



Dog Talk Weekly

Where we talk about dogs, share stories, solve problems

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ANNOUNCEMENT: I need your Ideas!

What topics would you like covered in Dog Talk Weekly? You're sure to have some questions or curiosity about something related to choosing, getting, owning, training and caring for your dog.

Let me know the breed you have or any that you're interested in and I'll use them as *Dog of the Week*. If you have a story idea, send it along. Just send the details to me through my contact form: <http://sylviadickens.com/contactform/contactus.php>

Did you miss an issue of Dog Talk Weekly? You can access all issues in the archives here: <http://www.dogtalkweekly.com/archives.htm>

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Dear Fellow Dog Lovers,  
Choosing the right breed for your family can ensure a lifetime of happiness. I am offering you two FREE e-books, Choosing The Right Breed For Your Family and Temperament Testing For Dogs & Pups. Go to <http://www.DoggyGoneWild.com>  
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Feature Article: Home Hunting For Dog Owners

Home hunting can be a challenge for dog owners. First, you have the search for the ideal place, and then the stresses of moving. Here are some tips to help the transition to run smoothly.

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Rentals, Condos and the like often do not allow dogs. For some owners, this is devastating because it's the type of place they need at this point in their lives. In some cases, owners have simply lied in the hope that they can sneak their dogs into the facility without anyone finding out.

Of course, that's not going to work. Dogs do bark at some point. Neighbors talk. Next thing you know, you're being asked to get rid of the dog or move out. This is absolutely devastating. It's best to simply avoid this issue in the first place.

In recent years, land owners (landlords) have had new restrictions put on what they can or cannot demand. Having a pet is one such new law, but it's probably not enacted in some cities, states, countries. You'll need to do your own homework on that one.

One reason people have to resort to drastic measures such as lying on the applications and, heaven forbid, getting rid of the dog is because time runs out. They do not start looking for a suitable home soon enough.

Tip #1: Start looking the moment you know you'll have to or want to move. Give yourself loads of time, at least 3-6 weeks. The right dog-friendly place is out there. You just have to look. Use all the resources possible: local and city newspapers, real estate flyers, the Internet, and rental agencies. You can find those in your phone book. Check bulletin boards in the areas you want to move.

Tip #2: Stay clear of places that state "No Pets". Pleading with them to allow your dog is pointless. It's their rule. Chances are, the rule is in place because they've had bad experiences with dog owners in the past. Don't take it personal. If anything, blame it on the irresponsible owners who caused the problems. You know what they say. It only takes one bad apple to destroy it for the rest.

Tip #3: Focus on places that do not mention any sort of pet policy. You'll often find that private rentals just might be willing to allow your dog. Or if they refuse, they could be open to negotiation and convincing. Prove to them that you are a responsible dog owner. Make sure they are aware that you will clean up after your dog both while on the property and when walking the neighborhood. Tell them that you empathize with them.

Tip #4: If you need more time to search, consider boarding your dog in a responsible kennel or with someone you know and trust. That way, you don't have to feel so stressed or have to go through the horror of getting rid of your dog. Don't overlook some hotels or motels in your area. They sometimes do allow pets, especially those that cater to a lot of tourists.

Tip #5: If you absolutely must move in a hurry, consider a short-term lease on an apartment while you look for a proper home in your new neighborhood. This will give you time to investigate the area a bit more before deciding exactly where to move permanently.

Next week, we'll talk about the actual move and how to make it go smoothly for you and your dog. Do you have a pet resume? You'll discover why you should have one and how to create one that will help you in your home search.

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Personal Story: Siberian Huskies – The Escapee

Every day, Tyler and I walk past a home a block up the street that has three beautiful Siberian Huskies. They seem to be fairly young and certainly full of energy. They are awesome dogs.

They weren't always there. This is a new addition over the past 3 months or so. They startled me initially because they came out of nowhere, barking at us. That's when I stood and admired them for a second or so.

At that time, I noticed that the fence will in no way contain such big, strong dogs. Tyler is evidence of that. If they decide to go, they can. That is worrisome because the street behind this house where we were is very busy. Traffic speeds by frequently, even though it's only a 30 m.p.h. zone (50 kph). Drivers don't seem to care. From that first day, I envisioned the dogs getting out and run over. It could happen in an instant.

The owner decided to attach a fine metal mesh to the top of the fence to prevent such a disaster. It didn't last long, and is now sagged down. Plus it did not cover the entire length of the fence. Just one spot where they felt the dogs were most likely to scale.

Yesterday, Tyler and I were on our way back from our walk when one of the dogs came bounding up my street in our general direction. My instant concern was that the two dogs would get into a fight. Tyler is very strong and I certainly didn't want to fall, yet again, from his thrashing. I pulled him tight beside me and moved across the street where I waited.

The owner wasn't far behind the dog. She'd pulled her car to the side and was trying to rustle the dog into a spot where she could get him. He simply turned and ran the other way. After a minute or so, we were safe to proceed to the house.

As we stood in my neighbor's yard watching after the owner and the dog, I noticed the he went right back to his own home where he was greeted by one of the huskies. It was a lucky escape. I'm hoping that the owners will take the hint and do something to prevent a recurrence. Next time, they might not be so lucky.

My neighbor, by the way, has a similar dog, I believe a Malamute but she's small. She might have attracted the escapee in that direction. Now that the dog knows she's there, I expect to see more visits in future, especially now that it's Spring.

When the weather gets nicer, I'll try to photograph them and show you how beautiful those Huskies are. It would be a real shame if they got injured, or worse.

Dog of the Week: The Deerhound – Champion of the Dog Show

Did any of you happen to watch the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show last week? It was very interesting and fun to see all those gorgeous dogs parading around. My favorite was amongst them – the Samoyed, a dog that is very similar to my American Eskimo. They are so close in appearance that I have difficulty telling them apart, but the Samoyed is a bit bigger.

In case you didn't see the show, the overall winner was the Deerhound. This surprised me because, let's admit it, the Deerhound does look a little "rough around the edges" when it isn't perfectly groomed as in the picture below. There were so many fabulous looking dogs in that winning lineup, but I give the Italian judge credit. He chose this dog because he represents the **ideal** Deerhound and because it is one breed that seems to have declined in popularity. You seldom see such a great specimen.

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Especially significant in his giving the award to the Deerhound of the show, is that it was that dog's final year of showing and he'd never won. Having now read more about the breed, I am very pleased that he made that decision.

That's why I've chosen **The Deerhound** as this week's Dog of the Week. (Note: the dog shown is not the one that won the dog show mentioned above.)



This file is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/) license. Angie Intch, Ch Pl, Lv, Lt from kennel "Festina", Poland. The owner - Hanna Woźna - Gil

These dogs are quite large, standing 28-32 inches high and weighing 84-106 pounds. Obviously, they'll need a bit of space.

The Deerhound was bred in Scotland to hunt deer in the Highlands. It was considered to be one of the most noble dogs, with a good mixture of softness and aggressiveness. It is a sensible dog that does not impose itself. In fact, it can be quite tender. The Deerhound has been described as gentle, extremely friendly, docile and eager to please, "with a bearing of gentle dignity." Around stranger, however, it is very reserved but never unpredictable.

Being that it was bred for hunting deer, the Deerhound shows its true colors out in the fields and wide-open spaces. Because it has been bred for generations to pursue game, it is eager to chase. Despite his abilities in the wild, this dog enjoys staying in close contact with his master, although he does need lots of room and exercise.

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The health issues commonly associated with the breed are gastric torsion, a problem associated with all dogs with the deep chest, and heart problems.

This dog is a good match for experienced owners.

You can read more details and see more pictures showing the different coloring here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Deerhound

Regular Sections:

- Dog Health – Excess Barking

Does your dog do a lot of barking? Not just when someone comes, and then she stops as soon as the intruder is gone. Does she bark incessantly at every single sound, sight and situation? Some owners just put up with the noise, thinking they cannot stop it. Others just think it's normal.

It's not. If your dog is an incessant barker, she could be causing damage to her throat. Persistent barkers can suffer from permanent tonsillitis, pharyngitis and laryngitis because of the repeated damage that they do to their throats.

Do not let your dog's barking get out of control. Put a stop to it as soon as possible, in other words, at a young age. That is when this behavior becomes a habit. If left untreated, your dog will become a perpetual barker which can not only irritate you, your family and your neighbors, but also her throat.

- Dog Care – Finding A Good Dog Sitter

Finding a good dog sitter is crucial for obvious reasons. They are handy to have when you need emergency care for your dog, such as during illness and holidays or long work days. You have to be careful that you get one who you can trust. After all, your family member is involved and you certainly wouldn't want anything bad to happen to her.

Here are some things to consider when looking for and choosing a dog sitter.

You might think that dog sitters simply feed, walk and play with your dog, but some do a lot more. They can water your plants, bring in your mail and flyers, stay in your home for a) added security and b) to provide long-term company for your dog in your absence. They will even take your dog to the vet and groomers, if necessary.

A top quality professional dog sitter might even know how to give your dog medications and first aid assistance. This is very important. They can play a significant role should your dog have an emergency and need to get her to a vet quickly.

1. Conduct interviews with several sitters before making a decision.
2. Gauge how your dog responds to the sitter – does she back away and come to be petted?
3. Notice how the sitter communicates with your dog. Is the tone soothing and confident?

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4. Check credentials. See what organizations they belong to. If it is an established dog sitting company, find out what training the sitters have. Are the sitters bonded, licensed, insured and pet-savvy? Ask to see written proof of commercial liability insurance.
5. Ask for references from local clients and veterinarians. Get a brochure detailing the services and contact information.

- Dog Games – Carry the Leash

When I was young, my parents taught our dog to carry her leash. My father received constant praise from passersby who saw Jeannie, our English Cocker Spaniel carrying her own leash.

You can teach this to your dog. It consists of two phases, 1) preparing to walk and 2) during the walk.

Preparing to walk

All dogs get excited when they know they're going for a walk. This is a great time to put that energy to good use by having her fetch her own leash. It will keep her out from under foot and busy while you are getting yourself ready, putting on your boots, coat, etc.

First, you'll need to teach her this game so that she will do it on command in future.

1. Prepare the leash by folding it and tying it in a loose knot so that she can grasp and carry it easily. This will be relatively easy if your dog is already into 'fetch' games.
2. Choose a command you like, such as "Walkies!" or "Fetch your leash!".
3. It's best to keep the leash in a handy place that she can see and reach easily. That way, after she learns this game, she knows exactly where to go. Before you know it, she won't need to be asked. As soon as your normal walk time comes around, she'll just go and get it.
4. With everything ready, tell her to "fetch your leash" (or whatever phrase you chose). Show her the leash until she makes the connection. Put increasingly more urgency into your command to raise her excitement about getting it. At the beginning, you might have to physically take the dog to the leash, remove it from its place and give it to her. Repeat your command as she takes it.
5. Praise her lavishly for having completed the exercise correctly.
6. Immediately take your dog for her walk. She needs to make the additional connection to the leash, fetching it and going for a walk.

After she has learned this trick, you can add more elements to it. For instance, if you need more time to get ready, like in winter when you need more clothing, make this more challenging for her. Hide the leash and tell her to go "Find it!"

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Another way to make this game more interesting is by having her bring back your items as well. Ask her, "Where's my scarf?" "Where are my gloves?" When she has learned to bring these additional items, you can add, "Bring me my slippers" when you're done with the walk. The both of you will have so much fun!

(For more fun games, look for the book, *"50 Games to Play With Your Dog"* by Suellen Dainty, Ivy Press, East Sussex, U.K., 2007. I found it at my public library.)

- Dog Trivia

If your dog tends to pull on the leash, here's what you can do to deter the behavior. Use a 6-foot long leash. Walk your dog a few steps and then, stop and wait. Eventually the leash will tighten. The dog will look back. When the leash slackens, praise him and repeat the exercise. After repeatedly being stopped in this way, your dog will learn that when the leash is tight, nothing fun happens. When it is loose, he gets praised and more walking.

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Do You Need Professional Dog Training Advice?

Who **can't** use input from someone who knows all the secrets to developing a cooperative and abiding dog? I know I sure could. In my travels, I came across a program that has received high praise for its effectiveness. It was created by a professional dog trainer. I like that his instructions are so easy to follow.

Shortly after opening the package, I discovered what I needed to do to stop my dog from pulling on the leash. Admitted, it's not a permanent solution because Tyler is so demanding, energetic and dominant. He KNOWS how to heel. He just refuses to obey. And I'm not physically strong enough to stop him. It's probably me, but I did make huge progress with this advice. At least he doesn't drag me off into the bushes any more.

Take a look at [Secrets To Dog Training](#) by Daniel Stevens. Dogs love to play catch, fetch things and in general, please their owners. In his book, he demonstrates how to train your dog to do all these things, and more.

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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>

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That's the end of this issue. I hope you enjoyed it.

Now, go out and have some fun with your dog!

Sylvia

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