



Redfern Ramblings

End of Summer 2007 Edition

Be careful with Rawhide

Your dog probably loves rawhide treats. In fact it is likely that if you do not manage its use, your dog could literally consume an enormous rawhide chew in one sitting.

That could be a recipe for disaster!

Rawhide "bones" (knotted pieces of rawhide that resemble a bone shape) can be chewed off in large pieces that can barely be swallowed. It's what happens AFTER the pieces of rawhide are swallowed that causes problems.

Once in the stomach and intestines the rawhide swells considerably from water and digestive juices. Those swollen pieces can cause blockage, leading to bloat and other not-very-nice conditions.

If you're lucky you can catch the problem and get your dog to the vet quickly (minutes DO count for this condition). Failure to recognize the symptoms can quickly lead to the loss of your dog in a very short period of time.

Learn to recognize the symptoms of Bloat:

- Attempts to vomit (usually unsuccessful)
- Anxiety and restlessness
- "Hunched up" appearance
- Bloated Abdomen, possibly tight
- Pale or off-color gums
- Gagging, salivating or drooling

For more additional symptoms and information on Bloat, go to <http://www.globalspan.net/bloat.htm>

Redfern Seminar Series

The Healing Power of a Dog

[AAT/AAA for Handlers (No Dogs)]

Sept 29 & 30

\$100 by Sept 15
\$115 after Sept 15

For details on seminar content and registration procedure go to

www.redferncanines.com/seminars.html

Online payment options include major credit cards and PayPal.

The Power of the Clicker

October 13 & 14

\$125 with dog by Sept 30
\$150 with dog after Sept 30

\$100 without dog by Sept 30
\$115 without dog after Sept 30

Clicker 101 — Timing is Important

"Timing is the key to the Universe".

That rule is important to understand when training a dog. The more immediate the reward, the stronger the likelihood that the behavior you seek will happen in a reasonable amount of time.

Think about it: You do something on your job that accomplishes an important goal. But your boss gives you very little recognition, and

when he finally does it is luke-warm and little more than a pat on the back. Do you feel highly motivated to go out of your way to do an extra-effort job in the future?

Now consider *this* scenario: You accomplish the same goal, but this time your boss quickly recognizes your work, tells everyone what a great job you have done, and gives you a bonus in your next paycheck. Which boss would you rather work for? And in which environment would you feel more like doing a great job tomorrow?

Clicker training is a lot like that. The

dog first learns the relationship between the "indicator" (the clicker) and the reward (the treat). That's your "contract" with the dog ("When I hear the indicator a treat will be coming shortly") Once that relationship is understood by the dog, you're ready to go.

When the dog does a behavior that you want to reinforce, you can quickly use the indicator much more rapidly than you can produce the treat. The dog knows that the treat will follow later, so the "reward" begins quickly, and is therefore stronger.

With practice you can improve your ability to provide positive motivation quickly, making training sessions more rewarding for the dog and more fun. You might even find the dog getting excited when they see you pick up your clicker and treat bag. THAT is the sign of a positive learning environment!

Canine Good Citizen Test Items

The Canine Good Citizen (CGC) program was designed to evaluate all dogs (*mixed-breed and pure-bred*) on basic skills and temperament. A dog with a CGC title should be able to work well in public, around all kinds of people and other dogs. There are 10 test items:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Accept a friendly stranger | 6. Sit, Down and Stay |
| 2. Sit politely for petting | 7. Come when called |
| 3. Appearance & grooming | 8. Reaction to another dog |
| 4. Walk on a loose leash | 9. Reaction to distraction |
| 5. Walking through a crowd | 10. Supervised separation |

For a complete description of each item, go to the CGC page on the AKC website at www.akc.org/events/cgc

Late-breaking news — More Classes: *Beginner Obedience* classes will be offered through the Palmyra Parks & Recreation Commission, on Tuesdays beginning **September 18** from 6-7 PM. For more info call 717-838-9244.

Fall Training Classes begin September 24

Included this semester are

- ◆ **Puppy Class**
- ◆ **Manners Class**
- ◆ **Beginning Obedience**

Classes are held at the Susquehanna Twp Municipal Building. To register contact Susquehanna Twp Parks and Recreation at 717-909-9228. For full Class Schedule, Class Descriptions and Registration Information go to www.redferncanines.com

Look for additional classes to be announced in early September

CGC/TDI Evaluations

September 16
October 6

By Pre-Registration only,
additional info at
www.redferncanines.com

Problem Clinic — CHEWING

Dogs chew! It's part of their nature and they do it for entertainment. Puppies do it when they're teething. It's fun. It feels good. It is NOT something that can be prevented.

But it can be managed.

Our dogs need to be provided opportunities to chew APPROPRIATE things, and given alternatives and distractions when their chewing turns to Inappropriate objects.

If your dog is a marathon chewer, be sure to provide adequate quantities of things like Nylabones, hard rubber toys such as Kongs and Busy Buddies and Tug-a-Jugs, and appropriately-sized real bones that will not splinter or break up when chewed aggressively.

It's also critical to "puppy-proof" the areas where the dog spends time. Get down on the dog's level to see what might be attractive to them and remove it before they can sink their teeth into it. An ounce of prevention really IS worth a pound of cure — and might save you some expensive canine surgery.

Keep your rewards at hand with a TREAT BAG



The Gentle Leader® Treat Pouch by Premier is a sturdy and well-designed tool. Hinged opening stays open or

pops shut with a touch. Comes with a belt, belt clip and has 2 storage pockets (1 hidden) for clicker, clean-up bags, ID's, money, etc. Available in Black, Blue, and Red. \$15.00 (SRP \$20.00)



www.redferncanines.com/trainingaids.html

Dear Redfern...

I've been hearing a lot lately about the wonderful things Therapy Dogs do for people. I think my dog would make a wonderful Therapy Dog, and would like to know how to go about it.

Therapy dogs do indeed perform a very important function in a broad range of situations. There are a number of factors to consider in order to do therapy with dogs.

First and foremost, it is important to recognize that we must consider a Therapy Dog TEAM, not just the dog by themselves. The HANDLER must have a deep commitment to training, managing the team, scheduling visits, and working with the people with whom the dog works.

The DOG needs to be very people-oriented, with a "soft touch" and a warm loving personality. There is no specific breed that is required. What is more important is that the dog be a model citizen, accept people of all types, not be prone to barking or jumping on people, and be willing to be handled by people of all sizes and shapes, even tolerating children who may pull their ears or step on their toes.

There are classes which will help prepare your dog for the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test — usually a good place to start in evaluating the dog's ability to behave well in public, manage a variety of common human interactions, and to sit quietly, even if the handler leaves the room briefly. Therapy Dog Classes teach the handler how to handle a variety of common situations, and how to serve as your dog's advocate in their "professional" role. Therapy Dog Evaluations are done by Therapy Dogs International (TDI) and the Delta Society. It is common to have the CGC and TDI evaluations done at the same time.

Ultimately you will need to determine the setting where your dog will "do their thing". Nursing homes, hospitals, children's therapy groups, hospice facilities, rehabilitation facilities or private visiting are all options. There are Therapy Dog Clubs, and groups sponsored by health care providers. A little research could turn up numerous opportunities.

Best wishes as you evaluate your commitment, your dog's temperament and personality, and as you grow together to provide this special service.



Have a question for "Dear Redfern"? Send it to redfern@ioweb.com

Weiner Treats

Did you miss our Weiner Treats recipe in the previous Redfern Ramblings? Go to the following address to print it out. *(Your dogs will love you for it!)*

www.redferncanines.com/downloads/July%202007.pdf

Suggestions Welcome

Have a subject you'd like to see included in a future edition of Redfern Ramblings? Send your ideas to ramblings@ioweb.com

Training Aids Available

Redfern has high-quality training Aids and Toys available, at prices below retail. Included are

- ⇨ Tethers (steel — "un-chewable")
- ⇨ "Gentle Leader®" head halters & "Easy-Walk®" no-pull harnesses
- ⇨ Treat Pouches & i-Click Clickers
- ⇨ Ultimate Puppy Toolkits®
- ⇨ Leather & Cotton Leads
- ⇨ Premier Collars
- ⇨ Busy Buddy®, Bouncy Bone™, Squirrel Dudes, Waggle™ & Tug-a-Jug™ toys

Pictures and prices are available at www.redferncanines.com. Items available at classes, or send an Email to redfern@ioweb.com