

Introducing Your New Dog into Your Home

Some information from Cesar's Way (Cesar Milan)

For kids, moving to a new school, is an exciting time for a child. It means new teachers, new friends, and an entirely new place. It can be intimidating as well. That's why, behind the scenes, parents and teachers work to make the transition as easy as possible for the kids. There are orientation meetings, school tours, and lots of instructions and information. But there's one life event that people forget to plan out in advance, at least for the most important participant. I'm talking, of course, about bringing a [new dog](#) into your pack.

Luckily, this isn't something that most people do without any planning — except maybe in the case of bringing in a stray off the street. Before you adopt the dog, you probably have at least a [bed](#), [food and treats](#), [bowls for food and water](#), a [leash and collar](#), and maybe some [toys](#).

If you've been very conscientious, you've probably already arranged for the first vet appointment, and maybe you've even talked to the entire household to establish rules about the dog — who does the feeding and walking, where the dog is and isn't allowed, and so on.

So the big day comes when you pick up the dog. Everybody is excited and happy as you drive home, and you all come bounding up the [walk](#), throw open the front door and let the dog off-leash and inside...

And you've just planted the seed for a lot of future issues. In human terms, you've unleashed a juvenile delinquent.

Just as we orient kids going into middle or high school, teach them the rules, and answer their questions, we have to do the same thing for our dogs. Unfortunately, we can't give dogs a rulebook and a pat on the head and say, "Read this. It will explain everything."

The message you send to your dog the moment she enters your home for the first time is critical, because it immediately establishes the ground rules in your dog's mind. If you just let her run in the door, the message is, "Here! Everything is yours, and you can do what you want."

By opening that door, you have told your dog, "There are no rules, boundaries or limitations." You know where that goes: She eats shoes, won't be housebroken, constantly begs, climbs on the furniture, jumps on people... And then you visit my website trying to find out what is "wrong" with your new dog!

The process of bringing your new dog into the home for the first time should be very deliberate and specific. Here are the eight essential steps:

1. Remain Calm

When you pick the dog up, everyone must remain calm. It can be tempting to greet the new family member with excitement, but this is not the time to do it. Accept the dog into your space, but do not give more than a minimum of attention or [affection](#) yet. You're about to remove the dog from a place that's become familiar and take her to somewhere entirely new. **And remember: This step must remain in effect through the entire process.**

2. Take a Long Walk

When you get home, keep your dog on the leash, because you're now going to go on a long walk through her new neighborhood. This serves two purposes: It will help drain her excess energy and bring her to a calm state, and it will get her used to the new smells, sights, and sounds.

3. Introduce Your Home

After the walk, keep your dog on the leash for a proper introduction to the new pack den — your house, apartment, condo, etc. Bring the dog to the front door, but do not let her enter first. If you can, get her to sit or lie down as you open the door. Then, you enter first, not allowing her to follow until you invite her in.

4. Take the Tour

Once inside, keep your dog on the leash and lead her from room to room. Do not let her sniff or wander around. Use the leash to keep her at your side. Spend a little time in each room before moving on to the next, and make sure each time *you* go first into the next room. Do not let the dog follow you into the next room until you give permission. If you have a backyard, patio, or other outside area, treat it the same way.

5. Remain Calm

During the tour, don't say very much and use only body language or simple sounds, like "Tsch!" or a finger snap, to communicate. Your dog is overwhelmed right now, so the less stimulation, the better. This will help keep her focused on you.

6. The Dog's Place, Part 1

Once you've completed the tour, bring the dog to the place where the food and water will be and offer a reward with some water and a few bits of food (but not a whole bowl yet; your dog is still on her leash, remember?)

7. The Dog's Place, Part 2

Likewise, if you have a special place you'd like the dog to stay when she needs to be out of the way of household activities, take her there. This is where you can finally let her off-leash. That place can be where her bed is, or a spot in the corner of the living room where you want her to lie, or her crate. By letting her off the leash here, you are telling her, "This is yours." Don't be surprised if she immediately decides to settle down and ignore the family for a while. This doesn't mean she hates her new home. It means that she has found her place in it.

8. Act Naturally

Once you've completed the above process, go through the rest of your day as you normally would. This also applies to the entire pack. You can acknowledge the dog if she joins you, of course, but don't go overboard with affection yet. Just as you're still getting used to her in the house, she's getting used to being in her new house. You've gone a long way already toward teaching her that this is your territory and you make the rules. Now, she's going to observe so she can figure out what the rules are, and who's who in her new pack.

And now the fun and fulfillment of having a dog in the family begins. If you've gone through these eight steps, you will have claimed your territory, allowed your dog into it, and established who the pack leaders are.

If you have other pets in the home, the process is similar although more complicated — but that's a subject for another article.

So there you have it — the essential steps to bringing a new dog into your home. Follow these and, congratulations! Instead of a juvenile delinquent, you're on the way to having a valedictorian.

Read more: <http://www.cesarsway.com/the-scoop/cesars-blog/Eight-Essential-Steps#ixzz2wAshMwJc>

If you met with the person that fostered your dog before you adopted, please don't hesitate to reach out to them on the HSCC Dog Foster/FTA Facebook Group page. They know your dog and are so helpful at helping you through this transition period.

We also have training every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at the shelter to help you learn to leash walk and socialize your dog. This is an invaluable class for you to attend. Every 6 weeks, a new 6 week training class occurs, just ask the HSCC staff for the next date of the 6 week paid class which starts Sundays @ 10:00.

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DOG BEHAVIOR



Understanding Dog Aggression

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By [Cesar Millan](#)

Dog [aggression](#) is a major dog problem for owners. I want to help you understand the causes of dog aggression, so you can overcome this dog problem. Dog aggression stems from the dog's frustration and dominance. The dog's frustration comes from a lack of dog [exercise](#), and the dog's dominance comes from a lack of calm-assertive leadership.



Breed and Dog Aggression

I deal with a lot of red zone dog behavior cases, and I often hear people incorrectly blaming the [breed](#). Any breed can cause trouble. The difference between an [aggressive Chihuahua](#) and an aggressive [pit bull](#) is that the bigger breeds can cause proportionately bigger damage.

It is important to recognize the power of a strong breed, like the pit bull, the Cane Corso, and the Mastiff. These dogs are very powerful and, if they are unbalanced, they can cause serious injury. Remember, these dogs don't dream of being in the news when they grow up. Bad dog behavior and dog problems are not premeditated. Bad things happen when powerful breeds (or mixes of powerful breeds) live with humans who like the breed but don't understand and [fulfill](#) the animal in the dog. Many people consider the look or popularity of a breed before thinking about whether the dog works for their lifestyle. This is a [recipe](#) for disaster.

To control a powerful breed of dog, you need to become the dog's [pack](#) leader and establish rules, boundaries, and limitations. You need to fulfill the dog as Nature intended the dog to be fulfilled. If you are considering adopting a powerful breed, make sure you are willing and able to take on the responsibility.

Fear and Aggressive Dogs

For many [fear](#) and aggressive dogs, it is a lack of adequate dog exercise that is the root of the dog problem behavior. Dog exercise burns the dog's excess energy and helps maintain the dog's healthy state of mind. This is important because, in order to talk to the mind, you need to remove the energy from the body.

Dog on Dog Aggression

With dog on dog aggression, your dogs are asking you to step up as the pack leader. Animals select pack leaders because they instinctually know who is strong and who can best lead them. An animal pack leader is concerned for the pack, not for himself. His natural instincts are protection and direction for the entire pack. It's an unselfish role and an instinctual role. And in return, the pack completely trusts the pack leader. You need to [earn](#) your dogs' trust, loyalty, and respect before the dogs will look to you as their leader and you do this by giving them rules, boundaries, and limitations.

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Once your dogs see you as their pack leader, the dog on dog aggression will stop as they stop fighting for dominance because you will be their calm-assertive pack leader.

Red Zone Dogs

It is important to understand that red zone dogs are usually frustrated dogs. To control a powerful breed, you need to master the position of pack leader. The sheer size and strength of a pit bull, Mastiff, Cane Corso, Rottweiler, or any other large dog can quickly transform a frustrated and dominant animal into a serious threat. You must gain control of the situation and dog behavior before it escalates.

When dealing with red zone dogs, I [start](#) by working with the owners, explaining how to establish themselves as the pack leader and to understand the animal in their dog. This is a crucial part of rehabilitating your dog and overcoming dog problems: changing YOUR behavior. If you revert to your old ways, so will your dog.

How have you changed your behavior to rehabilitate your dog? Tell it all in the comments below.

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**Bessie Saksanian** 18 hours ago

My name is Bessie and I really appreciate to receive any help. In our house we love the animals and nowadays we have 5 dogs and 17 cats. Some years ago, my husband and I decided do no have children and our pets is our great responsibility. The cats 14 has a beautiful and big place to live , 3 of them stay free at home and in the garden. We have cats from 1 year to about 16 years old . Regarding the dogs, we used to have 4 dogs SARAH /labrador which has 13 years old , her daughter PANDA /labrador with 11, VITORIA / labrador+other unknown origin with 12 and PITY a small and beautiful "unknown origin". All the animals live in peace. Now, my best friend asked me to adopt his dog . She is POLI , a labrador with 7 years. She already stayed with us during two holidays of my friend's family. IN that time, it was about 2 weeks each one, we have some problems with aggression between POLI and PANDA and POLI and VITORIA but we figure out also because was temporary. I could not say no to my friend and I adopted POLI but now, I have some problems with aggression from POLI . I will talk a little bit about her. She is a very nice dog and on the first day she was not happy, probably because she was looking for my friend. During these period, I stayed with her as much as I could and also walk with her and one more one dog on the street. In these time, we do not have any kind of problem. The problem I am having is , when I or my husband are near with the dogs, she became aggressive with some dog (now, I think Vitoria is the bullied dog) . Poli attack Vitoria suddenly . I mean, when they are alone, no problem. But in the presence of a human, POLI became aggressive. My question and I really need your help , is what I have to do to make Poli understand that we are her family now and it is not nice to fight. I am really worried since I do not want any animal or human hurted. Appreciate your help and many thanks in advance.

Bessie

[Reply](#)0 **Maria Muller** 2 days ago

We have a 1 year old mini dachshund named Pickles that is loving and affectionate to us but has bitten 4 of our visitors already. We don't know how to get this in check. We have tried training from our local pet smart but Pickles seems to get worse as time goes on. He went after my 3 year old nephew and recently bit an adult that came into our home. although he is a 10 lb dog it still is very frustrating

[Reply](#)0 **Angela Vinson Matousek** 3 days ago

I have two year old pit mix. We left her with a friend to go on vacation. Our friend has 3 dogs that my dog has stayed with before. This time she began to be aggressive if one of the dogs went near her bed or food bowl. Then she began being protective of all the food bowls and would bark and nip at the others. I dont understand why she began this behavior and how to stop it.

[Reply](#)[1 reply](#)0 **Shannon Dippold** 2 days ago

My pit mix also started doing this, it only started after she came down with parvo, but after she got sick she became a different dog she became very hyper & somewhat aggressive in certain situations especially over food & it's only on rare occasions but I would like to figure out why this happens & how to change her behavior I've tried everything that I could possibly try

[Reply](#)0 **Tracy Collins-McMehan** 3 days ago

I have a Pitt/lab mix, male about 2-3yrs old. A very sweet rescue dog. He was obviously abused, he DOES NOT like men although he is ok with my boyfriend, he will growl and bark at most dogs and men. I've only had him a week and I already see a change, and he does listen to me, walks on a leash, follows commands, is wonderful with my 3yr old grandson who actually puts treats right in his mouth. I would like to be able to socialize him with other animals and men without having to muzzle him as I do not like doing that and I think it may scare him. Any advice is greatly appreciated.

[Reply](#)0 **Mit Rajput** 4 days ago

My dog (black Lab female) was very hyper active when she was young. She doesnt have any aggression issue but once when our door was left open mistakenly, she ran outside. But Cesar as i have been watching your videos , shows and reading books since long I took that accident as a teaching my dog that door open means just door open. i bring her from neighbour hood calmly but assertively and again i made same situation keep that door open and made her sit in front of door and i standing assertively in front of her....she had tried little bit though by getting up and come towards door but i assertively m ade sound Shhhhhhh.....she got it.. and again set in front of open door and after few mins she laydown in front of open door.. thats it....i come inside the room keep that door open and set on the sofa...now she never even think of runing outside....

[Reply](#)0 **Vincent Viola** 4 days ago

My Dog Gets Aggressive Towards Strangers. The following video shows the level of obedience my dog has:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iKr-nm76YA>

I exercise him just as you say in your Cesars Way books. He runs or walks about 3 miles a day if not more. I even bike him along side of me. Sometimes I feel this had conditioned him to a point of being even more athletic as his recovery time and the usefulness of exercising him decreases. Normally this would be great but as an already hyper fear aggressive dog its not enough to calm him anymore. He earns all of his Food and gets no negative attention. However with complete strangers he gets violently aggressive. If i have the chance to work with Individuals in about 5-10 minutes I can get him to be friendly. The problem being most people don't want to come near him in that state. Another being the constant fear of him getting loose.

It is extremely frustrating to have a dog that listens to my every command, has a will and ability to learn yet is still fearful of strangers.

Hope you can help, Thanks,
Vinny

[Reply](#)0 **Danni Clark** 4 days ago

I'm not sure if this is going to help at all. I have a 1 year old Rottweiler, he's a sweet dog and really playful. He's never been super aggressive just a little growl if you touch his bone. There's only one person he really doesn't like and we have no idea why, he physically tries to lunge and bite at my dad's best friend. We thought it was because of fear but we're not sure. He's never been aggressive to any one else. Yesterday I was taking my dog

for a walk and this woman was "power walking" and got real close to me and he bit her. He's never votten anyone. I realize it was my fault because I should have crossed the street when I saw her. I just don't understand why he did it. Then that same day my friends came over and help tried to bite her. I'm just very confused about it. He smiled been around babies and never once was aggressive around my little nieces, and lots of other people. I don't understand why he said suddenly like this. I'm afraid to take him for walks or for others to come in my yard. I don't know what to do. I need help. He is my best friend and I don't wantt him hurting other. I just need some advice.

[Reply](#) [1 reply](#) 0



Danni Clark 4 days ago

I didn't mean smiled been around babies. I meant been around babies.

[Reply](#) 0



Patti Knowles 4 days ago

All of your advice is great but it doesn't work. My American/Pitt is deaf with OCD and anxiety issues. She gets regular exercise so that's not the problem. She only trusts her pack any animal or human not in her pack is instantly met with aggression. We've tried everything.

[Reply](#) 0



Norman Wilcox 4 days ago

Cesar, our 11 lb rescue loves to be close to us, preferably on our laps or side by side. We also love being close to her. When we are eating or busy, she follows her direction to remain in her cage. Most times when either of us says 'up' she quickly jumps into our lap but on some occasions she just stares at us (sometimes 1 person, other times both) as if she is having a brain freeze or can't hear us. We know she wants up but are dismayed at her inaction. Now after 2 times telling her 'up' I ignore her & she finally lays down at our feet or I send her back to her cage. Very confusing to me. Any ideas? Thank you, Katie

[Reply](#) 0



Gabriela Gonzalez Zurutuza 4 days ago

Cesar, tengo una perrita schnauzer criolla de 2 años y traté de adoptar una cachorra salchicha para que tuviera compañía, pero la atacó y le mordió la cola. Así que la regresé.

No es la primera vez que muerde y ahora la sacamos a pasear con bosal.

Es una excelente perrita, muy bien portada y obedece, pero cuando hay otros animales o desconocidos, se pone como fiera.

Que puedo hacer?

[Reply](#) 0



Michele Shoemaker 4 days ago

I believe your correct above in most cases but I have another that is a little different. Mari is a 2 yr old Shepherd who was in a rescue foster home who needed to have her move on to another foster but one could not be found. While looking at the dogs the rescue posted on FB I was Mari and fell in love with her face and eye that talked to me.

There was alot unknown about Mari and even more about her physical and medical conditions. But like most dogs Mari bonded to me within hours and now is my Velcro dog. She looks to me as her leaader and you can see the love in her eyes that she feel for me. BUT Mari does not trust any other humans or those that get to close to me or the other dogs in my rescue mostly tiny dogs. She does well with dogs but does trust other human male or female but seems to like children.

Mari is also a PICA dog, and not from a chemical inbalancement but from a Mental inbalancement. So we have very few toys, small items and differmently no clothes in her reach, I have already had the pleasure of 2 surgery's and stomach pumpings. She runs and plays at home and goes to work with me alot to and is put in open situations with other humans alot and is fine unless they talk or try to communicate with her.

I want to take Mari everywhere with me work on Canine Citizen and Service dogs but I need to know if there is a way to break threw to her. She must have been abused or scared to death by her reactions. Ps she also loves to be crated when not with me.

Michele

[Reply](#) 0



Diane Farah 4 days ago

Thank you Cesar I have a Chorkie, 4yr old female who bites the shoes and pants leg of my son and grandson when they come to visit....they are very tall, my son is 38 and my grandson 23 and I think she is afraid they will step on her. She is very tiny about 2 lbs. We are in Wisconsin so it has been a very long winter for these little guys as well as their humans. Cant wait for summer....

[Reply](#) 0



Donna 4 days ago

I have a 13 year old very passive Shepard and a 4 year old husky. they are best friends 2 years ago we got a rescued pitt mix from an area shelter they were going to put him down. he is wonderful and sweet with us but very shy and nervous around people he don't know. he has gotten into 2 little spats with my husky and they seem to pretty much ignore each other. but everytime he sees or hears my Shepard he attacks viciously we have to keep those two completely separate at all times. they shepard does nothing and the pitt is not provoked in any way. WHY IS HE DOING THIS!! we have tried everything even a mussel but he growls and tries to attack and sense the shepard is 10 we cant let that even for a second. I don't know what to do.

[Reply](#) [1 reply](#) 0



Donna 4 days ago

I meant the shepard is 13 sorry.

[Reply](#) 0



La Rezvani 4 days ago

Tengo una perrita san bernardo de casi 2 años que es lo mas tierna que hay y es muy apegada a mi ahi es donde creo que surge el problema because whenever I have friends over at my house ella se pone agresiva y quiere morder y siempre se les tira at their shoes but this is only when they get too close to me. When I tell her not to dont hat she stops and get straight next to me and then she wont move from my side y si se vuelve acercar ella vuelve a morder...

[Reply](#) [1 reply](#) 0

La Rezvani 4 days ago

****when I tell her not to do that****

Reply

0



Gaby Minotti 4 days ago

tengo un dálmata de 2 años y 1/2 es sordo y se pone agresivo si viene gente a casa que no conoce, si esa persona esta varios días conviviendo con él y a base de reglas que le pongo para que la vaya conociendo, se va adaptando a la persona, le va tomando confianza, pero es la minoría de las veces que puedo hacer eso, porque la mayoría esta x algunas horas nada más

Reply

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stephanie little 4 days ago

I have an aggressive Boxer who is so aggressive I have to walk him on a leash inside my fence so he doesn't harm anyone. How do you exercise a dog who is so aggressive it's not safe to take him in public or even let him off leash in my fence because he jumps it to go after people?? He goes to doggy daycare and plays well with all other dogs. He has adjusted to the people at his daycare and does ok with them. Taking him to the vet (which I work at) is very scary for all involved. In fact the last time I never actually got the vet to look at him because it was just too dangerous even with a muzzle. I took him to a trainer who said he had no soul and there was nothing I could do for him. If there are no trainers in my area then what do you do?? I don't know how to fix the problem. I've worked at vet clinic for 12 years and have seen very few dogs as bad as mine. He does mind to some degree but when he is staring someone in the eyes growling and waiting for an opportunity to attack I can divert his attention for only so long. I've written to Cesar before with no luck. I'm at a loss I won't euthanize him even though that's what everyone says to do. Very frustrating.

Reply

[3 replies](#)

0



Brian Silvers 4 days ago

Have you thought about recording your dogs behavior and posting it to youtube, you can restrict access to it and only allow certain people to see it. Maybe if you can video your dog in different settings maybe Cesar or someone can give you advice/help.

Reply

[1 reply](#)

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Christel Stappers 4 days ago

A dog ALWAYS has a soul. A person claiming that, just shows a lack of knowledge and a too large ego. My question to You would be: Do You still believe in Your dog? If the answer is no, euthanize him. However if the answer is yes, use that believe and reclaim Your place as his pack leader. It might take some time and a lot of effort, but the result will be beyond dreamable. Wish You lots of courage.

Reply

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Jacques Brodeur 4 days ago

Hi Stehganie, I read your letter and would like to make some suggestions to help you and your dog. In fact, I don't know what the dog trainer has worked on but if he worked on obedience, he was wrong because this is a clear case of a dog affected by stimulus, which means that if this issue is not overcome, obedience training is useless.

In your case, you don't walk him because you feel he is too dangerous and keeping him inside builds up his frustration. You are right in the middle of a vicious circle. When you have a problem, the only way to solve it is to face it. One thing you can do is lowering his energy level before going for a walk playing ball or whatever other intense activity he likes. If you own a treadmill you can train him to walk on it and then take him to the street. If the strength of your dog is also an issue for you, I recommend you use a pin choker. I know many people are against this tool but if used properly it allows you to control your dog with a lot of facility without causing physical damage. My suggestion in this case is to use two collars, one of them with pins and a short leash for this one. You must not pull strongly or give it a blow. When your dog shows bad behavior, you gently pull upwards and the dog calms down right away. It allows you to talk calmly to your dog and get a proper response from his part. A woman I know used it with her pitbull. She is 63 and couldn't walk her dog because he was so anxious that he made her fall while pulling. With the pinchoker, she succeeded walking her dog and lowering his level of anxiety. Between two bad things, select the one that results best.

I don't know either if you can run or roller skate but when a dog is in a high level physical effort, he tends to concentrate on what he is doing and is much less attracted by what is going on around him.

I hope this can help you and I wish you the best of luck.

Reply

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Gill Barker 4 days ago

My 6 month old English Bull Terrier shows aggression towards my othe dogs around food i have to feed them seperately

Reply

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Heather Vaughan 4 days ago

I have a miniature poodle, who's behavior us so bad that we are afraid we might have to get rid of her. She use to be a sweet dog. She is 3 years old. But in the last 3 months she has gotten extremely dangerous. She growls aggressively at use with teeth showing. She is suppose to be my daughter's dog, she wanted adgdog so bad because she is an only child and no children her age live around us. But last night was the kicker my daughter walked by her to go into the kitchen and the dog chased her out aggressively while trying to bit her and showing teeth. My daughter who is 13 was so scared she ran for her life and jumped on the furniture to get away from the dog, this broke my daughter's heart and ours. We have tried lots of the different Ceasar methods but nothing is working.

Reply

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Bill Pomakoy 5 days ago

I have a 10 year old yellow lab who is the alpha dog and an 8 year old lab mix who has always been submissive except when there are other dogs around. Sometimes he will show aggression toward the alpha when there are other dogs around. In the past few weeks, he has been showing aggressive behavior toward the 10 year old. I know that when some alpha dogs get older another dog can take over the position and the 10 year old seems OK with that, but we can't seem to stop the aggressive behavior of the 8 year old. He'll walk by while the yellow is resting and attack. Any ideas?

[Reply](#) 0



Jeremiah Trout 5 days ago

Cesar. Thanks for the info on dog aggression. We have a blue nose lot pup. About 1-4 mo old. And he gets aggressive toward our other dogs usually allways when we are preparing a meal. I am going to start walking him on a daily and see if burning his excess energy helps the situation. Will post with progress thanks again.

[Reply](#) 0



Victoria Pulliam 6 days ago

Hello, I have a blue pit name Sapphire, shes wonderful and very sweet. (i think she may be autistic or something because she has a hard time focusing) but i got her at 4 months and she never really had a chance to socialize and now shes 2 and is starting to bark / growl at dogs and sometimes people, shes doesn't like men, and i think elder people. If i may ask, could you give me any hints or words of advice or possibly what to do, i don't plan on training dogs but i do train mine and i don't want her to be taken away... oh one last thing how can i keep the other two (puggles) from running out of the yard?? ~Victoria

[Reply](#) 0



Rebecca Alvarado 6 days ago

I forgot to say that she's a tiny chihuahua. So of course she's going to think she as big as a lion.

[Reply](#) 0



Rebecca Alvarado 6 days ago

I have a dog and we adopted her at a really young age. She never got to spend anytime with her brother because he was the runt and very sick. We'll, now she's dog aggressive with the neighbors dogs. Now we want another dog soon and we don't know how to control her dog aggression. Can you give me some pointers?

[Reply](#) 0



Patricia 7 days ago

January 1, 2013 @9:30 pm my husband and I found a pit bull roaming the street of our neighborhood. Our first reaction was fear that this dog would attack us, but we were in our van, so we were safe. She is beautiful, I thought. Her Tan coat, her tan eyes to match. She looked at me with such sweetness, I opened our sliding van door and she jumped right in and laid down and it seemed like she felt she had found her place. We brought her home and she ate, drank and laid in my sons laps and napped. We all fell in love with her, except my husband & our 6yr old JACK RUSSEL Lola. After many efforts, we found no previous owner. Our concern was her past but her loving demeanor erased any fears we had. We named her Sweetie and THAT' she was. Sweetie was untrained but we signed her up for courses and she learned like a champ. Her instructor were proud as we were. Everyone that met her said "HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE LOOKS". I've not seen another like her. My kids lay on her comfortably, hug her and give her kisses & Sweetie greatly accepts them. My family tells me how much Sweetie is like me (my twin they call her). I love her greatly.

Yesterday, I saw Sweetie attack Lola. It wasn't the first time but it was the worst. Sweetie bit a piece of Lola's ear off. I couldn't get Sweetie off. I kicked her, tried pulling her off. Sweetie wouldn't let go Not even pouring water could get her off. My husband is the pack leader & Sweetie let go & coward when she saw him. Sweetie face looked like I never seen her and all the love turned to anger & confusion. For 1-1/2 yrs she had love & training but none of that mattered and I realized that she, above anything, is still an animal that lives by her instincts. As I read articles on which path to take next & as I write this comment, I cry ,so I still love her but I do know we cant keep her. I want as many people to know about What a beautiful Pit bull we had, even if it was only for 1-1/2yrs.

[Reply](#) [1 reply](#) 0



Terrir 6 days ago

So very sorry to hear that Patricia. May you be comforted by the year you had together with her. Maybe the trainer can rehome her to a place with no other animals?

[Reply](#) 0



Lee Brucato 7 days ago

I took my very very high energy dog to an indoor dog park to play. One dog bit her twice on two different occasions. This was about 3 weeks ago. Now she is very aggressive toward other dogs of any threat to her (larger, or just dominant). She does not act afraid, but I am guessing this is why she is acting like this. I keep trying to socialize her, but I do not know what to do! PLEASE HELP!!!!!!

[Reply](#) [2 replies](#) 0



Patricia 7 days ago

If you haven't enrolled her in GOOD dog training classes, I greatly suggest you do that. At least through intermediate courses. Our Sweetie was the same way and changed immensely. We put a snout strap and the dog trainer we had as able to get her obey. what city and state are you in?

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Bec E 4 days ago

Didn't you just post above that your dog is aggressive and you are getting rid of it?

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