



Easy-to-learn Dog Tricks

Roll Over:

1. Start by having your dog lie down on his belly
2. You can stand over him or kneel beside him
3. Using a treat, hold it by his nose, and then move it around and behind him, so that he lies on his side and then rolls over
4. Tell him what a great dog he is and treat him!

TIP: Only roll your dog on soft surfaces like carpet or grass so he doesn't hurt his back. Some dogs don't like to roll over. It can be a little scary for them to put their belly up. Try it a few times, but if it's not fun for your dog, choose another trick.



OUR HOURS:

MON	7:30am-7:30pm
TUES	7:30am-6pm
WED	7:30am-7:30pm
THURS	7:30am-6pm
FRI	7:30am-6pm
SAT	8am-1pm
SUN	5pm-5:30pm**

**boarding pick ups and drop offs only

Companion Chatter

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 2013

Anxiety

For many dogs, even the slightest change in daily routines can be upsetting. In response, poor Fido may start acting disruptive or destructive, especially when left home alone. He may resort to urinating and defecating indoors, howling, chewing, pacing or trying to escape from the house or yard. When these issues are accompanied by signs of panic, distress or depression, they may indicate your pooch suffers from separation anxiety.

But don't fear—we're here to help! When treating a dog with separation anxiety, the goal is to resolve the underlying issue by teaching him to enjoy—or at least tolerate—being left alone. Our experts have put together a list of top tips for helping your pooch overcome separation anxiety.

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Doctor Knows Best: The first step in tackling behavior issues is to rule out any underlying medical problems that might be causing your pet's behavior. For example, if your pet is urinating in the house, he might be suffering from a urinary tract infection, bladder stones, diabetes or kidney disease—all of which can cause urinary incontinence in dogs.

Conquer Fear: If your pooch suffers mild separation anxiety, counter conditioning—or help-

ing your dog associate being alone with something good, like a tasty treat—might reduce or resolve the problem. To develop this kind of association, offer your dog a food-dispensing toy every time you leave the house.

Dogs Need Jobs: Providing lots of physical and mental stimulation is a vital part of treating many behavior problems, especially those involving anxiety. Exercise can enrich your dog's life, decrease stress and provide appropriate outlets for normal behavior. Plus, a tired dog doesn't have much excess energy to burn when he's left alone!

Prepare for Departure: Many dogs know when you're about to leave the house and will get anxious or prevent your departure altogether. One way to tackle "predeparture anxiety" is to teach your dog that when you pick up your keys or put on your coat, it doesn't always mean you're leaving. For example, put on your boots and coat, and then just sit down and watch TV instead of leaving.

Take Baby Steps: If your dog's anxiety falls more on the severe side of things, try getting your pooch used to being alone by starting small or "desensitizing" him to the cause of his fear. Begin by introducing several short periods of separation that don't produce anxiety, and then gradually increase time spent apart over the course of a few weeks.

Together We Stand: Any treatment for separation anxiety requires that your dog never experiences the full-blown version of whatever provokes his anxiety or fear. Avoid leaving your dog alone except during desensitization sessions. If possible, take your dog to work or arrange for a family member or dog sitter to come to your home during the day.

Keep it Mellow: All greetings—hellos and goodbyes—should be conducted in a very calm manner. When saying goodbye, just give your dog a pat on the head, say goodbye and leave. Similarly, when arriving home, say hello to your dog and then don't pay any more attention to him until he's calm and relaxed.

Say No to Tough Love: Anxiety behaviors are not the result of disobedience or spite, so please don't scold or punish your dog if he doesn't overcome his fear quickly. If you punish him, he may become even more upset and the problem could get worse. Be patient, and work with your pet until he feels comfortable and enjoys spending time alone.



Article by: ASPCA

Skunk Bath Recipe

Pet get skunked? Try our homemade skunk bath!

- 1 quart 3% Hydrogen Peroxide
- 1/4 cup Baking Soda
- 1 teaspoon Liquid Soap (we recommend Dawn)

Leave on for 5-10 minutes. Rinse well with warm water.



Pet Halloween Costume contest!

Send in your photos of your pets in their costumes for a chance to win great prizes! Photos can be e-mailed to companionanimalclinic@yahoo.com or uploaded onto our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/CAC1974) by Thursday 10/31

All pets are welcome to enter!

Prescription Requests Are Now Available Online!

Check out the "Prescription Requests" link on our website to request your prescription refill today!



Halloween Pet Safety Tips

- Use reflectors/flashers on collars
- Bring cats inside
- Keep candy bowl out of reach. Chocolate in all forms—dark or baking chocolate especially—can be very dangerous for dogs and cats
- Be cautious of house decorations as they can be potential choking hazards
- Keep your pet somewhere safe when answering the door
- Make sure your dog or cat is wearing proper identification if for any reason your pet escapes and becomes lost



Employee Spotlight



Erica F.
Kennel attendant

Erica is currently enrolled at Virginia Tech for a BS in Animal Science. Originally from Long Island, New York, Erica grew up caring for all different kinds of small animals, from reptiles and rabbits to cats and dogs. Her love of animals was nurtured by her grandmother, by taking Erica to zoos and rescue centers, teaching her the value of a life, no matter how big or small. It is in her name that Erica made the choice to aspire to a career in veterinary medicine. Erica is also interested in science, currently participating in undergraduate research at Virginia Tech. Now that she is away from home, Erica has acquired two new pet roommates, a Puggle named Sable and a Bearded Dragon named Merlin. Erica is proud to have joined the Hokie community and is so grateful she had the opportunity to join the Companion Animal Clinic family.

EMERGENCIES

If your pet has an emergency after hours, a vet is on call here until 10pm to answer your questions and help you decide if you need emergency care. If your pet needs to see a doctor you can go to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine) 540-231-4621, Town and Country 540-382-5042 or Emergency Veterinary Services of Roanoke 540-563-8575.

