

When Dogs Talk

SUMMER 2011

TEACHING DOGS AND TRAINING PEOPLE FOR OVER 25 YEARS!

ISSUE TWO



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

The Newsletter for Dog Lovers

It's Summer!

Do your summer plans include travel? Whether you're prepping for a few days at the beach or a multi-state tour of Civil War battlefields, think about your dog before you finalize your plans.

People love to travel. We love to see new sites, taste new foods and meet interesting people. We pour over travel sites and pick places we know we'll enjoy. We pull out our calendars and create an itinerary: leave on Friday, home on Tuesday. For the

most part, we know what's coming and where we're going. Your dog... not so much.

Depending on your dog's level of socialization, breed and temperament, travel can be very stressful. Car rides are fun for many dogs, but a ten-hour marathon drive may test his mettle. And if you think airplane seats are uncomfortable, try flying in the cargo hold.

Consider your destination. Will your hosts welcome your dog? Yes, they said "bring everybody," but confirm in

advance that this means your dog. Not everyone puts dogs in the same category as kids.

Know your dog. Is she an adventurous type or a homebody? Is she easily distracted by a favorite toy or do new scents and sounds send her into a frenzy? Does she walk companionably on a leash or does she [need a little work in that department?](#) (continued on next page...)



Where dogs are treated like part of the family, not just members of the pack!



Bring my favorite stuff, please!

Summer Plans, continued...

If you've confirmed the dog-friendliness of your destination and your dog is socialized and ready for a trip, pack carefully to ensure a comfortable journey. Bring as many homey things as you can— [beds](#), [crates](#), [toys](#), [bowls and leashes](#). Pack a list of your [dog's familiar words and routines](#). Dogs are much happier when surrounded by things they recognize.



If your hosts have dogs, introduce them to yours in a neutral location, preferably outdoors to avoid territorial disputes. Let both dogs [drag long leashes](#) to allow natural interaction while maintaining your ability to intervene if needed.

If your dog stays behind, try not to feel guilty. She will be content with a stable routine and delighted when you get home. Keep in mind that the aggravations of travel that frustrate humans may overwhelm your dog and create a situation that makes you wish you had all stayed home!

Sarah's Grand Opening at Sun Meadow Farm!

Group classes at Sun Meadow Farm.

I offer [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. Though I cannot address aggression issues in a phone consultation, but we can address all other frustrations including 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 to Love for a Lifetime, (temperament testing, lifestyle considerations and more).

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.

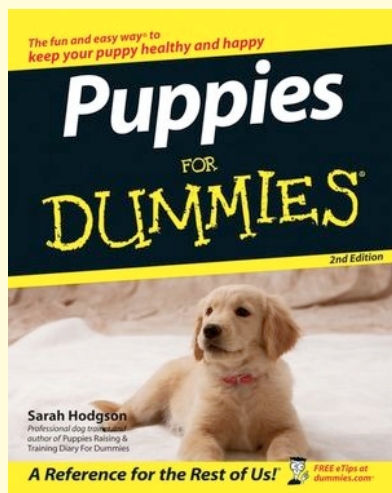
Author of nine best-selling dog-training manuals, Sarah is also a syndicated columnist and popular guest on network and cable television shows.

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](#).



Sarah has written 9 bestselling dog training books including [Puppies for Dummies](#).

The Stay-Home Dog

Summer Travel Dog Care Options

If you plan to leave your dog at home, there are several options. Consider your dog's personality and needs when making your choice. Here are some tips to determine which is right for your dog.

Boarding Kennel

For social dogs, this is like summer camp. If your dog is the life of the local dog park, a kennel is just one more place to meet and greet. Kennels are not great, however, for protective, solitary or clingy types. Visit the location in person beforehand.

Pet Sitter or Dog Walker

If your dog is adapted to periods of solitude and welcomes the attention of people outside your immediate family, a dog walker or pet sitter is an option. A live-in sitter is a good choice for younger pups but a drop-in caregiver is fine for many older dogs, provided they stick to a strict schedule and include play and exercise time if your dog needs it. If your dog is not used to being alone, he may show signs of anxiety including destructive chewing, house soiling or excessive barking.



Another Home

Placing your dog with a friend, family member or home-based kennel is great if your dog is mature, reasonably well-trained, adaptable and socialized. The same is true for the person watching your dog. Please consider this option from both ends of the leash. Choose a professional home-based kennel if you're not sure Cousin Charley is up for the task.

The Importance of Training

Sometimes, there is no choice but to leave your dog behind when you travel. If your dog is [socialized and well-trained](#), it will make the separation easier for both of you.

Summer Safety Tips



Have fun...but be careful!

Everyone knows the number one dog safety tip: do not leave your dog in a hot car...not even for a few minutes. Here are some other tips to keep your dog safe and comfortable.

Water, water, water. Place dishes of fresh, clean water indoors and out, upstairs and down. On walks, hikes or other trips, Take along a collapsible bowl or dog water bottle to keep your pal hydrated.

Extra set of keys. Put an extra set of car keys in the glove compartment of your car. If you need to leave your dog in the car, leave it running. Grab the extra keys and your dog can wait in air-conditioned comfort.

Shade. When leaving your dog, a cool, indoor location is best. If you must leave your dog outside, provide adequate shade, plenty of water and a small pool for quick cool-offs.

Don't worry if your dog seems to be eating less or her interest in play or walks

dwindles. Hot weather causes her metabolism to slow, especially during the hottest part of the day.

And speaking of walks, pay attention to the pavement. Feel it with your hand before setting out. Hot pavement can burn your dog's sensitive paw pads. Keep to the shady side of the street.

Pool safety. Most fatal pool accidents happen because a dog doesn't know how to get out of the pool. Instinctively, he will try to get out where he got in and if he can't, he may exhaust himself and drown.

To prevent this horror, lead or gently carry your dog into the pool. As you release him to swim, repeat "Out of the pool!" as you guide him to the stairs. Next, [attach a long line](#) or flexi-leash and lure him into the pool. You may need to give him a little push—but this is a lifesaving lesson, so don't feel guilty—and repeat "Out of the pool!" as you coach him to the stairs.

Praise him generously as he climbs out. Don't repeat this exercise more than once per day and stop once he is confident of the exit route.



Teaching Your Dog To Share

A positive approach to playing a new game!

Does this sound familiar? Your dog is holding a sock. You grab for it. Your dog makes a move. You make a move. Chaos ensues.

One of the most important lessons you can teach your dog this summer is to share: to spit out whatever is in his mouth. I like to use the word "Give." Here's how to play this new game!

Put some treats in a cup. Shake the cup and reward your dog when he begins to recognize the sound. If your dog isn't nuts about treats, substitute a desirable toy and purchase several duplicates. Distribute several cups or toys around your home. Each time your dog has anything in his mouth — from a rawhide chew to a priceless family heirloom — shake the cup or toy and say "Give" as you approach.

If you and your dog are old hands at the 'grab and go' game, leave a [short drag line](#) on his collar when you're supervising him. Step on the leash before he makes his move.

If the object in his mouth belongs to him, do not remove it. Simply reward him warmly and walk away. Approach your dog while he is eating and say "Give" as you add food to the bowl. Continue this routine until your dog cooperates eagerly then reward him as you praise graciously.

Stop! If your dog growls at you, stop immediately and call a professional such as myself. Aggression is a serious issue.

Visit WhenDogsTalk.com to learn more tips for a happy and well-trained dog.

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



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