



SAN TAN CANINE TRAINING NEWSLETTER

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Welcome!

It is a pleasure to introduce my first newsletter from San Tan Canine Training. My focus is to serve the residents of Arizona's Southeast Valley with the best canine training available. Individual training consultations are provided to assess the needs of the client and pet, followed by my recommendations for a specific training protocol. My scope of teaching ranges from new-born puppy selection and bonding, through adolescence and behavioral modification. I assist in those troublesome areas of chewing, jumping, housebreaking, doorbell attacks, digging, separation anxiety and other fear-based behaviors. I help owners of canines to gain the most from their relationship with their pet.

My primary goal is to make training FUN! I employ positive enforcement and humane training methods, which are not harmful to the dog and/or handler. My services include individual, home-based or absent-owner training, puppy kindergarten, basic obedience and clicker training. I also provide pet sitting, which can include training sessions, as well.

As a graduate from two well-known and highly-acclaimed schools - Triple Crown Training Academy and Assistance Dog Institute - I have an Associates Degree in Human Canine Sciences and have extensive expertise in the field of canine training. I studied under Bonnie Bergin, a well-known author and education and the originator of the service dog concept, founder of Canine Companions for Independence, Assistance Dog Institute and Assistance Dog United Campaign.

Memberships include The Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT), a professional organization of individual trainers who are committed to becoming better trainers through education; the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS), an advocate for the welfare of animals; and The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). I am also licensed and insured for your protection.

Thank you for this introduction. If I can answer any of your questions or concerns, please call 602-320-2890 or visit my website at www.SantanCanineTraining.com. I offer reliable, affordable and customized training to fit everyone's needs. Please contact me at your earliest convenience if I can be of service to you.

Thank you!
Nathan Braaten

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If it's too hot for you, it's too hot for your pet.

Animals aren't able to release excess heat from their bodies the way we can. Although some heat is released through the skin, the only real way a dog has of getting rid of body heat is by panting and sweating from glands between the toes. Unfortunately, this isn't enough when an animal gets over-heated.

Puppies and senior dogs and those who are overweight, have heart disease or other medical conditions are at a higher risk for heatstroke. In addition, some breeds are more prone than others. Dogs with short upper respiratory tracts – such as pugs and Pekinese dogs – cannot pant as effectively and are especially susceptible to heatstroke.

Dogs are more susceptible than cats to heatstroke as they aren't the best moderators of their own body temperature.

What Are the Symptoms?

Signs of heatstroke include increased panting, and dry, sticky and discolored (bright pink, reddish or purple) gums and tongue. This is considered the first stage, and in most cases, helping your dog cool down is all you need to do. Use cool, but not ice cold water; the latter may cause shivering and actually increase his body temperature. Offer small drinks of water but don't force him to drink. Over-heated dogs sometimes cannot swallow properly. If, in tandem with excessive panting and discolored gums, your dog vomits, displays a lack of coordination, lethargy, or even collapses, he is in serious heat-related distress and you must seek immediate veterinary attention.

How can I prevent heatstroke?

- Exercise your dog early in the morning or later in the evening.
- When temperatures are extreme, forgo the exercise and allow potty breaks instead.
- If you must walk your dog when the weather is hot, carry a portable water bowl and bottled water. Keep the walk short, stop at regular intervals in shaded areas and offer your dog water.
- Never leave your animal inside a car, even for a minute or two – not even if you part in the shade and leave a window partially open. Temperatures inside a car can rise 40°F in just one hour, and 80% of that increase occurs within the first 30 minutes! This is the case even on cloudy days, or when the car is in the shade.

What is bloat and what are the signs?

It often begins when the stomach becomes bloated with air during exercise, or while the dog is eating or drinking. It is widely believed that the combination of air with food and/or water causes the stomach to expand. The stomach of a dog rests in the abdomen much like a pendulum, and since there is nothing to secure it to the abdominal wall, the trapped air enlarges and compresses the stomach. This can then cause the stomach to twist blocking blood flow to the stomach and other organs.

The lack of blood supply leads to a myriad of problems including low blood pressure, shock, necrosis and a build-up of toxins. Abnormal blood-clotting (known as DIC – disseminated intravascular coagulation) can also occur, along with cardiac abnormalities and eventually death.

GDV (gastric dilation-volvulus) is very serious and, without immediate treatment, fatal. Dogs will show a range of signs including discomfort and restlessness, drooling, panting, discolored gums (either red or white/grey), retching without producing vomit, and a tight, distended abdomen. If you notice these symptoms, get your dog to the vet without delay. Quick action and immediate emergency treatment are essential.

Could my dog be affected?

In addition to breed and body structure, a number of other factors have an influence on a dog's predisposition to developing bloat and GDV.

AGE – older dogs are more prone.

SEX – males are more at risk.

WEIGHT – lean dogs are more susceptible than overweight ones (some veterinarians feel that excess fat in the abdomen provides less room for the stomach to move around.

General anxiety levels can cause dogs of many breeds and body types to experience bloat or GDV.

How can I prevent this condition?

- As always, diet is an important condition when comes to prevention.
- Feed small, frequent meals.
- Limit water intake before and after meals.
- Don't allow your dog to gulp large quantities of water at any time.
- Never exercise a dog on a full stomach or just before feeding; one hour needs to pass between feeding and exercise.
- Reduce stress.