

NEWSTUFF



■ **The Trets Reward Pouch** is a convenient way to store treats for easy access during training sessions. The pouch attaches to your belt and features a magnetic closing mechanism. It's machine-washable and made of Condura nylon. The nylon inner layer is removable for cleaning. Available in four colors. ■ \$14.95, from [WoofHoof](http://WoofHoof.com); 860-997-2259; www.woofhoof.com

PAWTURNER



■ **Dog Park Wisdom: Real-World Advice on Choosing, Caring For, and Understanding Your Canine Companion** (Skipstone, \$18.95), by Lisa Wogan, takes a grass-roots approach to dealing with issues at every stage of a dog's life. With anecdotes compiled from real dog owners, the book discusses topics like choosing a dog, training techniques, understanding emotions, and healthcare.

Get more behavior help at DogChannel.com

PUPPY CORNER

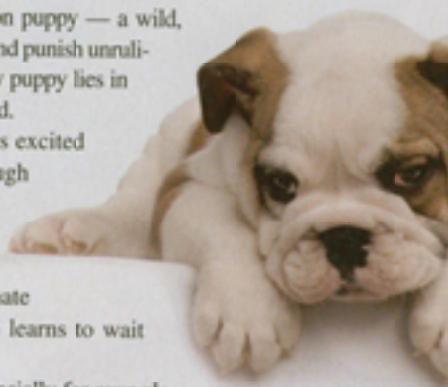
TRAIN YOUR DEMON PUPPY

Owners sometimes think they adopted a demon puppy — a wild, uncontrollable being. Many follow bad advice and punish unruliness, not realizing the key to managing a rowdy puppy lies in teaching self-control — even when she's excited.

Take, for example, the crate. Your puppy is excited about getting out and wants to charge through when the door opens. Help her control this impulse by throwing in a few treats as you open the door, then placing your hand on her chest and saying "Wait." Gradually eliminate giving treats and blocking her exit after she learns to wait just on your command.

Demon puppies can learn Sit and Down, especially for rewards, so once your pup knows these cues, use them. Ask for a quick Sit or Down before throwing her ball, giving her dinner. If you visit a doggie play area, insist on a Sit while you unhook the leash. Expect only a few seconds of compliance initially, then increase the time as your puppy gains self-control.

— Chris Cox-E



ADOPTION TIP

Think small

New owners of re-homed dogs often want to eliminate set habitual issues like car chasing, excessive barking, and fence jumping immediately, unaware that tackling little problems first makes it easier to solve these big headaches later.

Starting with small, easily controlled annoyances lets your dog adapt to an in-charge owner, while the time together builds trust. For instance, if your dog bolts through open doors, leash her before going out and treat her for waiting. Working on small problems provides useful insight about your adoptee, such as how quickly she learns and what treats she works for most enthusiastically.

Meanwhile, you can manage big issues by avoiding situations that trigger them.

As lesser troubles improve, break large problems into small pieces. If your dog barks too much, no treat until she's quiet, going outside until she stops barking, and so forth. Think small to succeed big!

— C



Training: In a word

Many training students ask, "Does it matter what word I use?" regarding a cue word. My definite answer, "No, but yes," earns puzzled looks. Sometimes an experienced student comments that as long as you use the same word consistently, you can say "Pizza!"

This correctly explains "No," but what about "Yes?"

For one, the word you choose shouldn't be used frequently in conversation, like "OK" to release from a Stay. Think about it; you tell your dog "Stay," briefly chat with someone during which "OK" is said several times, and then wonder why she broke her Stay.



Also, beware of using cue words casually. If you say "Down" whenever you want your dog to lie down, that's great. If you likewise say "Down" when she jumps on you, you create confusion. Each cue word you use should mean just one thing.

— C