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Inside this issue:

*SONG and the SHEEP*, 1  
by Sue Ailsby

*Hot Diggity Dog Training* 1

*Jean Donaldson's Top 10  
Dog Training Tips* 2

*DOWNS are Easy to Cap-  
ture!* 2

*What on Earth is Clicker  
Training?* Kim MacMillan 3

*Dog Treats: Liver Brownies* 3

*What age does canine adoles-  
cence hit and how long does it  
last?!* Melissa Alexander 4



Sue Ailsby is a retired Canadian conformation and obedience judge. She has taught first aid for dogs, grooming, structure and movement, basic household manners, and all aspects of competition. She is well known for teaching both dog and llama training, management, and handling to professionals such as veterinarians and Humane Societies.

For over forty years her enthusiasm has seen her breeding Chihuahuas, Australian Cattle Dogs, Miniature Schnauzers, and Giant Schnauzers, judging conformation and obedience. She was a professional groomer for 25 years and a professional trainer for 30. She has successfully competed in sled races, water trials, scent hurdle races, tracking tests, herding trials, agility trials, freestyle and Rally-O, besides obedience and conformation.



## SONG and the SHEEP by Sue Ailsby

Let me tell you the story of Song And The Sheep. Song is a Giant Schnauzer, and Giant Schnauzers are generally relatively calm and reasonable creatures, but they do have Passions about some things, and one of Song's Passions is Sheep. She would start screaming in the car when we were a quarter of a mile from the sheep pasture, and keep it up until she was running around sheep, where she wouldn't listen worth a darn, being too busy running around sheep to bother with me. The herding people around here basically told me to let her go, let her run around sheep, use a bag on a stick in her face to keep her from dive\_bombing them, and after ten or fifteen minutes she would start to slow down and listen to me. My response to that was not to do herding any more, because a Giant Schnauzer having a heart attack on

the floor could still be screaming about sheep. I took a paperback book, a lawn chair, a sturdy leash, a clicker, and Song, and drove to the pasture. I got her screaming out of the car, put down my chair, sat in it, and read my book, holding the leash of the screaming, lunging, jumping Giant Schnauzer for over an hour. Note I did NOTHING but read my book and sit on the leash. When she finally shut up and looked back at me ("Did you die? Why aren't we in with the sheep?"), I clicked and started to stand up. Of course, she screamed and jumped back at the sheep, so I sat down again immediately. About twenty minutes later, she shut up and looked at me again, click. This time I got to stand up and almost take a step before she started screaming and I had to sit down again. That day,

it took me three hours to get approximately 20 feet into the pasture. When we were in there, I had a responsive, quiet, pleasant herding dog working sheep.

The next day, it took me twenty minutes to get into the pasture, and once in, I once again found myself working a responsive, quiet, pleasant dog. The third day, it took five minutes.

The fourth day, she bounced eagerly out of the car and strut\_step heeled with eye contact into the sheep pasture, without me asking her to, and then went to work.

It works. Stop jumping around. Stop trying to DO something to get the behaviour, simply decide that you don't go that way until you have contact.

## Hot Diggity Dog Reward Training Classes

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Jean Donaldson, author of The Culture Clash and Dogs Are From Neptune, directs The San Francisco SPCA's Academy for Dog Trainers. Jean Donaldson speaks frequently in the community about dog behavior, dog training, and evolution

## Jean Donaldson's Top 10 Dog Training Tips

1. Expect your dog to act like a dog. Don't take it personally when he exhibits typical canine behavior. He's not being "bad," he's just being a dog.
2. No more free lunch. "Dogs are happiest when they're exercising their predator skills," she says. "Make them work for their food, like stuffing it inside chew toys, hiding it around the house, or teaching them tricks for food rewards."
3. Start off "tight" and slack off later, rather than letting him run wild for the first few weeks and then clamping down when the behavior isn't so cute anymore.
4. Don't wait for him to develop bad habits, like chewing the furniture or urinating on the carpet, before you intervene. Assume this behavior is likely to happen, and act preemptively to manage it before it develops.
5. Supply your dog with acceptable outlets for his doggy behavior, rather than punishing it.
6. Don't lay guilt trips on your dog. "Dogs are neither moral nor immoral," she says. "They're amoral, meaning that they respond to what they understand to be the consequences of their behavior. So manipulate those consequences."
7. Get involved in organized dog sports or informal activities, such as agility, Flyball racing, tug\_of\_war, fetch, or a fun game of hide\_and\_seek.
8. Provide a wide variety of social interactions every day. "What's the worst punishment a person can get in prison?" says Donaldson. "Solitary confinement. Dogs are social animals, too."
9. If you have a puppy, handle him endlessly. And make it as pleasant an experience as possible, so he'll associate being handled with good feelings.
10. Enroll in a good training course.

### Whoever said...

You can't buy happiness forgot about little puppies

—Gene Hill

For more information on clicker training to help you learn this wonderful training method and philosophy, please refer to some (or all!) of the suggested reading below:

Don't Shoot The Dog - by Karen Pryor

Clicker Training for Dogs - by Karen Pryor

The Power of Positive Dog Training - by Pat Miller

Click For Joy - by Melissa Alexander

## DOWNNS are Easy to Capture!

Downs are Easy to Capture and you don't have to wander around all day with a clicker, waiting for the moment.

Take your dog, a clicker, treats, and a magazine into the bathroom. Remove the trash can, and anything else that might distract your dog. Shut the door and have a seat.

Now ignore your dog and read a magazine. **OR** put your dog on leash, sit down at the computer, put the end of the leash under your foot and read your e-mail or surf the net. Keep one eye on your dog. (NO staring at him)

Have the clicker and treats on hand.

Your dog will lie down within a minute or two. (maybe more, be patient) The second those elbows hit the floor, click and toss the treat AWAY from the dog so he has to get up to get the treat.

Then go back to reading your magazine, or computer stuff.

Your dog may stare holes at you or whine. **IGNORE** him! He'll get bored and lie down. **CLICK**—toss treat away a bit so he gets up to get it.

Repeat 10 times. Thus endth session one.

Repeat bathroom/computer sessions until dog is **ACTIVELY** offering the down to make you click. **That means you toss the treat, he jumps up and gets it, and then he plops back into a down immediately.**

You can now begin adding the cue/command at this point. As he **starts** to go down say the cue/command "Down"

Then start adding the cue sooner.

Then we need to change the picture: Do ten reps with you **standing** in the bathroom or by the computer, not sitting. Keep changing the picture by moving to different rooms, standing etc. Make it harder, try it outside. Always click and treat at this point for correct behavior.

## *What on Earth is Clicker Training? By Kim MacMillan*

A clicker is nothing more than a small strip of metal that is enclosed in a plastic box. When the metal is pressed, it produces a distinct "click-click" sound (Note: some modern clickers are made primarily of plastic without a large metal strip, but the effect and sound is still the same). There is nothing magical about this clicker, no special instructions that come with it. It's just a little tool that developed from a child's cricket toy many years ago. The magic of it all lies in what you can DO with this clicker. And with that question, an entire new world opens up before you. From house training to manners training, from agility training to work with people with special needs, the clicker has seen and done it all

The clicker works by acting as a marker to mark a moment in time that you wish to reinforce. **Basically it says "THAT moment right THERE is what I would like you to repeat!"** It is a clear and distinct sound. Unlike the human voice that babbles aimlessly throughout the day, both around and towards the dog (in which the dog struggles to determine what is "just babbling" and what is meant for him), with different fre-

quencies and tones, the clicker makes the same sound time after time, making a clear signal to the dog which is unmistakable as a marker.

Clicker training is a training method that works based on positive reinforcement - when the dog does something you like, you click the clicker and immediately give a reward. Dogs will naturally do what works - rewarded behaviours will be repeated. There is no force required, there is no pushing the dog into position. While these techniques certainly can and do work, these methods are not based on much learning for the dog - there is very little thought process involved in having its behind pressed to the floor to sit. However, using a clicker, the dog is actively engaged in the learning process. It is almost a two-way dance between you and the dog, both communicating together to achieve a finished product. It creates a creative, thinking dog who is willing to try all sorts of behaviours (often hilarious!) to learn what is it you want to teach. A clicker trained dog thrives on figuring out the next "trick" it can learn. Training is no longer a chore, but a game that you both take part in together.

A very popular question (and misconception) of clicker training is the concept that "clicker trained dogs need the clicker and treats for life". In reality, neither of these are true. A clicker is a training tool, simply used until the dog has learned the behaviour you wish. Once the dog has learned what you have intended, and you have put the behaviour on cue (with a word or hand signal, or both), the clicker can be put away and is not needed for that behaviour ever again. The same goes for treats. Once the behaviour is well learned (over many repetitions in many locations), you can begin to ask for more before you give a treat. Or, **you can use other forms of reinforcement, such as a quick game of tug or fetch, a chin scratch, or kisses and kind words.** Of course, one would probably not wish to phase out treats altogether, it's always nice to reinforce the behaviours you like every once in a while. After all, don't we all like to be rewarded for good behaviour now and then?



## *DOG Treats: LIVER BROWNIES*

1lb liver  
1 packet Lipton's soup \_ any flavor (THE DRY SOUP MIXES \_ beefy onion, onion, onion mushroom)  
2 eggs  
3 cups oatmeal  
1 tsp crushed garlic (from a bottle)

.Puree liver in blender. BE CAREFUL. It gets wrapped around the blade and can ruin the motor. Add eggs. Add soup and garlic. Blend some more. Dump in bowl. Add oatmeal. Mix thoroughly. Grease big pan. . Pour mixture in pan and

spread around til it's the thickness of brownies. Bake 1 hour at 250 \_ 300\*. Cut immediately (use a pizza cutter \_ works great) and freeze in brownie sizes  
Colleen Meacham

### Crate and Confinement Training Points

- Begin crate training-first day home
- Practice puppy going in for small , tasty treats
- When puppy comfortable going in, practice waiting a few seconds inside before getting treat-then practice closing door
- Gradually extend time in crate to 10 minutes with door opened and closed
- Put crate next to a sofa, rent DVD and keep puppy in crate next to you while he works on stuffed Kongs and other chewies
- Put puppy in crate with chewies while your home going about routine-visit puppy at crate every 5-10 minutes to reassure
- Start leaving puppy alone in crate-the first few times you do this, he should **be tired** (just exercised) the time should be **short (15 to 30 minutes)** and he should have a good chewie
- Get pup out to eliminate as soon as you come home after an absence

# Hot Diggity Dog-Reward Training

Training at:  
**Central Bark  
Doggy Day Care**  
1910 Mirro Drive  
Manitowoc, WI. 54220

Phone: Chris DuBois: 755-2568

Phone: Kay Baum: 553-3939

Email: Dogtrainer@tm.net or kbaum@lakefield.net

Welcome to Hot Diggity Dog- Reward Training in Manitowoc County where dogs and owners can build a great relationship while learning how to communicate in a clear and fun way.

Our training program is based on this statement.  
"Behavior that is rewarded is repeated."

We use a clicker to mark and shape the correct behaviors and reinforcement (reward) to strengthen the new behaviors. (Positive does not mean permissive!)  
Using this method produces a happy, willing, thinking dog in partnership with the handler.

WERE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.HOTDIGGITYDOGREWARDTRAINING.COM

## Positive Not Permissive!

### What age does canine adolescence hit and how long does it last?



It generally starts around 7 months of age -- though I've seen it hit as early as 5 months.

It technically lasts until adulthood, which is somewhere between 3 and 4 years of age.

So, in summary:

7-10 months, early adolescence.

This is the hardest period of adolescence. No brain. If intact, huge amounts of hormones. The honeymoon of childhood is over! This is usually the time when temperament defects start to rear their ugly heads. Some dogs become very reactive in this time, and within a pack, social issues may emerge.

11 months-3 years, adolescence.

Lots of change during this long period. He goes from an emotional, underdeveloped 12 year old to a gawky teen to a young adult. The "no brain" periods gradually become less and less. However, with physical maturity also comes social maturity, and you can see a lot of "issues" that coincide with growth spurts.

A lot of aggression rears its heads for the first time during the early part of this stage, from roughly 12-18 months. 3+ years, adulthood. Hormones level off. Growth stops.

Dogs reach physical maturity somewhere between three and four years of age. Some never reach mental

maturity. ;-) Others calm down and sober up quite a bit during these years.

Rate of aging beyond this varies greatly from breed to breed.

Adolescence is actually a very cool time, biologically.

During adolescence (of social mammals), the brain goes through MASSIVE changes. The cerebral cortex becomes a leaner, meaner thinking machine. During the period where it does all this new myelinization, however, it's not a very efficient thinking machine. That's why adolescents can think one minute and not the next. Worse, what happens is that the signals that should go to the cerebral cortex get rerouted directly through the limbic system, so you get a completely off-the-wall emotional response.

"Please take out the garbage."

"You hate me!! You'd never ask that if you understood me!"

You never listen!

I hate you and never want to see you again!!!!!!"

Ask a human teenager later why he responded that way, and he'll say, "I don't know" -- and he DOESN'T. He had no control of those sudden emotions. It was a complete brain fart. Intact

creatures also have hormones coursing through their bodies at this point, exacerbating the issue. Male dogs have an especially hard time because their level of testosterone in early adolescence can be two to three times the normal adult amount (and I believe they're the only species where that happens). Anyway, **adolescence in dogs is worst from roughly seven to ten months, and then gradually improves until adulthood at sometime between three and four years.** The overall path of "improvement" is linear -- he'll be a different dog at two years than he is at 18 months -- but on a day to day basis, it's a crap shoot. Your dog may have a brain, or he may not. On days he doesn't, don't take it personally. He's not being stubborn -- he truly can't think. Just make things simple. With a human teen, that's when you give a written list instead of a verbal one! Or take a day off and give him both a chance to process and a chance to, maybe, have a... er, lucid, moment. Written by ,  
**Melissa Alexander**



