



HOUND SCHOOL



Summer newsletter

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Summer 2010

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SUMMER TIPS

Carry water with you at all times when you are out with your dog and make sure water is freely available when your dog is in the car, no matter how dull the weather is.

Beware of ponds especially in built up areas. They can contain blue green algae, which can cause skin and digestion problems and there may be hidden hazards in deep water.

If you are tempted to let your dog have a dip in very hot weather, be aware that it may cause a shock to your dogs system. If your dog is really hot and the water is cold it could cause a severe reaction to your dog's metabolic system.

Heat stroke is very possible on a hot day, particularly if your dog is a greyhound. We can wear hats and walk in the shade when hot, but dogs who are really pleased to see their friends and be out in the countryside will often not exhibit symptoms of heat stroke until it is too late.

Never chance leaving your dog in a hot car

GARDENS FOR DOGS

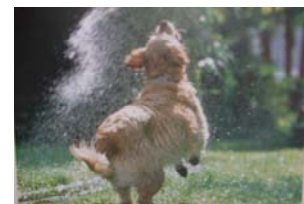
Summer is a great time to enjoy your dog. Dogs enjoy spending time outside just like we do. Make sure that you are aware of the following facts;

Plants of the nightshade family are poisonous to dogs, so make sure if you have them in the garden that they are kept away from your dog, and that they have a suitable barrier around them. These plants include aubergines (eggplants) tomatoes and potatoes.

Avoid cocoa mulches. They are really dangerous for your dog, and are very attractive as they are sweet smelling. This type of mulch contains theobromine and is as dangerous as leaving chocolate lying around your garden.

Do not use snail bait containing metaldehyde; it is highly poisonous to dogs.

Your dog would love his own pit to dig in! This will discourage him from digging up the rest of your garden, and need not be expensive to put in. (Your dog doesn't need anything very exotic). Pick a shady area to place it in, and he will love being able to dig (without being told) off and your flower beds will be undisturbed and flourish!



The Great British Greyhound Walk

On the 20th June the first ever nationwide Greyhound walk was held. Its aim was to promote greyhounds and to get the message across about how great greyhounds are as pets. Many have led busy racing careers and after they retire all they require is a very soft bed, and a bowl of food. Walking is easy too; they only need a 20 minute walk twice a day- that is if you can convince one to climb out of bed!

Walks were organised from Chelmsford to Cornwall to Cumbria and the final national total was 1,639 dogs walked at 10.00 am exactly! For more details of this walk and regular social walks for greyhounds and lurchers go to www.greyhoundwalks.org.uk

My dog is “aggressive” when he meets other dogs, what should I do?

Socialisation should not stop when your dog becomes an adult. It is not enough to spend time working on socialisation when your dog is a puppy and then expect him to retain his skills. Socialisation does not always go well when your dog is young, and often your young dog will have some sort of incident. These bad experiences when your dog is young have a habit of returning to become problems as the dog gets older. You may not be aware of such an “incident” but if your dog is reacting with animosity towards other dogs, then he probably has bad memories of something in the past. Also, sometimes bitches alter their tolerance levels towards other dogs after their first season. Whatever the trigger for these problems any “over reaction” around other dogs (i.e. barking and growling) aims to keep other dogs away. If you recognise this in your dog, please be aware that your dog is not aggressive, but he is defensive and worried, and it is your job to help with this situation.

The best way of going about resolving this problem is **not** to tell your dog off for “bad” behaviour, you will only further dent his confidence, and do not under any circumstances force your dog to meet and greet any dogs he is uncertain of. (You can monitor this by watching his body language). If constantly put him in this situation your dog will become more defensive and he is likely to stop using his calming signals (yes, your dog **is** communicating by barking and growling) which may ultimately result in him biting another dog.

Do though, steer your dog away from dogs he does not like, and find a confident and calming dog to walk with who will teach your dog to become more relaxed and help him to calm himself around any dogs he meets. This will help teach him better social skills. Keep to quiet areas to begin with, and avoid visiting busy areas until he is strolling peacefully and without sharp short movements which characterise these types of problems.

Hound School can help with socialising and help to resolve all kinds of training issues. Please call for further details.

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The Bowen Technique

What is it?

It is a non invasive, hands on therapy, which can help relieve pain stiffness and injury in people and their dogs. It has also been used to great effect for people who suffer with hayfever.

What type of conditions can it help?

Bowen treats the whole body, not just named conditions. It can help to alleviate a wide range of conditions and symptoms. These include joint pain and stiffness, breathing difficulties and sports injuries.

To find out more about Bowen therapy for yourself, or your dog please contact Pennie at info@horseandhoundschool.co.uk

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What's available?

Social walks-social walks can help build confidence in dogs that are nervous around other dogs or people. They can also improve your own handling skills, and cover subjects including dog on dog interactions, problem solving and mental stimulation

1-1 training sessions these can be booked at times that suit you including some evenings and weekend appointments. No travelling is involved as I come to you. These are ideal for people whose lifestyles and commitments mean that attending classes is difficult.

Classes and workshops regular short courses and classes are run in Dartford. The aim is to provide help for very specific problems that you may be having with your dog. Classes include getting your dogs recall up to scratch, tackling the problems of pulling on lead. Also dog activity classes -these are designed specifically to help you understand just how important mental stimulation is for your dog. The maximum number of dogs in any class is 3 to provide quality training and help. Please see website for forthcoming classes.