

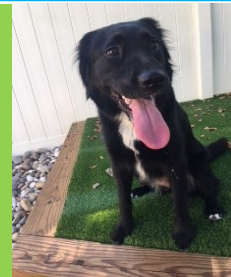
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# Chesapeake Dog Training

Connecting People and Dogs Through Training

# SPRING 2019



## >>> Upcoming Events

### Playgroups Are Back!

*Mondays and Thursdays – Large Dog*

*Playgroup, 9am-11am*

*Wednesdays – Small Dog/Puppy Playgroup,  
9am-11am*

### GROUP CLASSES

*Agility – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month @ 10am*

*Basic Obedience – Last Saturday of every  
month @ 10am*

*Board and Train – Last Sunday of every month  
@ 1pm*

### Canine Good Citizen

*CGC Prep Class – Sat April 13 @ 10am*

*CGC Prep Class – Sat April 27 @ 11am*

*CGC TEST – Sat May 4<sup>th</sup> @ 9am-12pm*

### Pack Walk- Last Sunday of Every Month

*9am – 10am @ Quiet Waters Park*



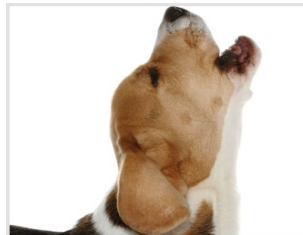
## Curbing Nuisance Barking

*It's spring and with longer days and warmer temperatures, people, pets, and wildlife are out and about. With general increased activity, comes increased distractions and triggers for dogs to feel the need to alert their owners or protect themselves. Below are some basic factors to consider to correct excessive barking.*

**Mark the behavior** – It sounds obvious, but be sure that you are clearly and consistently communicating to your dog that they are not allowed to nuisance bark. Be clear by verbally telling your dog “No”, “Leave it” or “Enough”. Use the equipment, tools, and management techniques at your disposal. (E-Collar, leash pops, remove from situation and put in crate or place etc.)

### **Ignoring your dog is the same as allowing the behavior!**

Ignoring bad behavior does not reinforce the behavior, but it also does not stop it. Be sure to take action and follow through in correcting the behavior.



**Prevent access to the triggers** – If your dog sits at a window that has lots of activity and reacts to every stimulus, close the blind and/or remove the dog from sitting in front of the window. Prevent the situation that gets them worked up. It is imperative that you understand the difference between excitement and anxiety... they are often misunderstood. Excessive barking at the window is not fun for the dog. They are likely fearful, unnecessarily protective, anxious and/or stressed.

**Make it Negative** – Pet Corrector air spray, e-collars, spray bottles, or bonkers are examples of tools that can be used to deliver safe, but undesirable sensations to the dog to make them think twice about doing it again in the future.

**Acknowledge the perceived threat** – Some dogs feel the need to be on watch and alert their owners of what the dog perceives to be danger. Be in tune to what your dog may be trying to tell you and take the time to go over to the dog and look at the distraction. Show them know you acknowledge the stimulus and then redirect them to convey it is not a worry. Long-term, uping your leadership skills will help the dog to feel less protective.

# Spring Flea and Tick Prevention



A dog's warm and cozy fur is the perfect home for many insects including fleas and ticks. Not only can the pests cause skin infections and irritations, your dog can contract more serious issues such as Lyme Disease. Cases of Lyme Disease in pets continue to be on the rise and few dogs show clinical symptoms, making it difficult to diagnose. Lyme Disease can be a very serious and debilitating, and sometimes fatal.

- ✓ Stay on top of your Vet recommended Flea and Tick Prevention method (orals, topicals, collars)
- ✓ Check your dog's skin and coat regularly, especially after exposure to wooded or tall grassy areas. The quicker a tick can be removed from your dog (even after biting) the less likely it is to transmit a disease.
- ✓ Keep your lawns and gardens mowed and maintained to prevent hosting them in your backyard.
- ✓ Ensure all pets in your household are on preventative treatment, as fleas and ticks will jump to new hosts.

## MEET THE DOGS OF CDT



## "Make It Happen"

One of the most difficult things for most people is knowing exactly what they want their dog **TO DO**. It is very easy for almost anyone to rattle off a list of what they **DON'T** want their dog to do (i.e. jump on guests, counter surf, bark at the UPS guy, pull trash out of the bin). Believe it or not, being very clear about what a dog should be doing, and for how long, is difficult for most people. The reality is that humans tend to focus and pay attention to negative behavior and overlook the positive or good behavior. It is increasingly common that good behavior is inadvertently ignored because it is assumed or just expected. The end results? Our dogs find that they get attention and interaction (even if it's negative) when they jump and bark. However, when they are calmly sitting across the room, very few take the time in their busy days to acknowledge the dog in that moment, reinforcing a calm and patient existence.

When training your dog, it is not only important to clearly communicate to the dog what they should not be doing, but to follow it up with teaching the dog what you want it to be doing instead. Stop for a minute and describe exactly what your dog should be doing when someone comes to the door... I bet it is harder than you think and what comes to mind is not really clear and specific information. That is why it is so difficult for people to actually **MAKE IT HAPPEN!** In order to communicate to a dog what we want them **TO DO**, we have to have a very clear picture of it in our heads. Once we have a clear picture, it is much easier to make it happen using one of the 5 basic obedience behaviors (sit, down, place, heel, and come). **The power of intention is huge in communicating with dogs.** It just has to be very clear in order for the dogs to be successful. When we create and maintain very specific and simple behaviors – they can be applied to almost any practical situation that can arise in a day.



# Louie and Wrigley Adjust to City Life

*Louie and Wrigley recently moved to Annapolis from a rural area in Pennsylvania. In their previous home they were fairly secluded and had limited exposure to other dogs and stimuli. When their family moved back to Maryland to be near the water, 7-year-old Louie had a difficult time adjusting to his new surroundings.*

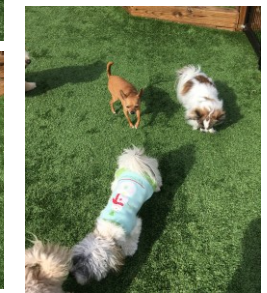
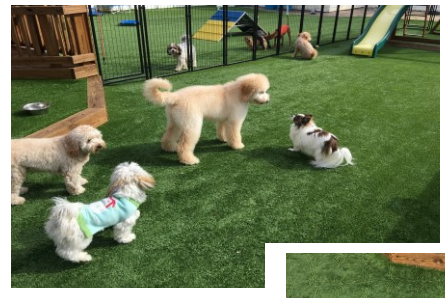
Chihuahuas Louie and Wrigley started training with CDT to help them acclimate to the very populated and dog loving city of Annapolis. Louie was the main concern and focus, as Wrigley a younger and much more laid-back dog, tends to just go with the flow. Louie and Wrigley had very limited experiences with meeting or encountering other dogs until they moved to a busy apartment complex. Louie was demonstrating reactivity and excessive barking at other dogs and new stimulus. Although tiny, Louie is mighty in his bark and protectiveness of himself and his family. After working with Louie, it became apparent that he was an interesting mix of dominant, yet timid and fearful.



Like many dogs, Louie's reactivity seems to come from a lack of confidence paired with limited exposure to diverse social experiences. The first step was to address Louie's behavior on walks and teach him not to react to other dogs. This was done by introducing a micro-prong collar and teaching heel. From the guidance and structure of a short leash walk and the prong collar his owner was able to establish more leadership for Louie, whereas the everyday stressors encountered became his owner's responsibility, not Louie's. His mental burden of having to protect and be on watch slowly decreased as his focus shifted from the environment, to direction from his owner. It is so important to remember when we do not want a dog to react that we give them "a job" and redirect them to what we want- HEEL. As leash walking improved, Louie also learned the place behavior to help redirect his barking in the house. Living on the first floor, Louie is also flooded with frequent dog and squirrel visitors at his window. Again, the goal is to mark the unwanted behavior (barking) and then

give him something to do instead-PLACE.

After teaching basic obedience the next big step was to get Louie properly socialized. Never having (positive) experiences with dogs in his past played a role in his reactivity. Louie and Wrigley began coming to daycare at CDT to help get Louie exposed to new situations and to slowly be introduced to dogs of different sizes, ages, and breeds. Wrigley quickly showed he was a very sociable dog and comfortable at CDT, which was beneficial for Louie in his introductions. Initially Louie's instinct was to bark at all the dogs and go into defense mode. Trainers showed Louie they were not going to allow other dogs to invade his space and would keep him safe. This gave Louie a reason to trust the trainers, and allow him to acclimate to dogs at his own pace, as well as simply observe dog behavior and play. The chihuahuas continue to come to daycare with steady improvements each week. Louie slowly let his guard down and went from fearful to comfortable. When the time was right, the dogs were introduced to a more intense social experience of small dog playgroups. Not only does Louie no longer bark at other dogs and is comfortable with them near him... he is beginning to engage in play and *seek out* dogs to solicit play. We thoroughly love to see the transformations of dogs to become the best version of themselves! We are so proud of the progress these country bumpkins have made and commend their owner for working so hard to make such a big life change as seamless as possible

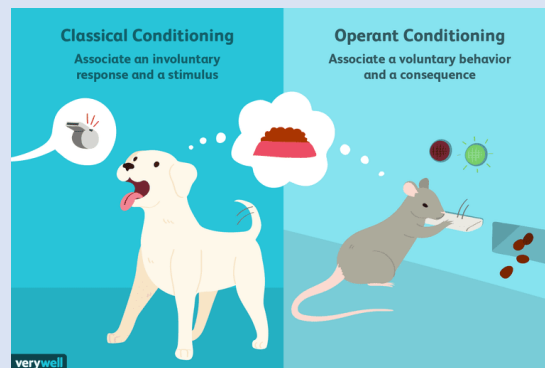


**European Leash**  
Great sturdy leash with multiple uses:  
\* Teether your dog  
\* Jogging/Running  
\* Adjusts to multiple lengths  
\* Nylon or Leather  
\* Available for sale @ CDT

# The Art and Science of Training

Training can be broken into two essential components; practical skills and theory, or academics. Most people can easily grasp one or the other, but naturally possessing aptitudes for both is more unusual. **The science of training** consists of terminology, reinforcement schedules, learning theory, and other facts that you can learn through academic research. If someone is determined enough and takes the time, almost anyone can understand the science component. Learning about *Classical* and *Operant Conditioning* are pivotal to understanding the effects of reinforcement (positive and negative) and punishment (positive and negative). It is essential to understand reinforcement and punishment to become a really good trainer.

However, even the best educated and scientific trainer will not yield good results if he/she does not also possess **the art of training**. The art of training has more to do with a gut feeling; or being able to read and interpret behaviors and possible outcomes of situations and responding accordingly, to provide the best and safest outcome for the dog and human. The art is less tangible and more difficult for most people. It can be similar to choreographing a dance in that the moves you make, the timing, and the speed all really matter. The art can be improved through perfecting specific exercises and repeating skills to the extent that they become automatic (i.e. leash and timing exercises), but even still, it requires a level of focus and connection that some really struggle to find. At CDT, we work really hard to identify which skills dog owners possess naturally and which need more fine tuning. Ultimately, recognizing how to best blend the two components of training is how humans can learn to create a common language with dogs to deliver clear and concise communication. Clear and consistent communication creates happy and balanced dogs!



## Photo Out-Takes >>>



Sometimes at CDT we just FLOP! Even if it's on a friend or just in the sun to air things out...



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