

Good Puppies Gone Wrong (Part 3)...

And Right Again!



Julie K. Shaw, R.V.T.
Senior Animal Behavior Technologist
Animal Behavior Clinic
765-494-1107
shawjk@purdue.edu

Treatment and Diagnosis

- Diagnosis and Treatment plan must be created by the veterinarian
- Veterinary Technicians may do preventive care



Treatment Plan

- Veterinarian prescribed
- **Safe**
- Humane (do no damage) and fair
- Promotes and protects the human animal bond
- Non - blaming
- Functional - Fits into the owner's lifestyle and personality
- Set the dog up to "get it right"
- Effective

Common Techniques

- **Counter Conditioning (CC)**
 - Changing the meaning of a previously classically conditioned stimulus
- **Desensitization (DS)**
 - Systematic and gradual exposure to a stimulus
- **Response Substitution (RS)**
 - Operantly conditioning a desired behavior in a situation in which an undesired behavior tends to occur.

Common Techniques

- Clicker Training

- Hands off
- Consistent
- Non-threatening
- Positively focused

- Walking Off Property

- Increases mental stimulation
- Decreases hyper-excitement
- Socialization

- Meal Feeding Twice Daily

- Increases predictability



Cases...



“Wrigley”



- 7 month old female shepx purchased from a pet store at 16 weeks of age.

General History

- Had severe intestinal parasite infestation when purchased.
- Since 16 weeks of age Wrigley has guarded canned food and high value toys and aggression when handled.
- Wrigley showed fearful behavior near strangers.
- Wrigley's owners were advised by their veterinarian to establish dominance by pinning her to the ground.
- Wrigley was diagnosed with Play Aggression, Fear Aggression, Possessive Aggression

Diagnosis

- Play Aggression
- Fear Aggression
- Possessive Aggression

Treatment Plan

- Avoid triggers
- Discontinue canned food, feed twice daily
- Walk twice daily with GL
- Discontinue all punishment
- CRR
- Ignore attention seeking behaviors
- Clicker training
- RS – leave it, drop it
- DS/CC to strangers

ure

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

to Picture

Wrigley guarding

to Picture

Wrigley floor

cture

Wrigly Grabbing the Cat

“Wrigley’s” Outcome

- 12 weeks post treatment, Wrigley’s aggression was completely resolved unless “pig’s ears” (aka DTFH) were present.
- 5 months post treatment owners were thrilled with Wrigley’s behavior. All aggression has ceased although some DS/CC/RS techniques are required when meeting strangers.

Discussion

- Key points to Wrigley's improvement
 - No punishment
 - Dominance Theory Tossed
 - Education of Owners



“Muffin”

- Female, spayed, mix breed, 6 months old.
- Presented for aggression toward the owners



“Muffin”

- Aggression began at 9 weeks of age
- Obtained from shelter
- Aggressive in crate, when has an object, when disturbed while sleeping, when restrained, aggressive to strangers on and off the owner's property.
- Previously treated with a shaker can, squirt bottle and other physical reprimands.
- During the appointment “Muffin” barked and growled while backing away, did take treats but snapped at owners repeatedly.
- Julie was able only to work with “Muffin” from a distance with clicker training but was unable to handle “Muffin” directly.

Diagnosis

- Territorial aggression
- Fear aggression
- Conflict related aggression
- Redirected aggression
- Possessive aggression.

Treatment Plan

- Management to avoid aggressive situations
- CRR to increase consistent interactions
- GL
- Twice a day walks off property
- RS
- Clicker training
- Stop all punishment
- DS/CC basket muzzle
- Fluoxetine 10mg SID

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

to Picture

5 m Muffin

“Muffin’s” Outcome

- Improved???
- Rehomed
- Lost contact



Discussion

- Pet Selection Counseling!
- Genetics
- Puppy Class



“Isaac”



General History

- Initially seen at 6 months of age for “dominance aggression”
- Aggressive to owners in many situations, including when handled, when disciplined, during play, when eating, etc.
- Previously treated with dominance rolls, muzzle holds and dominance stares, etc.
- First aggressive episode occurred at approximately 8 weeks of age
- Aggressive only to family members
- During appointment Isaac was very friendly and trainable
- Owners were very frightened of Isaac

Diagnosis

- Conflict Related Aggression





Treatment Plan

- GL head collar to be worn when ever owner is present
- CRR interactions only
- Clicker training
- Avoid all known triggers
- Walk twice daily with GL
- Meal feed twice daily
- Follow up appointment 2 weeks

Outcome...and Discussion...



“Rose”

- Female, 10 week old Schnauzer.
- Presented to community practice with an ear infection
- Became aggressive during exam, CP discontinued treatment until “Rose” could be DS to handling



“Rosie’s Treatment

- No Diagnosis, still preventative
- DS/CC/RS to handling of ears and feet
- DS/CC/RS to restraint



No Picture

“Rose’s Outcome”

- Owner and Community Practice Technicians report complete resolution of all handling issues



