

## MULTI DOGS PART II

### TRAINING TWO OR MORE DOGS

- Collective noun
  - Remember that dogs do not know who you're talking to unless you tell them
  - Train apart
  - Train together
  - Train apart

### TOGETHERNESS IN PUBLIC AREAS

- Families in dog parks
  - Often do not go together!
    - Dog families have a tendency to pack up
    - They can harass other dogs or
    - Try to save each other from harassment
  - Do not go to dog parks if your dogs pack up on other dogs...or split the dogs up before hand

## MULTI-DOG WALKING

- Dogs who are normally neutral to friendly can often be pretty obnoxious when they are walked together
- Make sure your dogs follow you and do not set up their own independent pack...or use each other to gain courage
  - Dogs who might avoid when alone will often become very obnoxious when with friends
- Splitting dogs up is often a good idea

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## OFF LEASH WALKING

- Walking off leash is a serious responsibility, which can impact other people and other dogs
  - Your dog
    - Should listen to you
    - And follow your lead



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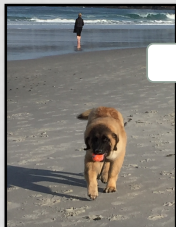
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## BASIC SKILLS

**Polite Walking -  
on and off leash**



**Sit or Down Stay**

**Leave it**



**Recall**

**Get out of the Way**

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## OLD DOG – YOUNG DOG

- 13 year old heeler mix and seven month old Mini-Aussie

- Problem behaviors
  - Normal adolescent behavior
    - Space invasion with regard to the 13 year old
    - Bullying on leash
    - Door control



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## RECOMMENDATIONS

- On leash in the house
- Owner interferes with indoor bullying
- Lots of impulse control work, including
  - Permanent wait at door, sending youngster through first, where she needs to wait for older dog
  - Giving older dog her own space; she cannot defend it so she needs to be protected

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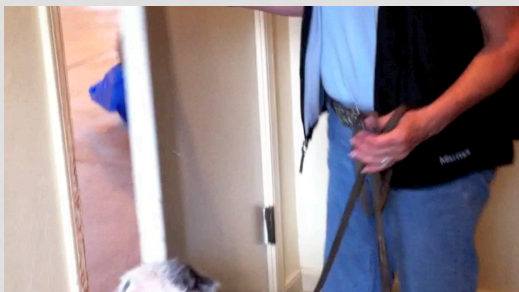
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## MOVING PROBLEMS

- Intact Males - 6 and 7 years old Husky/Rott and Shep/Rott
- Moved to California from New York
  - Rather overwhelmed by the number of free dogs where they live, but dogs cope relatively well
  - About once a year, the dogs fight, and they have injured each other
    - Husky/Rott is very insecure but tries to be on top
    - Shep/Rott is easy going, but won't back down

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## WHAT TO DO?

- Neuter? Who and When?
- Reinforce top dog?
- Treat them both the same?
- Separate them?
  - Each decision could have serious repercussions
    - Neutering could further upset the balance
    - Reinforcing top dog could cause more problems, as could treating them both the same
    - Separating causes even more problems (growling)

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## OUTCOME

- Neutered both dogs
- Kept them in the same area most of the time
- Trained extensively
  - Taught them to share
- Successful outcome; they don't play, but they have a working truce

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## HOME AWAY FROM HOME

- Shiba Inus
  - Yoyo – 6 years old female
    - Had puppies
    - Rehomed to my client after falling with another family
    - Very food oriented
    - Very excitable
    - Predatory
  - Aki – 6 year old female Shiba, puppy mill breeder dog, socially deprived, fearful, spooky, noise sensitive



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## SHIBA'S

- Owners are very close friends, and Yoyo's owner had dog-sat Aki often ... then, one day Aki came over, ran into the house excitedly, and Yoyo attacked her
- Since then there have been two further attacks, with no injuries; Yoyo goes for the back and neck
- A similar incident occurred with a Scottie at Yoyo's owner's place of business

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## OBSERVATION AND ASSESSMENT

Yoyo does not like any dog who has more energy than she can handle – she will attack them  
Yoyo does not seem to harbor any ill will towards Aki, although Aki is now terrified of Yoyo, and refuses to look at her or to go close to her  
This is very different from most cases, in that it seems to be driving by arousal and prey drive

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Separate the two dogs within the same room (expen) for habituation when Aki is being dog-sat
- Counter condition Yoyo to arousal
- Impulse control exercises for Yoyo
  - Sit/stay
  - Recall
- Build self confidence for Aki
  - Games
  - Habituation

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## NEW PUPPY/OLD ADULT

- 11 year old Aussie
- Owner lost their other Aussie a month and a half ago, after losing her husband late last year
- I saw her to teach her old Aussie how to retrieve (she did well!)
- She was worried that her Aussie was lonely, so decided to get another dog – very fast!
- Puppy (Baloo) has a temper, adult (Shira) plays really hard, and Shira also takes toys away from Baloo
- Puppy also bites owner HARD

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### OBSERVATION, ASSESSMENT, RECOMMENDATIONS

- Shira has no experience with pups and doesn't know how to play
- Baloo is very strong willed and resilient
- Both dogs need to learn how to inhibit their behavior
  - Shira in play and resource guarding
  - Baloo in biting
- Prognosis – excellent

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### BREED SIMILARITIES

#### Three boxers

- Two owned, one fostered
- Dogs had gotten along well for several weeks; foster mom did not leave them alone together, but they were okay together when she was there
- One day, she inadvertently left a door unlatched (*management always fails*)
- One Dog got access to garbage outside

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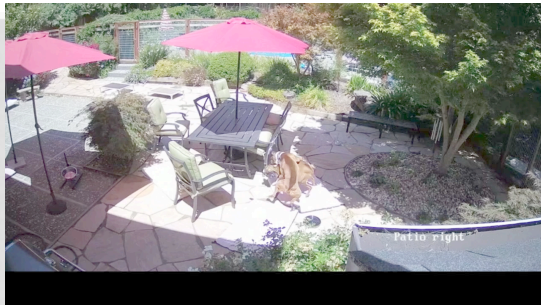
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### EXPLANATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The 'family' relationship too new and too tentative to withstand so much temptation
- One of the dogs – the foster - did try to tell the other two what to do, and appeared somewhat insecure
- Foster was too nervous – understandably – she returned the dog to a different foster

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### BREED SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

- Female Kelpie and Male lab lived together successfully for some time
  - Owner got a second – male - kelpie. The two herding dogs were very compatible



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## SOLUTION

- Rehome the Lab – his behavior was very conciliatory, which kicked the Kelpies into a bully mode
- This was satisfactory for the owners and their friend, who adopted the lab

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## BREED SIMILARITIES

- Two Corgi's
  - Male – 7//Female – 11
  - Picnic was acquired at 8 weeks old; Daisy when she was 5
  - Dogs get along reasonably well when they are relaxed
    - However, attention will elicit aggression from Picnic (m) to Daisy.



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### PICNIC AND DAISY



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### RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOME

- Mostly management
  - Dogs are not allowed through doorways simultaneously
  - Neither dog is given attention in sight of the other dog
  - Picnic wears a leash for control
  - Muzzles were tried, but just caused more frustration
  - Both dogs sleep in crates

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### TWO PIT BULL/AMERICAN BULLDOG MIXES

- Siblings – male and female
- Got along well for two years
  - Male had major high arousal issues; doorways and birds flying near the deck
  - Female much more easy going, but wouldn't turn down a fight
- They'd had several fights that ended up at vet's
- Family had year old baby with another one on the way

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## RECOMMENDATION

- Rehome one of the dogs
- Meanwhile...block off access to the deck
  - Teach lots of impulse control to both dogs
  - Separate when they can't be watched (difficult because of the way the house was built)

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## OUTCOME

- Rehoming unsuccessful
- Everything went well until husband was out in the yard with the child
- A bird went by, the male tried to catch it, dogs fought
- Man was injured breaking up the fight
- Both dogs euthanized

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## THREE'S A CROWD

- Golden Retriever and Lab lived well together – owner got second lab, who was compatible with first lab



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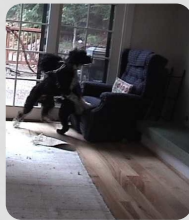
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## TWO PORTUGUESE WATER SPANIELS DOMINANCE AGGRESSION

- Hannah – eight; Jessie – six
  - Been together since Jessie was three
  - Started fighting a year before I saw them
  - Owner saw no consistent triggers
  - Social Dominance, exacerbated by owner's treatment of both dogs



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## RECOMMENDATIONS

- More exercise!
  - Dogs were mostly exercised running up and down the stairs
- Appropriate treatment of both dogs
  - Owner to stop preferential treatment of older dog at the expense of the younger
  - System of tie-downs in hot-spots

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## OUTCOME

- Behavior modification unsuccessful
  - Owner could not follow through
  - Apparently consulted with other trainers, who made no difference either
  - Dogs kept separate for the rest of their lives

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## INCOMPATIBILITY

- Two small dogs, separate households
  - One dog had to be integrated into home because of health problems
  - Dogs had a truce for a period of years; one incident involving people guarding cause a fight
  - Fights continued – more than five a day – no injuries



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### SCRAPPY AND BUDDHA



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### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Do not blend dogs
- If you do...
  - Create different territories inside
  - Walk dogs together, reinforce good behavior
    - Use two ex-pens if appropriate

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### THE REHOMING QUANDARY

- Is it more humane to keep fighting dogs in a home where they are loved by the humans or be rehomed where their treatment is not necessarily predictable?

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