



# Dog Talk Weekly

Where we talk about dogs, share stories, solve problems

Issue 10.5.3 – May 15, 2010

What? You haven't visited the blog yet? <http://dogtalkweekly.com/dogblog/>

## IN THIS ISSUE:

1. **Feature Article:** Key To Introducing 2 Dogs Safely
2. **Personal Story:** How I Successfully Introduced Cindy to my territorial Spitz
3. **Regular Sections:**
  - Dog Trivia
  - Member Submissions
  - Dog Talk Weekly News
  - Competitions
  - Free Stuff

~~~~~  
Classified Ads:

Have something to sell? Advertise it here. \$15 per insertion.

Discounted rates for multiple insertions. 4 lines / 250 characters.

Please go here: <http://sylviadickens.com/contactform/contactus.php>

## Feature Article: Key To Introducing 2 Dogs Safely

There is a right way and a wrong way to introduce two dogs. You know what can happen if you do it incorrectly. You can have two attack dogs on your hands. This won't happen with all dogs, but knowing what to consider first will ensure it doesn't.

It's true that dogs are social animals who generally live in packs. They enjoy the company of others and living in that hierarchy. They have to know where they stand in the pecking order. For this very reason, you can run into problems when you bring a new dog into the equation.

Dogs that are living with you have already established their role in the pack. And they will protect it. When you bring in another dog, your current dogs will view him or her as an intruder who is there for one thing... to stake a claim. Naturally, this triggers conflict.

Just because their first meeting goes awry doesn't mean that you can never put them together. They have to be introduced to each other the right way. In time, your current dogs will come to accept and welcome the new dog into the pack.

Here are the things to consider.

1. What is the temperament of the dogs involved? If they are too close in temperament, they are almost guaranteed to go head-to-head at first sight. Not only that, but their fighting will persist as long as they are forced to live together. They might learn to "get along" while you are there to intervene if things get out of hand, but once your back is turned, look out.

The problem is probably worse with aggressive, dominant and independent dogs than it is with more docile temperaments, but you can never be sure.

The obvious solution is to not get another dog that has the same temperament of those you already own. If yours is dominant and defensive of his territory, get him a companion that is less interested in being the head honcho.

2. What is your current dog's size and activity level? If your dog is content to take it easy, you might do best by bringing in a dog that also prefers to relax. On the other hand, if your dog has high energy and will play for hours, an equally active dog will be the perfect companion. Just watch out because they will be rambunctious.

If you have a small dog, avoid getting one that is much bigger as this can lead to the big one accidentally hurting the little one.

Consider, too, how your dog was when he was younger. As dogs age, they slow down and become less active. That doesn't mean that they can't be stirred into action by a young playful pup. In fact, bringing such energy into your older dog's life can bring back some of his zest for living.

3. Don't rely on same sex and opposite sex couples getting along. People used to think that you can put two females or two males together without issues, but that has been found to not be true. It still depends on the personality of the dogs, more so than gender. Puppies, on the other hand, tend to intermix quite effortlessly, even when they are older puppies. Adult dogs do not seem to see them as a threat as they do other adult dogs.

I offer more tips on how to introduce two dogs on the blog:

<http://dogtalkweekly.com/dogblog/>

### **My Story: How I Successfully Introduced Cindy to my territorial Eskimo Spitz**

Many of you might recall my story of Kobe, the American Eskimo Spitz that I adopted when he was 7 months old. Briefly, he was fear aggressive because he had been abused. He attacked me, anyone who got near, and other dogs, regardless of their size.

I really wanted him to have a better life and the one he was living wasn't it. He didn't even know how to play when I got him. He didn't respond to the human voice. He didn't seem to know his name, which was Nahani.

I immediately changed his name to something with more punch – and called him Kobe (pronounced ko-bee). It was a good first move. Within a few weeks, he began responding to it.

Now, I'm always talking to my dogs, often use their names and give them probably more attention than they want. Eventually, this approach drew Kobe out from under the kitchen table. He still had anger issues, though, and that took a bit more time to resolve.

In fact, he never really got over it. Clearly, whoever had him first must have teased and probably hit him severely for him to feel his only option was to snap out. Two years later, he was 50-60% better than when I got him, but he still didn't seem to be enjoying his life.

Play never lasted more than a minute or less before that anger would arise. I never pushed it. I just played as long as he would allow it, and then let him do what he wanted. This usually meant going off to lie down, minus the toys. He didn't care about them.

And then, I found out about Cindy, a Lab/Chow that was up for adoption. She was about 3 months old and seemed quite playful with a good personality. When I brought her home, Kobe immediately tried to attack her. Now, this is odd for a dog to attack a puppy, but then Kobe had issues.

For the next month, I allowed him to smell her while under my protection. He'd go to her tail, sniff and then bar his teeth and growl in a tone that would intimidate anyone.

Now, according to the research I did for the feature article this week, older dogs should accept puppies just fine, but Kobe sure was the exception. It was over 8 weeks before I could trust him not to try to attack her.

I'd let her go so that I could watch Kobe's reaction. He always darted after her, growling and attacking her. Of course, I had to intervene. And then, one day I let her stray from me and his attitude had changed. Cindy wanted to play, and I guess he finally understood what that meant.

Altogether, it took 10 weeks before they would play together. Kobe finally knew what it meant to have fun. He got to see Cindy's sense of humor as she pretended to fall under the "death grip" he had on her throat. At this point, she was about twice his size, so it was comical to watch them.

The reason this union was so successful was because Cindy had such a calm, relaxed nature. She just wanted to play. She was mischievous and often teased Kobe with her toy, daring him to chase her. Sometimes he would, other times he would not. They would run circles around my flowerbeds until one or the other got tired. But it wasn't long before Cindy would trick him into another game of tag.

She seemed to know that he needed to win sometimes, and so would pretend to fall under his attack and roll onto her back. He would jump on her and wrestle her throat, and then run away while she chased him.

This shows that with patience, you can bring together two dogs who will learn how to accept and enjoy each other's company, even when one of them is fear aggressive and severely lacking in social skills.

### **Chaining Your Dog Outdoors – Things To Consider**

Those of you who do not have yards for your dogs might decide to chain them up instead. While this can be a useful alternative, it is not wise to leave them chained alone. There are many issues that can arise because of chaining up a dog.

1. In their exuberance, chained dogs can wrap themselves around objects until the collar tightens around their throats. First off, the anxiety and fear this can cause is difficult to think about. But what many owners don't realize is that they can actually strangle themselves in this manner.

If you use a chain for securing your dog outside, never leave him alone, and only chain him for a short time. Never leave him chained up all day or more than an hour or so as he will feel distressed.

2. If they are left an extended period of time on a chain, they can become dehydrated if their chain prevents them from reaching their water. It doesn't take long for a dog to become dehydrated when he is stressed, as he will be from being chained up alone.

3. On hot days, your dog can suffer a heat stroke if he cannot get out of the sun. A dog house is not ways the answer. If it is in the sun, the interior will become extremely hot and the dog will refuse to use it. Even kennels under the trees is no guarantee, because the sun moves quickly across the sky and will soon leave the kennel and dog without shade.

4. Leaving a dog on a chain for long periods of time can make him or her aggressive. Such dogs begin by feeling frustrated at being secured to one spot. This soon turns into anger at a situation he cannot change. When people or animals come near, this dog will develop aggressive tendencies towards passersby and anyone who comes onto your property. Chained dogs are deprived of the chance to socialize, which can make them dangerous.

A better alternative is the obvious... take him for a walk whenever you can. If you don't have the time or ability to do so, you are sure to find someone in your neighborhood who would love to walk your dog for you. Or you can pay dog walkers. If you know of a child who shows responsibility (perhaps 12 years old or older), see if he or she would be interested in exercising your dog every day after school and on weekends. They'd probably love it.

The other option is to build some sort of dog run. As with chaining, do not leave your dog in a run for an extended period. Such isolation leads to anti-social behavior. At the very least, he will see it as a form of punishment.

Outdoor dog runs are usually around 6' x 10', with gravel or grass as the floor. Do not use concrete as it is hard on the dog's feet and joints when he lies down. Make sure the run is well-shaded and is stocked with a good supply of fresh water.

If you can create a trap door in your home that goes directly into the dog run, this is the absolute best alternative to a fenced yard. Your dog can go and come when he or she pleases. A good place to allow access to the run might be through a dog door in your back door directly into the run, or if you have a wood mud room, you might cut a dog door through the wall, if that is more convenient than tying up your back door.

### **Regular Sections:**

- Dog Trivia

Do you feel guilty over leaving your dog alone while you go to work? Many dog owners do and come home feeling sorry for the dog. To compensate for this "bad behavior", they make a huge fuss over the dog, expressing their compassion for this poor dog that had to be alone all day. Apparently, dogs sense those feelings and translate them into the fact that something is wrong. This stresses the dog. Instead, make a fuss because you are glad to see him or her, not because you feel guilty. Your dog will like that much better.

When you take your dog out, do you use the jog-along method? That's where you ride a bike or jog while the dog tags along beside you. It is crucial that you work your dog up to this type of activity for a number of reasons. He must learn the signals that mean you are about to turn, slow down, etc. Get him used to traffic, the spinning wheels on your bike, the strain of this type of exercise. Consider the conditions each day you go out. If you are going any distance in hot weather or on a hot road, your dog could die from the excessive heat and stress.

You can give your dog great pleasure when you go out if you give her access to a window onto the outside world. Dogs love to watch what's going on in the neighborhood.

They like to see other dogs, people, animals. It makes them feel less alone. Open the curtains. Place a chair or footstool under the window she can use. Better yet, build a step platform to make it easy for her to access a waist-high window. Give her access to the windowed patio door. She'll entertain herself for hours.

Dogs can become numb to your commands. If you repeat your command several times in succession, your dog eventually will just not hear it. In other words, if you don't get a response on the first command, wait to a count of 3 before repeating it. Don't repeat, "Down, down, down!" or "Sit, sit, sit!". It won't work. In fact, that approach will hinder your dog's training.

Dogs with gas... why is that? Well, dogs can develop gas just like humans, and it's not always pleasant as you well know. It happens because of a) what the dog eats, and b) the way he wolfs down his food. What is not caused by fermenting food in the belly is caused by the excess air that the dog gulps down with the food. These pockets of air continue through the digestive tract and have only one place to go... out the other end.

Some breeds are just "gassy", so you probably can't do much about it. For the rest, lay off the table scraps. Switch to a high quality, low residue diet. Try canned food along with the kibble. Activated charcoal can help absorb some of the gas. Some over-the-counter human digestion products contain activated charcoal. Ask your vet if dog treats with activated charcoal in them is good for your dog.

- Member Submissions

=====  
From Geny...

Just a little story. My late husband Reg was a true animal lover. Yet one hot day in summer he had gone to the store in his truck, with Hogan our big mixed breed lovable dog. Reg had forgotten to take water in the truck. When he came out of the store an inspector from the SPCA was there waiting for him and gave him a strong lecture. There was always a bottle of water in the cab after that.

=====

Don't forget to send me YOUR dog stories. They don't have to be very long. It might be a funny incident. Something your dog does differently from other dogs. A new experience, like bringing home a new puppy or adding a second dog. Or a note like the one above in response to something you read in Dog Talk Weekly.

Just send your stories to me through my contact form here:  
<http://sylviadickens.com/contactform/contactus.php>

Don't Worry. Your Personal Information will be kept Private!

However, if you want to include a link to your personal dog blog or web site (i.e.: non-commercial), by all means do so. If the link is appropriate, I will attach it to the end of your submission unless you request otherwise.

- Dog Talk Weekly News

This is the first issue to be published on Saturday instead of Monday. Let me know what you think. Is a Saturday publication date better for you?

What? You haven't visited the blog yet?  
<http://dogtalkweekly.com/dogblog/>

Did you know you can view Dog Talk Weekly in PDF format online? Simply go to the Archives page where all previous issues are listed. The online version might contain images and other content that is not included in the email version.

You can access the archives here:

<http://www.dogtalkweekly.com/archives.htm>

=====  
NEW DOG BOOK LAUNCHED  
=====

I've just published a book that will help you with Dog Nuisance Behavior. It discusses many common issues dog owners have in training their dogs.

Whining - Barking - Jumping Up - Chewing - Digging - Stealing - Escaping  
The list goes on. What can you do?

You just need the right approach... the little secrets that tell you what works. You need clues to guide you. And you need to know how to apply the right techniques to get results.

***"How To Deal With Nuisance Behaviors"*** gives you those secrets. And it tells you where to get the clues. It explains why dogs do what they do. It gives you an insight into how a dog thinks. It tells you what certain behaviors mean.

And most importantly, it gives you answers. You will discover how to respond to all of these issues and more. If you think children are attention-seeking...

**Welcome to your dog's world!**

Get more details on my new book here:

<http://ebook-haven.com/PositiveDogTraining.htm>

=====  
- Competitions

Deadline for the May Dog Photo Competition will soon be gone. If you want to enter, you'd better do it fast. The deadline is May 31, 2010 – that's only 16 days from now!

And through June, you'll have a chance to vote on which photo you like best!

**Send Your Photos!** Throughout the rest of May, I invite you to send me your dog photos – the cuter, the better. At the end of May, the members will have a chance to vote on which one they like the best. The winning photo will become the "Dog of the Month". The photo will be displayed on a special "Dog of the Month" page at [http://www.dogtalkweekly.com/dog\\_photo\\_of\\_month.htm](http://www.dogtalkweekly.com/dog_photo_of_month.htm)

Be sure to include a small caption (about as long as that paragraph) giving a few fun details about your dog / photo.

This "Dog of the Month" contest will continue every month throughout the year. At the end of the year, members will have a chance to vote and name the "Dog of the Year" (More details to come)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

-----  
By submitting material to Dog Talk Weekly, you understand that you are giving me the rights to use them as I see fit, including on my web site, in ebooks and in videos. If you do not want to make these rights available to me, please do not send them in.

NOTE – As the original owner, you will still hold the copyright to anything that you send to me for Dog Talk Weekly.

That's it for this issue. I hope you enjoyed it.

Until next week...

Get out there and have fun with your dog. Take some great photos.  
Collect wonderful memories.

Sylvia

P.S.: Don't forget to send me your stories and ideas for upcoming issues of Dog Talk Weekly. Just send them to me through my contact form here:

<http://sylviadickens.com/contactform/contactus.php>

**Dog Nutrition** is vital to your dog's life expectancy and quality of life. I've written a book on how to make sure your dog gets a healthy, nutritious diet and avoids many of the dangers that come with certain foods. Find out more at

<http://healthydognutritionsecrets.com/healthydogPP1.htm>

**Puppy Parenting Course:** Are you drowning in a sea of questions about raising your puppy the right way? This 24-week course feeds you all the information you need in bite-size portions that you can use during your puppy's early years. Get a free trial today.

<http://www.dogownersu.com/FreeTrial.htm>

~~~~~

Classified Ads:

Do you have something to sell? Advertise it here. Rates for Members: \$15 per insertion: 4 lines / 250 characters. Special Rates for multiple insertions. Please send your ad queries to me here: <http://sylviadickens.com/contactform/contactus.php>

~~~~~