

MY DOG IS DRIVING ME CRAZY (PART 1)

[October 18, 2016](#) ·

Training tip Tuesday: My dog is driving me crazy!

Since I missed last week's post; this week will be a 2-fer! One of the most common concerns I hear is 'my dog is driving me crazy!' Now - crazy means different things to different people. For the purpose of this post, we will be looking at the dog that just doesn't know what to do with himself. While there are many aspects to this behavior; most of the time it is a lack of exercise (physical AND mental) and/or a lack of education; the dog simply doesn't know what to do with himself. Today we will address the first part. Physical exercise is self-explanatory. Get your dog out for a walk, play ball, run around the yard, etc...let him stretch those legs! Make sure he has time to engage with you as well. It's not enough to just let him outside alone for an hour; he wants to interact with YOU! Know what your dog needs; a 2 year old Border Collie is going to have very different requirements than an 8 year old Bulldog! Physical exertion only accounts for a portion of your dog's exercise requirements. You need to exercise his brain too! Fun training sessions, problem solving, nosework, balance and conditioning work, tricks; there's a wide variety of brain games you can choose! Mental stimulation will tire him out even more than physical exercise and is great for rainy days, or days you can't be outside. Plan some indoor activities and be creative! When your dog knows he will get time with you to interact and burn off the extra energy he is more likely to settle during the times you can't give him attention.

In the video; I took advantage of our last rainy day to teach Kod the shell game. In addition to the nosework aspect of picking the right cup; he also practiced impulse control by only touching it and not just knocking it over!

<https://youtu.be/COT332OOgUU>

MY DOG IS DRIVING ME CRAZY (PART 2)

[October 24, 2016](#) ·

I have been neglectful of my facebook duties! I promised a second part of Tuesday's training tip, and here we are almost a week later, and I haven't posted a thing! So – without further ado...

Training Tip Tuesday: My Dog is Driving Me Crazy – Part 2!

In the first part we talked about exercise; both physical AND mental, to make sure your dog isn't trying to deal with too much with pent up energy. In this part; we will talk about education.

Sometimes those things your dog does that drive you bonkers are simply the result of a lack of education. Plain and simple; no one has ever told him to do otherwise! You don't need a lot of advanced commands, or extensive training to help your dog understand what you want. As you go through your day, think about what your ideal dog would be doing and help him do it. In no time at all, he will learn what you expect in each situation and start doing it on his own! It might even help to write it down; especially if you have a multi-person household. It's important everyone is consistent! Make a list of all the things you do; and next to each write down what the dog should do. For example: "When I'm making dinner, my dog should be out of the way"...

Let's make that specific, since 'out of the way' means nothing to your dog. "When I'm making dinner, my dog should be on his mat". Perfect. Now, every time you go into the kitchen, send your dog to his mat. If you don't have a 'place' command, give your dog a stuffed kong or bone on his mat so he gets the idea he should stay over there. If he's extra rowdy; you may have to tether him to a door or something solid to help him understand, then praise him lavishly when he settles. Some other examples could include:

- * When I open the door; my dog should sit and wait for permission to go out.
- * When the doorbell rings; my dog should go lay on his mat and wait.
- * When I'm eating dinner; my dog should wait on his mat in the corner.
- * When guests enter, my dog should sit politely for petting.
- * When I take a nap, my dog should lay in his crate.

Get the idea? Take the time to practice, and show him exactly what you want from him in each situation. Never assume your dog just 'knows' what you want. He doesn't! Be patient, and focus on educating and providing guidance to do the right thing, and you'll have a dog that's not so crazy after all!