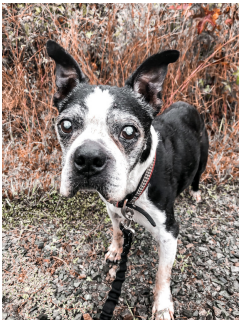
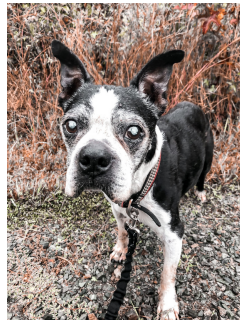


WINTER 2021



DEXTER'S DIGEST



Quarterly Newsletter for KB's K9 FITNESS LLC



IN THIS ISSUE:

WHY DO DOGS
KICK BACK
DIRT AFTER
POOPING?

THE
DOGHOUSE
PROJECT

KB'S K9
ATHLETES



A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF MY CLIENTS!

I just wanted to take a minute and thank all of you for your understanding during my family's quarantine for Covid. I was so upset to cancel visits at the last minute and I apologize for any inconvenience it may have caused. I appreciate all of your kindness and patience. I have said it before and I will say it again, I really do have the **best clients ever!!**

Don't forget to refer us to your friends and earn some Bow-Wow bucks!

WALK.
RUN.
WAG.
REPEAT.

WHY DO DOGS KICK BACK DIRT AFTER POOPING?

Alison Birken, DVM

While it may appear that dogs are doing this to cover up their mess, this is in fact not the case.

This dog behavior is a way to mark their territory.

By nature, and in the wild, canines are territorial. Marking an area with scents from urine, feces and their paws sends the message to other canines that this is their territory.

In fact, canines have scent glands in their feet that secrete pheromones, a chemical that triggers social reactions and interactions amongst other canine species.

The scents released from dogs' feet is more pungent and lasts longer than the scents of urine and feces. When a dog kicks the ground after defecating, they are releasing pheromones onto the ground.

In addition to the scents from feces and urine, these pheromones relay territorial claims, sexual availability, possible food trails and warnings of danger. This act of releasing pheromones as a form of communication also affects a dog's behavior as well as their overall body functions, involving organs, hormones, behavior and makeup.

This dog behavior is harmless, and you should not be concerned about it. Kicking dirt after defecating is an instinct and part of their dog pooping habit. It is natural for them to communicate this way, and I encourage my clients to let them go about this dog pooping ritual uninterrupted.



THE DOGHOUSE PROJECT

KB'S K9 FITNESS VOLUNTEERS WITH RING DOG RESCUE

The Doghouse Project is a program that Ring Dog Rescue offers (Ring Dog Rescue is a local rescue that is dedicated to helping "pit bull type dogs".) Once a month, volunteers travel to Petersburg and help dogs that are living outside 24/7. The volunteers walk the dogs, clean the kennels, provide fresh water, dog bones and bags of dog food. While laws have changed regarding keeping a dog outside on a chain, owners are still allowed to keep dogs outside if they have sufficient shelter.

I can't even fathom keeping my dogs outside 24/7 but unfortunately there are people that do. This volunteer experience was certainly an eye-opener for me (and my daughter). Having been a home health nurse in the city of Richmond for 25 years, I have witnessed all sorts of living conditions and situations that others deal with so I figured I could handle it. But I was wrong - this hit me hard! My first emotion was anger. Anger at the owners for doing this to their dogs. I then felt lots of sadness for the dogs. Sad that they are not getting tucked into a warm bed at night like my dogs. But as the day went on, I concentrated on another emotion - love. Even if only for one day, I wanted these dogs to know that they were loved! Each dog was super sweet, had their own unique personality, and they were so happy to see the volunteers. I learned that I do not have control over their owners and their choices, but I can still make a difference in these few dogs and their lives - even if just one day a month.

On a funny note, our first dog that morning, my daughter and I were in charge of walking the dog while others cleaned the kennel. My daughter took a picture and posted on instagram "volunteering is fun". Well, the next 7 dogs, we were on poop duty and she was no longer taking any cute pics and posting on instagram. I think her comment at that time was "what did you get me into?" When it was all said and done though, we both agreed that the Doghouse Project was a great volunteer experience and something we will continue to do every month.

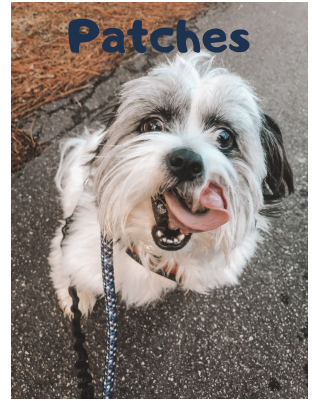
To learn more about the Doghouse Project (or donate supplies) please check out RingDogRescue.org





IT'S NOT WHERE
YOU WALK,
IT'S WHO WALKS
WITH YOU

WINTER 2021



KB'S K9 ATHLETES