

# I JUST WANNA HAVE FUN!

## TEEN YEARS ARE FOR FUN Even for dogs

When you were a teen ager you didn't want to do anything more than have fun, meet new friends, and prepare for a wonderful future. But it was a time where you were easily frightened, stress was at a peek, and your emotions were out of control. Your dog is no different. He is full of chemicals. He is starting to find his place in the adult world, and all he wants to do is have fun, with you.

The secret to surviving the adolescent years is to remember that your dog wants to have fun. He is also starting to communicate with you.

One of the most common problems is that a dog starts to say 'no.' You want your dog to come in, but he says 'no, we were having fun. I want to play more.' All we see is a dog ignoring our command. Take a breath and remember that your dog is happy. So, why not bring the dog in and play a better game.

When I'm raising puppies I call them several times when they are playing. I will call them several times. The come and I let them target my hand. Once they touch I re-inforce their behavior, and then I let them go back to playing. This way the word 'come, \_\_name\_\_' doesn't mean 'all the fun stops.'

ADOLESCENCE IS A TIME TO INVEST  
MORE PATIENCE AND TIME WITH  
YOOUR DOG.

COUNT TO 10 AND TRY AGAIN.

## SEXUAL BEHAVIOR Messes Your Dog's Moral Compass

The release of sexual hormones changes your dog's entire life. Our stance is that a dog shouldn't be spay or neutered until 18-24 months old. That said, sometimes

A dog has compulsive behaviors. These can cause behavior al problems that you need to deal with.

Sometimes early neutering will help, but not always. So, what do you do?

The first thing you need to do is realize that your dog cannot help its behavior. Restrict the opportunity to practice the behavior.

## SOLUTIONS TO ADOLESCENTS

This is a hard time for you, and your dog. The best thing you can do is to go back to puppyhood. Restrict your dog's freedom. Stop doing things that increase stress. Remember that you cannot trust your dog at this time, and treat it accordingly.

Spend more time playing, than being angry at your dog. "This too will pass." In dogs, Adolescence is only 3 – 4 months long.

# DOMINANT BEHAVIOR

## Spoiled – Wild – Bullies – Dull

This is one of the most fearful things. Up until now your dog has been a puppy, acting like a puppy. Now, it wants to see what it can get away with. You will determine what your dog learns, and what it learns not to do. The important thing that you need to realize is that your dog will learn to do what you let it away with.

If you have been letting your dog run wild, or bully you, up until now then it will 'take it to the next level.'

You are now seeing what mistakes you have made in your training. So, what do you do? **"Calm Down."**

Dogs do not learn when they are stressed, or fearful. They learn best when they are having fun.

*Take What Your Dog GIVES*

Your dog may give you behaviors, don't worry if they are not what you want. Reward your dog for the effort.

*Shape to What your dog CAN do*

Once you get your dog wanting to work with you (it may take days, or weeks) then you start asking your dog for 'a little more' until

FORCE TEACHES FORCE  
PATIENCE TEACHES CALM BEHAVIORS.  
REPETITION BUILDS BEHAVIORS  
TRAINING CALMS DOGS  
RESTRICT – RESTRAIN - REWARD

you get what you want.

DISTANCE,  
DISTRACTION,  
DURATION

The adolescent time is not the time to teach new skills. It is the time to start adding distance, distraction, and duration to your dog's repertoire of skills.

The best secret to success is to **only work on one D at a time.** Never combine them. Make it easy. Set your dog up for success

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STOP

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Your only defense with an out of control adolescent dog is to stop the fun, stop the fight, stop the tantrum.

This is the time for time outs. Don't lose your temper. Don't use fear or pain.

Shorten the leash, and stop. We find that if the leash goes down, not pulled up, then it works better, but this can be difficult if you have a large dog.

If your dog cannot handle a situation then make him 'sit it out' but that doesn't mean you stop training him. There are several good techniques. B.A.T. offers a lot of help on youtube.com. Or join a class which focuses on young dogs and is more than a 'how to train the trainer' course. Find something fun like scent, or agility, and keep your dog busy with 'work'. More Work, and less Freedom, and both you and your dog will survive adolescence.

MORE INFORMATION IS ON OUR BLOG: [WWW.SPORTDOGTRAININGCENTER.COM](http://WWW.SPORTDOGTRAININGCENTER.COM)

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