the past 6 yrs..)

Whether socializing, play training, or just hanging out around the house, being consistent with your dog will make a big difference in helping you achieve your goals with your dog. by Dee Ganley CPDT

For a free socialization chart visit: http://drsophiayin.com/images/uploads/ce/Socialization_Checklist.pdf

