



Preventing Behavior Issues

Many owners search for how to change unwanted behaviors such as digging, barking, chewing and more. Did you know that many of these behaviors can be prevented with a little bit of management and enrichment? Imagine saving yourself (and your dog) from becoming frustrated.

Many times problem behaviors are the result of boredom. Young and old dogs want to use their brains. They want to stay happy and healthy with exercise too. Below are items and tips to keep your beloved companion occupied

- Appropriate items to chew. Deer antlers, Nylabones, different toy textures. All of these items can help teach a dog that they should not chew on your shoes. They can also teach how to take things nicely. Different dogs will prefer different toys. Nothing is one size fits all.



- Training- From one on one to group classes. Training helps your dog to learn what you would like, helps the dog bond with you and is as tiring as a day at work. Always end the session before the dog does to keep the dog wanting to keep training. We recommend trainers that use reward based methods to keep the learning process fun for all involved
- Crating- When introduced properly, a crate is a safe place for a dog to hang out. It can also save you money by preventing destructive behaviors when you are not home. It is also a great housetraining tool. See our crate training handout for the how- to
- Exercise- Longs walks, do it yourself agility, biking, flirt poles and more. Depending on your dog's activity level, you may need to adjust how much time your dog spends working out. A dog that has enough exercise, tends to spend less time getting into trouble. Don't forget, putting your dog outside in a fenced yard, does not count as exercise if you are not actively engaging in play with him



- Play time with other dogs- Finding a dog (or dogs) with a similar play style can make your dog's day! Not only will playdates tire your dog out, it teaches them the language of "dog". This can result in having a less reactive dog. When done correctly playdates are a great way to socialize your dog. Ask us for a list of recommended trainers if you are unsure about if the play is going well
- Consistency- If your dog has a different schedule every day, it can cause them stress. Dogs thrive on routine and when that routine changes, you may notice a change in your dog's behaviors. A change in feeding time can cause housetraining setbacks. A missed walk can result in extra energy inside the home. These are just a couple of examples of how a change in schedule can affect a behavior
- Mental stimulation- Busy Buddy toys, frozen stuffed Kongs, puzzle games and Everlasting Treat Balls are just some examples of ways to challenge your dog's brain. These will not only reward your dog, they can also help dogs to relax while you are at work. Some enrichment items can even be easily made from recycled items that you have in your home. A quick google search can pull up information.