

When Dogs Talk

SPRING 2011

TRAINING DOGS AND TEACHING PEOPLE FOR OVER 25 YEARS!

ISSUE ONE



Treat your dog like a part of the family, not just a member of the pack!

The Newsletter for Dog Lovers

Welcome to spring!

Finally, we're experiencing warm, dry almost-summer days! It was a long winter and everyone – including kids, dogs, puppies and grownups – is itching to get outside. This seems like the perfect time to talk about dog parks.

Dog parks are a great place for dogs and dog lovers. Your dog gets to run around with four-legged friends and you get to hang out with like-minded dog people. To make sure that your

visit goes smoothly, follow these basic rules of dog park etiquette.

Follow the Rules. Though each dog park is set up differently, they all have list of rules to ensure everyone enjoys their time at the park. Take the time to read the rules – usually posted at the entrance – and please respect them.

Look Around. Before letting your dog out of the car, look around. Are the dogs getting

along? Keep your eyes peeled for the bully—just like a schoolyard, there are always one or two tough guys (or gals) who think it's fun to terrorize the other kids. A dog park can be unsafe if these poorly socialized dogs are allowed to run free. (continued on next page...)

Hurray for spring! Email me your best springtime dog photo — think mud, flowers and spring fever. My panel of dog-loving experts will review them and post a winner. The best of the best will receive a \$10 gift certificate to use in my Amazon store!

Email your best idea to sarah@whendogstalk.com!



Sarah Hodgson
WhenDogsTalk.com
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Where dogs are treated like part of the family, not just members of the pack!

Dog Park Etiquette, continued...

Come Prepared. Most parks have water and poop bags available, but it's always wise to bring your own supply. Some dogs don't like to drink out of the communal water bowl, so bring your own water dish, too.

Reinforcements. Bring a supply of food rewards and favorite toys. Offer one whenever your dog returns to you. Your dog may be well behaved at home, but the freedom and fun of a dog park will test his listening skills.

Know When To Go. Some days will be perfect – your dog will meet nice friends, you'll bond with the other pup parents and your dog will sleep like a log when you get home. Other days, the bullies will be running the park, no one will laugh at your jokes and your dog will throw up in the car. That's ok. Just leave. And always leave – right away – if any dog (maybe even yours) is being aggressive. While it's rare, serious dog fights have erupted at dog parks.

For more information, read my article "Know A Good Dog Park?" on WhenDogTalk.com.

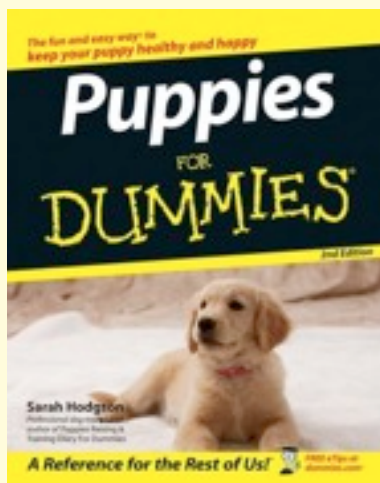
When Sarah Talks...

Group classes at the new training center. I will be offering small group classes to puppies, dogs and people of all ages. Using techniques based on love, structure and socialization, you will learn to guide — not bully — your dog as you build a relationship based on trust, respect and fun! Classes for every age and ability, including puppy kindergarten, beginner level, advanced off-leash, pet therapy preparation and intro to agility. For more information, visit WhenDogsTalk-Lessons.com. Sign up online!

One-on-One Consultations. I offer a variety of private instruction packages for dogs and puppies of all ages. Whether you have a dog now or are considering adding one to your family, there is a program available for your needs. Ninety-minute sessions can be paired with one-hour follow-up sessions and money-saving, bundled packages are available too.

Phone Consultations. It's the canine help hotline: fast, phone-based answers to common behavior problems and questions. I cannot address aggression issues in a phone consultation, but we can address barking, chewing, housebreaking and jumping.

Lectures. I am available for lectures, talks and interactive presentations for your school, group, company or service organization. No matter the size, age or interests of your group, I can tailor a lecture to fit your needs. Popular topics include Be Dog Safe (dog bite prevention for kids 12 and under), When Dogs Talk (a look at canine communication) and How To Choose A Dog (temperament testing, lifestyle considerations and more).



Sarah has written 9 bestselling dog training books including Puppies for Dummies, Dog Tricks and Agility for Dummies and Dog Perfect.

About Sarah

When dogs talk, dog trainer Sarah Hodgson listens. An internationally known canine behavior expert, Sarah Hodgson has been New York and Connecticut's favorite dog trainer for over 25 years.

Author of nine best-selling dog-training manuals, Sarah is also a syndicated columnist and popular guest on network and cable television shows.

In her books, group classes, private lessons and phone and email sessions, Sarah teaches you and your dog to communicate. To

bond. To create understanding in a stress-free environment. Her unique methods have helped thousand of dogs and people figure each other out-quickly, easily and painlessly—without shock collars, isolation or intimidation.

For Westchester and Fairfield county pet owners, Sarah offers private dog training lessons, group dog training classes and dog care lectures. Her canine behavior hotline consultations are available by phone or email worldwide.

Learn more at WhenDogsTalk.com.

What Is Agility?

Get Ready To Be Blown Away!

If you've never seen dogs performing an agility course, prepare to be blown away. It's part crazy playground game, part circus act and part synchronized equestrian show jumping.

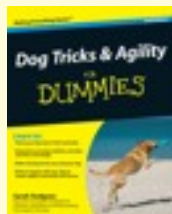
Off Leash Control Needed



Courses are designed with standard obstacles and competitors must run through, jump over, teeter on and wiggle under all of them in a set order. But before you enter the nearest competition, understand that agility require a lot of off-leash control. And I mean a lot of off leash control.

Learn More About Agility

So where can you learn more about agility? My most recent book, Dog Tricks and Agility for Dummies, gives you a good working knowledge of the ins and outs of the dog agility world. If you live in or around Westchester county, NY, you can sign up for some individual lessons or a group class.



Join The Fun!

Agility enthusiasts are always willing to welcome new members and share their love of the sport. Attend an event, view online, observe a class.

Polish Your Dog Training Skills!

Agility practice takes full advantage all of the basic training skills you know—off leash. You'll meet other people and dog teams...people who love their dogs, just like you. So how about it?

Choosing A Dog To Love For A Lifetime



Choosing and caring for a dog is a big responsibility.

Dog or Puppy? An 8- to 12-week old puppy is like a newborn baby. You'll witness – and be responsible for – the puppy's development. An older puppy may be easier to housebreak and past the "chew everything" phase, but I recommend a temperament test for all pups over the age of 6 months. You can download forms and instructions on my website.

If you're adopting an older puppy or dog, find out as much as you can about the dog's past situation and consider hiring a professional to conduct a thorough temperament test.

Purebred or Rescue?

Purebred dogs are mirror images of one another: they share similar looks, personalities and obsessions. It's easier to know what to expect. A

good breeder will know the puppy's personality and begun conditioning and basic housetraining.

Everybody loves a good rescue story and I have hundreds of success stories in my dog trainer's diary. But there are sad stories too, so a temperament test is essential.

Temperament testing a dog in a shelter is helpful, but the chaotic environment can obscure some of a dog's natural tendencies. Consider these factors when considering a shelter adoption:

- How long has the dog/puppy been in the shelter?
- How is the dog coping with the stress of shelter life?
- Does the puppy gravitate toward you or away from you?
- How does the dog act with you?

Visit WhenDogsTalk.com to learn more about finding, choosing and raising the perfect dog for your family.



Learn A Second Language With Sarah: Doglish 101

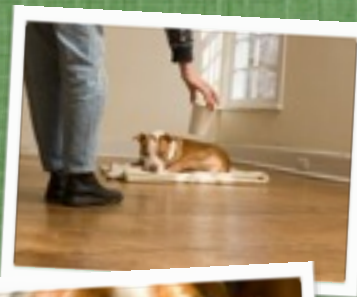
I'm bilingual. Almost 78 million souls speak this language in the United States alone, but I'm often met with looks of confusion when I tell people my second tongue. I speak Doglish, the language of dogs. And I can teach you to do it, too.

One of the things I most enjoy about being a dog trainer is teaching dogs and people to communicate. As an interspecies translator, it's my job to help people understand what dogs are saying and dog understand what people are saying. I do that by teaching Doglish. Once you and your dog understand a few "words" of

Doglish, you'll be on your way to a better relationship!

Doglish 101. Your dog talks with his eyes, ears, tail and posture. Sure, barking gets your attention, but it's not his primary form of communication. Bet you didn't know that a wagging tail doesn't always mean "I'm happy!" When you learn to talk with your body - how to pose, relax and visualize - your dog will look to you for direction. Doglish is easy to learn and anyone can do it.

Visit WhenDogsTalk.com to learn most about Doglish.



Want to learn more about Doglish? Sarah is available for group classes, one-on-one consultations or lectures for your group, school or business.



WHEN DOGS TALK
SARAH LISTENS

South Salem, NY

TO: